

The CDCC on the Front of Deforestation

Climate change is a subject that concerns all of humanity today and when people agree to come together to think about it, it is a great moment. So if someone thinks of you to make your contribution, it is a great privilege. This is why we express all our recognition and gratitude to Global Ministries who thought of us, the CDCC, so that we could make our contribution to this reflection which concerns everyone.

When God created the earth and everything on it, he found it to be very good (Genesis 1:31), he placed man there to manage this creation (Genesis 2:15), but the use of creation by man has produced harmful effects on humanity, imbalances which have terrible consequences and causes that we know today.

The Church, as a divine institution, was called upon to correct this situation through appropriate measures to protect humanity to restore the broken balance. Above all, a church which is located in the zone where human action can restore, however little, the balance necessary for the survival of humanity.

The logging of the Congo currence in Central Africa by industrial and artisanal loggers seriously threatens the second lung of the world. In fact, every day, thousands of cubic meters are cut down and intended mainly for export. Until a few years ago, it was Western and national operators who chose the species to be felled, but since the Chinese got involved, without an option for the species, the situation has gotten even worse. These operations are carried out in the provinces of Equateur, Mai Ndombe, Tshuapa, Tshopo and Mongala where the CDCC has its ecclesial posts.

The effects of this abusive and dangerous exploitation of the forest are today strongly felt in our region. These are in particular:

- The increase in heat (very high temperature);
- The disruption of the seasons with effects on food because the local population obtains its food from day to day by drawing its products from nature (forest and water);
- The disappearance of protein-rich caterpillars and mushrooms due to the cutting of trees that produce mushrooms and caterpillars;
- Recurrent floods causing the destruction of infrastructure and the displacement of populations;
- Hurricanes and torrential rains which devastate the population's habitat;
- Disruption of the agricultural calendar with effects on the population's food and resources, etc.

Faced with this threat, the CDCC does not remain indifferent, but its action is limited to advocacy in a country where corruption is the rule and the normal path the exception, the church has little chance of stopping this evil.

Furthermore, residents of the Congolese forest contribute to its destruction without realizing it. Indeed, in the past, domestic energy was provided by dead wood branches in the forest, but with the increase in the population and especially in urban areas the use of braziers has boosted the production of embers on a large scale, consequently, to produce embers and make money, the population living near the Forest no longer hesitates to cut down trees. Likewise, in the construction of residential houses or infrastructure such as schools, health posts, etc. , the population uses sticks which are sorted from the species that the operators particularly target. or to build a box of 10m on .6 we need at least [500](#) sticks. So if in a village we have 25 huts of this size, at least 12,[500](#) sticks per village and that's without counting the sleepers for the construction of the roof. These sticks were going to become logs if they had not been cut

young. For the case of embers like that of sticks, the predation of the forest by local residents must be taken seriously.

If for forest operators, the action of the CDCC has no effect due to corruption, for local residents, the action of the CDCC is promising if it is done systematically with resources. Indeed, for several years, the CDCC has been striving to manufacture and popularize economic and ecological braziers. These are braziers which consume little embers in a proportion of 60% compared to ordinary braziers, i.e. a gain of 40% in terms of ember consumption. Also, the CDCC popularizes mixed embers, that is to say a mixture of ember dust with clay. This type of ember does not wear out quickly and produces a lot of heat compared to regular embers.

Likewise, to deal with the destruction of the forest for reasons of house construction, the CDCC popularizes brick, rail. A brick which does not require a joint and can be placed without recourse to masons. There is a strong adhesion better a craze for this type of bricks which offers a lot advantage both on the duration of the house and on the expenses to be incurred. The problem that arises for these bricks is the availability of brick presses which are made of metal and cost a little more for the budgets of the populations concerned.

The current need for the CDCC to engage in large-scale action is the production of mixed embers, economical braziers and large-scale brick presses to effectively protect the forest, a heritage of the entire world.

Ultimately, the CDCC would be happy to be taken on as a partner in the field and to have support commensurate with the challenges to be met.