



# Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa

23 September 2021

## Five Marks of Mission to be promoted in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa

23 September 2021



At the Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, the following resolution was passed

### ***Resolves to:***

Request that every Diocese prints sufficient copies of the Anglican Communion Five marks of Mission poster for each worshipping centre and ensure that these are placed in their vestries; Request the Provincial Liturgical Committee to include the Five Marks of Mission in the service of licensing of lay ministers.

*Proposer: Bishop Ernesto Manuel*

*Secunder: Rev Shaun Cozett*

# The Anglican Church of Southern Africa calls on Ministers of the Environment to sign the Global Plastic Treaty

23 September 2021



**At its Provincial Synod, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa passed the following resolution**

1. Across Southern Africa only 16% of plastic is recycled. The bulk of discarded plastic

ends up in landfill locations, scattered across the countryside, blocking drains or littering street verges. If not buried or burnt, it finds its way into rivers (due to wind, littering, improper waste management or overflowing landfills) and eventually into the ocean;

2. It is estimated that eight million metric tons of discarded plastic end up in the ocean annually;
3. South Africa, the 11th worst plastic polluter in the world, has indicated that the government is not willing to sign the draft Global Plastic Treaty, proposed by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
4. Provincial Mothers' Union passed a resolution in Lesotho (2015) to ban polystyrene at parish events;
5. Informal waste pickers play an important role in recycling waste;

**Acknowledging that:**

1. The practice in some rural communities is that families bring their own dishes to parish events from home;
2. To us as people of faith, the well-being of the planet is more important than short term financial gain;

## Resolves to:

1. Call for a ban of the use of polystyrene at all church events and requests that representatives of the executive of each Provincial organisation have a discussion about the implementation of this ban and that ACSA Environmental Network prepares posters with information for churches;
2. Respectfully request the Archbishop to write to the Ministers of the Environment (or the relevant office) in each of the countries within ACSA (South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini and Namibia), encouraging them to sign the Global Plastic Treaty, and encourages the bishops of IAMA (Mozambique and Angola) to consider doing the same.
3. Recommend that where waste pickers service urban communities, Anglican households should separate their waste to help uphold the dignity of the waste pickers.

*Proposer: Lulama Ntuta*

*Secunder: Maria Van Staden*

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# Anglican Bishops Call for an Immediate halt to Gas and Oil Exploration in Africa

**23 September 2021**



The Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the three bishops of Mozambique, the Bishop of Namibia were joined by 20 South African bishops to call for the halt to gas and oil exploration in Africa.

Meeting at Provincial Synod the following resolution was passed by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa:

### ***This Synod***

Recognises the negative impacts of fossil fuel exploration in the Dioceses of Namibia and Nampula;

Recognises the increasing impacts of climate change across the Continent of Africa, caused by the burning of fossil fuels;

Commits to standing in solidarity with the rest of Africa to call for a halt to gas and oil exploration in Africa;

**Resolves to:**

2. Invite the All-Africa Conference of Churches and the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa to circulate this letter for signature throughout Africa.

**RE: AFRICAN BISHOPS CALL FOR A HALT TO GAS AND OIL EXPLORATION IN AFRICA**

Africa, our home, is a continent of spectacular beauty and abundance. It still has remnants of its unique and priceless wildlife in areas of great variety, biodiversity, and wonder. The land has deep rooted cultural and traditional significance and 80% of the Continent's people depend on small scale farmers for their food.

A new era of economic colonialism by fossil fuel companies is well underway. This is supported by self-serving governments. They are enticed by the promise of job creation and finance for 'development' while ignoring the harsh reality of the climate crisis, the ravages of which are being felt across the Continent. Biodiversity loss, exacerbated by catastrophic climate change will have dire consequences for all life on this planet and Africa will be severely affected.

Africa's natural habitats are being destroyed at an alarming rate through the extraction of oil and gas, with many new projects in the pipeline. Known in Nigeria as the curse of "black gold", fossil fuel extraction is polluting the water and the land. Oil companies are abusing the rights of indigenous and rural people and forcing them off their land. Oil and gas exploration and exploitation are leading to political destabilisation and increased violence.

The choices we make now will determine the future of Africa. We face species extinction, widespread disease, life-threatening temperature extremes, droughts, ecosystem collapse, and rising sea levels, floods, storms, and wildfires, unless there is transformational change by individuals, communities, businesses, institutions, and governments.

Africa is a continent richly blessed with sun and wind. Investment in renewable energy, now the cheapest form of energy worldwide, will create far more jobs and long-term savings. Renewable energy will be generated without the health-damaging pollutants of fossil fuels or global warming that will push the world past a catastrophic 1.5°C increase in temperature. The declining worldwide demand for fossil fuels will also leave Africa with a legacy of stranded assets.

Yet rather than halting fossil fuel extraction, many governments are actively encouraging exploration for oil and gas reserves by foreign companies. This, despite each country's commitment to the Paris Agreement and their promise to formulate nationally determined contributions (NDC) of climate changing emissions.

Across the continent, foreign companies, supported by African governments, are putting profit before planet:

1. ReconAfrica, a Canadian oil and gas company, is drilling for oil and gas in the Kavango Basin in north-east Namibia. The company's 25-year production licence covers over 34,000 square kilometres. Major oil extraction threatens scarce water supplies and is likely to cause widespread ecological destruction to the Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It would also disrupt traditional livelihoods and displace indigenous communities.
2. The Virunga National Park in the DRC is a 'protected' UNESCO World Heritage Site. It has a wealth of biodiversity but is threatened with oil exploration. UNESCO has appealed to the DRC government to cancel all oil exploration permits and focus rather on longer term sustainable development opportunities.
3. The plan to build a heated pipeline that will carry crude oil from western Uganda through Tanzania to the Indian Ocean, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), will damage fragile ecosystems and displace families from their land. The Ugandan and Tanzanian Governments, the French oil company Total, and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) have partnered in this agreement.
4. Multiple foreign corporations (including Total) have invested in the offshore gas reserves of northern Mozambique. In spite of promises, the vast development has not benefitted local communities. People are losing their ancestral land and culture. Many young men have joined the Al-Shabab insurgency group making brutal attacks. Nearly 900,000 people have been internally displaced due to the violence. The Quirimbas National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, will also be exposed to the impacts of dredging, waste disposal and construction.
5. As people of faith, we believe we have been given responsibility to care for, protect and preserve Africa's magnificent creation.

***Therefore, we call:***

1. The immediate cessation of fossil fuel exploration across Africa.
2. The application of effective climate justice so that countries of Africa, disproportionately affected by climate change, may be enabled to leapfrog the polluting fossil fuel era into the clean renewable energy era.
3. An end to bribery and corruption by foreign businesses and multi-national companies to secure contracts from political leaders, with disastrous consequences for local communities.
4. A decisive and determined shift by governments to embrace a transition to a renewable energy future with its enormous job creation potential so that people and planet may breathe and thrive.
5. The recognition of Ecocide as a crime in national and international law. Ecocide is causing irreparable damage and destruction to ecosystems and harming the health and wellbeing of species, including humans.

**Signatories:**

The Archbishop of Cape Town, The Most Revd T C Makgoba

Bishops of Mozambique:

- The Bishop of Lebombo , the Rt Rev C Matsinhe
- The Bishop of Nampula , the Rt Rev E Manuel

– The Bishop of Niassa, the Rt Rev V Msosa

The Bishop of Namibia, the Rt Revd Luke Pato

The Bishop of Saint Helena, the Rt Rev D Bowers-

The Bishop of Matlosane, the Rt Revd S Diseko

The Bishop of Saldanha Bay, the Rt Revd R Hess

The Bishop of Grahamstown, the Rt Revd E Ntlali

The Bishop of Mpumalanga, the Rt Revd d Kgomosotho

The Bishop of George, the Rt Revd B Marajh

The Bishop of False Bay, the Rt Revd M Vertue

The Bishop of Johannesburg, the Rt Revd Dr S Moreo

The Bishop of Highveld , the Rt Revd C may

The Bishop of Pretoria, the Rt Revd A Kannemeyer

The Bishop of Christ the King, the Rt Revd W Mostert-

The Bishop of Khahlamba, the Rt Revd M Madwyane

The Bishop of port Elizabeth , the Rt Revd Dr E Daniels

The Bishop of Mzimvubu the Rt Revd T Seleone

The Bishop of St Mark the Evangelist, the Rt Revd I Pretorius

The Bishop of Natal, the Rt Revd Dr H Ndwandwe

The Bishop of Table Bay – the Rt Revd J Louw

The Vicar General of Lesotho, the Very rev T mofana

The Vicar General of Mbashe, the Very Rev B Mkabile

The Vicar General of Mthatha the very Rev T Vikilahle

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