

## **Sustaining public health in a changing environment**

Since industrial revolution, particularly over the last half century, human activity has been rapidly altering the planet's land cover, rivers and oceans, climate system, biogeochemical cycles, and the functioning of its ecosystems. Nature's goods and services are the ultimate foundations of life and health and changes in these natural systems can affect human health in a variety of ways. Among nine planetary boundaries, climate change and its threat to population health may be one of the most studied so far. In this presentation, an overview of the impacts of climate change on population health will be provided, using heatwaves, infectious diseases and food security as examples. Although the relationship between climate change and population health is complex, increasing evidence suggests that the disease burden associated with climate change is relatively large and growing. A more integrated and comprehensive approach to understanding the health risks of climate change is needed so that evidence-based government policy can be developed and implemented.