



SHARING WITH OTHERS

OVERVIEW

Sharing successful and positive stories of ESD can inspire family and friends, learners and colleagues and the rest of society to transition to a more sustainable community. Sharing resources, ideas and time gives back to both society and the environment. Standing up and voicing concerns about environmental issues raises awareness and has the potential to bring about systemic change.

We can begin to **share our story** by using a variety of forms of communication. We can raise awareness by organising or taking part in **green community service**, thereby multiplying our positive environmental impact. We can also share our well-informed opinions about environmental issues through **advocacy and activism**. These can be 'behind the scenes', or at times when we need to join together, speak up and raise our voices for a sustainable future!



1. SHARE YOUR STORY

Let us share our stories! These can be stories of our motivations, activities, successes, challenges, and ultimately lessons learned for next time. This also presents an opportunity to reflect on and evaluate our activities and our impact.

There are many different avenues of how we can share our stories. We can give presentations at school and in the community. We can display a poster or photo exhibition. We can share on social media or in the newspaper, invite the media to an event or write a report or article. Or we can just share with people in daily conversation.

SOME COMMUNICATION BASICS

RESOURCE

CHECK

When sharing our story, regardless of which platform, we should adhere to a set of standards. This includes ensuring that the information and photos are relevant, factually correct and appropriate.



Good quality photos and videos can be very effective in sharing our stories - it is worth taking the time to learn how to take a good photograph!



We can also use drama, art or comedy as a form of communication. A Namibian comedian, Fernando Tafish, performs an Enviro Comedy act throughout the country and on social media.

> Check out Fernando Tafish Takes on the Streets video for a different, yet impactful form of raising awareness, or the video His Epic Message Will Make You Want to Change the World.



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going green!

REPORTING ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

We can follow good media practice guidelines when we report on our own experiences, as well as, when we report on environmental affairs. Our stories of change can be an inspiration to many and we should share them!

RESOURCE CHECK See the **Communicating Climate Change** guide to get advice on how to communicate this important topic that faces our world today.

In South Africa, a programme that mentors youth in environmental reporting is illustrating that the power a story can have is unlimited. Raising awareness about environmental topics that we are concerned about or feel that others do not know enough about, is an important part of ESD.

CHANGE PROJECT

a process of change that an individual or a group of people have undergone. Whether at home, at work, or as part of recreation, to resolve an evident social-ecological risk. The goal being to make a change in perspective and act towards more sustainable practices.

O'Donoghue & Taylor, 2021



INTERACTIVE PLATFORMS

RESOURCE

CHECK

There are many 'apps' that are designed for smartphones to share our activities and can be great platforms for teachers and schools. The Earth Charter International developed an app to connect people around the world on a platform that logs our environmental actions - specifically our actions linked to the SDGs and the Earth Charter.

Make sure to use an educational app and to follow safe user policies.

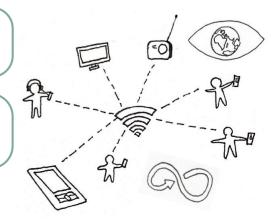


this school planted ...



 RESOURCE
 See the Mapting App guide for how you can share your actions as you contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and Earth Charter objectives.

 RESOURCE
 See The Power of Media Toolkit for the various ways one can use media and how to best use it to communicate your objective(s).



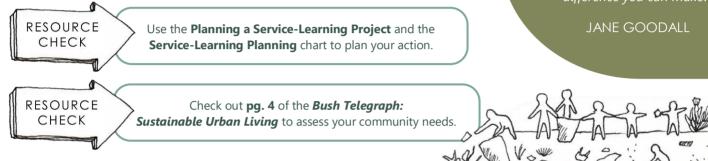
2. GREEN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteering our time is a valuable asset to our community. There are many different ways that our class, school or Environmental Club can give back to the community. We can decide on a project by first assessing what is actually needed. When necessary, we should first get permission from our community or relevant authority.

"People say think globally, act locally. Well, if you think globally, it is overwhelming and you do not have enough energy left to act locally. Just act locally and see what a difference you can make!"

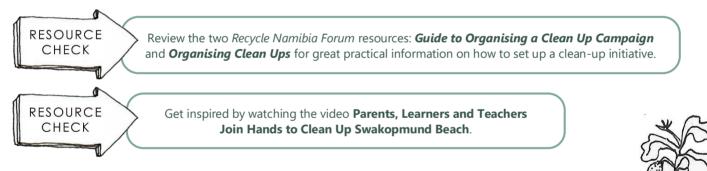
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CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN

One of the most common community service projects in Namibia is a clean-up campaign. These campaigns help keep our environment clean when done regularly and if sustainable practices are being implemented during the clean-up! For example, try to serve food without creating more waste!



COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING & VEGETABLE GARDENS

In **Toolkit 3.2 – Promote Learner Well-being** and **3.4 – Bring Biodiversity into the Schoolyard** we learned about vegetable gardening and tree planting, respectively. We

can also share these skills and material resources with our community. A community tree planting project can be done by many people in a day or by a few people over time. A community garden can be a big undertaking and needs to have the support of our community to be successful. We need to remember to plant trees that are appropriate for our natural area or ones that will provide food.



ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Another green community service activity can be ecosystem restoration. In *Toolkit 1.1 – Know Namibia's Environment*, we learned that healthy ecosystems are essential to mitigating the effects of climate change. On the 5th of June 2021 (i.e. World Environment Day) the United Nations launched the new **Decade of Ecological Restoration**. We can join forces with this global movement to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation.

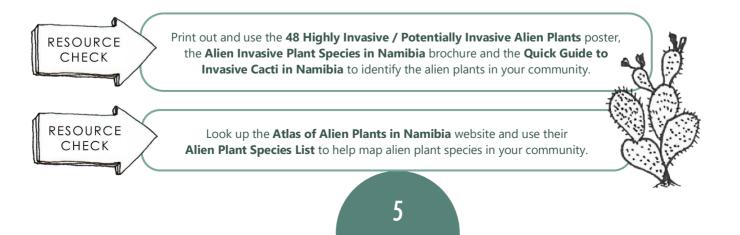
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

is assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed, as well as conserving the ecosystems that are still intact.



Depending on the type of ecosystem and how far it has been degraded will determine what actions we need to take to restore it. Many restoration projects are likely to include the planting of indigenous vegetation, so refer back to **Toolkit 3.4** for resources on indigenous plants in Namibia, and how to restore soil.

Some ecosystems may be invaded by invasive alien plants. Part of restoration can be taking part in citizen science, by identifying and mapping these alien invasive plants. Refer back to **Toolkit 1.3 – Environmental Issues in Namibia** to understand why this is important.



3. ADVOCACY & ACTIVISM

Standing up for the environment through activism and protecting environmental rights through advocacy are often needed to bring about large systemic change towards sustainable development. This is closely

linked to our environmental ethics and the realization that we can and do make a difference – especially when we join our forces. There are many ways to defend the environment and promote its protection. Advocacy or activism activities aim to get a clear message out and to influence decision-makers.



GETTING ORGANISED

As with all other events, make sure to get organised. It is not helpful to the cause if our actions are disorganized, not registered or do not send out a clear message. This applies to organising a protest, writing a letter to decision-makers, sharing information on social media, or any other form of activism.

ADVOCACY

Working *within* the system to achieve a political, environmental or social goal.

ACTIVISM

Taking direct action to achieve a political, environmental or social goal.



MEETING WITH DECISION MAKERS

If our protest activities are well recognised, we may have the opportunity to meet with decision-makers to discuss and share our ideas. Swedish youth activist, Greta Thunberg, started the Fridays for Futures movement and has since been invited to speak at the United Nations General Assembly and by many world leaders to share her ideas. It is vital to be prepared for these opportunities.



BECOMING A CHANGE AGENT

Ultimately, *we* are the ones who can be and need to be influencers, innovators and leaders to drive change. Becoming a **change agent** - someone who acts as a catalyst for change – can be challenging. The systems that are in place (e.g. our fossil-fuel based economy, government structures, and school governance) are much slower to change than we usually want them to. Most people are resistant and reluctant to make changes for the environment – some are too comfortable in their lifestyles, while many others are struggling to just get their basic needs met. People are also reluctant to change if they do not fully understand the severity and interconnectedness of the environmental crisis. They may need positive, simple and clear guidelines on how to implement change.

Being a change agent requires:

- Having a **clear vision** of what we want to achieve
- Being patient, but persistent
- Asking **tough questions** and **challenging** current ways of thinking and doing things
- Being knowledgeable and thinking in systems
- Leading by example
- Developing strong relationships built on trust

RESOURCE CHECK

Get more in-depth tips on becoming a change agent by reading *Why Teachers Must Become Change Agents* and *Being an Effective Change Agent*.

"In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground, a time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now."

WANGARI MAATHAI

RESOURCE

CHECK

One of the most inspiring and world-renowned change agents was Wangari Maathai, an environmental, social and political activist from Kenya. She founded the Green Belt Movement in the 1970s, which encouraged and empowered local women to grow indigenous trees, in order to reestablish local forests, prevent soil erosion and to restore fresh water sources. Even though she died in 2011, her legacy continues. Her work is a testament to the power of grassroots organizing and shows that one person's simple idea - that people should come together to plant trees - *can* make a difference.

Watch the short video **Wangari Maathai -Defender of the Earth, Fighter for Democracy** and read **Wangari Maathai's Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech**. Watch her share her message in the video I **Will Be a Humming Bird.**







What is your vision? What is your idea? What difference will you make?

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1. SHARE YOUR STORY

Bush Telegraph: Media for the Environment

<u>BOOKLET</u>: This issue of the Bush Telegraph focuses on environmental journalism: what it is, how to be an environmental journalist and shows why it is significant through examples of this journalism in Namibia. **AUTHOR:** NaDEET (2015)

Link: https://nadeet.org/sites/default/files/2015 1 BT Environmental%20Journalism.pdf

Speaking Green: How to Share Your Environmental Story

<u>PRESENTATION</u>: This presentation gives insight into how to present an environmental movement and/or story. It includes dos and don'ts and guidance on tailoring your story to effectively reach your target audience.

AUTHOR: Julie's Bicycle (2019)

Link: https://juliesbicycle.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/JuliesBicycle Communication Webinar.pdf

Celebrating World Environment Day

<u>VIDEO</u>: This video interview of various youth on World Environment Day is an example using interviews to spark conversation and thought, as well as inform on various topics - environmental activism in this case. **AUTHOR:** Think Namibia (2016) Link: <u>https://vimeo.com/169985957</u>

Tools of the Trade

<u>CHAPTER</u>: *Getting Your Message Across* gives guidance to effective communication of findings. It looks at the various methods of expressing/presenting data, breaking down best use of the methods to communicate. **AUTHOR:** D. du Toit, T. Sguazzin (1995)

Smartphone Photography

<u>PRESENTATION</u>: This presentation outlines the basics of using a phone to capture, edit, store and share photos and videos. It includes tips to taking good photos and videos and app suggestions for editing. **AUTHOR:** Manhattan Public Library (2019)

Link: https://www.mhklibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Smartphone-Photography.pdf

Fernando Tafish Takes on the Streets

<u>VIDEO</u>: This video is part of EduVentures Enviro-comedy series, initiated as a method of creating awareness for environmental issues. Fernando Tafish interviews Namibian's asking pertinent environmental questions. **AUTHOR:** EduVentures (2020)

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 01TdxhMs98





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His Epic Message Will Make You Want to Change the World

VIDEO: This video shows spoken word artist, Prince Ea advocating for environmental protection whilst highlighting the impact of unsustainable practices, challenging the humans to urgently adopt sustainability. AUTHOR: National Geographic (2017)

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-nEYsyRIYo

Communicating Climate Change: A Practitioner's Guide

MANUAL: This guide shares tips, knowledge and examples of effective climate change communication in developing countries. It is aimed at those engaged in climate change action, with varying levels of influence. AUTHOR: M. Dupar with L. McNamara and M. Pacha. (2019) Link:https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Communicating%20dimate%20dnange Insights%20from%20CDKNs%20experience.pdf

Young Reporters for the Environment Programme

VIDEO: This news report style video presents the Young Reporters programme, explaining what it is, what it involves and its significance as a channel for young people advocating for environmental awareness. AUTHOR: WESSA (2018)

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2WCEW7IwGU

Mapting App

APP: This guide outlines the basics of the Mapting App and how to use it. It also illustrates how it fits into the Earth Charter and SDGs, and how the actions you take line up with achieving the objectives. AUTHOR: Earth Charter International (2018)

Link: https://earthcharter.org/library/mapting-use-guide/

The Power of Media Toolkit: Responsible and Sustainable Living

MANUAL: This toolkit provides information and guidance on various forms of media and how to use each of them in expression and to support different objectives. It includes activities and tips on best use practice. AUTHOR: PERL (2015)

Link: https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/toolkit 6 the power of media web.pdf

2. GREEN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Service-Learning Resources

HOW-TO and ACTIVITY SHEET: This basic framework shows how to develop, implement and reflect on a service-orientated project/lesson. The chart is to be used in conjunction as a planning template. **AUTHOR:** Learning to Give (n.d)

Link: https://www.learningtogive.org/sites/default/files/handouts/Planning SL Project.pdf







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Bush Telegraph: Sustainable Urban Living

BOOKLET: This issue focusses on the development of sustainable practices in urban environments. It includes activities to bring awareness to sustainable urban living and explains methods of greening urbanisation. AUTHOR: NaDEET (2020)

Link: https://nadeet.org/sites/default/files/2020_1_BT_Urban.pdf

Recycle Namibia Forum Clean Up Campaign Resources

MANUAL: These two resources illustrate the why and the how of clean up campaigns. They give practical tips, planning guidance and explanations on sustaining the actions taken on the day, and the impact thereof. AUTHOR: Recycle Namibia Forum (2021)

Link: https://rnf.com.na/clean-campaigns-guidebook

Link: https://rnf.com.na/sites/default/files/downloads/RNF-Clean-Up_Booklet.pdf

Parents, Learners and Teachers Join Hands to Clean Up <u>Swakopmund Beach</u>

VIDEO: This reporting video shows the Swakopmund community coming together to clean up their local beach. Speakers explain some of the process and how the day was enjoyable as much as it was impactful. AUTHOR: Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (2017) Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qvchnol0Sls

A Guide to Community Tree Planting and Care

MANUAL: This comprehensive guide explains and shows the process of community tree planting from specifics of how to get started, to planning community involvement and subsequent care once planted. AUTHOR: Tree Canada (2017)

Link: https://treecanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Guide-2-EN-tree-planting-and-care.pdf

Growing Food in Windhoek: Urban Agriculture and Policy and Practice

MANUAL: This informative booklet on urban agriculture shows Windhoek city planners and broad community coming together to establish community gardens and increase urban agriculture knowledge. **AUTHOR:** World Future Council (2017)

Link: https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Food-Handbook-final-web.pdf

The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

<u>REPORT</u>: This booklet is the official outline of the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. It introduces the initiative, identifies why there is a need for it and its vision, and explains the implementation plan of action. **AUTHOR:** UN Environment Programme (2020)

Link: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/31813/ERDStrat.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y



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UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

VIDEO: This presentation video introduces the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. It outlines why this has become a focal area, what the commitment is and the initiatives' areas of focus in its implementation. **AUTHOR:** UN Environment Programme (2020)

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIPMERHaLKM

Ecosystem Restoration Playbook: A Practical Guide to Healing the Planet

MANUAL: Developed cohesively with the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, this guide informs on principles and guidelines on how we can practically heal the planet, including why we should be caring for ecosystems. **AUTHOR:** UN Environmental Management Group (2021)

Link: https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Ecosystem-Restoration-Playbook.pdf

EIS Resources on Alien Plants

WEBSITE and GUIDE: Created to raise awareness on alien invasive species in Namibia, these resources contain species lists, identification guidance including photographs, and highlight alien species of concern. AUTHOR: P. Mutota (n.d), WML Consulting Engineers (n.d), Environmental Information Service Namibia, C. Mannheimer (n.d)

Link: http://www.the-eis.com/atlas/sites/default/files/Alien%20plants%20poster.pdf

Link: http://the-eis.com/elibrary/sites/default/files/downloads/literature/Alien%20invasive%20plant%20species%20in%20Namibia.pdf

Link: http://www.the-eis.com/atlas/sites/default/files/QUICKGUIDE%20TO%20INVASIVE%20CACTI%20IN%20NAMIBIA.pdf

Link: http://www.the-eis.com/atlas/?g=atlas-of-alien-plants

Link: http://www.the-eis.com/atlas/sites/default/files/Alien%20plant%20species%20list%20from%20Atlasing%20in%20Namibia.pdf

3. ADVOCACY & ACTIVISM

Youth Activist Toolkit

MANUAL: This booklet provides a guide to getting started, and then sustaining one's actions, as a youth activist. It explains initial motions needed, planning stages, the know-how and insight to sustainable activism. AUTHOR: Advocates for Youth (2019)

Link: https://advocatesforyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Youth-Activist-Toolkit.pdf

Young Person's Guide: Changing the World

MANUAL: Going through each of the SDGs, this youth guide is of daily actions in contribution to achieving the goals. It includes raising awareness and ways to effectively have an impact at varying levels. AUTHOR: AIESEC, UN Volunteers (2017)

Link: https://www.unv.org/sites/default/files/Young Persons Guide Changing the World FINAL.pdf











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Windhoek Schools Demonstrate Against Climate Change

<u>VIDEO</u>: This news report shows youth coming together with a common cause, raising climate change awareness in Windhoek. It shows the spokespeople expressing the significance of the crisis. **AUTHOR:** Namibia Press Agency (2019)

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYPWfVSFKfQ

Advocacy in Action Resources

<u>MANUAL</u>: These resources are designed to give guidance on being a person of influence. They include practical guides and information on Namibia's government and major decision-making entities. **AUTHOR**: Legal Assistance Centre (2007)

A Guide to Influencing Decision-Making in Namibia: <u>http://www.lac.org.na/projects/grap/Pdf/advguide07.pdf</u> Meetings with Decision Makers: <u>https://www.lac.org.na/projects/grap/Pdf/Advocacy2 Meetings with Decision-Makers.pdf</u> Planning an Advocacy Campaign: <u>http://www.lac.org.na/projects/grap/Pdf/Advocacy1 Planning an Advocacy Campaign.pdf</u>

Why Teachers Must Become Change Agents

<u>ARTICLE</u>: This article is written in promotion of teacher education programmes helping future teachers link their influencing moral purpose, with tools to enable them to engage in corresponding productive change. **AUTHOR:** M. G. Fullan (1993)

Link: http://michaelfullan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/13396031680.pdf

Being an Effective Change Agent

<u>MANUAL</u>: This booklet explores what it means to be a change agent and guides on how to pursue that most effectively and productively. It outlines key aims and characteristics of change agents, using these for change. **AUTHOR:** S. Bertels, J. Schulschenk, A. Ferry, V. Otto-Mentz, E. Speck (2016) Link: <u>https://embeddingproject.org/pub/resources/EP-Being-an-Effective-Change-Agent-Personal-Inventory.pdf</u>

Wangari Maathai Resources

<u>VIDEO and SPEECH</u>: Through the videos and her Nobel Prize winning speech, these resources give insight to Wangari Maathai's actions and stance as an environmental protector and change activist.

AUTHOR: Nobel Prize (2019), W. Maathai (2004), KTN News Kenya (2011)

Defender of the Earth, Fighter for Democracy: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMhDrJGGMFk</u> Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech: <u>https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2004/maathai/26050-wangari-maathai-nobel-lecture-2004/</u>

I will be a Hummingbird: https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=-btl654R pY





