

Dear Friends of JCTR,

RE: CALL FOR ARTICLES TO THE FIRST QUARTER JCTR BULLETIN

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) is a research, education and advocacy organization that promotes study and action on issues linking Christian faith and social justice in Zambia. JCTR has been active in promoting an enculturated faith, Christian values, environmental stewardship, human rights and empowerment of local communities in the work of social justice, transparency, peace and human integrity. With the vision to educate, inform, advocate and lobby, JCTR publishes the JCTR quarterly bulletin, monthly Basic Needs Basket (Food Basket) and other engagement activities like workshops, trainings, and meetings on critical issues affecting the poor and marginalized.

Zambia is endowed with considerable environmental assets, including vast hectares of forest making it one of Africa's largest forest cover. The country also has a rich biodiversity of wildlife, which is mainly in protected areas, while other environmental assets include a network of wetlands, aquatic life and a wide range of natural heritage resources. This endowment notwithstanding, the country faces a number of threats to the environment and this includes deforestation, wildlife tracking and the effects of climate change. Particularly, climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing issues in Zambia affecting socio economic development. The country has over the past years experienced a number of climate related hazards including droughts and dry spells, seasonal and flash floods, and extreme temperatures. Some of these, especially droughts and floods have increased in frequency and intensity over the last two decades and have adversely impacted on food and water security, energy and livelihoods of communities. The negative impact of climate change on agricultural sector has been seen in the increase in the incidence of hunger due to destruction of crops, reduction in cultivatable land and increased soil erosion. In this regard, there is need to strengthen the legislative framework to respond to environmental degradation that is taking place. Sustainable development requires that any development process should not be done at the expense of the future generation. JCTR in line with the Laudato Si that call for respect to the environment works to advocate for stronger legal frameworks to government and sensitizing communities in caring for mother earth through prudent Environmental management.

When considering environmental management, decentralization is of significant importance as it allows local communities to be actively involved and to address their main environmental problems in a way that suits local needs, promotes work coordination by ensuring that environmental activities are undertaken through the sharing of duties as well as provides more accountability and transparency in political participation and policy innovation concerning environmental management. However, decentralization can provide obstacles or challenges to environmental management by including interests or agendas which are perhaps at times in conflict with the overall strategic objectives of environmental management, hinder the implementation of environmental management plans when such plans are not implemented on time due to hierarchical procedures.

Noting the importance of Environmental Management and Decentralization, JCTR is calling for articles discussing the ideals, as well as the challenges, of decentralization in environmental management in Zambia. For the forthcoming JCTR Bulletin, JCTR is specifically calling for articles on the following subjects:

1. The challenges in implementing Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 11.
2. The challenges of cross-cutting issues on Environmental Management and Decentralization
3. The importance of Environmental Management Agencies in Zambia.
4. The value of Environmental Management education in schools at all levels.
5. The problems faced by local authorities in implementing decentralization.

The deadline for article submission for the First Quarter JCTR Bulletin is 1st March 2024. The articles should be in Times New Roman, Font 12 and NOT exceeding 1,500 words and must be sent to bulletin@jctr.org.zm and copy jctrbulletin@gmail.com

Thank you and we will greatly appreciate your positive response.

Yours faithfully



Alex Muyebe, S.J.

Executive Director/Bulletin Editor