

NEWS IN brief

'The worst is yet to come'

Draft UN report warns crushing climate impacts to hit sooner than feared, tells us to get ready for impact

Climate change will fundamentally reshape life on Earth in the coming decades, even if humans can tame planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions...



Species extinction, more widespread disease, unliveable heat, ecosystem collapse, cities menaced by rising seas -- these and other devastating climate impacts are accelerating and bound to become painfully obvious before a child born today turns 30.

The choices societies make now will determine whether our species thrives or simply survives as the 21st century unfolds...

But dangerous thresholds are closer than once thought, and dire consequences stemming

stewardship of the planet.

But the document, designed to influence critical policy decisions, is not scheduled for release until February 2022.

The report shows that even as we spew record amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, we are undermining the capacity of forests and oceans to absorb them...

It warns that previous major climate shocks dramatically altered the environment and wiped out most species, raising the question of whether humanity is sowing the seeds of its own demise.

'Life on Earth can recover from a drastic climate shift by evolving into new species and creating new ecosystems,' it says.

There are at least four main takeaways in the draft report.

Earlier models predicted we were not likely to see Earth-altering climate change before 2100. But the UN draft report says that prolonged warming even beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius could produce 'progressively serious, centuries' long and, in some cases, irreversible consequences'.

For some plants and animals, it could be too late.

The world must face up to this reality and prepare for the onslaught -- a second major take-away of the report.

Tens of millions more people are likely to face chronic hunger by 2050, and 130 million more could experience extreme poverty within a decade if inequality is allowed to deepen.

In 2050, coastal cities on the 'frontline' of the climate crisis will see hundreds of millions of people at risk from floods and increasingly

frequent storm surges made more deadly by rising seas. Some 350 million more people living in urban areas will be exposed to water scarcity from severe droughts at 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming -- 410 million at two degrees Celsius.

Thirdly, the report outlines the danger of compound and cascading impacts, along with point-of-no-return thresholds in the climate system known as tipping points...

Recent research has shown that warming of two degrees Celsius could push the melting of ice sheets atop Greenland and the West Antarctic -- with enough frozen water to lift oceans 13 metres (43 feet) -- past a point of no return.

Other tipping points could see the Amazon basin morph from tropical forest to savannah, and billions of tonnes of carbon leech from Siberia's permafrost, fuelling further warming.

There is very little good news in the report, but the IPCC stresses that much can be done to avoid worst-case scenarios and prepare for impacts that can no longer be averted, the final take-away.

Conservation and restoration of so-called blue carbon ecosystems -- kelp and mangrove forests, for example -- enhance carbon stocks and protect against storm surges, as well as providing wildlife habitats, coastal livelihoods and food security.

But simply swapping a gas guzzler for a Tesla or planting billions of trees to offset business-as-usual isn't going to cut it, the report warns.

'We need transformational change operating on processes and behaviours at all levels: individual, communities, business, institutions and governments,' it says.

Russia fires warning shots at British ship in Black Sea

Russia yesterday fired warning shots at a British Navy destroyer in the Black Sea after it violated the country's territorial waters...



No Scotland independence vote before 2024: minister

Scotland will not be given a new referendum on independence before 2024, a senior UK cabinet minister said in an interview published yesterday.

Pandemic has increased trust in media: report

The pandemic has helped rebuild a little of the confidence lost in the media, and pushed news companies even more towards digital, according to the annual Reuters Institute report published yesterday.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

- Devastating Climate impacts to become obvious before a child born today turns 30
By 2050, 410m more city dwellers to face severe water scarcity
Up to 80m more risk hunger by 2050
420m more will be exposed to extreme and potentially lethal heatwaves

from decades of unbridled carbon pollution are unavoidable in the short term.

'The worst is yet to come, affecting our children's and grandchildren's lives much more than our own,' the report says.

By far the most comprehensive catalogue ever assembled of how climate change is upending our world, the report reads like a 4,000-page indictment of humanity's

Quotes of the day



We are not considering even the possibility of any contact with the US, let alone having it (talks), which would get us nowhere.

NORTH KOREA FOREIGN MINISTER RI SON GWON



We can of course not face this (climate) crisis unless... we are adult enough to tell the truth, and to face the reality.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVIST GRETA THUNBERG

ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY BUILDING

Iran foils sabotage attack: state media

Says US websites seizure won't help nuke talks

AFP, Tehran

Iran said it foiled a sabotage attack yesterday on an atomic energy agency building in a mysterious incident that comes as the US blocked Iran-linked websites and as talks to revive a nuclear deal progressed.

State television said a 'sabotage operation against one of the buildings (of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran) was foiled' without causing any casualties or damage.

'The saboteurs failed to carry out their plan,' the broadcaster added, without identifying the building or the nature of the attack that had been averted.

The news of the attack came a day after the US Justice Department said it seized 33 Iranian government-controlled media websites which it alleged were hosted on US-owned domains in violation of sanctions.

Tehran warned yesterday that Washington's decision to block the sites was 'not constructive' for ongoing talks aimed at bringing the United States back to the landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

Iran accuses the Jewish state of being behind a sabotage attack on its Natanz uranium enrichment plant in April and the assassination of its top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh last November.

Israel neither confirmed nor denied involvement in the 'small explosion' at Natanz, but public radio said it was a sabotage operation by the Mossad spy agency, citing unnamed intelligence sources.

The New York Times, quoting unnamed US and Israeli intelligence officials, said there had been 'an Israeli role' in that attack.

At the time, the Iranian foreign ministry accused Israel of an act of 'nuclear terrorism' aimed at scuttling the Vienna nuclear talks and vowed revenge.

The Jewish state has also never commented on Fakhri-zadeh's assassination.

Israel argues the nuclear agreement could allow the Islamic republic to develop a bomb. Iran has always denied seeking nuclear weapons.

Yair Lapid, foreign minister in Israel's new coalition government, last week pledged the Jewish state 'will do whatever it takes to prevent Iran obtaining a nuclear bomb' and said he was opposed to a revival of the 2015 deal.



'Ecocide' redefined

New definition puts environmental destruction on a par with genocide, crimes against humanity

AGENCIES

After six months of deliberation, a team of international lawyers has unveiled a new legal definition of 'ecocide' that, if adopted, would put environmental destruction on a par with war crimes -- paving the way for the prosecution of world leaders and corporate chiefs for the worst attacks on nature.

The expert panel published the core text of the proposed law on Tuesday, outlining ecocide as 'unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts'.

Its authors want the members of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to endorse it and hold big polluters to account in a bid to halt the unbridled destruction of the world's ecosystems.

The draft legislation requires an ecocidal act to involve 'reckless disregard' that leads to 'serious adverse changes, disruption or harm to any element of the environment'.

'extend beyond a limited geographic area, cross state boundaries, or [be] suffered by an entire ecosystem or species or a large number of human beings'.

This environmental effect would either be 'irreversible' or could not be fixed naturally 'within a reasonable period of time'. Finally, in order for ecocide suspects to be tried, the proposed law says the crime could be committed anywhere -- from the Earth's biosphere to outer space.

Any of the ICC's 123 member states can now propose it as an amendment to the court's charter, known as the Rome Statute. Once that happens, the court's annual assembly will hold a vote on whether the amendment can be considered for future enactment.

At that point, ecocide would join genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crime of aggression as the so-called 'fifth crime' that could be prosecuted at the ICC.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bank (বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক) featuring a portrait of a man and text about a tender for a school building.

Advertisement for Khashoggi killers training in US, featuring a portrait of a man and text about a report from the Washington Post.

Government of Bangladesh e-GP Tender Notice for the procurement of goods details, including a table with columns for Sl. No., Tender Ref., Tender ID, Tender Description, Publication Date, and Opening Date.