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Climate change is causing horrific effects to our world

Climate change has one of the biggest effects on animals today. According to Fauco organisation, elephants in Africa are very sensitive to the rising temperatures and are subject to new diseases. They need large amounts of water which is becoming extremely scarce due to drought and desertification.

The number of tigers in the wild has declined to as few as 3,200 due to the risk of fire in habitats, says the wwf.org.uk. The animals' habitats are being destroyed, animals are becoming extinct, and the ice is vanishing in Antarctica.

Humans are the main cause of climate change. We need to change our ways to see a brighter future for our world.

A study concluded the best way to protect species from these changes is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent climate change. Human activities are one of the reasons why habitat destruction and extinction are ranked so high.

There is still hope to save animals from extinction and animals changing their shape to suit today's climate. It is not the easiest goal to reach but small simple changes do make a difference, even if it is walking to the shop instead of driving, using reusable water bottles or planting a herb garden. It's all about making the right choice.

Wildlife populations have fallen by more than two-thirds in less than 50 years, according to a major report by the conservation group [wwf](http://wwf.org). We are reminded daily about climate change and how fast it is being destroyed. So why is there no change? "We are wrecking our world- the one place we call home- risking our health, security, and survival here on earth. Now nature is sending us a desperate SOS and time is running out", stated by Helen Briggs, the BBC environment correspondent.

The earth's temperature is rising at a much faster rate compared to the 7,000 years than the last ice age. Today climate change is driven by human activities such as burning fossil fuels such as coal. According to the National Academies organisation, carbon dioxide has increased from a pre-industrial level of 280 parts per million to more than 410 parts per million today. Measurements show that there is more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than there ever has been in over 1 million years.

These statistics are shocking! We are slowly destroying our world until it becomes too late to save it. But what can we do to save it? According to the public health lacounty.gov, we could save \$118 million in energy costs if people change their light bulbs to CFL or LED bulbs that use 75% less energy and last longer. The wwf.org says that by moving away from meat and dairy products it can lower your impact on the environment because what we eat

contributes a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions. It is also responsible for almost 60% of global biodiversity loss.

Due to the constant shifting in the environment, animals and their traditional habitats are altering to cope with the changes. The Caribbean lizards are growing larger toe pads to grip trees more tightly as hurricanes become more frequent, the speed that nature and evolution is adapting is confounding Darwin's belief that new species arise naturally, according to Thor Hanson.

So many statistics prove that human impact is so devastatingly one of the main causes of climate change. Tackling climate change has become so topical in today's world. Governments are creating agendas to help fight this battle such as the government of Ireland are retrofitting 500,000 homes due to the cost of fuel rises and the clock ticks down on climate change targets. Reality is hitting with the world and governments like Ireland are starting to enforce actions to help. It is essential that governments help us with this battle as they hold so much control over our country.

If changes keep happening to our climate, some sea turtle species will have unsuitable sites for nesting and foraging. This will be due to sea-level rise and increased storminess. Polar bears will become extinct and are currently listed as a threatened species. Melting sea ice is the cause of polar bears on the verge of becoming extinct as they need sea ice to hunt. Walrus and other Arctic species are facing similar challenges.

Climate change doesn't just effect wildlife, it also effects our health, ability to grow food, housing, safety and work. Protracted droughts are already putting people at risk especially those living in small nation countries and developing countries, forcing communities to relocate. This will cause the number of climate refugees to rise. Emissions from all over the world cause climate change. This means that it takes everyone all over the world to act on it. Climate change is not just about the weather getting warmer it affects everything around us such as severe droughts, flooding, melting polar ice and catastrophic storms and it is only the beginning of the battle.

Hope isn't lost yet! Studies reveal that by protecting 50% of the land and ocean around the world, plant and animals' species could thrive. Unless green-house gas emissions are severely reduced, climate change could cause a quarter of land animals and birdlife to become extinct, says climate and weather.net. It may sound challenging, but it certainly is attainable.

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