

FACT SHEET

RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

REFORESTATION, DEFORESTATION

SOUTH AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

Deforestation and Reforestation have an important linked relationship when it comes to the environment and the health of our planet. Deforestation is the removal of trees and forests for other uses of the land. Oftentimes, deforestation is driven by agriculture and the demand for more land to grow crops and trade. Deforestation also happens for the construction of buildings, commercial property, and the selling, sometimes illegally, of timber and wood. Deforestation is a significant environmental problem because it poses a threat to the health of the planet. When forests are cut down or sometimes burned, there are losses of wildlife, ecosystems, communities, as well as livelihood for people who work in the fields of conservation and tourism. One of the most significant problems deforestation leads to is excess carbon

dioxide in the atmosphere. Because trees take in carbon dioxide (CO₂) for photosynthesis, which is their energy creation process, they reduce the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere, acting as carbon sinks. When forests are cut down and burnt for agricultural purposes, for example, the carbon dioxide each tree stores gets released and contributes to global warming. This is where reforestation comes in. Reforestation is the intentional replanting of trees and forests as a way to combat global warming, deforestation and all the negative impacts it can have. Reforestation efforts are not just limited to replanting trees, but include policy making, government programmes, and holistic approaches that both repair land as well as make solutions for its protection in the future.

DEFINITIONS

Carbon sink is anything that can absorb and store carbon dioxide. Carbon sinks play a big role in protecting and regulating the environment, and some of the biggest carbon sinks are the world's oceans, plants (inclusive of forests), and soil.

Conservation is the practice of protecting natural resources so that they can persist for future generations. Conservation methods are crucial in approaching environmental issues.

Deforestation is the intentional removal of forests, oftentimes done to make space for farming and agriculture. Deforestation has been accelerated by human activities since 1960, and while it can provide job opportunity and agriculture expansion, it has negatively affected natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and the climate

Land degradation is the loss or harm of the nutrients and quality of soil in any ecosystem. Land degradation threatens

both the environment in terms of climate change as well as food insecurity and having land fruitful enough to grow crops and medicine

Reforestation is the intentional replanting of forests and woodlands that have been destroyed and depleted, usually through deforestation

The importance of forests (WWF):

Forest serve a number of important purposes including:

Trap GreenHouse Gases and Prevent Climate Change

Forests play an incredibly significant role in regulating the air we breathe and protecting the earth from the sun's heat rays. Carbon dioxide is considered a greenhouse gas, which is a gas that, in excess, is harmful to the atmosphere and accelerates climate change and the heating of the earth. Trees use carbon dioxide for their energy creation process, and therefore reduce and regulate this kind of gas in the atmosphere.

Being a home to wildlife and biodiversity

Forests are home to hundreds of thousands of unique animals and organisms. The loss of wildlife affects surrounding ecosystems, where the loss of one kind of plant or animal can affect neighboring ecosystems negatively. For example, one kind of animal can become overpopulated because another kind of animal who hunts and preys and regulates this population has been reduced in population due to deforestation and lack of being able to live and survive.

Providing food, medicinal plants, and livelihood

Forests are not only home to biodiversity but to human beings who have lived in and around forests for generations and centuries. As such, the loss of forests can result in the loss of employment such research about life saving medicine or the loss in home, and therefore culture and history for people indigenous to certain areas and forests.

REFORESTATION AND DEFORESTATION GLOBALLY

Deforestation Globally

It is estimated that every year, the world loses approximately between 5 million and 10 million hectares of forest, and most global deforestation happens in South America. In terms of 5 million hectares is just under the size of the country Togo, and 10 million hectares of land is just less than the size of country Liberia. According to the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), some of the biggest sites of deforestation are in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil and forests in West Africa as well as Madagascar. Most deforestation in these areas is driven by demands for land for agriculture, however forests are also cleared for the sale of timber and for the building of commercial properties. Overall, the rate of deforestation globally is 0.5 percent.

Reforestation Globally:

Reforestation efforts globally have looked like major tree replanting projects and government and NGO collaboration and policies. The World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2020 launched a program to drive the planting of one trillion trees worldwide. This initiative has been supported and adopted in several countries around the world. Organisations like the World Wildlife Foundation, National Geographic, The World Bank, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) work to do research and create programmes to work towards sustainable and healthy futures when it comes to our forests.

REFORESTATION AND DEFORESTATION IN AFRICA

Deforestation in Africa

Sometimes termed “The Lungs of Africa”, forests throughout the continent play an important role in the health of environments and communities as well as the economies of many nations. What drives deforestation in Africa is often agriculture, where forests are slashed and burned to make room for more land to grow crops and plants. However, deforestation also happens for creation of charcoal for cooking and the selling of timber. While agriculture can create more jobs for communities, the demand of land to grow and sell food can have

long lasting negative impacts on the continent including:

- Lack of forests to regulate greenhouse gases and carbon emissions from burning of forests
- Erosion of land from over farming
- Destruction of unique habitats and biodiversity
- Threat to indigenous communities who live and work off of natural forests

Taking into account more sustainable practices in Africa

Initiatives like the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA2020) initiative and the Africa Palm Oil Initiative (APOI) both encourage governments and the private sector to find ways on how to farm the land and create certain exports without exploiting farmers rights or wages or exploit and over use the land. The TFA2020 aims to create deforestation free supply chains of products like palm oil, beef, soy and pulp/paper supply chains through bringing together various private sector organisations and national governments to manage supply chain prices and create equitable farming environments. Similar to the TFA, the Africa Palm Oil Initiative aims to create sustainable forms of farming and making of palm oil, and avoid over farming in ten palm oil producing countries.

- **More about the TFA:** <https://www.tropicalforestalliance.org/>
- **More about the APOI :** <https://bit.ly/3d4iZ8m>

IMPACT OF DEFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION

DEFORESTATION

Climate change

Because trees and forests store carbon dioxide as well as house many important and diverse wildlife, they are an integral part in the health of the planet. The prevention of climate change is linked to preserving the world's forests, trees, and soil.

Loss of wildlife, biodiversity, and medicine

Large forests house several kinds of animals, biodiversity, and ecosystems. The loss of these kinds of ecosystems can affect the surrounding communities as well as the overall function ecosystems. Wildlife also play a role in healthy air and soil and regulation of the environment. Lastly, forests are home to many ingredients for various kinds of medicines humans rely heavily on. The destruction of forests

can have devastating effects on both the production of medicine as well as research for new medicines to combat illnesses like cancer or HIV.

Economic loss or exploitation of livelihood

In the short term cutting down trees for an agriculture project might seem like an opportunity that leads to jobs. However, if the agricultural project is not done sustainably, which is often the case, it can lead to long-term destruction of the land and the impoverishment of local communities that previously used the forest for subsistence and livelihood.

REFORESTATION

Restore biodiversity

Forests hold more than 80% of earth's species, and reforestation efforts help restore and protect animals and their important functions in our forests.

Reverse soil erosion

Because trees protect the soil from wind and rainfall, soil is at great risk of eroding, which can result in poor conditions for farming and flash flooding. Reforestation can reverse this by replanting trees and an ecosystem that can protect and regulate itself and its nutrients.

Regulate and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the air

Forests and oceans are carbon sinks, and help regulate the amount of harmful gases in the atmosphere and make it possible for us to live and breathe on earth. Reforestation is incredibly important for the health of our planet.

Creation of jobs in policy and sustainable farming, building, and trade

Reforestation projects as well as environment centered policy have the potential to create jobs and economies in communities that last for a long time and are not governed by the pressure to produce a mass amount of one kind of plant or product. In the long run, both more forests and more regulated and environment focused markets and policies protect the earth as well prevent human exploitation and insecurity

Protection of land

Any given community's or country's commitment to reforestation can protect land by designating certain areas to be reforested as well as designate protection of existing forests and land from being torn down or sold for other purposes.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF DEFORESTATION

Deforestation can be driven by poverty, or in other words, the need for income can lead to deforestation as more and more people are in need of job opportunities. It becomes urgent to find sustainable farming methods as well as systems to address root causes of poverty as well as the legacy of colonialism in many African nations

Deforestation affects the price of food, the movement of goods, the development and cost of medicine, and much more, often in negative ways. Reforestation and conservation efforts can regulate these things as well as create equitable paths forward so future generations have a healthy world to inherit

Because deforestation threatens indigenous knowledge, culture, and language, its urgency to defend our forests for cultural reasons in addition to environmental and economic ones

MYTH BUSTER

MYTH

FACT

Deforestation doesn't affect me

Deforestation affects everyone as it is leading to global warming. Deforestation affects communities and the overall health of the planet, which directly affects the future world young people inherit.

Reforestation reverses deforestation

Unfortunately, reforestation efforts do not completely reverse the effects of deforestation - biodiversity is very hard to recreate and when wildlife species goes extinct you can't bring them back to life. Conservation is important to protect those. However, reforestation is very important in terms of climate change as trees' ability to store carbon is one way to act on global warming.

Deforestation is only an environmental issue

Deforestation affects nearly all sectors of life, for example the economy. It is often forgotten that the economy is dependent on limited natural resources, and functioning ecosystems. This fact only comes apparent once a natural system is depleted or destroyed and the economic activities linked to it collapse and nature stops providing its services, which it did before for free. You can't run a fishing business if the river stops running, or if fish are not found in the river anymore. It's the same with the destruction of forests and global warming. Many of the everyday life things we take for granted in terms of life on earth are changing and we will all be affected.

There isn't anything young people can do to help stop deforestation

Across the continent of Africa, there are large youth-led movements like the Rise Up Movement, which was started by Ugandan activist Vanessa Nakate to help amplify the voices of activists from the continent. Through this large movement, young people can find each other's work and efforts to learn from each other's projects or interests as well as collaborate. The Rise Up Movement runs in countries including Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, Nigeria, Malawi, Togo, Zambia, Senegal, and South Africa.

DID YOU KNOW? (GLOBAL)

Africa houses the second largest forest block in the world. Within this, the world's second largest rainforest is in Central Africa's Congo Basin, a forest that stretches across 6 central African countries.

More than 30 percent of the world's forests is believed to have been deforested, and most of the damage is believed to have taken place during the last 45 years.

(World Bank)

Over 2 billion people rely on forests- forests provide shelter, livelihoods, water, and food. Everything from fruits and vegetables, medicines, cosmetics, paper, and detergents come from forests.

Although Africa currently contributes only a small amount to global greenhouse gases, the main source of the continent's emissions is deforestation.

(UN)

(World Bank)

Soil can run out of nutrients. Tearing down or burning a forest for land to farm is sometimes a temporary solution to agriculture. Oftentimes if the soil is not given breaks or farmed sustainability, soil can be stripped of nutrients, not allowing future crops to grow. When this happens, more deforestation can happen as a result. Reforestation efforts aim to practice sustainable agriculture and market prices to avoid pressure on farmers to produce and over farm.

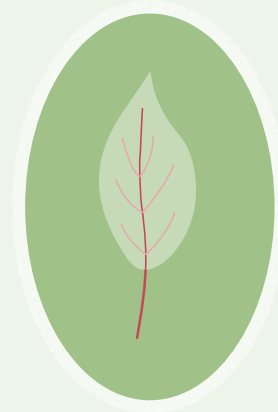


DID YOU KNOW? (SOUTH AFRICA)

Although natural forests (492 700 hectares) are the smallest forest type category in the country, they host an incredibly rich amount of biodiversity

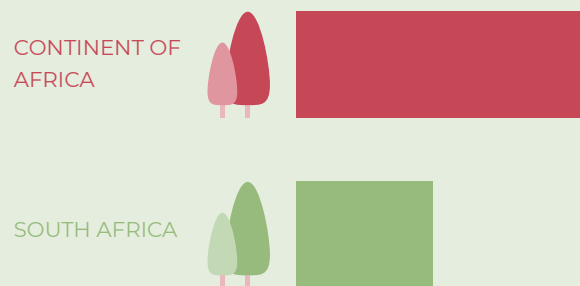


All natural forests in South Africa are **protected** in terms of the National Forests Act of 1998



Scientists note that South Africa experiences less deforestation than other African countries because a great deal of indigenous forests were cleared over the past 100 years

The annual deforestation rate in South Africa is estimated to be 0.2 percent, which is far below the overall deforestation rate on the continent of Africa, which is 0.5 percent



CASE STUDY

Planting 5 million tree seedlings in Ethiopia

Over the past 50 years, Ethiopia has lost an estimated 97% of their forests due to population expansion and demand for agriculture. So in 2019, a project called The Green Legacy was launched to commit to plant 5 million seedlings in efforts to restore 15 million hectares of deforested land, that being 20 billion trees by 2025.

The seedlings are planted in 38,000 sites across the country, and have been carried out throughout 2020 and 2021, with positive outcomes and survival of

many newly planted trees. The project has been made possible through the participation of both young people as well as older community members and people who work in the environmental sector.

Projects like the The Green Legacy demonstrate that there is both potential and action to combat deforestation and it can happen in large scale ways, including participation and leadership from young people.

Full story: <https://bit.ly/3vaiTUB>

YOUTH ADVOCACY

South Africa

Ayakha Melithafa is a 17 year old learner from Khayelitsha who through her studies of the environment has spoken at places like the UN about climate change with other youth activists. Ayakha is a student at the Centre of Science and Technology in Khayelitsha and is also recruitment officer and spokesperson for the African Climate Alliance, a youth-led climate advocacy group. From this, she and 15 other young people recently filed a groundbreaking legal complaint to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

From her input on the legal petition, Ayakha noted that the 2018 Cape Town drought or “Day Zero” demonstrated the

need for protection of the environment as well as resource management systems that protect the health of the planet and human beings.

Ayakha’s activism focuses on empowering young people to learn about climate change and create solutions so keep the environment healthy.

More profiles of young African activists can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3bzLkn6>

RESOURCES

- WWF
- Our World in Data : Deforestation
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- FAO as a part of the UN
- UN Africa Renewal
- National Geographic
- African Wildlife Foundation

REFORESTATION, DEFORESTATION



RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

ANGLES

“DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT REFORESTATION AND DEFORESTATION”

- What is deforestation? Why is it important to talk about deforestation?
- In what way does deforestation affect our community?
- In what way will deforestation affect young people?
- What are some of the most common issues experienced in your community as a result of deforestation?
- What are some of the things you can do to help address the issues related to deforestation in your community?

CHOOSE AN ANGLE

“What is deforestation and reforestation? Why is it important to talk about it in relation to young people’s behaviour?”

DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT ““WHAT IS DEFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION?”

- Why is it important to talk about it in relation to young people’s behaviour?”
- What is the importance of forests?
- What is the connection between forests and indigenous knowledge?

FORMATS



VOX POPS (30 SECONDS)



Vox pop aim

To get many opinions on one topic.



Who do you talk to?

Anybody in the community.



Question

Do you know what deforestation is? Or do you know why trees are important to the environment?



AUDIO COMMENTARY (2 MINUTES)



Audio commentary aim

To get people's opinion about a topic that they care deeply about.



Who do you talk to?

- A person involved in a tree planting project.
- A community organisation that is involved in climate change.
- A community member who has a keen interest in reforestation



Talking points:

- Why are forests essential?
- How do trees protect our health and the health of the planet?
- What are the ways people can get involved in helping conserve forests?
- Why should agriculture and land be regulated?
- Why should people know and care about deforestation?



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA) 30 SECONDS



The aim of a PSA

To create a public awareness message. Create a PSA that encourages people to save water



Create a PSA that raises awareness about the importance of talking to young people about (angle related to deforestation/reforestation title).

Voice 1: Lethabo, did you know Africa is home to the second largest rainforest in the world? And that it is also facing threat of deforestation, or the cutting down of trees for either farming or business or sometimes the illegal selling of wood?

Voice 2: I didn't know that! Trees are really important to the economy, medicine, culture, and the air we breathe!

Voice 1: Exactly! It shows how important it is to protect our forests and make sure they get taken care of so we can take care of ourselves.

Voice 2: Absolutely!

Slogan: Save the trees - they are our second pair of lungs!



AUDIO PROFILE AIM (3 MINUTES)



Audio profile aim:

To get a first person account of someone's experience, passion or journey. Audio profiles often aim to inspire.



Who do you talk to?

- A young person who is involved in a tree planting project.
- A professional who works in a reforestation project



HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW

Use your produced radio features, your research and the suggested script and questions to write your own script.

[INTRO:]

Host 1: It's just gone [TIME] and you're just in time for the [NAME OF SHOW] on [RADIO STATION]. My name is [NAME].

Host 2: And my name is [NAME]. On today's show, we will be talking about deforestation and reforestation

Host 1: Oh, wow! That sounds like a big topic! Where will we begin?

Host 2: How about we begin with defining it?

Host 1: Shap, go for it!

Host 2: Deforestation is the process of clearing trees and forests for other uses of the land like agriculture and farming. Reforestation is the opposite of that and can be achieved by re-planting trees and protecting existing forest from more destruction.

Host 1: In other words, the destruction of forests and wildlife and the solutions to both help rebuild ecosystems and prevent more widespread destruction.

Host 2: Yup! That's correct. It's all a part of environmental justice!

Host 1: Good to know. So deforestation also has to do with climate change?

Host 2: Absolutely, not only do forests provide us with medicine, food, and wildlife, but the trees filter the planet's air and store CO2 reducing the rate of global warming.

Host 1: Wow, protecting our forests is really important!

Host 2: Exactly. I wonder what other peoples' relationship is to forests and how young people can be involved in advocacy and reforestation?

Host 1: I think that's a great segue to hear from our listeners. We would love to hear from you. How are young people in your life involved in combating deforestation and how do you think people can get involved or start their own tree planting projects?

[PRESENT WHO IS BEING INTERVIEWED]
[PLAY THE INTERVIEW]
[ENGAGE AUDIENCE BY ASKING QUESTIONS AND GIVING THEM A CHANCE TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT THEY'VE HEARD]

Host 1: It was good to hear from our listeners. It was good to hear from our listeners. If we want to actively change the issues around inequality and climate justice in our community we need to come together and consistently raise awareness! The message is that climate justice should have a view to improving gender, economic, energy, racial and environmental



HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW

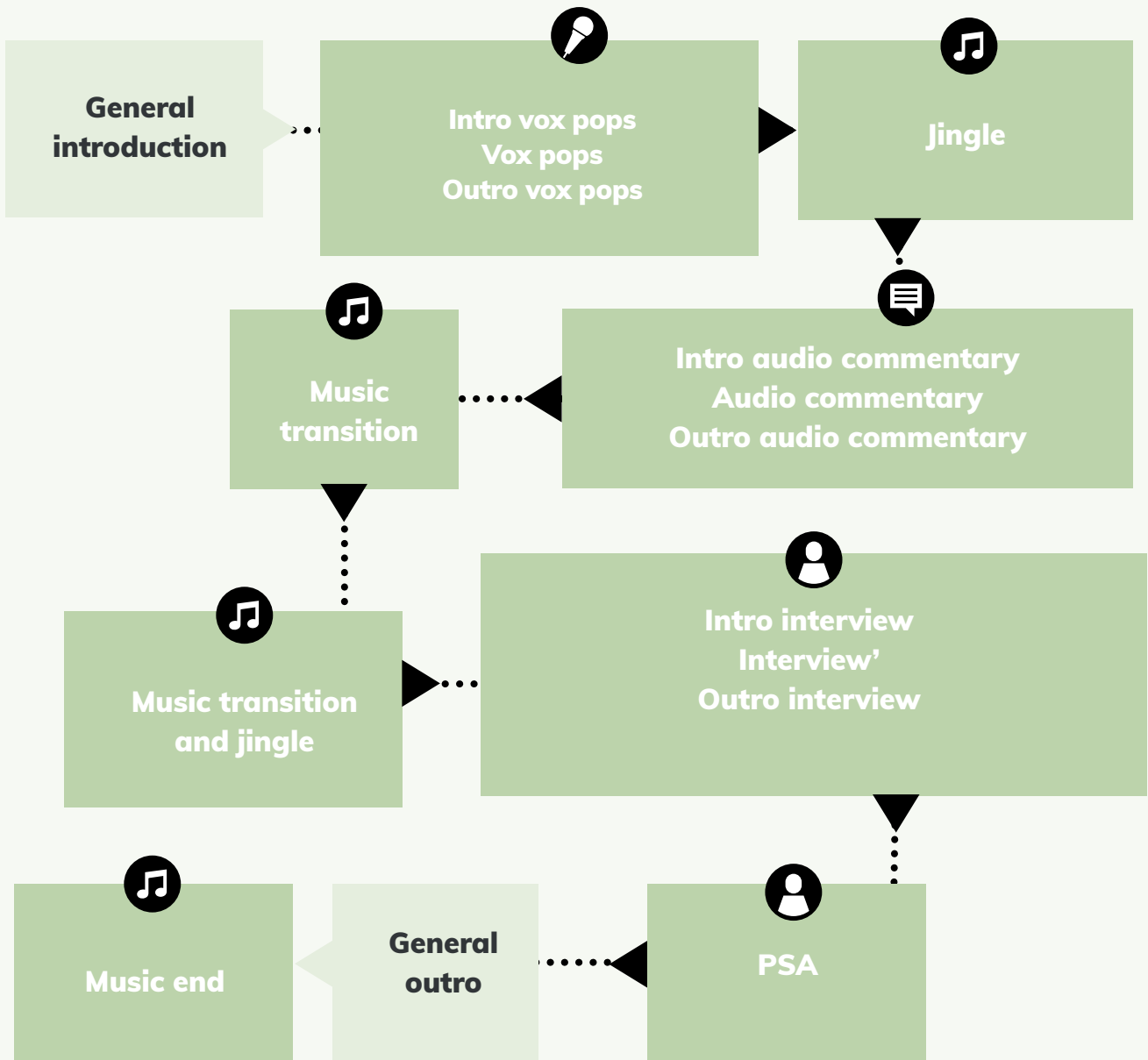
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justice in our communities too. They're all interconnected!"

Host 2: Yes! It means that a lot of us are affected by forests and wildlife, even if it's through the price of food or medicine.

Host 1: Yhoooo, today's conversation has been really informative and riveting! Join us next week on [DAY] at [TIME]. We'll be talking all about [NEXT WEEK'S SHOW TOPIC]. Until then, it's bye from us!

SHOW OUTLINE



ETHICS AND CONSENT

This may be a sensitive topic for some, so make sure you inform your audience to respect those who share personal stories in the space.