



FACT SHEET &  
RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

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# COVID-19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SOUTH AFRICA

## INTRODUCTION

### **The more we take care of the Earth, the better the Earth can take care of us.**

Human health is deeply connected to the health of the planet. Our home, the Earth, is a vast web of life, with all the different plants, animals, insects, elements (i.e. air, water) and bacteria both supported by and contributing to the whole. Everything we need and use is produced through this web of life: clean air, fresh water, abundant food, medicines and other resources. People are also part of the Web of Life.

The Earth is under strain like never before: the burning of fossil fuels (like oil and charcoal) is causing climate change. Pollution and waste from all the things we make and consume - for example, our food, clothing, packaging, electronics and travel - is choking the air and filling up our waterways and oceans. The growth of cities, deforestation and the clearing of land for farming is swallowing up vast amounts of nature, causing wild species to go extinct and unravelling living webs of relationships.

Many of the same activities that harm the environment also shape how COVID-19 impacts people and society. Around 3 of every 4 new diseases are caused by viruses, bacteria and fungi found in nature ([ScienceLive](#)). As people push further and further into natural environments, we are

being exposed to more new diseases. The COVID-19 outbreak started with a virus that leapt from animals to humans, and then quickly spread from human to human, travelling around the world, hitching rides in airplanes and buses, crossing borders and spreading in marketplaces.

The globalisation of the economy set the stage for COVID-19's rapid spread, as people and goods moved freely around the world. The same patterns of globalisation and consumerism driving the spread of COVID-19 are also at the root of climate change.

Globalisation means that most of our cell phones, clothes and even increasingly our food come from other parts of the world, and have sometimes travelled around the world more than once during their various stages of production. Making and transporting these things requires huge amounts of minerals, water, fuels and packaging, and generates huge amounts of waste. In fact, we are now consuming resources and polluting the environment at such a rate that we would need the equivalent of 1.7 'planet Earths' to sustain these activities in the long run ([Ecological Footprint Network](#)).

When we exploit nature like this, we destroy the same web of life that protects us from disease. Polluting nature, we also poison our air, water and food - which undermines our own health and makes us more vulnerable



## INTRODUCTION

to diseases like COVID-19. Many of those who died or had severe cases of COVID-19 suffered from other underlying health issues that worsened the effects of the virus, including obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart and lung disease ([News 24](#)). The causes of these underlying illnesses - poor diet, exposure to pollution, lack of physical exercise, poverty and stress - often link back to the state of our environment and the structures of our economy. Heavily polluting agricultural and food industries produce cheap, highly processed food that makes us unhealthy. Cities that are built for cars generate air pollution and noise and discourage people from walking, cycling and using public transportation. In economies fuelled by a narrow 'growth' mindset, people are urged to buy and consume things whether they need them or not, while the social and environmental costs of consumption are ignored. As time goes on, it is more than likely that the effects of climate change will only grow worse, further increasing human suffering, death and disease - and at the same time contributing to the emergence of new pandemics.

So how do we change things? The difficulty for many of us is that our livelihoods are tied to the global economy. As borders have closed and trade and supply chains have been disrupted due to COVID-19, millions of people around the world have lost their livelihoods and been plunged into poverty and food insecurity. All our lives have been profoundly disrupted. But the good news is that as we recover from COVID-19 we can do things differently. We need to find ways of living lightly on the Earth and meeting everyone's material needs. We need to take care of the web of life that sustains us and provides for our wellbeing on the only home we have: planet Earth.

## DEFINITIONS

- Climate change** - People contribute to climate change and global warming by burning fossil fuels such as oil and gas when they travel by cars or airplanes, produce electricity and manufacture and transport food, clothing, electronics and other things around the world. Burning or cutting down forests and other natural environments also releases a lot of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. When carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases build up in the atmosphere, they trap the sun's heat and cause the Earth's surface temperatures to rise over time. This is known as the greenhouse effect. Scientists have studied climate change for many years, and how it can produce lasting changes to the environment in different parts of the world, including droughts, flooding, sea level rise, etc. Climate change is a symptom of the problem that people are taking more resources and producing more pollution than the planet can cope with.
- Zoonotic disease** - This is the term for illnesses caused by germs that are passed between animals and people. Zoonotic diseases can be caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites or fungi. About 3 out of every 4 new diseases in people will have spread from animals, including COVID-19 ([ScienceLive](#)). This can happen in many different ways: through contaminated food or water, through inhaled air particles, through an infected animal's feces or urine, or through the bite of an infected insect or animal. Often diseases find their way from wild animals to humans by way of domesticated animals or livestock ([ScienceLive](#)).
- Ecosystems** - are the natural webs of life that sustain life on Earth, including us. These are the living relationships that constitute life in a particular environment, such as a forest. All the different ecosystems found in forests, oceans, savannahs and in freshwater lakes and rivers combine to make one large ecosystem: the Earth. Together, these natural ecosystems produce everything that humans need to survive: clean air and water, medicines, insect pollination to produce food, carbon storage, recycling of waste, and protection against flooding, diseases and other natural disasters. Viruses also exist in nature. When natural ecosystems are destroyed or disturbed by humans, through activities like farming, mining and building roads, it can create the opportunity for viruses to pass from wildlife to humans ([Ensiq](#), [UNECA](#)). Climate change and other human activities are causing major disturbances to ecosystems around the world. Warming temperatures in the ocean, combined with increasing levels of pollution, for example, are contributing to the destruction of coral reef ecosystems ([Royal Society](#)).
- Biodiversity** - Is the variety of different life forms - plants, animals, insects, fungi, microbes - existing in a particular place. Some areas like rainforests and tropical coral reefs are naturally rich in biodiversity. Each species plays its

## OTHER DEFINITIONS

part in keeping the whole ecosystem intact. Burning or cutting down forests, clearing land for farming, releasing poisons into the environment or taking too much of a certain plant or animal, are all human activities that can lead to a loss of biodiversity. Scientists have found that when people destroy biodiversity, conditions become ripe for diseases like COVID-19 to emerge and spread to humans ([Scientific American](#), [UNECA](#)). For example, the 2018 Ebola outbreak in the DRC, which lasted until July 2020, has been linked to environmental disturbances, including deforestation and mining ([Nature](#)).

- **Pandemic** - A pandemic is when an outbreak of disease spreads across large parts of the world. COVID-19 is the worst pandemic to affect humanity in a century. Its rapid spread around the world reflects how closely our lives (both human and non-human) are intertwined with one another around the world - especially through the globalisation of our economy. As we travel the world, germs and diseases travel with us, spreading from person to person, and community to community, and country to country, via airplanes, buses, taxis, and in churches, market places, weddings and other social gatherings.
- **Globalisation** - Is one reason why COVID-19 has spread around the world so rapidly, with such profound impacts. Over the past 50 years there has been a rapid acceleration in the movement of people and goods around the world. For

example, the food we eat or the t-shirt we are wearing may have travelled around the world, with dozens of different people in different parts of the world involved in growing, producing, packaging, marketing and transporting that product for it to reach us. At the same time the global population has expanded and more of us live ever closer together in cities. All this close contact and constant circulation among people gives the virus the opportunity to leap across continents and spread from person to person - in airplanes, on buses, in crowded markets. At the same time, most of us have come to rely on being able to access consumer goods that are produced by supply chains distributed around the world. When factories closed in China due to COVID-19, for example, or tourists cancel their holidays, or countries have banned food exports to other countries in order to ensure their own food supplies are not disrupted, it affects many peoples' lives and livelihoods in other parts of the world.

- **Livelihoods** - Are the skills, resources, abilities and activities that you and your household develop to make a living, support the family and create value as an individual, a family and in society. A livelihood is considered to be healthy if it can recover from shocks and stresses, such as a poor harvest or the illness of a breadwinner ([FAO](#)). Across Africa, the disruptions of COVID-19 to the local as well as the global economy have so far affected an estimated 1 out of every 3 livelihoods (McKinsey). Often this vulnerability of livelihoods is combined

## OTHER DEFINITIONS

with weak social protections, meaning that if people lose their livelihoods they may find it difficult to access resources to help them recover, and remain trapped in poverty.

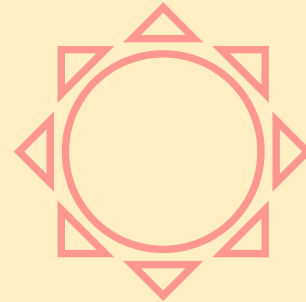
- **Inequality** - There are huge differences in the ways people live from one country to another, and sometimes within the same country, that shape how they have been (and may in future be) affected by climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic alike. In some societies, for example, people enjoy universal access to quality healthcare and high levels of social protection. Across much of Africa, the majority of people access their livelihoods in the informal economy and enjoy limited social protections, relying on family members and social networks in times of need. There are many other factors which make poor and low income countries and communities more vulnerable to climate change and COVID-19 alike, including poor infrastructure, poor sanitation, lower investment in public health, higher proximity to industrial activities, and higher disease burdens ([WHO](#)). For example, a study in the United States found that long term exposure to certain types of air pollution common to low income communities was associated with an 8% increase in the COVID-19 death rate ([Harvard](#)).
- **Food security** - means having the money and other resources you need to secure access to enough food to sustain an active and healthy lifestyle, which also fits your cultural preferences (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations). Food security depends not only on the production of food, but also on food being widely and continuously available and accessible to people. Even before COVID-19 hit, the FAO was reporting that food insecurity is on the rise across Africa for the first time in a decade. The reasons for food insecurity are complex, but often have to do with the dynamics of climate change, joblessness, the commodification of food and other societal concerns. For example, a lack of market access and extension and policy support, combined with climate change-related crop losses, and rock-bottom prices offered by buyers, keeps millions of small farmers across Africa so poor that they are food insecure. Poverty and food insecurity may drive small scale farmers to move to cities in search of employment. In cities, however, low wages and informal employment help to perpetuate food insecurity for many people and families, because they cannot regularly afford a healthy and sufficient diet (Joubert). COVID-19 adds further to this list of vulnerabilities, as poverty and poor nutrition increase peoples' chances of becoming severely ill and dying.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Rising poverty and hunger may drive more people to cut down trees, hunt wildlife and exploit other natural resources in order to survive.**

The wildlife trade is thought to be a likely source of the COVID-19 pandemic. Africa also has many wildlife markets considered risky for transmitting diseases from the wild to humans ([WWF](#)).

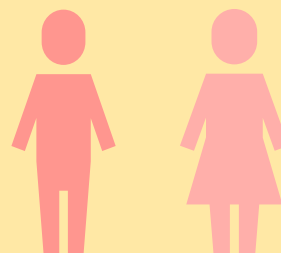
Temperatures have already warmed by about 1 degrees Celsius, according to the IPCC report leading to levels of natural disaster linked to climate change: wildfires, floods, storms, droughts, melting permafrost, locust swarms, heatwaves and the melting of polar ice sheets.



In East Africa, COVID-19 coincided with the worst outbreak of locust swarms in 70 years, due to shifting weather patterns brought on by climate change. The locust swarms devastated crops in many areas, multiplying hunger in a region that is already food insecure ([Guardian - video](#)).



Across Africa, the COVID pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of many people's livelihoods. The effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods may push an added 23 million people across Africa into extreme poverty in 2020 ([World Bank](#)).



## DID YOU KNOW?

Border closures and travel restrictions due to fears of COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on Africa's \$39 billion tourism industry ([NY Times](#)), including wildlife tourism (accounting for more than a third of tourism GDP in 2018). Thousands of people have lost their livelihoods, while businesses, national parks and government agencies have lost revenue ([Trade for Development News](#)).

With lockdown measures in force in some countries, governments have been less able to monitor wildlife poaching, illegal logging and fishing, marine poaching etc. Many activities like mining, logging and hunting wildlife that increase peoples' risk of exposure to zoonotic diseases, are on the rise because of the current gaps in law enforcement ([Al Jazeera](#)).

**CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS OUR FUTURE. IN 2018, THE INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE ([IPCC](#)), A PANEL OF THE WORLD'S LEADING CLIMATE SCIENTISTS, WARNED OF CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS FOR ALL LIFE IF THE PLANET WARMS BEYOND A THRESHOLD OF 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS (IPCC). FOR THE BEST CHANCE OF STABILISING TEMPERATURES, THE REPORT SAYS, THE WORLD MUST HALVE THE AMOUNT OF CARBON RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE BY 2030, AND FURTHER REDUCE EMISSIONS TO 'NET ZERO' BY 2050 - MEANING THAT WE DO NOT RELEASE MORE CARBON INTO THE ATMOSPHERE THAN THE EARTH USES IN ITS NATURAL CYCLES.**



## CLIMATE CHANGE, COVID AND FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

Looking at the COVID-19 crisis through the lens of food reveals even more about how human health and the environment are connected. Feeding the world's population is one of the biggest and most complex challenges we face - even more so due to both COVID-19 and climate change. Food and farming-related activities account for 70% of people's livelihoods across Sub-Saharan Africa. Regenerative farming methods that avoid chemicals and work with natural processes have a huge potential to preserve natural ecosystems while producing healthy food for people. But there is another side to the food industry which is incredibly destructive both to planetary and human health.

The food system is responsible for 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions ([Stockholm Resilience Centre - video](#)). While more than half of the world's food is still produced by small-scale farmers, multinationals have emerged as a steadily growing force, using their size, wealth and power to shape the food system in ways that serve their own interests but can be harmful to people and the planet. This trend is only accelerating, as ownership of the world's food supply concentrates in the hands of just a few giant multinational corporations.

Highly processed 'industrial food' produces greenhouse gas emissions, pollution and waste, and is also much less healthy than fresh, locally produced food. It is packed with fat and calories, but not much nutrition -- and this is contributing to global crises of obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Increasingly, the food industry is making us sick while it is destroying the planet. Every African country now suffers the triple burden of hunger, obesity and micronutrient deficiencies ([WWF-SA](#)), while globally one of every three people is either hungry or obese ([Gordon 2017](#)).

Just as poor diets are a big risk factor for COVID-19, making healthy, nutritious affordable food available to people will need to be a key part of the response to the pandemic ([Stockholm Resilience Centre - video](#)). Even before COVID-19 hit, people across Africa were already struggling with rising levels of food insecurity, in which climate change has played a role. Many people's diets were insufficient before the COVID-19 outbreak, and now there is the potential for them to get even worse. Lost livelihoods due to the pandemic may lead to double the number of people worldwide being severely food insecure. With lost incomes, many people are likely to have to cut back on healthy fresh food and dietary diversity, relying on basic staples like maize that offer low nutrition. This could have devastating long-term impacts, for example by causing malnutrition and irreversible stunting in young children ([Stockholm Resilience Centre](#)).

## BUSTING MYTHS

### MYTH

**COVID-19 has given the planet a break - with fewer humans on the streets, we've seen wildlife bouncing back and cleaner air in cities.**

### FACT

During lockdown there were penguins wandering streets in South Africa, and lower air pollution levels in cities because people were travelling less and factories had temporarily closed down ([UNCTAD](#)). Global carbon emissions reduced by 17% in April 2020 when much of the world was in lockdown. But these changes have been temporary. Carbon emissions quickly rebounded almost to 'normal' levels by June when economies were opening up again. There is reason to fear that as people adjust to the new COVID reality, impacts on pollution and climate change may even become worse in the long run. ([National Geographic](#)).

**Fresh food markets known as 'wet markets' are responsible for the spread of diseases like COVID-19 and should be closed down.**

Fresh food markets are vital to the social and economic life of many communities. Small producers rely on these markets for their livelihoods, and communities depend on them for fresh food. These markets can sometimes serve as a crossroads in the illegal wildlife trade, which is thought to be a big contributor to outbreaks of zoonotic diseases. However, many scientists say the focus should be on improving sanitary conditions in markets, rather than closing them down ([Ensiq](#)).

**We can't afford to stop and think about the climate and the environment now with the more immediate crisis of COVID-19 before us.**

Climate change is every bit as immediate and urgent as COVID-19. The longer we wait to address it, the worse it gets. The most recent report by the IPCC painted an alarming picture: Humanity only has a few years left to transition to a low carbon economy, and we are not making progress. If we continue to produce greenhouse gases at the current rate, they project that we may see an increase in temperatures of as much as 4 degrees Celsius by 2100 - which would make the Earth virtually uninhabitable!

**COVID-19 and climate change are two unrelated problems.**

Climate change is making the Earth sick, and all the pressures we are putting on the earth through extractive economies and consumption-driven lifestyles are undermining the Earth's ability to provide us with clean air, clean water and abundant healthy food that in turn provide for our health and make us more resilient to disease.

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF COVID-19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Disruptions mean we can no longer go on as before. Sometimes they can present a window of opportunity to shift how things work in the long run. But they can also make it harder to produce changes - for example when people are focused on an immediate crisis they tend to forget about longer term considerations. When resources have to be spent on addressing immediate problems like COVID-19, or the damages of a drought or flood, there are fewer resources to invest in longer term thinking that leads to transitioning the economy - for example investing in renewable energy, electric buses, etc. The economic toll of coronavirus has left some countries so desperate that their recovery efforts are led by dirty energy ([National Geographic](#)).

The global economy is currently powered by the idea of growth. But many are now calling for governments and businesses to instead organize their post-COVID-19 recovery efforts around the purpose of wellbeing for people and the planet. For example:

- In May 2020, New Zealand released its first budget based on the idea of wellbeing. The budget prioritizes environmental health, aims to reduce child poverty and help low income people develop skills and find opportunities ([WE Forum](#)).
- Bhutan, a tiny Asian country between India, China and Nepal, measures 'Gross National Happiness' across nine areas to inform policy making: psychological well being, health, education, time use, cultural diversity, good governance, community vitality, cultural diversity, ecological diversity and living standards ([OPHI](#)).
- Cities such as Paris have taken advantage of temporary lockdowns to change the traffic flows of their cities, opening up new lanes for cycling and restricting cars from certain areas of the city, making cities more walkable and bike friendly.
- In April 2020, the city of Amsterdam announced that it would adopt the framework of 'Doughnut Economics' to guide its post-coronavirus recovery, which focuses on guiding economic activity to meet people's needs and ensure quality of life for everyone without over-exploiting the planet's resources ([Guardian](#)).

What do you think? Does COVID-19 present us with opportunities as well as obstacles to changing our societies for the better in the long run? Do you see opportunities in your community to make lasting changes that are good for people and the environment?

## WAYS TO TALK ABOUT COVID-19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Some questions to consider:

- How have livelihoods and the economy been affected by COVID-19 and climate change in your community?
- What have been some of the short term effects you have noticed in the past few months? How do you think both these crises may affect your community in the longer term, and why?
- What are the greatest challenges of responding to COVID-19 and climate change in your community?
- What kinds of changes could make your community more resilient to the effects of both COVID-19 and climate change, and why? What would it take to bring about some of these changes?
- How do you think society could shift to meet people's material needs without exploiting the Earth's resources for unsustainable growth and consumption?

## RESOURCES

- Doughnut Economics:  
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/doughnut-model-amsterdam-coronavirus-recovery/>
- Short video on COVID-19 impacts on climate activism (BBC)  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-52485712>
- Sustainable development approach to economic recovery  
<https://www.climatescorecard.org/2020/05/south-africa-should-take-a-sustainable-development-approach-to-economic-recovery-from-covid-19/>
- Could COVID-19 be the tipping point for transport emissions?  
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/04/22/earth-day-2020-could-covid-19-be-the-tipping-point-for-transport-emissions>
- What is needed to protect food security during COVID-19  
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/what-s-needed-to-protect-food-security-during-covid-19/> (IFAD)
- Climate change and pandemics - social protection, public health, disaster risk, finance - WRI  
<https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/04/coronavirus-pandemic-climate-change-investment>
- Policy Brief: Impact of COVID-19 on food security  
<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/policy-brief-impact-covid-19-food-security-and-nutrition-june-2020>
- Climate change and COVID-19: Impact on agriculture and youth mobility  
<https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/coronavirus/climate-change-and-covid-19-impact-agriculture-and-youth-mobility-across-west-and-central>
- Climate change and development: Africa post COVID-19  
<https://www.uneca.org/publications/discussion-paper-climate-change-and-development-africa-post-covid-19-some-critical>
- State of food security in Africa  
<https://www.slowfood.com/covid-19-and-the-state-of-food-security-in-africa/>



### PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

#### ETHICS AND CONSENT

The topic of COVID-19 and Climate Change can be a sensitive topic for both you and your listeners, so make sure that you address the topic in a way that respects the varying perspectives and circumstances of your listeners, as well as those who share their stories. If any incorrect information comes up in any of your formats, make sure that you correct it. Make sure to respect the confidentiality of all those who agree to participate. People may give you consent to share their stories, and then later change their minds. Be prepared for this, as consent can change.

#### ANGLE

#### Different ways to talk about COVID-19 and Climate Change

- How have livelihoods and the economy been affected by COVID-19 and climate change in your community?
- What are the human actions that drive climate change?
- Strategies to acknowledge the interconnectedness of animal, ecosystem and human health.
- The COVID-19 pandemic reveals that we need to be thinking about effective climate changes and effective environmental practices, land practices and food practices.
- Our climate change policy is only as strong as our international partnerships; in the same way, our compliance with COVID-19 regulations is only effective if our neighbors are also complying.
- Groups vulnerable to challenges like food insecurity and poverty as a result of lockdown measures.
- The connection between human beings health and climate change.
- Opportunities for improved climate change practices inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic

#### CHOOSE AN ANGLE

➤ **How have livelihoods and the economy been affected by COVID-19 and climate change in your community?**

#### Different ways to talk about: How livelihoods and the economy been affected by COVID-19 and climate change in your community?

- Talk about how border and travel restrictions have affected various industries like tourism and hospitality.
- Talk about how industries are innovating to save livelihoods and jobs.
- Talk about how already vulnerable communities may turn to unhealthy practices in desperate attempts to recover their livelihoods and the negative impact on biodiversity of environments that may have.

- Speak about how your community can come together to help others who are less fortunate during COVID-19.
- Talk about the recommended practices that could prevent you from putting a strain on the biodiversity in your area during COVID-19.

## FORMATS



### INTERVIEW



#### Interview aim

To source information from someone who has expertise or experience of the topic. Remember that there are different ways to gather audio from someone who is not present with you in the room. The easiest way is to send them the questions ahead of time and ask them to send their answers by sending you a WhatsApp voice note or an audio recording from their smartphone. You can also record an interview live by calling the person, putting the loudspeaker on, and using another smartphone to record them. The quality of the interview might not be as good as a voice note, but it will still work.



#### Who do you talk to?

Speak to someone who can shed light on the ecological impacts of farming in your community (i.e. a farmer, an expert, a lecturer/teacher or someone specializes in the subject of ecology and agriculture in your community, or ask a young person to share their opinion, or a small holdings farmer).

- What are the challenges/benefits of COVID-19 on climate change
- What are the actions one can take towards making positive changes in a post COVID-19 environment?
- Why is it important for us to continue raising awareness about healthy climate change practices during COVID-19 pandemic?
- What are some of the things that could compromise our health during this time?
- What can communities do to work together to ensure sustained climate change practices?
- What help is available to those who find their livelihoods and jobs negatively affected during this time?



## VOXPOP



### Vox pop aim:

To get many different opinions on one topic. When reporting remotely, vox pop questions can be sent to radio show contacts using broadcast lists or candidates found through your social media, as long as members understand that they need to respond by voice note.



### Who do you talk to?

Anyone in the community.

### Suggested questions for recording vox-pops with people in your community:

- What impact has COVID-19 had on climate change in your opinion?
- What lifestyle changes have you made to benefit the planet during COVID-19?
- What tips can you share with others about how to make small or big lifestyle changes with climate change in mind?
- What challenges do you think natural ecosystems in your community are facing during COVID-19?
- What challenges keep you from practicing eco-friendly behaviors?
- Who do you think is responsible for climate change awareness in your community?
- How much do you think your community knows about the relationship between COVID-19 and climate change?

*Tip: If you interview someone who doesn't know about the COVID-19 outbreak or how to prevent it, use the information in the fact sheet to explain the basics about the virus to them.*



## AUDIO COMMENTARY



### Audio commentary aim:

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



### Who do you talk to?

A person in the community or someone in your family who believes there are links between climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.





## AUDIO PROFILE



### Audio profile aim:

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



### Who do you talk to?

You could speak to a smallholder farmer or a local entrepreneur who buys goods from a manufacturer to sell in retail. An environmentalist, a zoologist or an expert in public health. The most important thing is to look out for people who will inspire others to practice good health behaviours or offer suggestions to improve one's health and wellbeing.

### Questions you can ask for the audio profile:

- Can you tell us what you do to keep your livelihood during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- Does awareness about climate change affect your work practices, are they important to you?
- What are you doing differently during COVID-19 to stay eco-friendly?  
How did you learn about eco-friendly living?
- What is the most challenging thing about staying eco-friendly during this time?
- What role does climate change play in keeping your livelihood balanced?
- What feelings do you experience when you see others not taking care of the planet by unhealthy practices?
- What would you do if you didn't have access to information about eco-friendly practices to reduce climate change?
- What advice or tips do you have to encourage others to be incorporate eco-friendly practices in their personal and professional lives?



## DID YOU KNOW



### 'Did you know' aim:

To share exciting, simple and informative facts. These can be shared in the form of statistics, numbers or statements. This is a great format to wrap up the show, emphasise the take-away message of the topic and inform listeners about updated and verified facts relating to the subject being discussed.



### Examples of 'did you knows' for your show:

- Temperatures have already warmed by about 1 degrees Celsius, according to the IPCC report and caused historic levels of natural disaster linked to climate change: wildfires, floods, storms, droughts, melting permafrost, locust swarms, heatwaves and the melting of polar ice sheets.
- In East Africa, COVID-19 coincided with the worst outbreak of locust swarms in 70 years, due to shifting weather patterns brought on by climate change.
- The effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods may push an added 23 million people across Africa into extreme poverty in 2020.
- Border closures and travel restrictions due to fears of COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on Africa's \$39 billion tourism industry.
- With lockdown measures in force in some countries, governments have been less able to monitor wildlife poaching, illegal logging and fishing, marine poaching etc. Many activities like mining, logging and hunting wildlife that increase peoples' risk of exposure to zoonotic diseases, are on the rise because of the current gaps in law enforcement.



## QUIZ

**NOTE: Adding the quiz format to your radio show is now compulsory**



**Quiz aim:** To test and reward your audience's knowledge on the topic. This format opens up engagement with your listeners, giving them an opportunity to respond to you and the topic. You can pre-record the quiz segment and make it part of your show, asking the audience to respond through your social media, promising to give them the answers in the next show. If your facilitator will be presenting the show from the station, they could ask the audience to participate in the quiz by calling in or reading their responses via social media during the broadcast. Lastly, the quiz can also be presented through a live broadcast of your pre-recorded show via Facebook Live or Instagram Live.

Things you need for this activity:

- Prepared quiz questions and answers
- Small prizes or rewards

Present some quiz questions and hand out prizes to those who answer correctly. From the fact-sheet, we created the following quizzes for you to use in your shows on COVID-19 and education. Once you have used these examples, feel free to create more of your own questions to put your listeners to the test!



### Quiz 1:

Question: Which of these statements is true? Zoonotic disease is the term for illnesses caused by...

- A. ... germs that are passed between animals and people.
- B. ... eating food at a traditional Korean restaurant
- C. ... visiting the shopping mall

The correct answer is A

### Quiz 2:

Question: What is the correct meaning for the word 'ecosystems'?

- A. When carbon dioxide, methane and other gases build up in the atmosphere.
- B. The spreading of a disease over a large part of the world.
- C. The natural webs of life that sustain life on Earth, including us.

The correct answer is C

# COVID-19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE

## RADIO GUIDE & FORMATS



### HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW



Because you are not on air, the reporters who are recording the formats will need to pre-record their intros and outros of their formats. You also have to decide as a group about who will present the shows that go out on air. Some of you may provide your facilitator with a script that will guide them on how you would like the show presented, or you may choose a youth reporter to do the intro and outro for the whole show. Making a decision about how you want to present your show should happen in your remote pre-production meetings.

*Use your produced radio features, your research and the suggested script and questions below to create your own script.*

[INTRO:]



**Host 1/Facilitator:** To all our listeners out there, thank you for joining us today and welcome to [NAME OF SHOW] on [RADIO STATION]. My name is [NAME] and I will be your host for today's show on COVID-19 and climate change. I hope that most of you are staying home and doing your best to follow the recommended safety measures to reduce your risk of getting COVID-19 or any other infection. Make sure to wear a mask when you leave the house and of course, remember to wash your hands!

COVID-19 is a global disease. And it has revealed to us just how interconnected the world is. The way we mobilize against COVID-19 should also be the way we mobilize against climate change. The car you drive, the food you eat, has an effect at an international level! Small actions at the individual or community level can impact others. Before the outbreak of COVID-19 it felt like we were making a difference at getting ahead of the issue of global waste, and related climate change issues. What many may not be aware of is that since the outbreak of this global pandemic, the use of single use plastics is on the rise again, and being pushed by the plastic industry even being used as an excuse for hygiene purposes. This is one of many ways the pandemic has affected the climate change movement. But it's not all doom and gloom my people! What opportunities does COVID-19 create as we seek sustainable solutions to climate change? We see some change globally when the world locked down temporarily but that also led to economic recession globally. This shouldn't be the context in which we see improvements in climate change.

So what can we, and economies all over the world do to re start their economies and lives in a way that is friendly towards renewable energy? How can we ensure that some of the people on the forefront of the virus, like sanitation workers, and people working in the waste sector, or in the agricultural sector are not being robbed of their livelihoods or their right to public health?

In this show we will explore the interconnectedness of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, in an attempt to find suggestions for solutions to the pandemic and creating a sustainable public health and climate strategy.

In your community you can seek joint solutions for the pandemic and sustained climate change. Spread awareness about how practices at local level contributing to climate change (logging, deforestation, mining) alters migration patterns for animals and the disease they carry – which increase the contact rate the animals have with humans and the spread of new diseases and the chance of humans being in contact with those new diseases. Right now let's hear what some of our guests have to say!

[PLAY PRE-RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH AN INTRO THAT TELLS US WHO IS BEING INTERVIEWED]

[PLAY PRE-RECORDED OUTRO]

[INCLUDE PRE-RECORDED HOST LINKS WHERE NECESSARY BETWEEN FORMATS]

*TIP: Having a clear show clock will prepare all the presenters or reporters about what intros, outros and formats they need to record before the broadcast date.*

[OUTRO:]

**Host 1/Facilitator:** In today's show we spoke the interconnectedness of COVID-19 and climate change and how solutions for COVID-19 and public health can also be solutions for renewable energy. We heard about the important role that government policy and individual action play in the long term effectiveness of any strategy. And how the only way to have a solution for both the pandemic and climate change is to have a holistic look at effective environmental strategies that acknowledge the interconnectedness of animals, ecosystems and human health.

Thank you to all our guests and to all those who sent voice notes. Let's all continue with the good work of staying informed and maintaining good health and hygiene during this period. Our futures await us, so let's stay positive. Next week on [DAY] at [TIME] we'll be talking all about [NEXT WEEK'S SHOW TOPIC]. Until then, it's bye from us!