

PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES



SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION OF PACIFIC
ISLANDS ENGAGEMENT ON CLIMATE
CHANGE ACTIONS

OVERVIEW

Beyond the traditionally held categorization of Climate Change as an Environmental issue, it is clearly also a Development issue: Poverty Reduction, Food Security, Economic, Health, Human Rights, Governance and Equality. It is about issues that affects the wellbeing of humanity.

Climate Change.

Climate change and global poverty have attracted a lot of attention in recent years as key global justice challenges of our times. Both are serious challenges to the future health and prosperity of our planet. They must be combated simultaneously; we cannot take care of one without addressing the other.

An effective attack on poverty and the ill-effects of climate change requires taking comprehensive action that encompasses both issues. We cannot fight climate change without considering the rising energy needs of poor people and countries, nor can we effectively address global poverty without accounting for the impacts of climate change on agriculture, disease patterns, and violent weather events, all of which particularly impact the poorest countries.

Pacific Region - Among the most Vulnerable. They are the least equipped to recover from the devastation that can result from weather extremes such as storms, floods, eroding coastlines, heat waves, and droughts. The subsequent loss of clean water for drinking and fishing, the loss of productive conditions for agriculture, hunting and grazing, and the spread of malaria and other heat-related diseases create threats to health and survival.

Spirituality

- **EARTH AS OIKOS** (*HOUSEHOLD OF LIFE*)

- **HUMANITY** (*AND WELLBEING OF LIFE*)



Mission

- Encourage, Equip, Accompany, Share, Engage in prophetic Compassionate healing and Reconciling ministries for the realization of justice and equality for all



VISION

The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) is a fellowship of churches and church organizations that seek to fulfil collaboratively their common calling to the Glory of the One Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In essence, PCC strives toward a vision of a Pacific region that is characterized by the values of unity, solidarity, justice, peace, dialogue and leadership after the heart and mind of the Lord Jesus Christ, and a spirituality that gives grounding and substance to PCC's existence and to the work it does.

Develop and implement appropriate strategies to adapt to climate change where possible without deterioration in quality of life, social cohesion and Pacific island cultures.



The Role of the Church

Pacific Conference of Churches

“Increase the pressure” in all our countries is the main message!

- Making the voices of the unheard heard
- Develop a Pacific Theology on Climate Change – revisit with our traditions
- Scrutinise government (in)action
- Promote the petition on Climate Change
- Make equity and justice an issue in the climate change debate – locally, nationally, internationally
- Promote the practice and preservation of traditional knowledge as one adaptation measure
- Promote the active participation of the church in the Pacific in the race up to Copenhagen/Cancun



PCC's programs Aim at:
Safeguarding the *dignity* of the Pacific
peoples

There are currently several potential threats to the long-term habitability of many atolls and islands in the Pacific Islands region, with environmental change as a direct result of human induced climate change appearing to be the most serious.

There is the need for Faith and Science to work closely together now and into the future in this crucial area of Conservation in the ecosystem. Faith should not attempt to explain the *processes* of the world in place of science. And science should not attempt to explain the *values* of the world in place of faith. Science provides us with facts, data, insights into physical reality and social relations. The biblical message gives us insights into the depths of our human sin and the possibility of our repentance and hope. It tells us about our relationship with God and neighbor and calls us to love and social justice.

When human beings are created in the image of God on the sixth day and given the command to have “*dominion*” over the earth, it carries responsibility of caring for the whole of creation. It is a dominion to image God in creation, to care and protect and not to dominate and abuse.

God's saving work is to transform jungle and desert into a garden full of justice, freedom and love. Man and woman are called to become co-gardeners with God. The vision of wholeness in this garden as introduced by the prophet Isaiah (11: 1-9) must be allowed to claim our imagination and enhance our zeal – *“wolves and sheep will live together in peace, leopards will lie down with young goats, calves and lion cubs will feed together and little children will take care of them, even a baby will not be harmed if it plays near a poisonous snake”*.

- implementing adaptation programmes
- Promote lifestyle changes within the Church – self reliance, respect and awareness of our *oikos* – God’s good creation.