

## **Learning by Ear**

### **People Who Make a Difference**

**Kenya:** Kakamega Educational Environment Programme, KEEP

## EPISODE 06

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Sound clips in DALET: Learning by Ear: PEO BIOTA\_xxx

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### **Characters:**

**1 Narrator**, male or female

### **5 Voiceovers**

- **Emily Mujinji**, female, 23
- **Mildred Atamba**, female, 19
- **Bulinya Atwoli**, male, 20
- **Wycliff Atukha**, male, 25
- **Jared Otieno**, male, 18
- **Mildred Mateche**, female, 19

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### **Introduction (Announcer):**

Welcome to another programme in our Learning by Ear series, 'People Who Make a Difference'. Today we present to you a young lady who has a passion for the environment. She spends a great deal of her life protecting trees and animals. She has encouraged other young girls and boys to join her youth organisation, the Kakamega Environmental Education Programme or KEEP for short. Let's pay her a visit in the Kakamega forest in western Kenya.

## **1. SFX Forest birds**

### **2. Soundclip Emily Mujini (English)**

*“My names are Emily Mujinji. I decided to join KEEP because first before joining I was here assisting somebody in doing some research on colobus monkeys then one Saturday I came here and found some kids learning then I was very much interested in also teaching them about the environment and also learning more about conservation of Kakamega Forest.”*

### **3. Narrator**

Emily is 23-years-old and comes from Kakamega, a town in western Kenya. She is a volunteer member of the Kakamega Environmental Education Programme, otherwise known as KEEP. Emily is in charge of the accommodation facilities in the forest and gets given an allowance of around 20 euros per month. KEEP was founded in 1995 by a group of forest guides led by Wilberforce Okeka. It is a youth organisation that works to protect plant and animal species in the Kakamega forest and aims to share knowledge about Kakamega with tourists, researchers and school children. Various projects are underway. There are the Butterfly House, the Snake Park, the Tree Nursery and a research project on monkeys. Emily’s day begins very early in the morning in the Butterfly House.

### **4. SFX Butterfly House**

### **5. Soundclip Emily Mujinji (English)**

*“This is the Butterfly House. We go in the forest to trap butterflies and we bring them here. We planted these food plants so that when we bring the butterflies here, they can come and lay their eggs under the leaves.”*

### **6. Narrator**

The Butterfly House is rectangular in shape. It is open but covered with a black net to stop the butterflies from escaping. The ground is covered with twisted blue and yellow flowers that make it look like a small jungle. In between are water troughs from which the butterflies can drink. Emily and other members of KEEP collect the eggs laid on leaves and take them to the breeding house where they hatch.

Once the butterflies begin to fly, they are taken back to the forest. That way KEEP prevents the rare species of butterflies from dying out. But there is a downside to it all: Emily and her friends have to keep on touching the butterflies. Yet most women and girls in western Kenya would never do that – they say the powder from a butterfly destroys their fingernails. But Emily had to bring herself to touch them.

### **7. Soundclip Emily Mujinji (English)**

*“No, at first I was afraid but after the training I got courage so I can hold them and teach the young people about them.”*

### **8. SFX Forest ambience**

### **9. Narrator**

One of the young people who has had an opportunity to meet Emily is Bulinya Atwoli. He is 20 years old. He was born and raised in Kakamega.

### **10. Soundclip Bulinya Atwoli (English)**

*“Emily is hardworking, very creative and full of new ideas about conservation work. She has been on the forefront in helping young boys and girls understand the importance of conserving butterfly species. I like her because she encourages others to protect our environment.”*

### **11. Narrator**

Mildred Mateche, a friend of Emily’s, is 19 years old. She comes from Mumias but now lives in Kakamega town. She says Emily is a good example for many young women.

### **12. Soundclip Mildred (English)**

*“To be honest Emily is a success. She is a role model for many young ladies when it comes to issues of environmental conservation. She has convinced many young girls to come out confidently to take an active role in protecting plants and animals that we have around here. I have seen her being frustrated especially when people do not do what she wants. I mean she gets angry sometimes, just like any other human being....you know.”*

### **13. SFX: Forest**

#### **14. Narrator**

Kakamega Forest is the only remnant in Kenya of the Guineo-Congolian forest type; a dense rainforest that in the past millennium stretched across the entire expanse of Central Africa. And Emily's work is desperately needed in the forest. Without KEEP, it would not be here anymore. Green trees with a thick, green canopy give shade to animals sitting below. There are Colubus monkeys, squirrels and numerous kinds of birds. But the forest is under threat: western Kenya's growing population is in dire need of food. So farmers encroach on the forest. And poachers kill the animals to sell their meat.

Fortunately, Emily and the other members of the Kakamega Educational Environment Programme are not alone in their quest to save the forest. They receive support from BIOTA, Biodiversity Monitor Transect Analysis in Africa; a German organization that runs research projects on Africa's rich nature and wildlife to provide scientific support for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in Africa. Emily is glad about BIOTA's presence.

#### **15. Soundclip Emily Mujinji (English)**

*"BIOTA, I know they are our corporate members and they have been working around Kakamega forest doing research on transects and I know mostly they have been employing our members and they have been working with them"*

#### **16. SFX Sound of monkeys/ forest ambience**

## **17. Narrator**

One result of this co-operation is the Colubus monkey project. Members of KEEP venture into the forest and tag all the monkeys they can find using special markers. That way, it's easy to know when the population has reached alarmingly low levels, or to oversee the monkey's grazing patterns. In addition, they remove snares that poachers use to hunt for the monkeys. But it's a risky business, says 19-year-old Mildred Atamba.

## **18. Soundclip Mildred Atamba (English)**

*"Some of the poachers, when they see us in the forest, they think that we are going to stop them from getting the meat. That is why we get into problems with them."*

Mildred says they are sometimes chased by the poachers, shouted at or even threatened with violence as a result of removing the snares and protecting the monkeys from harm.

## **19. SFX Snake laboratory**

## **20. Narrator**

Another ambitious project is the Snake Park. One part is a laboratory. It's a small, wooden room. Most of its space is taken up by wooden shelves packed with bottles that contain chemicals. In an open container, a huge grey and black spotted viper is soaking in chemicals. Dead snakes are preserved here and then used to educate the community. Wycliffe Atukha, who is 25, is the one in charge of the Snake Park at KEEP. He says there are about 40 species of snakes in the Kakamega forest. He studies snakes and tries to get the local people to accept the snakes and live alongside them.

For a long time the locals have been killing the snakes just because they believed that they are bad, but due to the intensive education programme at KEEP, this is changing.

### **21. Soundclip Wycliffe Atukha (English)**

*“I have come to realise that so many people are now changing their minds. They are now viewing snakes from a positive angle that they do not hurt or kill snakes. This is what I see as people get more understanding of the snakes. I am sure this snake park will employ many people who will have a good understanding of snakes.”*

### **22. SFX Trees/ Walking on grass and dry branches, sticks**

### **23. Narrator**

Another project at KEEP is the Tree Nursery. Members collect seeds from the forest during the rainy season and plant them in the nursery. The aim is to preserve the different plant species in Kakamega forest and to create income for the organisation. Jared Otieno, who is 18, is in charge of the tree project. He says there are challenges.

### **24. Soundclip Jared Otieno (English)**

*“There are some pests that usually attack the seedlings in the nursery and most of the seedlings are food to some of the butterflies. So if you apply pesticides we fear butterflies will feed on them and die.”*

### **25. Narrator**

Emily sets the pace for others to follow in her footsteps in making a difference. And it's because of people like her that her friend Mildred Mateche believes the Kakamega forest is safe.

## **26. Soundclip Mildred Mateche (English)**

*“To have a committed person like Emily sacrifice her time, energy and strength to carry out such a job is very challenging to me. She just surprises me how she is able to achieve so much. I am jealous! To her friends she works with at KEEP, I say, congratulations! You are doing a good job. Keep it up! I am very happy with your work.”*

### **OUTRO (Announcer):**

And that's all for today's Learning by Ear program. This episode was written by Josephat Charo. Please don't forget that the environment needs all of our efforts in order to survive. You can listen to this programme once again on our website at: [www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe). Until next time, goodbye!

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