

LEARNING BY EAR

"If a tree falls... - Deforestation in Africa"

EPISODE TWO: "Macro vs. Micro Solutions"

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List of characters EPISODE TWO:

Narrator

SCENE 1 Mulogo (m, 22)

SCENE 2 Chief Apaloo (m, 40) Mulogo (m, 22)

SCENE 3 Chika (f, 18) Talib (m, 20)

SCENE 4 Mulogo (m, 22) Isi (m, 18)

SCENE 5 Mother (f, 36) Akiki (f, 7)

SCENE 6 Chika (f, 18) Isi (m, 18)

INTRO

Welcome to *Learning By Ear* and episode two of our new drama series about deforestation.

Set within the dramatic backdrop of civil war, this story reveals how deforestation - the loss of trees and grasslands - has destroyed rural life and created conflict between two farming communities. Now, thrown together as refugees in Dovani Camp, these people are beginning to find common solutions for the future.

So far, the youth of Dovani Camp has learnt how rain is formed. But how can they solve the shortage of wood and water around their camp? Isingoma and Mulogo, both sons of chiefs, find themselves locked in argument over future solutions, as their fathers did back home. Join us as 22-year old Mulogo expresses his extreme frustration over how slow people are to embrace modern technology and solve major problems.

Episode TWO: “Macro v. Micro Solutions.”

1.MUSIC UP

Scene 1

2.MULOGO NARRATOR: (irritated voice) My name’s Mulogo. I’m 22 – old enough to vote, old enough to marry, but here I’m treated like some kind of freak! I have great ideas but does anyone take any notice? I’ve been stuck in Dovani Camp for six months now and all Talib and Chika can talk about is planting soybeans and pulling out weeds. Do they want us to remain poor all our lives? Chief Apaloo is my father. We had a big argument last night about our community in Abanto District, where we lived before the war drove us here. It is so rich in highland forests. We are sitting on a gold mine in terms of the land and the money we could earn by letting in more commercial loggers, like Isi’s father did. Chief Kipko was progressive. He knew that we needed wood – we need timber – to build houses, furniture, fences ... and we need to sell it to the world – China..Europe

They all want our timber. But the old man just wouldn’t listen to the voice of reason...

3. MUSIC TO INDICATE FLASHBACK. HOLD UNDER

Scene 2

4. SFX Night sounds

5.APALOO: I am listening to you, my son, but I have also listened to the older people who remember a time when we had everything we needed – land, forests, wild life, farmland and water. There are two things you forget – climate change and an ever-increasing population. Those forests and ponds are our life line. Our population in Abanto has more than doubled and our forests and ponds have almost disappeared. Chief Kipko made a big mistake allowing the commercial timber forestry. That attracted so many new people to the region looking for work, needing land and water while cutting down our forests.

6.MULOGO: Chief Kipko had the right idea! Papa! We could earn a million US dollars by selling the forest and with that money set up roads, hospitals, schools, proper sanitation. These things require big bucks. We can't earn enough selling sunflower oil at the Abanto market. For heaven's sake! Why is it so difficult to understand?

7.APALOO: Chief Kipko created conflict and a dried out wilderness! Don't you remember? Is your memory so short?

8.MUSIC UP

Scene 3

9. SFX Daytime. Interior office / fax machine and paper

10.CHIKA: Hey Talib! There's news coming through of a massive landslide on Mount Elgon. Over three hundred people have been killed.

11.TALIB: What? Only two months ago they were talking about the worst drought in fifty years. What is going on?

12.CHIKA: (Reading slowly)

"Joseph Muyera, an official of the community conservation group in Manafwa district said: 'High population density in the Mount Elgon region had put a lot of pressure on the area's eco-system. Our environment is depleting at a fast rate; people are cutting down trees up in the mountain, encroaching into wetlands,' he said. 'The snow caps high on Mount Elgon are melting.'"

13.TALIB: Chika! That's terrible!

14.CHIKA: If the snows melts for ever then all the farmers in the valley will lose their main source of water.

15.TALIB: This is a real sign of climate change. I mean- the weather conditions have always been extreme on our continent, but farmers tell us that things have got much worse during their lifetime. Three hundred people, just washed away – and all their crops.

16.CHIKA: 1,500 tree seedlings were lost, it says here, after seven inches of rain fell in ONE day. Imagine Talib – all that water. Just going to waste.

17.TALIB: Without forests to hold the topsoil down, plants and seedlings go to waste too. They don't stand a chance. Oh Chika. Time is running out.

18.MUSIC UP

Scene 4

19. SFX Daytime ambience outside

20.MULOGO: Don't you just love Chika's eyes? Her right eye has a black star on the iris. It is so beautiful!

21.ISI: I have never got close enough to see.

22.MULOGO: (Laughing) I did!

23.ISI: (very seriously) Did you lose anyone in the war Mulogo?

24.MULOGO: (stops laughing) No. We were blessed. All of us gotaway. Why are you asking, Isi?

25.ISI: Well...I have other things on my mind than staring into a girl's eyes. My brother Jamal could be being tortured right now. And my father. And my twin brother Kato...

26.MULOGO: Ai! I'm sorry Isi. Of course. But ...still...a pretty woman can take your mind of your troubles. She's from my district and do you know what?

27.ISI: (not interested) What?

28.MULOGO: (proudly) One day ...she will be.... my wife!

29.ISI: Oh! You are so sure of yourself!

30.MULOGO: (laughing) Of course! I am the son of a chief! And so are you!

31.ISI: (sarcastic) Thanks Mulogo for reminding me! So? What did you want to show me?

32.MULOGO: This!

33. SFX Paper noise - Unrolling a chart

34.MULOGO: We want to break our dependence on wood for fuel, right?

35.ISI: Right! But how?

36.MULOGO: We need electricity and it can be run by solar power or from wind or.....(**whispering**) from water! Look! Thirty kilometres north of Abanto District are the Talari waterfalls. The volume of water is about 10,000 cubic meters per second in the rainy season – imagine that force- that potential energy. And here..look..here is the river basin and an existing lake...downstream from the falls. So that is the perfect place to build a dam. The water collects and we can use that as drinking water and for irrigation. But the force of the waterfall turns the turbines which drive the generators. Don't you see? We could produce really cheap electricity for the whole region.

37.ISI: It's impressive. I see what you mean about thinking high scale compared to when we talk of saving our ponds!

38.MULOGO: Exactly And you and I could be partners!

39.ISI: Uh? Mulogo, what are you saying exactly?

- 40.MULOGO:** I'm saying, we are both intelligent young men. We won't be living in this camp all our lives. The war will end and then we must return to our district. We are the future Isi. We need to work together.
- 41.ISI:** You are looking for a business partner. Why me?
- 42.MULOGO:** You are the son of a chief. I am the son of a chief.
- 43.ISI:** You said that already!
- 44.MULOGO:** We are born leaders. We have a duty to lead our country into the future.
- 45.ISI:** And born leaders have to look ahead.
- 46.MULOGO:** Which is what I am trying to do.
- 47.ISI: (Sarcastic)** But not far enough! You forget some minor details you know... climate change, global warming, the doubling of our population, the dwindling of our resources.
- 48.MULOGO:** That's the point. Big solutions to big problems!

49.ISI: Listen to me. I heard a program on the radio a while back...about Lake Chad in Nigeria, It was once one of the world’s greatest lakes. It has lost 90 per cent of its volume and is in the process of disappearing – why? Less rain, deforestation and your wonderful hydroelectric plants, which are draining the lake dry. Thirty million people will be left without their main water source. Not to mention the loss of fish and people’s livelihoods. Need I go on?

50.MULOGO: (unsure of himself) Ai! Maybe. Sure. But you agree, we need to start thinking big, Isi! For goodness sake! Stop being so pessimistic.

51.MUSIC UP

Scene 5

52. SFX Night sounds / inside

53.MOTHER: Come Akiki. One more sip of milk and then I’ll tell you a good night story.

54.AKIKI: (Sips loudly) It’s all gone. Can I sleep in your bed ma?

55.MOTHER: (Softly) Of course you can. Now, let me tell you a story about how a tree saved an old man.

56.AKIKI: (sleepily) OK ma.

57.FADE IN AFRICAN DRUM SOUNDS. HOLD UNDER

58.MOTHER: You know Akiki, the Djembe drum is made from the Lenge tree. It grows deep in the forests of West Africa and for hundreds of years, the Malinke people used this wood to make their drums. It was said to have great acoustic and spiritual qualities. Well, one day an old man came looking for somewhere to hide from evil men who were cutting down trees and burning villages. He came upon the Lenge tree. It was cold. So he lit a fire to keep warm. But the rain and wind were too strong.

(same sound bite)MOTHER (contd): The rain said, "I will show you a dry place." The old man said, "Where is this dry place?" The rain said, "Go inside the trunk of the Lenge" ...

Slowly fade out both music and mother

(same sound bite) MOTHER: ...The old man crawled inside the trunk of the Lenge. It was dry there. He could feel the spirit of the tree. And he slept deeply and dreamt he could hear the Djembe drum playing its magic beat and protecting him.

Scene 6

59. SFX Night sounds Footsteps on sand/gravel approaching

60. Isi is humming a sad song

61.CHIKA: (from some distance) Isi? Are you there?

62.ISI: Yes.Who is it?

63.CHIKA: (closer) It's me, Chika! I came to tell you...there's a truck of 60 people from Abanto District arriving next week. Are you able to help me to register them all?

64.ISI: (breathless) Chika? Do you think? Could it be...?

65.CHIKA: You mustn't raise your hopes too high Isi. Let's wait and see. Goodnight.

66. SFX: FOOTSTEPS DEPARTING (FADE)

67.ISI: (whispering) Please Kato... Please be on that truck!

68. MUSIC UP

OUTRO.

And that’s all for today from our *Learning By Ear* series “If a tree falls...”, written by Romie Singh, which tackles the question of deforestation. Women are the largest users of the forest so they must get involved in managing the use of wood in their communities and working for new solutions to save the trees. Please join us for **Episode Three: “Women Have Their Say.”**

Remember, if you want to hear the program again or tell friends about it, please visit our website at w w w dot dw – world dot d e slash l b e www.dw-world.de/lbe

Goodbye for now.

END OF EPISODE TWO