



Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change

Dr. Craig D. Idso
Chairman

Dr. Sherwood B. Idso
President

Dr. Keith E. Idso
Vice President

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Contact: Dr. Sherwood Idso 480.966.3719

Scientific and Policy Advisors

Donald G. Baker
*Soil Science, University of
Minnesota, USA, Emeritus*

W. Dennis Clark
*Plant Biology, Arizona State
University, Tempe, AZ, US*

Donald Paul Hodel
*Former U.S. Secretary of
Energy & Interior Depts*

Irakli Loladze
*Princeton Environmental
Institute, Princeton, NJ, US*

M. Mihkel Mathiesen
*Former Science Attaché for
Sweden, USA*

Dmitri Mauquoy
*Quaternary Geology,
Uppsala University, Sweden*

A. Alan Moghissi
*Institute for Regulatory
Science, Columbia, MD, US*

William E. Reifsnyder
*Consulting Meteorologist,
Questa, NM, USA*

Paul Reiter
*Institut Pasteur, Paris,
France*

Clinton H. Sheehan
*Physics, Ouachita Baptist
University, Arkansas, USA*

George Taylor
*Climatology, Oregon State
University, Corvallis, OR*

Kenneth E.F. Watt
*Ecology & Evolution, Univ.
CA, Davis, Emeritus*

Sylvan H. Wittwer
*Horticulture, Michigan State
Univ., E. Lansing, Emeritus*

Study Debunks Claims of Warming-Induced Extinctions

Climate alarmists have long contended CO₂-induced global warming will be so fast and furious that many species of plants and animals will not be able to migrate towards cooler parts of the planet rapidly enough to avoid extinction. A new report from the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change and the George C. Marshall Institute contests this claim.

The new study – *The Specter of Species Extinction: Will Global Warming Decimate Earth's Biosphere?* refutes what previously has been one of the most compelling arguments for curtailing anthropogenic CO₂ emissions.

“The rising CO₂ content of earth’s atmosphere is changing the rules of engagement in the battle of the planet’s plants to hold their ground in a warming world,” Sherwood Idso, President of the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, said.

Plants in a CO₂-enriched atmosphere generally prefer warmer temperatures than they do when exposed to normal air. Research shows that a doubling of the air’s CO₂ concentration typically boosts the optimum temperature for plant photosynthesis by several degrees Centigrade, and that it raises the temperature at which plants experience heat-induced death by about the same amount.

As a result of these changes in basic plant physiological behavior, earth’s vegetation will likely not be forced to migrate towards cooler regions of the globe in a CO₂-enriched world of the future, even if temperatures were to rise as predicted by climate models. At the cold-limited boundaries of their current ranges, however, they will have a definite opportunity to do so, and will likely move both poleward in latitude and upward in altitude, which will enable them to expand the territory they inhabit and actually make them less likely to experience extinction.

The report’s authors – Sherwood, Craig and Keith Idso of the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change – suggest this phenomenon will result in an increase in the overlapping of plant and animal ranges that will enhance local biodiversity; and in a review of the scientific literature, they demonstrate that this CO₂-induced enhancement of local species richness is already occurring in various parts of the world.

“This review of dozens of scientific studies reminds of us of what we actually know about species extinction and therefore is a most useful reference for critically evaluating and assessing the apocalyptic claims advanced during the policy debates on climate change,” Jeff Kueter, Executive Director of the Marshall Institute, said.

Copies of *The Specter of Species Extinction* are available from the Marshall Institute and can be viewed or downloaded at the Internet website of the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change at www.co2science.org.