Climate overshoot effects on land ecosystem functioning

Dr Laura Boeschoten

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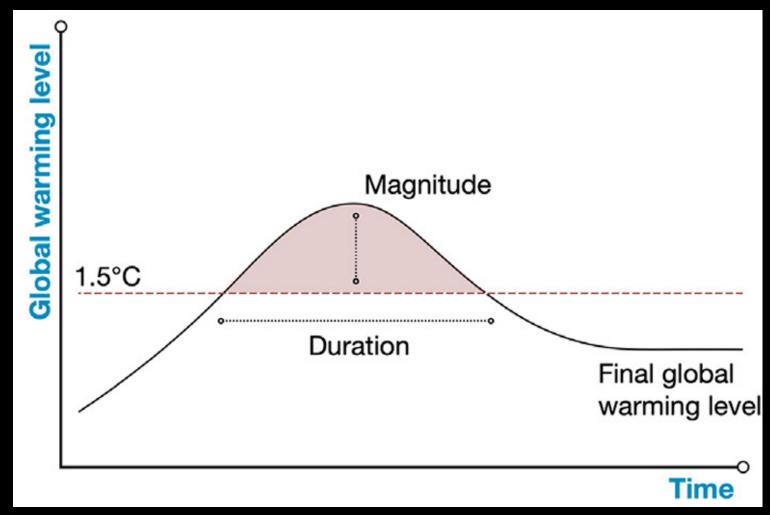








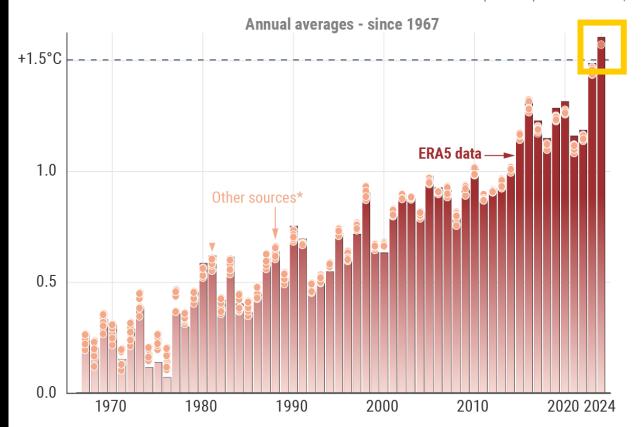
What happens to ecosystems if we overshoot the Paris Agreement?





Global surface temperature increase above pre-industrial

Reference period: pre-industrial (1850–1900) • Credit: C3S/ECMWF



^{*}Other sources include JRA-3Q, GISTEMPv4, NOAAGlobalTempv6, Berkeley Earth and the HadCRUT5 ensemble mean. Shading shows the range of the HadCRUT5 ensemble.









Problems associated with overshoot



Irreversible impacts such as species extinctions and transformations of ecosystems

CO₂ removal impacts and trade-offs



Temperature Overshoot



Risks arrive fast but decrease slowly

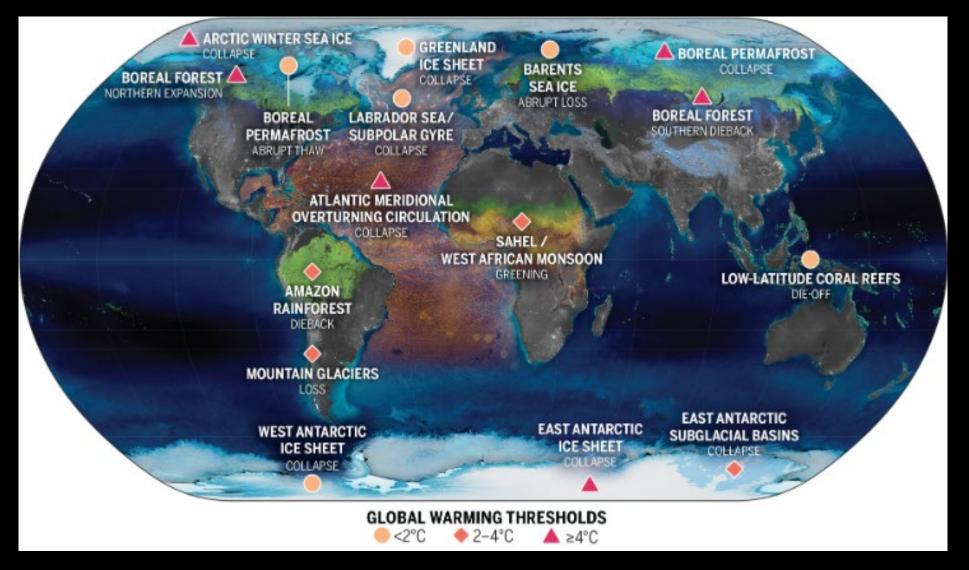
Further cooling might be needed to fully reverse impacts/risks





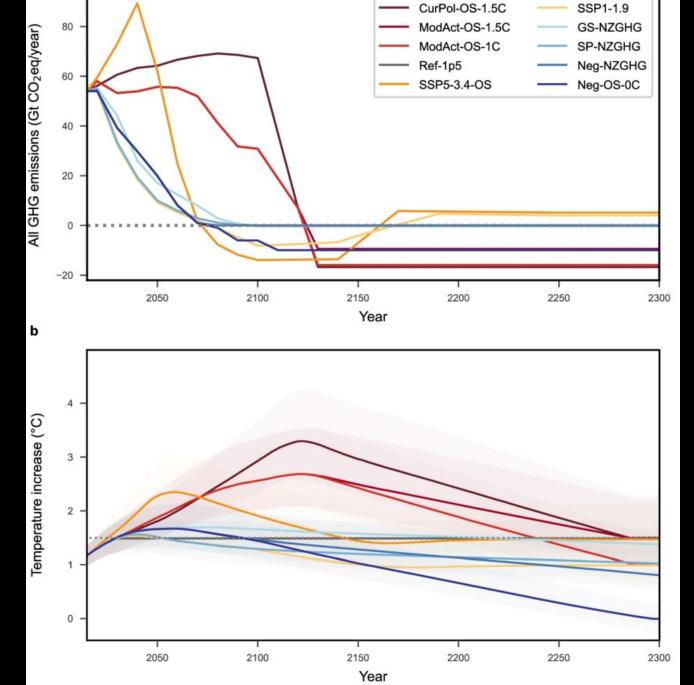
Hysteresis – the journey during the cooling phase might not be the same as during the warming phase

At a global scale ...



Data available for overshoot...

- Requires Earth System Models
- Different scenarios
- Different emissions
- Different overshoot



Project goals

Context

- Temperature overshoot (and potential tipping points)
- Models are not good in representing extremes and tipping points

Goal

- Synthesize current observational/experimental data on overshoot responses
- Al-based emulators to model overshoot scenarios

Work package 1 - Europe

- Long term data to test modern day analogues
- The EU hot and dry summers of 2018-2020
- How do ecosystems recover after extreme events?





Work package 2 - Congo

- What does a temperature overshoot mean for a forest that's always ~25°C?
- Assess whether ESMs indicate a potential tipping point in the Congo Basin under climate overshoot





Strong outreach component

- 4 workshops for stakeholders (scientific & non-scientific)
- Tentative timeframe 1 & 2: Feb and June 2026



Interested in participating?





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