

Global Warming - Likely Consequences

Scientists use sophisticated computer models of the Earth that predict likely changes due to global warming. Some examples of the consequences of global warming include:

- Climate change. There are likely to be significant changes in climate around the world, including greater extremes of drought and heavy rainfall, and an increase in the severity of cyclones, typhoons and other extreme weather events.
- Melting of polar icecaps and glaciers. One consequence of this would be causing many species that are dependent on polar ice, such as the polar bear, to become endangered.



- Change in weather patterns. For example, some places may get more rain and storms while others may get less.
- Increase in the temperature of the upper levels of the oceans. One consequence of this would be damage to marine ecosystems due to the loss of species that cannot survive or cannot reproduce in the warmer water.



Coral bleaching in Indonesia

- Rising sea levels. This is mostly due to the expansion of the upper layers of the sea water due to the increase in temperature. The melting of the polar ice caps also contributes to this problem. This would result in the flooding of low-lying coastal areas. A large number of people would lose their homes and livelihoods.



The Maldives are threatened by sea level rises

- The spread of tropical diseases. The higher mean temperatures may lead to a wider spread of tropical diseases such as malaria, which is carried by mosquitos.



Anopheles mosquito is a dangerous vehicle of malaria infection.

- The spread of invasive species. The change in climate is likely to lead to the movement of species that can cause damage to crops or stock. This could significantly reduce food supplies, which could lead to serious social problems.

All these consequences are already being observed!