

1.1 Definition of Climate Change

Definition

Climate Change is defined by the [United Nations Convention](#) as

"change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods"

[CC:1]

Alternative explanation of Climate Change:

long-term alteration in global weather patterns, especially increases in temperature and storm activity, regarded as a potential consequence of the greenhouse effect [CC:2]

Although natural factors do contribute to climate change, human factors have been found to be the main catalyst behind the accelerated rate at which climate change is occurring. The progress of scientific research and knowledge on climate change over the years, especially recently, has led to the confirmation that the current warming of the Earth's climate is very likely to be due to human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels.

Global Warming

Global Warming is understood as the increase in the near surface temperature of the Earth, caused by a rise in concentrations of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, chlorofluorocarbons and ozone [CC:3]. Global Warming is in essence a direct consequence of the Greenhouse Effect.

Greenhouse Effect is the process that raises the temperature of air in the lower atmosphere due to heat trapped by greenhouse gases.

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References

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