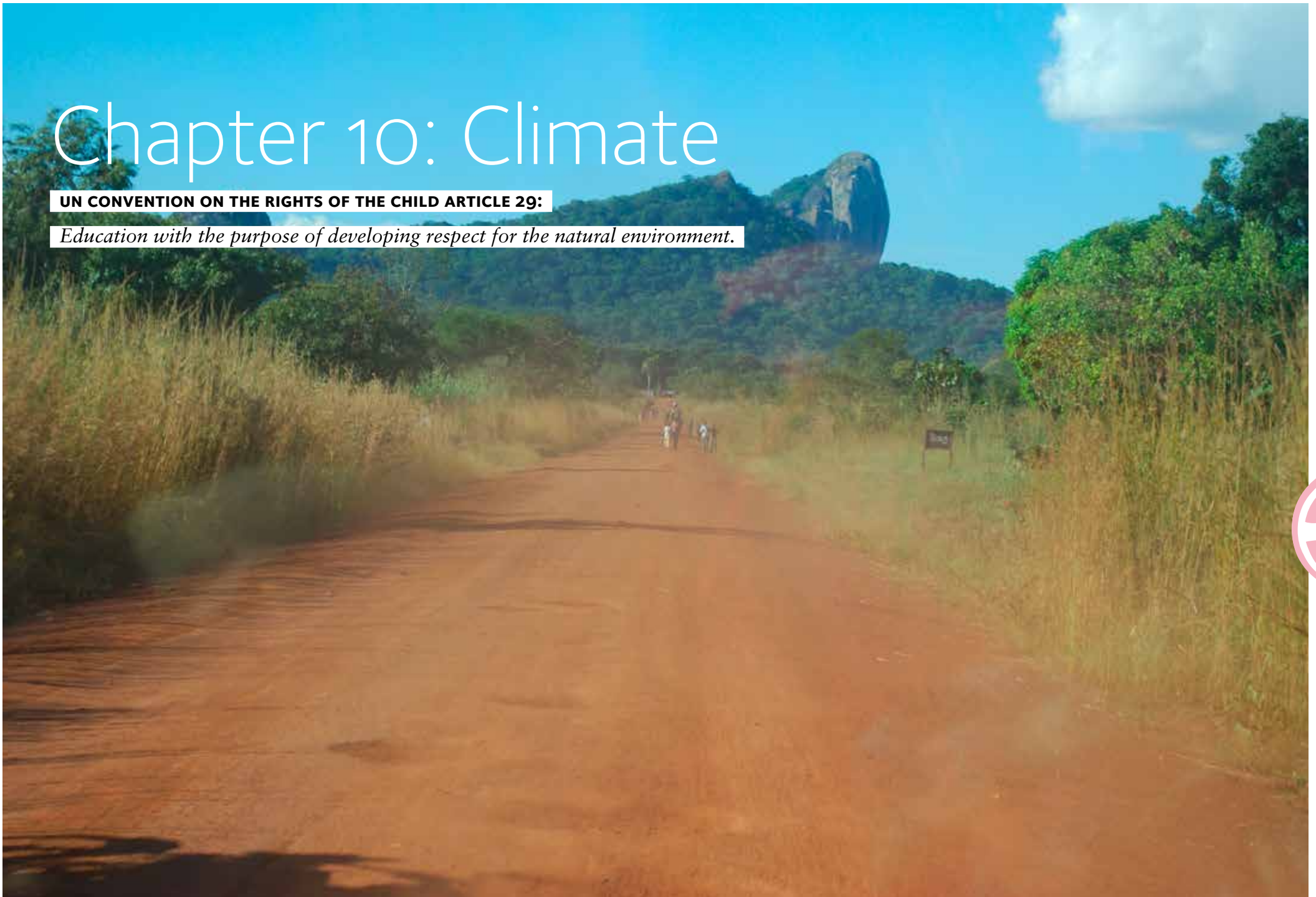


Chapter 10: Climate

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ARTICLE 29:

Education with the purpose of developing respect for the natural environment.



10: Climate

ARTICLE 29 *Education with the purpose of developing respect for the natural environment.*

TABAN, 10 YEARS OLD SAYS:

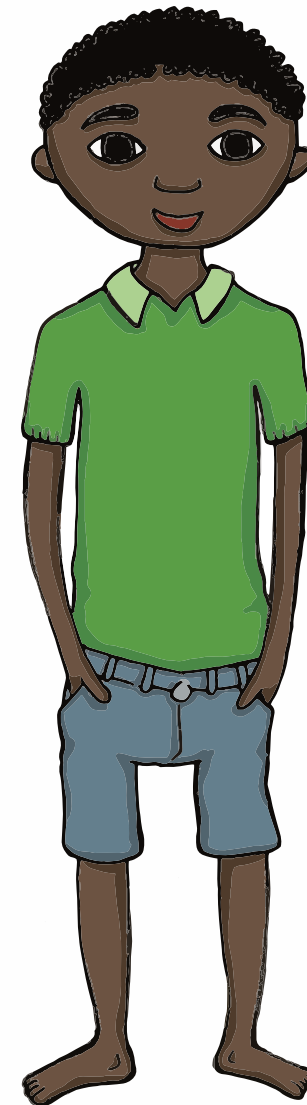
“ One day I got the opportunity to travel to Juba with my dad Lubani. We were going to a photographer. Dad needed photos for a new passport, because he may be going to Khartoum to visit his friends there. My dad asked me to go along, because he thought it was good that I had my photo taken, since I might need it for a passport of my own. Sometimes we go to Juba to go to the hospital and sometimes we visit relatives who live there. You can also buy everything in Juba that you can't buy in Lui.

We were standing by the main road waiting for the bus. The road to Juba is almost straight and finally we could see the bus coming far away. It comes from Mundri and there is a sign on the bus saying 'Mundri Express'. When it approached us, many people came running and wanted to come along. They had been waiting in the shade under the mango-trees, because it was too hot to stand in the sun by the road. There were many people on the bus already. They had travelled from Mundri, but the driver came out and promised that everyone should get a seat in the bus. Everyone who was travelling all the way to Juba had to leave their luggage in a special place. Two men climbed up on the roof of the bus. They put a big tarpaulin on the roof, packed all the suitcases and boxes going to Juba and tied them all with a rope. We had to pay 150 SSP (South Sudanese Pounds).

That is a lot of money for us and my dad said that if we are lucky, we might travel back with someone driving a lorry and then it would be cheaper. Then we started off. There were at least 30 passengers on the bus and we had a long journey ahead of us. My dad said that it is approximately 140 kilometres (90 miles) from Lui to Juba.

The bus driver drove fast and it was good that we were seated close together, since the bus was shaking violently because the road was very bumpy. Big holes and bumps had opened in the road when it rained. When it rains a lot, there can be thick clay on the road and then cars and buses can be stuck in the clay. Now there had not been any rain for a long time, so the road was very hard and when we met big lorries it was like clouds of sand and dust. Then we could hardly see anything. I thought it was very exciting to sit and look out through the bus-window. Far away you could see mountains on both sides of the road. I was wondering if it is possible to go there. I am sure it is possible to see far away from the top, maybe all the way to Juba. Suddenly I saw smoke coming from a place high up and after looking for a long time, I could see fire. Maybe it was the people living there who were cooking their food.

When we came to the river, The White Nile, there was no bridge. It was bombed during the war. To get to the other side of the river, big



blocks of rock were placed in the river. The water was high up on the rocks, but the bus managed to drive through. Those who rode motorbikes got all wet. Dad told me that that when it rains a lot cars and buses can't pass at all. I hope they will build a new bridge soon.

When we got closer to Juba, you could see further away. There were only few trees and the ground was all dry. Then dad told me that is because all the trees have been used for fire wood or to make charcoal. In Lui we boys use to go into the woods and take branches lying on the ground to bring home to make a fire to cook. That is quite impossible for those who live outside Juba, because there are almost no woods and too many people live there. Those who live in Juba buy charcoal for cooking.

Dad also told me that it is impossible to grow on the land when all the trees are gone. The earth gets hard from being dry and no nutrition stays, so that new seeds cannot grow. When that happens in big areas, the climate changes and it turns into desert. That is very sad since South Sudan used to be rich in agriculture and fruit plantations. But it is good that trees, grass and plants grow like they do around Lui. People need to cultivate the earth, so that you harvest more food to eat. Dad said that if we learn to cultivate the earth more effectively in Lui, we could bring what we harvest to the market in Juba, sell it there and that way earn some money. When I asked why we don't do that now, my dad looked sad and said that no one has been able to cultivate and care for the land all the time the

war was going on. During that time everybody needed to protect themselves from bombs, land-mines and devastation. And many people did like we did and moved to Khartoum or to Uganda. But now we are back!



Facts



South Sudan has a typical tropical climate with small variations in temperature and rainfall.

DAYLIGHT

South Sudan is located near the equator, so therefore day and night are about equally long. The sun rises at approx. seven o'clock in the morning and sets around seven at night every day. The sun shines 6–9 hours per day the year around.

SEASONS AND CLIMATE-CHANGE

In South Sudan it is usually said that there are two seasons; the rain season (April – December) and the dry season (December – April). In April it starts to rain, sometimes not until in May. The rain season starts later and later every year, which makes people worry.

TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL

People often talk about the weather in Lui just like we do in Britain. They talk a lot about the rain. If it rains much or if the rain does not come you complain. But if the rain comes one day after a long period of dry weather, people get very happy.

During the dry season you complain about that it is too hot. Many people bring a handkerchief or a small towel to dry their face, head and hands. In the middle of the day it is sometimes too hot to work. Then the men like to sit under a big tree, doze or talk to each other. The women usually stay at home. There is school holiday from December to February because it is too hot for the pupils to walk to and from school.

It rains 2–13 days/month. The only months when it hardly rains at all are December and January. An average total of 958 mm (38 inches) of rain falls per year in South Sudan (Juba) compared to 1148 mm (45 inches) per year in Britain.

The average temperature per year is almost 30 degrees Centigrade. In the night it is about 20 degrees warm the year around and in the day it can be up to 40 degrees. In Britain the temperature varies a lot depending on whether it is summer or winter and whether you are in the south or in the north of the country. The average temperature for the whole year is calculated to be 11 degrees centigrade in South West Britain.

BUS-PRICES

The price for a bus-ride can vary. If few people travel it is a lower price and if there are many the prices rise. It is a lower price to go to Juba from Lui than it is to go to Lui from Juba. Sometimes you have to pay a fee for your luggage. The fare for children is the same as for adults.

COAL-MINING AND CHARCOAL

See more Facts in chapter 2,
At home.





SUGGESTION 1

Conversation

CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION

Article 29, Education with the purpose of developing respect for the natural environment. On the way to Juba Taban's father showed how the woods are devastated and the ground is destroyed. He explains that it is because the trees have been used to make charcoal to be used for cooking. What have you learned in school or in the preschool about how important it is to save the natural environment?

BASIC FEELINGS

Talk for instance looking forward to making a long journey, for example going on holiday; sorrow about not being able to grow crops and plants because of too much or too little rain, devastation of the woods or war.



SUGGESTION 2

Prayers

BIBLE WORDS

The creation, taking care of it (Genesis 1:26-31)

Noah and the flood (Genesis 6:9 - 8:19)

Moses and the people in the desert (Deuteronomy 2:1 - 7)

SONGS

Have you heard the raindrops (CJP 71)

The wise man built his house upon the rock (CJP 252)

Who put the colours in the rainbow (KS 386)

PRAYER

God, forgive us when we destroy and hurt your beautiful creation. Help us be careful about all plants and animals. Lead us to decisions to save the earth. Amen



SUGGESTION 3

World map or globe

Point out your country, Africa, South Sudan and the equator on a world map or a globe.

Look at different kinds of maps for the world, for example maps for climate, vegetation zones and rain. Compare different countries.



SUGGESTION 4

Distances, road maps

How far will you get if you travel 90 miles (140 kilometres) from your home?

How much time does it take if you walk, travel by bicycle, car, bus or by air?

How long does it take if you walk on a path in the woods, a gravelled road, an asphalt road, a motorway or straight as the crow flies?

SUGGESTION 5

Cooking

Try to cook or boil water on different sources of heat; an open fire with wood, a grill with charcoal, a gas stove, an electric stove.



SUGGESTION 6

Solar energy

1. THE BURNING GLASS

This experiment you can do on a sunny day. The sun can either shine in through the window or you can be outside. Take a burning glass and a newspaper. Try to burn a hole on a white part of the paper. How does it work? Then try to burn a hole where it is black, like on a headline. How does that work?

2. DOES BLACK GET WARMER THAN WHITE?

The sun must shine when you try this!

Take two paper soup-plates. Pour salt in one and earth in the other, 2 cm (1.5 inches) deep in both. Put in thermometers and write down the temperature.

Leave the plates in the sun for 10 minutes and then take a note of the temperature again.

Where is it warmest? How much did the temperature rise?

In the salt °C

In the earth? °C

3. WE MAKE A SUN PANEL

The sun must shine when you do this experiment as well! Pour water in a white paper soup-plate and in one that is painted black. Measure the temperature. Leave the plates in the sun for 10 minutes. Measure the temperature again.

Where is it warmest? How much did the temperature raise?

In the white plate °C

In the black plate? °C



SUGGESTION 7

Climate change

What would happen if all trees disappeared? – talk about it!

READ ABOUT

The charity Tree Aid
www.treeaid.org.uk

.....
Saving wildlife in our own country

www.wildlifetrusts.org

.....
The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) campaigns to save endangers species in many countries from the effects of loss of natural environment due to human activity and climate change.
www.wwf.org.uk

.....
The Church of England has a national campaign called ‘Shrinking the Footprint’
www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint



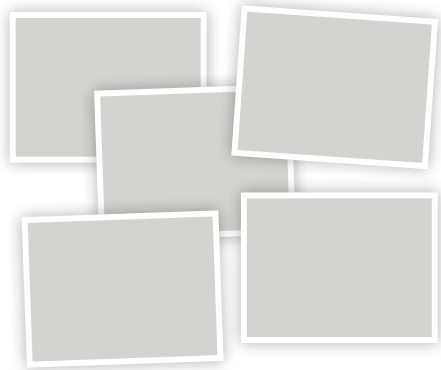
SUGGESTION 8

Cultivate

Make growing experiments with different kinds of seeds. Use little water/ just enough water/ much water; variation of light and temperature. What is needed for a seed to grow? What is needed for a plant to live?



Resources



PICTURES

The road, Lui – Juba

The road in the outskirts of Juba

The road in mud

Road construction

Outside Juba

Selling charcoal

The Nile, a fordable place

The Nile, a destroyed bridge

Meeting lorries

A family on its way

The bus, Mundri Express

