

Warming to hit species hard 气候变暖将导致大量物种消失

Vocabulary: climate change 词汇: 气候变化

Can you imagine a world where more than half of our common plant species and a third of our known animals disappear from sight? That's the **scenario** suggested by new research on the impact of climate change.

An international team of researchers looked at the impact of rising temperatures on nearly 50,000 species of plants and animals. They **came to the conclusion** that these are to decline due to changes in their habitat.



They looked at temperature and **rainfall records** for the habitats in which these species now live and **mapped** the areas that would remain **suitable** for them under different **weather conditions**.

The scientists projected that if no significant efforts were made to limit **greenhouse gas emissions**, by the year 2100 global temperatures would be 4C above **pre-industrial** levels. In this **scenario**, some 34% of animal species and 57% of plants would lose more than half of their current habitat ranges.

The impact on species will be felt more heavily in some parts of the world such as sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, the Amazon region and Australia.

Our society would be affected too, according to Dr Rachel Warren, from the University of East Anglia in Britain. She says: "There'll be a **knock-on effect** for humans because these species are important for things like water and **air purification**, flood control and **nutrient cycling**, and **eco-tourism**."

In spite of the conclusions to this **paper**, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, it is not all **doom and gloom**. Dr Warren says: "Swift action to reduce CO2 and other **greenhouse gases** can prevent the **biodiversity** loss by reducing the amount of **global warming** to 2C rather than 4 degrees."

The researcher believes that this would **buy time** for plants and animals **to adapt** to the change.

If nothing is changed and the predictions of this study are confirmed, the world might look very different in a few generations.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Why are animals and plant species under threat?
2. According to this new research, how much warmer might it get by the end of the century?
3. What difference would a lower rise in temperature make to animal and plant species?
4. Which word means 'appropriate'?
5. Which expression means 'a situation that is bad and won't get better'?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The decline in the world's _____ is causing great concern among animal lovers.

greenhouse gases	global warming	biodiversity	scenarios
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2. If you are moving from the countryside to the big city, you've got to _____ to a busier lifestyle.

map	adapt	predict	prevent
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3. John was keen to buy a sports car but he _____ to the conclusion that it would be too expensive to maintain.

thought	went	believed	came
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4. It's been raining heavily for the past few days. The emergency services had to rescue a group of children caught in a _____ in the school by the river.

decline	knock-on effect	flood	water purification
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5. Temperatures _____ across much of the country last week - and ice cream sales went through the roof!

raised	risen	rose	raising
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Why are animals and plant species under threat? **Because of the changes global warming might cause to their habitats.**
2. According to this new research, how much warmer might it get by the end of the century? **In 2100 temperatures could be 4C above pre-industrial levels.**
3. What difference would a lower rise in temperature make to animal and plant species? **It would give them more time to adapt.**
4. Which word means 'appropriate'? **Suitable.**
5. Which expression means 'a situation that is bad and won't get better'? **Doom and gloom.**

Exercise 练习

1. The decline in the world's **biodiversity** is causing great concern among animal lovers.
2. If you are moving from the countryside to the big city, you've got to **adapt** to a busier lifestyle.
3. John was keen to buy a sports car but he **came** to the conclusion that it would be too expensive to maintain.
4. It's been raining heavily for the past few days. The emergency services had to rescue a group of children caught in a **flood** in the school by the river.
5. Temperatures **rose** across much of the country last week - and ice cream sales went through the roof!

Glossary 词汇表

scenario	设想，可能发生的局面
to come to a conclusion	得出一个结论
rainfall records	降雨量纪录
to map	标划出
suitable	适宜的
weather conditions	天气状况
greenhouse gas emissions	温室气体排放
pre-industrial	工业化前的
knock-on effect	连锁反应
air purification	空气净化
nutrient cycling	营养物循环
eco-tourism	生态旅游
paper (scientific study)	科研文献
doom and gloom	悲观沮丧的
greenhouse gas	温室气体
biodiversity	生物多样性
global warming	全球变暖
to buy time	赢得时间
to adapt	去适应