

# Examples of Greenhouse Gases Affected by Human Activities

	CO <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O
Pre-industrial concentration	280 ppmv	700 ppbv	275 ppbv
Concentration in 1994	358 ppmv	1720 ppbv	312 ppbv <sup>2</sup>
Rate of concentration change <sup>1</sup>	1.5 ppmv/yr	10 ppbv/yr	0.8 ppbv/yr
Atmospheric lifetime (years)	50-200 <sup>a</sup>	12 <sup>b</sup>	120

ppmv = part per million volume; ppbv = part per billion volume

<sup>1</sup> The growth rates of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O are averaged over the decade beginning in 1984.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated from 1992-1993 data.

<sup>a</sup> No single lifetime for CO<sub>2</sub> can be defined because of the different rates of uptake by different processes.

<sup>b</sup> Defined as an adjustment time which takes into account the indirect effects of methane on its own lifetime.

Source: IPCC, 1995

