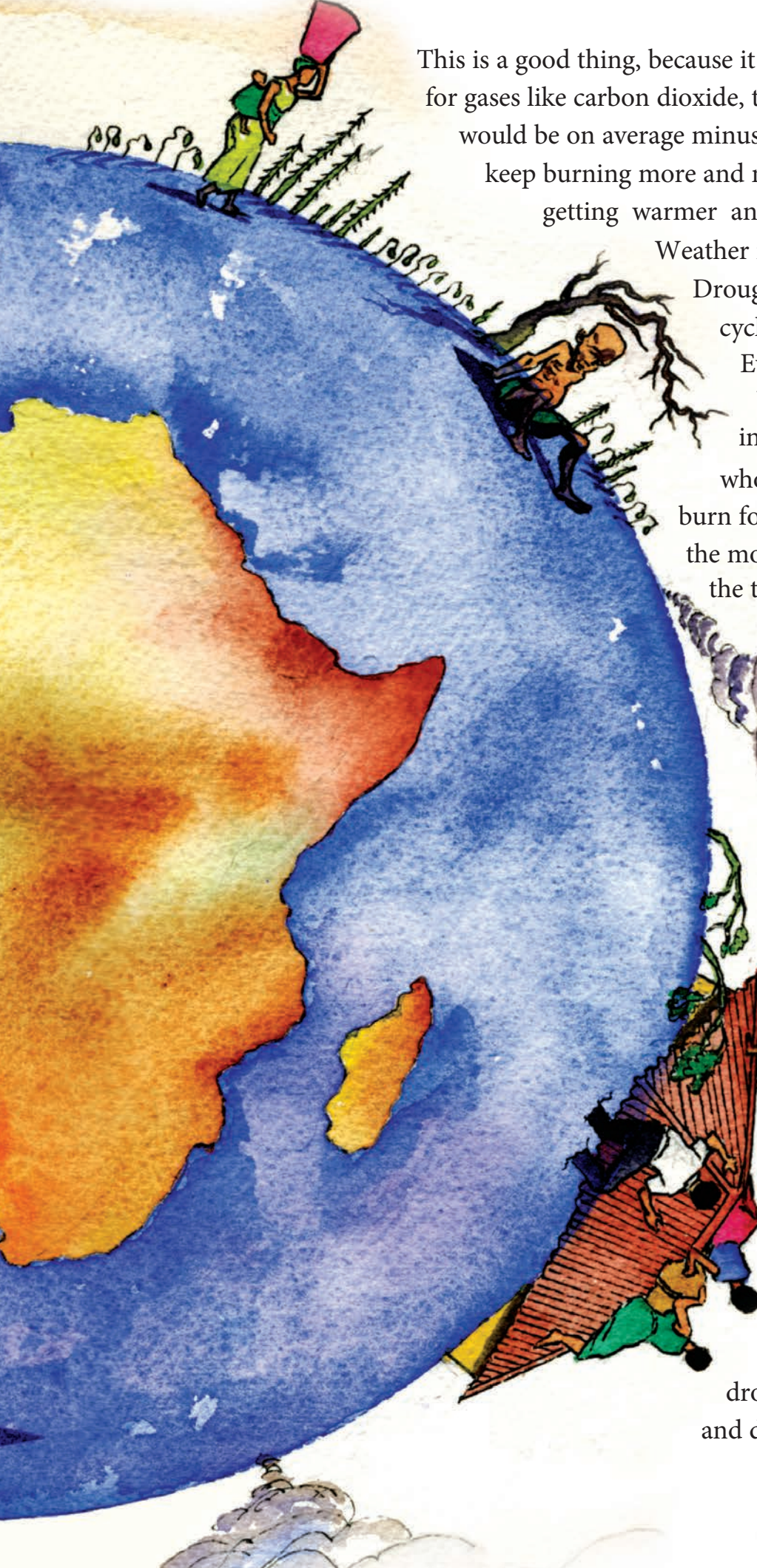


GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

The atmosphere, the air we breath, is made up of several gases, including carbon dioxide, oxygen and nitrogen. Burning carbon creates carbon dioxide and other carbon gases. These collect in the atmosphere, high in the sky. There they act like glass in a window, creating a 'glasshouse effect' over the whole world.





This is a good thing, because it keeps the heat in. If it wasn't for gases like carbon dioxide, the temperature of our planet would be on average minus 18°C – very cold! But as we keep burning more and more fossil fuels, the planet is getting warmer and the climate is changing.

Weather is becoming unpredictable.

Droughts, heatwaves, floods and cyclones will be more frequent.

Even more of Africa may

become desert. Unjustly, people in the poorest countries,

who have only just started to

burn fossil fuels, will probably suffer

the most. Wildlife will suffer too as the temperature and the seasons

change too quickly for

trees to adapt or

move. The insects

and animals that

depend on them may simply die.

The combustion of fossil fuels to drive engines is perhaps one of the most brilliant of all human

inventions. Sadly,

it could destroy

our own planet.

In 2050, sub-

Saharan Africa is

predicted to be warmer by

0.5 – 2 °C, with 10% less

rainfall. Already in

Lehurutshe, South Africa,

people are experiencing more

droughts. In Mozambique floods and droughts are also increasing.