

Cosmosnews

Kosmosnachrichten

KWT Dominicans

Number 1—September 2011

17th Sep 2011, Feast of **Hildegard of Bingen**

Dear Sisters, Family, Associates and Friends.

This is the first edition of our **Cosmosnews**.

This **Cosmosnews** will inform us about our experiences as part of Mother Earth , wherever we are on Earth in the Cosmos.

Sr Clare Sangweni and Sr Hanna Remke will work together to send **Cosmosnews** normally once a month by e-mail to all of those, who might be interested in it.

We are looking forward to hear from you.



Sr. Clare Sangweni



Sr. Hanna Remke

Aim of Cosmosnews

Our aim for the beginning is:

- to be filled with a sense of wonder and reverence at the interconnectedness and sacredness of all creation
- to improve our Earth literacy in sharing our experiences and our reflections about life in our bio-regions.
- to tap into the wisdom which is alive in each one of us
- to listen to Earth, to Earth people and to all her life forms
- to generate courage, passion and creativity to change our lifestyle as a way of moving towards mutually enhancing relationships of humans and the larger community of life systems,
- to discover the richness mystics of all times have given us to change human behaviour from destroying the planet to an alignment with its inherent wisdom

This is the **OFFICIAL LOGO** of the Conference. A big element of the logo is the resilient **BAOBAB TREE**. Baobabs are very difficult to kill. They can be burnt, or stripped of their bark, and they will just form new bark and carry on growing

The globe in the logo has an eroded look indicative to the urgent need for a positive outcome by COP17/MOP7.

The core theme of the Conference is *'Working together: Saving tomorrow today'*.



Reflection

Creator God, your dry lands thirst, help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

We pray for your power to refresh your lands.

Creator God, your waters are choked with debris and pollution, help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

We pray for your knowledge to find ways to cleanse the waters.

Creator God, your beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse, help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

We pray for your strength to restore the beauty of your handiwork.

Creator God, your creatures are being destroyed, help us to find a way to replenish them.

We pray for your power to replenish the earth

Creator God, your gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption, help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

We pray for your wisdom to find the way to restore our humanity.

UN Environmental programme



Baobab Tree on the road to Zimbabwe

Personal Sharing

Sr. Clare and nature

I grew up in Mpumalanga in a rural area. But every holiday my father used to take the whole family to Durban to enjoy the sea. I used to marvel at the stories my father would relate to us about how the sea wanted to be clean, it would always pushed out of itself everything that was dirty.

We would always keep a plastic bag in the car throughout our journey for all our rubbish. It was one of the rules: we were not allowed to throw anything out of the window.



Where I grew up, some people do farming; others have small gardens in their yards. As a result I also like plants and flowers very much, to plant these and watch them grow. I like to watch trees, flowers and birds. The whole of nature is very obedient; it does what it is commanded to do from its existence.

Sr Clare Sangweni

Contributions to Cosmos news are always welcome. Please send texts, prayers, information and pictures via e-mail.
Thanks

Useful Websites:

COP 17
Weltklimakonferenz
Climate change

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COP 17 An International Conference in Durban in December 2011

In December this year South Africa will host the international conference on Climate change in Durban , called COP 17. (**C**onference **o**f **p**arties). South Africa is hosting this conference for the 1st time. Representatives from 193 nations of the world will come together to decide on how to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, the main cause of the overheating of the planet. More than 20 000 people are expected to attend the gathering, included members of environmental associations and NGOs from all over the world.

Since 1995, the leaders of the nations have been gathering, **17 times** (including Durban) as you can see in the overview.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate change was adopted at the **Rio Summit in 1992** and entered into force in 1994. Its key provision aimed at stabilising climate change at safe levels. Industrialised countries agreed to reduce their Green House Gas emissions voluntarily to return to 1990 levels by 2000. The Convention ratified by 186 countries – including South Africa - became law in 1994.

At **COP 3 in Kyoto**, Japan, all signatories to the **Un FCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change)** agreed to medium-term commitments. This came into force only in 2005.

MOP 1 in the diagram shows, that the first **Meeting of the Parties** to the Kyoto Protocol took place in 2005 though the initial meeting in Kyoto was in 1997.

It was decided later to **replace the Kyoto protocol in 2012**, but till now there is no new agreement on the terms of a new treaty.

The **COP 17** will be a crucial moment for all humanity, because the Kyoto Protocol will expire. There is still great scepticism about whether binding agreements will be found, because there is lack of political will in the wealthier countries, who together with some emerging economies, are the greatest polluters. Negotiations failed in Denmark and Cancun also did not really move ahead.

We all have heard in one or the other way what damage **Climate Change** is doing to Earth and with it to humanity. It leads to floods, fires, droughts, melting of the Polar ice caps, rising sea levels and the result is human suffering and species destruction.

Just to remind ourselves of some disastrous happenings:

- 2010 floods in Pakistan
- 2011 floods in Australia
- 2011 famine in Somalia

So we feel that especially the **sisters in South Africa** should be involved in preparing for the convention. E.g. in actions in the parishes. But all of us can pray to achieve a new binding global deal. and write letters to our respective governments, who are signatories to the Cop 17 Durban.

Yes, we as individuals need to live in new ways that do less harm to the earth, but Climate change and with it COP 17 is calling for global –scale actions to have an impact on earth’s life.

The **German Bishops** wrote in 2006 (Nr. 29 Expert Report :Climate Change p.9): “We call upon and encourage those in positions of responsibility within the Church, as well as those who hold responsibility in government and politics, in business and industry, and in society to take up effective measures to conserve the climate and to adapt to the consequences of global climate change. We all have an obligation to act – out of solidarity with the victims of climate change and with future generations as well.”

In June 2011 **130 faith representatives** (Muslim, Christian, Hindu, African traditional, Baha’i and Buddhist communities) **from 30 African countries** have called on world leaders to embrace a binding treaty on climate change at the COP 17 in Durban They also highlight their own responsibility.

We give just 2 of the 5 points:

“As African faith leaders, our responsibility will be to:

- Set a good example for our faith communities by examining our personal needs and reducing unsustainable consumption ...
- Acknowledge that climate change has greatly affected already vulnerable people (such as women, children, the elderly, the poor and the disabled), that it worsens existing inequalities and that this places an obligation on faith groups to stand in solidarity with the victims of climate change disasters, showing care, compassion and love.” (See “worldwide” Nr. 5, 2011 p.5)

	Year of meeting	Places of meeting
COP 1	1995	Berlin - Germany
COP 2	1996	Geneva, Switzerland
COP 3	1997	Kyoto – Japan The Kyoto Protocol
COP 4	1998	Buenos Aires, Argentina
COP 5	1999	Bonn, Germany
COP 6	2000	The Hague, Netherlands
COP 6	2001	Bonn, Germany
COP 7	2001	Marrakesch, Morocco
COP 8	2002	New Delhi, India
COP 9	2003	Milan, Italy
COP 10	2004	Buenos Aires, Argentina
COP 11	2005 MOP1	Montreal, Canada
COP 12	2006 MOP2	Nairobi, Kenya
COP 13	2007 MOP3	Bali, Indonesia
COP 14	2008 MOP4	Posen , Poland
COP15	2 009 MOP5	Copenhagen Denmark
COP 16	2010 MOP6	Cancun – Mexico
COP1 7	2011 MOP7 28. 11. -9.12.	Durban - South Africa
COP 18	2012 MOP8	