

Presbyterian Church in Cameroon

Environment and Climate Change Seven Year Plan (2010 – 2017)

Introduction

The Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC) is a national faith based organisation with a strong presence in all the 10 regions of Cameroon. The Church has 1,364 congregations with around one million Christians. In the area of formal education the PCC owns and operates 35 nursery schools and kindergartens, 137 primary schools, 16 secondary or technical schools, one teacher training college and a degree-granting theological seminary. In its informal education sector, the Church has four movements - namely the Christian Youth Fellowship, the Christian Women Fellowship, the Young Presbyterians and the Christian Men Fellowship.

In the health sector, the Church operates four general hospitals, 17 health centres, an eye service, two rehabilitation services, an HIV/AIDS unit and a central pharmacy.

The PCC runs several development projects including a rural development agricultural programme, a gender and women project, micro financing and several vocational training projects. The Church also owns and runs a radio station, the Presbyterian Book Depot and the Presbyterian Printing Press as well as producing a quarterly magazine.

The PCC is also involved in social development. In the area of environmental protection, the PCC is among the first non state agencies to engage in tree planting as a contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Since the early 1960s, the PCC has planted more than a million trees in different areas of Cameroon. The PCC has also championed the protection of water catchments in several villages especially in Cameroon's north west and south west provinces.

Key Commitments

Adaptation to Climate Change Impact

The Presbyterian Church in Cameroon will commit itself to the following activities as measures towards responding to the climate change challenge:

Sensitisation and awareness raising

- Engage in sensitisation and awareness raising on climate change, energy use, waste and waste management, water catchments protection, agriculture, natural resource management, land use management, wetlands and wildlife and population planning in all PCC schools, colleges, PCC radio, magazines, congregations through pastors, PCC Movements of Men, Women and Youth, through religious leaders (Roman Catholic, Protestant missions and Muslims) and government extension services.
- Organise Green Week celebrations in all PCC congregations and schools;
- Preach sermons on the environment and climate change in all PCC congregations nationwide;
- Organise conferences and training courses on environmental protection and climate change for community leaders;

- Organise a yearly information day for climate change campaigns
- Organise a seminar for the media on climate change;
- Produce a TV documentary on climate change.

Tree Planting

- Plant 100,000 trees in communities nationwide through ‘Operation Green, Plant a Tree Now’;
- Mobilise PCC movements, the Christian Youth Fellowship and Christian Women and Men Fellowships to plant trees as volunteers;
- Engage young people in PCC Colleges and government schools to form clubs for tree planting;
- Form a partnership with Interfaith Power and Light in the United States as part of its eco-twinning/carbon covenant communities project linking faith groups in the US with faith-based environmental projects in Africa;
- Design a national tree planting map.

Education

- Develop curricula and teaching courses on the environment and climate change for all PCC schools/colleges and the PCC theological seminary;
- Publish articles on environment and climate change in magazines, newspapers and study materials of the various PCC movements (women, youth and men);
- Promote radio programmes on climate change;
- Promote public talks and campaigns in PCC congregations;
- Establish a department of environmental sciences in the PCC university;
- Provide scholarships in environmental studies;
- Supply fuel efficient cookers for PCC boarding educational facilities.

Community Forest Development

- Identify and support communities that are ecologically endangered
- Support communities in the development / management of community forests
- Develop community forest management teams and networks

Develop and Strengthen the PCC Climate Change working group

- Support research and publication on climate change issues;
- Monitor and evaluate the PCC Seven Year Action Plan on Climate Change;
- Enhance networks and collaboration with other organisations in the area of environment and climate change;
- Develop policy/liturgy on climate change for the Church.

Media and Advocacy

- Organise an information day and public campaigns on climate change;
- Organise media conferences/seminars for media practitioners on environment and climate change.

Waste and Waste Management

- Construct modern incinerators in all hospitals, health centers and institutions for proper waste disposal;
- Promote and provide two waste bins in all PCC schools, institutions and in domestic houses for solid and for disposable waste.

Food crop and Livestock Practices

- Carry out training in modern food crop and livestock practices in communities;
- Train local farmers in sustainable agricultural systems.

Improved Land Use System

- Train communities in tree nursery development;
- Establish tree nurseries in communities in different ecological zones;
- Train forest community members in non-timber forest products and industries, including bee farming and growing eru and local spices.

Advocacy

- Advocate that logging companies implement tree planting programmes;
- Advocate against indiscriminate fishing by multinational companies
- Advocate for implementation of legislation against the abuse of wetlands and wildlife.

Family Planning/Population

- Upgrade and improve family/population planning units in all PCC health facilities.