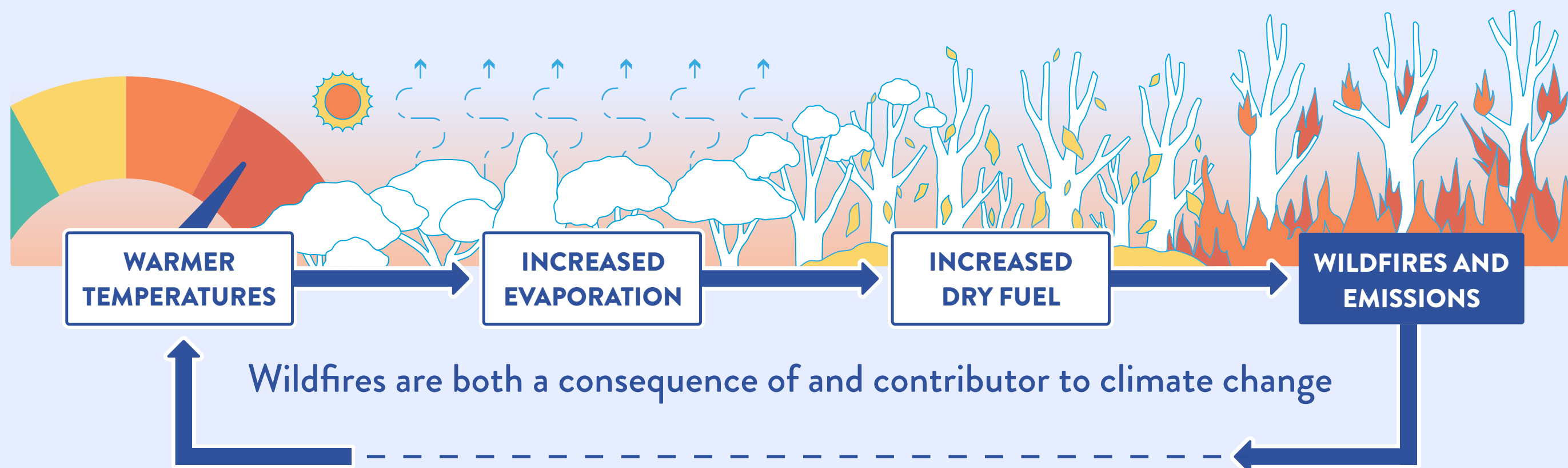


WILDFIRES, CLIMATE CHANGE AND AIR POLLUTION



Since the 1980s, the wildfire season has lengthened across a **quarter of the world's vegetated surface.**

Wildfires are responsible for **5-8%** of premature deaths from poor air quality.

ATMOSPHERE

Burnt trees no longer pull carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

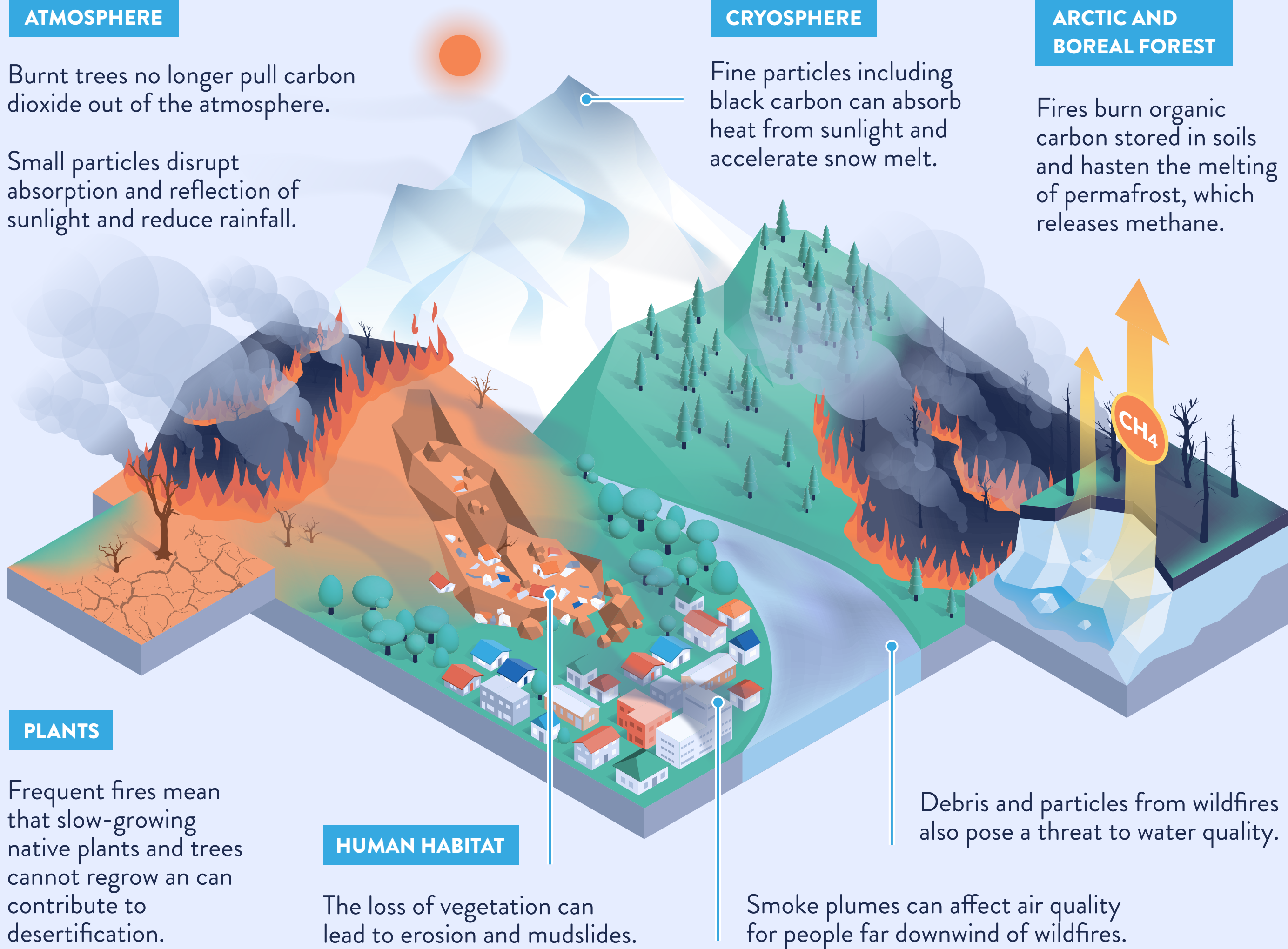
Small particles disrupt absorption and reflection of sunlight and reduce rainfall.

CRYOSPHERE

Fine particles including black carbon can absorb heat from sunlight and accelerate snow melt.

ARCTIC AND BOREAL FOREST

Fires burn organic carbon stored in soils and hasten the melting of permafrost, which releases methane.



PLANTS

Frequent fires mean that slow-growing native plants and trees cannot regrow and can contribute to desertification.

HUMAN HABITAT

The loss of vegetation can lead to erosion and mudslides.

Smoke plumes can affect air quality for people far downwind of wildfires.

Debris and particles from wildfires also pose a threat to water quality.



Indigenous fire practices can reduce fire intensity and improve soil quality and plant regrowth.

Re-introduction of indigenous fire management has reduced wildfires significantly in some areas.

In northern Australia, aboriginal fire management has helped cut the number of destructive wildfires by half.