

## PIASS SW 2018: Call for Papers

The Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences [PIASS] organizes its 8<sup>th</sup> scientific edition [13-15 July 2018] on the topic:

***“Together for the Survival of Our Planet. Our contribution to mitigate global Warming and Climate Change”.***

The following subtopics were identified for contributions to be presented at the conference in July:

1. **The Bible and the Environment: an exploration of the expressions and theological meaning of the manifestation of God in the wholeness of Creation.**
2. ***The Role of Faith-based organizations in climate change mitigation and Carbon Gaz reduction: The experience of RIDS on Carbon Market.***
3. **Community participation and environmental justice in Rwanda.**
5. **Climate change effects and environment protection: building community resilience.**
6. **Governance and Parks Management in Rwanda: Case of Nyungwe National Park**
7. **Changing life of communities through climate change mitigation by tree planting in Kirehe and Karong Districts.**
8. **Threatened habitats and Resulting Conservation Challenges in Rwanda. Case Study of Nyungwe and Mukura Natural Forests.**
9. **The challenges of land overexploitation and sustainable development in Rwanda**
10. **“Potential in Bioethanol Production from various ethanol fermenting microorganisms using agro waste as raw materials”.**
11. ***Global Warming: An assessment of all external and internal industrial productions, sources of pollution and global warming in Rwanda. How to mitigate their effects? By:***
12. **Climate Change response by the Education Sector**
13. **Rwandan government policy of the environment, strategies, achievements and sustainability.**
14. ***Global justice and environment. Deforestation and industrialisation and consequences; efforts of to regulate and intervene in global affairs: the challenges posed by new actors and the biggest polluter. ///***

## **"Together for the Survival of Our Planet. Our contribution to mitigate global Warming and Climate Change"**

1. Is our planet under serious menace? If yes, to what extent? Whose responsibility is it? And what to do? Actually, are developing countries in general and High Learning institutions, Churches and civil society organizations concerned by climate change and global warming? Experts on environment and climate have persistently voiced about the menaces on our planet of global warming, the build-up of greenhouse gases [GHGs] risk to reach an irreversible state. Drought conditions jeopardize access to clean drinking water, fuel out-of-control wildfires, and result in dust storms, extreme heat events flash flooding ; heavier rains cause streams, rivers, and lakes to overflow, which damages life and property, contaminates drinking water, creates hazardous-material spills, promotes mold infestation and unhealthy air whilst lack of water is a leading cause of death and serious disease.
2. With the United Nations worldometer of this 15 January 2018 by 4.30 [Greenwich time] putting the world population at 7,595,171,304, and a daily growth of about 279.672; the planet is unstopably reaching its optimal capacity some would say. With this in mind, some intellectuals of the ecologist movement accuse biblical statements to be the ingredient of the environment overexploitation. Otherwise, what does the Bible mean by "Conquer and dominate the earth" if not a justification of the crisis of the environment? From the theological point of view, fundamental questions of anthropo-centric, bio-centric, patho-centric even theo-centric perspective need to be addressed [Stueckelberger, 2010:3]. He made in His own image, male and female commanding them to "be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it" (Gen.1.28). As people of all age, origin, race, social, intellectual, cultural, religious or political category, we are all guests on earth; we are guests that is a paradigm from the creation up to the eschatological times. As guests on earth, we are invited by the Host to borrow but use the "resources respectfully (cultivate and guard and care for)"; to work on it and to take care for it.
3. Global efforts led to the Paris agreement for carbonic gas emissions reduction; however, Donald Trump, the president of USA has put the enterprise into jeopardy he withdrew his country from the agreement signed by his predecessor, Barack Obama. Africa has been identified as one of the most vulnerable regions of the world due to continuing destruction of the ecosystems; the deforestation of equatorial forests by multinational companies; the dumping of toxic waste on its shores; the rapid desertification; the demographic explosion with increasing needs for fire woods for domestic energy; and finally, the absence of strategies for the environment conservation. Climate change is one of the major concerns to be addressed by the MDGs and the SDGS. In Rwanda, climate change is one of the top agenda of the Vision 2020 and EDPRS I & II; it concerns the country because of the commitment to reach sustainable development including food security; farming, livestock health (IPCC, 2007).
4. "The boosting of agriculture throughout the green revolution such as the multiplication of rice using laboratory- selected seeds, in Thailand, Korea, Vietnam; the production of sorghum in India. The chemical management of agriculture and an industrial –style production of crops as solutions to world hunger problem. Many critics said that the green revolution has "been largely

responsible for the remarkable surge in food production” but at high cost, including accelerated soil erosion, irrigation damage, overdrawn aquifers, and serious pollution of surface and underground waters. The Agriculture chemicals caused negative environmental impacts. They depleted the soils and entered the ecological food chain bringing death to humans and other species. In the tropics, the green revolution has proven both unsuccessful and environmentally damaging, particularly concerning the vulnerability of the monoculture to pest attack and chemical fertilizers that weaken the soil composition”. [ Synott Global and International studies 2009: 75].

5. On a daily basis, some of the protection agencies may be dealing with documenting all sources of pollution, CO2 emissions producers from our basic commodities [ cars; domestic equipment; plastic bags] and the consequences they have on the most vulnerable; dealing with the effects and consequences of exotic species on indigenous ecosystems and agriculture and issues of soil protection and conservation; the challenges of the management of solid or liquid wastes; the global impact of destruction of equatorial forests and any strategies of reforestation. Other may be dealing with the crucial issue of dumping, the unlawful disposal of toxic wastes, construction debris, old appliances, furniture, general household, commercial and industrial waste in places other than permitted facilities which are turning the African shores into drop-off sites for toxic waste from Europe and America. As safety laws in Europe and the United States push toxic disposal costs up to \$2,500 a ton, waste brokers are turning their attention to the closest, poorest and most unprotected shores - West Africa. From Morocco to the Congo, virtually every country on West Africa's coast reports receiving offers each year from American or European companies seeking cheap sites to dispose of hazardous waste. Fees offered African recipients have gone as low as \$3 a ton. Some West African countries rank among the poorest in the world, and the offers have been tempting. [J. Brooke, *Waste Dumpers Turning to West Africa*. New York Times, 17 July 1988].
6. The harm made to the environment has deepened larger and it challenges the nations of the world, from international level, national and on community level for practical solutions. From an African perspective the idea of relational harmony, liturgically proposes the interdependency of the whole creation that holds only when we respect the integrity of every creature. From the theological point of view, the new environment ethic must be formulated having in view that: We are bound together with the soil; we care for the creation; we search for a New Alliance that considers the Mosaic Law that prioritizes the jubilee for people, the land, the environment and the animals.
7. PUR-PIASS Scientific Week 2018 intends to gather all those expertise from public agencies and academics involved in the elaboration and implementation of strategies, policies and curricula [ of formal and informal training]; as well as those involved in the praxis for the mitigation of climate change and environment conservation, to lecture the participants; to interact and facilitate fruitful discussions and recommendations. The PUR Scientific Week [fourth week of June 2018] will benefit from a dialogue between both the practitioners and academics on their respective commitment to the sustainability of the environment, the theological and philosophical vision, the scientific work, the curricula as well as advocacy and the praxis.

## Objectives

1. To assess the conditions and scientific, technical, economic, political factors of the environment crisis in Africa.
2. To raise the awareness of the academic community and the population of Rwanda on the implications of the crisis on the future of the planet.
3. To reflect on the role and the achievements of different public and private actors, including the churches and ecumenical movement in the engagement for the Integrity of the creation.
4. To facilitate the interactions on key steps needed to preserve the integrity of creation: preservation of the environment, climate change mitigation, sustainable land, and water and agriculture management.

**Participants:**

1. PUR academic community: staff and students
2. Representatives of institutions and local communities
3. Other academic institutions
4. Representatives of organizations involved in environment conservation
5. Leaders of Churches and communities

***Deadline for submission of abstracts: March 21, 2018.***

***Deadline for the submission of the paper: June 30, 2018.***

**For comments and suggestions:**

PUR-PIASS- Director research

[tharcissegatwa@hotmail.com](mailto:tharcissegatwa@hotmail.com) ///