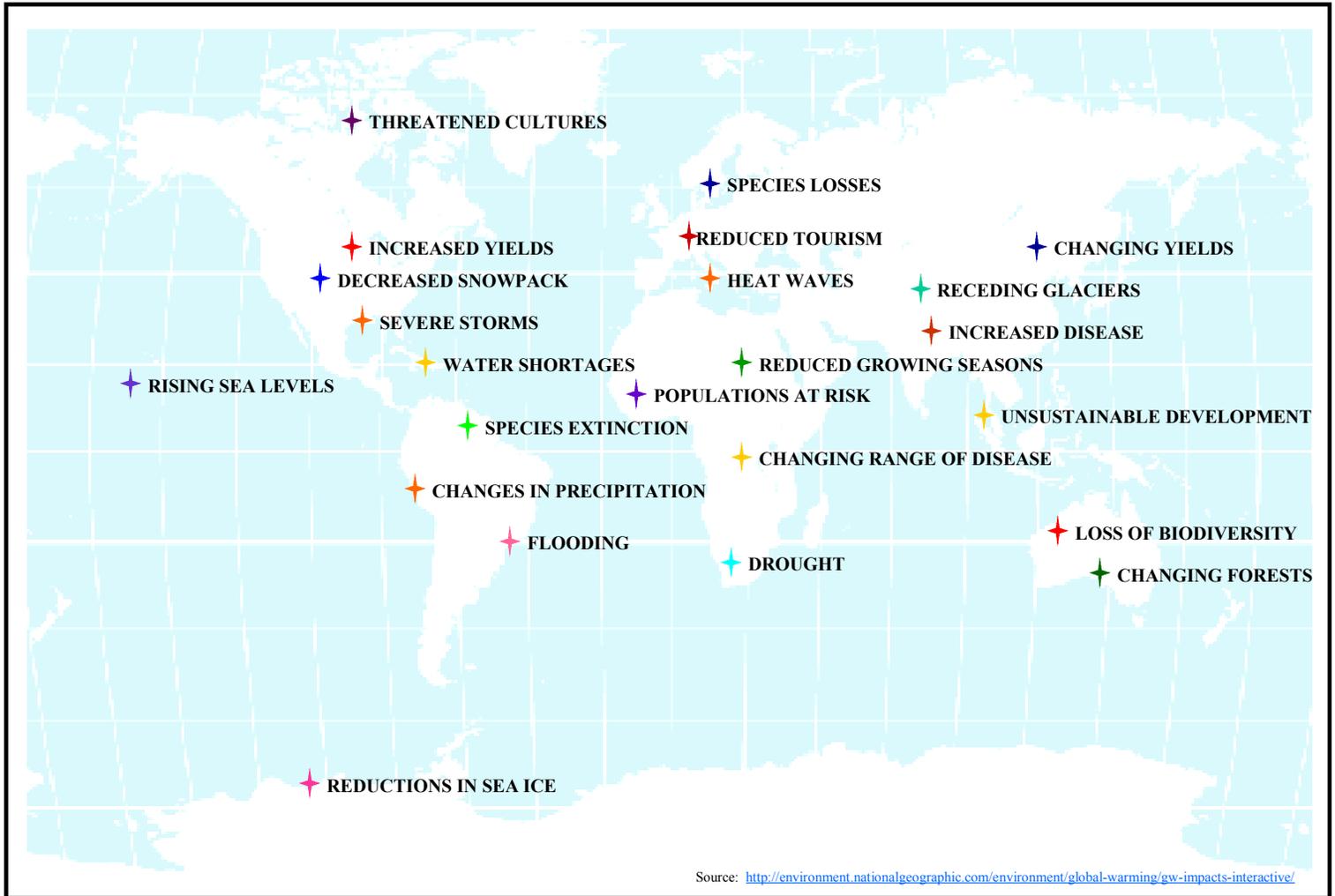


The Effects of Climate Change



The atmosphere is warming globally on average, but the effects of climate change are being felt locally and can be very different from place to place. Local and regional climate changes include more severe storms, heat waves, precipitation, and droughts. These changes can produce impacts such as changes in agricultural yields, increased flooding, and landslides. An increase in average temperatures will reduce sea ice, cause glaciers to recede, increase sea level, lower lake levels, and decrease snowpack. All of these changes disrupt ecosystems and cause habitats to change which can result in species extinctions, loss of biodiversity, increased disease, and threatened human cultures.