

## Minimizing Climate Change in Cameroon - A Case Study of Rising Hope Foundation for Change

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### ABSTRACT

Human activities, such as agriculture and deforestation contribute to the proliferation of greenhouse gases that cause climate change. Researcher are of the opinion that the primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, which emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere-primarily carbon dioxide. Climate change can only be addressed if actors from all parts of society - governments, businesses, Non-Governmental Organisations and consumers make a global and broad shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns. Rising Hope Foundation for Change has participated in various national and international seminars, conferences and projects to guide against climate change and it has translated the knowledge acquired through her humanitarian and environmental friendly projects in schools; orphanages and communities in Cameroon and Africa in general.

**Keywords:** Climate. Climate change

### INTRODUCTION

Climate is usually defined as the "average weather" in a place; it includes patterns of temperature, precipitation (rain or snow), humidity, wind and seasons. The patterns of climate play a basic role in trying to shape the natural ecosystems not leaving out the human economies and our cultures that heavily rely on them, however it should be noted that the climate we've come to anticipate is not we expect for the simple reason that the past is no longer a dependable predictor of the future. Our climate is rapidly changing with disruptive impacts, and that change is progressing faster than any seen in the last 2,000 years ([www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov)).

Climate change, also called global warming, refers to the rise in average surface temperatures on Earth. Researchers are the opinion that climate change is due first and foremost to the human use of fossil fuels and this releases enormous carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air and these gases trap heat within the atmosphere and thus have a range of effects on the ecosystems not leaving out the rise in sea levels, severe weather events and finally droughts that render the landscapes more vulnerable to wildfires ([www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com)).

Also researcher believe that human activities such as agriculture and deforestation are also known to contribute to the proliferation of greenhouse gases that cause climate change not leaving out some of the primary causes earlier mentioned by other men in the research world thus leading to carbon dioxide and other gas emissions Some good quantities of these gases are of natural occurrence and of a very critical part of earth's temperature control system. There is an international agreement within the scientific community about the reality of climate change and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration all concur that climate change is indeed real and it is primarily b due to human activity ([www.takepart.com](http://www.takepart.com)).

### Background of the Study/ Company Review

Rising Hope Foundation for Change (RHFC) is a non-governmental, non-profit, and apolitical organization with **registration No 1058/ G.37/ D14** and headquarter in Limbe, Cameroon. It subscribes to universal humanitarian values and practices and works for the least privileged (orphans, physically challenged individuals, street children and the girl child) in our society Cameroon and the rest of Africa, who cannot

afford the basic necessities of life through best and fully sustainable projects. Rising Hope Foundation for Change has participated in various national and international seminars, conferences and projects to guide against climate change and it has done this through her humanitarian and environmental friendly projects in schools; orphanages and communities in Cameroon and Africa in general ([www.risinghopefoundation.org](http://www.risinghopefoundation.org)).

### LITERATURE REVIEW

The statistical distribution of weather patterns leads to the change in climate and this change may last for an extended period of time i.e. (decades to millions of years) however climate change refers to a change in the average weather conditions or in the time variation of weather around longer-term average. It should be noted that biotic processes, variations in solar radiation received by the earth, plate tectonics and volcanic eruptions are the fundamental factors that are responsible for climate change. Certain human activities have also been identified as significant causes of recent climate change, often referred to as global warming. States and societies around the globe need to reduce human-caused greenhouse gas emissions to avoid worsening climate impacts and reduce the risk of creating changes beyond our ability to respond and adapt. Since so many systems are tied to the climate, it should be noted that a change in climate can also affect many related aspects of where and how people, plants and animals live and as such as even the production of food and use of water not leaving out health risks ([www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov)).

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai; reveal that the tourism sector is both a vector and a victim of this change in climate and this organisation is fully committed to contribute to reach the objectives set by the Paris Agreement. Also tourism should be developed in a sustainable manner for the future and to create opportunities and assemble partners to help transform the industry towards the low emissions of atmospheric gases and more efficient and less polluting operations (Abam, 2017).

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Veal (2006) indicated that an empirical approach is the collection and analysis of data; it could be quantitative or qualitative, primary or secondary, however some researchers are of the opinion that a single research method may use

both quantitative and qualitative techniques and procedures in combination as well as use primary and secondary data. The quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques and analysis procedure each have their own strength and weaknesses. For this research work, the researchers used secondary data that was information collected from the bulletins and other websites of the organization.

### FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

The following are some of the activities that rising hope foundation for change (RHFC) has been carrying out to create awareness and thus minimize climate change:

- On March 12—14, 2014 at Johannesburg, South Africa - First ever Climate Reality Leadership Corps training to happen in Africa and was focused on African issues and this was attended by the president /founder.
- On the 22/02/ 2015 - RHFC donated food stuffs, clothes, and didactic materials to orphans of Father's House Orphanage in Muyuka – Cameroon.
- World Earth Day 22/04/2016 and World Environment Day (05/06/2016) - Rising Hope Foundation For Change (RHFC) joined the international community in partnership with Students of the Environment Club of GBHS Muea-Buea , Green Earth Foundation Cameroon (GrEFCam) , Eco Relief , RECESD and the South West Regional Delegation of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development to commemorate Earth respectively by planting ornamental, shade and fruit trees. A total of about 300 trees were planted in three Schools at Muea, Buea, Cameroon. This year's themes were as follows; World Earth Day 2016! Trees for the Earth while World Environment Day celebration theme was “fight against the illegal trade in wildlife for life” (zero tolerance for the illegal trade in wildlife). RHFC was very active during these two environmental events. RHFC used these two international days as the most effective vehicle to build a healthy, sustainable environment, address climate change, wastage and losses of food, deforestation, increasing global warming and protect the Earth for Posterity.
- On the 12/12/2015 - Rising Hope Foundation for Change(RHFC) to celebrate Christmas

with the least privileged in their various institutions e.g in orphanages, handicapped centres, some girls institutions, prisons and other depending on the decision of the board for that particular year. It should be noted that the main objective of this project is to put hope, happiness and smiles on their faces of the least privileged during this period of Love. While at the premises of the above institutions and centres the children were given trees to plant around their centres, this with the hope that in the nearest future they will start harvesting fruits from these trees thus fighting against hunger, improve their nutrition, source of income to the orphanage and more importantly encouraging food security.

- From August 1 to September 30, 2016 - A total of 115 children (orphans, physically challenged individuals and girls) benefited directly from our Education for All Project 2016/2017 academic year with school materials. RHFC encouraged environmental friendly activities via the planting of 200 Fruit trees for triple effects (source of income, Food and to guide against climate change) in these schools during this project at Government school Bwassa Likombe, Government school Ndongo and government school Banga - Bakundu, Cameroon ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)).
- April 22, 2017 - As part of activities to commemorate the World Earth Day 2017, Rising Hope Foundation for Change (RHFC), Pro Climate International, Eco Relief, Green Earth Foundation Cameroon (GrEFCam), RECESD Bomaka in collaboration with the ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development together with other Civil Society Organisations planted two exotic tree species (*maesopsiseminii* and *Senna spectabilis*) around the Maumu water catchment (about 25Km from Buea) that was really exposed to pollution and human

encroachment. Later, there was a talk with the villagers at the Maumu palace where discussions dwelled on the year's theme 'Environment and climate literacy' The day culminated at Government Bilingual High School Muea where students were drilled on climate change literacy using a power point presentation and the planting of some trees at the main entrance into the college campus.

### CONCLUSION

Our climate is rapidly changing with disruptive impacts, and that change is progressing faster than any seen in the last 2,000 years and all this is happening as a result of human activities, such as agriculture and deforestation contribute to the proliferation of greenhouse gases that cause climate change. Rising hope foundation for change, an NGO found in Cameroon in its own little way is trying to fight back the effect of climate change caused by man.

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