Africa will be hardest hit by climate change. It is happening now.

This is a fight for climate justice. Many poorer communities are already suffering the impacts such as more drought and flooding.

**Rising global temperatures = more drought and floods = higher food prices.**

People are also suffering from the side-effects of burning coal.

**Burning coal = poor air quality, polluted rivers = health risks, less access to water.**

Extreme weather – the frequency and severity of droughts and floods is increasing in many parts of Africa.

**Science + Impacts**

Extreme weather – the frequency and severity of droughts and floods is increasing in many parts of Africa. Some examples:

**Rising temperatures** – in 2013 Ghana experienced it’s highest ever temperature and in the Northern Cape in South Africa temperatures rose to 47.3 degrees Celsius, the hottest March anywhere in Africa.

**Droughts** are increasing in severity and frequency: 13 million people needing humanitarian assistance in 2011 in the Horn of Africa; 2012 was the third drought in a decade in the Sahel region of West Africa, with over 5 million people affected in Chad, Mali, Niger and Mauritania; and in 2013 Namibia & Angola experienced their worst drought in 30 years.

**Floods** – as well as increases in the severity of seasonal rains in many countries, there have been at least two major floods: in 2007 over 1.2m people were displaced and 500 people died in 20 countries including Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Togo, Mali and Niger; and in 2000, floods in Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Madagascar and South Africa left 1.25m people homeless, hundreds dead and destroyed crops and livestock.
The evidence is in: global warming has caused severe floods, droughts and storms. More violent and frequent storms, once merely a prediction of climate models, are now a matter of observation.

June 30, 2011, John Carrey from Scientific American

**Alaska**
May 2011 tied with May 1974 as the driest May since records began in 1918.

**Canada**
2010 was the warmest year since national records began in 1918.

**USA**
Persistent, scorching heat across the US during the summer of 2011 contributed to several southern states experiencing their warmest summer since records began in 1895.

**Central America**
In 2011, large amounts of rainfall triggered major floods and landslides during October with over one million people affected.

**Hurricane Celia**
Maximum winds of 580 kmph in June of 2010. Second strongest June storm on record and second largest Category 5 hurricane to develop during June.

**Colombia**
Heavy rains in 2010 triggered deadly floods and landslides, affecting nearly 2 million people.

**Chile**
In 2011, the Atacama Desert, one of the driest places on Earth, has its heaviest snowfall in 26 years.

**Brazil**
In 2010, North and west Amazonia was in the midst of its worst drought in four decades.

**Norway**
Wettest summer in 2011 since records began in 1960.

**Europe**
During August 2011, central and southern Europe experienced one of its worst heat waves since 2003.

**Western Africa**
Hit by heavy rain in 2010 with thousands of homes destroyed and nearly 200,000 people affected.

**Africa**
Crippling drought gripped much of the Horn of Africa during most of 2011.

**Philippines**
Tropical Storm Washi caused flash floods and landslides in 2011.

**Japan**
Wettest summer in 2010 since national records began in 1898.

**Thailand**
Storms and heavy monsoon rains from July-October 2011 contributed to the worst flooding in Thailand since 1942.

**Australia**
Unusually heavy rain fell across the country during the summer of 2010-11, resulting in the wettest wettest summer since national records began in 1961.

**Global Extreme Weather Events**
In 2010, 950 natural disasters occurred making it the second worst year since 1900. Nine-tenths of these were weather-related events such as storms and floods.

**Global Tropical Cyclones**
Well below average activity.

**Food prices may well go up as a result of floods and droughts caused by climate change.**

**Crop yields falling** – Projected crop yields in some countries could drop by as much as 50% by 2020. Some crop yields may fall and other rise, whilst temperature changes, and shorter growing seasons may change the locations where crops can grow, and make farming in marginal areas impossible.

Farmers cannot easily move their land and **access to water** may also change.

**Rising prices** – wheat and maize yields, for example, are likely to be affected which will push up global food prices.

**Revenue from crops** – profits from crops could fall by as much as 90% by 2100, with small-scale farmers being the most affected.

**Water** – 1 in 3 Africans (up to 345 million) don’t have access to clean water and climate change will increase the impact on water-scarce regions. The impacts of climate change are going to make water more scarce in regions such as the Sahel, Ethiopia and some parts of Southern Africa, and the impacts could be wider.

**Coal mining and coal-fired power stations both use a lot of water.** Industries that are reliant on coal are going to make this worse.

**Development and economic growth** – by 2040 climate change could cost Africa $460 billion or 4% of continent’s GDP. The cost of adaptation to rising sea levels could amount to at least 5 to 10% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

**Burning coal and fossil fuels** – has other health impacts, producing poor air quality and polluting our rivers. With one of the world’s highest air pollution levels, most of the Highveld area in Gauteng, South Africa was declared a Priority Area (HPA) by the government in 2007 because of the health implications. Home to 12 of power-utility Eskom’s coal-fired power stations, the area experiences a disproportionate amount of Eskom’s pollution. 51% of deaths due to respiratory illness and 54% deaths due to cardiovascular disease, related to outdoor pollution in the area, can be attributed to Eskom.
How can we fight climate change?

We believe that a global grassroots movement can hold our leaders accountable to the realities of science and the principles of climate justice. We are calling on our leaders and big business to step up to the fight against climate change.

Possible Paths Back to 350ppm

Kick-start the climate debate

Switch off the TV and chat with your family, talk in the taxi, or discuss with friends and workmates:
- How is climate change affecting you? Are you affected by drought, flooding, or by health issues related to the burning of coal?
- How does climate change affect food prices and what can we do about it?
- How can we achieve climate justice? If the rich countries of the Global North started climate change by burning fossil fuels, how can we lead the way and cut CO₂?

Join the African Climate Movement

We believe that an African grassroots movement can hold our leaders accountable to the realities of science and the principles of climate justice. That movement is rising from the bottom up all over the continent and is coming together to champion solutions that will ensure a better future for all.

Sign up

Sign up at www.350Africa.org
Join us at www.facebook.com/350Africa.org
and on Twitter @350Africa