



Climate Witness: Nelly Damaris Chepkoskei, Kenya

Up in the cool highlands of west Kenya, Kericho district is the centre of the country's large tea industry. Here, changing rainfall patterns and rising temperatures are straining already difficult livelihoods

What the IPCC says

- Human health, already compromised by a range of factors, could be further negatively impacted by climate change and climate variability, e.g. malaria in southern Africa and the East African highlands (high confidence)
- Observed temperatures have indicated a greater warming trend since the 1960s

Source: IPCC 4th Assessment Report, working group II [9.2.1.2; 9.4.3; 9.5.1 & 9.2.1]



Nelly Damaris Chepkoskei, 51, is a farmer living in the Kericho District in the west of Kenya. She has 5 children.

“Now, people are even dying from malaria, something that was virtually unheard of 20-30 years ago.”

What this WWF Climate Witness is experiencing right now

- “...one of the effects of the higher temperatures is the increased number of mosquitoes resulting in increased incidence of malaria in this district.”
- “Temperatures have increased in the last decades, even during the rainy seasons — a strange scenario in Kericho District indeed. Unlike 20 years ago, the dry season at present is hotter to the extent that all the grass dries up. This means that there isn't enough fodder for my cows, leading to a drop in milk production and also income. The soils are also left bare during the dry season leading to erosion at the onset of the rains.”
- “...rainfall patterns have changed drastically in the last decades. Here in the Kericho District, we used to have rainfall throughout the year.”

To limit the impacts of climate change highlighted by the IPCC's 4th Assessment Report...

- Industrialized countries must cut their emissions by at least 30% by 2020;
- Big developing economies should agree to join hands with rich countries to develop their own climate solutions; and
- Deforestation must be stopped, by making forest protection a business proposition.

WWF works with governments and communities around the world to develop region-specific adaptation strategies to address climate change impacts — such as those impacts being observed by our Climate Witnesses here and now.

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Find out more

Testimonial:

panda.org/climatewitness/chepkoskei

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