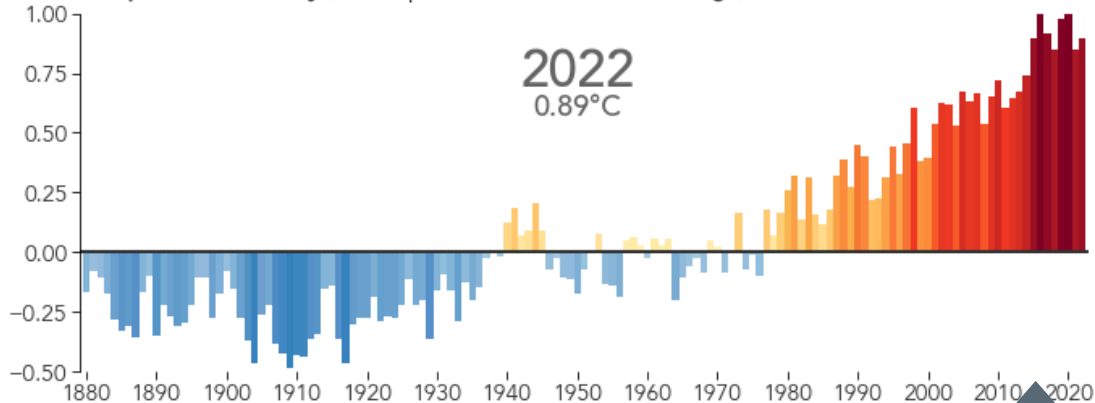


Rising Temperatures

Last 9 Years Warmest on Record

Global Temperature Anomaly (°C compared to the 1951-1980 average)

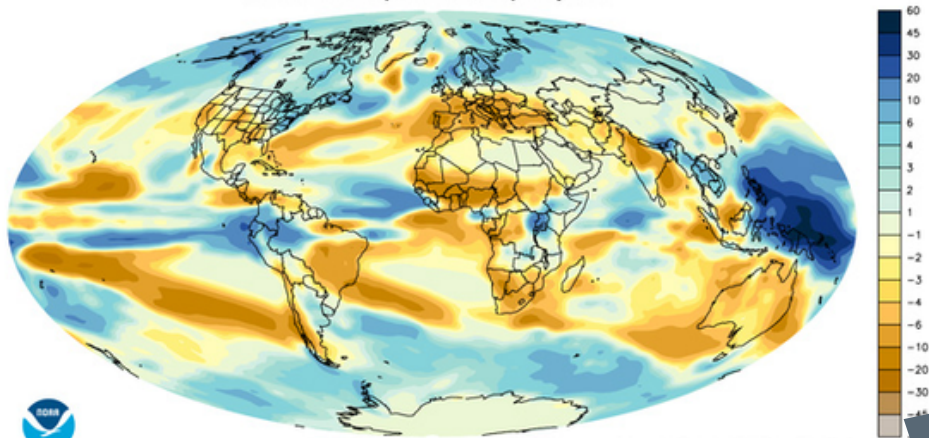




Global warming, caused by greenhouse gas emissions, is increasing the planet's average temperature. This rise in temperature disrupts the living conditions of many species, altering their metabolism, reproduction and habitat.

Shifting Rainfall

CHANGE IN PRECIPITATION BY END OF 21st CENTURY
inches of liquid water per year



as projected by NOAA/GFDL CM2.1



Climate also changes the way water is distributed on Earth: some areas become drier (droughts), others wetter (floods). These upheavals affect the plants, soils and animals that depend on them.

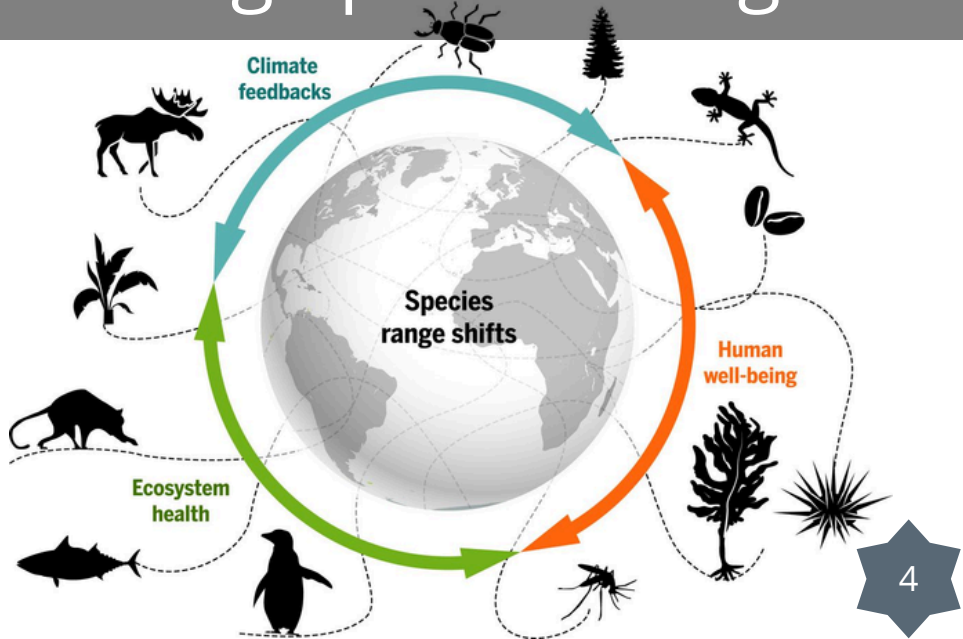
Habitat Fragmentation





Forests, savannahs, wetlands and grasslands are becoming increasingly fragmented as a result of urbanization, roads, agriculture and climate change. This fragmentation prevents species from moving freely, limiting their ability to adapt.

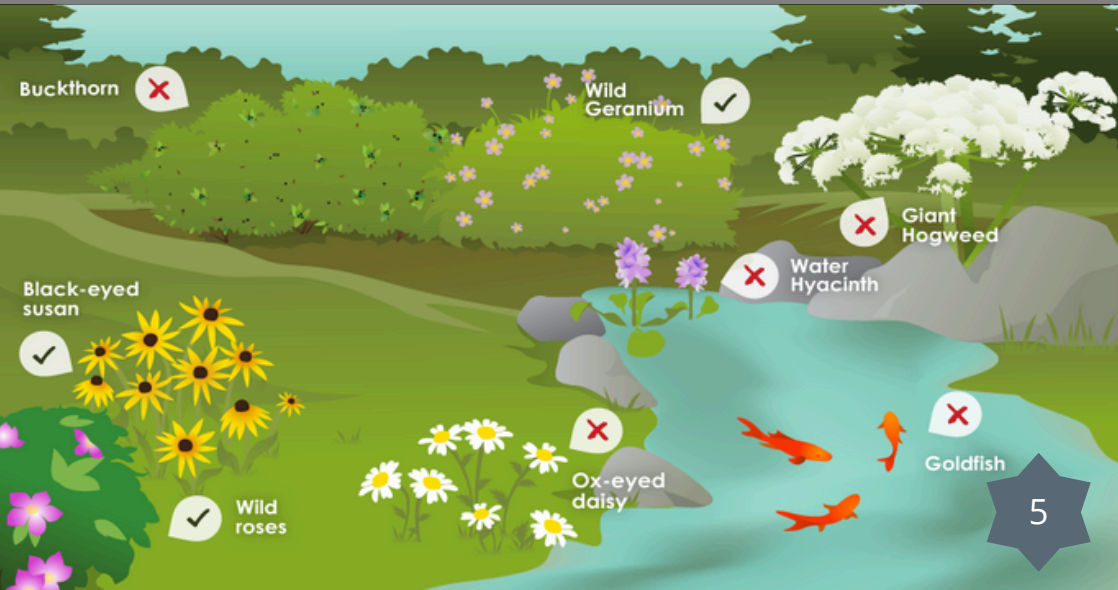
Shifting Species Ranges





To survive, some species move to cooler regions (northwards or to higher altitudes). But not all can keep pace, and this profoundly alters the balance between species in each ecosystem.

Invasive Species





When a species arrives in a new environment with no natural predators, it can multiply rapidly, competing with or eliminating local species. This phenomenon is accentuated by climate-related forced migrations.

Ecological Imbalance





Species are interconnected: prey, predators, pollinators, parasites... When one disappears or migrates, these relationships are broken. For example, if a pollinating insect arrives earlier than a plant's flowering period, reproduction fails.

Species Extinctions





When conditions become too extreme or change too quickly, some species don't have time to adapt or migrate. They disappear. Current extinctions are far faster than the natural rate of evolution.

Biodiversity Loss





Biodiversity is the variety of species, genes and ecosystems. Every time a species disappears, this richness is reduced. Less biodiversity means less resilience to disease, disturbance and future change.

Ecosystem Fragility





An impoverished ecosystem is more fragile in the face of climatic shocks (heatwaves, fires, floods). It can more easily fall into a degraded state (e.g. desertification), which exacerbates the effects of climate change.