

# Predicted impacts of Climate Change



## Health

- Tropical diseases may well extend pole-wards as temperatures rise. Malaria could spread into Europe and N America and other diseases, such as cholera, dengue and yellow fever might affect a wider area
- Increased summer temperatures in densely populated Western Europe, Japan and NE USA might lead to an increased death rate from heat-related illnesses and from skin cancer

## Economic Activity

- Agricultural patterns will change worldwide e.g. California and Spain may find it difficult to maintain present patterns of cultivation with decreasing precipitation and increased temperatures
- The cultivation limit for some crops will extend pole-wards as temperatures rise, it might become economically viable to cultivate vines and sunflowers in England
- Tourism will suffer in some locations but will benefit in others, the ski industry will suffer in the Alps as glaciers retreat, but might grow in northern Scotland

## Wildlife

- Many species will become threatened to extinction. At greatest risk are those relying on ice for survival, within the polar latitudes, e.g. penguins, polar bears and seals
- 25% of marine species depend upon coral reefs. Coral is at risk from increased storm activity and from 'bleaching', (occurring when sea water heats up)

## Water

- Predictions for a rise in sea levels up to 2080 vary from 9cm to a high of 70cm
- Low-lying areas such as Bangladesh, the Netherlands and the Maldives are likely to be inundated by sea water
- Major floods and storms will occur more frequently and with increased intensity. Some areas e.g. the Sahel and southern Spain will suffer more frequent drought
- Ocean currents may alter, the Gulf stream may shut down and El Nino events may become more frequent in the Pacific Ocean

