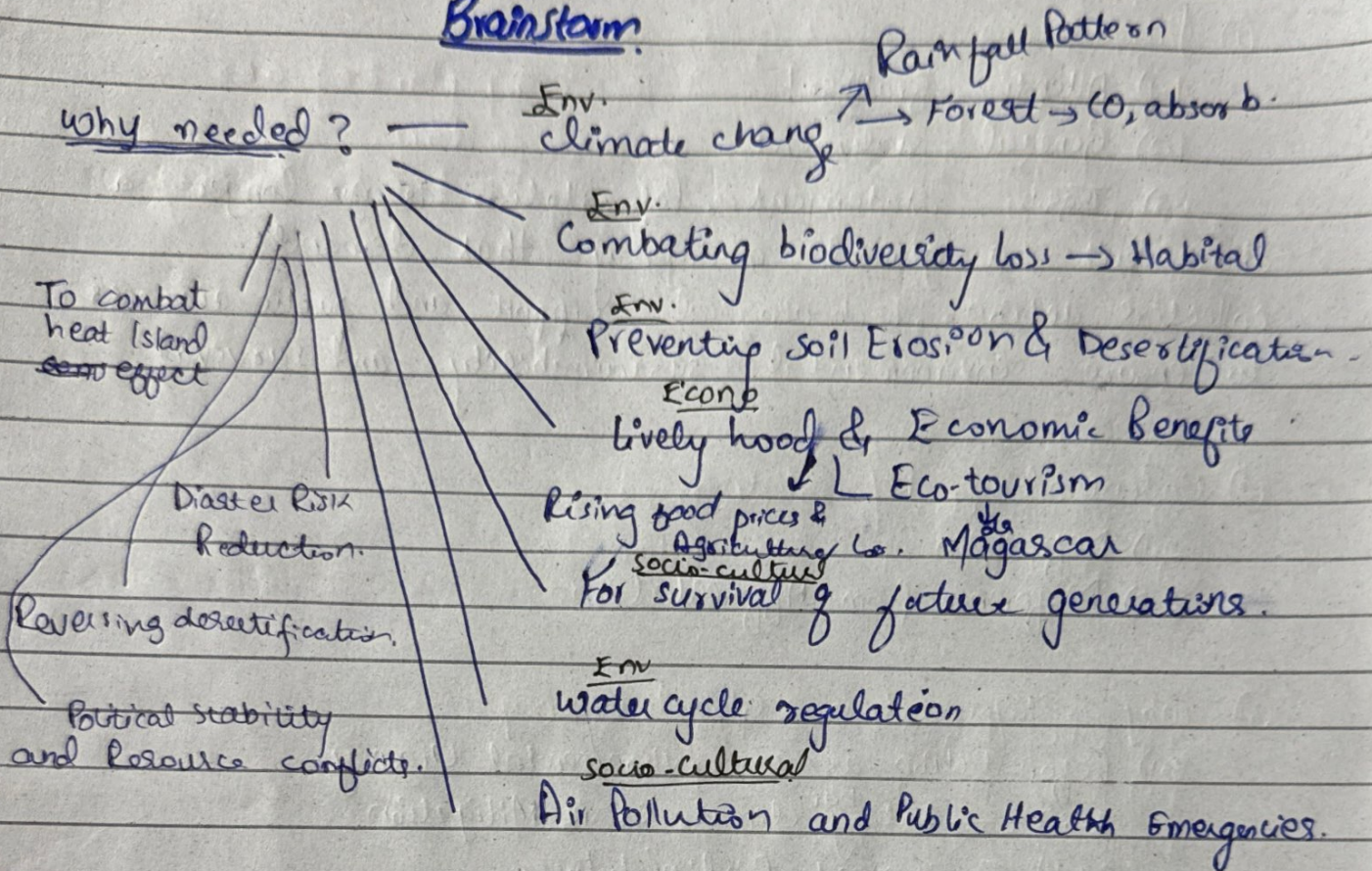
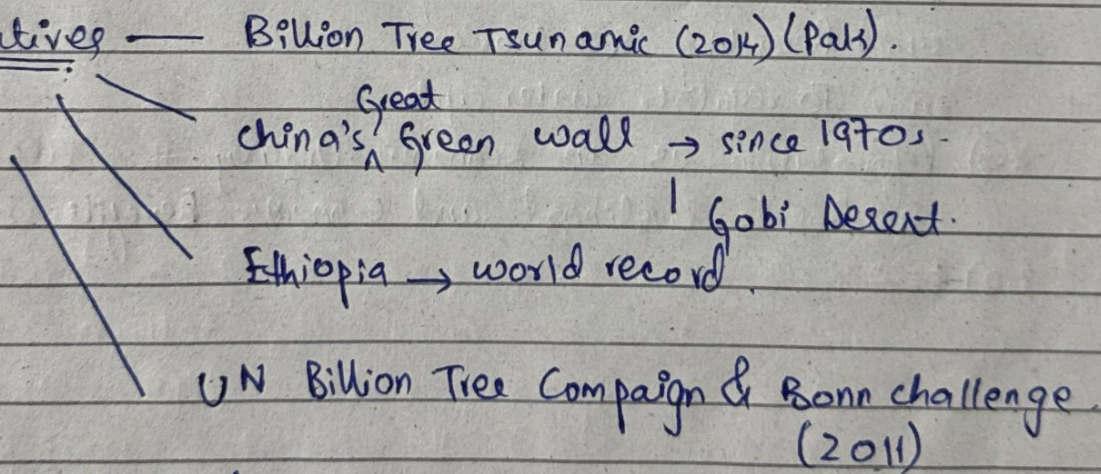


REFORESTATION AS A GLOBAL URGENCY.

Brainstorm

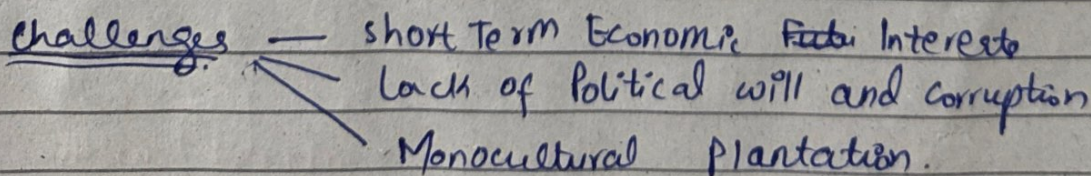


Initiatives



Role of Individuals

Challenges



Counter-arguments — Price
→ Too long.

Outline

1) Introduction.

- 1.1) Attention Grabber.
- 1.2) General statement.
- 1.3) Thesis: Reforestation is no longer a choice but a global emergency that demands collective actions, technological support and public awareness to ensure environmental sustainability and survival.

2) Understanding Reforestation.

- 2.1) Definition of Reforestation.
- 2.2) Difference from Afforestation.

3) Why Reforestation is a Global Urgency?

3.1) Reforestation as an Environmental Urgency.

3.1.i) To Mitigate climate change.

Evidence: According to IPCC, reforestation is among the top natural solutions to climate change.

3.1.ii) To combat Biodiversity loss.

Case study: Atlantic Forest, Brazil, once reduced to 15% of its original size, started reforestation efforts and has restored thousands of hectares, supporting return of native species like golden lion and jaguar.

3.1.iii) Preventing soil Erosion.

3.1.iv) To regulate water cycle.

3.1.v) For Disaster Risk Reduction

Evidence: Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed — by Jared Diamond. In this book, Diamond explores that Easter Island society collapsed because they cut down every tree, while the societies that survived were the ones that responded to environmental problems early.

3.2) Reforestation as an Economic Urgency.

3.2.i) Provide Livelihood and Economic Benefits

Case study: Over 85,000 green jobs were created through Pakistan's Billion Tree Tsunami initiative.

3.2.ii) Promote Eco-Tourism.

3.3) Reforestation as an Socio-cultural Urgency.

3.3.i) For survival of Future Generations.

3.3.ii) Air Pollution and Public Health Emergency.

Evidence: WHO: Increasing tree cover is one of the most cost-effective strategies for improving public health.

3.3.iii) To restore cultural heritage, traditional practices of Indigenous communities who view forests as sacred spaces.

Evidence: West African Sacred Forests.

3.3.iv) To prevent resource conflicts.

4) Counterarguments.

4.1) Reforestation takes too long.

Reputation: Their ecological benefits begin much earlier.

4.2) Reforestation is economically impractical.

Regulation: Overlooks the long-term economic benefits of reforestation.

5) Reforestation Needs a Collective Effort.

5.1) International Efforts and Commitments.

5.1.i) Pakistan's Billion Tree Tsunami

5.1.ii) China's Great Green wall in Gobi Desert.

5.1.iii) Ethiopia set world record by planting over 350 Million trees in a single day.

5.1.iv) US Billion Tree campaign and Bonn challenge

5.2) Individual-Level Efforts.

5.2.i) Concept of "Sadqa Jasiya" in Islam.

5.2.ii) In China, when a child is born, the family of the child has to plant one tree.

6) Challenges to Reforestation.

6.1) Lack of continuity of Policies.

6.2) Monoculture Plantation while removing the indigenous plants.

6.3) Short-term Economic Interests.

7) Way Forward.

7.1) Policy Reforms and Global Collaboration.

7.2) Public Awareness and Education.

7.3) Community Involvement.

8) Conclusion.

"When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and hope."

Essay

Lwangai Maathai.

In the 18th century novel, "Baren in the Trees" by an Italian writer Italo Calvino, a young baren named Cosimo Piovasco climbs into a tree and chooses never to return to the ground—living his entire life among branches, leaves and the forest canopy. Remarkably, he could travel across the continent by leaping from tree to tree, a reflection of how densely forested Italy once was. This fictional tale, highlights a stark contrast with today's reality. In a world where deforestation threatens climate balance,

food security, biodiversity and indigenous identity. Cosimo's unusual life reminds

us of an important truth — our future depends on how quickly we restore and protect the forests we are losing. Reforestation is no longer a choice but a global emergency that demands collective actions, technological support and public awareness to ensure environmental sustainability and survival.

Before jumping to the importance and need of reforestation, we must know the actual meaning of reforestation and its difference from afforestation. Reforestation is the process of replanting trees in areas that were previously forested but have been deforested or degraded due to human activities or natural causes. It differs from afforestation, which refers to planting trees in areas that have never been forested. Reforestation can be natural, allowing forests to regenerate themselves, or artificial, involving active tree planting and land restoration.

The urgent need of reforestation globally is evident by the role of forests in mitigating the environmental challenges. Today, climate change is one of the most alarming challenges the world is facing. Reforestation

is the most suitable solution to combat climate change. As forests act as carbon sinks, absorbing the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and releasing the oxygen. According to **IPCC**, reforestation is among the top natural solutions to climate change. In addition, forests are home to approximately 80% of the planet's terrestrial species. Deforestation leads to the extinction of countless plants and animal species. Reforestation helps to restore these habitats and revive the threatened species. For instance, Atlantic Forest in Brazil, once reduced to 15% of its original size, started reforestation efforts return and restored thousands of hectares, supporting return of native species including golden lion and jaguar. Moreover, reforestation is also crucial for combating desertification and to prevent soil erosion. The roots of trees prevent the soil and its nutrients from being washed away by rain or blown away by the wind. Similarly, forests also act as a natural barrier and helps in the disaster risk management. As in the book **"Collapse: How Societies choose to Fail or Succeed"** by **Jared Diamond** — he explores the reasons behind the collapse of societies. He gave example of Easter Island society which was collapsed because they cut down ^{all} the trees. He also compares those

Societies with successful communities that they survived because they responded to the environmental problems timely. This shows how forests help in the management of disasters. Given these fundamental role of forests in combating environmental challenges, reforestation is not a choice but a global urgency.

Along with the environmental sustainability, forests also play important role in economic stability and growth. Forests provide livelihood to millions of people especially the indigenous people. Many people depend on the trees, the herbal plants in forests and various animals in forest for their living. Deforestation also has negative implication on these people. By replanting the trees, the indigenous people would get alot of advantages. Furthermore, reforestation project if well-managed could create thousands of jobs for instance, **Pakistan's Billion Tree Tsunami** initiative created over 85,000 green jobs. Forests would also enhance eco-tourism ~~beo~~ ultimately boosting the nation's economy.

Another reason behind the dire need of reforestation is its role in preserving socio-cultural identity. Forests are significantly important for the survival of future generation. As trees absorb the CO_2 from the

atmosphere hence reduces the global warming. Cutting the trees not only eliminates the carbon sinks of world but also release the stored Carbon dioxide in them which results in global warming. Furthermore, trees also release moisture in the atmosphere that helps in building clouds and ultimately cause rains. If the Carbon dioxide level will continue to increase and no preventive measure are taken timely it would accelerate the Ozone depletion and global warming which would make earth unsuitable for the living beings. So in order to save earth for future generations reforestation is an urgent need. Additionally, reforestation will also help in reducing air pollution and improve the public health. According to **WHO** (World Health Organization), Increasing tree cover is one of the most cost-effective strategies for improving public health. Similarly, forests are also seen as sacred spaces by some indigenous people for instance in west Africa people believe forests to be sacred. So reforestation would also help in restoring the cultural heritage and traditional practices of many indigenous communities. In addition, deforestation also leads to resource scarcity which ultimately leads to resource conflicts among communities and nations which would have negative implications on social stability and peace. So Hence, reforestation would also

help in preventing conflicts over scarce resources. Therefore keeping in mind the significance of forests in socio-cultural preservation, reforestation is a global need.

Though majority of people do recognise the importance of reforestation, but still there are few people who do not consider it as an efficient practice. Firstly, they argue that reforestation takes too long therefore non suitable. They believe that in urgent times of climate crisis, immediate technological solutions such as carbon capture etc are more effective. While its true that trees take time to mature, but the ecological benefits of reforestation begin much earlier. According to research by the **Journal of Applied Ecology (2019)**, even young forests significantly increase biodiversity, improve soil quality and begin carbon absorption within few years. Moreover, technological fixes are expensive and experimental, whereas reforestation is natural, proven and low-risk. Secondly, the ~~pro~~ opponents argue that reforestation is economically impractical for the developing countries. They argue that reforestation requires high initial investment, land resources etc especially for developing countries where agriculture and mining are more profitable. This

argument overlooks the long-term economic benefits of reforestation. The **World Bank (2020)** states that every \$1 invested in reforestation yields up to \$9 in ecosystem services including water purification, flood prevention and tourism. Initiatives like Pakistan's Billion Tree Tsunami shows that reforestation can create green jobs, boost local economies and attract international climate funding. Therefore, world should focus on long-term benefits of reforestation instead of short-term gains.

Although there are number of benefits of reforestation but it is a herculian task which needs collective efforts of all the stakeholders at both individual and collective level, as Rome was not built in a day. whole international community needs to take responsibility in creating the world green. There are alot of countries that have set the examples that ~~can~~ could be followed by other countries to achieve the goal. For instance, Pakistan's Billion Tree Tsunami Initiative launched in Khyber Pakhtun Kha. province in year 2014, in which over billion of trees had been planted by 2018. The project employed thousands of workers and gained international recognition from organizations like WWF and UNEP. Similarly, since the 1970s, China has planted over 66 billion

trees in Gobi Desert under massive reforestation effort known as "Great Green Wall of China", that improves biodiversity. Likewise, Ethiopia also set world record by planting over 350 Million trees in a single day. Similarly, United Nations also launched the Bonn challenge in 2011, to restore 350 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2030. These initiatives by various countries paves the way for other countries to contribute in reforestation. Along international community, individuals can also contribute in reforestation by planting trees personally. For example, in China, whenever a child is born, the family plants a tree. This individual level effort could significantly helps in making the world green. Other nation's people should also follow the same practice. Similarly, Islam also gives significance to planting trees. Islam calls it "Sadaqa jariya" which contributes to giving reward even after the death of a person who planted it. Holy Prophet (PBUH) also guide his companions not to cut down trees or burn trees after the conquest of Makkah. So global as well as individual efforts are required for reforestation. As Wangari Maathai said, "Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it and make

it survive, you haven't done a thing.
You are just talking!" Therefore, practical
efforts are needed for reforestation globally.

Indeed, many countries
have implemented various successful policies
in order to reestablish the forests. But
still there are some challenges world is
facing that hinders the efforts of
reforestation. Political instability is the
foremost challenge due to which the
continuity of policies is undermined. In
order to solve the issue, leaders should
continue the good policies and project
and put the national goal above the
political rivalries. Similarly, countries are
following monoculture plantation method
while removing the indigenous plants.
For instance, Eucalyptus plantations in
Pakistan while promoted timber production
and afforestation but significantly impact
soil fertility and suppresses the growth
of other plants. So the indigenous plants
should be grown in order to gain
more advantages. Additionally, countries
often prioritize short-term economic
interests, for instance; countries focuses
on agriculture while ignoring the
reforestation just to get short-term
economic benefits. While though these
practices offers certain economic benefits
but reforestation provide long-term
benefits that aligns with the
interests of even the future generations.

In order to overcome ^{above mentioned} ~~these~~ challenges, various steps could be taken. Initially, Global collaboration is required, deforestation is not ~~an~~ single country's concern instead whole global community should work and collaborate. Countries should sincerely binds with the initiatives led by WWF, Birdlife International and the Wildlife Conservation Society, that aims to conserve, restore and grow one trillion trees globally at 2050. Furthermore, various public awareness campaigns should be initiated by governments in order to educate people about the urgency of reforestation. whole community should get involve in the efforts of reforestation. Everyone should play its role in restoring the plants.

To cut the long story short, in a world threatened by climate change, biodiversity loss and ecological collapse, reforestation offers a beacon of hope. Forests are the planet's life support system, and restoring them means restoring our future. Reforestation is crucial for preserving the environment, making world better for the future generation, to combat biodiversity loss, to sustain the world. Successful models from across the globe demonstrates that reforestation is possible and impactful, though it takes time but the advantages are much broader than the

wait. The world must act collectively, decisively, and urgently to scale up reforestation as a global priority. As Wangari Maathai said: "when we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and hope". Let us seize this hope and turn it into action— for the Earth, for humanity and for generations to come.
