

Abstract
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Observations confirm that the global climate is rapidly changing. Climate scientist attributes this trend mainly to human activities, starting with the industrialisation in the early 19th century. The underlying reason is an in-balance of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The current global warming is 0.85° C, but much more profound in certain regions. Future scenarios incorporating variable development pathways project substantial climate change in the 21th century - globally around 2-6°C above pre-industrial levels. The imbalance in climate is likely to change not only the climate regimes, but also the return time of climate extremes, such as extreme rainfalls, heat waves, and storms, causing fatalities and disease. Moreover, it is also expected to exacerbate many water-, food- and vector-borne diseases on an everyday basis. To prevent and limit fatalities and ill health, and to strengthen societies and the health sectors preparedness to handle such consequences, adaptation strategies need to be developed and implemented. Economic analyses show that the losses resulting from climate change can be compensated by adaptation with a relative positive surplus. However, weather and climate extremes has erratic patterns and the capacity of societies and hospitals to handle these stressors needs to be strengthened already today to prevent ill health tomorrow.