

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2011-2020

This plan forms part of the overall Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA) Ten-year vision, 2011–2020. This document is the work of a Task Team and takes into account contributions of members from several dioceses in the province, as well as environmental organizations with linkages to the province. The overarching principle of the document is that the environment is embedded in all Five Marks of Mission, as agreed by the Anglican Consultative Council:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
3. To respond to human need by loving service;
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society;
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

For this reason, this plan looks at the church's response to the environmental crisis across several areas, and seeks to incorporate environmental action into the mission and ministry of the church. This plan seeks to build on the good work that has been done in ACSA in the past, and to give impetus to the resolution taken at the 2009 Provincial Standing Committee (PSC), which states that: 'The Province should act as the collective Anglican conscience, speaking on our behalf at appropriate levels, and offering resources that will energise the local church to 'safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.'

In developing the provincial programme, special attention needs to be given to issues particular to the respective countries that constitute ACSA and to urban versus rural issues. It should also be noted that although this document does not explicitly state so, it is acknowledged that ACSA has members from across the spectrum of economic wellbeing. In lobbying and advocating for environmental issues, the needs of the poor, particularly the need for development, needs to be kept in mind and ACSA should advocate for development that enables the people of Southern Africa to progress out of poverty, in ways that do not put new pressure on the environment. At the same time, we acknowledge the magnitude of the carbon footprint of South Africa in relation to the rest of the continent, and seek to implement programmes to assist our members in reducing their current carbon footprint.

This document is, above all, a long term planning document that seeks to identify critical environmental issues for Southern Africa and explore interventions that ACSA, through its structure and partners can take, as we seek to foreground the fifth mark of mission.

Structure of the Plan

The document is divided into three sections. The first section focuses on some of the key environmental justice issues we are currently faced with in Southern Africa, and which are likely to continue to be issues of high priority over the next ten years. The second part will focus on the actions and interventions that ACSA should take at Provincial, Diocesan and Pastoral Charge levels. This section will be based on the model for long term environmental plans developed by the UK-based Alliance for Religions and Conservation (ARC) in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The third and final part of this plan details the resources; timeframe, budget and people, required to deliver on the plan. It should be noted that as this is a long term plan, it should be reviewed periodically, and adapted as more information, on the science and our responses, becomes available.

A – Environmental Issues:

1. Climate Change

The key emerging environmental issue is climate change. Worldwide, it is thought to be one of the most important environmental and development issues facing society. Most scientists and governments recognize that, while uncertainties exist, there is strong evidence to suggest that human activities, notably those causing greenhouse gas emissions, are changing the earth's climate and that further change is inevitable.

Although South Africa is still a developing economy, our dependence on coal-driven energy sources and the energy intensity nature of our economy have resulted in an extremely high carbon emission level per unit of gross national product, compared to the rest of the world. We have emission levels equivalent to that of developed nations such as the United Kingdom. SA is located in one of the regions most susceptible and vulnerable to climate change, and we appear already to be experiencing the early effects of global warming and climate variability. Average land and sea surface temperatures have increased, sea level is rising, rainfall patterns have changed, and the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events have increased.

Projected climate changes in South Africa over the next 50 years indicate that the western parts of the country will become dryer, that certain areas will experience shorter rainfall seasons, and that air temperatures will rise, particularly in the interior. Other potential changes include increased incidence of floods and droughts and more severe temperature inversions, which will exacerbate air pollution problems. Such changes in climate will significantly affect all components of the natural environment, various sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, fishing and tourism, human health, and, therefore, the well-being of all South Africans. Changes

in terrestrial ecosystems and species distributions are already being correlated with climatic changes over the sub-continent, and the pace of these changes is expected to accelerate.

Given these risks, addressing the challenge will require a broad range of mitigation and adaptation activities. Mitigation involves reducing emissions, while adaptation involves measures to increase the capability to cope with impacts. While many responses to climate change overlap with those of human vulnerability, several points are worth mentioning.

Reducing emissions in South Africa will require improving the sustainability of production and consumption. Economic growth is still firmly linked to energy-intensive resource consumption. Reducing emissions therefore means improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewable energy sources, implementing cleaner technologies, and moving toward a zero-waste economy. As yet, too little attention has been paid to large-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy interventions. A strong drive to develop cost-effective alternative sources of energy is required. This should include providing solar, wind, wave, hydrogen, nuclear, and biomass alternatives via a decentralised network of energy generation entities.

No mitigation effort, no matter how rigorous, will prevent the climate from changing. Adaptation is therefore an essential component of our response strategy. It will require strategies that are linked to planning and decision-making processes at all levels, provincial growth and development strategies, and integrated development plans, also including civil society, non-governmental organisations and faith-based organisations. Management plans for ecosystems and conservation areas will need to incorporate climate adaptation strategies. Specifically for biodiversity conservation, the management of biodiversity outside formal reserves is likely to become increasingly important.

2. Water

Water availability:

Water is a scarce resource, and studies into global warming indicate that the Western Cape will be the worst affected Province. Water sources must be judiciously protected & managed. DWEA has been tasked to do resource studies & keep municipalities informed.

Water allocations will address development & environmental priorities which are often in conflict meaning that Water Demand Management is crucial. This involves amongst others: reduction of non-essential, use & reuse of waste water, desalination etc.

There are capacity problems with bulk services, such as supply, treatment, transmission and disposal that need to be addressed on a municipal and provincial level.

The addition of the Berg River dam will alleviate the threat of water shortages until approximately 2012

Water quality issues include:

Industry and mining. Mining can result in change of pH (acidity of the water), increased salinity, increased metal content, and increased sediment load. Industrial contributions are more varied, depending on the industrial process, but can include poisonous and hazardous chemicals, nutrients, elevated salinity, and increased sediments.

Increased urbanization and deteriorating standards in wastewater management. Little or no treatment of wastewater takes place in some circumstances, such as at informal settlements. Where treatment is available, sewer reticulation can be inadequate or poorly maintained, resulting in uncontrolled releases such as leakage and overflow to the natural environment. Urban runoff can contain high organic and nutrient loads that contribute to problems in urban streams and impoundments. The consequence is increased nutrient and organic load, plus microbial contamination. An urgent need exists for adequate and improved urban wastewater treatment, to minimize the negative impact, including the cost of damage to our critical inland water resources.

Agricultural drainage. This includes irrigation return flows and seepage, which may contain salts that include nutrients (fertilizers), other agro-chemicals (including herbicides and pesticides), and runoff or effluent from animal husbandry locations such as feedlots, piggeries, dairies, or chicken farms, which also contribute to contamination.

Waste disposal. Industry, mining, and urban development result in increased production of waste, creating a need for additional and improved waste-management facilities (see Chapter 9). Although techniques for containing waste are available, and are being applied to new facilities, older waste repositories (industry and mining) and landfill sites (domestic) had no structured lining systems, and they have released contaminated leachate into adjacent water resources.

Land use. Increase in the laying of impervious surfaces in urban areas diminishes rainwater recharge to groundwater. Lack of the dilution effect that would otherwise take place can lead to a rise in solute concentrations of the existing underlying aquifers. Overgrazing and clearance of natural vegetation increases the risk of erosion and the entry of sediment into surface waters.

Increased salinity and eutrophication

Pollution of water resources results in reduced fitness for use. This affects the resource directly by making the water less acceptable for consumption (either for food production or any other identified use), depending on the extent, severity, and temporal nature of the pollution. It can also affect the resource indirectly by curtailing recreational activities in badly affected water bodies.

Overall, the services provided by inland waters will be limited by the quality of the water in the system under consideration. The nature of these direct and indirect impacts on humans and on the aquatic ecosystems are described below.

Increased salinity can lead to salinization of irrigated soils, diminished crop yields, increased scale formation and corrosion in domestic and industrial water pipes, and changes in the biotic communities. Salinity can arise naturally or from activities such as mining, industry, and agriculture. Humans can generally tolerate moderate salinity (less than 1 000 milligrams per litre (mg/l), though the taste can become too salty. High salinity (exceeding 3 000 mg/l) can cause fatal intestinal and renal damage. Salinity is often the major limiting factor in determining fitness for use, compared with wetter countries, where an option of dilution is available to them. Water borne diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery, skin infections, intestinal worms, cholera, trachoma, and schistosomiasis (bilharzia) arise from bacteria or parasites. These are attributable to poor sanitation practices.

Low oxygen levels occur when bacteria in the water decompose organic matter, using oxygen, which is also required by other biotic components of the aquatic ecosystem. Elevated concentrations of organic matter in water, arising from animals, humans, or plants can occur naturally as well as from poor waste-disposal practices.

Eutrophication is due to an accumulation of nutrients (mostly nitrogen and phosphorus compounds) in water. The nitrogen:phosphate ratio, at higher proportions of phosphorus, will promote growth of potentially toxic cyanobacteria. Anthropogenic sources of nutrients in water commonly arise from domestic waste treatment, over-application of fertilizers, and certain industrial and mining processes. Nutrients such as ammonia and nitrate present a fatally toxic hazard to aquatic fauna, particularly fish, and can lead to excessive plant and algal production, as was the case with the water hyacinth problem in Hartebeespoort Dam in the 1970s and 1980s. The consequence is further depletion in oxygen in the water, compounded by mass mortality of the aqueous biota that require oxygen. Cell rupture of dying cyanobacteria releases their toxin content into the water.

Suspended solids are insoluble sediments carried by the water, and arise from excessive erosion, destruction of riparian vegetation, construction activities, over-grazing, and industrial or domestic discharges. Large quantities of solids, either suspended in the water, or as deposited

sediment, can alter the habitat of some aquatic organisms, with consequent change in the composition of the stream-bed community. Change in the stream-bed characteristics can impair the feeding efficiency of fish (impaired visibility, burial of food in silt), compromise breeding, impair their respiratory functions, and impede gaseous exchange that is essential for the life of all aquatic fauna and flora. Lack of light prevents photosynthesis.

Hydrocarbons can have toxic effects. Oil films block or smother animal respiratory organs. Hydrocarbons include petrochemicals, such as lubricating oil, petrol, paraffin, diesel, greases and tar, synthetic organic solvents (not necessarily classified as hydrocarbons), and the oils and fats of biological origin from food processes (which are also not true hydrocarbons).

Acidification occurs when the pH of the water is lowered as a result of mining, industry, acid rain, waste disposal, or certain natural biological processes (such as the decomposition of fynbos in the South West Cape). Lowering of the pH can mobilize metals such as cadmium and lead, which in turn can have an adverse impact on aquatic ecosystems and water users.

Solid litter takes many forms, both non-biogenic (plastics, cans) and biogenic (vegetation, cellulose-based paper). Besides being unsightly, they can degrade to release hazardous substances, deplete oxygen, and obstruct watercourses, causing flooding upstream and draining downstream.

Other quality problems that are being recognized as important but that still require further investigation include:

- bioactive materials such as endocrine disruptors,
- environmentally stable products such as herbicides and pesticides,
- trace elements (essential and adverse), and
- radioactive contamination

3. AIR

The atmosphere is a shared resource that is linked in many ways to ecosystems and human development. Its variable and unpredictable nature in South Africa directly affects food production, human health, and biodiversity. Consequently, the main issues of concern are:

Indoor and ambient air pollution and the associated health impacts

Climate change and variability and its implications for ecosystems and human well-being

The depletion of stratospheric ozone.

The quality of air depends on the quantities of natural and human-caused emissions and the potential of the atmosphere and ecosystems to absorb and remove pollutants. Air pollutants

vary in terms of how long they remain in the atmosphere and the impacts they cause. Gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are long-lived and internationally important because of their implications for global warming and stratospheric ozone depletion. Pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM) are important locally in terms of human and ecological health.

South Africa is a water-stressed country with a well-developed agricultural sector, and it is sensitive to the effects of climate change – now recognized as a pressing environmental issue. These effects could lead to floods, droughts, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, increased tropical diseases, water scarcity, famines, decline in agricultural productivity, and shifts in migration and trade patterns.

Although stratospheric ozone depletion is a global concern, the impacts are also important locally. They include increased harmful ultraviolet-B (UV-B) radiation reaching ground level, with associated increases in skin cancer, cataract and immune system-related health risks. UV-B radiation also affects vegetation by damaging the photosynthetic pathways and genetic structure of plants.

B – ACSA RESPONCES

The following goals are proposed for ACSA Environmental Network:

1. To ensure the Season of Creation is promoted and celebrated within ACSA annually.
2. To create an equivalent programme to the Church of England “Shrinking the Footprint^[1]” programme. (see 4.1 below)
3. To encourage the province, and each diocese within ACSA to have an environment desk, and/or environmental coordinator.
4. To produce appropriate resource material and establish an eco web page on the ACSA website to share lessons learnt.
5. To hold an annual ACSA Environmental Network workshop for diocesan coordinators.
6. Re establish formal contact with the Anglican Communion Environmental Network.
7. To promote environmental action at the pastoral charge-level, through the establishment of eco congregations and/or A Rocha Groups.

Alliance of Religions and Conservation 7-Year Plan Format

The UK-based Alliance for Religions and Conservation have, over the past two years, been engaged in partnership with the World Bank and the World Wide Fund for Nature, assisting faith communities around the world to develop long term environmental plans. Following several workshops, seven key areas were selected:

1. Faith-consistent use of assets
2. Education and young people
3. Wisdom
4. Lifestyles
5. Media and advocacy
6. Partnerships, Eco-twinning, creating your own environment department, and funding the work
7. Celebration

1. Faith-consistent use of assets

1.1 Buildings:

The Dioceses of Johannesburg and Natal are currently working on Green Building criteria for new churches. Both documents are at an advanced stage, with the Natal Document already being endorsed by the Bishop of Natal. The recommendations in these documents are based on the new “National Building Regulations”, known as SANS 204, which will apply to all new buildings. The areas covered by the document include:

- Water Heating
- Above-Ceiling Insulation
- Internal Temperature Control
- Power Saving in Water Piping
- Power-Saving in the Electric Geyser
- General Power and Water Saving Tips
- Water-Saving in all Toilet Cisterns
- Water-Saving in Taps and Shower Heads
- Water-Saving in General

1.2 Investments

Consider developing relationships only with banks which have adopted the Equator Principle; a financial industry benchmark for determining, assessing and managing social and environmental risk in project financing.

2 Education and young people

2.1 Young People's Ministries:

2.1.1 Provincial Youth Council (PYC) and Anglican Youth of Southern Africa (AYSA) acknowledges that the young people are most open and committed to help resolving environmental issues and every opportunity should be afforded them to make their value contribution.

2.1.2 The youth should be involved in discussion processes at every level and they should also form part of decision making.

2.1.3 We need to encourage Anglican youth to take the lead at schools and campuses and to help drive and champion environmental initiatives.

2.1.4 Age appropriate learning material should be developed for Sunday School, Confirmation, youth clubs, young adults and all other groups focusing

2.1.5 Programmes for young people should form part of the overall programmes at provincial, diocesan and pastoral charge levels.

2.1.6 Young people should be encouraged to participate in implementation programmes and projects.

2.1.7 Special recognition awards should be considered for young people who make a positive difference.

2.1.8 There should be a promotion of Eco-camps and excursions for young people and children where, through experience and involvement, they can develop a greater appreciation for the environment.

2.2 Theological Education

2.2.1 The College of the Transfiguration are in the process of developing a model on the environment, based in ethics, which will aim to equip new clergy to able to interact with environmental issues.

2.2.2 Similar courses should be identified for continuous training for both lay and ordained ministry.

2.3 Environmental Education

2.3.1 All materials developed for use within ACSA should be based on good science and grounded in sound biblical principles.

2.3.2 Through the partnership with SAFCEI (see 6.1 below) ACSA should have access to NGOs such as WESSA (The 84 year old Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa) which in turn is the implementing agent for SADC Regional Environmental Education Project, the Eco-schools Project (over 1000 schools in South Africa), the Mondi Wetlands project, the founder of the 'Friends of Nature Areas' project, implementing agent for the Blue Flag project and which has Regional offices in most of the major centres of South Africa and more recently has been the mentor for the development of the Centre for Environmental Rights and the implementing agent for skills development in the environmental development planning and capacity development field. WESSA is committed to and highly experienced in working in partnership viz the above and Climate Action Partnership, Environment magazine, international partnerships with UNEP, Federation for Environmental Education (FEE), Scandinavian, Indian and Chinese EE partnerships etc

3 Wisdom

3.1 Season of Creation:

3.1.1 Resources should be allocated to reprint the booklet as well as to produce new material.

3.1.2 The PSC (2009) Resolution on 'Season of Creation' encourages the use of the Season of Creation at all levels within ACSA.

3.1.3 The Environmental Task Team needs to give effect to overseeing the implementation of the resolutions and the appropriate budgeting.

3.1.4 What is then needed is a Season of Creation follow up guideline leading to the development of Eco-congregations and/or A Rocha Groups, local faith community environmental projects, education projects, and partnership projects with other NGO's.

3.2 Geoff Davies Environment Lecture: ACSA to support such an annual event to stimulate theological discussion around issues of the environment, along the lines of the Desmond Tutu Peace Lecture.

3.3 A Theology of Simplicity: In an era where Anglicans, like the rest of the population, appear to be display the consumeristic habits that are destroying the earth, it is imperative that ACSA emphasise something like a 'theology of simplicity' and in its functioning put into practice these desired qualities. The lifestyles of the hierarchy would set an example in this area. This principle is supported by the "four principles on the environment" as adopted by the Lambeth Conference of 1988:

- The covenant of God' s love embraces not only human beings but all of creation;
- Creation is everywhere filled with God' s sacred presence;
- Human beings are the priests of creation, seeing God' s presence in it, and offering creation's worship;
- The Sabbath principle of "enoughness" is a challenge to us to rest from unnecessary consumption.

4 Lifestyles

- 4.1 **“Shrinking the footprint”**: This is an initiative of the Church of England. It encourages individuals and parishes to understand their carbon footprint and to implement ways of “shrinking their footprint”. The goal of this initiative is to reduce the church’s overall carbon footprint by 80% by the year 2050
- 4.1.1 An equivalent programme should be developed for ACSA.
 - 4.1.2 Appropriate resources to be developed to support the programme, including tools for energy and water audits.
 - 4.1.3 The building standards referred to in (1.1) should developed as bench-marks
 - 4.1.4 A climate change policy should be worked on and implemented in the province.
 - 4.1.5 Pastoral charges should be encourages to become eco-congregations or to establish A Rocha Groups.
 - 4.1.6 Pastoral charges to be encouraged to engage in greening projects to help off-set their carbon footprints
- 4.2 **Personal life style:**
- 4.2.1 An understanding of the link between healthy lifestyle choices and a smaller carbon footprint: reduction in junk food and meat. More exercise.
 - 4.2.2 Understanding of the link between consumerism and carbon footprint: smaller cars and more bicycles being used.
 - 4.2.3 Reduction in use of water, electricity and petrol.
 - 4.2.4 Leaders modeling simple life style: live simply so that others may simply live.
- 4.3 **Communal lifestyle:**
- 4.3.1 Healthy food at parish/diocesan events
 - 4.3.2 Lift sharing
 - 4.3.3 Venues being chosen for accessibility to public transport
 - 4.3.4 Meetings being organised to increase lift sharing (e.g. two or three organisations on same day)
 - 4.3.5 Reduction of air travel to absolute minimum – tree planting the norm to offset emissions
 - 4.3.6 A reduction in paper usage – move to electronic where ever possible.

5 Media and advocacy

- 5.1 **Message:** Those working to promote societal action on climate change need to do a better job of promoting convergent strategies by dispersed and often uncoordinated actors. In order to guide and motivate needed actions, these goals should be generated collaboratively, scientifically calibrated, quantifiable, trackable and easily expressible. ‘Public will’ is crucial, thus making attitudinal targets as important as ‘emissions’ targets.

- 5.2 Environmental Website:** An opportunity to put on material related to Lambeth Conference and Provincial Synod resolutions; electronic resources that can be used in education for Sunday Schools, Confirmation etc. Also an opportunity to share stories and examples of action being taken around the province.
- 5.3 Anglican Communion Environmental Network:** Material from this network should be circulated to dioceses, and diocese in turn should circulate to the worldwide body initiatives that are taking. We could also encourage ACSA to work with the Africa representative of this committee to develop the continent too – starting with countries that are part of our province, eg. Mozambique, Angola etc.
- 5.4 Green the economy:** Reflecting the oikos metaphor, ecology and ecology are closely related. There is also an increasing recognition that the present economic system is destroy the environment. Over the next ten years and beyond ACSA will engage in a campaign to lobby and advocate for a greener economy. This will be done through drawing on the expertise we have as well as through working with Parliament and particular parties and politicians and other relevant organisations in civil society. Work would also be done to impact on the SADC region as a whole.
- 5.5 Communication:** There needs to be the continuation of contributions from an environmental perspective in the Southern Anglican. Communication to enhance environmental responsibility would be enhanced if there was regular electronic communication in the form of a newsletter reporting on greening success stories from dioceses and parishes. This newsletter would have an editorial group that produced and distributed it regularly.

6 Partnerships, Eco-twinning, creating your own environment department, and funding the work

- 6.1** Create a new bridging institution to actively seek out key business, religious, political and civic leaders and the media and deliver to them independent, reliable and credible scientific information about climate change (including natural and economic sciences).

6.1.1 The most disappointing outcomes of ‘Copenhagen’ lend emphasis for fresh initiatives from non- governmental sources and in view of the plethora of existing action initiatives (most of which could provide the credible scientific information), it may be worthwhile to enlarge the ‘bridging institution’ to encompass the other ‘Planetary Boundaries’ of human misuse of Creation including: Fresh Water, Biodiversity Loss, Land system change, chemical pollution, etc as well as Climate Change. The emphasis needs to be that it is the wealthiest 20% of the World’s population that is depleting 80%

of the planet's resources and it is the resource poor majority which will bear the brunt of this excessive consumption.

6.2 Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI)

6.2.1 A strategic imperative needs to be a partnership with SAFCEI which is a crucial institution to achieve the interventions discussed above.

6.2.2 SAFCEI is fast developing into the umbrella body that facilitates environmental awareness amongst the faith communities. This places them in a key position to advocate for collective action and use the support of a broad-base of members to lobby.

6.2.3 SAFCEI is the partner (with other project implementing bodies) through which the individual faith communities and 'Eco-congregations' can work together on action-based projects to care for living earth and appropriately communicate sound science, leading to changed behaviour.

6.2.4 Through these partnerships, Eco-congregations can be guided into many local action areas including water and waste management, stopping the spread of aliens, energy efficiency, social environmental justice, social issues such as water management and cholera etc.

6.2.5 The PSC (2009) resolution indicated that the ACSA will encourage dioceses and parishes to become members of SAFCEI

6.2.6 It should be noted that many committed Christians (whether ACSA congregants or from other denominations) are deeply involved in environmental NGO's such as WESSA, Working for Water etc and often at senior leadership levels. For example, WESSA's Executive Committee passed a resolution in December 2009 that WESSA should strengthen the WESSA/ SAFCEI partnership, and a recent letter from the national Dept of the Environment strongly recommended a partnership between SAFCEI, WESSA and Indalo Yethu (the Department's environmental communication trust which WESSA was initially instrumental in getting off the ground). In all of this partnership with SAFCEI is imperative rather than with individual faith communities.

6.3 A Rocha South Africa

6.3.1 A Rocha is an international organisation working with churches to achieve their environmental objectives

6.3.2 A Rocha's focus is on providing local-level support through the establishment of A Rocha groups

6.3.3 Several pastoral charges within ACSA already have functioning A Rocha groups and (as noted above) the establishment of further A Rocha groups

6.3.4 A Rocha are in the process of developing a citizenship programme. The progress of this should be monitored as a similar desk could be established within ACSA.

6.4 Collaboration with other churches: The environment is an issue around which all churches and indeed all faith groups can work together. Practical steps should be taken to establish joint projects with other churches, starting with the CUC churches. From its membership of SAFCEI, ACSA could extend its collaboration in environmental matters to other faith groups.

- 6.5 **Strengthening of the ACSA Environment Network:** This body, authorised by the Synod of Bishops should be strengthened by on-going endorsement of its work by the Archbishop and bishops of the Province. It would be regarded as the legitimate authority in promoting and overseeing the environment provincial focus. It would work closely with the Provincial Liaison Bishop on the Environment. Some of the work that this group could be involved in could include:
- 6.5.1 **Environmental issues:** Position papers could be developed representing the views on ACSA on significant environmental issues, such as the development and use of nuclear energy, the viability of the N2 Wild Coast Toll Road and distributed to dioceses for comment and action. Close liaison with the Provincial Theological Commission would be beneficial.
 - 6.5.2 **Participation in Environmental Impact Assessments:** ACSA is strategically placed to help co-ordinate the environment of Anglicans in EIA's that affect South Africa as a whole. The Environment Network could distribute information on issues needing a response and assist in compiling the national input from the church.
 - 6.5.3 **Recognition of prior work:** An assessment of environment work done in the Province over the last few decades should be assessed and evaluated. Best practice in particular parishes and diocese needs to be recognised and offered to other parts of the Province from which to learn.
- 6.6 **Development of an Eco-Province:** Over the ten year period, in the spirit of the eco-congregation programme, the Province would work at becoming an Eco-Province. Through Provincial Synod this could be legislated and become part of the Canons of the Province.
- 6.6.1 **A Provincial Worker:** Most of the budget should be used to employ somebody to work on a provincial level to encourage these initiatives over the next 5 years, working with the bishops and with parishes. This office can also distribute to dioceses environmental information and co-ordinate responses to EIA's, Wild Coast Toll Road etc.
 - 6.6.2 **Climate Change Policy:** ACSA would develop a climate change policy, binding on all its dioceses and institutions, in which guidelines would be provided to help in the processes of adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change. The implementation of this policy would be done through regular reports to Provincial Synod and Provincial Standing Committee.
 - 6.6.3 **Environmental Desks:** Each diocese will be encourage to establish an environmental desk and/or to appoint an environmental coordinator. It will be the responsibility of the person/group to advise the diocese of environmental issues, critical within their boundaries, to assist in the establishment of Eco-congregations and A Rocha groups and to communicate the needs of the diocese to the provincial network.
 - 6.6.4 **Focus on countries outside South Africa:** It is predominantly in countries outside SA that make up ACSA that we find particularly vulnerable environments. Special attention needs to be paid to strengthening the environment work of the churches in these areas, and financial and human resources made available for work there.
 - 6.6.5 **Greening An Anglican Prayer Book:** Within the next ten years it is likely that work will begin on a new prayer book or at least further additions will be made to the

(green) Worship File. It would be helpful if a committee could work at ways in which our liturgy can be greened, providing ideas by which ecological concerns could be foregrounded

6.6.6 Partnerships: These should be formed with provincially recognised institutions such as MU, Iviyo, St Agnes Guild etc, as well as with organisations like SAFCEI, NECCSA, A Rocha, WCRP. There also needs to be closer collaboration with the Provincial Liturgy Committee to get the Season of Creation in the lectionary as well as to green our Prayer Book.

6.7 Diocesan focus: It would be most strategic to work towards that establishment of environment desks/committees, along the lines of other diocesan committees/sub-committees of diocesan council with a budget. Guidelines on how dioceses should proceed on this should be made available.

7 Celebration

7.1 Having listed all the interventions and activities that are to be undertaken, we are reminded to create the time to celebrate the gift of creation. We need to ensure that we are not so focused on the environmental crisis, that we fail to see God in what He has created.

7.2 The liturgical year of the church lends itself towards various feast days that could be used to celebrate the gift of creation, these include:

- Harvest festival
- Eastertide
- Feast of St. Francis

7.3 Other activities that could be enjoyed include:

- **Creation-care days** – an opportunity to showcase what is being done within the parish and to create a platform for local organisations, not necessarily linked to the parish, to display what they do.
- **Open-air Eucharist** – a good way to show tangibly that the church cares for creation and also for parishioners to enjoy a relaxed time together.
- **Competitions** - such as creative writing, children's art, progress in developing eco-congregations that can generate a sense of fun and belonging to the province. There could also be joint activities with the Youth in the province to reflect this focus.

C: TIMEFRAME AND BUDGET

Year one, 2011: Establishment of Provincial Structure

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- Appointment of Provincial Environmental Worker
- Constitution of the ACSA Environmental Network
- Formalization of the task team to oversee the implementation of this plan
- Confirmation of Budgets available for the duration of this plan
- Establishment of the multi-disciplinary bridging committee
- Formalization of the partnership with SAFCEI
- Ensuring that Season of Creation features in the lectionary

Year two, 2012 – Policy and guideline development

- Development of environmental policies
- Development of website
- Guidelines for the development of diocesan environmental desks
- Guidelines for the development of a “shrink the footprint” programme

Year three onwards, 2013 – 2020: Implementation

- Development of diocesan environmental desks
- Development of resource material
- Annual Geoff Davies Lecture
- Annual Environmental Conference
- Promotion and establishment of Eco-congregations
- Promotion and establishment of A Rocha groups
- Lobbying of major environmental issues through SAFCEI
- Developing new material for the annual celebration of the Season of Creation
- Environmental ethics module offered at the College of the Transfiguration
- Environmental Awareness

Budget: The proposed budget is attached as Annexure 1

Principles of the budget:

1. The Provincial Environmental Worker to employed at the equivalent of a stipend.
2. Each diocese that starts an environmental desk to be given an incentive of R5000 per annum for the first four years, and R7500 per annum for the four subsequent years. The intention of this money is to stimulate environmental activities with the dioceses.
3. Where inflationary increases have been suggested, the forecast of 6% per annum was used.