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***From fossil fuel consumption and CO2 emissions to rising temperatures, biodiversity loss and economic harm, the latest data tell a disturbing story.***

***/*** *D*é*nes* ***Csala / Richard Davies / Charlie Meyrick /***

***A live and interactive version of this dashboard is available via the QR code at the bottom of this page.***

**CLIMATE CRISIS: IN NUMBERS**

Focusing on economic costs alone, it is predicted that emerging markets in more vulnerable locations are likely to bear the brunt of the climate crisis. With just a 1.4°C temperature increase, the Philippines is set to experience a 1.3% decline in GDP. Under a 3.2°C increase, the loss would be almost 7%. Countries dependent on fossil fuels are also at risk. Saudi Arabia could experience a 12% drop in GDP should the average global temperature rise by more than 3°C.

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Limiting greenhouse gas emissions sits at the heart of climate policies worldwide. Without efforts to curtail fossil fuel consumption, global temperatures could rise by 4.1-4.8°C by the end of the century. Under current pledges, a 2.4°C rise is predicted. Climate experts state that an increase beyond 1.5C will trigger irreversible environmental and ecological damage, as well as enormous economic costs.

Human actions are harming the animal kingdom too. The loss of biodiversity triggered by rising temperatures, more frequent natural disasters and the destruction of natural habitats means an increasing number of species of birds, insects, plants and animals now face extinction. The loss of natural capital rarely factors into economic decision-making, suggesting many calculations grossly underestimate the severity of the risk we face. Once these species are gone, they will be lost forever.

Oil, gas and coal are not the only natural resources being used unsustainably. The world’s forests are being depleted rapidly, and this limits the planet’s ability to absorb the excess CO2 in the atmosphere. Demand for timber for has left many forests barren, on the brink of disappearing entirely. In Brazil, home to the Amazon rainforest, for example, land covered by trees has fallen by 15% since 1990. In Paraguay, forest area has declined by over a third during the same period.

Fossil fuels—mainly oil, gas and coal—are being drilled, mined and burned at an ever-increasing rate. The historical comparison is stark: less than 20,000 Terawatt-hours (TWh) of energy from the main fossil fuels was used globally at the turn of the 20th century. Today, that figure approaches 150,000 TWh.

Burning these fuels results in the emission of greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide (CO2) has long been recognised as the principal driver of climate change. The amount of CO2 released per person varies by country and over time. China and India have generated vast emissions in recent history in their effort to industrialise. The United States, despite efforts to de-carbonise, remains a clear front runner in per capita terms.