

# Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Accumulation\*

The amount of CO<sub>2</sub> released by humans tends to be less than that released by terrestrial and marine systems. However, total CO<sub>2</sub> produced is not ultimately absorbed by those systems, leaving excess gigatonnes (gt) in the atmosphere each year.

The rate of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation has steadily increased in recent decades, reaching a record high of 31.6 gt in 2011.



\*Carbon Cycle (1990-1999)

SOURCE:

IPCC. 2007. Fourth Assessment Report (AR4).  
International Energy Agency (IEA), 2012