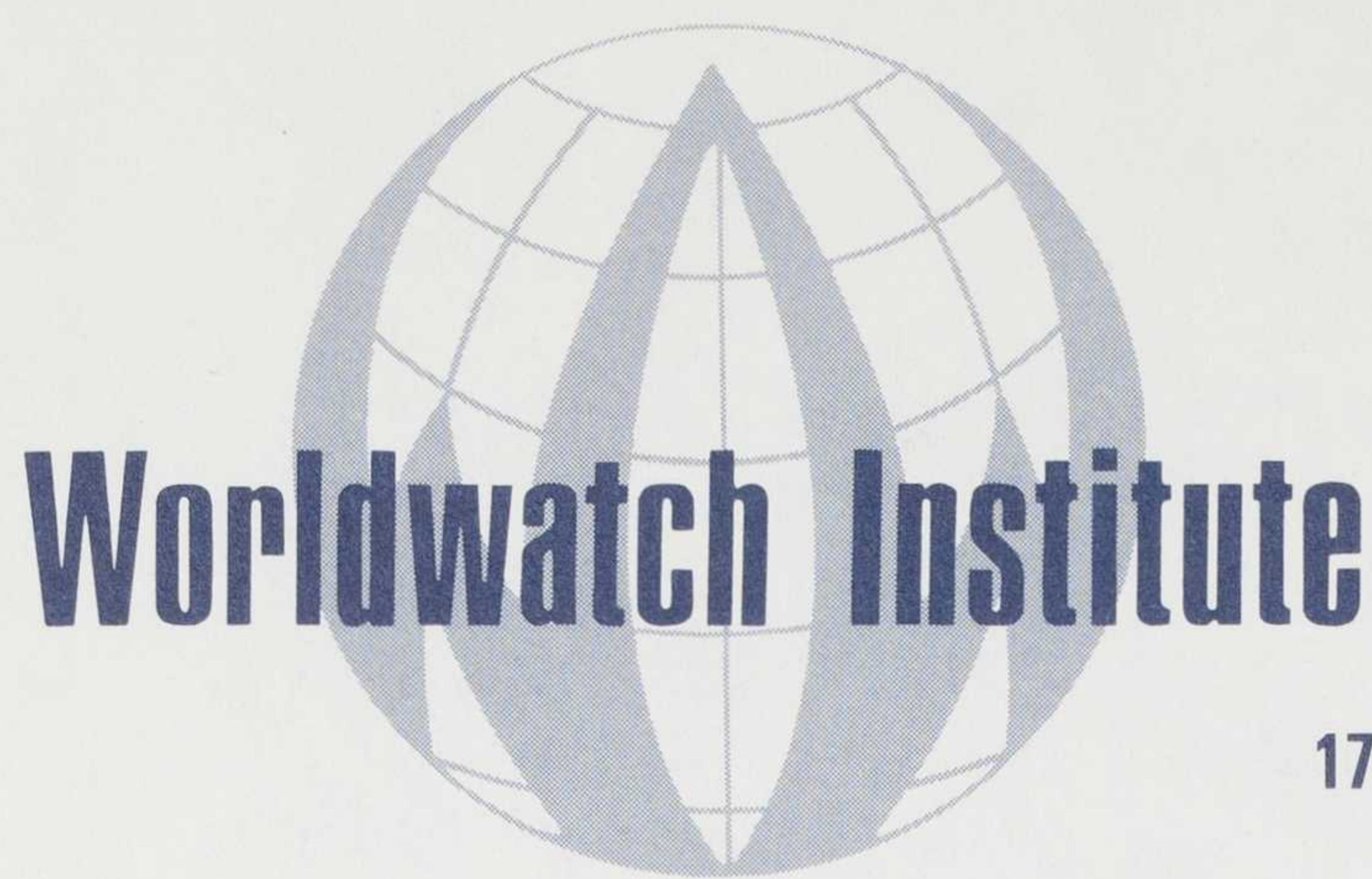




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February 1989

Dear Worldwatch Reader:

Historians may well note that 1988 was the year that the environment moved onto the front page. As summer temperatures rose to record levels, so did interest in our "annual physical" of the planet, **State of the World**.

Sales in English approached 100,000, making it "a runaway bestseller," according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Now being translated into most major languages--including Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, German, Polish, Italian, and Russian--it has become the most widely used public policy document in the world.

State of the World "carries a message of importance to policy planners of all nations," wrote the *Los Angeles Times*. It "tries to deal with calamitous events rationally and constructively, and always offers logical solutions," said the *New York Review of Books*. Then just last month, the *Utne Reader* described it as "a brilliant series."

The 1989 edition of **State of the World** sketches a portrait of a world at risk. Our croplands are washing away, our forests disappearing, and the protective ozone layer eroding. The very temperature of the earth seems to be on the rise--posing a threat of unprecedented dimensions.

Even though natural systems are crumbling under the pressures of ever-rising human demands, however, environmental illiteracy is still commonplace.

There are, of course, many specialized sources of information on the global environment. But the **State of the World** series pulls together data from these diverse sources to bring into focus the changing relationship between ourselves--now numbering more than 5 billion--and the earth's natural systems and resources.

State of the World is the only work that gives a complete portrait of the changes that we face--and a prescription for dealing with them.

Worldwatch researchers are concerned with linkages. We analyze how land degradation affects food production and how this in turn affects the ability of debt-ridden countries to feed their people. We are concerned about how energy policy affects atmospheric carbon dioxide levels and, in turn, the earth's heat balance.

over, please