

Environmental Problems

What are the environmental problems in Zambia?

Although Zambia has a large mining sector and is one of the most industrialized countries in Africa, its environment and biodiversity face a number of challenges and threats. Some of the environmental problems the country faces are poor industrial and domestic waste management, poor restoration of mines, deforestation and clearing of grasslands, overfishing, illegal wildlife trade and poaching, pollution of the air, land and water, and falling levels of water bodies from the strain from irrigation-based agriculture and hydro-electricity generation.

These problems cause threats such as loss of natural habitats and ecosystems for animals and plants, water scarcity, and the inability to generate adequate energy supply.

These problems affect individuals, communities, businesses, industries and mining activities.

Questions to Start a Discussion

- ★ What are some of the environmental problems you see in your community?
- ★ What are the causes these problems?
- ★ What effects do they have on individuals and the community?
- ★ How can young people participate in preventing environmental problems from getting worse? Give some examples.
- ★ What do you think would be solutions to the problems?

In the dry season, bushfires are prevalent, and smoke is noticeable by smell and as a haze. The fires are ignited by villagers hunting, burning crop residue, and preparing chitemene gardens.

Both charcoal burning and traditional and modern farming methods involve clearing large areas of forest land.

Water pollution arises from dumping and contamination of water sources by sewage and toxic industrial chemicals.

Did you know that...

The Copperbelt region, Zambia's mineral-extraction and refining center, has been heavily polluted by contaminants including acid rain.

The buildup of toxins in the soil near many smelters poses a threat to food crops, livestock and people.

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What are the effects of environmental problems?

Environmental problems take a toll on:

- ★ Children and young people: making their environments unsafe to play, go to school and live in.
- ★ The Community: causing poor quality of life and limited access to natural resources such as clean water and food, and reliable energy.
- ★ Businesses: making some unable to operate to their potential for productivity and output.

Some tips on conservation of the environment:

- ★ Maximize on daytime hours for natural light and energy from the sun
- ★ Use water efficiently
- ★ Do not cut down trees and clear forest land
- ★ Dispose of the different types of waste matter correctly
- ★ Recycle waste materials

What are impacts of the environmental problems in Zambia?

- ★ People get sick because of the heavily polluted environments and conditions they live in.
- ★ Agricultural activities become unsustainable and unreliable, thereby causing food insecurity.
- ★ Livestock and wildlife struggle to survive.
- ★ The cost of living rises because there is competition for the limited resources available, leaving more and more people living in poverty.



Environmental Problems

Start here

Choose an angle for your show!

- ★ Examples of the little things we do daily that build up and affect the environment.
- ★ The toll and effects environmental degradation has on individuals, communities, businesses, industries and mining activities.
- ★ How can we participate in environmental conservation?
- ★ Practical ways in which we can restore the environment.

Speak To People in Your Community

- ★ Ask friends and family members what environmental problems they know of.
- ★ Identify a young person in your community who is involved in protecting or restoring the environment. Ask them what activities they are doing and why.
- ★ Identify a community leader and ask them what they are doing to prevent and solve existing environmental problems.
- ★ Find a business person who has been affected by environmental problems. Ask them to explain how they have been affected.

Different ways to talk about environmental issues:

- ★ What are some of the examples of environmental problems you see in your community?
- ★ What role can we play as young people to protect our environment?
- ★ How can we participate in restoring the environment?
- ★ What do you think will happen in the future if we do not do something about the environmental problems we see today?

Find out more!

Also rely on local resources: newspapers, community based organizations, government officials, and peer educators.

www.unicef.org/zambia

www.ministryoflands.gov.zm/natural-resources-and-environment

www.zema.org.zm
www.voicesofyouth.org

Google

**Environment,
Climate
Change,
Conservation &
Pollution**

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HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW

Here is an example of how you might script some of the parts of the show.

Questions for your Vox Pops/ Audio Commentary or other feature format:

- ★ What are some of the environmental problems you see around you?
- ★ How will you participate in environmental conservation?
- ★ What do you think will happen in the future if we do not do something about the environment now?

INTRO:
[PLAY JINGLE]

Host 1: Hello you're listening to [NAME OF SHOW] on [RADIO STATION]. My name is [NAME]...

Host 2: And my name is [NAME]. On today's show we're talking about environmental problems. We're asking you what problems you see in your community? And how these problems affect you and other people?

Host 1: We will also see what solutions there are to our environmental problems. But first, let's hear what you had to say.

[NAME OF REPORTER] went out and spoke to several people in the community to find out which different environmental problems they see around them!

[Play VOX POPS OR AUDIO COMMENTARY]

OUTRO:

Host 1: We have heard about several problems in our community from you and your suggestions what we can do about them.

Host 2: I'm inspired, and also want to go out and participate in restoring my environment too!

Host 1: We hope you enjoyed the show. Check us out next week on [RADIO STATION]. Share your comments on our Facebook page and keep shining! Goodbye!