



ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL WARMING¹

PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT²

I- Assessment of the situation

- a- Current effects
- b- Future ills

II- Shifting opinions

- a- Governments' responsibility
- b- The Industry's growing awareness
- c- Public opinion's demand

III- Are there any solutions ?

- a- Fossil-fuels accused
- b- Urban policies
- c- Clean energy
- d- Tourism

IV- Environment and business

Notes typographiques

. Le vocabulaire thématique en gras ; je vous recommande de vous constituer des FICHES THEMATIQUES de vocabulaire. L'enrichissement de votre vocabulaire passe nécessairement par l'apprentissage par cœur de telles listes. Toutefois, il peut être plus facile de retenir le vocabulaire en contexte, d'où son inclusion ici au sein de phrases rédigées.

. Les informations les plus importantes sont soulignées.

. Le vocabulaire en italique est utile pour les essais (mots de liaison, connecteurs logiques etc)

Les notes de bas de page :

. les notes en rouge concernent la civilisation et l'histoire

. les notes en vert concernent le vocabulaire, les questions de langue, la grammaire

¹ Réchauffement climatique/ de la planète

² Développement durable

I- Assessment³ of the situation

As exposed⁴ in Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* and in many scientific reports, the Earth is endangered by **global warming**. This phenomenon is now acknowledged worldwide and not only the concern of radical environmentalists⁵. Evidence of this lies in the 2007 Nobel Prize awarded to Al Gore and the IPCC⁶ for their commitment. Consequences of such a change in global climate are manifold⁷, *all the more so since* for the past 10 years or so things have been unraveling⁸. Temperature has been rising particularly fast near the poles.

a- Current effects

The current spate⁹ of higher temperatures is not within the range¹⁰ of natural events: in some regions, because of the ravages of heat on the land, some endangered species¹¹ have disappeared.

Examples:

- (1) In the US and in Europe winter snows melt away earlier making for an erratic¹² season at ski resorts. The Alps shift from snowy winter destinations to summer havens from the heat since the Mediterranean shores of Europe could become barely habitable in summers.
- (2) Beetle infestation has taken to the forest that mantles the upper slopes of mountains, killing trees weakened by record heat. Fires become commonplace since the land is parched¹³. Nature seems to be confused. In the American Southwest there used to be four seasons and now there are two; the region is in the midst of an eight-year drought¹⁴.
- (3) Findings¹⁵ in recent drafts¹⁶ show that the Arctic Ocean could largely be devoid of sea ice in summers in this century; winters will no longer get cold enough to kill off different pests¹⁷ and diseases. Even now, noxious¹⁸ species are marching northwards across America, proliferating in Scandinavia while tropical highlands around the world are witnessing an invasion of mosquitoes carrying malaria.

b- Future ills

A dreadful report by the IPCC

³ Bilan

⁴ Dénoncé [faux ami]

⁵ Écologistes

⁶ Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur le réchauffement climatique (GIEC)

⁷ Divers

⁸ Les choses se sont clarifiées

⁹ Série

¹⁰ Ne sont pas de l'ordre de/ dépassent le cadre de

¹¹ Espèces menacées

¹² Imprévisible

¹³ Desséché

¹⁴ Sécheresse

¹⁵ Découverte

¹⁶ Avant projet

¹⁷ Insectes nuisibles

¹⁸ Nuisible

The warnings are not recent: in 2001 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicted that global warming would lead to many ills¹⁹, *including* greater numbers of extinctions²⁰, growing **shortages**²¹ of water, higher incidence of tropical diseases, and **lower yields**²² from agriculture.

This is worsened²³ by global air travel that has become one of the greatest threats²⁴ to **biodiversity** and public health by driving the spread²⁵ of alien²⁶ species and infectious diseases to new habitats. Travel networks link remote²⁷ and isolated ecosystems, boosting the spread of micro-organisms and insects which thrive²⁸ *at the expense of*²⁹ native species to unprecedented³⁰ levels.

If the **warming** goes on, some South Pacific islands will be swamped³¹ by **rising sea levels**³² and an increased frequency of tropical storms³³ and tsunamis, *according to* the latest report from the IPC. Island economies will also suffer as warming waters damage³⁴ coral reefs³⁵ and hurt fishing industries, the report said.

Floods³⁶, storms, erosion and other coastal hazards³⁷ thus threaten vital infrastructure, settlements and facilities³⁸ that support the livelihood of island communities.

Changes driven by the buildup of heat-trapping emissions³⁹ in the atmosphere also include increases in plankton growth, shrinkage⁴⁰ of alpine and polar glaciers.

Climate patterns shift in ways that will bring benefits in some places, including more rainfall and longer growing seasons⁴¹ in high latitudes, opening Arctic seaways⁴², and reduced deaths from cold, but significant human hardship and ecological losses⁴³ in other areas. Indeed, most shifts will prove harmful *in the long run*⁴⁴. For example, while in temperate and higher latitudes warming could be friendlier to farming, it would also cause a proliferation of weeds⁴⁵ that are *likely to*⁴⁶ imperil⁴⁷ forests.

Most regions of the world are likely to see more harm than benefits from the changes, such as downpours⁴⁸, as well as a relentless⁴⁹ intrusion of rising seas along crowded coasts and around

¹⁹ Maux

²⁰ Disparition (d'une espèce)

²¹ Pénurie

²² Rendement

²³ Aggravé

²⁴ One of the + plural

²⁵ Propagation

²⁶ Etrangères (au milieu d'origine)

²⁷ Eloigné

²⁸ Proliférer

²⁹ Aux dépend de

³⁰ Sans précédent

³¹ Inondé

³² Hausse du niveau de la mer

³³ Tempêtes tropicales

³⁴ Endommager

³⁵ Récifs coralliens

³⁶ Inondations

³⁷ Risques (faux ami !)

³⁸ Installations (faux ami !)

³⁹ Emissions (de carbone) augmentant le rayonnement solaire

⁴⁰ Réduction

⁴¹ Périodes de culture (i.e. : quand les terres agricoles peuvent être exploitées => par exemple, augmentation du nombre de récoltes annuelles)

⁴² Passage maritime

⁴³ Pertes

⁴⁴ A long terme

⁴⁵ Mauvaises herbes

⁴⁶ To be likely to : être susceptible de

⁴⁷ Mettre en danger

⁴⁸ Averse

⁴⁹ Impitoyable, sans répit