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European Languages زبانهای اروپائی

By Lenore Manderson 27.11.2023

The Devastating Effects of Global Warming in Africa



Sources: The Conversation [Image: What was once an agricultural dam in South Africa is now parched land. Getty Images]

The force of the wind that whips through the cities of South Africa's Eastern Cape province is capable of generating energy. But on a hot, dry day, those winds can gather embers and dump them into the tinder-dry savannah and forest, destroying crops, fodder and homes, as well as claiming lives.

Wildfires create their own weather systems and generate firestorms with devastating effects.

The Global warming will increase the number of days of intense heat, and this It will produce ideal conditions for fires. In recent months, the Southern Europe and North Africa have experienced record-breaking temperatures and ferocious fires with terrible effects on human lives, habitat and the environment. The Southern Hemisphere will be the next to experience this situation.

No However, the leading cause of death worldwide is heat, not fire. The extreme temperatures recorded in Europe and the United States portend future changes on a global scale. In southern African countries, In some areas of East Africa and Madagascar, rapid increases in emissions are expected temperatures until the end of this century.

Am anthropologist and academic in the field of public health and work in Australia and in South Africa. These two countries are recurrently affected by the El Niño-Southern Oscillation and the consequent rise in sea levels, with floods, droughts and a Increase in temperature as it passes. The combination of global warming and El Niño points to the fact that in the coming years the devastating effects will be increasingly and more.

Heat Air Quality & Health

The reports by multilateral agencies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and national bodies such as the Global Change Research Programme of U.S. show that high temperatures can be deadly and that Vast populations around the world are vulnerable to this situation. Discharges Temperatures cause sunstroke, heat stroke, heart attacks, strokes brain diseases and other cardiovascular diseases.

In South Africa will see more heat waves, increasing the likelihood of deaths related to this phenomenon. People who are especially vulnerable to stress from excess heat are those who live in slums and in dilapidated and overcrowded buildings. <u>Cities are also hot spots</u>: heat absorbed by roads and buildings causes the urban "<u>heat island</u>" effect, while increased energy use for cooling increases the greenhouse gas emissions.

Less Food, Less Nutrition

In On the African continent, food security is directly threatened because of extreme events, but also, more generally, because of the change climate change and global warming. In South Africa, drought is wreaking havoc on recurrent form in subsistence farming, livestock and crops Commercial. This situation has already sparked an interest in <u>local strategies</u> to address food insecurity.

The The impact of drought on food and nutrition will fall on the most vulnerable vulnerable people, such as infants, young children, and pregnant women, and on those already living at or below the poverty line.

In Across the continent, many people depend on subsistence agriculture and, in the absence of food or water, there will likely be an increase in migration and humanitarian crises.

In South Africa, a large part of the population also depends on <u>subsistence or other small-scale agriculture</u>. Crop failures and drought, along with rising food costs due to the disruption of global food resources, will ultimately harm us all.



A boy walks towards a donkey in the village of El Gel, Ethiopia. Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya are suffering the worst drought in four decades. Eduardo Soteras/AFP via Getty Images.

Every Drop Count

To In addition to the risk factors mentioned above, there is water scarcity. Humans need proper hydration to survive. The water scarcity, combined with rising temperatures, increases the risk of organ failure and death.

In addition Relying on poor quality and polluted water has a negative impact on Consequences on domestic and personal hygiene, as well as infections Intestinal.

The *Vibrio cholerae* (the bacterium that causes cholera) is present in the water from all countries, both high- and low-income. The Infection Caused because of this bacterium, it can be mild. However, if you don't intervene quickly To prevent severe dehydration, increasing the concentration of the bacteria can be lethal. The sharp rise in cholera and other diseases diarrhoeal diseases around the world is linked to rising temperatures and drought.

Diseases Neglected

Other viral and bacterial infectious diseases – especially prevalent in Africa – are also likely to increase with global warming. The so-called neglected diseases of poverty include vector-borne parasitic and viral diseases such as Rift Valley fever, malaria, filariasis, schistosomiasis, dengue, chikungunya and influenza, as well as arboviruses, such as the various influenza pathogens.

The How Climate Change Will Affect Different Diseases vector-borne will vary. One of the risk factors is water stagnant and polluted.

Every There is increasing evidence of <u>mosquito</u> migration to higher altitudes, which infect people never before exposed.

To the At the same time, there is growing evidence of changing the behaviour of the vectors and their resistance to insecticides in some environments, such as This is the case of the Ifakara region of Tanzania.

¿In What is the situation here?

When the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was established in 1988 We had an

alternative to curb climate change and slowing global warming.

The Globalization, national policies, and world capitalism have made us fail and, 35 years

later, we are facing an inevitable crisis.

This It doesn't mean we can't do anything to stop the destruction of life in the world. the

planet.

Herself It needs an urgent and radical change in the way it is supplied and used energy, the

way we live and the living conditions of those who, due to the circumstances of their day-

to-day lives, are more exposed to the lethal effects of global warming.

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