

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND ECOLOGY

WITH DR SOPHIE FAUSET AND  
DR SHALOM D. ADDO-DANSO

## Talking points

### KNOWLEDGE & COMPREHENSION

1. In what way do forests play a key role in the global climate system?
2. What do most Earth system models tend to assume?
3. Why is it important for researchers to try and understand more about leaf temperatures?

### APPLICATION

4. Why is looking at data from specific regions of interest (ROIs) in thermal images important for this type of research?
5. How might the findings from the netCTF project help to inform policymakers and make a real difference?
6. What questions would you ask Sophie and Shalom if you were working in the field with them?

### ANALYSIS

7. What are some of the possible motivations for environmental scientists and ecologists when they embark on a career in these subjects?
8. What are the benefits of using thermal cameras for this research?

### EVALUATION

9. To what extent do you agree with Shalom's comments about the importance of international collaboration, and why?
10. Sophie recommends getting involved with environmental issues in your local area. Why do you think she believes this is so important? What would you gain from volunteering in your local area?

## Activity

We already know that climate change is happening; Sophie and Shalom are engaged in a project that seeks to demonstrate the extent of climate change and its effects on different forests. Their efforts seek to create real action that can mitigate some of the impacts of global warming.

With this in mind, write a letter to your local government representative and ask them what is being done in your region to combat climate change. If you are based in the UK, you can find your local member of parliament (MP) here:

[members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP](https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP)

### THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Be polite throughout your letter – climate change might be a topic you are passionate about but remaining respectful is the best way of ensuring a response.
- Ask your government representative whether any policies are in place to combat climate change. If so, what are they? If not, why not? What is planned for the future?
- Is there any aspect of climate change you are particularly passionate about that you would like to ask them about? It might be damage to forests, water pollution, the effects of high temperatures and extreme weather, etc.
- Can you find any evidence to include in your letter to support your concern? Can you reference any specific scientific research to support any points you make?
- Ask if there are any local initiatives or campaigns that you might be able to become part of.

It is always better to make your writing as original as possible, but for help, the Climate Coalition has created a template that shows you some of the things you might want to include in your letter:

[www.theclimatecoalition.org/write-to-your-mp](https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/write-to-your-mp)

## More resources

- Find out about outreach opportunities offered by the University of Plymouth: [www.plymouth.ac.uk/study/outreach](https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/study/outreach)

Find out more about the CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana where Shalom is based: [csir-forig.org.gh](https://csir-forig.org.gh)

Rainforest Foundation UK tackles deforestation both locally and globally. Learn more about its work: [www.rainforestfoundationuk.org](https://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org)

Find out more about The Woodland Trust's conservation work in the UK: [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)