



FutureLife-Now!

News release

Our Changing Climate: our Time to Act Now! - A two-part television production showcasing innovative homegrown responses to the threat of climate change in 3 Southern African countries launches this week.

Date: 26 April 2021

Our Changing Climate: Our Time to Act Now! was developed in partnership with the UN CC: Learn Secretariat, UNITAR; MIET Africa, and pro- active environmental ministries - in Malawi, the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources, in Zambia, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, and in Zimbabwe, the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry. The television production will be broadcast in English, Nyanja, Bemba, Shona, Ndebele and Chichewa.

The programme also features young climate change activists in the 3 countries and highlights what they are doing to improve their environment.

Climate change increasingly hinders and interferes with sustainable development in Southern Africa. With the impact of COVID-19 on the economies and development plans in the region, the need to build resilience in the post COVID-19 era becomes even more critical considering the interplay between climate change, human health, and socio-economic development. The TV programmes target the public, including youths, adults, community and national leaders, with the assumption that the programmes will be viewed in family groups during prime time.

Four projects, varying from the rehabilitation of a forest by a local community to a youth-led school improvement project, are showcased.

Malawi

- We visit the Shire River valley, site of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power station which was seriously damaged during the Idai Cyclone, to see how local communities are rehabilitating forests on the river banks to stop future flood damage.
- We also visit Bwaila School in Lilongwe, to learn more about what youths are doing through the youth-led Bwaila Go-Green project, to care for their school environment.

Zambia

- We showcase the Old Orchard Organic Farm in Zambia's Kafue Valley, where only natural, organic fertilisers have been used for 20 years, and where crop rotation is used to prevent soil erosion. We learn how more than 200 farmers from across Zambia have been trained to farm in the same earth-friendly way.

Zimbabwe

- We talk to a group of youths who have taken the lead in rehabilitating the polluted Lake Chiwero, the largest lake outside Harare. They remove broken fishing nets, collect plastics and bottles, and clear other forms of waste. Their goal is to keep the water clean and the aquatic system healthy, so that projects such as fish breeding can support the livelihoods of surrounding communities

Youth empowerment

While many environmental issues may lie in the domain of government control, communities that are better informed about such matters are more able to adapt to catastrophic environmental events. Programmes such as Our Changing Climate – Out Time to Act! offers an effective vehicle to drive a response to the very real threat of climate change and related anthropogenic impacts on the natural environment. By raising awareness, building capacity and improving environmental literacy, children and youth, in one of the most climate vulnerable regions, will be encouraged and empowered to lead local action towards environmental sustainability.

The TV production follows on the heels of a successful climate change radio series that aimed to provide accurate and scientific information about climate change so that listeners can be better able to mitigate and adapt to its negative effects.

Broadcast times (see separate document)

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UN CC:Learn

The One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn) is a collaborative initiative of more than 30 multilateral organizations supporting countries to design and implement systematic, recurrent and results-oriented climate change learning. The Secretariat for UN CC:Learn is hosted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). At the global level, the partnership supports knowledge-sharing, promotes the development of common climate change learning materials, and coordinates learning interventions through a collaboration of UN agencies and other partners. At the national level, UN CC:Learn supports countries in developing and implementing national climate change learning strategies. Through its engagement at the national and global levels, UN CC:Learn contributes to the implementation of Article 6 of the UNFCCC on training, education and public awareness-raising, and the 2012-2020 Doha Work Programme.

UN CC:Learn is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and UN Partners.

MIET Africa

MIET Africa is a regional NGO with its head office in South Africa. Established in 1996, its purpose is to promote the holistic development of children and youth and their associated school communities in the SADC Region by supporting education, as well as health, socioeconomic and environmental development, where it relates to education. As an African NGO and an innovator of education approaches, and through strong partnerships, the organisation is able to make a significant contribution to sustainable development in the region.



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