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Title: Caring for the Earth - a strategy for sustainable living Oct 2015

1.Almost 50 years ago the crew of the Apollo 17 spaceship took this amazing photo of Earth . . . a beautiful round sphere floating in space . . . but now a planet whose future is under threat from the people who live on it.
2. and here another view showing clearly Africa and Arabia separated by the Red Sea. But this is now becoming a planet whose future is under threat from the people who live on it.
3. This is Lake Naivasha - also photographed from space. The yellow pin marks Elsamere - Joy Adamson's former home - and now an Eco Lodge and our education centre.
4. . come a little closer and you can also see how the lake shore is being developed. Hotels, camp sites, shops and flower farms and the geothermal development
5. all demand resources and, if not carefully managed, will cause problems to the wildlife of the lake and its surroundings..
6. This is the planet on which we all live - the world we all share- whatever our colour, race or religion . . . this is the place we call home . . .
7. The Earth still has many unique wildlife and wild places - and here in Kenya, elephants still roam the plains of Amboseli and Tsavo National Parks
8. and the Masai live side by side with lions and cheetah.
9. But this is also a place where not everything in the garden is lovely . . it is a place where human activities now threaten our very survival.
10. Once, dinosaurs roamed the Earth; now they have all gone. Scientists tell us that at least one species of animal or plant becomes extinct every day - gone for ever.
11. Fifty years ago there were many Northern White rhino in Uganda; now they have all gone. Today the world population is only six and the species is threatened with extinction.
12. We live in a world which is destroying 50 soccer fields' worth of forest every minute of every day . . . that's a area of forest the size of the Elsamere site being chopped down every two seconds.
9. Clearing or burning forests leads to soil erosionthe soil no longer absorbs water and become useless for growing crops.
10. This badly eroded land near Lake Baringo begins to look like the surface of the moon.
11. We now know that climate change triggered by human activities like burning forests and industrial development is changing weather patterns and raising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, slowly but surely raising the Earth's temperature. . .

12. We are living in a world in which our actions - or inaction - will decide the future of all life on Earth and the kind of world we pass on to our children.
13. But these are not the only problems we face. Almost a million people worldwide have no access to safe clean water and walk long distance to fetch it. Dirty water kills 5,000 children every day
14. And as the population grows, pressure on the environment increases. 50 years ago the number of people living in Kenya was around 8 million. Today it is 45 million and growing, and will probably double within in the next 25 years. Twice as many people all needing food, water, energy and clean air.
15. In 2015 our Education Centre changed its name. The 'Field Study Centre' became
16. 'Centre for Education Sustainability' - CES. Why did we change the name we have had for 25 years? it's because at CES we are working to try to deal with these problems - not only saving wildlife and protecting forests, but planting trees, preventing pollution, encouraging recycling and providing renewable energy.
17. And our new 'motto' is 'Caring for the Earth' . We are developing a new plan - an action programme - a strategy for survival. We want you to work with us to look after the environment and the people who live in it.
18. caring for the Earth, environment and
19. caring for people, something the Elsa Conservation Trust has been doing for almost 50 years.
20. We must realise that we are part of the complex web of life and that breaking any part of the web affects both other people and the environment. We all share this planet together.
21. Just recently the United Nations Environment Programme which has its headquarters in Nairobi, published its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). So what are they trying to do?
22. It means thinking about the world our children will inherit. Not using up precious resources faster than they can be replaced; conducting business and developing communities so that our children and their children will have enough food, fresh water and clean energy and ensuring that there will still be wildlife and wild places for them to enjoy.
23. So how do we go about 'caring for the earth' ? Here are some of things we must do . . .
- 24 stop yet more animals and plants from becoming extinct.
25. prevent widespread forest destruction and plant more trees to replace those which have been destroyed
26. take more care of our marine environment - our seas and oceans; not catching too many fish and not poisoning and polluting their habitat

27. ensure enough energy is available for everyone, and to produce it from sustainable sources.
28. avoid waste and promote recycling
29. stop more and more carbon being released into the atmosphere which is changing our climate and causing the earth to get warmer.
30. Let's look at these in a little more detail. 20. We must continue to care for **wildlife and wild places** - not only, but throughout the world.
31. Here, elephants and rhinos continue to be slaughtered for their ivory and horns
32. and across the world gorillas, pandas, tigers, whales, polar bears, turtles - all these and thousands of smaller creatures and plants are in struggling for survival.
33. We must **also care for our forests** many of which are being over-exploited for timber or fuelwood and cleared for agriculture. Trees are a vital part of our environment: they trap sunlight and convert it to food and energy; they are the home of countless animals, large and small, they conserve water, stop soil erosion, give us building materials and medicines and store carbon.
34. That is why we have a large tree nursery here at Elsamere and are encouraging individuals, schools and communities to plant more trees. Our new programme 'Forests for the Future' will become one of our major priorities.
35. We have been treating the oceans as a giant dustbin - and great islands of plastic waste are collecting in the North Pacific threatening birds, turtles and other marine organisms. We need to **care for our marine environment**
36. Watamu National Park and marine reserve was established in 1968 and is now recognised internationally by the United Nations and attracts visitors from all over the world.
37. Its unique coral gardens and colourful fish are now protected. Yet coral reefs in Tanzania are still being destroyed by dynamite (or blast) fishing, killing not only fish, but destroying the habitat for all reef species.
39. So we need more marine national parks to protect corals, help fish populations to recover, and allow turtles to lay their eggs.
40. We are still **overfishing** - taking fish from the sea faster than their natural rate of reproduction can replace them. Foreign fishing boats with complex technical equipment are often fishing illegally in African coastal waters threatening the livelihoods of local fishermen.
41. **Energy** is also an important issue. Eight out of ten Kenyans have no access to electricity and still rely on kerosene lamps for lighting. Whilst Kenya is seeking to produce more electricity from geothermal development nearby in Hell's Gate it will be many years before remote rural villages will benefit.

42. Scientists have now invented flat photovoltaic or PV panels which can trap the sun's energy and convert it to electricity and solar rooves in Germany can produce up to half the country's energy requirements.

43. In the meantime CES is helping to make small lighting units available to families and communities in rural areas.

44. Our solar project 'Lighting a child's future' will help promote and distribute these innovative lighting systems - powered by the sun - which will allow children to study at night, charge mobile phones.

45. Waste management in Kenya is also becoming a serious problem. In Kenya, solid waste collection systems are inefficient, and disposal systems are not environmentally friendly.

46. The growth of unplanned urban settlements results in waste being dumped on the roadside and the lack of adequate toilet facilities threatens water supplies and public health.

47. Much of the material could be recycled. A visit to the markets in urban areas shows that on a limited scale this has been happening for many years. Shoes are made from car tyres, and cooking stoves made from car doors demonstrating the ingenuity of many Kenyans

48. But there are many more ways of tackling the waste problem in our country. CES has been working with the Kwa-Muhia Environmental Group (just up the road) to recycle useful materials and turn biodegradable waste into compost for their gardens. This is a good example of the 4Rs: reduce, reuse, repair, recycle

49. Waste materials are also being used to make energy. Just down the road at Gorge Farm Energy Park one of the first large scale biodigesters has just been completed generate electricity and heat. But we can also re-use waste at local level.

50. We have just installed our own biogas plant – helped by Biogas International – a Kenya project working to produce cooking gas from organic waste using local materials such as animal dung, water hyacinth and kitchen waste.

51. Water shortages in Kenya have been a problem for many years and are getting worse. Many Kenyans - mainly women and girls - spend hours fetching water for their families and often the water is unfit to drink. For poor, rural communities across the world, the lack of access to reliable, clean, local water adversely affects health, nutrition, food security, education and well-being.

52. For generations elephant have been coming to sand rivers in the dry season to dig for the clean fresh water still flowing below the surface. People too can benefit from this.

53. An organisation called 'Excellent Development' has been promoting the construction of sand dams in Kenya for decades but the system is still not widely known or understood - yet this is one of the most cost effective ways of conserving water

54. Sand dams can provide a lifetime of local, clean and reliable water within 30-90 minutes of people's homes; improving access to water for people, crops and livestock in water stressed environments. The significant reduction in the time required to collect water affords the opportunity and energy to invest in other sustainable farming activities, such as terracing.

55. There are a lot more objectives: ending poverty, improving access to education - especially for women and girls, providing employment and promoting a safe and healthy environment for all.

56. But there are two environmental issues which dwarf many of the others. First climate change. which is already beginning to transform all life on Earth

57. Around the globe, seasons are shifting, temperatures are climbing and sea levels are rising. And meanwhile, our planet must still supply us – and all living things – with air, water, food and safe places to live.

58. Plants have the capacity to collect energy from the sun, absorb carbon dioxide and convert it into starch and scientists are now trying to copy this process to absorb excess carbon and produce useful products

59. If we ignore the facts about climate change, and continue to chop down forests, climate change will rapidly alter the lands and waters we all depend upon for survival, leaving our children and grandchildren with a very different world as the temperature rises.

60. The other huge problem is population growth. Only 10,000 years ago there were probably about 1 million people living on Earth. By 1800 this had increased by 1000 times to 1 billion. By 1960 3 billion and today over 7 billion. The UN predicts that by 2050 this could be almost 10 billion - and half of that increase would be in Africa.

61. A planet of 10 billion looks like a nightmare. all of us will need enough food, clean water and a healthy environment. What, then, are our options? The only solution left to us is to change our behaviour, radically and globally, on every level. In short, we urgently need to consume less. A lot less. Radically less. And we need to conserve more. A lot more. That means me; that means you; that means everyone of us.

62. Well over 100 years ago a North American Indian - Chief Seattle - made a speech to the Government which had offered to purchase his ancestral lands. It included these words:

63. "This we know: The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. When the Earth is sick, the animals will begin to disappear. As we are a part of the land, you too are part of the land".

64. "This earth is precious to us. It is also precious to you. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself".

65. Central to the future strategy then is the need for an ethical principle of respect and care for the community of life - for people, animals and plants.

It means that governments, communities and families must recognise they have a duty of care towards other people and other forms of life . . . and that development should not cause damage the environment or become a threat to other communities, species or future generations.

66. That is why our education centre has changed its name to the 'Centre for Education in Sustainability'.

67. That is why our slogan is 'Caring for the Earth'

68. 'Orbiting the Earth in space a German astronaut said this:

“ Only when I saw the Earth from space, in all its ineffable beauty and fragility, did I realise that man's most urgent task is to cherish it and preserve it for future generations”.

69. The earth belongs to us all . . .it the ultimate source of life. If like CES, we all adopt 'Caring for the Earth', as our own slogan then we can leave the world a better place for our children and grandchildren.

70. The end - blank slide

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