

Africa

Constellation: AF West C7

Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo, Guinea, Ivory Coast



NEEDS

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF West C. 7**

Country: **Mali**

Cry of the Earth

- deforestation
- soil erosion
- desertification
- loss of pasture land
- inadequate supplies of potable water

Cry of the Poor

- Mali's infant, child, and maternal mortality rates remain among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa
 - limited access to and adoption of family planning, early childbearing, short birth intervals, the prevalence of female genital cutting, infrequent use of skilled birth attendants, and a lack of emergency obstetrical and neonatal care
- forced labor and sex trafficking;
 - women and girls are forced into domestic servitude, agricultural labor, and support roles in gold mines, as well as subjected to sex trafficking
 - Malian boys are forced to work in agricultural settings, gold mines, the informal commercial sector and to beg within Mali and neighboring countries
 - men and boys, primarily of Songhai ethnicity, are subjected to debt bondage in the salt mines of Taoudenni in northern Mali
 - some members of Mali's Tamachek community are subjected to hereditary slavery-related practices
 - Malian women and girls are victims of sex trafficking in Gabon, Libya, Lebanon, and Tunisia
- In 2018, attacks by armed Islamist groups against civilians spiked and the army committed atrocities during counterterrorism operations, and intercommunal violence killed hundreds

Commitments

The activities have been carried out this school year 2019-2020 in our Saint Joseph's College of Djifanghor with the theme: "Together for a clean, healthy and study-friendly environment".

1. Appointment among the students of a Minister in charge of the environment: she was responsible for the implementation of the programme related to the theme, supervising activities, organizing awareness sessions, evaluating and reporting to the President of the school government.
2. Daily sweeping of classrooms and courtyard under the supervision of the classroom supervisors.
3. Cleaning days of the College and the surrounding area every 15 days.
4. Awareness of the school government on cleanliness in general and the College in particular.
5. During the Olympics, the school government organized a drawing or slogan competition on the theme of the environment to invite students to get involved in environmental care. The best pupil or class was awarded a prize.
6. Green space, flowered: Flowers planted all around, inside the College.
7. The last activity to be done: twinning with the village primary school to clean and plant trees such as eucalyptus.

- Rampant banditry continued amid a deepening security vacuum
- In central Mali, Islamist group attack with explosive devices on roadways
- State counterterrorism operations resulted in dozens of summary executions and ill-treatment

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF West C. 7**

Country: **Senegal**

Cry of the Earth

- Deforestation
- Overgrazing
- soil erosion
- desertification
- periodic droughts, seasonal flooding
- overfishing
- weak environmental protective laws
- wildlife populations threatened by poaching

Cry of the Poor

- high illiteracy rate (more than 40%)
- high unemployment (even among university graduates), and widespread poverty
 - Senegalese youths face dim prospects; women are especially disadvantaged.
- *Talibé* children's Quranic teachers force them to beg
 - *Daara* schools are unregulated and children are often neglected or abused

Continent: **Africa**

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Country: **Burkina Faso**

Cry of the Earth

- recent droughts and desertification severely affecting agricultural activities, population distribution, and the economy
- overgrazing
- soil degradation
- deforestation

Cry of the Poor

- Mortality rates, especially those of infants and children, have decreased because of improved health care, hygiene, and sanitation
- Irregular patterns of rainfall, poor soil, and the lack of adequate communications and other infrastructure contribute to the economy's vulnerability to external shocks

Sisters of Our Lady of Lake Bam

In Burkina Faso, the Sisters of Notre Dame du Lac Bam demonstrated their participation in the options taken at the IUGS 2019 Plenary Assembly for the safeguarding of the environment by raising awareness within the Institute and decisions were taken during the two General Assemblies:

- The non-use of plastic bags
- reforestation

Also, a sensitisation was made in the Northern Region by the Superior General during a meeting with the authorities and those in charge of the different services. This was heard and taken into account by the participants.

Sisters of Saint Augustine

Several activities were carried out at the level of the Sisters of Saint Augustine in addition to what was done at the level of Anima Una - Benin Section.

- Sessions were given in small groups to all the Sisters based on the encyclical letter LAUDATO SI of the Holy Father Francis. The Sister Directors of our schools were trained to sensitize the learners to the good use of things and to respect for the environment in general. The systematic use of rubbish bins. Keeping the courtyard and classrooms clean. Sometimes it is children who call adults to order. It is beautiful to see the little ones in the Maternelle performing poems such as "I love the science of life...If you kill the trees, it will be hot on earth...The environment is for me, the environment is for you...we must protect it...". They try to live what they sing or recite as a poem. This has a positive impact on their families.
- As part of the celebration of our Golden Jubilee of the Congregation, we also organized a health campaign in the neighbourhoods where the forty or so communities of the

- forced labor and sex trafficking
 - Burkinabe children are forced to work as farm hands, gold panners and washers, street vendors, domestic servants, and beggars or in the commercial sex trade,
 - to a lesser extent, Burkinabe women are recruited for jobs in the Middle East or Europe and subsequently forced into prostitution
 - women from other West African countries are also lured to Burkina Faso for work and subjected to forced prostitution, forced labor in restaurants, or domestic servitude

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF West C. 7**

Country: **Benin**

Cry of the Earth

- inadequate supplies of potable water
- Water pollution
- poaching threatens wildlife populations
- Deforestation
- desertification (the spread of the desert into agricultural lands in the north is accelerated by regular droughts)

Cry of the Poor

- Poverty, unemployment, increased living costs, and dwindling resources increasingly drive the Beninese to migrate
- With about 40% of the population living below the poverty line, many desperate parents resort to sending their children to work in wealthy households as domestic servants, mines, quarries, or agriculture domestically or in Nigeria and other neighboring countries, often under brutal conditions

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF West C. 7**

Country: **Togo**

Cry of the Earth

- deforestation attributable to slash-and-burn agriculture and the use of wood for fuel
 - very little rain forest still present and what remains is highly degraded
- desertification
- water pollution presents health hazards and hinders the fishing industry
- air pollution increasing in urban areas
- Notorious as a transit point for ivory poached elsewhere in the region

Sisters of Saint Augustine are located throughout the ten dioceses of the country. On this occasion, certain administrative authorities such as the heads of the neighbourhoods and other residents joined the Sisters in sweeping the street or a VONS, for example.

- Trees were planted on some areas of the Congregation. On one of our farms, the parish priest and parishioners actively participated in the planting of seedlings.
- There was also awareness raising in the use of water and electricity.
- In addition to all this, there is the prayer that the Lord may enlighten the men and women of our planet to become aware and rise as one to protect "our common house".

- Poaching has risen in recent years across the continent, where well-armed criminal gangs kill elephants for tusks and rhino for their horns, before shipping them to Asia for use in ornaments and supposed medicine

Cry of the Poor

- poor educational quality, underrepresentation of girls, and the low rate of enrollment in secondary and tertiary schools
- Many children are forced into domestic servitude or hard labour at a young age, driven by poverty and cultural traditions
 - almost 30% of children in Togo are forced to work from an early age
- one of the poorest countries in the world: more than 30% of the population lives below the poverty line
- About 120,000 Togolese are estimated to be living with HIV
 - mothers will frequently transmit the virus to their infants because of the lack in health care structure and screening procedures.
- The practice of female genital mutilation still exists in some regions of Togo

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF West C. 7**

Country: **Guinea**

Cry of the Earth

- Deforestation
- inadequate potable water
- desertification
- soil contamination and erosion
- overfishing
- overpopulation in forest region
- poor mining practices lead to environmental damage
- water pollution
- improper waste disposal

Cry of the Poor

- the nearly universal practice of female genital cutting continues to contribute to high infant and maternal mortality rates
 - Guinea has a lack of educational attainment and empowerment among women, contributing to poverty
- A lack of literacy and vocational training programs limit job prospects for youths
 - even those with degrees often have no option but to work in the informal sector.
 - About 60% of the country's large youth population is unemployed.

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Country: **Ivory Coast**

Cry of the Earth

- deforestation (most of the country's forests - once the largest in West Africa - have been heavily logged)
- water pollution from sewage, and from industrial, mining, and agricultural effluents

Cry of the Poor

- access to education is poor, especially for women
 - As of 2015, only 53% of men and 33% of women were literate
- The lack of educational attainment contributes to Cote d'Ivoire's high rates of unskilled labor, adolescent pregnancy, and HIV/AIDS prevalence.
- Ongoing economic decline since the 1980s and the power struggle after the death of Houphouët-Boigny, an early leader of Côte d'Ivoire, ushered in the politics of "Ivoirite,"
 - Institutionalization of an Ivoirian identity that further marginalized northern Ivoirians and scapegoated immigrants
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