

změna podnebí v nastávajících desetiletích nemá obdobu v minulosti, kdy byly i rychlé změny ve srovnání se změnami dnes velmi pomalé. Přírozené ekosystémy i ekosystémy obhospodařované člověkem (lesy, agroekosystémy) budou mít stále větší problémy vypořádat se s probíhajícími a očekávanými změnami podnebí. Schopnost odolávat změnám je navíc zatížena fragmentací ekosystémů a znečištěním ovzduší. Lidstvo jako celek čelí rostoucímu počtu problémů, které navzájem složitě interagují, a nelze je tedy řešit odděleně.

Výhodou řešení změn podnebí (tedy dlouhodobé snižování emisí skleníkových plynů) je, že se tím zároveň řeší i ostatní environmentální problémy (to platí např. pro odlesňování). Téměř s jistotou lze tvrdit, že pokud se lidstvu jako celku v nejbližších letech nepodaří dlouhodobě a trvale udržitelně snížit emise plynů, které mění radiální bilanci atmosféry, budou jakékoli snahy řešit jiné ekologické a posléze i politické a sociální problémy (choroby, hlad apod.) odsouzeny k neúspěchu. Globální emise skleníkových plynů (zejména CO<sub>2</sub>) je potřeba snížit alespoň o 80 % do roku 2050, pro rozvinuté země to v podstatě znamená, že do poloviny století musí jejich emise klesnout až k nule (Allison *a kol.* 2009).

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