

Student's Name

Instructor's Name

Course

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### How Climate Change Conservation Efforts Have Changed in the Last 15 Years

Does climate change pose any severe risk to humans and other life forms on Earth?

Climate change is certainly affecting lives and disrupting economies globally (“Goal 13” par. 3). The United Nations (UN) defines climate change as long-term alterations or shifts in average weather patterns and temperature. These shifts represent the Earth’s climates locally, regionally, and globally. Warmer temperatures have drastically changed weather patterns and disrupted the balance of nature. Forests, grasslands, and wetlands can no longer provide sufficient buffer from droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events (Lawler et al. 1158). Examples of observed effects of climate change include warming oceans, frequent wildfires, increased intensity and duration of tropical storms, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, and more intense drought. Different countries have prioritized climate change conservation efforts given the numerous adverse effects of climate change. In the last 15 years, climate change conservation efforts have helped manage the rate of ocean and land temperature increases, inspired the adoption of the Paris Agreement, and improved human understanding of climate change’s adverse impacts.

Conservation efforts have been critical to keeping the increases in land and ocean temperatures at manageable levels. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) opines that ocean and land temperatures have increased at a rate of 0.08 degrees Celsius every decade since 1880. NOAA maintains that global warming would reduce to a greater extent if countries started lowering the amount of carbon dioxide they emit into the atmosphere. For

example, countries should consider burning fewer fossil fuels and avoiding clearing forest covers. This will help reduce global temperatures and slow down average annual emissions. Nevertheless, the extra heat that drives regional temperature extremes has reduced snow cover, intensified heavy rainfall, and radically changed the habit ranges of animals and plants (Lindsey and Dahlman par. 2). The next proof of improved conservation efforts is the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement has been successfully adopted thanks to climate change conservation efforts internationally. The adoption of this international treaty has helped strengthen the response of different countries to climate change (“Goal 13” par. 6). The treaty has ensured that global economies work towards keeping the rise in global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels (“Goal 13” par. 6). It has further strengthened the ability of many countries and regions to manage the effects of climate change. Besides the treaty, climate change conservation efforts have equipped people with better knowledge about climate change and its severe impacts.

Conservation efforts have helped improve human understanding of climate change’s past, current, and future impacts. Countries have now focused more on long-term planning, evolving targets and goals of conservation, and moving baselines (Lawler et al. 1158). Conservationists have embraced new perspectives and approaches to conserve biodiversity. Recent economic slowdowns and travel occasioned by Covid-19 further contributed to a significant drop in greenhouse gas emissions. However, their impact on conservation efforts was only temporary. Emissions have started to return to the previous high levels as the global economy gradually recovers from the pandemic (“Goal 13” par. 4).

In summary, climate change has an enormous impact on the existence and well-being of humans and other life forms. Conservation efforts help control the rate of ocean and land

temperature rise, stimulate the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and enhance human understanding of the adverse impacts of climate change. The changing weather patterns have significantly affected conservation efforts. Conservationists should consider developing and applying highly effective solutions under different potential futures. Future research should focus on determining how nature conservation may help people and wildlife adjust to adverse changes arising from climate change.

Works Cited

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