

LETTER

TOO HOT TO LIVE IN

Steven Sherwood, a climate expert at Yale University, told a global warming conference in Copenhagen that people will not be able to adapt to a much warmer climate as well as previously thought.

The physiological limits of the human body will begin to render places impossible to support human life if the average global temperature rises by 7°C on pre-industrial levels, he said.

"There will be some places on Earth where it would simply be impossible to lose heat," Sherwood said. "This is quite imaginable if we continue burning fossil fuels. I don't see any reason why we wouldn't end up there."

The 2007 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said that average temperatures could rise by 6°C this century if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise at current rates. Scientists at the Copenhagen Climate Congress said the IPCC may have underestimated the scale of the problem, and that emissions since 2000 have risen much faster than expected.

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