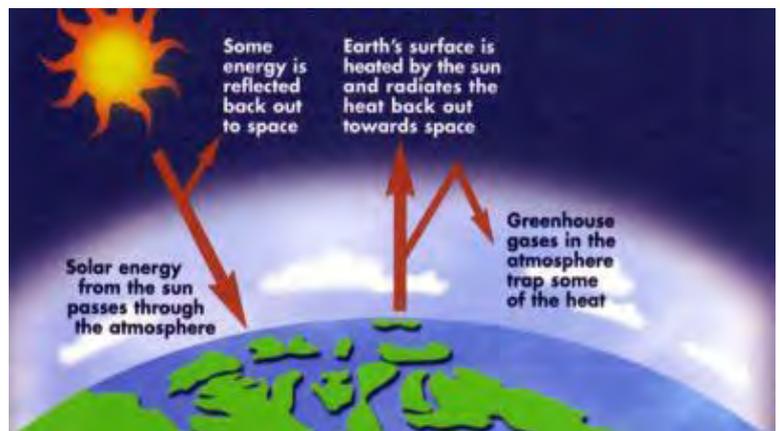




## What is Climate Change?

Life on Earth is possible all thanks to our atmosphere. While most of the Sun's rays bounce off the Earth back into space, some are trapped by atmospheric gases, including carbon dioxide. This keeps the planet warm and liveable. However, the overuse of fossil fuels and cutting down of trees is increasing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, trapping more heat and warming the Earth.



Since 1900, the global average temperature has risen by 0.6 degrees Celsius. This does not seem like much, but as a result, we're seeing more dramatic weather patterns across the globe and a clear shrinking of the world's ice shelves.

## How will this effect Kiribati?

Kiribati is one of the most vulnerable nations to the effects of climate change. Its low-lying nature, high population density and limited access to water make it overly susceptible to the effects of climate change. Some of the direct impacts climate change will have on Kiribati include:

- sea level rise
- coastal erosion
- seawater intrusion into the fresh water lens
- extreme weather patterns and storms
- coral bleaching and loss of biodiversity due to changes in water temperatures
- fresh water shortages
- food shortages
- increased drought
- health issues and disease



## What are overseas nations doing ?

The Kyoto Protocol sets baseline emission targets for developed and developing nations to achieve. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has also established an adaptation fund recognising that Small Island Developing States, such as Kiribati, are unable to meet all the costs resulting from climate change. ECD representatives attend international conferences such as the Conference of the Parties (right) to present the position of Kiribati in regards to climate change.



## What does the Environment and Conservation Division (ECD) do about climate change?



As a Small Island Developing State, Kiribati is focused on adapting to, rather than mitigating, climate change. The ECD is involved in a range of projects including mangrove planting, construction of sea walls and rainwater harvesting.

In June 2013 the ECD published the Second Communication Report by Kiribati to the UNFCCC. This report outlined the current environmental status of Kiribati, adaptation measures undertaken, and obligations under the UNFCCC.

Some of the key responsibilities of the ECD's Climate Change Unit include monitoring and disseminating climate change information, preparing national communications, securing climate change related capacity building and training, raising awareness and educating, conducting outer island visits and monitoring extreme weather events.

## What can YOU do?

We can still act to save our island through:

- Pollution reduction - this will greatly reduce the impact of climate change.
- Mangrove planting - there are numerous mangrove rehabilitation projects occurring. Contact the ECD for information if you would like to join in.
- Resource conservation - conserving and harvesting water, recycling and reusing materials.
- Increasing awareness - everyone can do their bit by increasing awareness of the effects of climate change in their community. Kiribati can also be used as an example to bring the message of climate change to an international audience. So start making documentaries, sending letters, participating in projects and get involved to help Kiribati in climate change.



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