

# Asia

## Constellation: APME Pacific Region C6

Australia, Papua New Guinea



### NEEDS

Continent: **Australia**

Constellation: **APME Pacific Region C6**

Country: **Australia**

#### Cry of the Earth

- floods
- soil erosion from overgrazing
- deforestation
- desertification
- industrial development and urbanization
- poor farming practices
- limited natural fresh water
- severe droughts
- bushfires
- Clearing for agriculture threatens the natural habitat of many unique plant and animal species.
- Significant floral extinction
- The Great Barrier Reef, the largest coral reef in the world, is threatened by increased shipping and tourism.
- overfishing
- pollution
- problems with invasive species
- It is the driest inhabited continent on earth.

#### Cry of the Poor

- aging population
- Tasmania is one of the world's major suppliers of illicit opiate products.
- major consumer of cocaine and amphetamines

### Commitments

#### **Constellation 6 Oceania / Australia**

- We commit ourselves to the care of the planet by establishing a contact person for JPIC from each Congregation at our National Assembly in June

#### Ques 2:

- 1) We commit ourselves to support and nurture the seed of interculturality exploration which we have just sown in recent times
- 2) We commit ourselves to keep on our CRA Council agenda the priorities/projects of UISG
- 3) We commit ourselves to continue to support the work of ACRATH – Counter-trafficking
- 4) To provide for leaders a workshop such as we had here on the abuse of Sisters – child protection etc. as an education to move professional standards issues towards healing, compassion and mission
- 5) Take up the challenge of mission to our elderly sisters

#### **Constellation Oceania**

Continent: **Asia**

Constellation: **APME Pacific Region C6**

Country: **Papa New Guinea**

#### Cry of the Earth

- rain forest loss due to growing demand for tropical lumber
- soil erosion resulting from logging practices
- loss of habitat and biodiversity
- Large scale mining has an adverse impact on forests and water quality (discharge of heavy metals, cyanide, and acids into rivers).
- severe droughts
- inappropriate farming practices accelerating soil erosion, siltation, loss of soil fertility
- destructive fishing practices
- coastal pollution due to run-off from land-based activities and oil spill

#### Cry of the Poor

- long-standing, low scale tribal conflict due to differences in language, customs, and traditions among the numerous indigenous groups
- Modern weapons and migration into urban areas have greatly magnified the impact of lawlessness.
- Approximately 85% of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood.
- chronic law and order and land tenure issues
- Mineral deposits, including copper, gold, and oil account for nearly two thirds of all exports.
- Telecommunication services are minimal.
- Access to telephone service is not widely available.
- fragile economic stability and poor living conditions
- low literacy rate (64.2%)
- source and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor
- Foreign and Papua New Guinean women and children are subjected to sex trafficking, domestic servitude, forced begging, and street vending
- Parents may sell girls into forced marriages to settle debts or as peace offerings to another tribe.
- Parents may prostitute children for income or to pay school fees.  
Chinese, Malaysian, and local men are forced to labor in logging and mining camps through debt bondage schemes.

- 1) We are an island people located on an ocean, not a continent. You often do not see us on a map. We are located so far, to the South. We are impacted by climate change – Rising sea levels impact on fresh water, habitat, land, food stocks. Food stocks are diminishing, as there is over fishing by big companies, more polluted waters with plastic waste, etc. These are the consequences today:
  - Climate refugees
  - Trafficking of people
- 2) Our hope is to continue to advocate. We have practices in place, like growing mangroves along the coasts. Collaborating with others, inter congregational and Caritas International. Thank you (Vanaka vakaleuu – Fijian) Nga mihi nui (TeReo Maori)  
To conclude “God of our Island Home, Your love is like the sea surrounding us completely”.

