

PREPARING FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

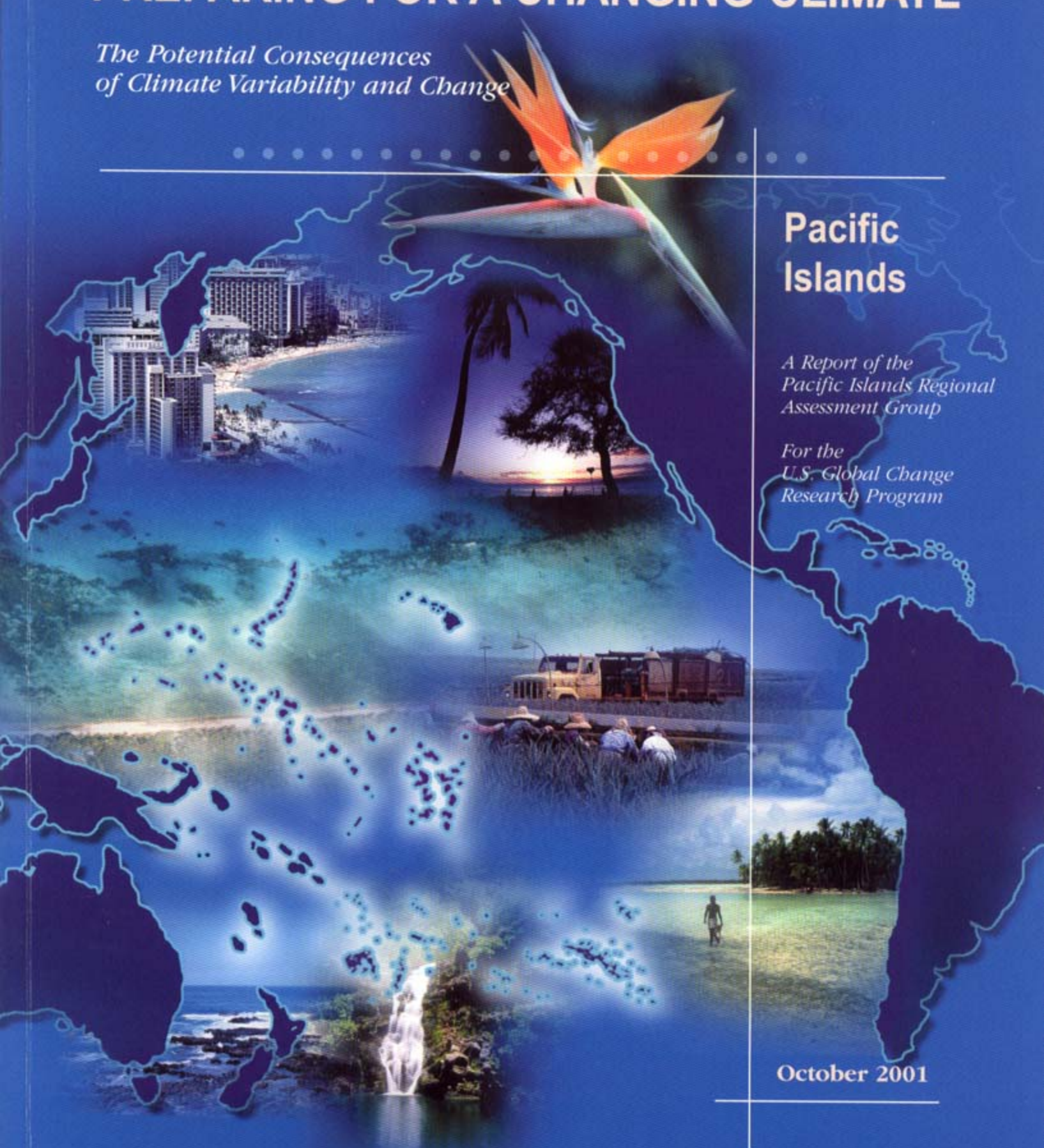
*The Potential Consequences
of Climate Variability and Change*

Pacific Islands

*A Report of the
Pacific Islands Regional
Assessment Group*

*For the
U.S. Global Change
Research Program*

October 2001



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*A Report of the
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Assessment Team*

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Pacific Islands Contribution to the National Assessment on the Potential Consequences of Climate Change for the United States

The overall goal of the National Assessment is to analyze and evaluate what is known about the potential consequences of climate variability and change for the Nation in the context of other pressures on the public, the environment, and the Nation's resources. The National Assessment process has been broadly inclusive, drawing on inputs from academia, government, and the public and private sectors, and interested citizens. Starting with broad public concerns about the environment, the Assessment is exploring the degree to which existing and future variations and changes in climate might affect issues that people care about.

The National Assessment has three major components:

1. **Regional analyses:** Workshops and assessments are characterizing the potential consequences of climate variability and change in selected regions spanning the United States. The reports from those activities address the interests of those in the particular regions by focusing on the regional patterns and texture of changes where people live. Most workshop reports are already available and regional assessment reports will become available as they are completed (see <http://www.usgcrp.gov/usgcrp/nacc/background/regions.htm>).
2. **Sectoral analyses:** Workshops and assessments are being carried out to characterize the potential consequences of climate variability and change for major sectors that cut across environmental, economic, and societal interests. The sectoral studies analyze how the consequences in each region affect the Nation, making these reports national in scope and of interest to everyone. The sectors being focused on in this first phase of the ongoing National Assessment include Agriculture, Forests, Human Health, Water, and Coastal Areas and Marine Resources. These assessment reports will become available on the web as they are completed; see <http://www.usgcrp.gov/usgcrp/nacc/default.htm>.
3. **National overview:** The National Assessment Synthesis Team had responsibility for summarizing and integrating the findings of the regional and sectoral studies with the broader literature, and then drawing conclusions about the importance of climate variability and change for the United States. Both the overview and foundation reports are available on the web at: <http://www.usgcrp.gov/usgcrp/nacc/default.htm>.

Each of the regional, sectoral, and synthesis activities is being led by a team comprised of experts from both the public and private sectors, from universities and government, and from the spectrum of stakeholders.



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