



# Barn Owls in the UK

*issues and solutions*

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[barnowltrust.org.uk](http://barnowltrust.org.uk)



Barn Owl Trust – *Conserving the Barn Owl and its Environment*



# conservation issues



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# conservation issues

Food supply

Poor nestbox designs

Anticoagulants

Drowning

Electrocution

Road & rail deaths

Ecosystem collapse



# Food supply –



# Food supply –



# Food supply – biggest population driver



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# Food supply – biggest population driver – habitat creation



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## Poor nestbox designs –



# Poor nestbox designs – deaths under-recorded



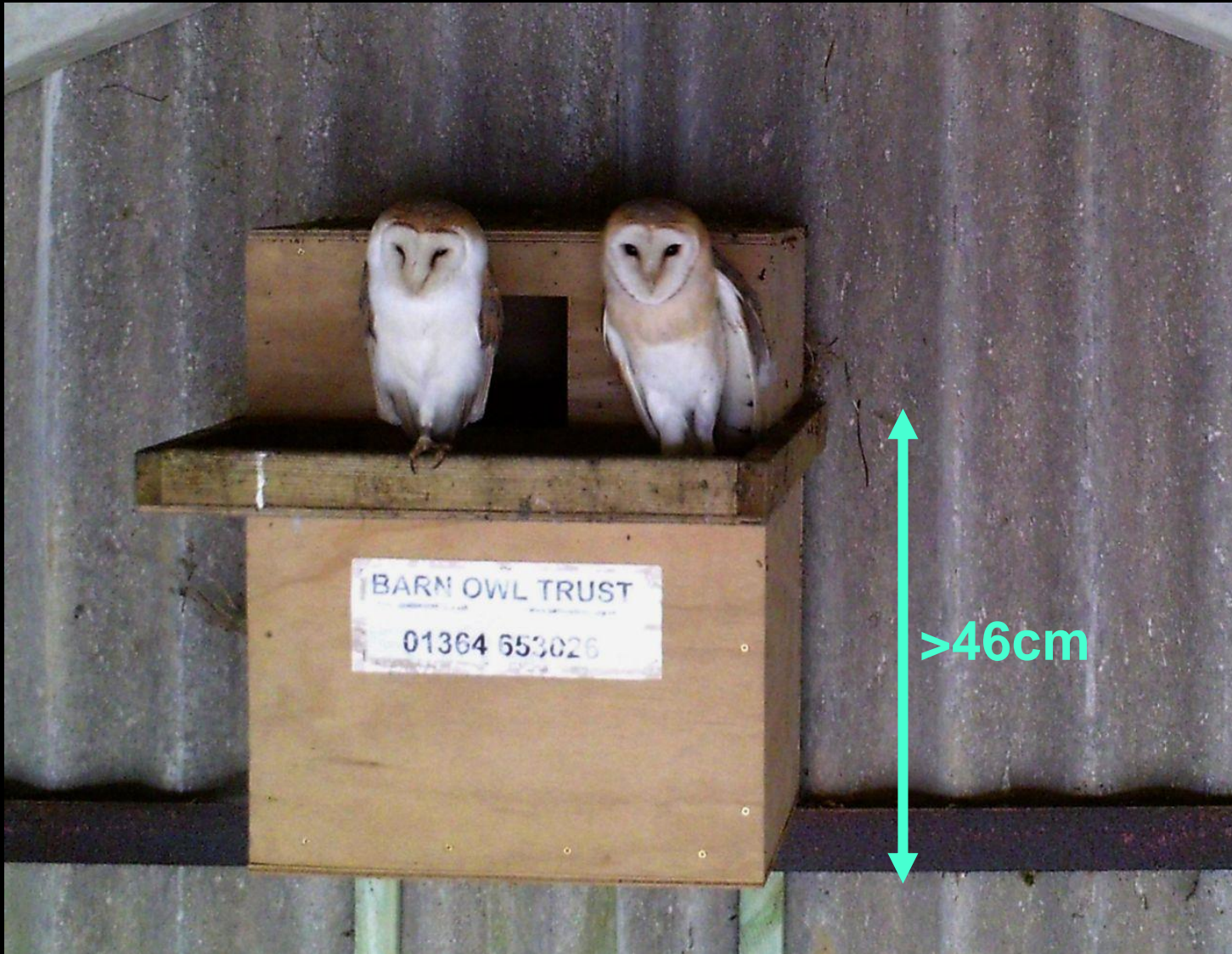
# Poor nestbox designs – deaths under-recorded



# Poor nestbox designs – deaths under-recorded – deep nestboxes



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# Anticoagulants –





# Anticoagulants – 87-91% poisoned



100% of Kestrels  
94% of Red Kites  
91% of Barn Owls  
89% of Sparrowhawks  
57% of Hedgehogs  
35% of Peregrines  
31% of Polecats  
30% of Weasels  
23% of Stoats  
20% of Tawny Owls  
...contain SGARs

Source - PBMS



# Anticoagulants – 87-91% poisoned – safer rodent control

- Remove access to food
- Remove harbourage
- Encourage natural predators
- Encourage domestic predators
- Live traps
- Instant-kill traps
- Shooting



“Removing harbourage is as effective as using poison and more useful as a long term approach”  
(Lambert et. al 2003)



# Drowning –



# Drowning – frequent & under-recorded



# Drowning – frequent & under-recorded



# Drowning – frequent & under-recorded – prevention



# Drowning – frequent & under-recorded – prevention



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# Electrocution –





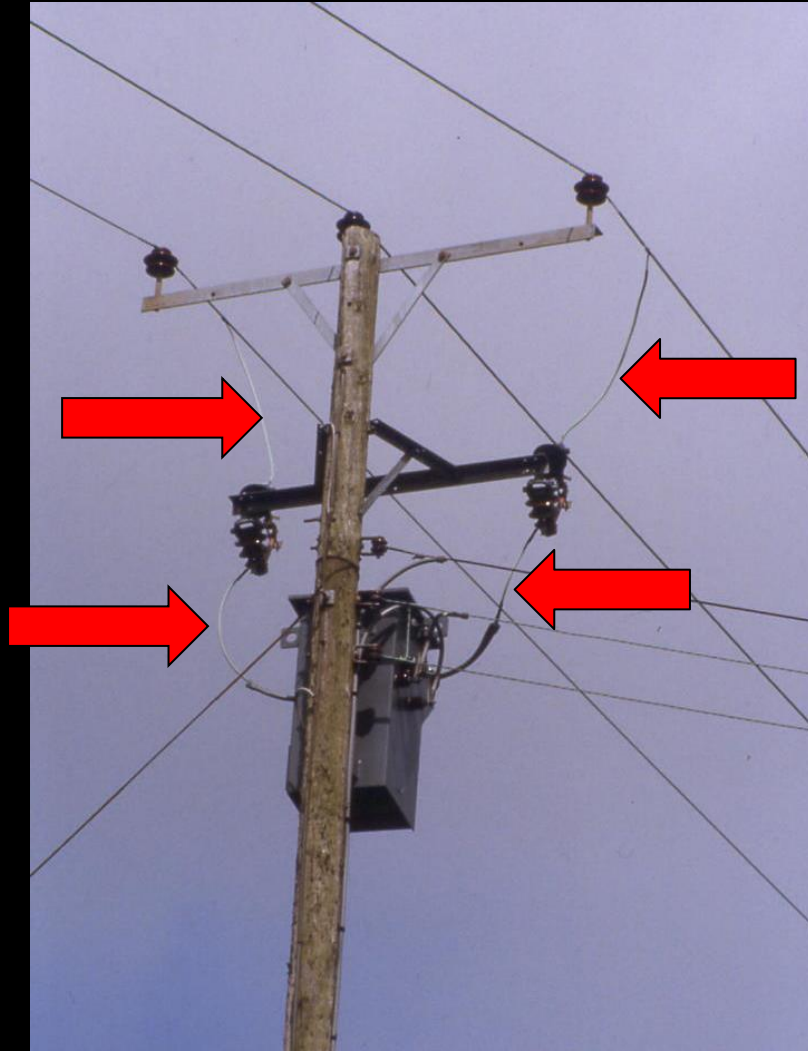
# Electrocution – probably under-recorded



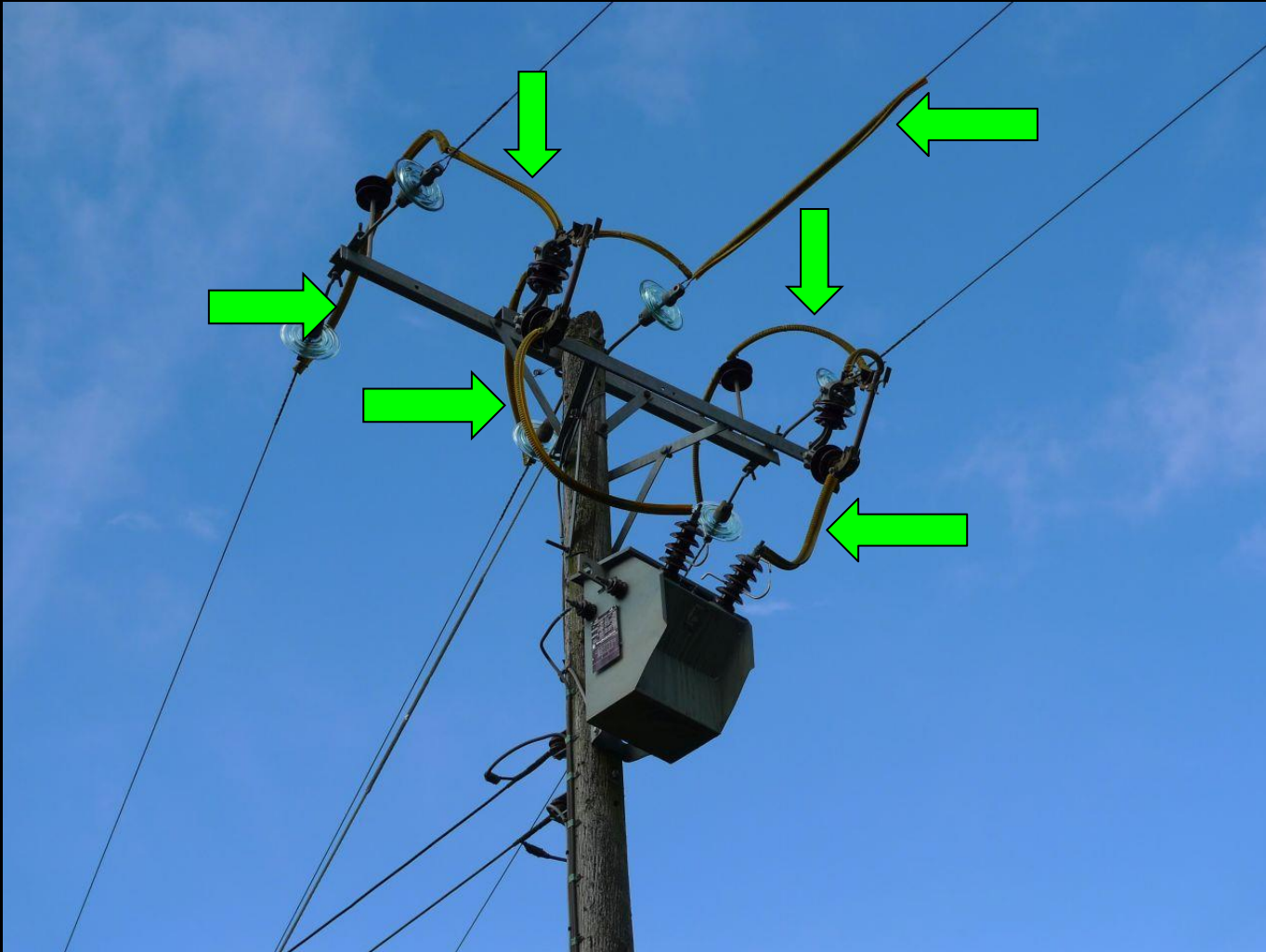
# Electrocution – probably under-recorded



# Electrocution – probably under-recorded



# Electrocution – probably under-recorded – prevention



# Road & rail deaths –



# Road & rail deaths – highest recorded mortality



Source – Ramsden 2003

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# Road & rail deaths – highest recorded mortality - screening



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# Road & rail deaths – highest recorded mortality - screening





# Ecosystem collapse –



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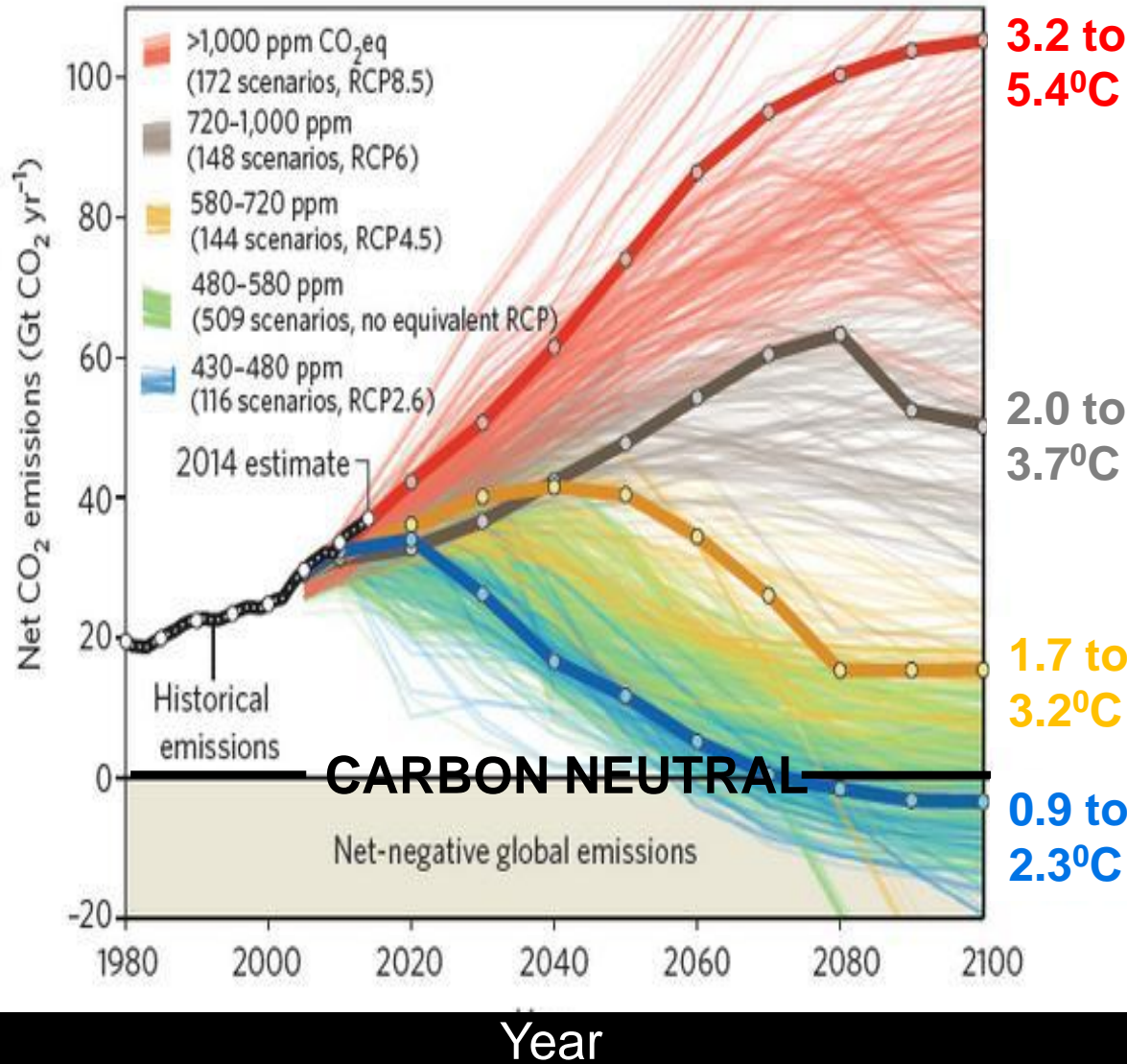
# Ecosystem collapse – currently inevitable



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# Ecosystem collapse – currently inevitable



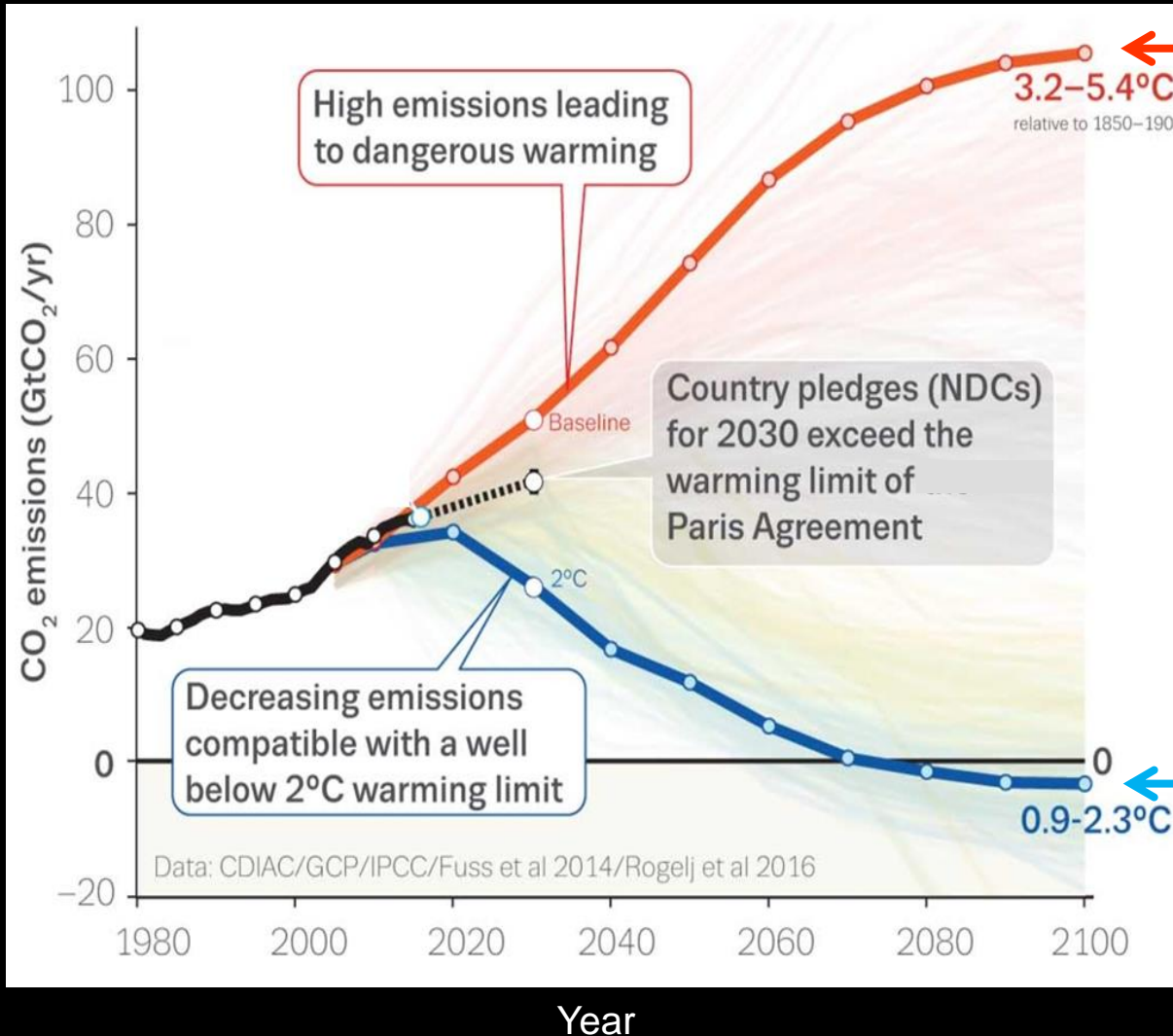
**Worst case scenario**  
most life wiped out  
RCP8.5  
Multiple sources –  
e.g. Steffen 2020

Probable collapse  
of civilisation  
RCP6.0

Some extreme  
impacts  
RCP4.5

Where we need to be  
(looks unattainable)  
RCP2.6

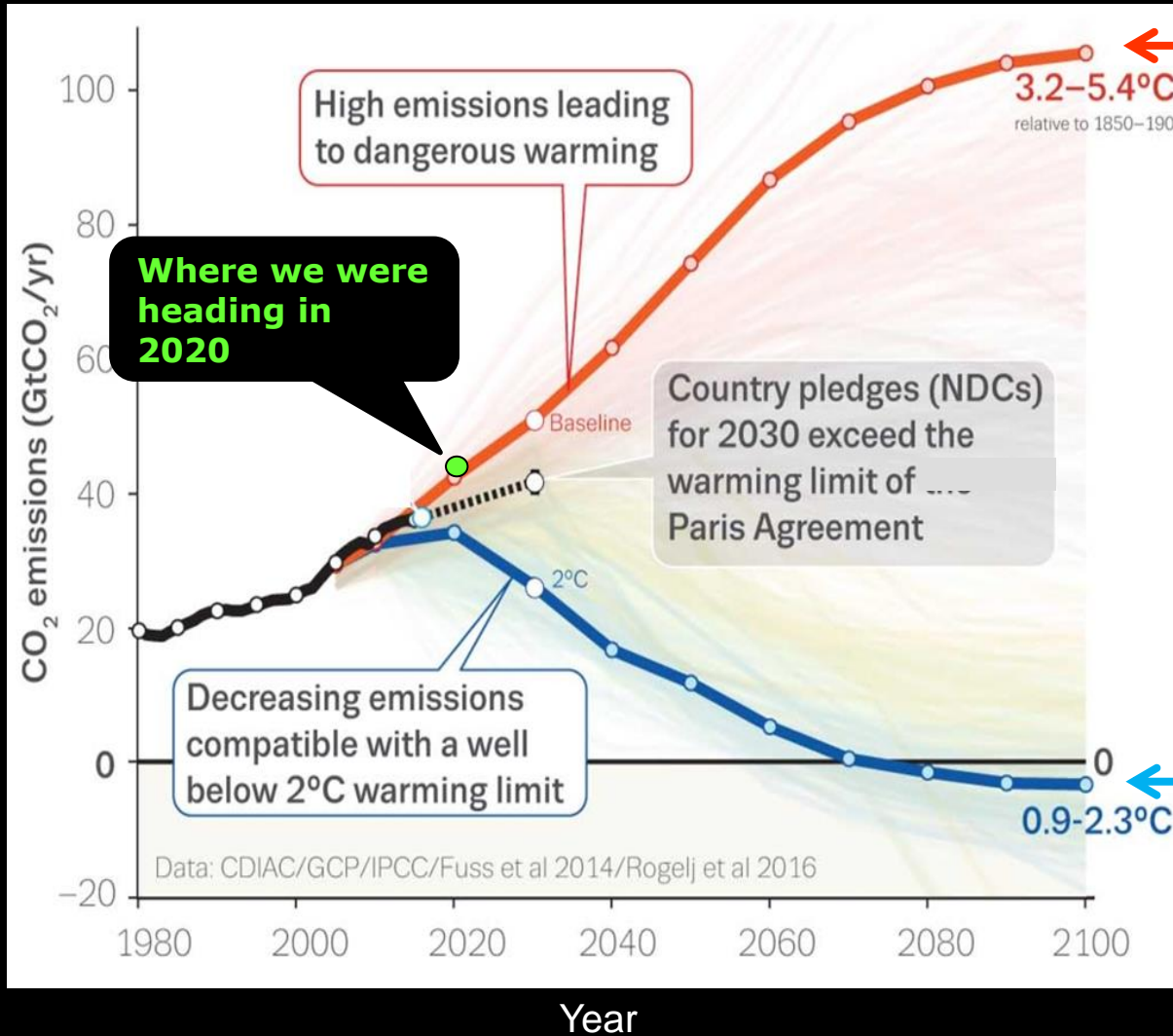
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# Ecosystem collapse – currently inevitable



**Worst case scenario**  
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Where we need to be  
(looks unattainable)  
RCP 2.6

## Ecosystem collapse – currently inevitable

... and climate change is only one of the problems ...

## Ecosystem collapse – currently inevitable

“The loss of species and habitats poses as much danger to *Life on Earth* as climate change”

Source – IPBES 2019

# Ecosystem collapse – currently inevitable

- c.48% of all bird species are in decline

BirdLife International 2020

- 13.5% are threatened with extinction

BirdLife International 2020

- Under a ***business as usual*** scenario, declines are projected to continue

Visconti et al. 2016





**Ecosystem collapse – currently inevitable – Use your Flagship**



# Ecosystem collapse – currently inevitable – Use your Flagship



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# THIS IS AN EMERGENCY



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# THIS IS AN EMERGENCY

“Global habitat restoration is key to mitigating the climate and biodiversity crises”

Source - Strassburg et al. 2020



# THIS IS AN EMERGENCY

How do we encourage habitat restoration?



# THIS IS AN EMERGENCY

Use flagship species!



# THIS IS AN EMERGENCY

Use people's interest in



as a way of increasing

environmental awareness and action



# THIS IS AN EMERGENCY

If you are not helping  
to achieve *sustainability*  
you are wasting time

David Ramsden MBE





Thank you for listening

