



IPCC Report Update

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)



Image: BBC

“The scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a threat to human wellbeing and the health of the planet. Any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future.”
-Hans-Otto Pörtner.

The IPCC provides regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. It was created in 1988 through the work of the *World Meteorological Organization* (WMO) and the *United Nations Environment Programme* (UNEP). The main objective of the organization is to provide timely scientific information to governments at all levels. Each assessment report is a culmination of the work of thousands of people around the world who volunteer their time to provide expert assessments of scientific papers published that year. The resulting report is a comprehensive summary of the state of climate change in the world.

Since the IPCC was created in 1988, there have been 5 Synthesis Reports:

- [The Overview of the First Assessment Report](#) (1990)
- [The IPCC Second Assessment Report Synthesis of Scientific-technical Information Relevant to Interpreting Article 2 of the UNFCCC](#) (1995)
- [The Synthesis Report of the Third Assessment Report](#) (2001)
- [The Synthesis Report of the Fourth Assessment Report](#) (2007)
- [The Synthesis Report of the Fifth Assessment Report](#) (2014)

The IPCC is currently in its 6th assessment cycle and just finalized the second part of the Sixth Assessment Report on 27 February 2022 entitled: ***Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability***. The report can be found [here](#). The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) which provides a high-level summary of the key findings of the Working Group II Report can be found [here](#). The third part of the Sixth Assessment Report on the topic of mitigation is expected April 2022.



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Main Takeaways

- **Observed and projected climate change impacts:** Even if global warming is limited to 1.5°C, human life, safety, and livelihoods across North America, especially in coastal areas will be placed at risk from sea level rise, severe storms, and hurricanes.
- **Ecosystems:** Escalating climate change impacts on marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems will alter ecological processes and amplify other anthropogenic threats to protected and iconic species and habitats.
- **Health:** Health risks are projected to increase this century under all future emissions scenarios, but the magnitude and severity of impacts depends on the implementation and effectiveness of adaptation strategies.
- **Economic activity:** Under current economic and consumption trends and paradigms, climate change impacts are projected to cause large market and non-market damages across North America.
- **Food:** Climate-induced redistribution and declines in North American food production are a risk to food and nutritional security. Climate change will continue to shift North American agricultural and fishery suitability ranges and intensify production losses of key crops, livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture products.
- **Water:** Heavy exploitation of limited water supplies and deteriorating freshwater management infrastructure, have heightened water security impacts and risks. Intensified droughts and diminished snowpack will increase water scarcity during peak summer, leading to economic losses.
- **Cities and settlements:** North American cities and settlements have been affected by increasing severity and frequency of climate-induced hazards and extreme events. Flooding will become a dominant risk to urban centers. Large wildfires will increasingly endanger lives and livelihoods.



Image: Boston Globe