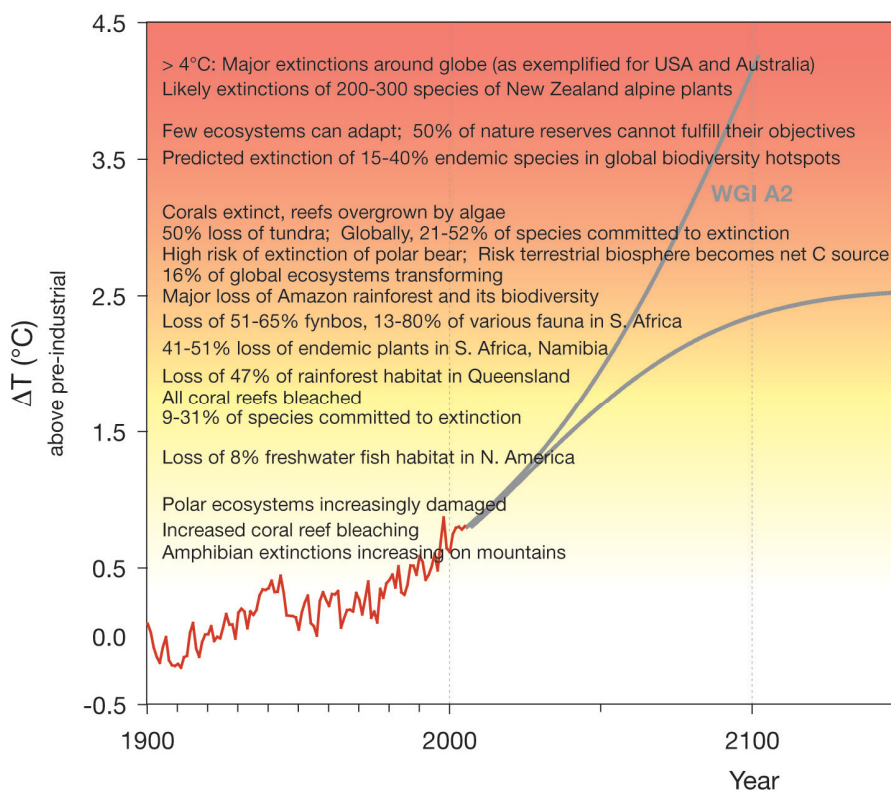


BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Introduction

In order to limit global warming to well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels, the Copenhagen agreement needs to be based on a remaining global carbon budget that cannot be exceeded. Consistent analysis demonstrates that global emissions must peak within the next 5-year commitment period, ie by 2017, and be reduced by more than 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 in order to maximize the probability of staying well below the 2°C threshold.

The importance of limiting global average temperature increases to well below 2°C is based on assessment of the impacts at different temperatures, including on biodiversity and ecosystems. The figure below is slightly adapted version of one published in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2007 Fourth Assessment Report and shows increasingly severe impacts with increasing temperatures.



In the Copenhagen Climate Treaty, version 1.0 ("the treaty") consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems is implicit in the carbon budget and the related targets, which were chosen to have a high probability of keeping temperatures within the 2°C limit. More explicitly, biodiversity and ecosystems are referred to in the shared vision, adaptation and reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation sections

Shared vision

In its shared vision, the treaty affirms "the right to survival for countries, communities, cultures, and ecosystems" while calling for the shared vision of the eventual Copenhagen outcome to "also expound Parties' commitment to protect vulnerable ecosystems"

The treaty furthermore recognizes the link between the level of ambition for emissions reductions and biodiversity to keep within the limits of intrinsic adaptation for ecosystems, noting that a deal compatible with the 2°C goal will "...require a collective ambition on the part of all governments and peoples, but in doing so, we can protect millions from the damaging impacts of climate change; protect the economy from greater shocks than the current economic crisis and keep some of the world's most cherished and fragile ecosystems in the Arctic, the Sundurbans Delta and the Great Barrier Reef from disappearing. Kyoto was a small step forward; Copenhagen must be a giant leap"

Adaptation

The treaty recognizes the role healthy biodiverse environments play in maintaining and increasing resilience to climate change, and in reducing climate-related risk and vulnerability by calling for the Copenhagen outcome to, "Provide easy and direct access to support the most vulnerable communities, people and countries, protecting, respecting and fulfilling their fundamental rights; and promote ecosystem adaptation".

The treaty further recognizes the need for further data and information, recognizing the role of local knowledge, and calls for the "gathering information and statistical, gender-disaggregated data on impacts and vulnerabilities, the role and value of ecosystems in adaptation and other areas related to knowledge sharing in all sectors relevant for adaptation, including the use of traditional and low-tech solution".

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)

Emissions from tropical deforestation and degradation are known to account for nearly 20% of global emissions and are therefore an important sector to address in the Copenhagen agreement. These forests are not only stores of carbon, but are rich in biodiversity, and play important roles in local, national and regional resilience to climate change, through their interaction with the climate, soils, water cycles and people.

On the mitigation side, the treaty sets the specific target of eliminating "The vast majority of gross emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries...by 2020 with a view to eliminating nearly all human induced forest emissions by 2030, in a manner that promotes the protection of biodiversity and fully respects the rights of local and indigenous peoples". The treaty proposes the establishment of a Copenhagen Climate Facility, which would act as the finance and technology mechanisms of the Copenhagen Agreement, one function of which would be to release funding for approved developing country mitigation and adaptation plans. Under this proposal, there would be a specific REDD mechanism governed by a REDD Board which would have the expertise to makes decisions on developing countries' National Action Plans on REDD. The treaty demands that these should be "in line with their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans".