

FACTS AND FIGURES

ISSUE	STATEMENT	CONSENSUS
Basic Characteristics	Fundamental physics of the greenhouse effect	Virtually certain
	Added greenhouse gases add heat.	Virtually certain
	Greenhouse gases increasing because of human activity	Virtually certain
	Significant reduction of uncertainty will require a decade or more.	Virtually certain
	Full recovery will require many centuries.	Virtually certain
Project effects by mid-21st Century	Large stratospheric cooling	Virtually certain
	Global-mean surface precipitation increase	Very probable
	Reduction of sea ice	Very probable
	Arctic winter surface warming	Very probable
	Rise in global sea level	Very probable
	Local details of climate change	Uncertain
	Tropical storm increases.	Uncertain
	Details of next 25 years.	Uncertain

Source: World Resources Institute, 1994. *World Resources 1994-95*.

Scientific Consensus on Global Climate Change

The following scientific consensus on global climate change was based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change findings in which several hundreds of the world's leading atmospheric scientists participated under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme: **virtually certain**

- nearly unanimous agreement among scientists and no credible alternative view; **very probable** - roughly 9 out of 10 chances of occurring; **probable** - roughly 2 out of 3 chances occurring; and **uncertain** - hypothesized effect for which evidence is lacking.

KIBARANI WASTE DUMP. The mangroves have died due to an oil spill in Mombasa harbor, Kenya (an oil storage tank burst) in 1988 and have not yet grown back.



Photo by B. Hachmoller

Tropical Coasts is being published to stimulate exchange of information and sharing of experiences and ideas with respect to environmental protection and the management of coastal and marine areas.

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The Managing Editor
P.O. Box 2502
Quezon City 1165,
Metro Manila, Philippines.

Editor-in-Chief: Chua Thia-Eng
Editors: Olof Linden (Sida), Edgardo D. Gomez (CMC), and Magnus A.K. Ngoile (IUCN)
Managing Editor: James N. Paw
Associate Editor: Jimmy P. Ronquillo
Contributors: L. E. Beckley, Domingo Z. Cove, J.M. Daffa, Marcel Kroese, B. O. Mann, David Moffat, Magnus Ngoile, Francois Odendaal, Ezekiel Okemwa, Josephine Ranaivason, Renison K. Ruwa, Adelaida K. Semesi, Nirmal Jivan Shah, Van Spaybroeck, and Ibrahim Thiaw

Design, Layout, and DTP: Jonel P. Dulay and Florisa Norina L. Luna