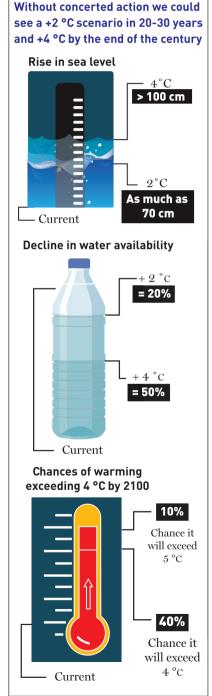
The heat trap

A World Bank report on climate change warns that a warmer world will trap millions in poverty.



"Much of the advance of European" capitalists and other members of the European ruling class was at the cost of the colonised and enslaved peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America," says Amiya Kumar Bagchi in his book "Perilous Passage: Mankind and the Global Ascendancy of Capital". Capitalist expansion following the Industrial Revolution involved unmitigated exploitation of natural resources and world labour. The search for profit led to the colonisation of the world and the pauperisation of much of what is today called the Global South. The over-exploitation of fossil fuels has meant that climate change has become an imminent threat. Underdeveloped nations will

Unusual summer heat extremes (percentage of land that will experience) 15% > 70% > 50% 20%

continue to bear the brunt. A scientific report commissioned by the World Bank, "Turn Down the Heat: Climate Extremes, Regional Impacts, and the Case for Resilience", looks at the possible impact of global warming by 2 °Celsius, and 4 °C on the most vulnerable parts of the world. It describes the risks to agriculture

Projected warming, without concerted action 2030s 1.5 °C

 $4~^{\circ}\text{C+}$

50%

2040s 2 °C



South Asia: Extremes of water scarcity and excess

Increase in river Ganga runoff from pre-industrial time (1850). affecting agriculture

20% - Present

Under 2 °C warming, 33% of the Kolkata metropolitan area is projected to be exposed to flooding of more than 25 cm in the event of extreme rainfall patterns by 2050



and livelihood security in sub-Saharan Africa; the likely rise in sea level, loss of coral reefs and devastation to coastal areas in South-East Asia; and the possibility of fluctuating water resources in South Asia. It says droughts, floods, heat waves, sea-level rises and

41-51%

Loss in unique local

plant species in

South Africa and

1.5 ° C

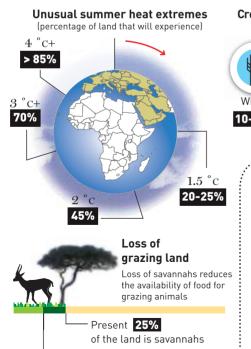
Namibia

fiercer storms will cause severe hardship in areas that are already poor or are emerging from poverty. Food shortages will be among the first consequences within two decades, along with migration as people try to escape the effects.

Under 2 °C warming, water availability in Pakistan and Nepal is projected to be too low for self-sufficiency in food production by 2050.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Food production at risk

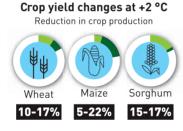
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14% or one-seventh of the

savannah

land will remain

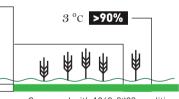




Under 2 °C warming. marine fish capture is projected to decrease by about 50% in the southern Philippines during the 2050s owing to warmer sea temperatures and ocean acidification

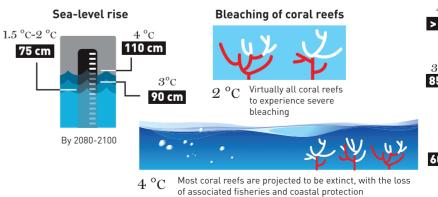
Reduction of crop-growing areas from present day

 $1.5~^{\circ}\text{C-}~2~^{\circ}\text{C}$ 40-80% Maize, millet and sorahum croppina areas for current cultivators



Compared with 1960-2002 conditions

South-East Asia: Coastal zone and cities at risk



Unusual summer heat extremes

(percentage of land that will experience) 4 $^{\circ}C$ > 90% 85% 50-60%

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