



## Appendix: Some important facts (Draft Translation)

1. The global mean temperature has already risen by 1 °C (relative to 1850–1900) (IPCC 2018, S.6 A1). Half of the rise has occurred during the last 30 years (NASA 2018; IPCC AR5 Synthesis Report SPM).
2. The years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 were, globally, the warmest years in the modern record (NASA 2019).
3. The temperature rise is almost entirely due to human-made greenhouse gas emissions (US Global Change Research Program 2017, S. 14, Fig. ES.2; IPCC AR5 Synthesis Report SPM).
4. Already the current temperature rise increases the probability of extreme weather conditions in several regions of the globe, such as strong precipitation and heatwaves, leading to elevated rates of regional droughts, floods and forest fires (z. B. IPCC2012, Nat. Acad. Sci., Eng. & Med. 2016, IPCC 2018).
5. Global warming is a risk factor for human health (Watts et al. 2015, Watts et al. 2018). Besides the above-mentioned direct consequences, indirect consequences include lack of food security or the spread of pathogens and disease carriers.
6. If humanity fails to limit global warming to 1.5 °C as envisaged by the Paris Agreement, additional severe consequences must be expected for humanity and nature at large in many parts of the world (IPCC 2018).
7. In order restrict warming to the 1,5 °C limit with high probability, net emissions of greenhouse gases (in particular CO<sub>2</sub>) must be swiftly reduced and must, at the global level, reach zero within the next 20–30 years (IPCC 2018).
8. Instead, CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions continue to rise. Given the policy proposals currently on the table, global warming is likely to cross 3 °C by the end of the century and will increase afterwards due to continued emissions and positive feedback dynamics (<https://climateactiontracker.org/global/temperatures/>).
9. Based on current emissions, the remaining CO<sub>2</sub>-budget left for reaching the 1,5 °C goal will last for about 10 years. For the 2 °C goal, the budget is likely to last for about 25–30 years (MCC 2018, IPCC 2018).
10. Afterwards, humanity lives on a “CO<sub>2</sub>-overdraft-loan”: any emitted greenhouse gases have to be removed later from the atmosphere with tremendous efforts (z. B. Rogelj et al. 2018; Gasser et al 2015). Today's young people are already supposed to pay off this loan. If this fails, the following generations will suffer from the severe consequences of global warming.
11. Rising temperatures increase the probability of crossing climatic tipping points in the earth system dynamics, i.e., positive feedback loops will become more likely (Schellnhuber et al. 2016, Steffen et al. 2018). This would result in a situation, were returning to current temperature regime becomes unrealistic for future generations.



12. Oceans are currently absorbing around 90 % of the additional heat. They have furthermore absorbed about 30 % of the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted so far. Consequences are rising sea levels, melting of sea ice, acidification and dissolved-oxygen depletion in the

oceans. Meeting the goals set by the Paris Agreement is essential to protect humanity and nature, and to mitigate the loss of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, specifically the currently endangered coral communities (IPCC 2018).

13. The human basis of life is threatened in several areas by the crossing of "planetary boundaries". As of 2015, two boundaries are exceeded with a degree of uncertainty (climate and land use change) and two further boundaries are critically exceeded: The destruction of genetic variability (biodiversity) and the phosphorus and nitrogen biogeochemical cycles (Steffen et al. 2015; Sachverständigenrat für Umweltfragen 2016).

14. We presently face the largest mass-extinction event since the era of the dinosaurs (Barnosky et al. 2011). Global extinction rates are 100 to 1000 times faster as compared to before humanity exerted its influence (Ceballos et al. 2015, Pimm et al. 2014). The past 500 years saw the extinction of more than 300 land-dwelling vertebrate species (Dirzo et al. 2014); the abundance of investigated vertebrate species has dropped on average by around 60 % from 1970 to 2014 (WWF 2018).

15. Causes for biodiversity loss are on the one hand habitat destruction by agriculture, deforestation, as well as land consumption by settlements and roads. On the other hand, invasive species play a role, as well as depletion due to over-collection, over-fishing and over-hunting (Hoffmann et al. 2010).

16. Global warming adds to this: with unimproved CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, half of the plant and animal species of the Amazon basin or the Galapagos islands, for example, may have vanished by 2100 (Warren et al. 2018). Similarly, global warming is the major threat for the survival of coral reefs (Hughes et al. 2017, 2018).

17. The loss of agricultural areas and soil fertility, as well as the irreversible destruction of biodiversity and ecosystems threaten the basis of life and limit the options of current and future generations (IPBES 2018a & b, Secretariat CBD 2014, Willett et al. 2019, <https://www.weltagraberbericht.de/>, <https://www.isric.org/isric-reports>).

18. Insufficient protection of soil, ocean, fresh-water resources and biodiversity acts as a risk multiplier in the face of global warming (Johnstone & Mazo 2011). It increases the risk that water shortage and famine in many countries cause or aggravate social and military conflicts, and contribute to the migration of larger human populations (Levy, Sidel & Patz 2017, World Bank Group 2018, Solow 2013).

19. A sustainable diet with reduced meat, fish and milk consumption, as well as a reorientation of agricultural methods to resource-saving food production are necessary for the protection of land and marine ecosystems and the stabilization of climate change (Springmann et al. 2018).

20. Meat production produces less than one fifth of the calories used worldwide on more than four fifths of the agricultural area (Poor & Nemecek 2018), and emits a significant proportion of greenhouse gases (FAO



2013). Since the agricultural area includes permanent pastures and meadows as well as croplands, and most some of the former cannot be converted to cropland, another comparison is also illustrative:

More than one third of the global cereal harvest is used currently as animal feed

(FAO 2017, Data for 2013).

21. A transition to increased direct consumption of plant-based foods reduces the need for cropland, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and has additional health benefits (Springmann et al. 2016).

22. Direct government subsidies for fossil-based industries amount to more than 100 billion US dollar per year (Jakob et al. 2015). Taking social and environmental costs (in particular health costs, but also air and water pollution) into account, global post-tax subsidies for fossil fuels are significantly higher. According to experts of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) they amount to about USD 5 trillion per year – that is 6.5% of global GDP (2014) (Coady et al. 2017).

23. According to the polluter pays principle, the cost of climate damages should be attributed to the burning of fossil fuels. One possible approach is the introduction of CO<sub>2</sub>-prices. As long as a sufficient supply of low-cost renewable energies is not achieved, the resulting financial burden will need to be distributed in a socially responsible way. This can be organised in a socially responsible way. Examples are direct transfers or tax reductions for particularly affected households or lump-sum payments for citizens (Klenert et al. 2018).

24. Based on already established sustainable energy technologies, a strong reduction in costs and an increase in production capacities is possible. This renders a change from burning fossils to an energy system fully based on renewable energy financially feasible and creates new economic possibilities (Nykqvist & Nilsson 2015, Creutzig et al. 2017, Jacobson et al. 2018, Teske et al. 2018, Breyer et al. 2018, Löffler et al. 2017, Pursiheimo et al. 2019).



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