

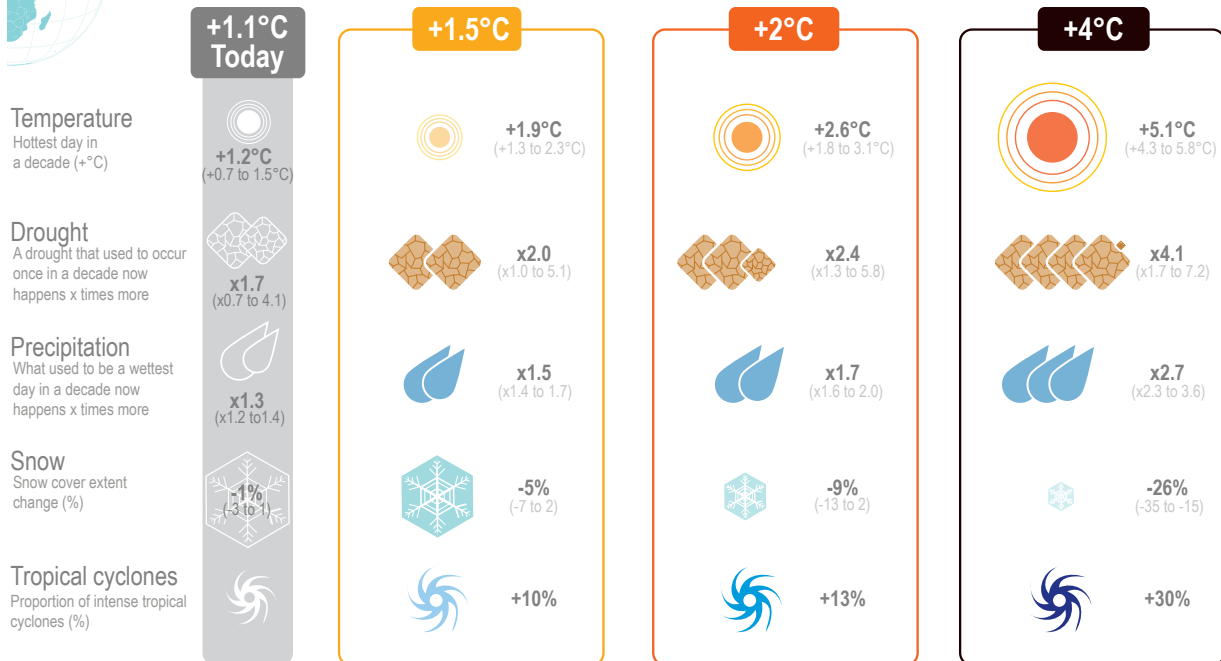
# Climate futures



## Response of the climate system relative to 1850–1900

Many aspects of the climate system react quickly to temperature changes.

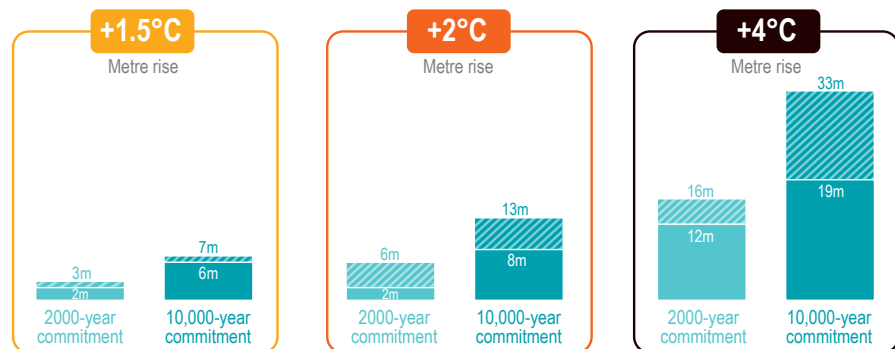
At progressively higher levels of global warming there are greater consequences (min/max range shown).



## Long-term consequences: Sea level rise

Today, sea level has already increased by 20 cm and will increase an additional 30 cm to 1 m or more by 2100, depending on future emissions.

Sea level reacts very slowly to global warming so, once started, the rise continues for thousands of years.



## The future...

The climate we and the young generations will experience depends on future emissions.

Reducing emissions rapidly will limit further changes, but continued emissions will trigger larger, faster changes that will increasingly affect all regions. Some changes will persist for hundreds or thousands of years, so today's choices will have long-lasting consequences.