

Africa

Constellation: AF South C6

Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland



NEEDS

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF South C. 6**

Country: **Namibia**

Cry of the Earth

- depletion and degradation of water and aquatic resources
- desertification
- land degradation
- loss of biodiversity and biotic resources
- wildlife poaching

Cry of the Poor

- A high per capita GDP due to mining industry – but extremely unequal wealth distribution
- one of the poorest countries in all of Africa with about 56% of its total population living below poverty line
- The Republic of Namibia remains one of the HIV/AIDS killing zones in Africa with a very high HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate of 13.1%

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF South C. 6**

Country: **Botswana**

Cry of the Earth

- Overgrazing
- Desertification
- limited freshwater resources
- air pollution

Cry of the Poor

- Today Botswana has the third highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the world at approximately 22%

Commitments

CARE FOR THE PLANET

Commit to

- Plant at least one broad leaf tree : Mkhuhla/ Indigenous tree –Umgakayi/ Portulacaria Africa, Jade Plant.
- Celebrate the season of creation
- Raise consciousness on parishes –ask priests to do just a display on the Earth Day (22ndApril)
- Continue on-going –education of our communities on care of creation.

PROTECTION OF MINORS

- Suggestion to our Leadership Conference: We propose that our leadership conference extends the portfolios by creating a desk for the protection of minors and the vulnerable adults.
- Learn from other congregation who are already doing that.
- Research more on the matter

1.1 Constellation level

At our annual gathering in September 2019, Care for the Planet was made the theme for our meeting. We had an opening ritual where the globe was passed around for each to feel the connectedness and grounded-ness with the world. Members shared their ‘wintery’ and ‘spring’ experiences from what was happening around them where they are based in the country. This was a very rich encounter as it was when the country was experiencing xenophobia and high femicide rates.

- sex trafficking and forced labor
 - young Batswana serving as domestic workers, sometimes sent by their parents, may be denied education and basic necessities or experience confinement and abuse indicative of forced labor
 - Batswana girls and women also are forced into prostitution domestically
 - adults and children of San ethnicity were reported to be in forced labor on farms and at cattle posts in the country's rural west

General notes

- Botswana ranks as one of the least corrupt and best places to do business in sub-Saharan Africa

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF South C. 6**

Country: **South Africa**

Cry of the Earth

- lack of important arterial rivers or lakes requires extensive water conservation and control measures; growth in water usage outpacing supply
- pollution of rivers from agricultural runoff and urban discharge
- air pollution resulting in acid rain; deforestation
- soil erosion; land degradation
- desertification
- solid waste pollution

Cry of the Poor

- HIV/AIDS continues to be a serious public health threat, although awareness-raising campaigns and the wider availability of anti-retroviral drugs is stabilizing the number of new cases
- South Africa's stability and economic growth has acted as a magnet for refugees and asylum seekers from nearby countries, despite the prevalence of discrimination and xenophobic violence
- Unemployment, poverty, and inequality are among the highest in the world
 - *Significantly* higher among black youths – remnants of Apartheid
- The government has failed to ensure an estimated half-a-million children with disabilities have access to a quality education.
- Concerns remain about police brutality, the treatment of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, and recurring outbreaks of xenophobia violence.

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF South C. 6**

Country: **Lesotho**

The challenge to care for the planet was also extended to the Leadership Conference of major superiors where for the AGM that was held in March 2020, seventy congregational leaders were presented with an indigenous plant called Spekboom which is known as a carbon dioxide guzzler and commissioned to go and take care of the planet by planting the tree and encouraging their communities to do the same.

1.2 Congregational level

The different congregations committed to planting at least one tree in each of their communities:

- Different congregations planted Elephants Feet Trees, also known as Carbon Dioxide Guzzlers as well as portulacea plants.
- For another congregation, four wind-breakers were planted at the Motherhouse as part of the commitment to take care of the earth and also to symbolize the four year period prior to the Centenary jubilee in 2022.
- Some communities started to raise consciousness at parish level while another involved their local parish community to participate in a tree planting ceremony within the parish compound.
- For some congregations, each community was presented with a candle and an indigenous plant called Spekboom which is known as a carbon dioxide guzzler in October 2019 under the theme baptized and sent, commissioning them to go and take care of the earth.
- Other communities worked in conjunction with their schools and had solemn tree planting ceremonies in which school staff and pupils played a role.
- Another congregation has a congregational justice and peace and integrity of creation team as well as a JPIC person.
- For congregations with communities in other countries, the communities also involved their Local Council who arranged for saplings to be donated followed by a public ceremony where 30 trees were planted.

Cry of the Earth

- population pressure forcing settlement in marginal areas results in overgrazing, severe soil erosion, and soil exhaustion
- desertification

Cry of the Poor

- More than half of its population lives below the property line, and the country's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is the second highest in the world
- persistently high infant, child, and maternal mortality rates
- forced labor and sex trafficking
 - in Lesotho and South Africa, Basotho women and children are subjected to domestic servitude, and Basotho children increasingly endure commercial sexual exploitation
 - some Basotho men who voluntarily migrate to South Africa for work become victims of forced labor in agriculture and mining

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF South C. 6**

Country: **Swaziland/Eswatini**

Cry of the Earth

- limited supplies of potable water
- wildlife populations being depleted because of excessive hunting
- population growth, deforestation, and overgrazing lead to soil erosion and soil degradation
- erratic weather (frequent droughts and intermittent heavy rains and flooding), overuse of small plots, the overgrazing of cattle, and outdated agricultural practices reduce crop yields and further degrade the environment, exacerbating poverty and subsistence problems

Cry of the Poor

- suffers from severe poverty and the world's highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate
 - As of 2017, more than one-quarter of the adult population was infected by HIV/AIDS
- high unemployment, rapid population growth, and an uneven distribution of resources all combine to worsen already persistent poverty and food insecurity, especially in rural areas
 -

- Others also agreed to plant trees in each of their communities and encouraged others to do likewise.
- Others mark Creation Day with prayers, articles, DVD's etc. and other reminders.
- Indigenous trees were planted in a desolate area closer to where a community of sisters lives.

1.3 Individual level

One of the members of C6 attended a Summit in Divest Invest in Renewable Energy in Cape Town, South Africa as part of Caring for the Planet. The member has now joined SAFCEI which is the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute. And they held a Conference in October 2019 in Benoni, South Africa where they revised the Declaration Policy.

2. PROTECTION OF MINORS

The second commitment is Protection of Minors. Information was shared with the Conference for major superiors (LCCL) and they indicated that this is incorporated into the safe guarding portfolio, so there won't be a need for a separate desk like it was envisioned. However, for the 2020/21 period, there are plans in the conference to capacitate novices and junior professed on child safeguarding and other church protocols for them to know how to better protect themselves. The plan is also to capacitate other church personnel on the same prescripts.