

greenhouse gases and its trailing consequences. Some of these human activities include:

- Burning of fossil fuel for energy
- Gas flaring
- Forest destruction: Trees take away huge amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Logging; felling trees for firewood; large scale agriculture; human settlements and road constructions aid global warming as Earth's cleansing mechanism, forest, is destroyed
- Bush burning: Forests are also carbon reservoirs. As we burn forest for farming or whatever reason, large quantities of carbon are released into the atmosphere
- Agricultural methane from livestock and rice paddy
- Landfill/ dump site: Methane gas emitted from decomposing garbage
- Emission of fumes and greenhouse gases by manufacturing industries.



Consequences of Climate Change

Some of the damning consequences of Climate Change are:

- Global sea-level rise, which leads to flooding of coastal cities
- Melting of polar ice and habitat loss for animals such as polar bears

- Rise in tropical diseases
- Extinction of large numbers of species
- Droughts
- Crop failures
- Desert encroachment
- More turbulent weathers: thunderstorms, hurricanes, etc.
- Dwindling economies for countries, etc.



Mitigation

- Sustainable collection of firewood
- Use of energy saving bulbs and other energy saving appliances
- Livelihood options such as: bee, goat, fish and snail farming. It also includes skills acquisition and adding value instead of trading on raw materials from forest



- Sustainable logging
- Use of energy saving stove
- Sustainable agriculture
- Land use planning
- Reforestation
- Agro-forestry.

WISE ADMINISTRATION OF TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES (WATER)



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An African Rural Development Organization
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Introduction

Natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, hurricanes, droughts, etc., most often have localized impact, affecting a country or a few countries at a time.

However, Climate Change, which is already taking its toll in such geographic zones as the arctics, is a galloping, man-induced disaster of global proportion.

From the beginning of history, our planet has seen many natural and man-made catastrophes. However, none in recent times has threatened the existence of lives on a global scale than Climate Change.

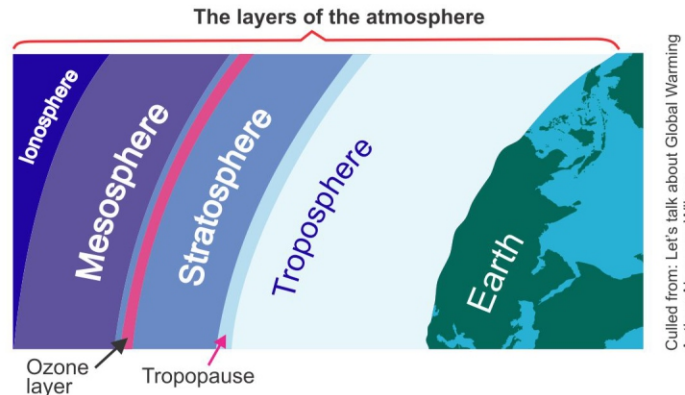
On the other hand, Climate Change will not only lead to the escalation of natural and man-made disasters, but will bring about a worldwide extinction of most animal and plant species. This, being alarming, calls for immediate global action as seen in the Paris Climate Agreement entered to by 194 countries in late 2015.



What is Global Climate Change?

To understand the meaning of Climate Change, we must first understand five important terminologies, namely:

- Atmosphere
- Weather
- Climate
- Greenhouse gases
- Global Warming



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Author: Akwaowo Wilson

Atmosphere is a region of gases that envelops Earth's surface.

Atmospheric gases and sea currents are some of the inbuilt mechanisms that help circulate and moderate Earth's temperature.

The lowest part of the atmosphere that begins from Earth's surface is called Troposphere. It is made up of nitrogen (about 78 percent), oxygen (about 21 percent) and little amounts of argon (about 0.9 percent), carbon dioxide, helium, krypton, methane, neon, sulfur dioxide, water vapor, and xenon. Let's not be too technical: You can feel the breeze, from the ground up to the clouds. They all happen within the troposphere.

Weather is the state of the atmosphere at a specific time and place, with respect to temperature, humidity, cloud cover, wind velocity, precipitation, barometric pressure, etc.

Climate is defined as the long-term weather patterns of a place or country for a period of at least 30 years.

Greenhouse Gases are gases, found

naturally in the atmosphere, that act the way greenhouse does, by trapping infrared radiation produced by the Sun, as it warms the Earth's surface, and not allowing heat to radiate back immediately into space. Examples of greenhouse gases are:

- carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- nitrous oxide (NO₂)
- methane (CH₄)
- Ozone (O₃)
- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
- water vapor.

Global Warming is the ongoing rise of Earth's average temperature. This is particularly due to the ever growing human activities that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Global Climate Change in this context refers to a change in the world's climate due to global warming.

What are the sources of Greenhouse Gases?

Some greenhouse gases come naturally through volcanic activities, wildfires and biological activities such as organic decay. However, since the industrial revolution of early 19th century, human activities have led to the emission of huge amounts of

