



Climate Change and the Future of Football for UEFA and World Cups

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The planet is facing three crises in the form of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution which are already impacting life for people today.

Sport, and football specifically, are already seeing environmental impacts to the tune of extreme temperatures, extreme weather events, poor air quality, as well as other natural disasters. Football alone will not solve these crises, so it must adapt to its climate vulnerabilities to decrease the risks that athletes, officials, workers, and spectators face.

The planet is estimated to be, on average, 1.2 °C warmer today than pre-industrial levels which and is on pace to exceed the 1.5 °C target set by via the Paris Agreement.

The **Triple Planetary Crisis** is resulting in more **extreme temperatures** (particularly heat), more **severe and unpredictable weather events** (particularly **rain, wind** and other **natural disasters**), poorer **air quality** (mostly due to **wildfires** in our regions of concern), in addition to the normal risks we face from the environment and natural disasters. Players, officials, workers, and spectators exposed to these are at **greater risk of harm**.



The primary manner in which **football contributes to climate change** is via the travel of teams, officials, workers, and spectators although it should be noted that the burden for this lies overwhelmingly with higher-level professional clubs and international teams.

We can set boundary conditions around these risks to establish present for safe conditions for play and only compete when these boundary conditions have not been exceeded or put adaptation strategies into action if these boundary conditions are exceeded.

The burden of the Triple Planetary Crisis will be felt more readily and harmfully by **grassroots football, smaller nations, and those without the means** (e.g., money, geography, knowledge) to adapt to the risks faced.

There are **a variety of industry resources available** to help guide your understanding of the sport-environment relationship from media outlets, non-profit green sports organizations, resources from the UN, UEFA, and FIFA, as well as collaborating with peer sport organizations who have been successful with adaptation.



Take home messages

1

OUR CLIMATE IS CHANGING

and adaptation is already necessary today to **protect football**.



2



Those with the greatest need for support on climate will be those football clubs and communities with the **fewest resources** on hand to adapt to the risks they face.

3



There are an **abundance of resources** already available to assist with climate adaptation from the **UN, UEFA, FIFA, non-profit green sport organizations, media outlets, and peer sport organizations**.



References

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