The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released in Paris on Friday 2 February, predicts catastrophic change caused by global warming.

The report was reviewed by more than 2,500 scientists around the world and is one of the most significant updates on the issue in recent years.

Water shortages, heatwaves, storms and floods are likely to be the result of global warming caused by human actions, the biggest report yet on climate change predicts. It estimates that global warming will cause billions of pounds worth of damage to coastal areas around the world.

Paul Valdes who is professor of physical geography at the University of Bristol and is also a contributor to the IPCC, said: “The report shows that changes to our current climate are happening more rapidly than expected, but it is not too late. We are already committed to some climate change, but what we do in the next few years is crucial. It is possible to reduce our emissions without endangering the economy or changing our way of life but we must start to act now.”

The RMetS has published two special issues of Weather Magazine which relate to climate change.

### Links

**Weather March 2006** - [order online](#)  
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**News Date:**  
Friday, February 2, 2007

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