

PLANT A TREE

Be sure to choose trees which flourish in your climate. It's best to plant a tree which evolved in your country – an indigenous tree. That way the animals which evolved alongside it – including insects which may pollinate it – are likely to be around. Another way to let trees flourish is simply to allow land to naturally 'regenerate'. In many, but not all climates, left to its own devices nature usually finds a way to spring back. Land, which is not too damaged, or polluted, which is fenced and where the vegetation is not cut back or dug by humans, will gradually develop into the ecosystem that was there originally. Leave it alone and it will come home!

Plant trees and you will not be alone. Yes, forest is being destroyed, but by planting trees you will be joining a continent – wide movement of inspired people, together, each in their locality making a better future for Africa.

i **ACTION SHEETS** - 35: Agroforestry, 36: Planting Nitrogen Fixing Trees, 38: Growing Fruit and Nut Trees, 49: Tree Planting, 50: Multipurpose Trees, 56: Where to get Tree Seeds, 67: Planting Trees for Fuelwood



fun facts

- Gabon has ambitiously protected forest that covers 13% of its national territory.
- Tunisia, which in ancient times was forested, had lost almost all of its woodland during its 2,000 years of civilisation. The first president of independent Tunisia, Habib Bourgiba, engaged the entire population in a massive, collective reforestation project. While many of the the trees planted were not native they have still had a wonderful effect on rainfall and agriculture.
- Kenyan, Wangari Muta Maathai was the first African woman to win the famous Nobel Peace Prize, when she was globally recognised for her Green Belt Movement and 30 million trees planted 'to counter deforestation threatening the lives of subsistence farmers'.
- In 2007 the African Union launched The Great Green Wall in the Sahel that has seen trees planted from Senegal to Djibouti. Senegal planted 12 million drought resistant *Faidherbia albida* trees. Niger calls these 'magical Gao' trees and planted 200 million! It improves soil and crop production even in drought years. The pods are fodder, wood is fuel and bark is medicinal. One tree = 10 cows for fertilising soil. The leaves fall when crops need light and grow when crops need shade!