

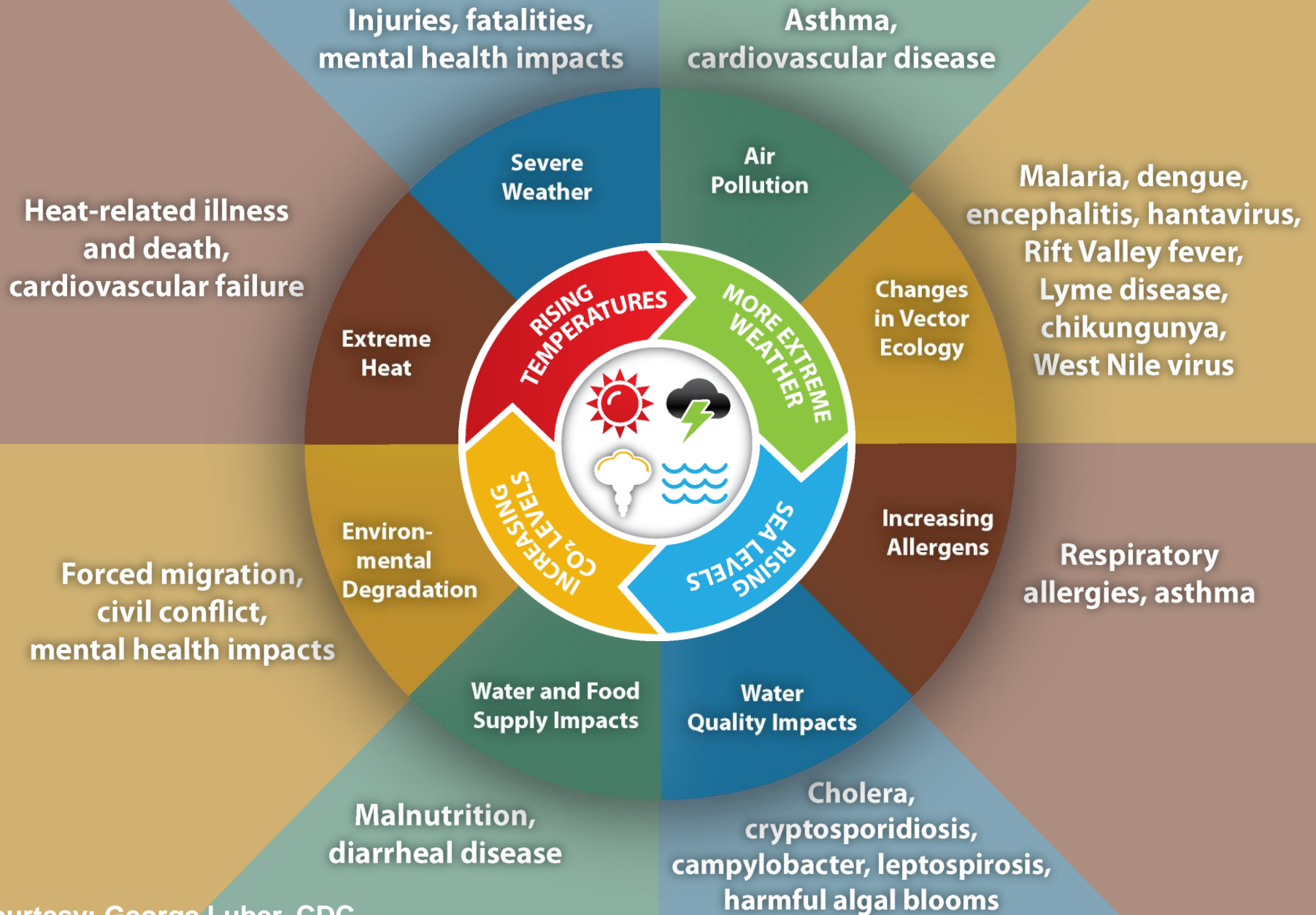
# World Health Summit: IAP session on climate change and health

Robin Fears

Director, Biosciences Programme, EASAC and IAP project coordinator

- Introduction to IAP project
- Scope of regional work
- EASAC outputs
- Purpose of this session

# Impact of Climate Change on Human Health



# IAP project on climate change and health

November 2019 – December 2022

<https://www.interacademies.org/project/climate-change-and-health>

Led by the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, funded by BMBF, IAP launched an inter-regional project on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies that bring health benefits.



This project will produce three regional reports for Africa, Asia and the Americas (the [regional report for Europe is already available](#)) that will provide a snapshot of the current situation and present science-based recommendations for each region.

A global synthesis report will highlight regional similarities and differences, and provide advice for decision makers for implementation at global, regional and national levels. Recommendations will take into account local circumstances and strategic needs.

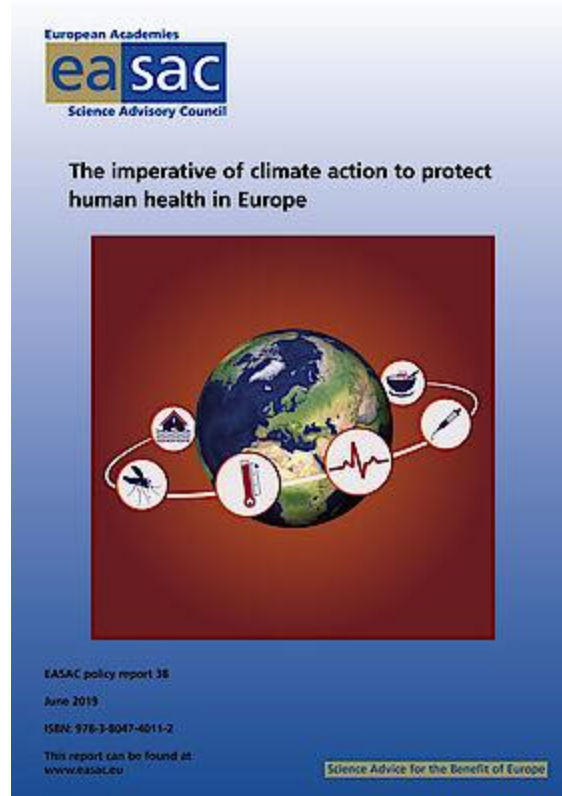
## How does IAP work add value?

- Science base inclusivity:
  - Spanning biosciences, medicine, other natural sciences, social sciences
  - Integrating local-regional-global activity on science and innovation
- Collective academy work worldwide:
  - Common starting point agreed for regional activities
  - Strong consensus with clarification of controversial issues
  - Recognition and appreciation of diversity
  - Evidence-based messages about opportunities and challenges
  - Learning between regions: sharing evidence, experience and good practices while also involving younger researchers
  - Follow-up at local, regional and global levels with policy makers, scientific community and other stakeholders

# Catalysing diverse but coordinated activity. The IAP starting point - key questions for regional academy networks

- What are main effects now of climate change on human health, and what are projected impacts?
- What are the solutions: adaptation and mitigation options?
- What needs to be done to improve evidence base?
- How to ensure focus on vulnerable groups?
- How to link local-regional-global work?
- How to link recommendations with other policy initiatives e.g. for Sustainable Development Goals?

# EASAC report, June 2019



## Academies' concern is motivated by the risks to health in the near future: **main messages**

- Climate change is happening and is attributable to human activity
- Climate change is adversely affecting human health
- Rapid and decisive climate action could greatly reduce the risks to health
- Climate change can have effects on health within the boundaries of the region and also through its effects on the health of populations outside
- Solutions are within reach and much can be done by acting on present knowledge
- The scientific community also has important roles in generating new knowledge and countering misinformation

## EASAC Mitigation case study: Multiple benefits from action on agriculture and food systems

- Agriculture's contribution to GHG emissions:
  - Agri-food systems worldwide account for about 30% of GHGs
  - Animal-based foods responsible for about 75% EU agricultural land use and high proportion of GHGs
- Mitigation for sustainable, healthy diets:
  - Requires combination of measures to reduce agriculture's GHGs – reduction in food waste, changes in farming practices, changes in diets
  - Modifying diet choices can bring health benefits (for obesity, NCDs)
  - Issues for vulnerable groups and how to influence consumer choice



## European recommendations on strengthening and using the evidence base on climate change and health

- Linking research outputs and policy development:
  - For achieving resilience, adaptation, mitigation, and minimizing unintended consequences
- Health risk communication:
  - Countering misinformation; understanding and informing individual and institutional behaviour
- Using evidence already available:
  - “Health in all policies”; aligning with existing initiatives
- Generating new evidence:
  - Priorities for filling knowledge gaps using new, robust and relevant research, e.g. on vulnerable groups

# NASEM-EASAC-IAP workshop: Perspective published

May 2020

<https://www.interacademies.org/publication/arctic-warming-and-microbial-threats-perspectives-iap-and-easac-following-international>



## Summary of intended IAP project objectives

- To address issues of fragmented evidence base in order to raise visibility of important and urgent issues for science and health in broader context of increasing momentum of global attention to climate change
- To use resources of IAP networks to advise policy makers at national, regional, global levels, and engage with other stakeholders
- To continue strengthening links between regional academy networks and build their capacities at science-policy interface
- Particular focal points:
  - How to provide evidence to assess impact of climate adaptation strategies
  - How to share good practice between regions in mitigation strategies

## Purpose of this session

- To present evidence from Asia, the Americas and Africa and seek feedback from WHS participants worldwide to inform project progress
- To stimulate discussion on 3 questions:
  - What issues are emerging from the regional assessments in the IAP project?
  - Considering solutions to the problems identified, what are the options for adaptation and mitigation?
  - What issues require further exploration globally, e.g. cross-sectoral action