

# SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

## Summary

There is a rapid growth of literature detailing the response of species to the global increases in temperature. Since 1860, when global records began, the mean air temperature of the Earth has risen significantly, over the 20th century the increase has been  $0.6 \pm 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ , with increases reported as greater in the northern than in the southern

hemisphere. Many biological and physical systems had already been affected by climate change. As a consequence, many long-term data sets collected for other purposes, such as population monitoring, have been investigated to see if they contain any evidence of climate responses.