

## **Learning by Ear – Climate Change**

### **Episode 10**

**Text: Victoria Averill**

**Editing: Johannes Beck**

#### **CHARACTERS:**

##### **Scene 1:**

- MRS CHRISTINE KIMASI – RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTOR (50)
- CAROL (14)
- LORNA (16)
- ALEX (15)
- JOSHUA (15)

##### **Scene 2:**

- LORNA (16)
- MRS KIMAU – LORNA'S MOTHER (45)
- RADIO PRESENTER

**Scene 3:**

- ALEX (15)
- JOSHUA (15)
- LORNA (16)
- CAROL (14)
- MR KAPOOR – NATIONAL POWER BOARD (60)
- MRS KIMASI – RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTOR (50)
- JOURNALIST 1 (FEMALE 25)
- JOURNALIST 2 (MALE 30)

**Intro:**

Welcome to Learning by Ear and the final episode of our radio drama about climate change. The Task Force have done everything in their power to persuade the National Power Board to alter their plans and provide renewable energy to Dhowville. Will the Task Force succeed in doing their part to slow down climate change?

Find out more as we listen now to the conclusion of our story.

## Scene One: Restaurant

**SFX ATMO:**                      **DINERS/CUTLERY/MUSIC**

**1. MRS KIMASI:**                      Well, that was quite a meeting!

**2. JOSHUA:**                              You said it. I thought Mr Kapoor was  
about to turn around and walk right out  
when he saw us all sitting there.

**3. CAROL:**                                Me, too, Joshua.

**4. MRS KIMASI:**                      He probably would have, if the Minister of  
the Environment hadn't been on our side."  
Right, let's order. Lunch is on me today.

**5. CAROL:**                                I'm starving!

- 6. LORNA:** I was thinking, Mrs Kimasi, what got you interested in working with renewable energy?
- 7. MRS KIMASI:** I lived and worked in Nigeria in West Africa for eight years and what I saw there in the oil industry made me swear to do everything I could, to get Africa going down the sustainable energy road and help stop the climate change.
- 8. JOSHUA:** What's happening in Nigeria that's so awful?
- 9. MRS KIMASI:** Well, as you know, Nigeria is a huge oil producing country. Essentially, the oil industry supports the whole economy.
- 10. CAROL:** Even though it's still very poor?

**11. MRS KIMASI:** Yes – but to get to export the oil to other countries, Nigeria practises what is termed “gas flaring”. When crude oil is drilled, it comes out with what is called “associated gas”. In Nigeria, they just burn off this gas. So that only high quality crude oil is left.

**12. JOSHUA:** And what’s bad about gas flaring?

**13. MRS KIMASI:** Well, some studies claim that about a quarter of the greenhouse gas emissions in Africa come from gas flaring in Nigeria.

**14. ALEX:** A quarter – but that’s massive!

**15. MRS KIMASI:** It is also a huge waste. You could power many African countries using the gas that is flared in Nigeria. In other countries this gas is either used and sold or at least re-injected into the ground. To burn it like they do in Nigeria, is a huge waste of energy!

**16. LORNA:** I imagine that burning so much gas must also be very damaging to the surrounding environment.

**17. MRS KIMASI:** It is. Communities living nearby struggle to find clean drinking water and complain about air pollution. It's a catastrophe for both the environmental and climate change.

**18. CAROL:** So, that's what got you into renewable energy?

**19. MRS KIMASI:** Yes, well, fossil fuels like oil, coal and natural gas will run out at some stage. And fossil fuels heat up our global climate producing greenhouse gases when they are burnt. We need to look at renewable energy – that's the future!

**20. LORNA:** Here's our order – who's having the chicken sandwich?

**21. CAROL:** That's me!

**22. MRS KIMASI:** Right, let's eat. We've got a big afternoon ahead. I'm hoping to get a phone call from the Power Board with their decision.

**SFX:** **CUTLERY/EATING**

## **Scene Two: Lorna's House**

**SFX ATMO:**                      **SEWING MACHING**

**23. LORNA:**                      Hi Mum, you at home?

**24. MRS KIMAU:**                Yes, I'm in the back room.

**SFX:**                                **RADIO NEWS TUNE**

**25. LORNA:**                      Ah, hi Mum. You're sewing.

**26. MRS KIMAU:**                Hi Lorna, yes, shh, hold on a second!



**27. PRESENTER:** Today's visit by the United Nations Food and Agriculture representative comes at a time where the country is facing unprecedented shortages of maize and corn. Experts are pointing the finger at climate change and urging the government and donors to come up with ways to remedy this threat to our food security.

**28. LORNA:** Are we running out of food?

**29. MRS KIMAU:** Not yet, but as you heard the climate change means we can't rely just on traditional crops and harvests like we used to.

**30. LORNA:** Is that because of the changing weather patterns?

- 31. MRS KIMAU:** Yes, they're calling it El Niño-like-conditions. It's all threatening our food systems. It's a worry.
- 32. LORNA:** So, that's why the UN guy is here?
- 33. MRS KIMAU:** It sounds like they need to come up with some strategies to plant different crops or even introduce crops or plants we're not so used to eating here. Anyway, Lorna, I'm sewing your skirt as I think you'll need it this afternoon at the press conference.
- 35. LORNA:** Thanks Mum. I'm nervous about this meeting – all of our hard work over the past few months and then we hear the outcome on national television.
- 36. MRS KIMAU:** That's the twenty-first century for you. Here's the skirt, all finished.

### Scene Three: Press conference

**37a ALL:**

**Chatter**

**37b. ALEX:**

I can't believe that the National Power Board wouldn't even sit down face to face with us.

**38. JOSHUA:**

Yeah, Alex. They had to go and pull some publicity stunt. It sucks!

**39. MRS KIMASI:**

But Joshua, remember, this isn't about us and being in the limelight. It's about climate change and as long as they are going to stop this power plant and go for something renewable, everybody wins!

**40. CAROL:**

That's true. A good point. Oh look, they're coming into the room.

**SFX:** **CLICKING OF CAMERAS**

**41. MR KAPOOR:** Good afternoon, everyone, and members of the Press. We at the National Power Board are working to provide power, electricity and energy for the people. That's our mission and today that's even more important than ever for us to develop as a country.

**42. JOURNALIST 1:** Mr Kapoor, will you be going ahead with a diesel and bunker fuel power plant even though implications for climate change could be huge?

**43. MR KAPOOR:** As an innovative and forward thinking company we are going ahead with a power plant, but it will be powered by renewable energy.

**SFX: MURMURS OF SURPRISE**

**44. JOURNALIST 2:** What kind of energy are we talking about?

**45. MR KAPOOR:** We're working with investors both in the country and abroad to build a hydro plant. Hydroelectricity is one of the cleanest sources of energy and it's also the most reliable and costs the least.

**46. JOURNALIST 2:** And where is the location?

**47. MR KAPOOR:** We've started negotiations with communities living along the Tana River. This is where we propose to build the dam. It's going to be a longer process than just building a thermal electrical power plant as was originally planned. But we believe that for the sake of climate change, this is the better solution.

**48. JOURNALIST 1:** But what about these communities living by the dam? Will they be resettled? Will they receive compensation?

**49. JOURNALIST 2:** And what about the impact on the environment near the River Tana. For instance, the loss of habitat for animals to live in. Have you thought about these consequences?

**50. MR KAPOOR:** No more questions for now,.All these issues are being addressed but the important thing is that the people of Dhowville will have power. And what's more, renewable, clean power and in the very near future. Thank you!

**SFX: CLICKING CAMERAS**

**51. MR KAPOOR:** Thank you, that's all!

**52. MRS KIMASI:** Well, there you go. A job well done!  
Finally the National Power Board have  
seen sense!

**53. LORNA:** But I can't help feeling a bit deflated and  
disillusioned.

**54. CAROL:** Yeah, I feel the same. We stopped the  
power plant. But still the Press come up  
with reasons not to go ahead with a  
renewable energy plant.

**55. MRS KIMASI:**

With every plan or idea, someone loses out. There are no perfect solutions. We just have to discover the solution that is the least damaging. Maybe I could get in touch with them to see if there is a possibility to build some wind turbines. Then maybe the dam for the hydro power plant would not have to be so big and so damaging to the local people and the environment. It would be best if we could combine hydro and wind power. But remember what's important. We won! Dhowville will also go down in history as the first city in the country to be run mainly by renewable energy. If that isn't worth celebrating, Lorna, I don't know what is.

**56. ALEX:**

Yes, I think we need a night off! Let's celebrate!



**57. JOSHUA:**

I think in years to come people will thank us for our efforts. But I don't think our work's over yet. I'm sure there's much more we can do to help slow down climate change. I'm up for the challenge! Come on! We're the Task Force! There's no stopping us now!

**58: ALL:**

Yeah! We did it!

**END OF EPISODE 10**

**Outro:**

And that was the final episode of the Learning by Ear series about climate change written by Victoria Averill.

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