Climate change: Understanding and acting

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Twitter: @JPvanYpersele

Briefing for the Board of Ethias, online, 27 October 2021

Thanks to the Walloon Government (funding the Walloon Platform for IPCC) to my team at UCLouvain for their support

The Essential Truth About Climate Change in Ten Words

The basic facts of climate change, established over decades of research, can be summarized in five key points:

IT'S REA IT'S US **EXPERTS AGREE** IT'S BAD THERE'S HOPE

Global warming is happening.

Human activity is the main cause.

There's scientific consensus on human-caused global warming.

The impacts are serious and affect people.

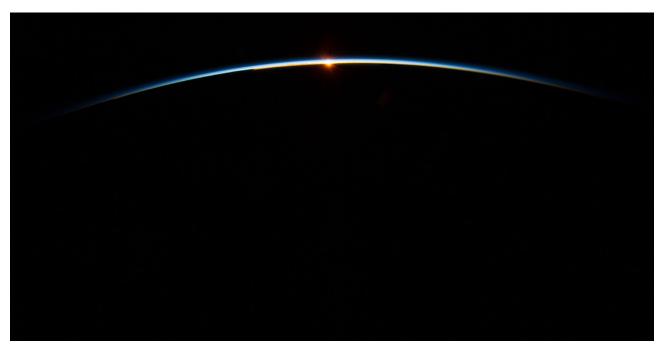
We have the technology needed to avoid the worst climate impacts.

Source: @JohnfoCook



Felix Schaad (Tages Anzeiger, Switzerland)

Our atmosphere is thin and fragile (as seen by ISS crew on 31 July 2013)



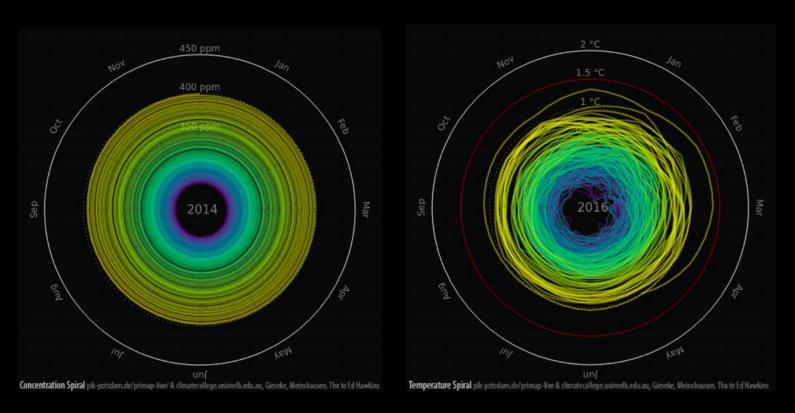
Source: NASA

Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (vanyp@climate.be)

Fact: Because we use the atmosphere as a free dustbin for our greenhouse gases, we thicken the thermal insulation layer around the planet

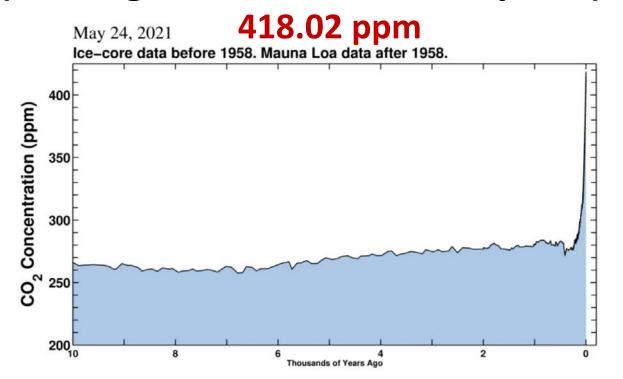
That is why we must cut emissions to net ZERO as soon as possible

CO₂ Concentration and Temperature spirals



CO₂ Concentration since 1850 and Global Mean Temperature in °C relative to 1850 – 1900 Graph: Ed Hawkins (Climate Lab Book) – Data: HadCRUT4 global temperature dataset Animation available on http://openclimatedata.net/climate-spirals/concentration-temperature/

CO₂ Concentration 24 May 2021 (Keeling curve + last 10000 years)

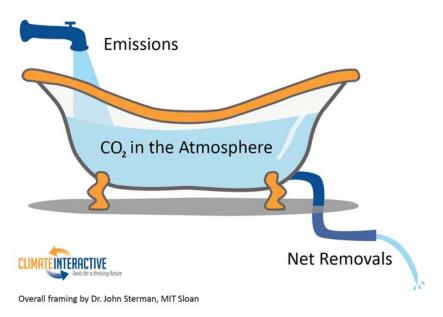


Source: <u>scripps.ucsd.edu/programs/keelingcurve/</u>

Fact: The changing composition of the atmosphere and the resulting climate chenge are due to our usage of fossil fuels, cement, and to deforestation

The science about this is now crystal clear

The Carbon Bathtub



Source: @CarbonInteractive

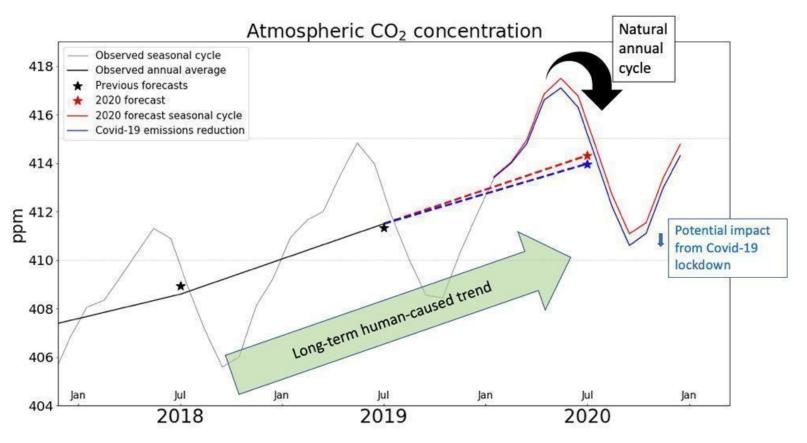
Climatic Change: Are We on the Brink of a Pronounced Global Warming? (Broecker, 1975)

Table 1. Reconstruction and prediction of atmospheric CO₂ contents based on fuel consumption data.

Year	Chemical fuel CO ₂ (× 10 ¹⁶ g)	Excess atmo- spheric CO ₂ * (× 10 ¹⁶ g)	Excess atmo- spheric CO ₂ (%)	Excess atmo- spheric CO ₂ (ppm)	CO ₂ content of the atmosphere† (ppm)	Global temper- ature increase‡ (°C)
1900	3.8	1.9	0.9	2	295	0.02
1910	6.3	3.1	1.4	4	297	.04
1920	9.7	4.8	2.2	6	299	.07
1930	13.6	6.8	3.1	9	302	.09
1940	17.9	8.9	4.1	12	305	.11
1950	23.3	11.6	5.3	16	309	.15
1960	31.2	15.6	7.2	21	314§	.21
1970	44.0	22.0	10.2	29	322§	.29
1980	63	31	14	42	335	.42
1990	88	44	20	58	351	.58
2000	121	60	28	80	373	.80
2010	167	83	38	110	403	1.10

^{*}On the assumption that 50 percent of the CO₂ produced by the burning of fuel remains in the atmosphere. †The preindustrial atmospheric partial pressure of CO₂ is assumed to be 293 ppm. ‡Assumes a 0.3°C global temperature increase for each 10 percent rise in the atmospheric CO₂ content. §Value observed on Hawaii for 1960, 314 ppm; value for 1970, 322 ppm (8). ||Post-1972 growth rate taken to be 3 percent per year.

« Covid19 »: a very small effect on CO₂ concentration



Source: @CarbonBrief, mai 2020 @JPvanYpersele

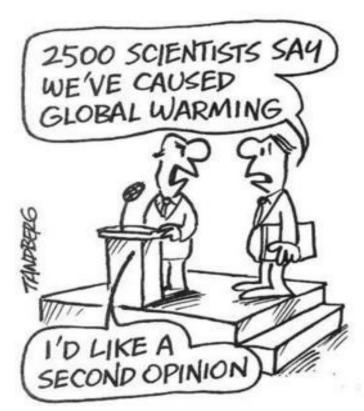
Why the IPCC?

Established by WMO and UNEP in 1988

to provide policy-makers with an objective source of information about

- causes of climate change,
- potential environmental and socio-economic impacts,
- possible response options (adaptation & mitigation).

WMO=World Meteorological Organization UNEP= United Nations Environment Programme



Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis



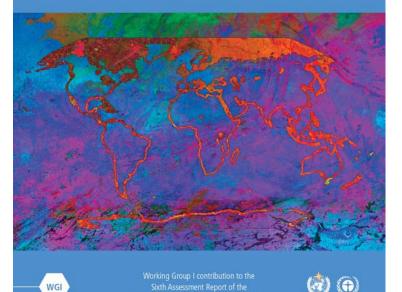






Climate Change 2021 The Physical Science Basis

Summary for Policymakers







BY THE NUMBERS

Author Team

234 authors from 65 countries

28% women, 72% men

30% new to the IPCC

Review Process

14,000 scientific publications assessed

78,000+ review comments

46 countries commented on Final Government Distribution



Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years

a) Change in global surface temperature (decadal average) as reconstructed (1-2000) and observed (1850-2020)

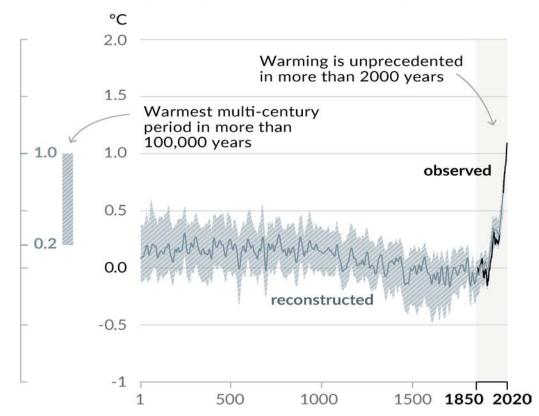


Figure SPM.1

Progression of Understanding: Greater and Greater Certainty in **Attribution**

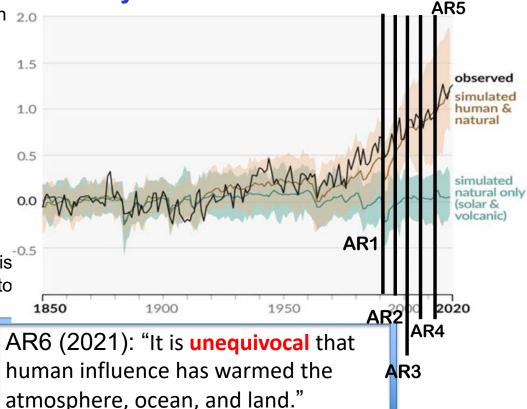
AR1 (1990): "unequivocal detection not likely for a decade"

AR2 (1995): "balance of evidence suggests **discernible** human influence"

AR3 (2001): "most of the warming of the past 50 years is **likely** (odds 2 out of 3) due to human activities"

AR4 (2007): "most of the warming is very likely (odds 9 out of 10) due to greenhouse gases"

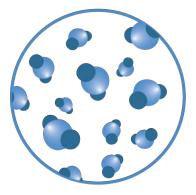
AR5 (2013) «It is **extremely likely** (odds 95 out of 100) that human influence has been the dominant cause... »







 CO_2 concentration



Highest in at least

2 million years

Sea level



Fastest rates

in at least

3000 years

Arctic sea ice area



Lowest level

in at least

1000 years

Glaciers retreat



Unprecedented

in at least

2000 years





Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe



Extreme heat

More frequent

More intense



Heavy rainfall

More frequent

More intense



Drought

Increase in some regions



Fire weather

More frequent



Ocean

Warming Acidifying Losing oxygen



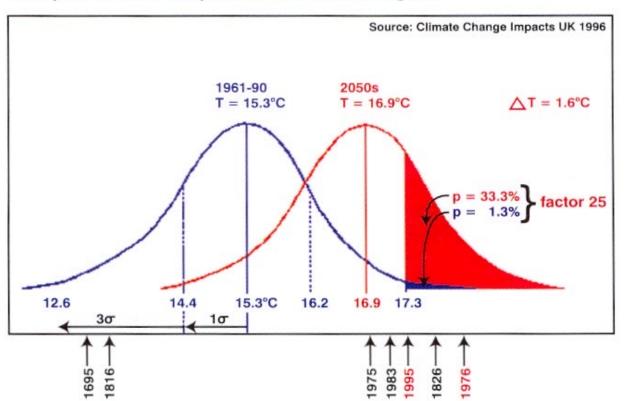


It is virtually certain that hot extremes (including heatwaves) have become more frequent and more intense across most land regions since the 1950s

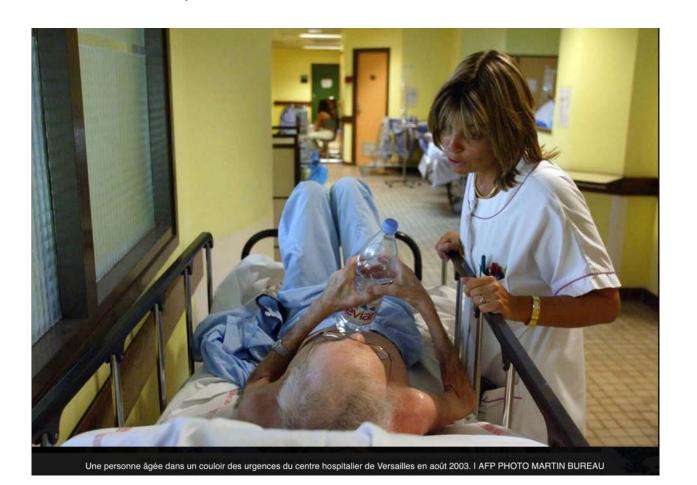
The frequency and intensity of heavy precipitation events have increased since the 1950s over most land area (...) (high confidence), and human-induced climate change is likely the main driver.

Increasing Probabilities of Extremes

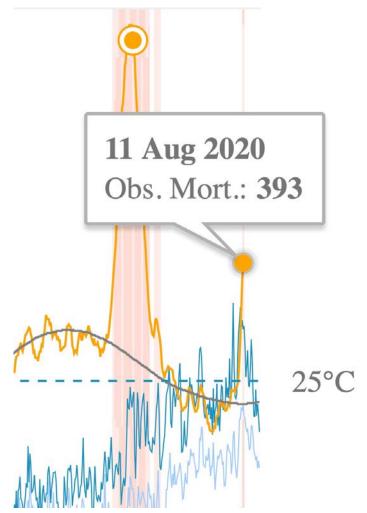
Example: Summer Temperatures in Central England



Heat waves kill (Ex: 2003 summer in EU: 70000 deaths)



Décès dus à la canicule d'août 2020 en Belgique: plus de 1400 d'après Sciensano

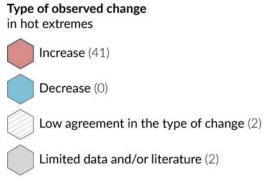


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Climate change is already affecting every inhabited region across the globe, with human influence contributing to many observed changes in weather and climate extremes

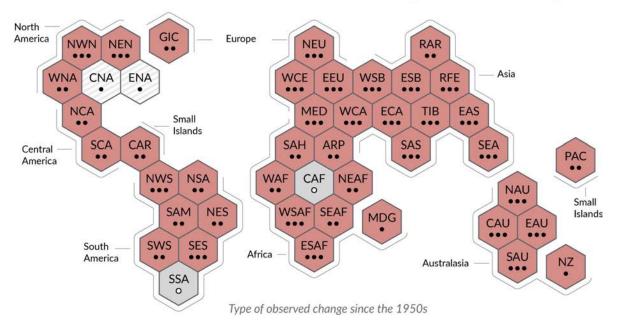
Figure SPM.3

a) Synthesis of assessment of observed change in **hot extremes** and confidence in human contribution to the observed changes in the world's regions



Confidence in human contribution to the observed change

- • High
- Medium
 - · Low due to limited agreement
 - Low due to limited evidence





MORE EVAPORATION

MORE PRECIPITATION

Available water

1°C increase = more water vapor

- Temperature +

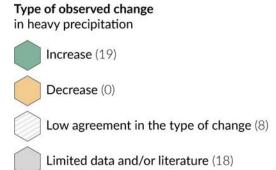
CLIMATE CO CENTRAL

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Climate change is already affecting every inhabited region across the globe, with human influence contributing to many observed changes in weather and climate extremes

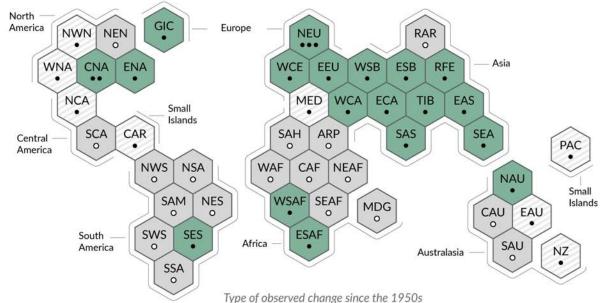
Figure SPM.3

b) Synthesis of assessment of observed change in **heavy precipitation** and confidence in human contribution to the observed changes in the world's regions



Confidence in human contribution to the observed change

- • High
- • Medium
- Low due to limited agreement
- Low due to limited evidence



Wallonia Floods, July 2021



Source: VRT Nieuws

Floods cost



The Louvre and Musée d'Orsay in Paris evacuated their vaults (May 2016)



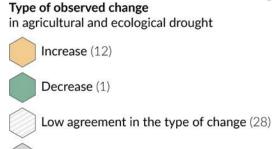
Geoffroy Van Der Hasselt / Getty Images

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Climate change is already affecting every inhabited region across the globe, with human influence contributing to many observed changes in weather and climate extremes

Figure SPM.3

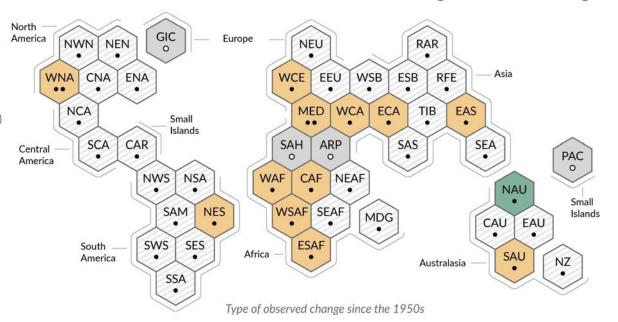
c) Synthesis of assessment of observed change in **agricultural and ecological drought** and confidence in human contribution to the observed changes in the world's regions



Limited data and/or literature (4)

Confidence in human contribution to the observed change

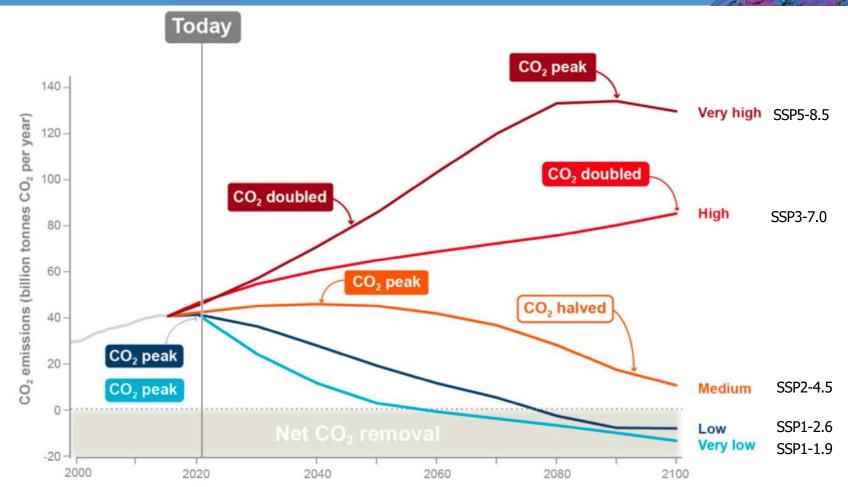
- • High
- • Medium
 - · Low due to limited agreement
 - Low due to limited evidence



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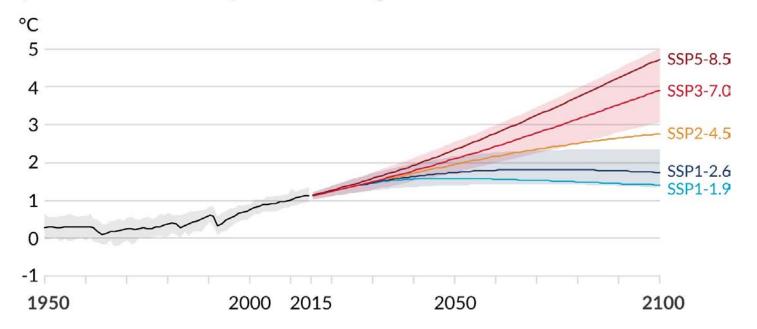
ipcc
Intergovernmental panel on climate change





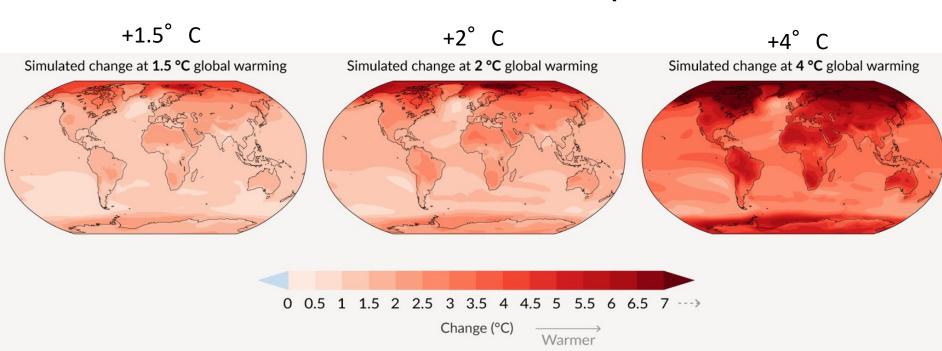


a) Global surface temperature change relative to 1850-1900



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Across warming levels, land areas warm more than oceans, and the Arctic and Antarctica warm more than the tropics



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Projected changes in extremes are larger in frequency and intensity with every additional increment of global warming

Figure SPM.6

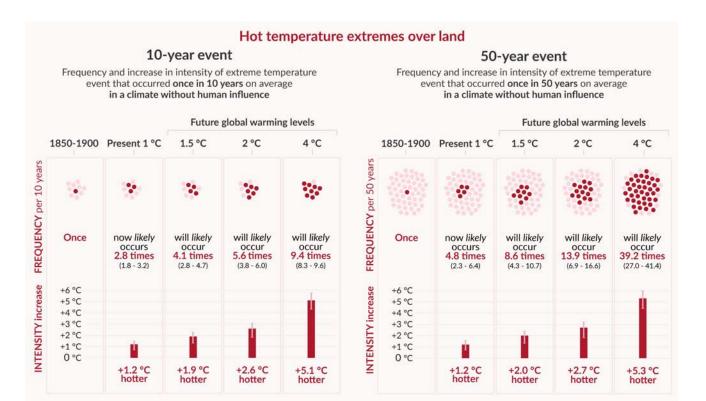
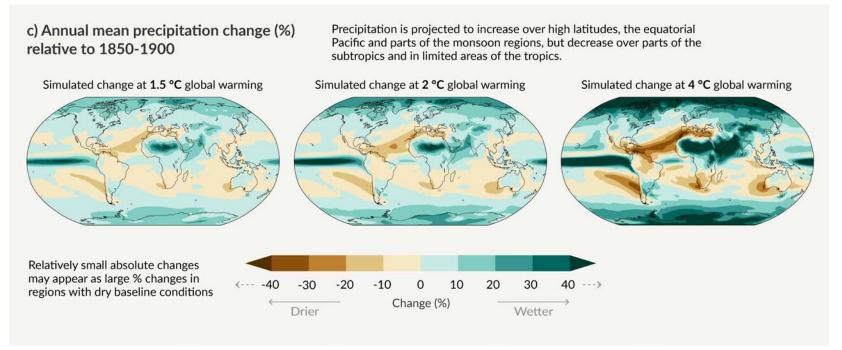




Figure SPM.5

With every increment of global warming, changes get larger in regional mean temperature, precipitation and soil moisture

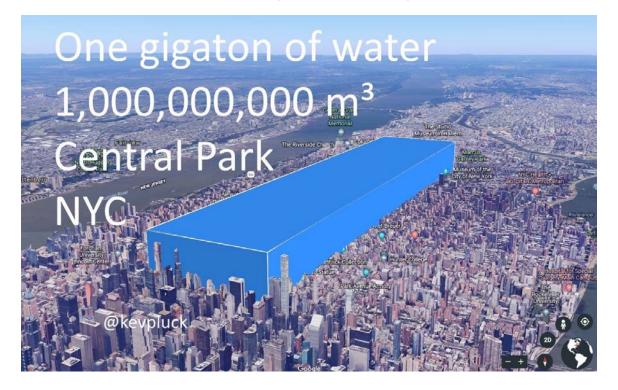




Fact: Average temperature is on its way to exceed the « conservation temperature » for the Greenland and (some of the) Antarctic ice sheet

There is therefore a very high risk that average sea level would increase by several metres over the next century or two

The Antarctic Ice Sheet presently loses 1 Gt of ice every 1.5 day

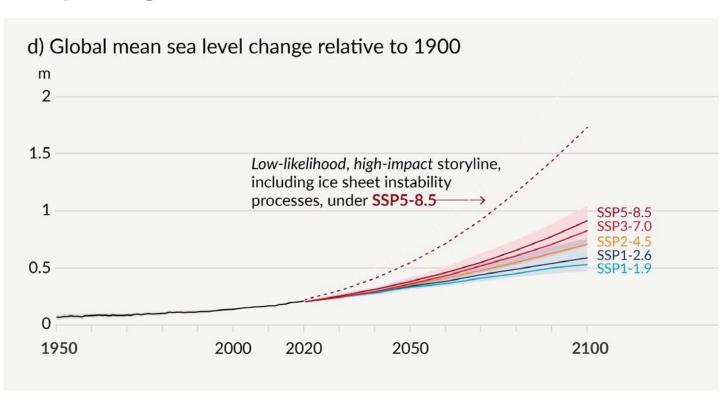


Source: @Kevpluck, June 2018

SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Working Group I - The Physical Science Basis

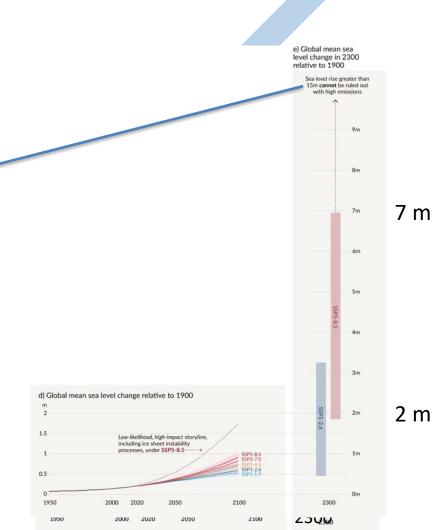
Human activities affect all the major climate system components, Figure SPM.8 with some responding over decades and others over centuries



SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Working Group I — The Physical Science Basis

« Sea level rise **greater than 15 m** cannot be ruled out with high emissions »



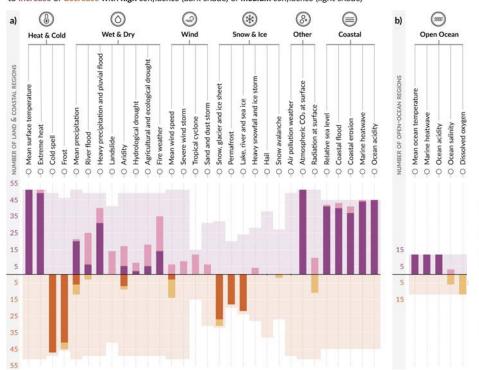




Multiple climatic impact-drivers are projected to change in all regions of the world

Figure SPM.9

Number of land & coastal regions (a) and open-ocean regions (b) where each climatic impact-driver (CID) is projected to increase or decrease with high confidence (dark shade) or medium confidence (light shade)



ASSESSED FUTURE CHANGES

Changes refer to a 20–30 year period centred around 2050 and/or consistent with 2°C global warming compared to a similar period within 1960-2014 or 1850-1900.

BAR CHART LEGEND

- Regions with high confidence increase
- Regions with *medium* confidence increase
- Regions with high confidence decrease
- Regions with *medium* confidence decrease

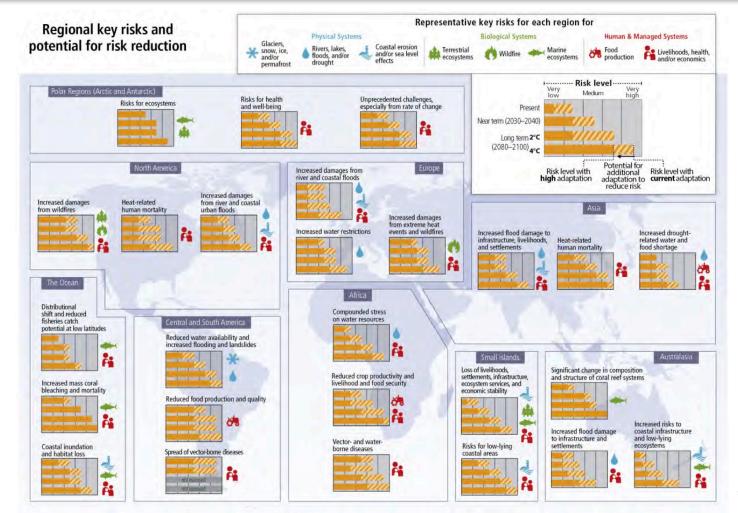
LIGHTER-SHADED 'ENVELOPE' LEGEND

The height of the lighter shaded 'envelope' behind each bar represents the maximum number of regions for which each CID is relevant. The envelope is symmetrical about the x-axis showing the maximum possible number of relevant regions for CID increase (upper part) or decrease (lower part).

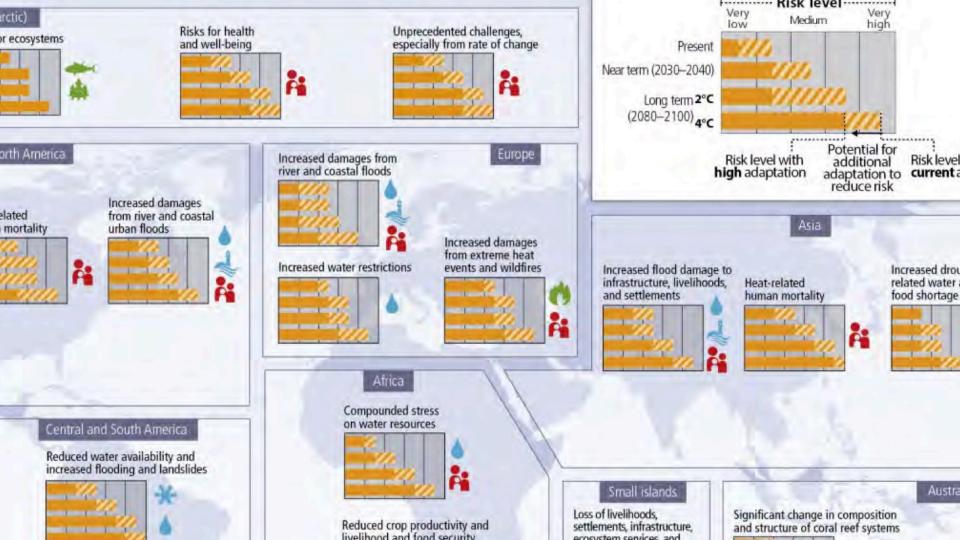


HALF A DEGREE OF WARMING MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE: EXPLAINING IPCC'S 1.5°C SPECIAL REPORT				
	1.5°C	2°C	2°C IMPACT	
EXTREME HEAT Global population exposed to severe heat at least once every five years	14%	37%	2.6x worse	
SEA-ICE-FREE ARCTIC Number of ice-free summers	AT LEAST 1 EVERY 100 YEARS	AT LEAST 1 EVERY 10 YEARS	10x worse	
SEA LEVEL RISE Amount of sea level rise by 2100	0.40 METERS	0.46 METERS	.06M MORE	
SPECIES LOSS: VERTEBRATES Vertebrates that lose at least half of their range	4%	8%	2x worse	
SPECIES LOSS: PLANTS Plants that lose at least half of their range	8%	16%	2x worse	
SPECIES LOSS: INSECTS Insects that lose at least half of their range	6%	18%	3x worse	

Responsibility for content: WRI





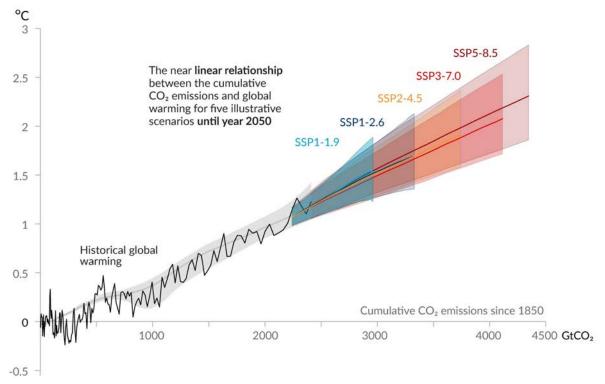


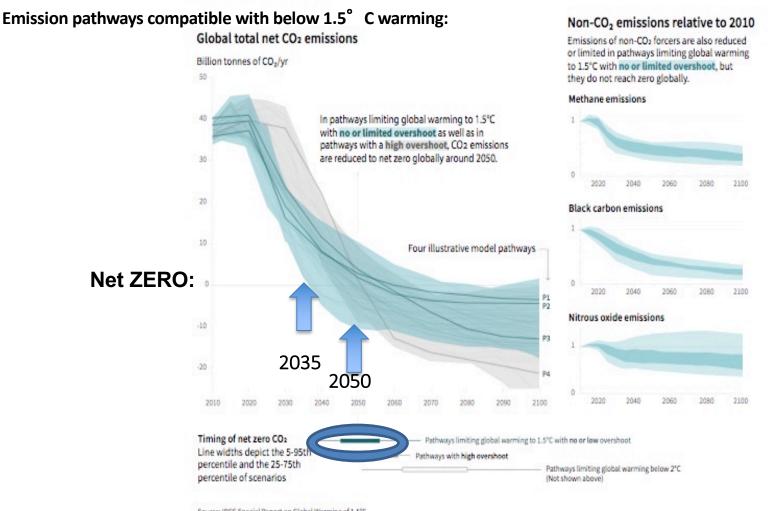


Every tonne of CO₂ emissions adds to global warming

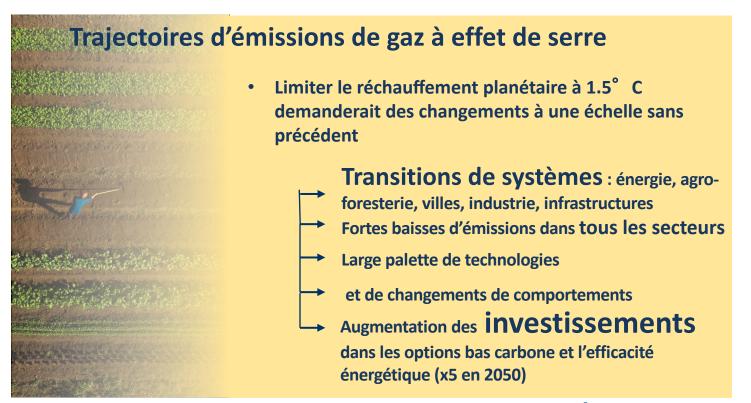
Figure SPM.10

Global surface temperature increase since 1850-1900 (°C) as a function of cumulative CO₂ emissions (GtCO₂)

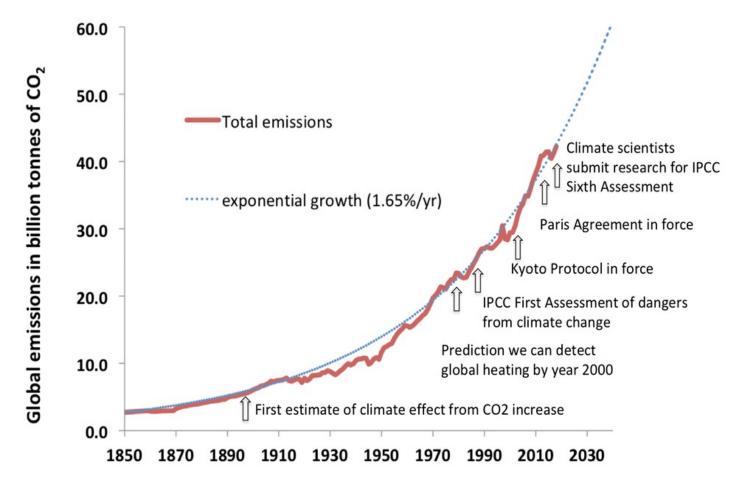




Source: IPCC SR15 Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C

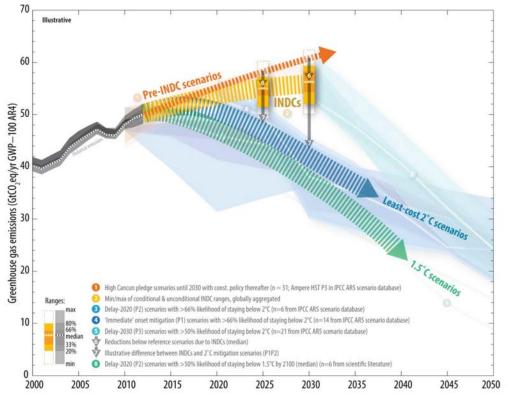






Source: Wolfgang Knorr, in The Conversation (2019)

Comparison of global emission levels in 2025 and 2030 resulting from the implementation of the intended nationally determined contributions



UNFCCC, Aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions: an update http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/02.pdf

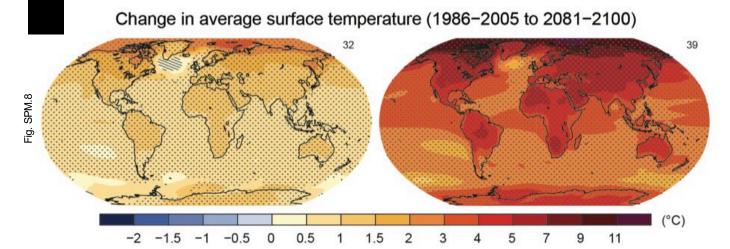
Fact: It might become much worse, but the future climate is in our hands

Yes, the planet got destroyed. But for a beautiful moment in time we created value for shareholders



"Yes, the planet got destroyed. But for a beautiful moment in time we created a lot of value for shareholders." **RCP2.6**

RCP8.5



Humanity has the choice

SUSTAINABLE GEALS DEVELOPMENT







































Joel Pett, USA Today

Nations Unies

onférence sur les Changements Climatiques

COP21/CMP11



The Paris Agreement (COP21, December 2015)

Vision

« ...strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty »

Objectives

a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature:

- « to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels »
- « pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change »

b) Adaptation and Mitigation

- « Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and
- low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production»

c) Finances

 « Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. »

CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS SINCE PARIS AGREEMENT

Two main issue set the tone

1. Making the Paris Agreement fully operational by agreeing the Katowice Rulebook

- Paris Agreement generally defines principles and mandates for further elaboration and conclusion
- Original plan: conclude the finalisation of the Rulebook at the first Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (was expected right before 2020)
- Due to the rapid entry into force of Paris Agreement at COP22 in 2016 this had to be revised
- Marrakesh (COP22) decides for conclusion of the rulebook by end of 2018 (COP24)
- COP24 succeeds in reaching agreement on the Katowice Rulebook Paris Agreement
- One very important exception to this: Article 6 market mechanism and the cooperation between Parties to achieve their emission reductions.



CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS SINCE PARIS AGREEMENT

2. Enhancing climate ambition

- Central feature of Paris Agreement: 5 YEAR AMBITION CYCLE
 - -> Global Stocktake of Paris Agreement (Art 14 Paris Agreement)
 - -> Concept: science based input, technical preparations, political phase to be followed by new NDCs (in 2025, 2030, ...)
 - -> Invitation to communicate Long term strategies (LEDS)
- GST only starts in 2023 (and every 5 year thereafter): need for similar arrangement prior to this
 - -> Solution: Paris Agreement decision to have in 2018 a 'Facilitative Dialogue' (branded as 'Talanoa Dialogue' by Fiji)
 - -> invitation to IPCC to present Special Report on Global Warming of 1,5°C (reduce global emission with 45% by 2030 compared to 2010)
- Since then building up on enhancing ambition (UN SG Summit 2019, Greta Thunberg, race to zero initiatives, ...)
- At the focus of climate diplomacy and external dimension of EU Green Deal
- Originally Parties expected to present new or updated NDC in 2020



CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS SINCE PARIS AGREEMENT

Preparing for COP26 in Glasgow: UK decided to postpone with 1 year and so only in November 2021

4 Broad workstreams

- i) Enhancing national ambition in NDCs and LTS
 - EU NDC 'at least 55%' and decision for climate neutral EU
 - o Other major economies are speeding up China; South Korea, Canada, ...
 - US President Biden: decided immediately after to rejoin Paris Agreement and decided for Climate Ambition Summit on 22 April
- ii) Finalising the rulebook
- iii) Upcoming mandates: new Climate Finance goal by 2025, adaptation ...
- iv) Climate campaigns: energy transition, transport, nature based solutions, climate resilience and adaptation, sustainable finance -> coalitions of the willing to spur transition and gain political momentum



"put the world on a path to driving down emissions, until they reach net zero by the middle of this century"

- All countries to set targets to get us to net zero by the middle of the century,
- and to come forward with 2030 emissions reduction targets to take us there.
- Consign coal power to history.
- Signal the end of polluting vehicles.
- Tackle methane emissions.
- Call time on deforestation, by making sustainable production pay.
- Countries to commit to all new cars being zero emission by 2040, or earlier.





"to protect people and nature"

- Accelerate progress towards the Global Goal for Adaptation.
- Action to avert, minimise and address loss and damage
- Adaptation Action Coalition.
- Risk Informed Early ActionPartnership.



5

"mobilising finance to tackle climate change"

- deliver on the \$100 billion, and support developing countries to respond to the climate crisis. It is a matter of trust.
- get private finance flowing, and collaborating with donors and development banks to create investment opportunities in emerging markets.



- building consensus among governments, so the negotiations in Glasgow are a success.
- finalise the Paris Rulebook
 - carbon markets.
 - transparent reporting.
 - Common Timeframes.

(Element) of solution n° 1: The survival of humanity and ecosystems must become a much higher political priority

... as if we were all running for our life.

Solution n° 2: Economic actors must be confronted much more clearly with their responsibilities

Degrowth of climate-unfriendly activities must be accepted, while growth of activities helping climate protection and poverty eradication must be encouraged

Yes, the planet got destroyed. But for a beautiful moment in time we created value for shareholders



"Yes, the planet got destroyed. But for a beautiful moment in time we created a lot of value for shareholders."

Solution n° 3: The best understood language is the price. Destroying the environment must become more and more expensive. Collected funds must be used to help the decarbonization, and avoid impacting the poor disproportionately

EU Emission Trading System, CO₂ taxes, fines, internal CO₂ price (firms do « as if » CO₂ emission was expensive). NB: Price must match the effect desired!

Solution n° 4: Transition towards a clean and sustainable economy and energy system must be « just », and other synergies with the SDGs must be seeked

Ex: The Polish energy system cannot be transformed without facilitating the coal miners reconversion

@JPvanYpersele

Solution n° 5: Before looking at how to produce energy cleanly, much more attention must be given to reducing energy demand and efficiency, in all sectors

All production and consumption patterns must be reconsidered, helped by energy audits, etc.

• Substantial reductions in emissions to stay under 2° C would require large changes in investment patterns e.g., from 2010 to 2029, in billions US dollars/year: (mean numbers rounded, IPCC AR5 WGIII Fig SPM 9)

+330

+ 90

+ 40

+ 40

- 120

60

energy efficiency:

power plants w/ CCS:

power plants w/o CCS:

fossil fuel extraction:

renewables:

· nuclear:

Solution n° 6: Building sector: offers many opportunities in energy saving, economic activity, improving wellbeing...

Solution n° 7: Mobility: much more space and priority to pedestrians, bicycles, and public transport; reduce priority given too long to individual transport in urban planning

Electrify remaining vehicles (with clean electricity). Fly less, only if essential.

Solution n° 8: Food and agriculture. A possible change with big positive impact: eat less (red) meat and cheese, of better quality! Eat more plant-based food (produced cleanly)

...It is good for health as well!

Solution n° 9: The Sun gives us in two hours about as much energy as the world uses in *one year*, all forms of energy considered

The cost of solar kWh is crashing, wind power, heat and electricity storage, and smart grids are moving forward

Trying to practice what I « preach »:

- Energy audit before renovation
- Strong external insulation (wood fiber)
- Super-efficient windows
- Air tightiness + heat recovery ventilation system
- Ground-water heat pump replacing oil furnace
- Solar PV covering all consumption
- No tropical wood
- Small, used electric car

Conclusions

The IPCC AR6 WGI report confirmed that the inhabitability of the Earth is at stake due to climate change

Adaptation is key, and resources need to be much better shared and managed, but adaptation will not be sufficient at all

Stabilizing the temperature as close as possible to no more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial is essential, and requires to move away quickly from fossil fuels, and to stop deforestation

The challenge is huge: transform the world in a few decades so that the whole world activities are decarbonized, while poverty and hunger are eliminated

Addressing this challenge opens so many opportunities, including opportunities to address in a synergistic manner other societal goals, such as the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

This gives me hope:

Well-informed young people speaking truth to power



With @GretaThunberg in the Lausanne train station, August 2019

jeunes (et moins jeunes), avec des liens vers des ressources utiles



Disponible gratuitement, 6X/an: www.plateforme-wallonne-giec.be

Une des Lettres de la Plateforme Wallonne pour le GIEC (que j'anime) consacrées aux COPs Plateforme Wallonne pour le GIEC

Lettre N°16 - Mars 2020

De la COP25 à la COP26, en mode confiné



Ces changements là, personne ne les a demandés. Nous voici privés de nombreuses liberés et confrontés à une organisation sociale et économique assommée. Ce qui rêst encore inc, comparativement au risque montél auquel sont d'asantage confrontés les soignames et soutes les personnes qui avevent à maintenir des services essentiels, celles et ceux qui se trouvent dans une région moins fuvoisée ou plus contaminée, et les plus âgée s. Une cise qui change tout, de maidre pénible, muis on les puspose, temposite.

Quels en serent les leçons et les effets à long terme 2 le télétravail. L'un des primbelse de la crise, pourra-til demain contribuer à nédire le besoin de déplacements et les émissions de gaz à effet de serre ? Nouvera-t on les moyens d'organiser efficacement des réunions internationales par vidéconfelence 20 vu outraitrie, la pistion momentanée poussar-telle à davantage de voyages ? Vernons-nous un rebond de la consommation matérielle, encouragée par des Cafats en manque de entreties fiscales ? Le soutien au redémarage économique pourra-til être encadré par des règles cohérentes avec la nécessité de stopper le réchauffement dimainé autre du longtemps vantée développement durable sera-t-elle saisie, ou sera-t-il seulement ourvar au plus prassés, comme d'habitude sera-t-elle saisie, ou sera-t-il seulement dourvar au plus prassés, comme d'habitude ».

À quoi penserons-nous une fois l'orage passé ? À la nécessité de mieux anticiper les drames possibles, voire tout à fait prévisibles, comme dans le cas des changements climatiques et de la perte de la biodiversité ? Dans un premier temps, l'action pourrait prendre du retard; la COP26, initialement prévue en novembre, est déjà reportée. Qu'en sera-t-il des engagements à plus d'efforts en matière dimatique, que les États doivent communiquer au secrétariat de la Convention au plus tôt, et bien avant la COP26?

Comme le rappelle et l'explique cette Lettre, les progrès engrangés à la COP25 ont été bien trop maigres. Face au stunami sanitaire, social, et économique que représente le cononvivuis, il n'y aura pas d'autre issue que de redresser la tête. Nous espérans que cette volonté sera celle qui animera tous les arteurs, de la COP26.

Bruna Gaino, Solenn Koç, Philippe Marbaix et Jean-Pascal van Ypersele

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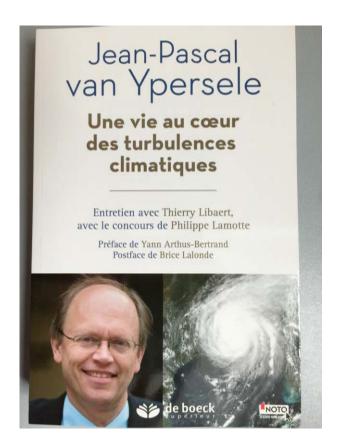


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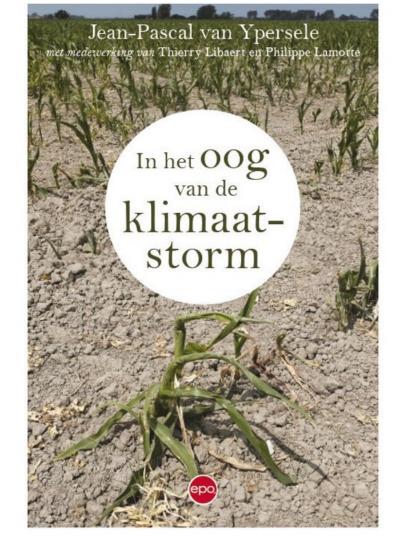
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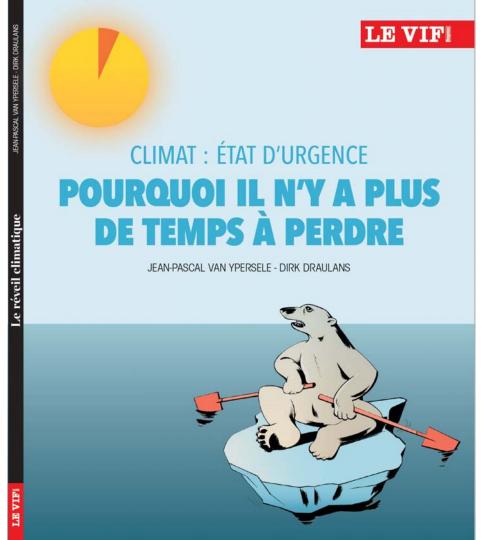
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Bij EPO (2018)

Voorwoord: Jill Peeters





Gratuit sur www.levif.be/reveil-climatique Gratis op www.knack.be/klimaatalarm



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BIJLAGE BIJ KNACK VAN 16 SEPTEMBER 2020. MAG NIET LOS VERKOCHT WORDEN.

HET KLIMAAT ALARM Dirk Draulans en Jean-Pascal van Yp.



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To go further:

- www.ipcc.ch : IPCC
- <u>www.realclimate.org</u>: answers to the merchants of doubt arguments
- <u>www.skepticalscience.com</u>: same
- www.plateforme-wallonne-giec.be: IPCC-related in French, Newsletter, latest on climate, basic climate science
- Twitter: @JPvanYpersele & @IPCC_CH

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