

Seedlings for Cape Verde



Change begins with Knowledge

The word “broadcast” means “to scatter seeds.” With these programs, you can plant seedlings throughout your daily broadcast to become a Green Station. Seedlings are short pieces about climate change that can include facts, simple solutions, nature poems, songs, and listener ideas.

1. This is Seedlings,

a new, compact version of Seed to Grow, where we take a minute to think about our environment and what climate change means in our everyday lives. So what is climate change? Humans introduce large amounts of carbon dioxide gas into the atmosphere when we burn fuel for cars, factories, and even cooking stoves. This extra carbon dioxide has produced a “greenhouse effect,” where the gas traps heat from the sun, causing the average global temperature to rise. In the past 100 years, the Earth has warmed by 0.74 degrees Celsius, and it is still warming. This may not sound like a big change in temperature, but we are already able to feel the effects: drought, flooding, melting glaciers which cause the seas to rise, and extreme weather events. Listen for the next Seedlings segments, when we will hear more about the effects of global warming.



2. This is Seedlings.

The average annual temperature in Cape Verde has increased by 0.6°C since 1960, and continues to rise. On Sal, this could spell disaster for farmers who cannot afford to buy water from the desalination plant and who rely on rain alone to water their crops. The rising temperature makes it more difficult to predict when the rains will come, and may cause extended periods of drought. A combination of hydroponics, an agricultural method of growing plants without soil, and rain catchment systems could be the answer. Hydroponic farming needs just half the amount of water used in traditional farming, and has already met with some success by farmers on Sal. On Santiago, the construction of the Poilão Dam in 2006 has allowed the island to store up to 1.7 million cubic meters of water during the rainy season to irrigate farms in the dry season. More reservoirs and dams like this are needed to avoid the massive energy use and disruption to fisheries caused by desalination plants and make fresh water more affordable.



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3. This is Seedlings.

In Cesária Évora's famous song "Esperança Di Mar Azul" she sings [play song clip]:

Deus ta leva-no sempre assim
Na paz amor e carinho

Na otra vida tem tempestade
Vento do norte
Vento do sul

Ma sperança di mar azul
É pa quem tem fé
Na sê amor

We must show affection toward our home and the ocean that surrounds us. The islands of Cabo Verde have created a natural sand barrier that protects us against flooding from storms and rising seas. But when people mine the sand to sell or for construction, they take away that barrier and put us all in danger. Around the islands, homes have been collapsing and beaches that support the tourism sector have been disappearing. As the climate changes, glaciers melting at the Earth's poles mean sea levels will continue to rise, and storms and floods will become more common. Low-lying Sal and Boavista will be especially at risk. Eighty percent of Cape Verde's population lives in the coastal zone, and needs the sand barrier to survive.



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4. **This is Seedlings.** Ana Luísa Amaral is a Portuguese poet and a professor at the University of Porto. Here is a poem of hers, titled “Uma botânica da paz: visitação”

Tenho uma flor
de que não sei o nome

Na varanda,
em perfume comum
de outros aromas:
hibisco, uma roseira,
um pé de lúcia-lima

Mas estes são prodígios
para outra manhã:
é que esta flor
gerou folhas de verde
assombramento,
minúsculas e leves

Não a ameaçam bombas
nem românticos ventos,
nem mísseis, ou tornados,
nem ela sabe, embora esteja perto,
do sal em desavesso
que o mar traz

E o céu azul de Outono
a fingir Verão
é, para ela, bênção,
como a pequena água que lhe dou

Deve ser isto
uma espécie de paz:

um segredo botânico
da luz

If you're inspired to write a poem about nature or climate change, we would love to hear it. [Instructions for sending it in] We'll pick our favorite submissions and read them on air.



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