



OPINION PIECE

Climate change is slowly destroying the world

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On the surface, the environment is deceptively normal with everyone going about their normal business.

The reality, however, is that Climate is steadily impacting negatively, destroying the environment and deviously ebbing away livelihoods across the globe. Debilitating droughts and floods are the order of the day..

Sadly, South Africa is not immune to the effects of Climate Change. Changes in South Africa's climate, as indicated by DEA (2013) and MacKellar et al. 2014 are quite evidenced by current changes in the rainfall patterns and intensity as well as temperature trends that though vary in time, tend to have a clear increasing trend. Despite the uncertainties with regards to the level of confidence in climate scenario projections and in the extent to which attribution to climate change can reliably be made, the climate footprint is quite evident.

Despite remaining uncertainties regarding the exact nature, magnitude and patterns of future rainfall changes in South Africa, already water resources are under pressure. With growing water demand in relation to a finite and limited supply, water resources will be under even greater pressure in the future as a result of climate change.

South Africa often experiences different degrees of water risks resulting from drought, floods, pollution and other impacts and we are therefore left puzzled and challenged by the fact that the continued abuse of the environment by the wealthy nations means that we are the ones who have to suffer. Our sense of fair play, of right and wrong, and justice is being severely tested

It is unfortunate that the polluters of our environment are the ones that are reaping the benefits of all these gases and the poor paying the price. I shudder to think about the future of our children in the next 10-15 years. at this rate, the poor of the poorest will probably be the worst affected by the climate scourge.

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