

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND EVOLUTIONARY ADAPTATIONS IN ORGANISMS, A REVIEW

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**Abstract:** With the passage of time, the Earth's climate has undergone significant changes. Rapid climate change presents different challenges for the organisms. Evolutionary adaptation can help the species to cope with climate change, but it is not a guarantee of survival. Natural greenhouse gases and various other parameters of climate change play a vital role in regulating the earth's temperature, wind pressure, humidity, and precipitation pattern. Due to the presence of significant carbon compounds in air the temperature of earth has increased, which in turn causes a decrease in oxygen level in aquatic habitats and on land creating a challenging environment for many organisms. There is a range of measures that can be taken to avoid and mitigate climate change and ensure a livable future for generations to come. The proposed study will be helpful to understand the basic chemistry of climate change, the mechanisms of adaptation and its significant impacts on a variety of organisms.

**Key words:** Adaptations, Climate changes, Evolution, Natural selection, Organisms

## I. INTRODUCTION

Climate change is the alteration of temperature and typical weather patterns in a place over a long period of time. Although climate fluctuation is a natural phenomenon, the present rate of change is unparalleled and is primarily ascribed to anthropogenic activities. Throughout the last century, human activities, including industrialization, deforestation and transportation, have led to the extensive emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These gases trap solar radiation and contribute to the warming of the planet. The present study explores the scientific aspects of climate change, encompassing its etiology, consequences and

prospective remedies, with a specific emphasis on evolutionary adaptation as a viable mitigation [1].

The rise in Earth's temperature is attributed to greenhouse gases, primarily resulting from human activities. The mean worldwide temperature exhibited an increase of 1.02 degrees Celsius in comparison to the temperature recorded during the latter part of the 1800s. The trend of increasing temperatures has persisted into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with the previous decade encompassing the 10 most elevated years on record. The data suggests that the acceleration of warming is largely attributed to anthropogenic factors (WMO, 2020).

The concentrations of the primary greenhouse gases, specifically nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), are presently at unprecedentedly elevated levels. For example, the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere currently stands at approximately 413 parts per million (ppm), representing an increase of 47% relative to levels observed during the pre-industrial era. The concentration of CH<sub>4</sub> currently stands at approximately 1,870 parts per billion (ppb), exceeding pre-industrial levels by more than two-fold. Similarly, the concentration of N<sub>2</sub>O is estimated to be around 332 ppb, representing an increase of approximately 23% from pre-industrial levels [2].

The adverse consequences of climate change are mounting at an accelerated pace, surpassing the projections made by scientists approximately ten years ago. The numerous impacts are unavoidable and will unevenly affect the world's most susceptible populations [3]. For example, alterations in their spatial range and patterns of development and reproduction. These alterations have resulted in modifications in the structure of populations and the dynamics of interspecific relationships [4]. The

capacity of diverse populations to cope with the impacts of climate change may prove insufficient in mitigating its swift and significant consequences, consequently leaving certain cohorts, such as lizards, vulnerable to a reduction in their population size and even extinction.

Hence, it is imperative to promptly undertake significant and purposeful measures to tackle the issue of climate change. These measures encompass the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of clean and renewable energy sources, the promotion of energy efficiency, the endorsement of sustainable agriculture and the preservation of natural resources. Additionally, it is necessary to implement adaptation strategies to cope with the impacts of climate change that are already happening and will continue to occur [5, 6].

In response to these fluctuating climatic conditions, organisms are exhibiting a remarkable evolutionary adaptation, enabling them to tackle environmental stress. These adaptations can manifest in different forms, like change in physiology, behavior, morphology, life history and genetic traits. This rapid change is exerting storage selective pressure on organisms, favoring individuals with traits that enable them to adapt to new environmental conditions [7, 8].

Evolutionary adaptations to climate change can occur through various mechanisms, including genetic variation, phenotypic plasticity, and epigenetic modifications. For example, some organisms are shifting their geographic ranges poleward or to higher elevations to escape warming temperatures. Others are adjusting their phenology, such as migrating earlier or later in response to changes in temperature and precipitation patterns [9, 10].

Understanding the evolutionary adaptations of organisms to climate change is crucial for developing effective conservation and management strategies [7]. By recognizing the dynamic nature of species' responses to environmental change, we can better anticipate and prepare for the challenges ahead. This review aims to synthesize the current state of knowledge on climate change and evolutionary adaptations in organisms, highlighting the key

mechanisms, patterns, and implications for conservation and management.

## II CLIMATE CHANGE

Although climate and weather are distinct concepts, they are intricately interconnected. The scientific understanding of climate change is intricate; however, it is centered on the greenhouse effect (GHG). This is a naturally occurring phenomenon whereby a portion of the sun's energy is captured by the Earth's atmosphere, resulting in a warming effect [11]. In simple words we can say that climate change is related to alterations in worldwide weather conditions and temperature that occur over extended periods. The escalation of greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide and methane into the Earth's atmosphere is attributed to anthropogenic actions, such as deforestation and the combustion of fossil fuels resulting in global warming [12]. Which ultimately causes melting of glaciers and ice caps and rise sea levels as well as the alterations in flora and fauna habitats [13]. Moreover, global warming also causes more frequent occurrences of severe weather phenomena such as heatwaves, droughts and storms, altered precipitation patterns, and ocean acidification, among various other effects. Which had impacts on both human societies and natural ecosystems, resulting in social and political tensions and economic problems [9, 14].

### 2.1 The Greenhouse Effect (GHG)

The release of gases, often known as greenhouse gases, in the Earth's atmosphere results in a phenomenon known as the greenhouse effect. These gases, which are naturally occurring in the atmosphere, include fluorinated gases, also known as chlorofluorocarbons, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxide and fluorinated gases [15]. The greenhouse effect is increased due to anthropogenic activities, which cause global warming.

Following the advent of the Industrial Revolution during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, a substantial amount of greenhouse gases has been emitted into the atmosphere by human beings. The quantity of these gases has experienced a significant increase over the course of the last hundred years.

The period between 1970 and 2004 witnessed a 70 percent rise in greenhouse gas emissions. The emission levels of carbon dioxide, which is considered the most significant greenhouse gas, experienced an increase of approximately 80% over the same period. The contemporary atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide surpasses the historical natural range observed within the past 650,000 years [16]. For example, the primary source of carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere is the combustion of fossil fuels, including oil, coal and natural gas. Vehicles such as automobiles, trucks, locomotives and aircraft rely on the combustion of fossil fuels as their primary source of energy. Numerous electric power plants utilize fossil fuels as a source of energy.

Similarly, primary sources of methane emissions in the atmosphere are attributed to activities such as livestock farming, landfills and fossil fuel production, which include coal mining and natural gas processing. Nitrous oxide is sourced from both agricultural practices and the combustion of fossil fuels [17]. Deforestation is another anthropogenic activity that contributes to the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Moreover, fluorinated gases encompass a group of chemical compounds, namely chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons and hydrofluorocarbons. These gases are utilized in aerosol canisters and in refrigerators as greenhouse agents. The emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere because of various human activities leads to the retention of more heat than normal, thereby contributing to the phenomenon of global warming [14].

## 2.2 Global Warming

Even minor increases in mean global temperature can yield significant consequences. The foremost and conspicuous impact is the faster melting of glaciers and ice caps. The discharge of meltwater into the oceans can cause the elevation of sea levels and a reduction in the salinity of the oceans. The potential rise in sea levels have the capacity to flood coastal communities, resulting in the displacement of a significant number of individuals in the regions including Bangladesh, the Netherlands and the state of Florida in the United States. The reliance on

glacial meltwater for potable water, agricultural irrigation and hydroelectricity is significant in countries such as Bolivia, Peru and India, affecting the millions of individuals. The expeditious disappearance of these glaciers would have a catastrophic impact on the affected nations [18]. The melting of glaciers has resulted in a marginal increase in the sea level worldwide. Nonetheless, researchers are trying to discover the methods by which the ocean level may escalate at an accelerated rate. The exposure of dark rocks underneath the Chacaltaya Glacier in Bolivia is a result of its melting. The absorption of solar radiation by rocks accelerates the melting of glaciers [19]. It is impossible for an individual to gain complete certainty regarding future events using a crystal ball. Nevertheless, the increase in population, emissions of greenhouse gases and other variables that impact the climate [20].

## 2.3 Causes of Climate Change

Multiple elements, both natural and man-made, contribute to the complexity of climate change. The main contributors to climate change are human activities such as combustion of fossil fuels, deforestation and transportation. Climate changes are powered by a variety of natural factors, including plate tectonics, solar variability and volcanic eruptions. This section examines the causes of climate change, examining their relative effects and the interactions that result in the current condition of planet [21]. Long-term modifications to the Earth's climate patterns that result from a variety of causes are referred to as climate change. Anthropogenic (caused by humans) and natural factors are the two basic categories that result in alteration of climate [8].

## 2.4 Human Activities

The primary anthropogenic source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere is the combustion of fossil fuels (namely coal, oil and gas) for energy generation, transportation and industrial applications. The increase in global temperature is attributed to the capacity of greenhouse gases to retain solar heat within Earth's atmosphere. The 3 most predominant greenhouse gases are carbon

dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) [22].

It has been established that anthropogenic activities constitute a leading factor in the occurrence of climate change. Some of the activities that contribute to the emission of greenhouse gases include the combustion of fossil fuels for transportation, industrial processes, energy production and deforestation. The combustion of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas results in the emission of significant quantities of carbon dioxide along with other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These gases could trap heat and subsequently increase the overall temperature of the Earth. Deforestation is known to be a contributing factor to climate change because trees can absorb carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The emission of carbon into the atmosphere occurs because of deforestation, leading to the exacerbation of the greenhouse effect. The emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are associated with transportation, particularly when fossil fuel-powered vehicles are used. Similarly, industrial processes such as cement manufacturing also contribute to the release of these gases [23].

## 2.5 Industries and Transport

Industrial activities, such as the production of cement, steel and chemicals, are significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions that are released into the atmosphere. The transportation industry, encompassing various modes of transportation such as automobiles, trucks, buses and aircraft, constitute a substantial source of greenhouse gas emissions. Approximately 14% of the worldwide greenhouse gas emissions are attributed to the combustion of fossil fuels for transportation purposes [24]. The emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere, which is a major cause of climate change, is primarily attributed to industries and transportation. The industries have traditionally dependent on non-renewable energy sources, specifically coal, oil and natural gas, to facilitate energy generation, operate machinery and facilitate transportation. The combustion of these energy sources emits greenhouse gases (GHGs), such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) into the

atmosphere. These gases have the capacity to trap heat, leading to increase the warming impacts [25].

The ramifications of industrial activities on climate change are considerable and wide. The escalation of sea levels poses a significant threat to coastal communities and infrastructure. Additionally, the frequency and severity of heatwaves, droughts and floods have increased, that are badly the human health, agriculture and wildlife. The frequency and intensity of extreme weather phenomena, such as hurricanes and wildfires resulting in significant economic losses amounting to billions of dollars [26].

## 2.6 Natural Processes

Climate change is also influenced by natural phenomena such as volcanic eruptions, tectonic movements and variations in solar radiation. The ejection of substantial quantities of gases and particles into the atmosphere during volcanic eruptions may result in planetary cooling. Tectonic phenomena, such as the displacement of lithospheric plates, have the potential to induce alterations in oceanic currents and sea level, thereby exerting an impact on the global climate of the Earth. Variations in solar radiation can have an impact on the Earth's climate, although comparatively insignificant in contrast to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions [27].

## 2.7 Deforestation and Evolution

The process of clearing forests for purposes such as agriculture, grazing land or urbanization constitutes a notable contributor to climate change. Deforestation results in the emission of carbon into the atmosphere. The process of deforestation is responsible for approximately 10% of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on a global scale [28]. The process of deforestation has been identified as a substantial factor in climate change. Deforestation is the process of permanently converting a forested area into a non-forested area, either through human activities such as logging or natural events such as fires. The process of deforestation results in the emission of significant quantities of carbon that were previously sequestered



in trees, leading to an increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere [29].

Numerous species are going through evolutionary adaptation because of these changes to survive in the altered habitat. Genetic adjustments are made throughout this process, which can last for several generations and improve an individual's ability to reproduce and survive in the new environment. Because plants bloom earlier in the year due to rising temperatures, some bird species have been observed to lay their eggs earlier in the year. This means that their young will have access to food. Like this, some fish species have developed enlarged gills because of evolution, enabling them to take in oxygen from warmer seas with lower oxygen levels. However, many species are in danger of going extinct because they cannot adapt quickly enough to retain with the rate of climatic change. The consequences of climate change are also exacerbated by human activities like habitat destruction and pollution, making it much harder for animals to adapt [30].

Therefore, it is imperative to take action to lessen the effects of climate change and save species and ecosystems that are vulnerable. To preserve the survival of species that are having a hard time adapting, this can involve lowering greenhouse gas emissions, safeguarding ecosystems and taking conservation measures [31].

In summary, Climate change is a complex phenomenon that results from a multitude of contributing factors. Anthropogenic activities, particularly the combustion of fossil fuels, are the principal cause of climate change, as they release significant amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The consequences of climate change require a crucial decrease in the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs). This objective can be accomplished by executing measures such as the adoption of renewable energy, enhancement of energy efficiency and preservation of forests.

### III. EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WILDLIFE

The effects of climate change are widespread and varied in nature. The increase in global temperature is resulting in a consequential rise in sea levels,

which poses a significant threat to both coastal habitats and populations. Climate change has been identified as a significant contributor to the loss of biodiversity, as it imposes new environmental conditions that necessitate species adaptation or risk of extinction. The prevalence of health issues arising from severe weather patterns, such as heat waves and droughts, thereby amplifying pre-existing socioeconomic disparities and impoverishment. These diverse manners in which climate change is altering our planet, encompassing the well-being of our ecosystems as well as our dependence on food and water resources [32]. The phenomenon of climate change has been observed to have substantial effects on diverse facets of the natural world, the output significantly flora and fauna [15].

Climate change has been identified as a significant contributor to the loss of biodiversity. The expeditious escalation of temperatures poses a potential hazard to the integrity of ecosystems and the equilibrium of species. Alterations in temperature and precipitation regimes have an impact on the temporal occurrence of reproductive cycles, migratory routes and food availability. Consequently, there has been a reduction in the numbers of numerous species, which has augmented the likelihood of their extinction [13]. The phenomenon of climate change has a significant impact on the health of human beings. Vulnerable communities are exposed to the risk of injury, illness and mortality because of extreme weather events, such as heat waves and floods. Elevated temperatures have been found to facilitate the proliferation of diseases like malaria and dengue fever, leading to their geographical expansion into regions that were yet unexposed. The degradation of air quality resulting from heightened occurrence of wildfires and the combustion of non-renewable energy sources serve to compound respiratory issues [33]. The frequency and intensity of extreme weather phenomena such as droughts, floods and hurricanes have been observed to have escalated because of climate change. The occurrence of these incidents exerts a substantial influence on the welfare of both human and animal communities, leading to financial setbacks, relocation and impairment of physical structures. Consequently, this exerts pressure on ecological systems and the worldwide food web. Climate

change has a notable impact on both flora and fauna. Alterations in temperature and precipitation regimes have the potential to impact the development, dispersion and migratory behaviors. Consequently, these phenomena can have a significant effect on the procreation and viability of fauna that are dependent on this flora. Extreme weather phenomena can cause harm to crops, leading to a reduction in food production [34].

#### IV. EFFECT OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ON BIODIVERSITY

Drought is a severe meteorological phenomenon that possesses a subtle character due to its gradual onset and inconspicuous nature. The gradual escalation and prolonged duration of this phenomenon can result in significant ramifications, rendering it one of the most expensive natural hazards [35]. In addition, drought has various eco-hydrological and socioeconomic consequences, such as heightened susceptibility to wildfires, dearth of water resources, depletion of crops and livestock, escalated food costs, migration [36] and indirect health implications. The phenomenon of drought is characterized by intricate non-linear physical processes that entail feedback mechanisms. Furthermore, the effects of drought are transmitted through various levels in an uneven manner, often rendering objective quantification unfeasible. The establishment of a universally applicable definition for drought presents a challenging task [37].

The occurrence of flooding represents a common and geographically extensive form of environmental peril. Floods of varying types and magnitudes are a common occurrence in most terrestrial regions of the world, resulting in significant annual losses in terms of economic damage, disruption to livelihoods, infrastructure, services and public health. Based on long-term data, it can be inferred that floods and windstorms, which often result in flooding, have been the predominant natural disasters worldwide for the past century. Between 1993 and 2002, flood disasters had a greater impact on global populations, affecting an average of 140 million individuals annually. This figure surpasses the combined impact of all other natural or technological disasters during the same period [38].

The intensification of anthropogenic activities, particularly greenhouse gases, has led to an increase in the prevalence of climate change worldwide. The phenomenon of global warming is a highly conspicuous alteration in the Earth's climate. In addition to the observed rise in surface temperature, other climatic alterations are progressively manifesting, including shifts in precipitation patterns. The phenomenon of global warming is associated with a apparent rise in the global average of mean precipitation, as evidenced by both empirical observations and model simulations. However, this increase is characterized by marked spatial heterogeneity, with certain regions experiencing an increase in precipitation while others undergo a decline. The alteration in average precipitation is linked to modifications not only in the intensity of precipitation but also in its frequency. Heavy rainfall is observed to experience an increase in both intensity and frequency because of the effects of global warming [39].

Precipitation is a crucial meteorological variable that can have a direct impact on human society, either positively or negatively. The phenomenon of global warming has led to an augmentation in the water-holding capacity of atmosphere, thereby causing a rise in the occurrence of extreme precipitation events. At the scale of a watershed, meteorological processes are the primary drivers of the runoff process. In the event of extreme Precipitation, there is an increased risk of natural disasters such as floods, landslides and debris flows. These events pose a threat to society, the economy and the environment. Based on statistical data, the mean yearly financial damage resulting from rainstorm and flood calamities worldwide amounts to 104 billion US dollars (UNDRR, 2015). Furthermore, forthcoming rainstorms and flood calamities will predominantly be propelled by the escalation of exceptional precipitation occurrences, particularly in regions dominated by monsoons. Currently, the predominant research methodologies employed for investigating extreme precipitation, rainstorm and flood disasters center around extreme precipitation. Such models can provide a detailed depiction of the physical processes that occur from precipitation to disaster. There is a dearth of research on the regionalization-based analysis of the likelihood of catastrophic

outcome resulting from intense precipitation occurrences. The magnitude of rainstorm and flood calamities is contingent not only on the magnitude and configuration of precipitation during the disasters, but also on the moisture accumulated in the soil, resulting from hydrological phenomenon over a period antecedent to the onset of a disaster [40].

The phenomenon of biodiversity loss is a pressing issue that has significant attention from the world's researchers. Biodiversity encompasses the assortment of genetic material, living organisms and ecological systems present in each habitat and is known to play a significant role in promoting human welfare. Populations experiencing a decline in genetic diversity are vulnerable to potential risks, with climate change being a significant contributor to the direct cause of this loss of biodiversity. The phenomenon of climate change has the potential to result in the extinction of a significant proportion of the global biodiversity, ranging from 15% to 37% of all species. The impact of rising temperatures on species has been observed in various aspects such as reproduction, migration, mortality and distribution. A rise of 2 to 3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels could potentially lead to a loss of 20 to 30% of plant and animal biodiversity. By the year 2000, a total of 16% of animal breeds, including ass, water buffalo, cattle, goat, pig, sheep and horse, had led to extinction [41].

Out of the total 7,616 animal breeds, 20% were identified as being at risk, with the alarming rate of one breed per month facing extinction. Among the all-animal species, cattle exhibited the most significant count of extinct breeds (approximately, 209). The animal species exhibiting the greatest likelihood of breed elimination, based on percentage, were chickens (33% of breeds), pigs (18% of breeds) and cattle (16% breeds). The breeds that are susceptible to risk are contingent upon the geographical location. The regions undergoing development exhibit a range of 7% to 10% of mammalian species that are vulnerable, with the scope not being limited to animals. However, a significant proportion of mammalian species, that is, 60% to 70%, are categorized as having an uncertain risk status. On the other hand, in regions that have undergone significant development, where the

animal industry is highly specialized and reliant on a limited number of breeds, the proportion of mammalian species that are endangered ranged from 20% to 28% (FAO, 2007).

### **Climate change is anticipated to result in a range of future challenges, such as:**

1) An increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events: Heat waves, droughts, floods, storms and wildfires are becoming more common and severe because of climate change. Future disasters are anticipated to be more frequent and severe, with disastrous effects on infrastructure, economy and human health.

2) Increasing sea levels: Sea levels are rising in tandem with the increase in global temperatures. This poses a threat to flooding coastal infrastructure and communities, costing billions in damage and uprooting millions of people.

3) Loss of biodiversity: Climate change, including changes in temperature, precipitation and sea level, is having a substantial impact on ecosystems. Increased extinction rates, habitat loss and changes in distribution of species are all results of these changes.

4) Food and water insecurity: Agriculture and water resources, which are crucial for human survival, are being impacted by climate change. Crop loss, water shortages and lesser access to food and water are all results of extreme weather events, altered precipitation patterns and warming temperatures.

5) Health effects: The effects of climate change on human health include rising rates of heat stroke, respiratory disorders and vector-borne illnesses like malaria and dengue fever.

6) Economic effects: Damage of infrastructure, property loss and increased insurance and disaster relief expenses are just a few of the substantial economic effects of climate change. Governments, businesses, communities and individuals must work together in a connected effort to address these issues. Innovative solutions, such the creation of cutting-edge technologies and the adoption of sustainable practices, will be necessary. As vulnerable populations are frequently impacted by climate change, it will also necessitate a commitment to social and environmental justice [15].

## V. EVOLUTIONARY ADAPTATIONS

Different evolutionary adaptations have been brought about by climate change in different animals. Animals and plants have had to adjust the changes in their environment because of rising temperatures by expanding their ranges or altering their behavior. Some animals have altered their physical characteristics to better fit their environment, such as changing the color of their fur or feathers. Others have adjusted by shifting their breeding or migration schedules [42]. For instance, Arctic foxes have modified the timing of their breeding season to adapt to the shifting Arctic climate. To benefit from the early availability of food sources, they now breed earlier in the year. The migration patterns of several bird species have also changed to match the early springs brought on by climate change [24]. Climate change brought on by human activities have led to a variety of evolutionary adaptations in different species. To lessen the effects of climate change and save the earth for future generations, it is crucial that we take steps to limit the impact of climate change on the environment.

The consequences of climate change are adverse and have implications for various facets of our surroundings. The implementation of measures to mitigate the impact of climate change and safeguard the planet's resources is important for the future. Evolutionary adaptation is a plausible strategy to address the issue of climate change, whereby organisms modify their genetic makeup, behavior or physiology to adapt to the changing environmental conditions. Various forms of adaptation include phylogenetic plasticity, behavioral adaptation, genetic adaptation and hybridization. The rapid pace of climate change and genetic limitations present a significant challenge for the process of evolution [43].

Evolutionary adaptation is a critical component of climate change. Evolutionary adaptation refers to the mechanism through which species adjust to varying environmental circumstances over a prolonged period. With the alteration of climate, species are compelled to adjust the novel conditions or confront the possibility of extinction. Climate change refers to the alterations in the Earth's climate over an extended

period, encompassing the escalation of temperatures, modifications in weather patterns and the increase in sea levels. These changes are attributed to human activities that discharge greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases encompass carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, among others, which have the capacity to retain heat within the Earth's atmosphere, thereby inducing an increase in temperatures and consequent climate alterations [44].

Evolutionary adaptation refers to the mechanism by which organisms adjust to varying environmental circumstances over a prolonged period. This is achieved through genetic modifications that facilitate their survival and flourishing in novel conditions. Extinction denotes the total disappearance of a particular species, which can be attributed to a range of factors including habitat degradation, alterations in climate patterns and anthropogenic actions [45].

Ecosystems are intricate systems comprising of biotic and abiotic elements that mutually influence each other within a specific habitat, such as woodlands, seas and prairies. Biodiversity refers to the assortment of living entities present within a given ecosystem, encompassing flora, fauna and microorganisms. The preservation of biodiversity is crucial for the proper functioning of ecosystems and the provision of diverse ecosystem services, such as the purification of air and water, maintenance of good quality of soil and regulation of climate. The phenomenon of climate change poses a substantial obstacle for numerous species and one potential mechanism by which organisms may react to such changes is through evolutionary adaptation. Climate change can trigger various forms of evolutionary adaptations [46].

Phylogenetic plasticity refers to the capacity of a particular species to adjust to modifications in its surroundings through the modification of its developmental mechanisms. Alterations in morphology, physiology and behavior may be encompassed within this context. Certain butterfly species have undergone evolutionary changes resulting in reduced wing length as a means of adapting to elevated temperatures, thereby enhancing their thermoregulatory capabilities [47].



Phylogenetic plasticity has been identified as a crucial mechanism for species to adapt to shifting environmental conditions in the context of climate change. Certain plant species have undergone evolutionary adaptations, resulting in the development of distinct leaf morphologies in reaction to alterations in precipitation and temperature fluctuations. This enables them to effectively manage their water consumption and optimize their photosynthetic activity. Certain insects have undergone evolutionary changes to exhibit distinct color patterns because of alterations in temperature and light intensity. This enables the organisms to effectively camouflage themselves and evade potential threats from predators [48].

Phylogenetic plasticity may facilitate the adaptation of species to alter their nutritional resources. Certain avian species have undergone evolutionary changes resulting in elongated beaks as an adaptation to alterations in the dimensions and accessibility of their food sources. This enables the individuals to enhance their ability to provide nourishment for themselves and their offspring. In general, the ability of species to adapt to varying environmental conditions, such as those resulting from climate change, can be significantly influenced by their phylogenetic plasticity. It is noteworthy that there exist some boundaries to the degree of phylogenetic plasticity that a species can manifest and instances of swift or drastic alterations in the environment may surpass these boundaries. Under such circumstances, it may be imperative for a species to undergo genetic adaptation or employ alternative mechanisms to ensure its survival and prosperity [19]. Behavioral adaptation refers to modifications in an organism's behavior as a reaction to alterations in the environment. Certain avian species have altered their reproductive schedules to align with earlier spring seasons resulting from alterations in the climate. This enables them to exploit the prompt accessibility of nourishment resources.

The process of genetic adaptation entails alterations in the hereditary characteristics of a given population as a reaction to shifts in the surrounding environment. The phenomenon of advantageous traits being favored in a population can be attributed to natural selection, whereby those individuals

possessing such traits are more suitable to survive and pass on their genetic material. Certain fish populations have undergone evolutionary changes by developing enlarged gills as an adaptive response to elevated water temperatures and reduced oxygen concentrations. The phenomenon of hybridization, which involves the mating of distinct species, may also contribute to the process of evolutionary adaptation in response to alterations in climate. Hybridization has the potential to facilitate genetic exchange between species, thereby introducing novel traits that may confer adaptive advantages to a population in response to dynamic environmental conditions [49]. The expeditious pace of climate change presents a noteworthy obstacle for evolutionary adaptation. The rapid rate of change may outstrip the evolutionary capacity of numerous species, resulting in population declines or even extinctions. Furthermore, genetic limitations, such as restricted genetic diversity or reduced mutation frequencies, may impede the capacity for adaptation in certain populations [50].

The phenomenon of evolutionary adaptation has the potential to assist species in coping with the effects of climate change. However, the speed at which these changes occur, and the limitations imposed by genetics present notable obstacles to this mechanism. The implementation of measures to alleviate the impact of climate change and safeguard biodiversity [51].

## VI. CHALLENGES TO EVOLUTIONARY ADAPTATIONS

The swift rate of climate change poses a substantial obstacle to the adaptive potential of organisms via evolutionary processes. Historically, the adaptation of species to environmental changes occurred at a slower rate compared to the present rate of climate change. This may lead to a decline in biodiversity as certain species may not be able to adapt swiftly and sustain in altered environments. Moreover, swift alterations in climate can result in the division of habitats and the disturbance of ecological relationships, thereby compounding the difficulties associated with evolutionary adjustment [52].

## 6.1 Pace of Climate Change

The likelihood exists that rapid changes in climatic conditions will give rise to diverse selection pressures on populations. It is anticipated that the occurrence of choosing directions for resistance will be attributed to the increasing durations of thermal stress and drought. This phenomenon will be notably conspicuous in species that exist close to their physiological thresholds, such as thermophilic porcelain crabs and tropical lizards. It is anticipated that these species will encounter difficulties in the forthcoming decades due to the likelihood of exceeding their upper thermal thresholds. It is anticipated that elevated temperatures will facilitate the premature cessation of winter diapause and encourage the relocation of organisms to new habitats, as they capitalize on the newly favorable environmental circumstances. It is probable that not all selection pressures that emerge because of climate change will exhibit directionality. Instead, stabilizing selection is expected to manifest in birds that are establishing themselves in novel habitats, where the timing of food availability and breeding periods coincide, with regards to hatching and breeding times [53].

## 6.2 Genetic Constrain

The impact of gene flow on the capacity for evolutionary responses is noteworthy, particularly in instances where species margins serve as receptacles for migrants originating from the central regions of species ranges. The dispersal agents may exhibit maladaptive traits in response to the environmental conditions encountered at the periphery of their range, leading to a reduction in fitness that hinders their ability to adapt. As has been recently proposed for barnacles, this could potentially limit the scope of evolutionary responses. The phenomenon of gene flow has the potential to impose limitations on the process of evolution, in conjunction with other factors such as trait interactions and demographic effects [54].

## 6.3 Actions to Fight Against Climate Change

Anthropogenic actions have led to a rise in temperature of roughly 1°C above the levels observed during the pre-industrial era. Based on

current emission rates, it is estimated that the temperature rise of 1.5°C will be attained within the time from 2030 to 2052. In 2018, there were a total of 315 natural disasters occurred worldwide, primarily caused by climatic factors. The repercussions of natural calamities were substantial, as per approximations, around 68.5 million people were impacted, and the economic damage amounted to \$131.7 billion. Approximately 93% of the aforementioned losses were ascribed to natural disasters such as storms, floods, wildfires and droughts. The increase in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases is predominantly ascribed to energy-related emissions. The discourse examines three principal strategies to alleviate the impacts of climate change. At the outset, conventional approaches to address

A new pathway has been discovered, which incorporates innovative technologies and methodologies that have been recently introduced. Carbon dioxide removal methods, commonly referred to as negative emissions technologies, hold promises for capturing and sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. The methods of carbon sequestration and storage include bioenergy, biochar, enhanced weathering, direct carbon air record and storage, ocean fertilization, ocean alkalinity improvement, carbon sequestration in soil, reforestation and wetland building and restoration. Furthermore, researchers have investigated alternative approaches to employ negative emissions utilization and storage, including mineral carbonation and the utilization of biomass in construction [55, 56].

A third methodology entails the manipulation of solar and terrestrial radiation for the purpose of altering the heat balance of the earth. The methodologies mentioned above are commonly known as radiative forcing geoengineering technologies, which are primarily intended to stabilize or decrease temperature. In contrast to technologies aimed at achieving negative emissions, this approach does not involve any shift of the current levels of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Geoengineering methods for radiative forcing involve a variety of techniques, such as stratospheric aerosol injections, marine sky brightening, cirrus cloud thinning, space-based mirrors, surface-based

brightening and other radiation management strategies. The techniques mentioned are currently in the theoretical stage or undergoing initial trials and involve a significant level of uncertainty and risk in terms of their implementation on a large scale. At present, active forcing geoengineering techniques are not integrated into policy frameworks [57, 58].

## VII. MITIGATION STRATEGIES

To mitigate the effects of climate change, it is imperative for industries to adopt sustainable practices. Such practices encompass the mitigation of emissions, the implementation of circular economy tenets and the utilization of sustainable energy sources like solar, wind and geothermal power. Governments have the potential to regulate industries and provide incentives for sustainable practices. Carbon tax policies have the potential to mitigate emissions by imposing a cost on carbon pollution, thereby incentivizing encouragement to adopt cleaner technologies [8]. Although the shift towards sustainable industries may pose certain difficulties, it also offers numerous prospects for novel ideas and expansion. The emergence of novel technologies, such as electric vehicles and energy storage systems, has the potential to generate fresh economic opportunities and employment prospects. The implementation of sustainable agricultural practices have the potential to enhance soil health and augment crop yields, while concurrently mitigating emissions. Through collaborative efforts aimed at mitigating climate change, various industries can contribute to the establishment of a sustainable and thriving future for humanity.

The prevention of extinction can be achieved through diverse strategies, including the relocation of populations to more favorable habitats, the capacity of organisms to adjust to challenging circumstances through plastic changes or the evolutionary adaptation of populations [59]. The incorporation of evolutionary adaptation could potentially function as a substantial mechanism for natural populations to alleviate the impacts of rapid climate change. The expected colonization patterns and changes in distribution are notably impacted by the integration of evolutionary mechanisms [60].

In cases where threatened species are unable to naturally disperse or translocate by humans to habitats that are suitable, evolutionary adaptations may represent the exclusive means by which they can persist. This procedure could potentially hold significant importance for the continuous well-being of keystone species that are confronted with challenges reducing from climate change. This is illustrated by the instance of prevalent conifers being targeted by bark beetle populations that are benefited by rising temperatures [61].

Upon reaching the limits of distribution, populations are required to either adapt or migrate. The presence of extensive niche conservation would suggest that there could be greater opportunities for migration rather than evolution as a means of adaptation to climatic fluctuations, whether they are short-term or long-term in nature. The response of various species to climate change is contingent upon a range of factors, including adaptation, migration and plasticity. There exists a complex interplay between these factors in practical scenarios [8].

Mitigating the effects of industries and transport on climate change requires collaborative efforts on a national and global scale. The promotion of renewable energy alternatives can be facilitated by governmental incentives and regulations, thereby encouraging the adoption of renewable energy sources. The implementation of transport policies, such as the promotion of public transport and electric vehicles and the establishment of fuel economy standards for vehicles, has the potential to effectively mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In general, endeavors aimed at tackling climate change resulting from industrial and transportation activities are of paramount importance in ameliorating the effects of climate change, guaranteeing sustainable economic advancement and progress and conserving the environment for future [39].

Another mitigation process of carbon is carbon sequestration. The process of carbon sequestration involves the uptake of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by trees, which is subsequently stored in their biomass. Forests are essential in the process of mitigating climate change. The process of photosynthesis enables trees to sequester carbon

dioxide from the atmosphere. As the trees undergo growth, the carbon is sequestered within various parts of their anatomy, including trunks, branches, leaves and roots. Forests function as carbon sinks, with the capacity to sequester roughly 2.4 billion metric tons of carbon on an annual basis. Deforestation leads to the emission of carbon into the atmosphere, thereby contributing to the phenomenon of global warming [22].

Measures to mitigate deforestation comprise of initiatives such as reforestation programs, sustainable forest management practices and conservation of old-growth forests. Forest conservation programs, such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation (RED) and Forest Degradation, offer financial, technological and technical support to encourage nations to decrease carbon emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation. The objective is to attain sustainable development that benefits both the indigenous communities and the natural resources of the planet [62]. Mitigating involves a sustainable reduction of deforestation and the protection of forests [16].

## VIII. PREDICTING AND DESCRIBING EVOLUTIONARY RESPONSES TO RECENT CLIMATE CHANGES

In responses to changes in climate, animals may show a wide range of adaptations and strategies. For example, some species go through phenotypic plasticity, change in behavior and physiology. This process continues throughout the lifetime to survive changing conditions, like altering migration patterns, reproductive timing and thermoregulation mechanisms. Some species may experience genetic evolution over longer time periods and natural selection plays the key role to favor traits that maximize the survival of species in these changing environmental conditions. For example, some species have experienced physiological changes like altering rates of metabolism and rate of development to overcome heat tolerance. Several species showed geographical shifts like moving towards cooler or more suitable habitats. The rate of climate change, however, can suppress the ability of natural evolutionary processes, resulting in mismatch between the rate of environmental change and the adoptive capacities of species. The review also considers the limitations of evolutionary responses, such as habitat fragmentation and genetic restrictions, which may make it more difficult for

species to adopt successfully. In the end conservation efforts meant to mitigate the loss of biodiversity in the world that is changing quickly depend on the knowledge of the mechanisms behind evolutionary adaptation to climate change. The approaches for predicting and describing evolutionary responses to recent climate change in natural populations (Table 1).

## XI. CONCLUSION

Rapid climate change presents different challenges to the capacity of organisms to adapt through evolution. The Earth's temperature has been increasing due to the ratio of greenhouse gases, produced both by natural and man-made practices but are primarily by human activities. Temperature, humidity, wind pressure and precipitation are the factors, even their minor alterations can have significant impacts on climate change. Rapid climate change presents different challenges to the capacity of organisms to adapt through evolution. The altering conditions of the planet drive the growth and development of species.

The consequences of climate change are severe, including rising sea levels, consistent and extreme weather situations and the relocation of many people. Climate change also has significant impacts on human health, food security, water availability and economic growth. The rise in temperature has various negative consequences for both natural systems and human beings, especially when heatwaves become more frequent and severe, it results in heat exhaustion, dehydration and other heat-related illnesses which have been associated with increased morbidity and mortality rates worldwide. Preventing further climate change is not only essential for the survival of countless species and ecosystems, but it is also crucial for ensuring a livable future for coming generations. Fortunately, there is a range of measures that can be taken to mitigate and avert climate change, spanning from personal behavioral modifications to large-scale governmental interventions.



**Table 1: The approaches for predicting and describing evolutionary responses to recent climate change in natural populations.**

Approaches	Descriptions	Advantages	Limitations
Genomic studies	After time passes, the DNA analysis will be done to check the genetic changes in species to measure the evolutionary adaptations to climate stressors.	Provide details regarding the genetic mechanisms underlying adaptations	Technical challenges and high cost, not provide complex interactions among environments.
Environmental Evolution	To track evolutionary responses in population-controlled trials may be done. For example, those populations will be studies who are exposed to fluctuating climate changes.	Helping with direct studies of evolutionary processes in real time.	Limiting ecological significance and may not fully imitate natural circumstances.
Phenotypic plasticity Assessments	It is the study of how species maintain their phenotype (like, morphology or behavior) in response to climate changes without genetic evolution.	Gives vision about flexible and immediate response to climate change.	Phenotypic plasticity may not be suitable for long-term studies and may not show genetic adaptations.
Comparative studies of range shifts	Studies show how species exhibit geographical shifts due to change in temperature.	Providing insight into future shifts of animals' adaptive responses and distribution patterns.	Does not provide the complete mechanisms of range shifts and adaptive responses.
Mathematical models and simulations	Evolutionary responses will be measured using mathematics. Provide insight into present and future scenarios of climate, including ecological, demographic and genetic data.	It provides data regarding future possibilities of evaluations and identifies critical thresholds limits.	It provides accurate data if the collected data is accurate. For complex ecological data mathematical model difficult to predict.

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