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Impacts of Europe's changing climate - 2008 indicator based assessment

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The indicator based report on climate change impacts in Europe, published in Sep. 2008, is a joined effort by the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC-IES) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) Europe. The target audience of the report consists of policymakers at EU and national level and the informed public. The main aims of the report are to present past and projected climate change and impacts through indicators and to identify sectors and regions most vulnerable with a high need for adaptation. Furthermore it aims to increase awareness of the need for both adaptation and global and EU mitigation and to highlight the need for enhanced monitoring, data collection and dissemination, and reducing model uncertainties. The report is a resource in the implementation of the forthcoming EU White Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change (due early 2009) and for the development of national adaptation plans by member countries. The report builds on recent EU research results, and thus provides for some topics more recent data and information than the IPCC fourth assessment report (2007). The report presents the impacts of past, recent and projected climate change by means of nine categories and about 40 indicators. The common approach was for each indicator to use most recent data and results from national and European studies and projects and results from comparable climate scenarios and present the trends and projections and their uncertainty. Also economic effects of climate change are presented in a separate chapter. The list of indicator categories covered is as follows: Atmosphere and climate Cryosphere Marine biodiversity and ecosystems Water quantity, river floods and droughts Freshwater quality and biodiversity Terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity Soil Agriculture and forestry Human health The indicators (assessments, methodologies and data sources) will be made available on the EEA web site. This will make regular updating of the indicators through the EEA information system easy and will allow the inclusion of important new data when these become available.

The report is available at: http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2008_4/en/