



What is climate Change?

Means any long-term significant change in the average weather that a given region experiences including average temperature, precipitation and wind patterns.

These changes happen over durations ranging from decades to millions of years and normally caused by dynamic process on Earth, external forces including variations in sunlight intensity, and more recently by human activities. In recent usage, especially in the context of environmental policy the term "climate change" often refers to changes in modern climate (global warming)

.Its important to note that climatic change is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity.

What causes Climate change?

Climate change or global warming is caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other polluting gases in our atmosphere.

Planet Earth is surrounded by a blanket of gasses which keeps the surface of the earth warm and able to sustain life.

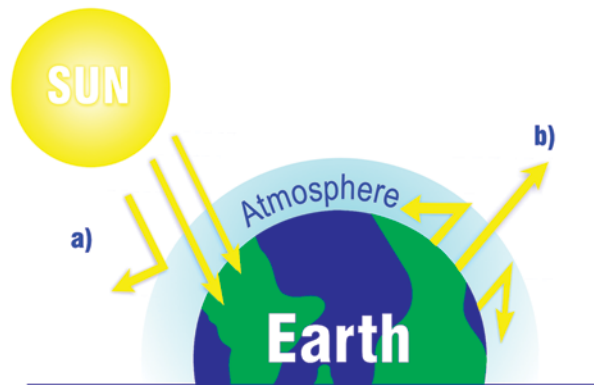
However, as we emit greenhouse gasses by burning fossil fuels and changing land use,(factories, cars, exhaust fumes, deforestation e t c), the blanket gets thicker and the temperature begins to rise.

This results in many other changes for instance in rainfall patterns as well as in more frequent and intense weather events.

Scientists consider it very lightly that the majority of the ongoing warming is caused by human activity.

Heat from the Sun a) is trapped by the gases in our atmosphere b). The gases trap heat by forming a blanket around the Earth - like the glass of a greenhouse. Once released the greenhouse gases stay in the atmosphere for many years. As they build up, the planet's temperature rises. Greenhouse gases are released by burning fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas

Impact of greenhouse gas emissions



Effects of climatic change in Uganda.

As a poor country, Uganda is more vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change because of her low adaptive capacities. This is compounded by weak institutional capacity, lack of skills on climate change adaptation and inadequate skills in disaster management, lack of equipment for disaster management, limited financial resources, poor urban planning and above all an economy which depends entirely on exploitation of its natural resources .Uganda has so far experienced an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events with serious socio-economic consequences.

Examples:

- El Nino of 1997/98
- Floods of 2007 in most.
- Drought in 2005 in south western, and 7 droughts between 1991 - 2000

All these events have inflicted heavy losses perhaps the most severe. For instance, lives have been claimed, livestock lost, bridges have been swept off, crops were destroyed, outbreak of water borne diseases such as cholera and other flood-related diseases, lowering of water tables and drying water sources.



Climate change in Uganda poses a major obstacle to the Country's efforts to achieve sustainable livelihoods.



People's livelihoods have been affected by changes in rain patterns posing new & growing challenges.

Agriculture

- Crop failure or significantly reduced crop production in some years due to increased drought incidences associated with increased climate variability.
- Increased hunger and famine due to crop failure caused by drought and/or flooding.
- Increased land degradation due to droughts and floods.
- Increased pest infestations such as armyworm, cassava mosaic and other weather related plant pathogens.
- Higher order impacts like increased costs of production, lower profitability, a decrease in food security and a need for more food imports.

Water Resources:

Prolonged and severe droughts can lead to low water levels in rivers, underground aquifers and reservoirs and domestic water sources.

Heavy floods have frequently led to contamination of water resources in both urban and rural water supplies resulting in health hazards.

Health:

Expansion in the spatial extent of some diseases like malaria, schistosomiasis, tripanosomiasis, yellow fever, etc. Increased incidences of cholera and respiratory infections.

Forestry and ecosystems:

- Reduction in the biodiversity in tropical forests which could lead to a loss of important medicinal and gene resources.
- Reduction in the moderating impacts of forests on climate.
- Loss of regeneration capacity of forests putting entire forest ecosystems at risk.
- Destruction or damage to wetlands and estuaries.
- A shift in vegetation zones, particularly in the rangelands and the "cattle corridor" which would adversely affect livestock and wildlife.
- Reduced pasture for livestock due to frequent droughts. This has led to lower quality and quantity of livestock, resulting to malnutrition in those communities that rely heavily on the cattle economy.

Education.

With hazards such as floods, Pupils will not be able to go to schools, Buildings collapse due to hailstorm, Pupils affected with climate change related diseases

Infrastructure.

Bridges Swept by Floods, Impassible roads, Collapsing buildings etc.

Hilly Ecosystems.

Landslides;- expose the hilly areas more; claim lives; destroy crops; divert labour efforts to rescue operations

URCS focus on Climate change

URCS through the Disaster Risk Reduction model proposes to intervene in the following ways:

- Improved water and sanitation
- Better housing (Floods resistant)
- Work with targeted communities to improve livelihood techniques for Climate change adaptation.
- Improved land use and environmental practices.

What can you do to contribute to Climate change adaptation?

- Simply change your human activities.
- Avoid deforestation and promote afforestation
- Avoid swamp reclamation and promote swamp preservation
- Use energy saving stoves
- Promote improved food storage
- Better waste management, promote polythene recycling or burn after use

Vision

An empowered and healthy community that responds to the need of the vulnerable

Mission

To mobilize the power of humanity for improving the lives of the vulnerable in Uganda.

Principles

- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
- Independence
- Voluntary Service
- Unity
- Universality

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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**Climate change
is with us**

ACT NOW!