



## INVITATION

### Capacity Building Webinar

# “Religious Communities and Ecological Sustainability in Southern Africa”

**Tuesday, 1 September 2020 9 am – 1:30pm (GMT +2)**

The Research Programme on Religious Communities and Sustainable Development at Humboldt University Berlin and the Water, Environment and Climate Action (WECARE) Work-Stream of the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) are hosting a **webinar** on “**Religious Communities and Ecological Sustainability in Southern Africa.**”

**We cordially invite** all PaRD members, religious leaders, staff of development organisations, academic researchers, and individuals engaged with ecological sustainability to participate in the event.

The webinar focuses on the role of religious communities for ecological sustainability in Southern Africa. Topics include water management, climate change, agriculture and eco-feminism. The webinar will provide insights into **ecological sustainability from a theological perspective** as well as into the **engagement of religious leaders and faith-based organisations**. It seeks to equip PaRD members and other participants with knowledge and tools for effective engagement with ecological sustainability.

The webinar will feature expert inputs as well as interactive discussions on the specific themes. Speakers and facilitators include: **Prof. Francois Engelbrecht**, University of Witwatersrand; **Rev. Rachel Mash**, Green Anglicans South Africa; **Dr. Tanya van Wyk**, University of Pretoria, South Africa; **Dr. Loreen Maseno**, Maseno University, Kenya and **Dr. Mohammad Gallant**, University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

On the basis of the webinar inputs and discussions, a comprehensive report will be drafted by the organizers. Participant’s contributions will be greatly appreciated and will be included in the report.

**Kindly register** for the webinar until the 28<sup>th</sup> of August by sending an email to [theorcsd@hu-berlin.de](mailto:theorcsd@hu-berlin.de). We kindly ask you to indicate your name, country, position, organisation, and field of activity/interest.

## Webinar Programme

9:00 - 9:15	<p><b>Welcome</b>  <i>Philipp Öhlmann</i>, Head of the Research Programme on Religious Communities and Sustainable Development, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  <i>Iyad Abumoghli</i>, UN Environment Programme / PaRD WECARE Work-Stream Co-Lead  <i>Najat Abdi Mohamed</i>, Global One / PaRD WECARE Work-Stream Co-Lead</p>
9:15 - 10:15	<p><b>Keynote:</b> “Restricting global warming under the Paris Agreement: benefits and the consequences of failure for Africa and the world”  <i>Prof. Francois Engelbrecht</i>, Professor at the School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, and Lead of the IPCC’s Special Report on the Global Warming of 1.5°C  <b>Response</b> “Climate change and ecological sustainability – a religious leaders’ perspective”  <i>Apostle Mangaliso Matshobane</i>, Community Church, South Africa, University of Pretoria, South Africa  <b>Discussion</b></p>
10:15 - 10:30	Break
10:30 - 11:40	<p><b>Working Groups</b>  i. <u>Eco-theology</u>: <i>Dr. Loreen Maseno</i>, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Religion, Theology and Philosophy, Maseno-University, Kenya  ii. <u>Eco-Feminism</u>: <i>Dr. Tanya van Wyk</i>, Senior Lecturer in Spirituality, University of Pretoria, South Africa  iii. <u>Local multi-faith action</u>: <i>Kate Davies</i>, Southern African Faith Communities Institute (SAFCEI), South Africa  iv. <u>Water</u>: <i>Dr. Esper Ncube</i>, Water Quality Specialist at Rand Water, South Africa  v. <u>Sustainable Agriculture</u>: <i>Rev. Nicta Lubaale</i>, Organization of African Instituted Churches, Kenya  vi. <u>Preserving water from an Islamic perspective</u>: <i>Dr. Mohammad Gallant</i>, Lecturer in Islamic Studies, University of Western Cape, South Africa and founder of the Environmental Affairs Department of the Muslim Judicial Council (SA)</p>
11:40 - 12:00	Break
12:00 - 12:20	<b>Presentation</b> of learning material on ecology for religious leaders in Southern Africa by the Green Teaching and Learning Community (Green TLC) <i>Dr. Tanya van Wyk</i>
12:20 - 13:05	<p><b>Panel discussion:</b> How can religious actors become active for ecological sustainability in their contexts?  <i>Rev. Rachel Mash</i>, Environmental Coordinator at the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, member of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network steering committee  <i>Dr. Robekkah Ritchie</i>, Post-Doctoral Researcher in Buddhist Studies at Freie Universität Berlin  <i>Tahirih Matthee</i>, Bahá’i Community South Africa  <i>Apostle Siboniso Ngobese</i>, Gilgal Bible Church, South Africa</p>
13:05 - 13:30	<p><b>Concluding remarks, feedback and way forward</b>  <i>Lilian Kurz</i>, World Evangelical Alliance / PaRD WECARE Work-Stream Co-Leads  <i>Dinesh Suna</i>, World Council of Churches / PaRD WECARE Work-Stream Co-Leads  <i>Philipp Öhlmann</i>, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin</p>

**Please note:** This webinar will be recorded for distribution through various outlets of Humboldt University and PaRD. By participating in the webinar, participants consent to the possibility of appearing in these recordings.