Research partnerships and collaborations helping to address the sustainable development goals

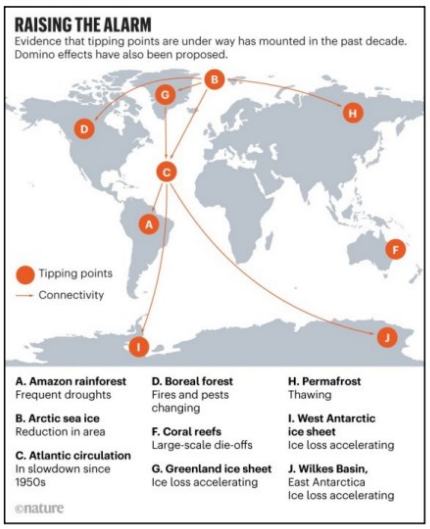
Below is an example demonstrating our response to Target 13.3:

Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Avoiding dangerous climate change is the central goal of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Research by Professor Tim Lenton and colleagues has identified how the risks posed by climate tipping points increase with global warming. This has influenced public policy both nationally and internationally by providing: vital evidence underpinning goals to limit global warming to well below 2°C; up to >8-fold increased estimates of the social cost of carbon; adaptation advice to governments on tipping point risks and early warning systems.

Exeter's research has also influenced public understanding, learning and participation through participation in news and television programmes with estimated viewing figures of 500 million, by stimulating public engagement through an online course with attendance of >13,000, by contributing to a change in public perception and mood and the declaration of a Climate Emergency, with research extensively cited by newspapers and popular climate change movements such as Extinction Rebellion (including coverage by over 350 news outlets) and with one of the team's papers identified as the 'most impactful' climate research paper of 2018.

Exeter's research has identified how the risks posed by climate tipping points increase with global warming, and has been extensively cited in policy responses to the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming "to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C", now ratified by 189 Parties to the UNFCCC. Lenton was a contributing author to the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 'Global Warming of 1.5°C' (SR1.5), commissioned in response to the Paris Agreement. The special report makes the case for 'Avoiding Regional Tipping Points by Achieving More Ambitious Global Temperature Goals', and repeatedly cites Exeter's work. The 2019 IPCC 'Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate' (SROCC) cites Exeter's work on the irreversibility of tipping points and their potential to amplify climate change and concludes: "If carbon emissions decline, the risk of…abrupt changes are reduced". These two IPCC reports have influenced global policy directly, and the SR1.5 report is widely used to underpin ambitious mitigation policies and net zero targets.



To find out more about Exeter's research contributions to climate action see: Climate change | Tipping points | University of Exeter and Homepage · GreenFutures (exeter.ac.uk)