

temperature increases will be accompanied by changes in climatic conditions that are not readily predictable. Patterns of agriculture and water resources will be affected.

### *Sea Level Rise*

Sea level is projected to rise roughly one metre by 2050, flooding coastal lowlands and islands and reducing freshwater supplies as saltwater intrudes into the groundwater regime. Higher temperatures will cause some permafrost, mountain glaciers and polar ice to melt. The upper layers of the oceans will expand through warming, adding to the rise in sea level. Canada could experience a substantial loss of land on Prince Edward Island, the Hudson Bay coastline, and in river deltas such as the lower Fraser and the Mackenzie. A rise in sea level could be catastrophic for low-lying countries and island states. Millions of people could be forced to relocate from the delta regions of Bangladesh and Egypt alone. The Republic of Maldives in the Indian Ocean, with a population of 200,000, has been described by its President as an "endangered nation".

### *Climate Instability*

Populations in many regions of the world could be subjected to increasingly severe and unpredictable cyclonic storms, and more erratic weather patterns. Regional changes in precipitation patterns will occur, concomitant with regional variability in temperature increases. Altered climates would affect world food security by changing agricultural productivity, and would affect the productivity and biological diversity of natural ecosystems, particularly forests.