

# Asia

## Constellation: APME Pacific Region C7

New Zealand, Nuova Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga



### NEEDS

Continent: **Pacific Region**

Constellation: **APME C7**

Country: **New Zealand**

#### Cry of the Poor

- High poverty rates affecting children and families
- Inadequate housing for lower income people
- High incarceration rate, indigenous Māori comprise 16% of the population but 57% of adults sentenced to prison
- Affordable housing crisis

Continent: **Pacific Region**

Constellation: **APME C7**

Country: **New Caledonia**

#### Cry of the Poor

- Kanak, indigenous people of New Caledonia, face discrimination and poverty

#### Cry of the Earth

- Open cast mining has caused deforestation and habitat destruction, on land and in offshore coral reefs
- Poorly regulated logging has damaged biodiversity
- Introduction of non-native species (rats, fire ants, etc) have damaged native island species

Continent: **Pacific Region**

Constellation: **APME C7**

Country: **Fiji**

#### Cry of the Poor

- Women's rights, widespread harassment, violence and discrimination towards women
- Detention of human rights activists and journalists critical of government

### Commitments

CONFERENCE FOR MAJOR SUPERIORS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS STATEMENT on the CLIMATE CRISIS (2019)

CREATIONS CRY

Climate change is strangling creation. The thresholds to ensure the balance of our ecosystem have been surpassed. Some islands have already disappeared and by the middle of this century more of our island nations we call home will have been lost. We are drowning. Alarming evidence shows that our oceans are warming, our sea levels rising, our lands eroding, our water is becoming undrinkable and our fish dying. Our people are crying out one with our islands, sea and air – “ENOUGH!” We are clinging to our way of life only by the thread of possible change by the rich and powerful, and, our own awareness of creation’s cry. Our islands will be no more and our children, homeless, our future forsaken!

Inspired by the Gospels, driven by Laudato Si, and recognizing the urgency of the Climate Crisis facing us, we the CMSPI affirm the following and are called to action. We consider it an imperative that awareness and an ecological conversion take hold throughout the Pacific and the world through the following strategies:

- We encourage our religious leaders to ensure our schools include an ecological component to their curriculum; that likewise all our parishes and

Cry of the Earth

- Calls for sea bed mining moratorium to allow for proper scientific research of economic zones and territorial waters

Continent: **Pacific Region**

Constellation: **APME C7**

Country: **Samoa**

Cry of the Poor

- Women's right to vote. Although women were given the right to vote in 1991, decision making is dominated by exclusively male matais or chief
- Domestic violence is an issue

Cry of the Earth

- Rising ocean levels and increased severe weather events threaten human habitats and the ecosystem

Continent: **Pacific Region**

Constellation: **APME C7**

Country: **Tonga**

Cry of the Poor

- Violence against women is common
- Women do not have fully equal rights. Women can lease, but not own land.

Cry of the Earth

- Rising sea levels and erosion threaten the island nation

ministries have an 'ecological conversion' formation component, including preaching; furthermore, that the PRS (Pacific Regional Seminary) which trains future leaders, also includes an ecological component in its curriculum.

- We recognize the need to use social media to create awareness of the crisis.
- We call on the powerful nations to heed our cry and enact policies and laws that ensure limited and acceptable CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions
- We support our respective governments in their endeavor to change islands policies and laws to a more simple way of life, learning from our ancestors and past practices conducive to natural harmonious existence. This includes refraining from using harmful, ecologically unfriendly products (Styrofoam, plastics, etc.) from abroad.
- We challenge the capital/profit driven ventures that have no concern for ecology, for example seabed mining. We call on governments to ensure strict codes of conduct to ensure ecological preservation.
- We promote collaboration with other Religions, NGOs and our respective governments to respond to the Climate Crisis.

Creation's demise is an affront to the Creator and God's people. Creation's cry calls for a World in union with the Creator's intention – that we be one!