

Do Man's actions affect the World's Climate?

You pose too narrow a question. Environmentalists now agree the climate is part of the total World environmental system, which is one interconnected whole. You cannot talk about climate without considering the health of ecosystems, the oceans, forests, rivers, marshes, lakes, mountains and bio diversity.

James Lovelock's and Lynn Margolis' Gaia hypothesis (1979) holds that the biosphere is a self-regulating entity that keeps the environment within quite critical limits necessary for life, despite the often large variation in our Sun's radiation. Their work was an early example of a widening of the narrow world view of conventional modern science, and reflects a growing awareness of a more holistic view that accepts that all aspects of the biosphere are intimately interconnected and interdependent.

A more recent example is the work in the 1990s of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in which a large number of scientists from different disciplines which had little experience of communicating with each other found they had to recognise connections and biofeedback systems of which they had never dreamed.

So a better question is: "Do Man's actions have any affect on the environment in general?" because if the answer is yes, they would be bound to influence the quality of eco-systems and, eventually climate.

Earth's climate in more recent geological times has been moderated and balanced by forests of one kind or another, which used to cover about half of the Earth's surface. Forests generate rainfall, and deep, fertile soils. In modern times Man has deforested most of the temperate regions, and through poor management has encouraged severe erosion of these deep soils, which are often a fraction of their former quality, both in depth and fertility. In the last few centuries, temperate latitude deforestation has resulted in drier, hotter summers.

In the last century, deforestation on mountain watersheds, poor river management and destruction of swamps have led to extensive coastal flooding and violent weather, often catastrophic in recent years (Columbia, Honduras, Mozambique, Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka). Deforestation in equatorial forests have had even more serious consequences, for they have been the power houses of the planet, influencing climatic systems.

They process the higher energy absorption of the tropics by moving the heat towards the poles, and have a great effect on moderating the world's climates. They also have a strong influence on the oceanic circulatory system (Gulf Stream and Equatorial Pacific Current) and the air circulating systems in both hemispheres. Their continued destruction can only bring further deterioration in the World's climates, with changes in rainfall patterns, increased desertification, more violent storms, etc. Environmentalists are blaming deforestation for the severe drought that is ravaging Brazil.

There was little change, until the 1850s, in the concentration of greenhouse warming gases in the atmosphere. Then they rose from 290ppm in 1860 to 450ppm in 2003, and are predicted to rise to over 500ppm by 2050. There is now widespread agreement that this is the main cause of global warming. This curve follows our increasing dependence on carbon fuels over the same period, and is coupled to a similar curve for the rise in world population from about 1.7 billion in 1900 to 6.8 billion today, a population level which the Earth will soon be unable to support.

This growth of population, and of World economy, can be attributed to the use of fossil fuels, the exhaustion of which in the next 40 years is likely to cause a collapse of both, unless alternatives producing a similar or higher energy level can be developed.

Lastly, we have the issue of energy pollution. Everyone can observe different qualitative effects on the human psyche between hard rock and a Mozart symphony. The world view of conventional science (with the belief that the material world is the only reality) has no place for measuring or understanding the effects, including energy medicine (e.g. homeopathy and acupuncture).

There are three levels of energy pollution generated by humans and each is measurable in water quality. There is the energy from wastes (e.g. hospitals and human hormonal) left in the water after municipal physical filtration. The clusters of leukaemia around nuclear power stations are unlikely to be by chance. The energy effects of the prevailing standards of self-indulgent lack of concern for the well-being of human society, or for our planetary home, may well affect the environment. Although Nature has its own immune system for recycling toxins and wastes, this can be overpowered by the sheer volume of human-caused pollution.

The third area is the relatively new one of electro-magnetic pollution (EMF's), originating in the development of wireless and its derivatives since the 1920s. Conventional science sees no connection between mobile telephone use and brain tumours. What has this to do with climate? There is persuasive evidence from Sweden, Germany and Japan of extensive damage to trees by radar emissions from defence stations. Destruction of forest, as we have seen, affects climate. These resonance's have a knock-on effect on the health of eco-systems.

The degradation of the world environment can be traced in the reduced quality of our water, which is the mainstay of all organic life on the planet. The "Water Wizard", Viktor Schauberg, used to insist that Man's present poor health, physical and emotional, derive from his ill-treatment of this sacred substance. And, to quote Sir David Attenborough: "Water in the environment is like blood in the body, and ours is sick. The arteries and veins of our countryside, its rivers and wetlands are suffering from the equivalent of low blood pressure and blood poisoning. The condition has developed over many years and treatment is now urgent."

There can be no doubt that Man has brought enormous destruction to the environment, particularly in the last century, and that future generations will have to pay dearly for this flagrant irresponsibility and hubris.

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