

Humanity is nowadays confronted with an environmental disaster – that of climate changes. If nothing is done to solve this problem, then we are heading towards a global disaster.

What is climate change?

It is the raising of earth`s temperature also known as **global warming**. It is caused by emissions of green house **gases** through human activities on earth. They include water vapour, ozone, carbondioxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulphur hexafluoride.

Which human activities emit these gases?

Burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil to create electricity causes 66% of human induced gas emission while waste management, land clearing, agriculture, deforestation and forest degradation amount to 17% .10 million hectares of the world forest is lost every year, the highest being in Africa.

What are the negative effects of climate?

They include drought,storms,floods,soil erosion, infertility of agric land, infectious diseases, loss of plants and animal species, invasive plants, threats to traditional knowledge and culture, shortage of food and water supply etc etc. Poor countries are the most vulnerable and most affected.

What is the impact of climate change on indigenous people?

Because of their vulnerability and dependence on nature for livelihood, and their lack of capacity and means to adapt, indigenous people are today the most affected victims of climate change.

How can we solve the problems of climate change?

Climate change is a global problem that needs a global solution. The international community under the UN has been working hard to enact global climate laws .In 1992, a convention known as the UNFCCC was signed and a subsidiary protocol – the Kyoto protocol was concluded in 1997.This culminated in the Copenhagen summit in December 2009 which unfortunately ended in disappointment.

What should be done concretely on the field?

Industrialized countries have to reduce their emissions and also help poor countries protect forests and plants more trees as well as build their capacity and technology to adapt to climate change.

How will this be done?

One of the solutions identified is protecting existing forests and planting more trees to capture or sink carbon called REDD (Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation).

What is the role of indigenous people in these processes?

Indigenous people live in and on forest and have traditional ownership to it, protecting it for time immemorial. REDD projects will take place on indigenous peoples' land. There are fears that their land will be confiscated without compensation violating their traditional land rights.

What should indigenous people do to fight for their rights in REDD?

Indigenous people have to lobby states and other stakeholders and advocate for their rights and interests in REDD at local, national and international level.

What should Cameroon indigenous people specifically do?

Cameroon is party to the UNFCCC and also admitted into FCPF funding for REDD. Indigenous peoples will have to build their capacity and lobby the government to respect their rights in REDD projects by consulting and involving them in all stages of the national REDD program and uphold traditional rights to their forest. They also have to join the international indigenous lobby movement on climate change (the IIFCC).