A pair of hands is shown holding a small, colorful globe of the Earth. The globe is centered on the Americas, with North and South America visible in shades of green and yellow, and the surrounding oceans in blue. The hands are positioned as if cradling the globe, with fingers gently gripping it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown, suggesting a warm, indoor setting. The overall image conveys a sense of global unity and care for the planet.

Ubuntu Philosophy and Ethics: We are All Siblings from Mother Earth

Presbyterians for Earth Care 2023

WHAT IS THE RECENT
CLIMATE/ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS
THAT HAS AFFECTED YOU OR
PEOPLE YOU KNOW?



Environmental Degradation in Sub Sahara Africa



© Photo credit: YASUYOSHI CHIBA / AFP

Climate change has become a severe threat to the population and young people. Climate change has reduced rainfall yield, causing the premature drying of crops, lack of drinking water, regular seasonal dysfunction in agriculture, and havoc on the food supply. Climate change affects all aspects of life, such as livestock and population safety, and is a cause of crop pests, dry bushes, forest fires, disease, and poverty. All these elements inevitably force people to migrate.

THE ROAD TO MIGRATION

According to the UNCHR report of 2018, an estimated 2,275 people died or went missing in their efforts to cross the Mediterranean Sea. Though around 1,335 were estimated dead in 2019, 123,663 migrants reached Europe. In 2020 the report shows that 1,401 people were dead and missing while 95,031 migrants arrived in Europe



© <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/29/700-migrants-feared-dead-mediterranean-says-un-refugees>

INTERDEPENDANCE OF CREATION



The environmental crisis affects all the creatures on the earth. It is destroying present lives and threatens the existence of future generations. Youths are the most affected by climate change, and they will still endure the ecological sin and debt of this generation.

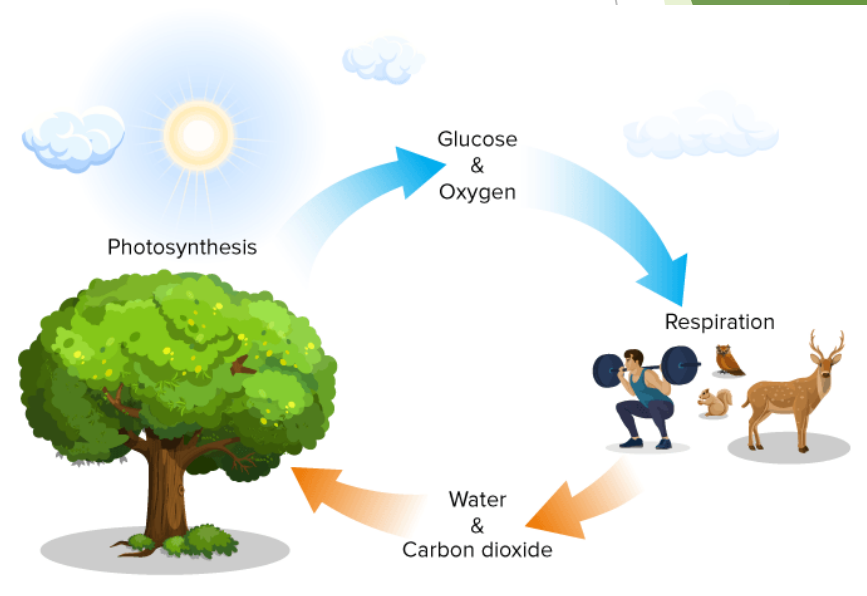



There exists a deep interconnectedness between human beings and the creation through mindful encounters with nature: This encounter can be through reflection, sacred listening, and prayer.

Interconnectedness- Interdependence

Biblical foundation (Gen 2:4-3:24)

Our primary vocation as creatures of God given in Genesis 2, wherein God gives his vision of our essential connection with the earth and our mission to till the land and take care of it (Gn 2: 15).





God is committed to his creation . . . What is more I believe that we do not do this on our own but in partnership with him - a partnership that is presented so beautifully in the early chapters of Genesis 2 where we read that God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden in the cool of the day.... And human beings are fruit of the earth (from the earthly dust).



**WHAT ARE THE
ROOT CAUSES OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
AND CLIMATE
CRISES IN YOUR
REGION?**

ROOT CAUSES OF CLIMATE CRISIS



The root causes include ecology mismanagement, colonialism, neo-liberalism and capitalism crises, sexual exploitation mindset, and gender inequality.

Colonialism and Neocolonialism



During the colonial era, the destruction of the environment and its consequences on the lives of the indigenous started because of the exploitation of the land, which created microclimates crisis that impacted the population.

The Impact of Neoliberal Capitalism on Climate and Environmental Crisis

An article by VOA on science technology this week has reported the following: “Mining cobalt and copper in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, known as the DRC, has led to human rights abuses. London-based Amnesty International and a rights group based in the DRC released a report on the issue on September 11.



It said mining companies forcibly removed people from their homes and farmland. The recent report also said people were attacked, including sexually attacked, and also had their property destroyed or damaged.”

VOA, September 17, 2023, <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/rights-groups-mining-in-the-drc-threatens-human-rights/7268193.html>.

Ubuntu philosophy and Ethics



I Am Because We Are

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SOLIDARITY & GLOBAL CONNECTEDNESS

Human beings interconnected
through the spectrum of nature is
well grounded in African spirituality
and Ubuntu Ethics



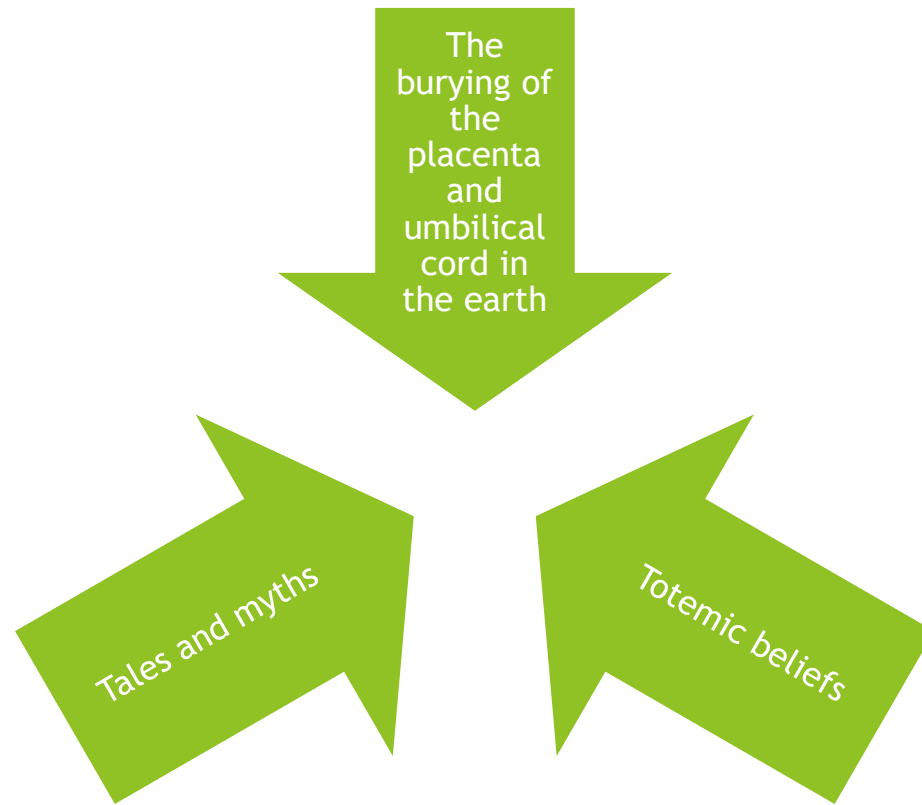
Ubuntu believes that Without the intervention of other creatures, human beings cannot exist. This communal relationship can be a global partnership on the issue of environmental justice everywhere.






This interconnectedness is present not only in the same humanity we share as individuals in the community but also it is demonstrated in the connectedness of all creatures through visible and invisible interactions of power, life force, invisible forces and energy of the deceased found in the natural world

Cultural Heritage of Ubuntu





The ritual of burying the placenta or the umbilical cord after the birth of a child is practiced across the globe.

In many African cultures the umbilical cord is usually buried under a tree as a symbolic act of ongoing life.

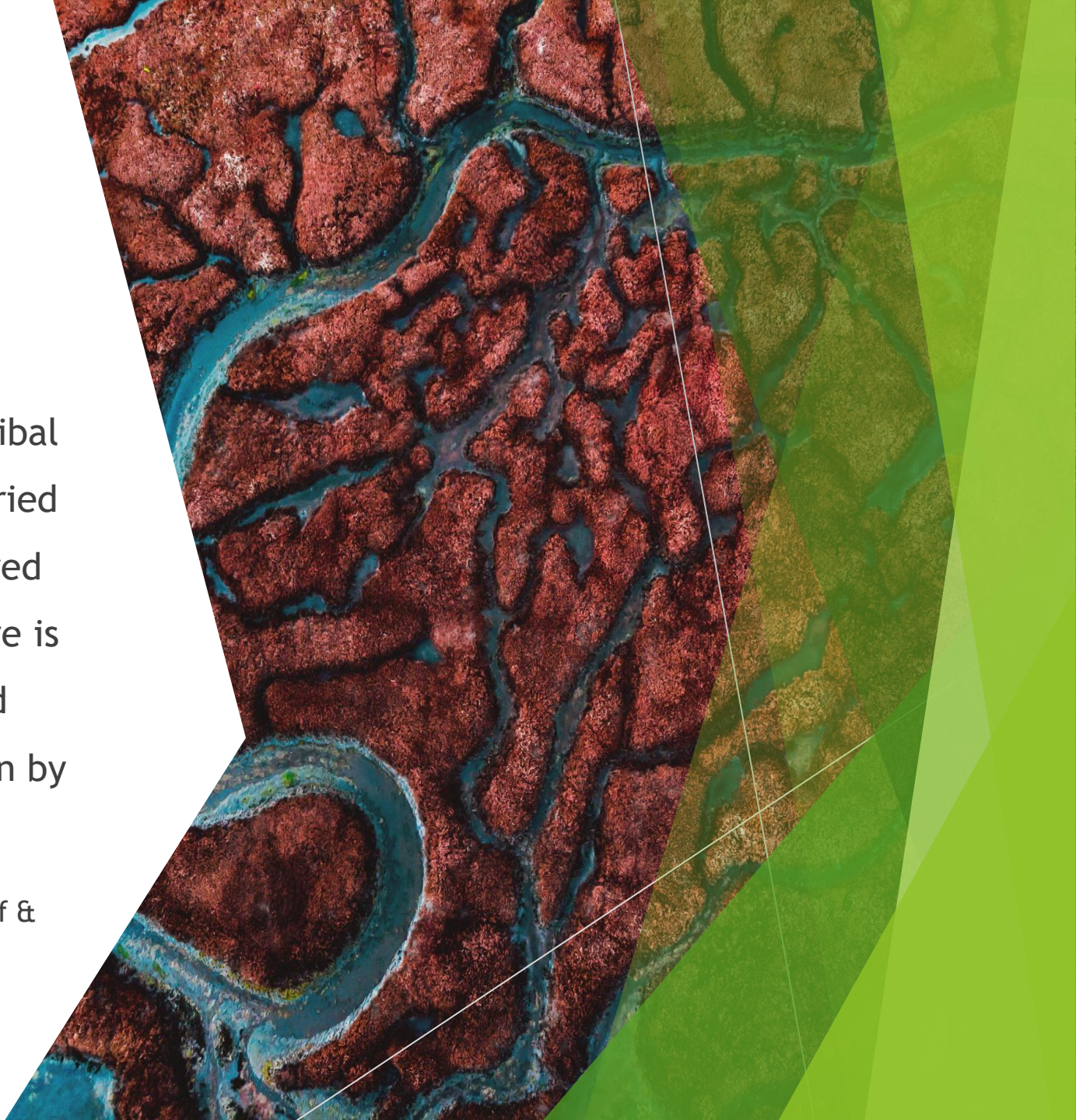


ANCESTRAL VOICES

The burying of the placenta and umbilical cord in the earth

Among the Kikuyu from Kenya and many other tribal groups of Africa, the umbilical Cord is usually buried in an uncultivated field along with a tree, covered with grain and grass as a symbol of fertility. There is a silent prayer that the mother's womb should remain more fertile and fresher for other children by this ritual.

Jean-Marc Ela, *My Faith as an African* (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2009), 17.



If you were asked to choose an animal and a tree to protect and partner, what would that be?





Totemic beliefs

A totem is an emblematic animal or tree expressing indigenous African traditions' deep kinship with creation. It instills a strong relationship and peaceful cohabitation between the tribe and the totemic animals, trees, or other creatures apart from human beings.

Youth Empowerment: Toward sustainable action (Ezekiel 36: 6-12)



Educational, cultural formation and ministerial or pastoral activities.



Ezekiel gives us a wonderful vision of a restored relationship between humanity and the rest of creation (Ezekiel 36:6-12).

Young people can help to restore the vision of Ezekiel



Empowerment aims at motivating youth to act and become decision-makers within their community and at a personal level.

These potentials and talents need to be recognized and developed by institutional and community support.

Empowerment requires knowledge, social skills and competencies in their everyday action and commitment.



Empowering through Education

- The call and actions of Wangari Maathai
- Planting trees
- Agricultural adaptation
- Prevention of desertification, and caring for the rivers, streams, and lakes protects the earth and the rest of creation from harm.



LIBERATIVE EDUCATION

Bishop PAUL Verryn, in his ministry, understood that education is a key liberative empowerment in caring for creation. He says that “[he sees] human liberation and empowerment of youth through education as being one of the many possible solutions” to the climate and environmental crisis.



Change of cultural and curriculum formation

- ▶ Cultural beliefs and environmental management should be part of a curriculum that teaches children how to manage and protect the environment at this time of protracted climate change.
- ▶ They should learn theories and practices that restore their relationship with the environment so that they can know how to deal with the crisis.



Pastoral Response and Ministerial Response (Accompany, advocate (preaching), serve!

Pope Francis: A call to a deep ecological conversion: A call to have a new look on creation and see God who dwells in every creature. To see creation in the eyes of God.

Nature as a sacrament: Creation is sacred and consecrated by God. The liturgical context of redemption includes the whole of creation.

Biblical hermeneutics from Earth perspective: to develop techniques of reading the text to discern and retrieve alternate traditions where the voice of the Earth community has been suppressed.

Empowering and mitigating change through activism: empower youths so that they may be able to use their classrooms, dormitories, and social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp brochures and participate in petition signing to raise awareness and advocate for environmental and climate safety.

Preach the ecological account of creation, such as in the Book of Job and Isaiah: None anthropological vision of creation.

INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY in the world.

The church can also valorize indigenous spirituality

Jack Forbes, “Indigenous Americans: spirituality and Ecos” Says: “ For us truly, there are no surroundings. I can lose my hands and still live, I can lose my legs and still live, I can lose my eyes and still live. But if I lose the air I die. If I lose the sun, I die. If I lose the earth, I die. If I lose the water, I die. If I lose the plan and animals, I die. All of these things are more apart of me and more essential to every breath than is my so-called body.”

The earth is my real body. We are not autonomous self-sufficient beings as Europe mythology and Christianity teaches.

Ecumenical, interreligious, and cultural dialogue?

Many
denomination
Churches and non-
denominational
believe that we
have taken the
wrong
interpretation
when it comes to
nature:

Can nature and
creation become a
focal point for our
ecumenical, inter-
religious, and
cultural Dialogue
regarding faith
commitment and
beliefs?

