

Protect People and Nature from Environmental Pollution and Climate Change

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Editorial

Quality of life is depending on quality of environment. Ecosystems with their animals and vegetation should be healthy with clean resources and clean water and air.

Pollution is an international phenomenon that destroys land, air, water bodies and buildings. Pollution is mainly chemical rather than physical as it changes the quality of atmosphere.

Pollutants are trans boundary, they travel thousands of miles. Organic pollutants are non-biodegradable and resist degradation by microorganisms; therefore they accumulate in the ecosystems and stay for long time. They can interrupt food chain leading to drastic changes in the structure of ; and They destroy biota and habitat.

Atmosphere concentration of CO₂ is increasing dramatically. We must reverse this trend by cutting emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases to protect and prevent damage of sensitive ecosystems.

While the air we breathe has become cleaner, it is still unhealthy or even deadly. These health impacts carry enormous costs to societies around the globe. It is not only people that suffer. Pollution also damages nature and biodiversity and heritage.

Temperatures are increasing globally due to emissions of CO₂, SO₂, methane and volatile organic matters (VOCs) from industrial and domestic activities. The rate of temperature increasing is greater at the two poles and even more at the northern hemisphere (Figure 1).

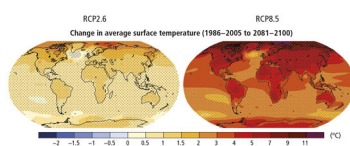


Figure 1: Change in average surface temperature.

The International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) released a recent report discussing the magnitude of effects of environmental pollution and global warming on biota and habitats. It predicted that climate change and global warming are going to increase by 2020 at different parts around the globe; these changes would lead to distinction of some plants and animals and would affect the ecosystem balance. The report recommended some actions and measures to reduce and mitigate these dramatic effects.

Deforestation and desertification are major consequences of climate change due to reduction in the rate of precipitation and destruction of

many water bodies in the world. Migration of living organisms is another important issue that led to imbalance in ecosystems, changes in numbers and behavior and destruction of their natural habitats and shelters.

Environmental pollution, global warming and climate change had led to reduction in biodiversity and reduction in growth and yield of many leading crops across the globe. Floods are very common due to melting of ice which led to destruction of many fertile lands and disappearance of many plants and animals.

The crisis of water is another challenge of climate change, freshwater resources are decreasing repeatedly and available water is decreasing beside the deterioration of water quality which makes it non-potable. There is a huge demand of water in many areas of the world especially in Africa, which would lead to famine and starvation. Consequently, extinction is most likely to occur for many species due to loss of shelter and habitat. This situation is exacerbating by demolishing lands, pollution, emissions of greenhouse gases and warlike species. Unfortunately, these severe changes it is most likely to be irreversible, especially when other edaphic and non-edaphic factors interact.

Many coastal cities will be erased from the map due to sea level rise, flooding and soil erosion. Many species (flora and fauna) will be redistributed and the biodiversity will be poorer.

Acid rain is another major problem, especially in industrialized world, many oceans and seas will be acidified due to extensive industrial activities. Continuous emissions from industrial units had affected marine life Ocean acidification will at medium to high emissions scenarios have a significant impact on the marine ecosystem especially for polar ecosystems and coral reefs.

Climate change reduces production of leading crops such as beans, maize, rice, oat, wheat and many other important crops in many regions of the world. Not only the quantity has been decreased but also quality of crops was altered which was reflected on poor human health. This problem is very noticeable in developing countries with very low income. Moreover, crimes, violence and conflict have increased greatly in these countries due to poverty and economic crises.

Economic losses are normal consequences of alteration in crop quality and quantity that resulted from poor air quality, climate change and global warming. These factors increase poverty around the world and worsen conditions for food security leaving many people exposed to hunger. There will be a huge gap between developing and developed countries leading to more conflicts between countries that might end with armed wars due to inequality in the world.

We have to apply new and improved emission control strategies to decrease impact of greenhouse effects. Minimizing the use of

nonrenewable source of energy such as fossil fuel is the most important key to solve problems of air pollution and climate change, as it reduces emissions of CO₂ (the main greenhouse gas) as well as SO₂, NO_x and suspended particulate matter (health-damaging gases).

Improvements in energy efficiency, increased use of less- or non-polluting renewable sources of energy and behavioral change (e.g. reducing motor vehicles, go cycling and being vegetarian) will help in improving quality of air and reducing climate change, major environmental gains can be made by switching from fossil to renewable energy sources.

More than 25% of the total emissions of carbon dioxide over the last 20 years were attributed to deforestation and bad land use contributed roughly. The planting of trees is sometimes proposed as an alternative to reducing consumption of fossil fuels in order to curb the rise in levels of greenhouse gases.

Improving air quality implies tougher energy and climate achievements. Climate policy should also be motivated to a higher level of determination for better health and wealth.

Environmental pollution and climate change are global problems affecting all nations; therefore nations to international environmental efforts should be coordinated and enforce commitments and actions. Moreover, implementation of effective measures should be based on full thoughtful pollution management and fate.

In conclusion, environmental pollution is a major challenge causing a severe damage to all organisms and horticulture, driving many animal species to disappearance and even death.

Air Pollution does not know boundaries; therefore, it is difficult to manage it as the source point is not clearly identified. Brick walls or customs cabins will never stop spread of air pollution. We have to cooperate together to preserve our planet from air pollution and we have to treat our natural resources in a very wise way as everything is depending on the other I a nice web design. We are misusing our resources extensively at a rate higher than that the environment can compensate and continue "performing" well in the future [1-3].

We are an immutable part of nature, so we have to embrace its holistic view to mitigate environmental pollution.

YES, we can easily afford to stop deterioration of our planet.

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