

The Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change

Key findings

Nick Watts | Head of Project
@watts_nick

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Introducing the Commission

The mission

Map out the impacts of climate change, and the necessary policy responses, in order to ensure the **highest attainable standards of health** for populations worldwide



Scope of the Commission's report

- Review the climate science and the impacts of climate change on human health
- Present policy response options around four central themes:
 - community resilience and adaptation
 - energy and technical solutions
 - economic policy and financing mechanisms
 - political mechanisms

Commissioners

- Health professionals
- Climate scientists
- Geographers
- Social and environmental scientists
- Biodiversity experts
- Engineers
- Energy policy experts
- Economists
- Political scientists
- Public policy experts



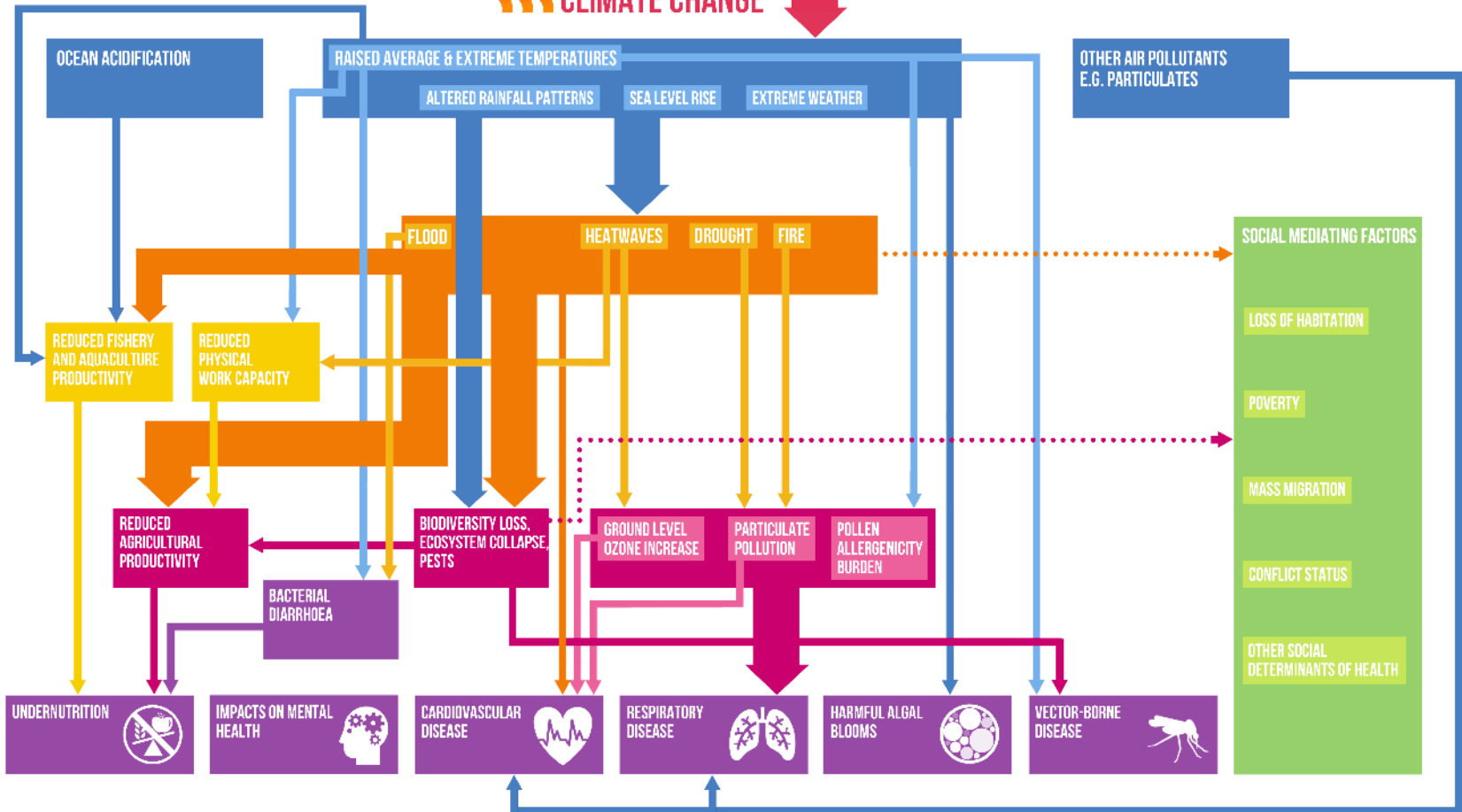


1. HEALTH IMPACTS

- a. Potentially catastrophic for human survival
- b. Undermine the last half-century of gains in development and global health
- c. A medical emergency

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

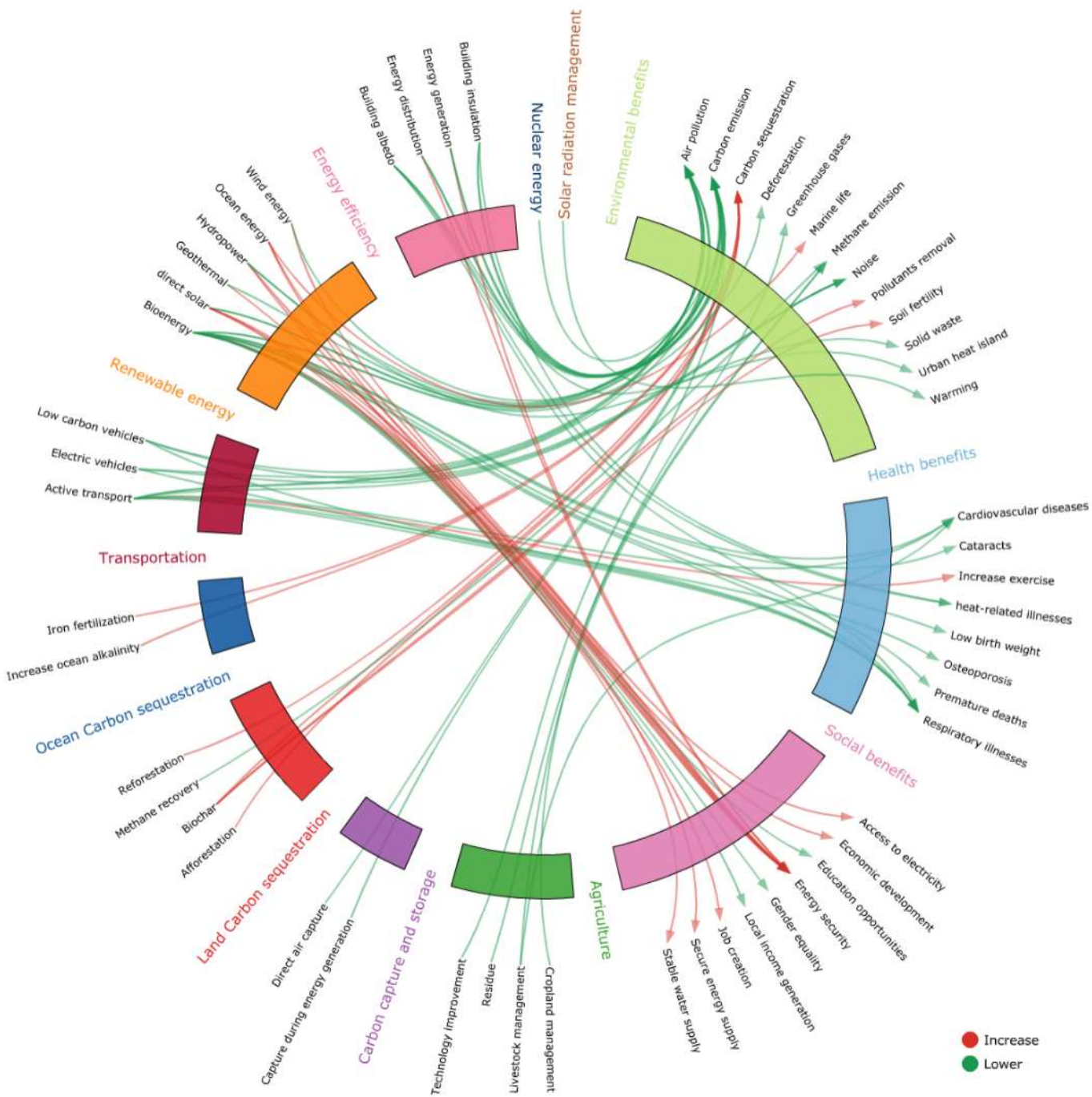
CLIMATE CHANGE



2. POLICY RESPONSES FOR HEALTH

“Responding to climate change could be the **greatest global health opportunity** of the 21st century”





Health Benefits of Responding to Climate Change

- The Commission recommends that over the next five years, governments:
 1. **Rapid phase out of coal-fired plants** to protect cardiovascular and respiratory health
 2. **Encourage a transition** to cities that support and promote **healthy lifestyles**
 3. Invest in **research, monitoring and surveillance**
 4. Scale-up financing for **climate-ready health systems**

3. THE WAY FORWARD

“Achieving a decarbonised global economy and securing the public health benefits it offers is **no longer primarily a technical or economic question** – it is now a political one”



Policy response – macro-level

- The Commission highlights four particular steps needed:
 1. **Rapid access to low-carbon affordable energy**
 2. **Carbon price – a coalition forward**
 3. Better capacity, support, and legislation around **quantification of the health impacts/co-benefits.**
 4. Agree and implement an international agreement that supports countries in transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

4. A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

- The health community has a **vital role to play** in accelerating progress to tackle climate change (as it did with public sanitation and smoking)
- Key areas:
 - Communicating about health and climate risks and opportunities
 - Ensuring mitigation strengthens public health
 - Adapting to face new and emerging health risks
 - Reducing emissions from health services

2030 Countdown Global Health and Climate Action



Report Global Key Findings

Climate change threatens to undermine the last half century of health gains. The effects of climate change are **being felt today**, are unacceptably high, and potentially catastrophic.

Tackling climate change could be the **greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century**

Achieving a decarbonised global economy and securing the public health benefits it offers **is no longer primarily a technical or economic question** – it is now a political one. Many mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change are **“no regret” options**.

The **health community** has a **vital part to play** in accelerating progress to tackle climate change, as it did with tobacco and public sanitation