

Seedlings for Zambia

Change begins with Knowledge



The word “broadcast” means “to scatter seeds.” With these programs, you can plant seedlings throughout your daily broadcast to become a Green Station. Seedlings are short pieces about climate change that can include facts, simple solutions, nature poems, songs, and listener ideas.

1. This is Seedlings.

Here is a classic poem by Robert Frost, titled “Birches.”

When I see birches bend to left and right
Across the lines of straighter darker trees,
I like to think some boy's been swinging them.
But swinging doesn't bend them down to stay.
Ice-storms do that. Often you must have seen them
Loaded with ice a sunny winter morning
After a rain. They click upon themselves
As the breeze rises, and turn many-coloured
As the stir cracks and crazes their enamel.
Soon the sun's warmth makes them shed crystal shells
Shattering and avalanching on the snow-crust
Such heaps of broken glass to sweep away
You'd think the inner dome of heaven had fallen.
They are dragged to the withered bracken by the load,
And they seem not to break; though once they are bowed
So low for long, they never right themselves:
You may see their trunks arching in the woods
Years afterwards, trailing their leaves on the ground,
Like girls on hands and knees that throw their hair
Before them over their heads to dry in the sun.
But I was going to say when Truth broke in
With all her matter-of-fact about the ice-storm,
I should prefer to have some boy bend them
As he went out and in to fetch the cows-
Some boy too far from town to learn baseball,
Whose only play was what he found himself,
Summer or winter, and could play alone.
One by one he subdued his father's trees
By riding them down over and over again
Until he took the stiffness out of them,
And not one but hung limp, not one was left
For him to conquer.

He learned all there was
To learn about not launching out too soon
And so not carrying the tree away
Clear to the ground. He always kept his poise
To the top branches, climbing carefully
With the same pains you use to fill a cup
Up to the brim, and even above the brim.
Then he flung outward, feet first, with a swish,
Kicking his way down through the air to the ground.
So was I once myself a swinger of birches.
And so I dream of going back to be.
It's when I'm weary of considerations,
And life is too much like a pathless wood
Where your face burns and tickles with the cobwebs
Broken across it, and one eye is weeping
From a twig's having lashed across it open.
I'd like to get away from earth awhile
And then come back to it and begin over.
May no fate willfully misunderstand me
And half grant what I wish and snatch me away
Not to return. Earth's the right place for love:
I don't know where it's likely to go better.
I'd like to go by climbing a birch tree
And climb black branches up a snow-white trunk
Toward heaven, till the tree could bear no more,
But dipped its top and set me down again.
That would be good both going and coming back.
One could do worse than be a swinger of birches.



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

ACP^C
African Climate Policy Centre

ClimDev-Africa

DEVELOPING RADIO PARTNERS

910 17th St. NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20006 • +1-215-836-7686 • www.developingradio.org • info@developingradio.org



www.facebook.com/devradiopartners



@drpradio

2. This is Seedlings.

Dr. Mohamed Overssiar is a senior research officer at Arid Zones Research Institute in Tunisia, and he thinks a technique that is working in Tunisia could be just what Zambia needs to increase crop yields. At a conference in Livingstone, Dr. Overssiar suggested harvesting rainwater, then using it to irrigate high-value crops in areas like the Southern Province that experience dry spells. While Zambia was experiencing a delayed start to the rainy season in the Southern Province this year, Tunisia was irrigating with rainwater and producing a healthy olive yield on land that has been traditionally dry. Dr. Overssiar is working on a five-year project funded by the European Union called Water Harvesting for Rain-fed Africa, or WAHARA, and hopes to bring the water harvesting techniques that are working in Tunisia to Zambia, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso. He sees irrigation as a path to food security, and food security as a path to development.



3. This is Seedlings.

Styrofoam is one of the most widely-used plastics, but also one of the most harmful to the environment. It takes a lot of energy to manufacture, then lasts more than 500 years before it breaks down. Many recycling plants refuse to take Styrofoam because it is not cost-effective to treat, and so those cups, plates, and packing materials get dumped illegally in the ocean. After hearing these facts at one of their conferences, The Mothers' Union of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa decided to do something about it. They have pledged to stop using Styrofoam in their homes and at church events, even starting an awareness campaign to let the public know about green alternatives to Styrofoam. In an effort to leave a better world for their grandchildren, the women of the Mothers' Union are also planting trees, growing vegetable patches, and promoting recycling in their communities. Do you use Styrofoam in your daily life? Consider switching to reusable materials like real plates and cups and save money, too!



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

ACP/C
African Climate Policy Centre



910 17th St. NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20006 • +1-215-836-7686 • www.developingradio.org • info@developingradio.org



www.facebook.com/devradiopartners



@drpradio

Seedlingsfrom Developing Radio Partners

4. This is Seedlings.

Vice President Inonge Wina launched her climate resilience initiative, called “Go Green and Act” on February 24th in a speech encouraging Zambians to recognize the impacts climate change is already having on their lives. She called climate change an obstacle to development, and pointed to the erratic rainfall throughout the 2014/2015 growing season. Vice President Wina projected that the effects of climate change would keep an additional 300,000 Zambians below the poverty line over the next decade, saying, “The frequency and intensity of these extreme climatic events are expected to rise in the future, with key impacts on the agriculture, water, infrastructure and energy sectors.” But she also congratulated the government on past successful projects and pointed to their 2013 partnership with the World Bank on the Zambezi flood plain. There project members reached out to nearly 5,000 households, twelve times more than they had originally planned, educating them about how to adapt to climate change and improving infrastructure.



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

ACP^C
African Climate Policy Centre

ClimDev-Africa



DEVELOPING RADIO PARTNERS

910 17th St. NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20006 • +1-215-836-7686 • www.developingradio.org • info@developingradio.org



www.facebook.com/devradiopartners



@drpradio