

Quarterly Climate Risk Assessment

Centre for Sustainable Development Reform | March 2026

Key Findings

Global surface temperatures exceeded the 1.5C threshold for the third consecutive quarter.

- Mean anomaly: +1.62C above pre-industrial baseline
- Highest quarterly average on record for Southern Hemisphere
- Significant implications for agricultural productivity

Precipitation Changes

Rainfall distribution showed increased variability:

- 23% above-average in northern tropical regions
- 18% below-average in south-eastern agricultural zones
- Record low snowpack in the Australian Alps

Recommendations

Three policy intervention domains require immediate attention:

1. Energy transition acceleration
2. Agricultural adaptation funding
3. Coastal infrastructure resilience