

# Possible effects of global climate change

The UN Copenhagen climate conference is widely billed as the last chance to save the planet from a temperature rise beyond two degrees Celsius. Beyond this point scientists warn that impacts will be severe, with dangerous and irreversible effects

*Global mean annual temperature change relative to 1980-99*



## WATER SUPPLY

Increase in high latitudes and wet tropics      Decrease in mid latitudes and dry tropics – droughts likely to increase      Decline of water stored in glaciers and snow cover will reduce supply in regions where one sixth of world population lives

People exposed to increased water stress

**2bn**

**3.2bn**

## FOOD

Decrease in cereal productivity at low latitudes

Some increase in cereal productivity in mid to high latitudes due to more rainfall and warmer weather

Decrease in all latitudes

Extra people at risk of hunger

**50m**

**132m**

**266m**

## HEALTH

Increased malnutrition, diarrhoeal, cardio-respiratory, and infectious diseases

Increased mortality, disease and injury from heatwaves, floods, storms, fires and droughts

Infectious diseases spread to new regions

## ECOSYSTEMS

Increased risk of wildfires. Species shift habitats due to changing conditions

Up to 30% of plant and animal species at increased risk of extinction

Over 40% of species under threat of extinction

Increased coral bleaching

Most corals bleached

Widespread coral mortality

## COASTS

Increased damage from floods and storms

Millions more people experiencing coastal flooding each year

Around 30% of coastal wetlands lost