



ZIMBABWE EAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MINISTRY WITH WOMEN YOUTH AND CHILDREN
WORKSHOP ON ECO-CONGREGATION
10 OCTOBER 2018
MUTARE HEAD OFFICE

**ECO CONGREGATION WORKSHOP HELD IN
MUTARE ON 10TH OCTOBER 2018**

Zimbabwe East Annual Conference (ZEAC) Ministry with Women, Children and Youth's Coordinator Mrs. Tendai Rebecca Gurupira facilitated the implementation of a one day workshop on eco congregation at Mutare United Methodist Church on the 10th of October 2018.



Mrs. Tendai Rebecca Gurupira Ministry with Women, Children and Youth Coordinator

Eco congregation is about creating churches that are conscious about taking care of God's creation.



During the workshop congregates were empowered to be environmentally conscious and be the lead in making aware about the dangers of a depleted environment and the benefits associated with proper maintenance and repairing of the God given fauna and flora.

Participants were drawn from the 5 districts of the ZEAC namely: Makoni Buhera, Mutasa Nyanga, Mutare, Marange and Chimanimani Chipinge. However other church leaders were in attendance as well.



Miss Caroline Nyorowai Mutsago the Advocacy and Grassroots Organiser

The co-presenters were Miss Caroline Nyorowai Mutsago the Advocacy and Grassroots Organiser and Miss Shamiso Winnet Mupara a well versed

environmental practitioner who owns an organisation called Environmental Buddies Zimbabwe.

They said that the earth and its components not only suffer from injustices at the hands of humans, but actively resist exploitation and abuse in the struggle for justice hence we are now battling with climate change.



Rev. Joseph Chimberengwa

One of the most important policy interventions to protect the environment in Zimbabwe was the inception of the Environmental Management Act in 2002, which allowed for the establishment of the Environmental Management Agency, a regulator and monitor. The legislation provides for a legal framework and institutional mechanisms for



managing the environment. However, often the fines fail to stop environmental abuse.



Group photo

This workshop empowers the UMC to fight in protecting the earth for all of God’s children.

United Methodists Social Principles says, “All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. ... God has granted us stewardship of creation. ... Let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God’s creation.” (The Book of Discipline 2016, Par. 160)



Miss Shamiso Winnet Mupara – Guest presenter



Candle lighting during Lord’s prayer



PROCEEDINGS OF THE DAY

LITURGIST: MISS CAROLINE NYOROWAI MUTSAGO



Miss Caroline Nyorowai Mutsago

PASTORAL PRAYER: REV. JOSEPH CHIMBERENGWA



Rev. Joseph Chimberengwa

DEVOTION

BIBLE READER: REV. JOSEPH CHIMBERENGWA
SCRIPTURES

Genesis 1: 26-27



PREACHER: REV. JOSEPH CHIMBERENGWA



Rev. Joseph Chimberengwa

THEME:

In his message Rev. Chimberengwa said that after God finished all the creation like Hilltop, Chikanga Mountains, God held a meeting with His cabinet and all were saying it was good.



The scenery in Pungwe, Nyanga Mountains, Mutarazi falls, all the trees, all animals and all the spectrum of fauna and flora people will be happy.

He then created a human being similar to Him and was again very happy.



The participants

In every creation He created a male and a female.

When God finished His creation, all His creations of fauna and flora were not blessed with dominion like human beings.

THEME: THE POWER OF DOMINION

As we travel do not underrate yourself because in you there is enshrinement of the power of dominion. God is

calling us to His ministry to evoke the power in you to dominate.

God has poured or has flooded in you power of dominion.

One day the preacher visited the face book page and he saw people from a church in Marange planting trees. All classes of people were there.

He said that if at this rate, if UMC members can follow suit change to the country can be realised and Zimbabwe can become one of the beautiful countries under the sun.

This is so because we have the capacity to dominate over everything.

He suspected that the workshop's objective is for the church to dominate and bring change.

As a happy person in Chakohwa village where he resided there was a big gully and promised that one day he would reclaim it. He used to use stones to reclaim it, but remember the water will always use its water way.

He planned to construct a house 35m by 22m at his home area and closed that gully.



Today he has managed to reclaim it and there is a slab of his house already in place.

He encouraged all to go and dominate all the challenges faced because we have been given the power to do so.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit AMEN.

WELCOMING REMARKS BY CAROLINE MUTSAGO

Miss Mutsago said that when God created heaven and earth He was always saying this is good.

When He created a human being in His own image, He said that this is very good.

Imagine when He comes back on the judgement day what will He say to us about the environment? Are we good stewards? It is our duty to look after the environment so that when He comes He will be happy.

She explained that the program falls under Mrs. Gurupira's office of Ministry with Women, Children and Youth.

The objective is to take care of God's creation.

She thanked all for coordinating this workshop and all the efforts to make it possible.

GROUP'S GROUND RULES

1. Phones to be on silent
2. Creating oneness
3. To respect one another's opinion
4. Everyone to participate
5. To be conscious about time.

FIRST PART PRESENTATION ON INTRODUCTION OF ECO-CONGREGATION BY NYOROWAI CAROLINE MUTSAGO



Nyorowai Caroline Mutsago



CHALLENGE SESSIONS ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE RELATED CHALLENGES IN ZIMBABWE

Through this workshop we are creating churches that are conscious about taking care of God's creation.



GOALS

1. Eco-Congregation will aim to encourage churches to celebrate the gift of God's creation and to care for it in their life and mission through the members' personal lifestyles.
2. To help churches answer the call to care for all of God's creation, and develop ministries that are

faithful, relevant and effective in working toward social justice and environmental sustainability.

3. To raise awareness on Climate Change and its effects and the need to take care of God's creation.
4. To mobilize and engage people to be in action
5. Advocacy and training of clergy from both annual conference who will therefore go back to their districts and take action

SUMMARY

1. Putting God's house in green order
2. Changing lives and changing communities.
3. Help congregations integrate creation care into their worship, teaching, group activities, management procedures, community engagement, and personal lifestyles.

PEOPLE OF FAITH CARING FOR THE SACRED COMMUNITY OF LIFE

- Focusing on that which unites us, rather than our differences
- Mandate from sacred texts and faith values to care for creation and establish justice.
- Faith leaders are better trusted than politicians.
- Leaders have responsibility to lead by example and speak the truth to power.



- Faiths have community networks that meet regularly.
- Over 90% of African people belong to a faith, through collaboration, networking, research and action. Therefore the UMC seeks to:
 1. raise environmental awareness
 2. engage in formulating policy and ethical guidelines within faith communities
 3. facilitate environmental responsibility and action
 4. confront environmental and socio-economic injustices
 5. support environmental training and learning.



Participants

CALLED BY OUR FAITH TO BE KEEPERS OF THE EARTH

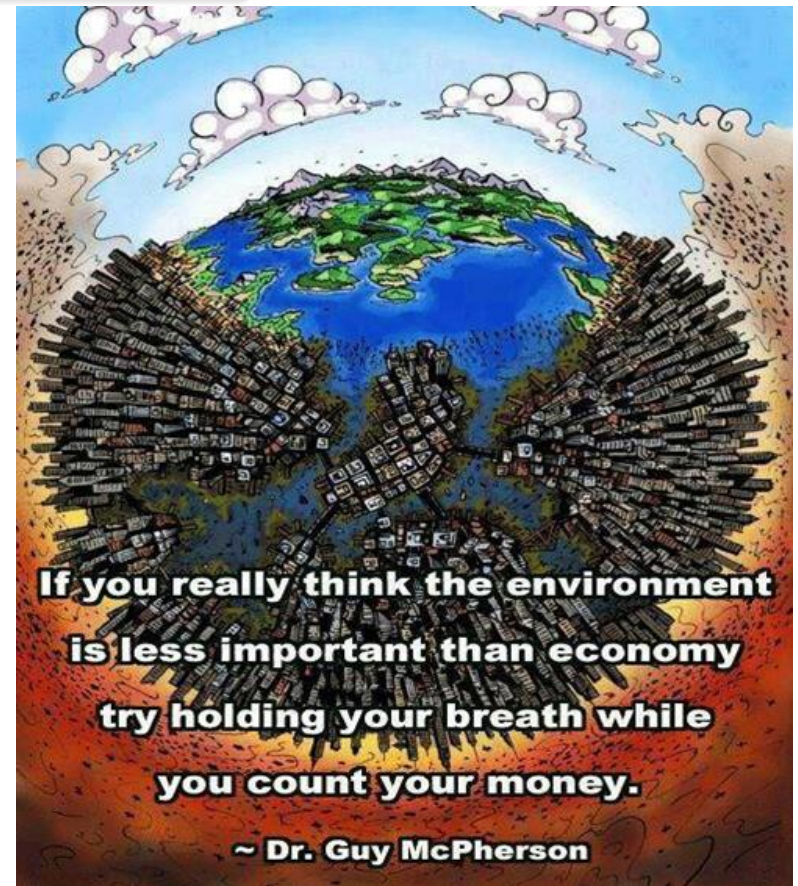
Eco: God's Oikos/House – both ecology and economy Justice for planet is also justice for people.

- ❖ The agenda for social justice and environmental justice are deeply intertwined

ECO-JUSTICE PRINCIPLES

1. The principle of intrinsic worth

The universe, Earth and all its components have intrinsic value.





2. The principle of interconnectedness

Earth is a community of interconnected living things that are mutually dependent on each other.



Interconnectedness

3. The principle of voice

Earth is a subject capable of raising its own voice in celebration and against injustice.



A dog breastfeeding its puppies

4. The principle of purpose

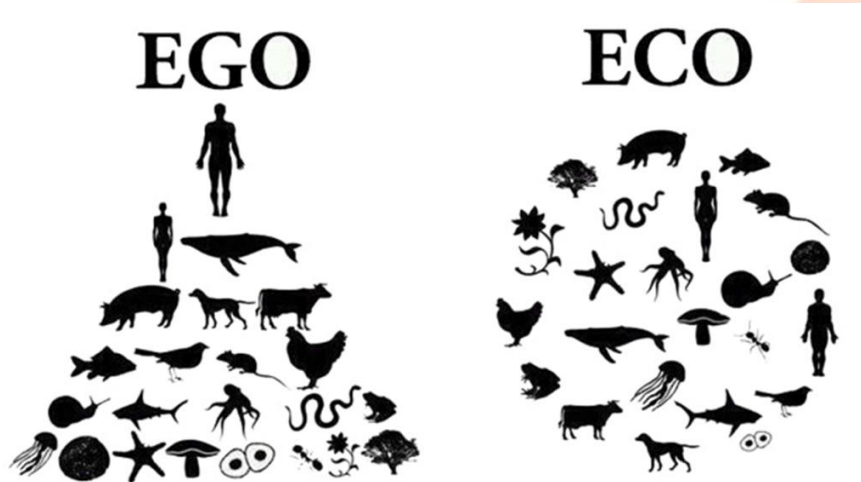
The universe and all its components are part of a dynamic cosmic design within which each piece has a place in the overall goal of that design.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now- Romans 8:22

5. The principle of custodianship



Earth is a balanced and diverse domain where responsible custodians can function as partners, rather than rulers to sustain a balanced and diverse earth community.



Ego – a person’s sense of self-esteem or self-importance and Eco not harming the environment, but be part of the environment.

6. Principle of resistance

Earth and its components not only suffer from injustices at the hands of humans, but actively resist exploitation and abuse in the struggle for justice.



Otherwise the land will vomit you out for defiling it, as it vomited out the nation that was before you. Leviticus 18:28

SECOND PRESENTATION BY MISS SHAMISO WINNET MUPARA



Miss Shamiso Winnet Mupara



In her introductory remarks Shamiso quoted Genesis 5:28-29 which reads:

BIBLE READER: MRS. RUBY MACHIPI SCRIPTURES

Genesis 1: 26-27



Genesis 5:28-29 *Lamech lived one hundred and eighty two years and had a son. And he called his name Noah, saying, “This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed.”*

Genesis 2:15 *then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*



Mrs. Ruby Machipi

Miss Mupara said that environment is not the responsibility of circular people, but Christians as written in the scriptures.

As Christians we should be on the forefront in keeping the environment rather than Environmental Management Authority (EMA).

Adam and Eve were not placed in the garden for them to enjoy the fruits, but to be stewards of the environment.

When given the responsibility, you put more effort so that when the owner comes he will be happy.

The first assignment before preaching was to be stewards of His creation, but as a church it seems we are more focused on the spiritual side and neglect the environment.

Everything is centered on EMA yet the Bible is saying it is the duty of Christians to do what EMA is doing today.

Forestry Commission should learn from us that trees have to be planted and Wildlife should learn from us that wild animals are to be protected because it is the assignment which was given to us.

In Genesis 5:28-29 when Lamech gave birth to a son he named him Noah. Noah means restoration.



The nation had been cursed after people had sinned against God.

Noah was going to bring that environmental restoration. Someone may give birth to a child and if that child dies and gave birth to another child, that child can be named him Munyaradzi which means we are being comforted.

The nation thought the time had come for them to be comforted concerning their work and the toil of their hands; because of the ground which the Lord had cursed hence Noah was named Noah.

They were hoping to have positivity of life, bumper harvest, cool temperatures, and good rains and similarly let us be empowered and rise up and fight against environmental degradation.

We are there to bring out environmental restoration. Wherever destruction done previously and our generation let us take the responsibility to restore it.

CLIMATE CHANGE/ GLOBAL WARMING

Climate change is a change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns when that change lasts for an extended period of time (i.e., decades to millions of years).

Climate change may refer to a **change in average weather conditions.**



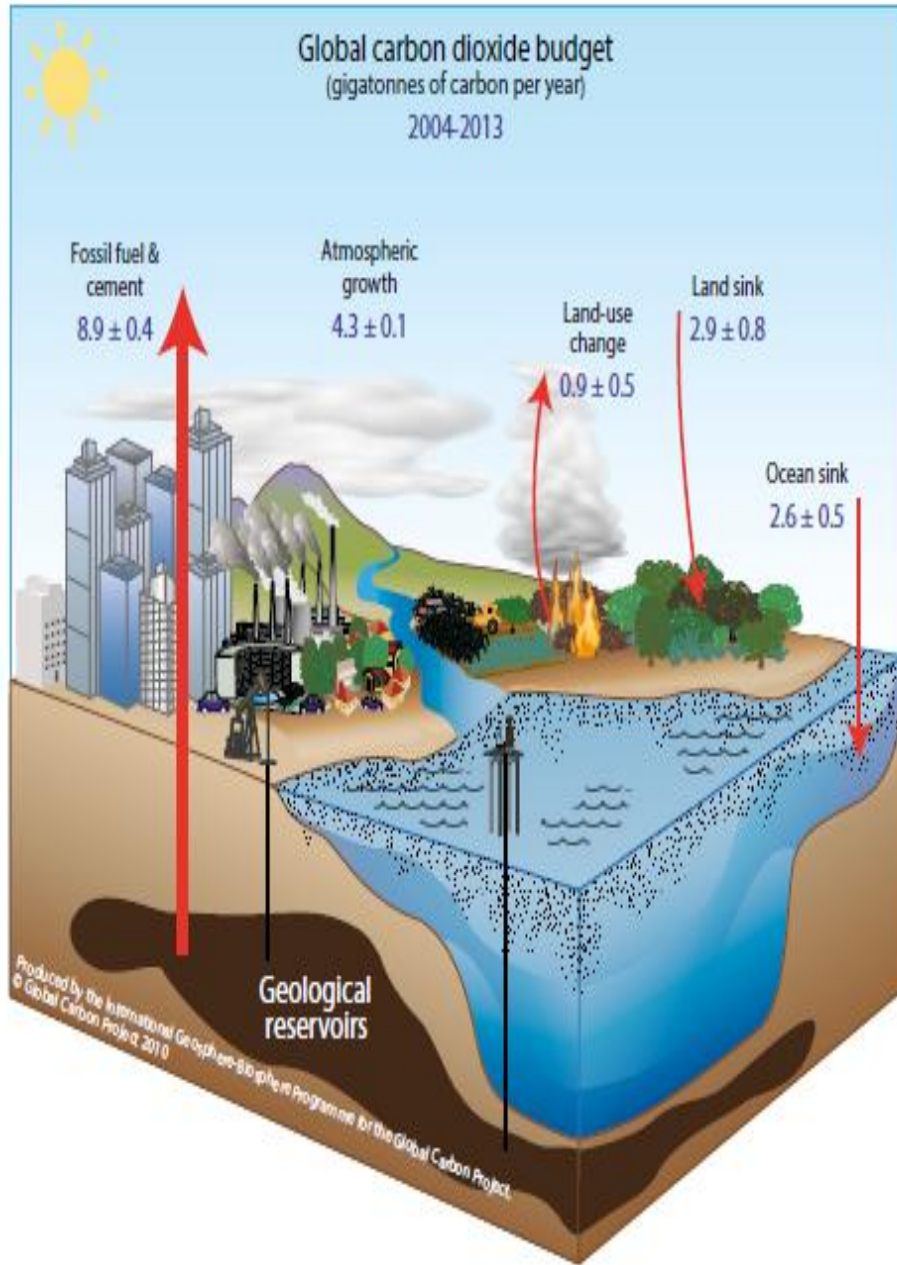
Participants

Global warming is: gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere generally attributed to the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide, CFCs (Chlorofluorocarbons), and other pollutants.

She recalled that in October 2016, there was heat wave contributed by greenhouse gases emissions. Even in UK a place which used to be cold they also experienced heat wave.

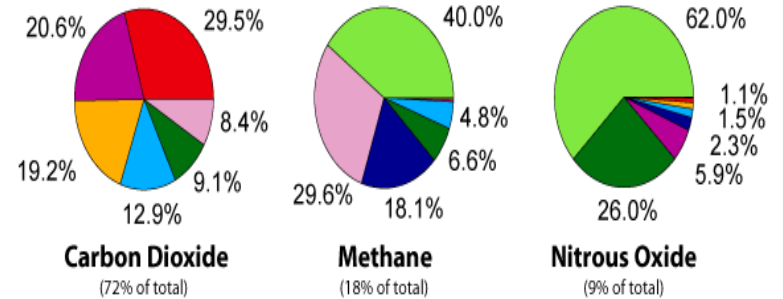
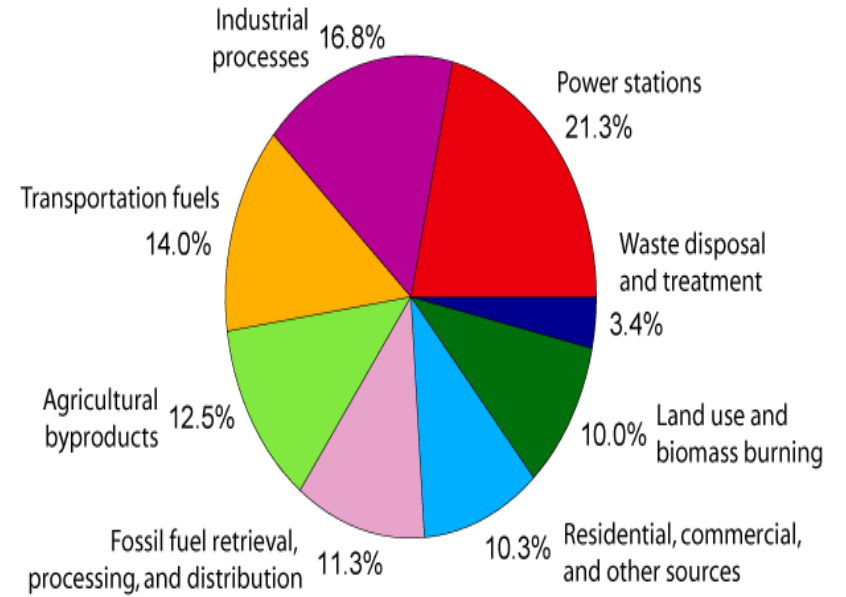


The Carbon Cycle



Contributors of Greenhouse Gases

Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector



The above diagram shows that each sector produces gases and the highest producers of gases are power stations, then industrial processes and transportation.



The diagram shows that everyone is responsible for polluting the atmosphere.

Veld fire is a cause for concern for everyone despite the efforts by EMA. As people burn the veld the carbon produced contributes immensely to global warming.

The power stations produce the electricity which we use for cooking, but during production they contribute 21% of the pollution which is the highest figure.



Thermal station

Most people use gas when there is no electricity yet it is supposed to be the other way round.



Electricity stoves being used by the majority



Globes used to light the house

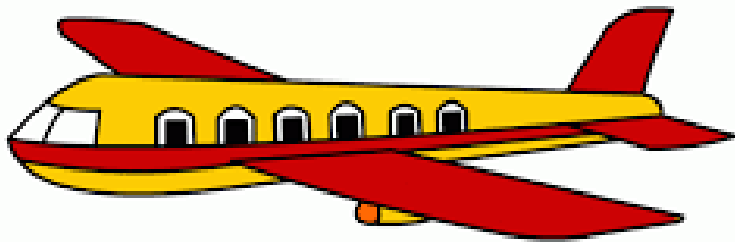
Coal production from Hwange produces carbon which is very dangerous yet other countries are producing power through solar or windmills.



New stands – residence are forced to cut down trees as they clear the land for construction. People are now land lords but the impact to the environment is worrying.

In rural areas trees are mostly cut to pave ways for farming. The fertilizers and chemicals used affect the ozone layer.

Transport emits gases which affects the environment. Whatever means of transport we use contribute to global warming.



WWW.TOONPENCIL.COM

There are people who use vehicles which are overdue for service and emit a lot of gases through the exhaust pipe as shown below:



People should service their vehicles oftenly to reduce the release of carbon dioxide through the exhaust pipes. Agriculture Sector has a bigger contribution to the environment. Beef industry (meat and milk) cows produce methane a gas which is deadly than carbon.



Beef industry – produces methane gas which is very dangerous



Under agriculture most of the people are caught wanting.



Milk production



Tobacco curing (drying) destroying forests. Clearing land to expand agriculture activities



Application of fertilizers

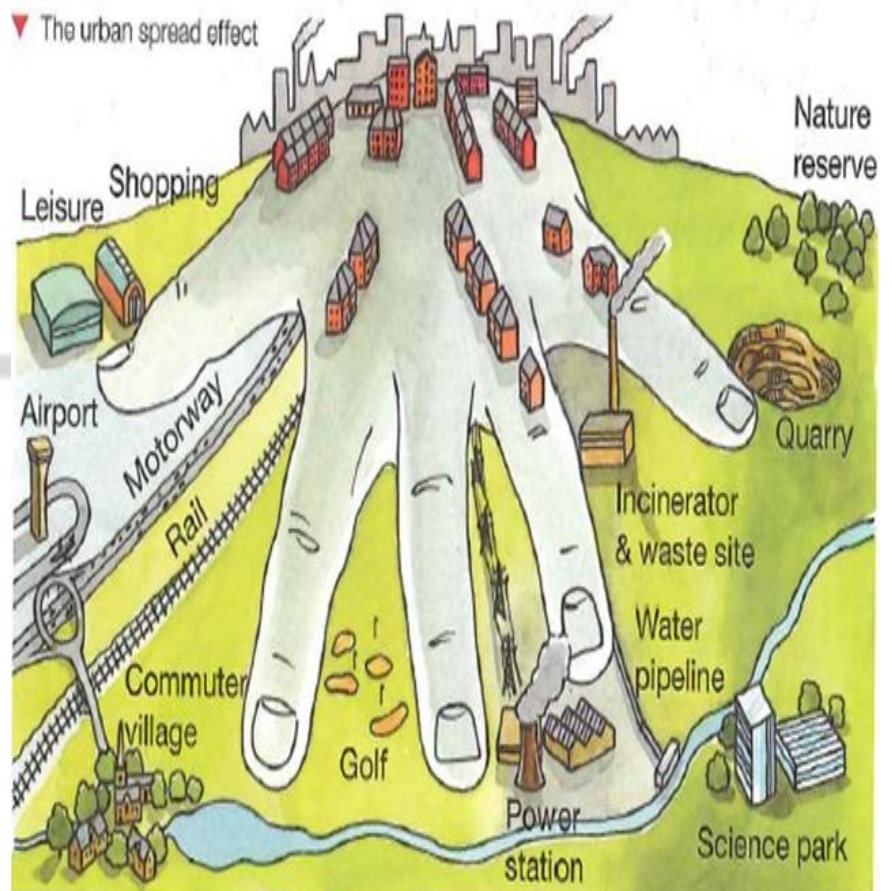


Beef





Tinned foods are transported to retailers and transport pollutes the environment.



The shopping malls, quarry, railway and entertainment facilities.

Deforestation



Participants

Most of the effects on environment are caused by us as shown below:



Questions

1. In your community, what are the major contributors to global warming?

Answers from the group:

1. Deforestation
 2. Veld fires
 3. Farming – tobacco
 4. Use electricity
 5. *sledge*
 6. Brick moulding
 7. Open pits for sand extraction
 8. Hunting
-
2. What are the global warming/climate change effects have you noticed over the years?
 1. Temperatures have changed
 2. Windy environment has increased in its velocity because of openness.
 3. Soil erosion has increased because of openness.
 4. Rains are no longer normal they are coming very late.

EXERCISE WHICH WAS DONE



3. At a household/church level what actions or changes can you implement to mitigate the effects of global warming?

- a. Clean up campaigns
- b. Rubbish ended up being burnt besides our efforts.
- c. Tree planting
- d. Gas use
- e. Use manure than fertilizer.
- f. Use of biogas as renewable energy.

MITIGATION MEASURES.....

1. Plant trees.
2. Use of pool cars or big buses.
3. Use of bicycles.
4. Use green energy (solar, wind and biogas)
5. Use of organic fertilisers.
6. Construct buildings with bigger windows and insulation to avoid the use of air conditioners.
7. Recycling to reduce the need to exploit new raw materials.

OPEN DISCUSSION

1. In India for every girl child born 140 trees will be planted as a celebration. This is so because a girl child is always burdened during household chores which includes fetching of water and firewood.

2. In the environment there is nothing which is minor, but everything has an important role to play. Water infiltration is needed, but it cannot happen so well without the efforts of ants which help in perforating the soil as they cut down the debris.

However, ants run away when you start to mould bricks why? It is because you would have destroyed its ecosystem.

3. Trees are not for decoration, but for balancing nature. There is a lot of symbiosis in the environment for example honey bees collect colony and as they do they pollinate plants. Flowers at home are very important for decoration and for honey production. In her garden there are pumpkin leaves and bees are always there collecting nectar.

4. As people endeavour to be eco-congregants. There is need to forgo a lot of prestigious things. The use of pool cars should be employed to reduce the production of carbon. In other countries people are now using bicycles as means of transport because they are environmentally friendly. Let us always think of environmental impact. Vehicles produce gases, but plants absorb some, therefore there is need to replenish the forest by planting more trees.



5. Recycling plastics is cheap, but not cheap to environment. The government needs to enforce plastics levy which will reduce the number of plastic bought. Rwanda is one of the countries which has banned the use of plastics and now is one of the cleanest countries in the world.
6. Some of the rivers have dried up because of stream bank cultivation and deforestation. Some have been heavily silted. All were encouraged to plant trees as barriers to siltation. Gullies can be reclaimed by tree planting or the use of grasses like vertiver
7. Sometimes farmers prefer to use synthetic fertilizers and chemicals for fast growth of farm products, but at the same time they would be killing the flora and fauna and polluting the environment. The use of organic products is the way to go.
8. It was also highlighted that Funeral parlors are producing very expensive caskets from trees thereby causing a lot of deforestation. It is better to employ traditional means of burying the body on blankets or crimation. It would have been better for the funeral parlors to plant 100 trees for every casket.

As a church we have circuits in rural areas which can use biogas. Let us be practical in whatever we are doing in order to conserve our environment.

PART 3 PRESENTATION ON IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN DIFFERENT PLACES BY CAROLINE MUTSAGO



Miss Caroline Mutsago

Miss Mutsago gave an example of what is taking place in Masvingo whereby wild animals are attacking domesticated animals. Why is it like that?



In line with the above all were asked to carry out an exercise on environmental issues taking place in different districts and feedback.

Below were the outcomes:

MUTARE TOWN: COLLECTION OF REFUSE

Causes and effects

The refuse are not collected on time. The city Councils are taking a week or two without collecting refuse.

Because of the delay in collection the following is taking place:

- 1. Maggots are appearing*
- 2. Bad smell*
- 3. Flies which can cause cholera outbreak*
- 4. Plastics will fly all over and refuse collectors will not be able to pick them up.*
- 5. People end up burning the refuse thereby causing carbonated atmosphere.*
- 6. Dogs are helping to litter the plastic papers as they scavenge in the overflowing bins.*
- 7. Rats will come in and multiply*
- 8. Cockroaches will multiply.*



Group work

BOCHA MARANGE: RIVER SILTATION

Causes and effects

- 1. Brick moulding*
- 2. The beauty of the area is destroyed e.g. in Fern valley.*
- 3. River bank farming and Mbudzi river has been affected and its water body Mbudzi dam is silted.*

MUTARE: WATER POLLUTION

- 1. Companies are letting waste in the streams*
- 2. Water lives are killed*
- 3. Quality of water is very bad*
- 4. The smell is very bad.*



5. *Children often play in the river and their skin and health is affected.*
6. *During the rainy season the situation will be worse off because the debris will overflow everywhere.*

MUTARE: NOISE POLLUTION

1. *Residential areas are located close to heavy industrial areas.*
2. *They wish that the industry can be changed to light industry.*
3. *They want to write a policy advocating for a change in use of the area because it was a residential area before industrial area developed.*



Group work

LITTER

1. *Litter or refuse is not being collected timeously.*
2. *During the rainy season the drainages are blocked and roads are impassable.*
3. *Possible solution is to separate the refuse and empty the containers in a pit.*
4. *The plastic can be sold and recycled.*



Group work

RIVER SILTATION OF CHANGAZI RIVER NEAR BIRCHENOUGH BRIDGE

1. *People are doing gardening right in the river.*
2. *Water no longer flows to Save River at the same time Save River is badly silted.*
3. *During the rainy season there are floods.*



BRICK MOULDING

1. *Man made pitsare developed.*
2. *Water collects in those deep pits.*
3. *Children will swim in that stagnant water compromising their health.*
4. *The stagnant water will provide a favourable breeding space for mosquitoes.*



Group work

MONKEYS

They are destroying the gardens and were advised to plant pepper.

OUTBREAK OF VELD FIRE

There are forest estates for Boarder Timbers and Forestry Commission. Before land reform the

environment was favourable and even the climate was good.

Due to land reforms they are continuously burning the plantation and have affected the climate.

WATER POLUTION

1. *Rivers from the industrial areas who dump refuse in the river are making the lives of many miserable.*
2. *On her side people are dumping into the river at night. The river is no longer flowing and aquaculture is affected.*



Group work



OLD MUTARE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

1. Deforestation through opening of farming areas
2. Gold panning is also taking place which causes deforestation and open pits.
3. Gold panners used mercury during gold mining and ordinary people use water for household purposes contaminated by mercury used during gold panning. Mercury has long effects to our health.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Due to the bad economy and population growth the country cannot manage refuse collection as a single entity because people are just being allocated land without proper surveys on how waste will be managed.
2. The church was asked to approach Members of Parliament (MP) so that they can be of help.
3. They can help to advocate for a change by writing a letter to the MP. They can formulate environmentally friendly policies.
4. The effects of poor waste management can only be felt by poor people than rich people.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

1. Water pollution
2. Waste management
3. River siltation
4. Environmental policies development
5. Veld fire

WAY FORWARD / ACTION PLAN BY DIFFERENT GROUPS

GROUP 1: WATER POLLUTION / WASTE MANAGEMENT by MRS. RUBY MACHIPI



Mrs. Ruby Machipi

General solution

1. To use bottom up approach starting at sections.
2. Awareness campaigns to the congregants on proper waste management.
3. Separate plastics and bio-degradable materials.



4. Plastics can be sold.
5. Employ vermin-composting which will enhance quick decomposition of wastes. The products are very rich in organic materials.
6. Worms can act as chicken feeds as well.
7. Worms can be sold and generate income.



Group work in progress

What should be done to the community?

1. Educate them on proper waste management through village heads.
2. Infant burial in river banks should end because it pollutes the water.

What should be done by companies?

1. Engage them on proper waste disposals.
2. Companies to engage in social responsibility.

3. Engage Environmental Management Authority (EMA)
4. City Council to provide enough ablution on public places e.g. at ranks, bus terminus and vendor's places.
5. Motorists to be educated on disposal of waste, oil linkages which when it rains it runs into water bodies.
6. To reinforce payment of fines for throwing rubbish.
7. Recycle company waste.

GROUP 2: DEFORESTATION AND SILTATION BY TATENDA CHITAKURE



Tatenda Chitakure



1. Engage government parastatals e.g. EMA to do routine monitoring.
2. To engage into gully reclamation and tree planting (afforestation)
3. Educate companies on land reclamation programs
4. Advocate the churches on topics relating to cause and effects of deforestation and how best to deal with it.
5. Sensitize on better methods of brick moulding using cement.
6. Advocate on agro-forestry

3. councilors and
4. Members of Parliament.
5. Schools and headmasters
6. EMA

People with influence are the ones to be used.

How will they do it?

1. They will rehabilitate and plant trees donated by Environmental bodies.
2. Mission schools to establish tree nurseries and distribute to the community e.g. Munyarari School.



Group work in progress

Target people are as follows:

Individuals:

1. Church members,
2. villagers,

GROUP 3: POLICY MAKING BY FUNGAI MUDZIKI



Fungai Mudziki

Approach council offices and lobby for policy change to the following:

1. Legislation
2. Enforcement of laws

To lobby for the following:

1. Favourable conditions
2. Proper town planning
3. To have Proper / correct education curriculum
4. Employ stiff penalties



Group work in progress

The Social media education needs to be done on Facebook, WhatsApp or video clips.

The Ministry of Education needs to invite prominent people to teach on land management.

CANDLE LIGHTENING RESEMBLES LIGHT TO EVERYONE.



Lightening of the candle



Lightening of the candle



THE LORD'S PRAYER: NICARAGUAN VERSION BY REV. JOSEPH CHIMBERENGWA



Rev. Joseph Chimberengwa

- **Leader:** Do not say 'Father' if you do not behave like the child of God each day. And do not say 'Our' if you only think about yourself.
- **People:** Our Father who art in heaven
- **Leader:** Do not say 'Hallowed be your name' if you don't honour that name.
- Do not say your kingdom come if you if you are weighed down with material goods
- **People:** Hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come
- **Leader:** Do not say 'your will be done' if you do not accept the hard times as well. And do not say

'As it is in heaven' if you only ever think of yourself

- **People:** Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven
- **Leader:** Do not say 'Our daily bread' if you have no concern for the hungry, orphans, widows, foreigners and the poor.



The Lord's prayer

- **People:** Give us this day our daily bread
- **Leader:** Do not say 'Forgive us our sins' if you remain angry with your neighbors.
- **People:** Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
- **Leader:** Do not say 'Lead us not into temptation' if you intend to continue living selfishly. Do not say 'Deliver us from evil' if you will not make a stand against injustice





During Lord's prayer

- People: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
- Do not say 'Amen' without considering the words of your prayer For the kingdom and the power and glory are yours, now and forever, Amen



Going through Lord's Prayer led by Rev. Joseph Chimberengwa

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION BY REV. JOSEPH CHIMBERENGWA



Rev. Joseph Chimberengwa

Reported by Ms Kudzai Chingwe – ZEAC Communicator at ZEAC Head Office – MUTARE



Ms. Kudzai Chingwe

THE END

