

Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference: Pastoral Statement on the Environmental Crisis (5 September 1999)

All damage to the environment is a grave problem which calls for prompt and creative responses. Many interested groups and non-governmental organizations are committed to the task of drawing up and spreading information on environmental issues. They are working towards the development of responsible stewardship and appreciation of creation.

We are particularly pleased with the new policy on the environment which the government has adopted in the National Environment Management Act of 1998. We believe this policy is a major step forward in achieving environmentally sustainable development.

We urge all the faithful to become familiar with the new legislation and with the Church's teaching on environment.

We also encourage all to do whatever is possible to make these known to others: by organizing workshops, information sessions and talks, and through the use of liturgies and homilies.

We also call upon individuals, parishes, associations, dioceses, and especially youth movements to participate actively in the nationwide effort to ensure that principles and norms contained in the law and church teaching are implemented.