

Sea level rise

Scientists predict that climate change will cause sea levels to rise as polar ice melts. A sea level rise of only 1 meter does not sound like much, but 60 million people live within 1 meter of mean sea level height, and this is expected to be 130 million people by 2100.

Large parts of some countries like Bangladesh and whole island nations like the Maldives will simply disappear as sea levels rise.

According to a report published in 2005, a 1-meter rise in sea level will affect 13 million people in five countries in Europe and cause \$600 billion worth of damage to property.

In Europe, the Netherlands will be particularly affected, and in the UK cities such as Hull and Portsmouth do not have adequate sea defences for a 1 meter sea level rise.

As well as completely covering areas, higher sea levels will cause the effect of normal storms to be more severe, and certain islands will have to be abandoned.

Questions

Why is sea level rise happening?

How many people live within 1 meter of current sea level?

Which islands might completely disappear?

Will people be affected in Europe?

Which UK cities are not ready for a 1 meter rise in sea levels?