

'HALF OF HUMANITY FACE CLIMATE THREAT'

IPCC report warns threat well within 2100 projections, those exposed to once-a-century coastal flooding will double if oceans rise 75cm

CLIMATE

PARIS: With nearly half the world population "highly vulnerable" to severe climate shocks and nature facing in some cases irreversible threats, UN experts unveiled on Monday a harrowing picture of global warming impacts.

Here is a rundown on the major findings in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report. At 1.5 degrees

Celsius above preindustrial temperatures, 14% of terrestrial species will face an extinction risk. Meanwhile, billions more people will be exposed to dengue, and climate-driven extreme events "will significantly increase ill deaths".

High tide = high risk

No matter how quickly carbon pollution driving global warming is drawn down, a billion people will be at risk from



coastal climate hazards such as increasingly powerful storms amplified by rising seas.

The population exposed to

once-a-century coastal flooding will double if oceans rise 75 cm, well within the range of 2100 projections. Currently, some 900 million people live within 10 metres of sea level.

By 2100, the value of global assets within future 1-in-100-year coastal floodplains will be about \$10 trillion in a moderate GHG emissions scenario.

In the first instalment of its trilogy of reports, the IPCC's August 2021 assessment on

physical science kept alive the Paris Agreement goal of capping global warming at 1.5C.

But even then, it said temperatures would temporarily exceed that threshold, potentially within a decade. In its latest report the IPCC outlines the stiff penalty involved in this so-called "overshoot".

Additional warming above 1.5C "will result in irreversible impacts" on ecosystems such as coral reefs, mountain gla-

ciers and ice sheets with enough frozen water to lift ocean tens of metres. Permafrost stocked with twice the carbon in the atmosphere could become destabilised.

'Adapt or die'

Adaptation barely figured in the IPCC's equivalent report from 2007. By comparison, the new assessment highlights the need to cope with unavoidable climate impacts.

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