

# Climate 'diagnosis' is stark message for politicians

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It may sound like a thriller, but *The Copenhagen Diagnosis* is not an enjoyable read. It's a stark update on the state of our environment in time for [next month's summit on climate change](#) in the Danish capital.

In the report, an international team of climate scientists warns policy-makers that levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are at the extreme end of predictions made only in 2007, and that [natural CO<sub>2</sub> sinks such as oceans are becoming saturated](#).

Also, sea level rise is almost 80 per cent higher than some predictions, says co-author Tim Lenton at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK.

The team stresses that even a little warming could cause irreversible melting of ice sheets and [turn dense Amazon forests into dry savannah grassland](#). "We may be heading towards these climate 'tipping points' earlier than we thought," Lenton says. The report calls for drastic action, including cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to almost zero by 2100 to prevent catastrophic climate change.