

Launch of the inter-religious initiative process for Tropical Forest in Democratic Republic of Congo



Kinshasa, June 1, 2018 (caritasdev.cd): It was held Wednesday, May 30, 2018, at the Cathedral of the Protestant Centenary, an inaugural session of the launch of the InterfaithRainforest Initiative (InterfaithRainforest Initiative) process. Democratic Republic of Congo. This initiative was launched in June 2017 in Oslo, Norway with the participation of religious leaders from around the world and representatives of indigenous peoples. It is part of the contribution of religious denominations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, through their technical services in the protection of the forest, but also in the protection of the rights of peoples bordering it.

Indeed, the Interfaith Initiative on Tropical Forests is an international, multi-denominational alliance that aims to provide a sense of moral urgency and spiritual resources to global efforts to halt deforestation in the tropics. It aims to attract moral attention and spiritual commitment to end deforestation and protect the world's rainforests.

Last Wednesday's session was marked by three highlights. These are the information on interreligious initiation for the protection of tropical forests, the projection of the documentary presenting the importance of the forest as well as the exchanges led by a series of questions and answers. After the welcome address by the representative of the President of the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), Pastor Leon LEPAMABILA of the ECC gave a presentation on interreligious initiation for the protection of tropical forests, by announcing its genesis, its organization and the next steps that will follow for the smooth running of this initiative. As for the organization of the initiative, it is provided by the United Nations Environment (UN Environment) which is the governance structure at the global level. It is the governance and fiduciary management body, which encourages delegates from each country that participated in the kick-off meeting in Oslo to organize release days for the initiative. The Interfaith Initiative has several goals, including: Achieving Consensus, Advocating, Facilitating Learning.

Then, Mr. Henri Muhiya, National Secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Natural Resources (CERN) has projected a documentary that shows the harmful effects of global warming and the importance of the forest.

It should be noted that this inaugural session was attended by leaders of several religious and spiritual faiths.

Finally, the speakers questioned the participants, particularly on the question of how they take into account forest issues in their structures and what they can do together. Speaking on behalf of the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (CENCO), represented by the two commissions namely: the Episcopal Commission of Natural Resources and the Caritas-Development Episcopal Commission. Mr Thadée Barega (2nd Deputy Executive Secretary of Caritas Congo Asbl) said that the issue of protecting the forest is taken into account at the level of the Catholic Church. In his speech, he pointed out the three levels: strategic, regional as well as national and local. As far as the issue is concerned, for him, church structures must be brought together for synergy and overall action.

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