

Biodiversity and climate

(AXE « *Sauver la planète, penser les futurs possibles* »)



Firstly, information is very important because making people aware of the dangers facing biodiversity today is essential. Very often, people are not lucid or even do not know. Here are two concrete examples at the origin of the degradation of our planet and its ecosystem.

Overexploitation

Biodiversity is a raw material and resource for more than 7 billion human beings. But most ecosystems that provide these services are not exploited in a sustainable way. Overexploitation mainly concerns overfishing, excessive hunting of wild animals, excessive felling of firewood and depletion of agricultural land. As regards forests. It's estimated that every minute, the equivalent of 30 football pitches of tropical forest disappears around the world. However, forests play a fundamental role in absorbing CO₂. Deforestation therefore has dramatic consequences for humans and their environment. That's how we understand that forests are essential to the climatic balance and that they must be preserved at all costs. If forests must be protected, it's also to preserve the irreplaceable biodiversity of animal and plant species that they shelter.

Climate changes

Climate changes are often in the headlines and this media attention is totally justified. The current problem stems from the fact that human activities have released colossal amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These emissions reinforce the natural greenhouse effect, which leads to a gradual warming of the climate. The warming of the oceans, the change in the frequency and intensity of precipitation, the reduction in the mass of ice and snow are all phenomena linked to global warming. All these phenomena are not without impact on biodiversity.

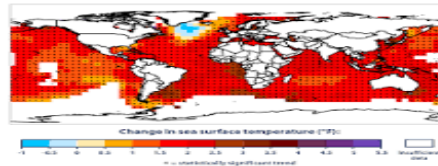
Consequences

First of all, deforestation is a rampant problem as it leads to the disappearance of species like big mammals, pandas, little birds or insects. This change can alter their whole ecosystem and the balance set up by nature disappears with them. Destroying the forest is like destroying natural habitats and 80% of land biodiversity.

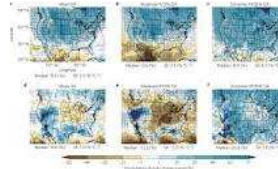
Secondly, the medium level of oceans increased by 20 cm between 1901 and 2018 and the pace *is accelerating, establishing in 2020 to more than 3.5 mm per year.*

More consequences in pictures:

- *Rise in ocean temperature*



- *Intensification of precipitation*



- *Increase in severe tropical cyclones*



- *Increased periods of aridity and drought*



- *Retreat and melting of glaciers*



We each have a responsibility at our level to take simple steps to remedy these problems and protect the planet on a daily basis. We can change our current models and opt for sustainable and ecological modes of consumption and production. Here are some examples:

- **Reduce pollution by recycling and minimizing waste or adopting reusable bags.**
- **Opting for ecological vehicles which, in particular, emit less greenhouse gas.**
- **Reduce the consumption of natural resources by rationalizing water consumption or by buying clothes made from natural fibers such as organic cotton.**
- **Organic farming is also a very good way to consume ecologically.**