

Part 3

Longer Text

SPM Paper 1: Part 3 (Q19-Q26)

You are going to read an article. For questions 19 to 26, choose the correct answer (A, B, C, or D) and mark the correct letter A, B, C, or D.

Couple Bring Destroyed Forest Back to Life

In 1994, Brazilian photojournalist Sebastião Ribeiro Salgado took over family land in Minas Gerais, Brazil after his traumatizing assignment on reporting genocide in Rwanda. Witnessing the atrocious situation in Rwanda broke something within him. Upon returning to his homeland to take over his family's ranch, he was horrified to find all the trees had been cut down. All the wildlife was gone. It was no longer a lush rainforest, a habitat for many exotic plants and animals, that he remembered as a child. Only 0.5 per cent of land were covered in trees. He fell into a deep depression seeing the land became a barren wasteland.

He said, "The land was as sick as I was – everything was destroyed." Then one day, his wife, Lélia, had a brilliant idea to replant the forest around the family's cattle ranch. She suggested replanting the forest on their own as she believed that it could be done. But it was not an easy task. They were able to reforest the area around their home. Salgado and his family went on to recruit partners and volunteers and raised funds after the project started to show promise. In April 1998, they founded Instituto Terra and established the area as a private reserve. The organisation was committed to the sustainable development of the Valley of the River Doce. They renamed the farmland the Private Natural Heritage Reserve (PNHR) with the goal to restore the 17,000-acre land to its natural state. In December 1999, they began the first mass planting. After that, it became a yearly event with the support of important partners.

Over the years, they have planted over 2 million trees which included 290 species of trees. 20 years later on now, the land is unrecognizable. The project resulted in recreating a forest of arboreal and shrub species native to the Atlantic Forest. Positive effects soon came from the reforestation. Soil erosion managed to be halted and eight dried up natural springs have started flowing again. Even the micro-climate has changed around the new rainforest. They have identified 172 bird species returning to the area. Six of them are already in danger of extinction. 33 species of mammals, 293 species of plants, 15 species of reptiles, and 15 species of amphibians have also returned thanks to the increase in trees.

Reflecting on the success of the project, Salgado stated he was reborn as the forest restored. He thought that to save the earth from destruction, a spiritual return is needed. Replanting forests with trees, is the answer to climate change as the trees turn carbon dioxide into oxygen. He further explained to replant the forest, you need to gather seeds from the same region and plant them. This will result in the animals coming back. If the trees do not belong to the same forests, they would not come back and the forest will be silent. In 2019, the Instituto Terra had only 10 per cent of the PNHR left to be restored and they were nearing the completion of recovery. This achievement shows that the average person can make a difference if they put in the effort.

The couple aimed to have the Instituto Terra become a beacon to stimulate environmental awareness of the need to restore and conserve forest land. They were aware that education and research are essential components of this strategy. Thus, in February 2002, they created the

Center for Environmental Education and Restoration (CERA). Through CERA, they have shared new technologies which shine a new light on existing models of development. The centre was successful as they have developed over 700 educational projects that extend to 65,000 people in more than 170 municipalities of the Valley of the River Doce. It also covered both states of Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais. Some projects have even reached far the states of Bahia and Rio de Janeiro. Salgado's mission continues with the goal to increase the number of native Atlantic Forest species and genomes in the region beyond their land.

(Adapted from <https://www.intelligentliving.co/amp/couple-brazilian-forest>)

19 In paragraph 1, what happened to Sebastião Salgado's land?

- It became deserted.
- It became a smaller rainforest.
- It became a habitat for many wildlife.
- It became barren due to deforestation.

20 In paragraph 2, what does Salgado mean by "The land was as sick as I was..."?

- The land had no more wildlife.
- Salgado had trauma and depression.
- Salgado was mentally unwell while the trees were cut down.
- Salgado was mentally unwell while the land became a wasteland.

21 In paragraph 2, why did Salgado and his wife founded Instituto Terra?

- Because they managed to replant trees around their home.
- Because they had found partners and volunteers for the project.
- Because they found planting an entire forest was too difficult to be done alone.
- Because they found people who share their goal and obtain the required funds.

22 From paragraph 3, which of these is NOT the effect of the reforestation project?

- Soil erosion has accelerated.
- The alteration of the micro-climate.
- The natural springs started running again.
- Many animals of various species came back.

23 Which of the statements is true regarding the Instituto Terra project?

- They planted trees only once a year with their partners.
- It took them 20 years to plant more than 2 million trees.
- They planted mainly shrub species native to the Atlantic Forest.
- Most bird species that returned quickly became endangered species.

24 In paragraph 4, why did Salgado replant trees with only seeds from the region?

- So that it will be the same forest as before and would make the animals return.
- Because the forest would not grow if they are not from the same seed as before.
- Because it needs a spiritual return of the forest.
- So that the forest will not be silent.

25 In paragraph 5, why did they create the Center for Environmental Education and Restoration (CERA)?

- A** Because they want to share the story of their success with others.
- B** To raise awareness and educate people on how to reforest.
- C** To share the technology for replanting trees with others.
- D** Because they realise the power of education.

26 What can we conclude about Sebastião and Lélia Salgado?

- A** They persevere through tough times and work hard to change the destruction.
- B** They are glad to make a difference in the world and want to help others.
- C** They are goal-oriented people who achieved success by working hard.
- D** They can only make a difference with the help of others.