

Climate Change in Africa – *information boxes*

Climate change is affecting people trapped in poverty right now in many African countries.

Being green isn't just about saving our future; it's about saving people's lives today.

Send a Cow's work helps people grow more food, create healthy soil and make the most of water. People helped by us are more prepared for the affects of climate change.

GROWING FOOD

Climate change affects huge numbers of people in Africa because 70% of Africans living south of the Sahara rely on small plots of land to grow their own food. This makes them more vulnerable to changes in weather patterns.

POVERTY

Africa is the only continent in the world to become less developed in the 20 years from 1981 to 2001, according to the most recent United Nations report written about poverty in 2004.

AFRICA HIT HARD

A group of hundreds of scientists from the United Nations called the, 'Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change', have said that Africa is the continent likely to be hardest hit by climate change. This would partly mean a fall in the amount of food that can be grown from crops there and shortages of water affecting millions of people.

UNFAIR BALANCE

Africa produces just 3% of all the carbon emissions in the world, from 12% of the world population or 900 million people. The UK produces nearly as much carbon emissions as the whole of Africa, at 2.3% of the world's carbon emissions; this is from just 60 million people or 0.1% of the world population.

CARBON CUTTING

In the UK, a typical person uses 10.7 tons of CO₂ per year, whereas a typical Ugandan uses just 0.7 tons per year. It has been estimated that the Earth can manage if we all used 0.8 tons of CO₂ per person!

MIGRATION

As the Sahara moves southward, many people will migrate south, often into other countries, making it difficult to look after them.

FOOD SHORTAGE

In some areas of Africa, the amount of food produced from crops that rely on rain could fall by half by the year 2020. So, storing water and making the most of rainfall will be even more important.

CROP CRISIS

Growing food in many African regions could be very badly affected by climate change. The amount of land that can grow food, the length of time you can grow food in a year and how many crops the land will produce are all expected to decrease.

POPULATION GROWTH

In Africa, the amount of food produced from crops may fall 20% by the year 2050 because of warming and drying in the climate. At the same time, the population may grow from 900 million to possibly 2 billion. More mouths to feed with less food!