

WN Network

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Climate disruption

The cost of light

The Network team writes: The Anthropocene, the age we live in now, is so-called because of the profound impact of human activity on the Earth's ecosystems. Some date the age from the use of atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Some propose the accelerated exploitation of natural resources as from the 1980s. Others suggest an earlier time, of the steam-powered Industrial Revolution that began in Europe in the late 18th century. Others identify the electric-powered second stage of industrialisation. Electric light and heat enables human activity, including that which most aggressively exploits natural resources, 24 hours a day. Here is Europe at night lit up in city and throughout most rural areas as seen from space during the recent eclipse of the Sun. By contrast, the interior of Africa remains dark. The impact of humans at this stage of the Anthropocene is causing a rate of extinction of species between 100 and 1000 times higher than the estimated natural rate



Editor's note

The purpose of *Network* is to remind us of the contribution of the arts, including photography, to our understanding of food, nutrition, health and well-being. It presents the art without any extensive comment – though we welcome follow-up letters for publication in *Feedback*. Please send contributions to wn.network@gmail.com