



# AFRICAN CONFERENCE REPORT ON ECOLOGY



## INTRODUCTION

### MAIN ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IN AFRICA

Environmental problem is a key challenge to Africa today and tomorrow.



- ❖ Many Africans live in poverty;
- ❖ Africa has a vast majority of poor states and regions, and poverty is a major reason and consequence of the environmental degradation.
- ❖ Vast majority of countries in Africa depend more on their natural resource base for economic and social needs than any other region in the world.
- ❖ Two-thirds of sub-Saharan Africa's people live in rural areas and rely on agriculture and other natural resources for income.

- . Sub-Saharan Africa is that it has one of the world's fastest growing populations (approximately 2.2% a year). With this fast population growth the environmental challenge will increase.
- by the year 2025, the population of the African people will be over a billion. If this is the case, environmental challenges will double or triple.



**Ecological issues for Africans today (World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) South Africa August 2002).**

- ❑ - WATER POLLUTION AND SANITATION;**
- ❑ - ENERGY;**
- ❑ - OIL POLLUTION;**
- ❑ - AGRICULTURE.**

## Water pollution and sanitation

- *It is caused by oil transmission, shipping ports, poor management of water resources, lack of financial resources required for sustainable development and efficient utilization of resources, absence of effective regional and basin development **plans and shared management**, and under-estimation of the groundwater potential to supplement irrigation and drinking water supplies.... **Freshwater shortage** is the greatest limitation to development in Africa.*



## Energy.

The use of **wood for fuel** accounts for approximately **70%** of total energy;

This is one cause of **deforestation**

Deforestation is one of the most pressing environmental problems

There is a **need to give priority to biodiversity areas** close to areas of high population density.



# Oil pollution

In a number of countries such as Nigeria, Angola, Chad, Sudan, Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, oil is the principle source of income. However, new technologies used in **oil exploration are extremely harmful to the environment**



# Agriculture.

- **Land degradation** is also a serious environmental problem. It increases **food insecurity**, agriculture and arable lands degradation, and mismanagement of available water resources.



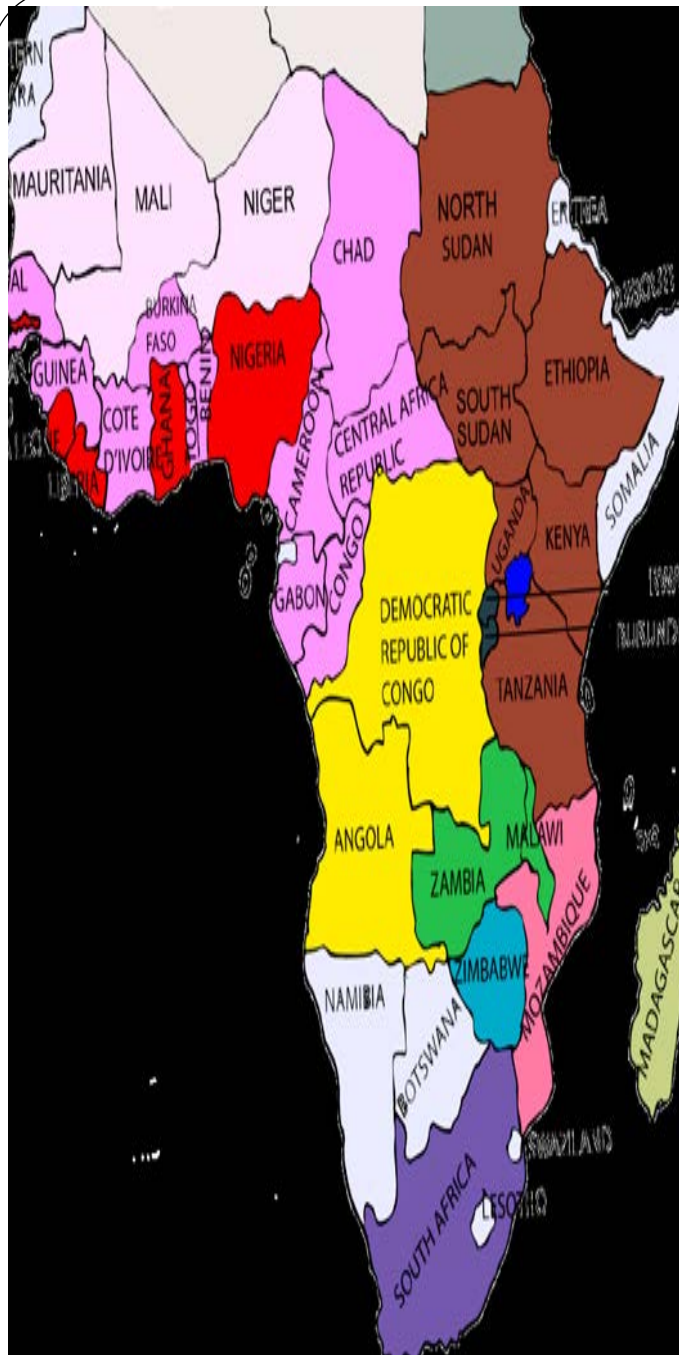




After the Johannesburg Summit it was clear that **THE SOLUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FIRST OF ALL LIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

- because environmental problems in Africa are partly anthropogenic or human-induced
- Africa has contributed less than any other region to **greenhouse gas emissions** that are widely held responsible for global warming. But **the continent is also the most vulnerable to the consequences.**





## II. REPORTS FROM PROVINCES AND REGIONS.

- 8 provinces ( **Central Africa province** (DRC, Angola), **Eastern Africa province** (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, North Sudan and South Sudan, Ethiopia), **Madagascar** (Madagascar), **North-West Africa province** (Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia), **West Africa province** (Chad, Central Africa Republic, Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Senegal), **Zambia – Malawi province**, **Zimbabwe province**)
- 3 regions ( **Mozambique region**, **South Africa region**, **Rwanda – Burundi region**) .



- 3 provinces (Madagascar, Central Africa and Zambia – Malawi) responded to the questionnaire



- ITCJ (Institut théologique de la compagnie de Jésus) Abidjan-Ivorycost) and



- (Hekima college) Nairobi-Nairobi).



## About Fr General's Letter on Ecology:

It was mainly used in community meetings

*“La communauté de l’ITCJ s’est réunie le 21 janvier dernier pour échanger au tour du thème: «**matinée écologique**», en réponse à la lettre du Très Révérend Père Général sur l’écologie, en vue d’y faire émerger les grandes idées susceptibles d’éclairer notre vision, comme communauté, de l’écologie. Après avoir écouté toutes nos petites communautés de vie, après avoir échangé longuement, quelques grandes idées ont émergé. De ces idées, nous avons formulé plusieurs propositions en Sept grandes catégories (**Recherche et partenariat, Gestion des déchets, Consommation responsable, Gestion environnementale de l’ITCJ, Responsabilité individuelle, Ecologie humaine, Dimension spirituelle**), à portée générale et locale »..*

- *Fr Jacques Paulus (Professor at our Agricultural College) gave an introduction to help understand the ecological problem. Later on, the academic community organized another moment of sharing and discussions with the neighboring semi-rural population on the same issues. Some practical steps have been taken as well, such as controlling the amount of what is consumed, managing and recycling of waste used later as organic fertilizers and planting trees by the community”.*



Facultes saint Pierre Canisius Kimwenza

# Jesuit involvement

**“Individual Jesuits have taken different initiatives to respond to Fr General’s letter. For example, Jesuits in Chikuni are aware and some have tried to stop villagers from cutting down trees” (Zambia). This situation seems to be general for most provinces. Some have integrated ecology aspects in retreats, spirituality; others are pushing for lifestyles changes. ...**



- **Good practices.**
- **Environment Committee of Scholastics (Hekima, Kimwenza, ICTJ).**
- Training in protection of the environment (KATC (Kasisi - Zambia), ISAV (Kimwenza - DRC)).
- **Reforestation projects (Iniangi-DRC).**
- **Learning Programs through Radio to mobilize children in particular to plant trees.**
- Discouraging the use of fertilizers.
- **Saving energy.**
- **Encouraging the use of non-burnt bricks.**
- **Water saving.**
- **Including ecological issues in school curriculum and extra-curricular activities.**
- **Including environment (awareness) programs in teacher training colleges.**
- **Radio schools with agro forestry components.**
- Communities writing charters on ecology and establishing ecological warning committees.
- Writing an ecology prayer



# Institutions providing leadership

- ❑ The Jesuit Centre for Environment and Development (JCED) in Lilongwe
- ❑ Kasisi Agriculture Training Centre (KATC)
- ❑ CEFAP/Iniangi
- ❑ the *Institut Supérieur Agrovétérinaire* (ISAV) based in Kimwenza
- ❑ (École Professionnelle Supérieure Agricole) or EPSA



# Jesuits and civil society organizations in ecology : Weak

## Working with students

Work with students is the widest : college Alfajiri (Bukavu-DRC),

**Loyola Jesuit Secondary School (LJSS) in Kasungu (Zambia), Charles Lwanga Teachers College (Zambia) etc** students of ISAV, Kasisi Agriculture Training Centre, the Jesuit agricultural students of Bevalala Antananarivo (École Professionnelle Supérieure Agricole or EPSA).



# Protection of threatened communities : Weak

(CEPAS – DRC) is involved in advocacy against the displacement of populations by mining companies in Katanga (south - DRC).



- **Alternative models of development : reseach**
- **Retreat and spirituality.**  
(individual Jesuits )



- **Natural disasters protocol**  
(jrs : food security, and displacement of populations due to earthquakes and conflicts.)

### **Institution of reference**

- Institut agro vétérinaire (ISAV-DRC),
- Kasisi Agriculture training center (Zambia) and
- “École Professionnelle Supérieure Agricole” (EPSA - Madagascar).



- **Advocacy: Geographic priorities.**
- In South Africa we will address the **question of pollution.**
- In the East we will address the **shortage of water** and **drought** in North Eastern Kenya. **Water Pollution** is also one of the problems in mining areas (Zambia and DRC (Katanga)).
- In central Africa, the concern is on the **rain forest** that must be protected.
- In the West the question of **oil pollution** is huge in Nigeria, but growing in Chad, Sudan, and Angola
- In the conference we also have the huge problem of **drought in the Sahel region.**



## FUTURE POSSIBLE INITIATIVES

- In every Province, we should have a **environmental committee** (exactly as we have commissions of Justice and Peace).
- Sessions of **Information on environmental** issues should be offered by the Conference in our houses of formation, for the young Jesuits, but also in our Spiritual and Cultural Centers, for Jesuits and our friends and collaborators.
- Provinces could set **policies** for all the communities in **terms of use of energy** (promote renewable energy: solar lighting, for instance) and **treatment of waste** (recycling).
- Communities should reflect on the use of cars by their members and try to find a way **of reducing the consumption of fuel**.
- The Conference should be more **involved in the resolution of conflicts and peace-building**. This will help to **prevent environmental catastrophes**.
- The Conference should **encourage projects** such as CEFAP (Centre of Formation in Agriculture) which aims at helping populations particularly exposed to poverty and consequences of environmental destruction.
- The (SJES) secretary should **inform on world events** on ecology and **facilitate participation** of provinces and conferences.



**END  
THANK YOU**