

How are we all implicated in global environmental issues?

“Multiple studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals show that 97 per cent or more of actively publishing climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities (NASA, 2022). However, there is still reluctance by many in decision-making capacities governing world populations that indicate a more retarded acknowledgement of this change. This is creating a less-than-optimal situation in addressing the climatic disturbances the world is now experiencing “at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years” (IPCC, 2021).

It is also apparent that many of the world’s population are becoming, in many ways, painfully aware of how these disturbances are becoming destructive and life-threatening (IPCC, 2022). Notwithstanding the naysayers and conspiracy theorists, who mistakenly voice otherwise and have a poorer understanding of what is really occurring, this knowledge is becoming more available through multi-dimensional methodologies to gain greater public involvement (Khatibi, et al., 2021)

Climate change is occurring rapidly and is exhibited by several indices. The most obvious and telling are the issues that NASA refers to as “Vitals Signs of the Planet”. These are the changes to atmospheric Carbon Dioxide, Global Temperatures (Land and Ocean), Arctic Sea Ice, Land Ice in Antarctica, Land Ice in Greenland, Sea level and Ocean Heat.

Data and observations available via authoritative bodies such as NOAA, NASA, and the IPCC should be part of the consistent and persistent message that should be presented clearly to all populations and urge Governments to show stronger leadership with this issue of Global Climate Change.

How are we implicated in this then?

Knowledge of such changes and how we can mitigate and adapt to these changing conditions must be imperative for us all to learn about and act on. For instance, awareness of the overuse of resources, pollution, environmental degradation through ecosystem destruction and fragmentation and the loss of biodiversity.

Ongoing evidence of unsustainable resource use practices and environmental degradation has led to a focus on strategic planning and management at the regional scale. Governments, either alone, or in partnership, have been developing new legislation, policies and programs and new forms of institutional arrangements to deliver more integrated approaches to environmental management.