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| ***A GUIDE WHEN PRESENTING THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH*** |
| ***A Series of Laudato Si Sessions and CBC PNGSI Response to Care of Creation: Prepared by Development Secretary of CBC PNGSI, 2020*** |
| ***Recommended Time of Presentation: 15 – 20 minutes*** |
| ***Tool: PowerPoint & Corresponding Paper*** |

***Slide 1: Cover***

***Slide 2: Content – take 1 minute to run down content.***

***Slide 3: Background (5 minutes)***

1. **Human Resource Management Guidelines – CBC PNGSI**

The Environment Policy of the Catholic Church is a set of guidelines and expected practices of every Catholic agencies and individuals working for or accessing services from our agencies to observe. This Policy document is included in the appendices (page 162; revised version November, 2017) of the Human Resource Management staff handbook and code of ethics and conduct. Each Dioceses in PNG and Solomon Islands should have a copy as it is annually distributed by the Secretarial Office in Port Moresby.

1. **Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis Laudato Si – On Care of Our Common Home**

The Environment Policy of the Catholic Church was developed in support to the promotion of Pope Francis’ Encyclical on Laudato Si – on care for our Common Home. It is eminent that every Catholic and good will individuals or groups access a copy of the Laudato Si and read to gain a deeper understanding of the Cause we are contributing towards. The Policy is enshrined in this Catholic Social Teaching entrusting us with a moral world view to act wisely towards our physical and natural environment for our actions does have an impact on human lives.

1. **Book of Genesis “Story of Creation”**

As Christians, care for creation is mentioned several times in the Book of Creation where life begun for all mankind and creatures alike. The rules set out by God our Creator was clearly demarcated delegation of duties of what humans should take count of. Our duty was to have dominion over, which can be misinterpreted for humans to be superior to do as we please to our natural environment. We have a duty to govern well when such a power and trust is bestowed to us. When we fail we only poison ourselves. Pope Francis in one of his quotes says “The trees do not eat their own fruits, the rivers don’t drink from their own water, bees don’t drink their own honey, trees don’t build from their own wood – Humans do. For such an abundantly free giving environment we should protect our source of life.

1. **Cultural World View as Melanesians**

Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands are two Melanesian countries deeply connected to their environment in many ways. As developing nations much of the food source, cultural heritage and social ties prosper peacefully in villages, hamlets when families, clans and tribe identify themselves to land, sea, forest, land, animal totems etc. Destroying our natural environment meant threatening our identity as Melanesians.

1. **Constitution of the Sovereign State of Papua New Guinea**

It is enshrined in our constitution

**Summary:** This Environment Policy of the Catholic Church – not only is in favor of Laudato Si but promotes an integral part of what makes PNG it is today, rich in species diversity, culture, and host to the 3rd largest rainforest.

***Definition:***

***Laudato si'*** (English: *Praise Be to You!*) is the second [encyclical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclical) of [Pope Francis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Francis). The encyclical has the subtitle "on care for our common home".[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laudato_si'#cite_note-OfficialEngText-1) In it, the pope critiques [consumerism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consumerism) and [irresponsible development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overdevelopment), laments [environmental degradation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_degradation) and [global warming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming), and calls all people of the world to take "swift and unified global action."[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laudato_si'#cite_note-NYT-2)

The encyclical, dated 24 May 2015, was officially published at noon on 18 June 2015, accompanied by a news conference.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laudato_si'#cite_note-NYT-2) The Vatican released the document in Italian, German, English, Spanish, French, Polish, Portuguese and Arabic, alongside the original Latin.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laudato_si'#cite_note-strong-3)

The encyclical is the second published by Francis, after [*Lumen fidei*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lumen_fidei) ("The Light of Faith"), which was released in 2013. Since *Lumen fidei* was largely the work of Francis's predecessor [Benedict XVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Benedict_XVI), *Laudato si'* is generally viewed as the first encyclical that is entirely the work of Francis.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laudato_si'#cite_note-Crux-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laudato_si'#cite_note-things-5)

***SLIDE 4: PURPOSE OF POLICY (5 minutes)***

The purpose of putting in place such a policy for the Catholic Church is basically to promote the following positive behaviors and thinking:

1. **To have healthy relationship with our physical and natural environment.**
2. **Acknowledging we have a RESPONSIBILITY – to ACT**
3. **Observe the Expectations outlined – Code of Conduct mentioned in the policy is our opportunity adapt and practice into ACTIONS.**
4. **Re affirms our FAITH in Action as a Union/United Body of Christ**

**SLIDE 5: INTRODUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY OF CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The Catholic Church (CC) in PNG & SI commits itself to creating and maintaining an environment which promotes its core values especially by the Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis: “Laudato Si”. Therefore the CC is committed to upholding these values and standards.

CC affirms its belief that all people involved with it – Bishops, management staff, people, accessing services and their community, - Have a responsibility to:

1. take a leadership role in conducting activities as responsible stewards of the physical environment,
2. Promote environment awareness, local action and global thinking.

**SLIDE 6 – 9 (Read straight from Slide)**