

## PLANT YOUR OWN TREE

We have seen how useful trees are and we should all be planting our own. One reason people hesitate to plant trees is because they don't provide a crop, resource or service straight away. We all naturally tend to be attracted to activities which bring immediate rewards. A tree may take ten, twenty, perhaps fifty years to provide wood, fruit or shelter. But as we are the ones benefiting from seeds sown by our parents, we must plant trees for the next generation.



### **In Africa, for every 28 trees cut down, only one tree is replanted**

Every time a tree is cut, more must be planted. Young trees need to be nurtured. They need care and attention, food, water and sometimes, if they die, they need to be replaced. Foresters expect up to two thirds of all trees in a plantation to die. Far fewer will suffer this fate if we give the young trees some tender loving care.

Plant a tree when children, your brother and sister are born and they can eat the fruit when they are grown! The Oubangui of Central Africa believe that when the tree begins to fruit, the time will have come for that person to marry. Gifts for the tree help to nurture the person. When someone dies their spirit goes to reside in their personal "birthright" tree. Plant a tree on your mother's birthday, plant a tree in memory or to celebrate a special occasion.

