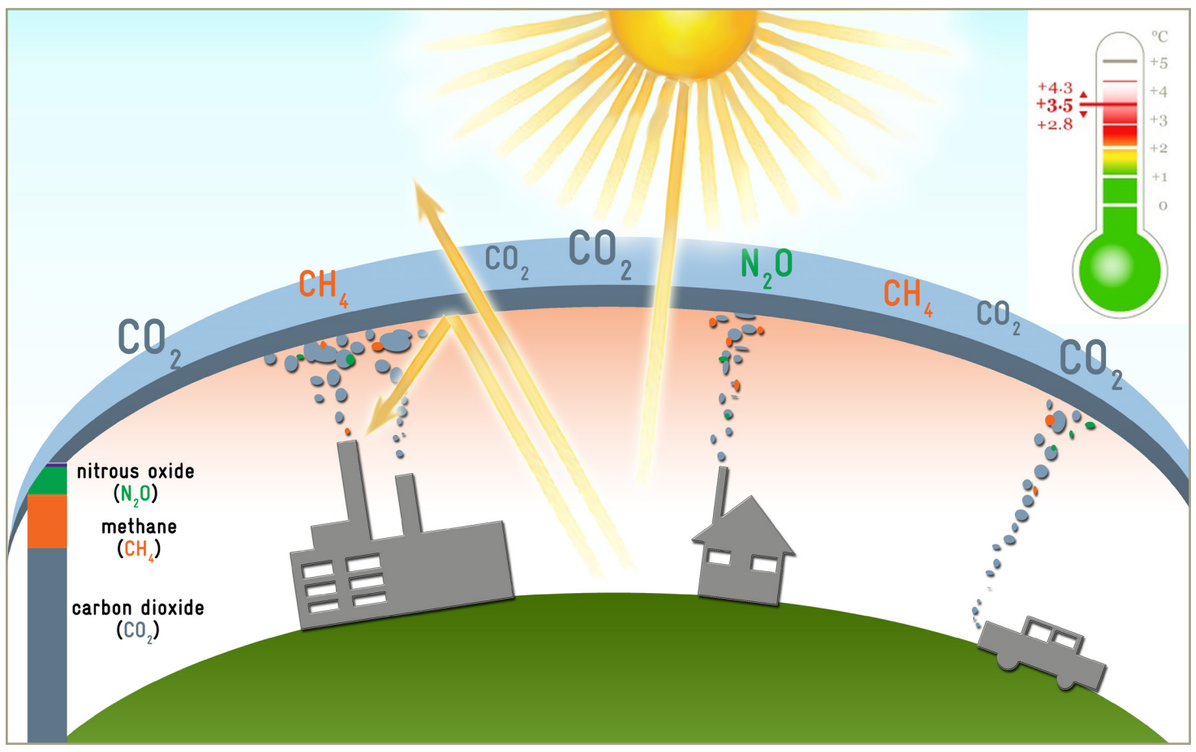
CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate refers to the average weather conditions that an area usually experiences over a long period of time.
Climate change is the term used when the climate of an area, or the planet, starts to change.

How does climate change happen?



The Earth‘s atmosphere contains different gases, known as greenhouse gases, which trap the heat from solar radiation and keep the planet warm. Human activities, however, have increaased the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere above the normal amounts. This has resulted in more heat being trapped in the Earth’s atmosphere and the planet becoming warmer. The main greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide.

The main human activities which lead to the release of carbon dioxide are:

- Burning of petrol/diesel in motorbikes, cars, buses, trucks and factories,
- Burning of other fuels such as coal and oil (which are burnt in power plants to make electricity) and wood,
- Cutting down of forests.



Climate change is the reason for more extreme weather events, like storm, flood or drought.

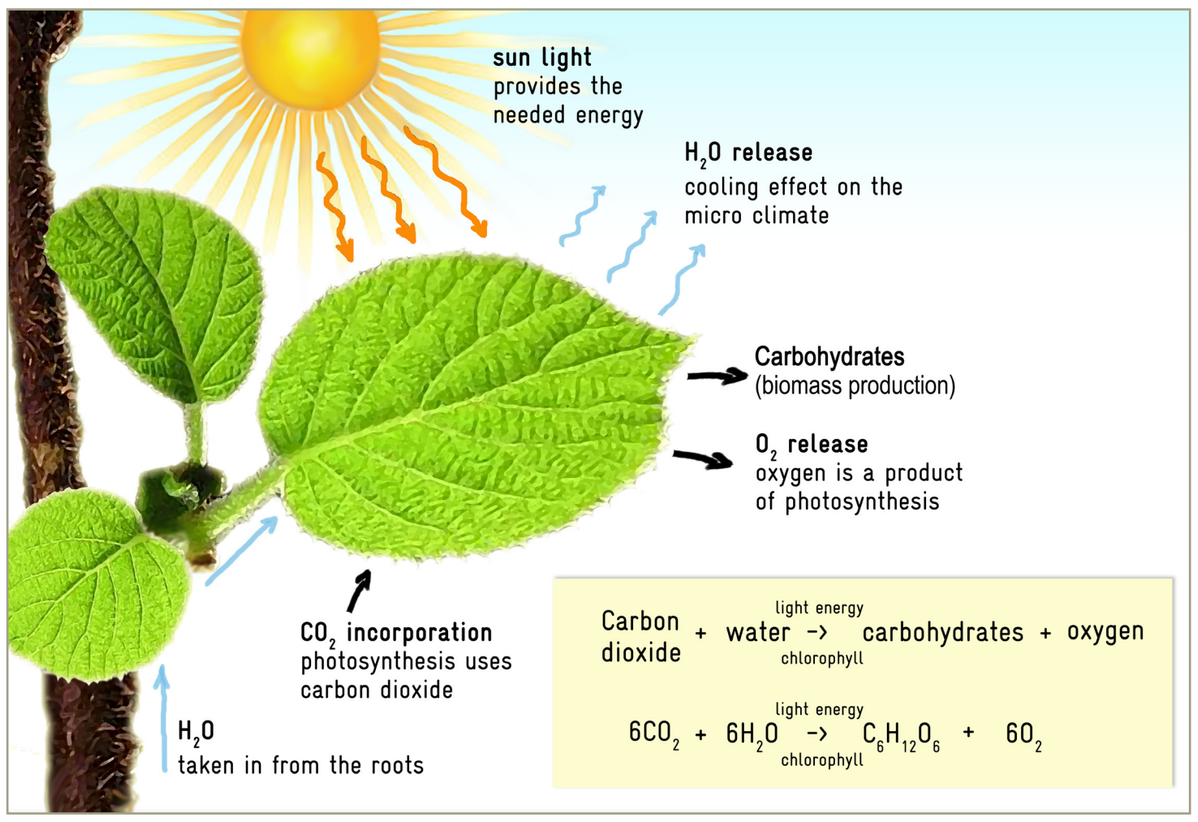


Climate change can be mitigated by carbon sinks, green trees and avoiding greenhouse gases.

What can be done locally to reduce the impact of climate change?

- Prevent deforestation,
- Plant new trees,
- Use energy-efficient stoves for cooking,
- Promote alternative energy like solar power,
- Protect wetlands as carbon sinks*,
- Use land sustainably, e.g. home gardens,
- Plant local, traditional and adaptive food species,
- Raise awareness for climate change.

**A carbon sink is anything that absorbs more carbon compared to what it releases, e.g. forests, soils and oceans.*



Green plants are using carbon dioxide and convert it into oxygen. The process is called photosynthesis.

KAFA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

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