

Millennium Development Goal 7



Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to drinking water
Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Scripture Reflection:

The Lord God formed a human being from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, so that he became a living creature.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden away to the east, and in it he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made trees grow up from the ground, every kind of tree pleasing to the eye and good for food; and in the middle of the garden he set the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and look after it. (Gen 2:7-9, 15)

Food for thought

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. (Gen 1:31)

A story from the field

To care for the earth is to care for its people. Through his work with the T'boli people, Columban missionary Fr Sean McDonagh

learnt how the well-being of humans is linked with the state of the environment we live in.

The T'boli are a tribal people who have long called the forests of Mindanao in southern Philippines home. They find food for their sustenance and materials for their homes. The flora and fauna around them provide cures for diseases. The T'boli focus their music, dance, poetry, arts and their religious traditions and rituals on the sights and sounds of their surroundings.

Fr Sean realised that as the forests dwindled through logging and other ways, the future physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of the T'boli was very much under threat. What remained of the forests had to be protected if they were to remain intact as a people. But the destruction of God's creation continues today.

A once lush Philippines is now predicted to have just 6.6% of forest cover by 2010. Such a pattern of destruction exists in other parts of the world where our ecological heritage such as rainforests and coral reefs is beginning to be wiped out.



How should we respond?

- * Write a letter to your local Federal MP urging that Australia sign on to the Kyoto Protocol.
- * Carry out an eco-audit in your home; set yourself a target to reduce your use of energy.
- * Monitor the amount of packaging you throw out each week: reduce, reuse, recycle!

Energy use per unit of GDP, 1990 & 2003 (kg of oil equivalent per 1,000 dollars of GDP in 2000 purchasing power parities)

	1990	2003
CIS, Asia	985	627
CIS, Europe	625	519
Sub-Saharan Africa	360	363
Western Asia	250	287
Eastern Asia	419	219
South-Eastern Asia	203	211
Southern Asia	245	201
Northern Africa	164	165
Latin America & the Caribbean	167	162

Energy use has become more efficient in most regions, though CO2 emissions continue to rise globally

Proportion of land area covered by forests 1990 & 2005

	1990	2005
Northern Africa	1	2
Western Asia	3	4
Southern Asia	14	14
Eastern Asia	17	20
Sub-Saharan Africa	29	27
CIS	39	39
Latin America & the Caribbean	50	46
South-Eastern Asia	56	47
Oceania	68	63
World	31	30

Rapid deforestation continues, but the net loss of forest area is slowing down

To make poverty history