



THINK NAMIBIA

POSTER 1: CLIMATE CHANGE IN NAMIBIA



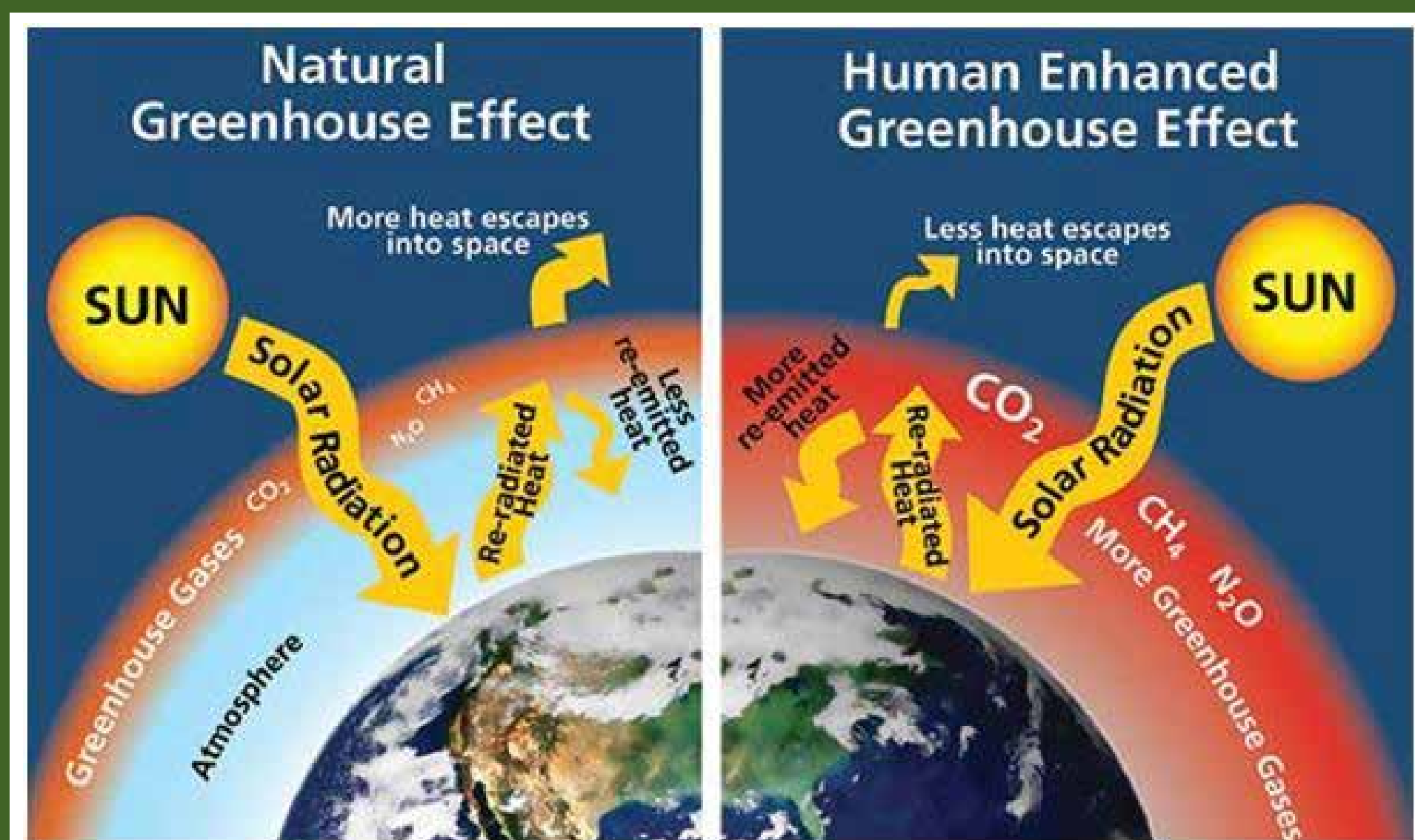
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Climate change is a real and urgent challenge that is already affecting people and the environment worldwide. Significant changes are occurring on Earth, including increasing temperatures, rainfall variability, and rising sea levels.

In simple terms, climate change is about the change over long periods of time (decades or longer) of temperature, precipitation, atmospheric pressure and winds on a global scale. Global warming is the increase in average surface temperature." Both human-made and natural factors contribute to climate change:

- Human causes include burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests, and developing land for farms, cities, and roads. These activities all release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- Natural causes include changes in the Earth's orbit, the sun's intensity, the circulation of the ocean and the atmosphere, and volcanic activity.

Although the Earth's climate has changed many times throughout its history, the rapid warming seen today cannot be explained by natural processes alone. Human activities are increasing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.



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NATURAL GREENHOUSE EFFECT AND HUMAN ENHANCED GREENHOUSE EFFECT. The natural greenhouse effect is vital to life processes on earth, as it helps to keep the earth warm. The human enhanced greenhouse effect, is caused by human activities, and is the primary driver of climate change and global warming today. It occurs when more greenhouse gases are added to the atmosphere. The increased amounts of greenhouse gases absorb and reflect more infra-red radiation back to earth. This leads to higher temperatures and has a knock on effect by interfering with many components of earth's natural climate regulation systems.

THE CHALLENGE FOR NAMIBIA

Namibia is already experiencing the later onset of rainy seasons and thus growing seasons, overall changes in average seasonal temperature, continual threat of drought and unusually severe flooding in parts of Namibia have provided an indication of how climate change could continue to affect the country.

Business and the economy have already felt some impact but the most vulnerable are the communities whose livelihoods depend on natural resources – such as subsistence agriculture.

NAMIBIA'S CLIMATE CHANGE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The prediction that weather conditions will become more severe during the next decades places the responsibility for adaptation on the shoulders of all Namibians, especially high-level managers and policy and decision-makers across all sectors.

It is urgent to take action now to create resilience to the predicted changes by incorporating adaptation initiatives into existing and future policies. The Laws, Policies and Treaties below are some of the key guiding frameworks for Namibia's response to climate change.

KEY MILESTONES IN NAMIBIA'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

1995	2001	2011	2012	2014
<p>UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)</p> <p>In 1995 Namibia ratified this international environmental treaty which has the ultimate objective to "stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level what will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system."</p>	<p>NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE (NCCC)</p> <p>The NCCC has the main function of advising and making recommendations to government on climate change and is comprised of representatives from various government ministries, NGOs, parastatals and the private sector.</p>	<p>NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY (NCCP)</p> <p>The Policy takes a cross-sectoral approach and elaborates on climate change adaptation and mitigation in Namibia. The policy outlines a coherent, transparent and inclusive framework on climate risk management in accordance with Namibia's national development agenda, legal framework, and in recognition of environmental constraints and vulnerability.</p>	<p>DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT ACT</p> <p>The Act provides for the establishment of institutions for disaster risk management in Namibia. A disaster risk management plan is in place to cover amongst others drought and flood events from climate change.</p>	<p>NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN, 2013-2020 (NCCSAP)</p> <p>The Strategy and Action Plan lays out the guiding principles responsive to climate change that are effective, efficient and practical in order to realise the goals of the NCCP. It further identifies priority action areas for adaptation and mitigation.</p>

For more information, visit: www.enviro-awareness.org.na

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