

Climate Change and Its Consequences

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Introduction

Climate change may be referred to as transformation in the weather conditions for a span of decades to million years. According to the World Meteorological Organization (1966), climate change involves changes in the climate on time scales longer than 10 years due to natural or anthropogenic disturbances. As a global issue, scientists from various fields are actively working to understand the past and future of the climate regimes.

Climate change is caused by the enhancement of the natural process of greenhouse effect whose major drivers are: burning of fossil fuels, ecologically incompatible changes in land-use and land-cover, ecologically incompatible management practices, volcanic eruptions, and changes in solar radiation budget of the Earth. Global climate change has been occurring mostly as a cumulative result of ecologically incompatible anthropogenic activities at the local scale, without consideration of consequences of overshooting the limits to the sink and assimilative capacities of the global atmosphere (also known as the tragedy of the commons).

Gambarova and Gambarov investigated the spatial changes taking place in the rare vegetation of Gobustan, Azerbaijan. UNESCO declared the study area as the world heritage site in 2007 and suggested that it be preserved in consideration with the outstanding universal value of the rock art engravings. Apart from the historical and archaeological importance, the sites are also famous for its rare vegetation. The present study highlights the possible threats to the vegetation due to global climate change, oil and gas exploration, overgrazing of winter and summer pastures by domestic animals, and environmental pollution. The study expressed significant concerns: the importance of rare vegetation classification within a buffer zone as plant cover has decreased in the buffer zone beyond a sensitive threshold [1]. The latest reports of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that the rise in global temperatures since 1901 has been caused by the atmospheric trapping of increased longwave radiation. The present study evidently suggests various measures to mitigate the raising levels of greenhouse gas emissions of anthropogenic origin such as carbon dioxide, methane, and HFCs.

Viterito presented the contributing factors for global warming through a seismic activity. High Geothermal Flux Areas (HGFA) are an indicator of increasing geothermal force and are highly correlated with average global temperatures from 1979 to 2015. Geothermal heat may activate thermo baric convection, thus strengthening the oceanic overturning and transferring ocean heat to the overlying atmosphere [2]. Singh et al. dealt with climate change impacts on precipitation, events of extreme rainfall (cloudburst), landslides and flash floods in Western Himalaya [3]. Zhu presented the late Quaternary environmental changes in the northern, western and central Namibian and focused on the relationship between geomorphology and climate. The study revealed the extent to which its landscapes are affected by climatic change. Currently, there is a debate on the behavior of Quaternary hydroclimatic regimes in response to precession insolation variations and the effect of glacial versus interglacial boundary conditions. Zhu enlightened several examples from different geographical regions of Namibia to envisage how geomorphological evidence of Quaternary change can be used to assist in the better management of contemporary and future environmental conditions [4].

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