

Climate Change: Implications for Defence

Key Findings from the
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Fifth Assessment Report

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GLOBAL MILITARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
CLIMATE CHANGE



Climate Change: Key Findings

Climate change impacts are projected to raise **global average surface temperature 2.6–4.8°C** by 2100.

Climate change poses an **increasing threat to peace and security** in the world.

Armed forces globally will need to **adapt to the changing environment and consider climate change impacts on infrastructure and military installations.**



Climate change impacts can:

- Undermine **livelihoods**
- Increase **involuntary migration**
- Reduce the **ability of states to provide security**

Climate Change: Key Findings

Climate change acts as a **'threat multiplier'**, amplifying existing vulnerabilities among populations and existing threats to security, and can indirectly increase risks of violent conflict.

Climate change risks are **highest in countries with weak or failing governments and/or with existing conflict.**

Climate impacts are **likely to disproportionately affect these more vulnerable societies.**



'Threat Multiplier'
A factor that exacerbates the negative effects of other drivers of change.

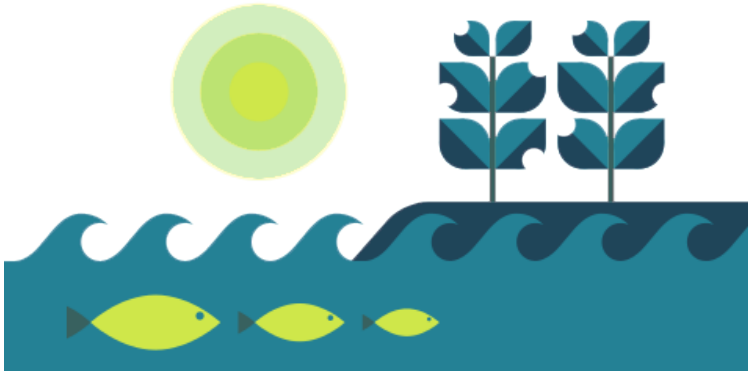
Climate Change: Key Findings

Societies' responses to climate impacts may exceed the global or regional capacity to **manage those responses peacefully.**

Issues of most concern include:

- Populations displaced by **extreme weather** or **sea-level rise**
- Spread of **infectious disease**
- Lack of **food and water**

The **need for major humanitarian support** is likely to increase.

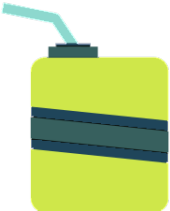


Climate Change: Key Findings

Military forces will be directly affected by climate change.

Sea-level rise and other climate impacts will directly affect facilities, requiring a response.

As major fossil fuel users, **military forces** may have to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.



Climate Change: Key Findings

Climate change will bring new challenges to states' **ability to share resources and provide human security.**

Changing resource availability **may increase rivalry between states**, while sea-level rise could raise **disputes over national boundaries.**

Accordingly, climate change will increasingly shape **national security policies.**

Further erosion of security can be mitigated by the presence of **robust institutions.**



Security breakdowns and conflict generally emerge from the interactions of multiple factors.



For more information

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