

# PROTESTANT COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF RWANDA (CPR)

## THEOLOGICAL CHARTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT

We, heads of churches and members of CPR decentralised committees from all 30 Districts of Rwanda and from all 23 Church members and church related organisations, meeting in a two day Conference at ISANO Center, Kigali on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, and at Lemingo Hotel, Kigali, on 23<sup>rd</sup>, thank God for bringing us together to discuss and interact on the themes related to the Promotion and Protection of the Environment in Rwanda.

After listening to different presentations from the representatives of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), from the General Secretary of the CPR, and having shared our own experiences and findings on Rwanda culture and the environment as well as on the Bible and the environment, decided to adopt the following *Theological Charter of the Environment* as sign of our gratitude to God the Creator, the Provider and Sustainer of Life.

### **Commitment no 1:**

We commit to mobilise Christians from CPR member churches to value more the land, to protect and manage it in a proper manner because we, human beings were created out of the land, the soil; we live on it, get our livelihood from it and will return to the land as we depart from our present day existence (Gen 2.7; 3.19).

### **Commitment no 2:**

We value more everything that God created for when the work was done, God found it good. Therefore, we should protect the integrity of the creation and take care of it (Genesis 1.26-27; 2.15).

### **Commitment no 3:**

We call to the people of God, Christians, in particular to be aware of their role, as people chosen by God; we ought to take up our responsibility of leading and protecting the environment; we should be aware that we will have to account for how we have fulfilled that mission of protecting it (Genesis 1.26; 2.15).

### **Commitment no 4:**

We commit ourselves to be advocates of the environment, protecting it and undertaking concrete actions in our respective churches like planting the trees of all species (food trees, trees that protect the land, medicinal plants and alike).

### **Commitment no 5:**

We commit ourselves to familiarise and live in harmony with the ecosystem because one of Jesus mission has been to reconcile us with God and the environment (Genesis 1.28; Col 1. 15-20; Rom 8.28).

### **Commitment no 6:**

We commit to doing our best so that our residential area look like a new Eden and we commit to teach this culture to our children. By so doing, our children will inherit a good country to hand to the future generations.

**Commitment no 7:**

We commit to integrate the program of protecting the environment in our strategic plans of all CPR member churches by taking into account the national policy of the government of Rwanda in protecting the environment.

**Commitment no 8:**

We commit to support and promote Rwandan values that do not conflict with the Gospel on the protection of the environment.

**Commitment no 9:**

As we participants were trained, we commit to set up youth clubs and to sensitize them on the urgency and imperatives of protecting the environment.

**Commitment no 10:**

We, trained pastors, commit to organise competitions around the protection of the environment calling from Rwandan culture in aspects like poems, songs, dances, proverbs, tales... and from the Bible.

**Commitment no 11:**

We commit to inform Christians that mankind is the leader of all creation and that God has given them such a big responsibility.

**Commitment no 12:**

We particularly commit to remind human beings that the environment existed before them, henceforth it is the existence of the environment that makes human being's existence possible. Therefore, whoever destroys the environment destroys themselves.

Done in Kigali, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011.

**Photo of Participants, Church Leaders after the adoption of the Chart, joined by the Minister of Gender and Family, Honourable Ms Aloisea Inyumba (first row) for another seminar on the integrity of the family, 6<sup>th</sup> from left and Archbishop Dr Onesphore Rwaje, 7<sup>th</sup> from left.**

