



The Report on Brazil

Lima, August 4-10, 2011



**Igreja
Episcopal
Anglicana do
Brasil**



The Brazilian report is according with these three big themes:

1. To present a general overview of the Brazilian situation regarding environmental concerns
1. To present the Anglican Church initiatives in Brazil regarding environmental concerns
1. To introduce the approaches the Anglican Church will work on during the next coming year to make a practical difference in the province of Brazil

I. A General overview of the environmental Brazilian situation



- Brazil is the largest country in South America
- Population with over a 190 million people.
- It is the only Portuguese-speaking country in the Americas
- Brazil has an extensive Atlantic Ocean coastline of roughly 7,500 km.



- The disorganized growth, and lack of planning and the effects of climate change have contributed to serious consequences for the local population, in some cases, as the effects caused by the advance of the sea inland.

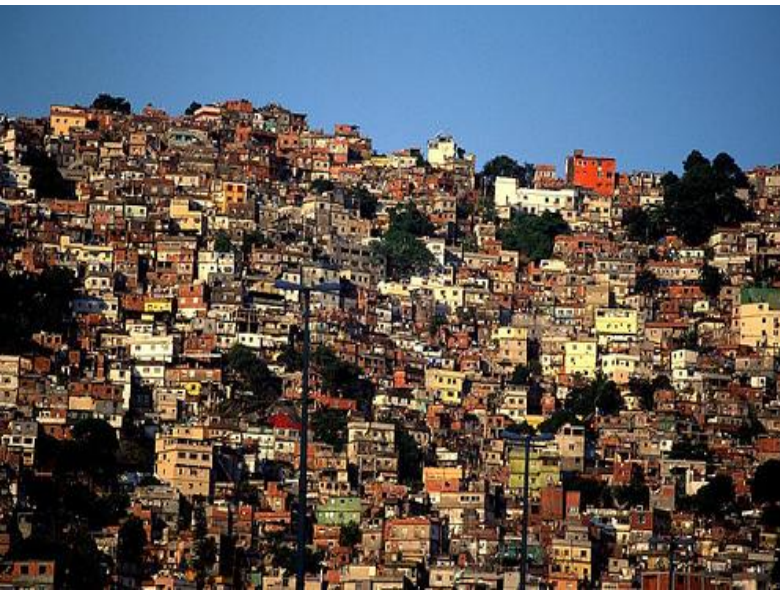




- In Brazil, the beginning of man's influence upon the environment was initially affected when the Portuguese arrived in the 1500's.
- After the extermination of most of the Indigenous peoples by the Portuguese, the number of inhabitants in Brazil was reduced to three million in the early nineteenth century.
- At the time, religious beliefs preached that natural resources were endless and this allowed the early pioneers, *bandeirantes*, to advanced inland and start the exploitation that eventually strained the resources of the Land.



- The Brazilian economy is the world's seventh largest economy by nominal GDP. But there is a deep contradiction in its social structure. It's an emerging economy with high level of poverty. The economic growth is not equal for all people.





- The large territory comprises different ecosystems in Brazil such as the Amazon Rainforest, recognized as having the highest biodiversity in the world, the Atlantic Forest in the south and the Cerrado in the middle of the country.

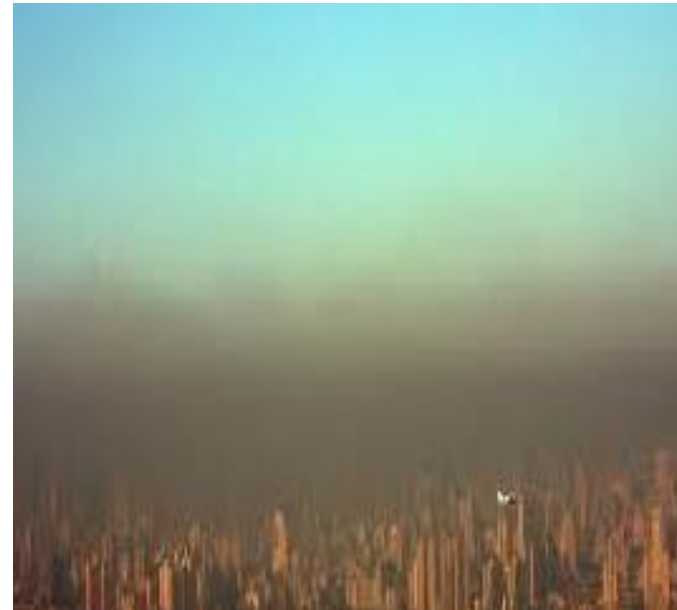


- There are many environmental problems in Brazil

Cattle ranching and agriculture



The economic growth in recent years has impacted the environment. The growth of different social classes in urban regions demands more energy consumption. Many population coming into the economy buying with credit. This increases urban pollution and carbon footprints.





The environmental preservation areas are decreasing before the expansion of farming generating threats to indigenous populations, rivers and migration of birds.





- Deforestation as a human act against nature resulting in droughts. The process of desertification in the Northeast is a consequence of burning of the trees. It will erode the top soil (in Brazil it is about 20 cts/ 8 inches). The rains and the winds disperse the nutrients.





The construction of roads in forest areas through the Atlantic Forest and the Amazon such as the BR-230 and BR-163, previously remote areas that were opened for agriculture and trade have currently dams that have flooded valleys and affected wildlife habitat, and create scars on the land and pollute the landscape.





The construction of hydroelectric power projects that, while providing clean energy, do cause an impact on forests and biodiversity in indigenous communities and communities living along the rivers. For example: Belo Monte in the state of Pará.



- The construction of nuclear power plants at Angra dos Reis (3). Six other nuclear plants are going to be built within the next few years in the Northeast and are expected to be operative by 2016



- Unplanned growth of cities and natural disasters, floods and landslides, such as: the disaster in Pernambuco in 2010 and in Rio de Janeiro in 2011.

II. The Anglican Church initiatives in Brazil regarding environmental concerns

- First of all, It's important to say that Roman Catholicism is the country's predominant faith. Brazil has the world's largest Catholic population in the world.
- In the 1960s the Brazilian Church obtained its autonomy from the North American Episcopal Church and became a province of the Anglican Communion.
- Today the IEAB has nine dioceses and one missionary district, comprising 90 parishes and 56 missions. The reaches of the dioceses of the IEAB, in most cases, include large states and even entire regions of the country. According to statistics, the IEAB has approximately 50,000 members throughout the country.

DAA 04
4,44%

DAB 03
3,33%

DAR 06
6,67%

DMA 03
3,33%

DARJ 10
11,11%

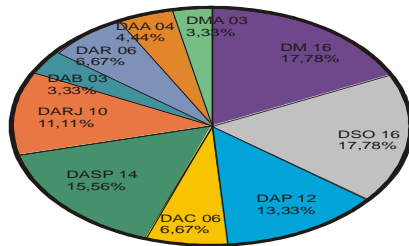
DASP 14
15,56%

DAC 06
6,67%

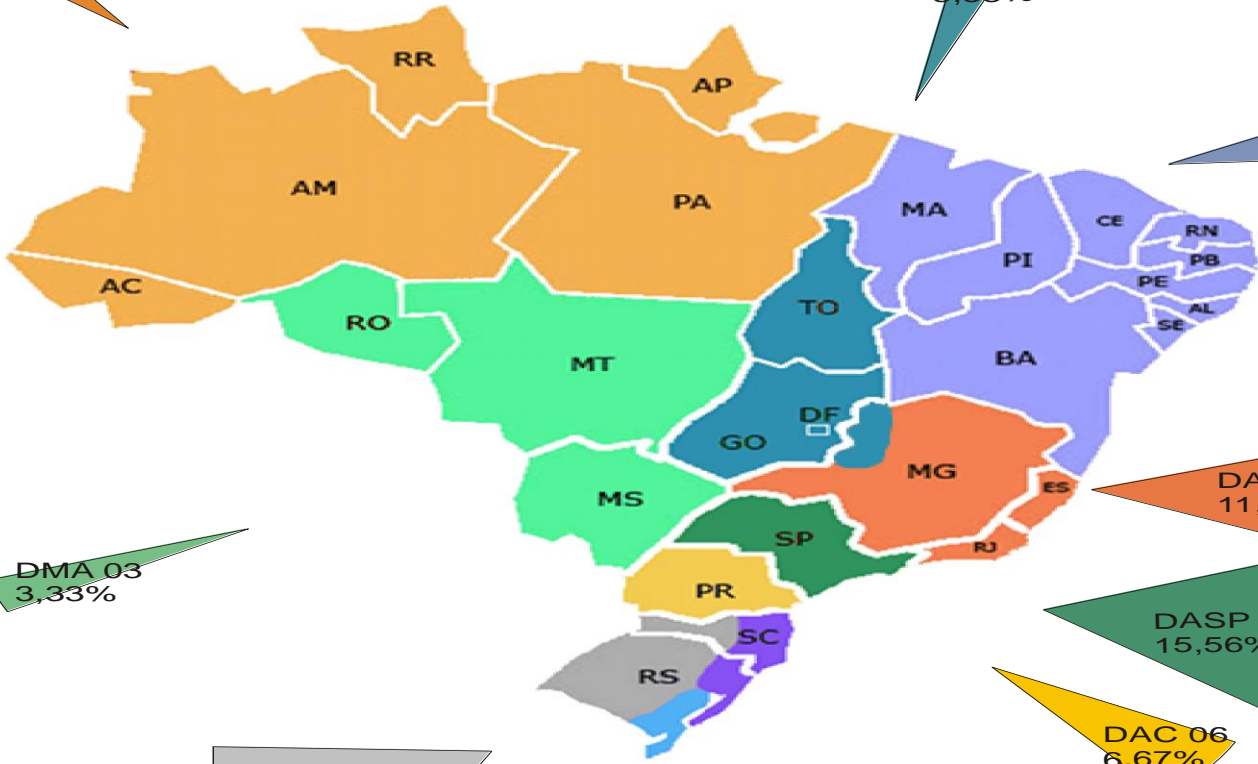
DSO 16
17,78%

DAP 12
13,33%

DM 16
17,78%



- DM Diocese Meridional
- DSO Diocese Sul Ocidental
- DAP Diocese Anglicana de Pelotas
- DAC Diocese Anglicana de Curitiba
- DASP Diocese Anglicana de São Paulo
- DARJ Diocese Anglicana do Rio de Janeiro
- DAB Diocese Anglicana de Brasília
- DAR Diocese Anglicana de Recife
- DAA Diocese Anglicana da Amazônia
- DMA Distrito Missionário Anglicana





- Nowadays Dom Maurício Andrade is the Primate of the IEAB and also Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Brasilia. The Reverend Arthur Cavalcante is the General Secretary of IEAB and at the same time, Rector of Holy Trinity Parish in the city of Sao Paulo. In early 2011, the IEAB transferred the office of the General Secretary from Porto Alegre to Sao Paulo. This initiative was taken with the aim to adequate its administrative structure to the difficult economic reality and to have a closer relationship with its missionary work.



- In recent years, the IEAB has tried to broaden its understanding on the important subject of the Environment.
- Many local community initiatives have been engaged in debates and challenges about the role of the Church on this issue.
- As indicated below, we would like to highlight some examples of experiences on environmental issues in our Brazilian dioceses:

- 1 - There is not in our General Canon any mention on topics involving the environment. In some diocesan councils and conventions the topic has become part of the agenda for discussion, but without much progress.
- 2 - There is not, in the two major theological seminaries of Recife and Porto Alegre, any discipline on this topic, although it has been introduced in occasional lectures as an attempt to reconcile theological reflection and the environment.



3. Initiatives in the Southern Diocese, in the south of Brazil:

- Proposal for the diocese called "Green Growth" to inspire to plant native trees in churches and parishes
- Production and distribution of seeds to plant in the communities



- Re-use of cooking oil to make a homemade soap, called "Solidarity Soap." The funds from the sale of the bars of soap support the Children's Sunday School.



4. Anglican Missionary District in the States of Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso and Rondônia
- Since 1976, the IEAB maintains a liaison with the Evangelical Missionary Work Group (GTME) which supports indigenous communities in their struggles for land against the harassment of landowners and loggers.



- When traveling on July 12th to the 18th , the Primate and the Secretary General, visited regions of the state of Rondonia where the IEAB has an important missionary work. They could see the very sad reality of deforestation where large forest areas have been flattened into grasslands to raise livestock.



- Many parishioners have accused the farmers for the high price of meat for the Brazilian population because the cattle breeders are mostly interested in exporting the meat. The forests in the region that were transformed into pasture for cattle, are now called "beefsteak plantations."



5. Anglican Diocese of St. Paul

- In urban areas, parishes recommend its parishioners to do "carpooling" as well as to use bicycles to attend liturgical services.
- Switch conventional light bulbs for ecological ones.
- Recycling activities for waste generated in the communities.
- Discussion in the parishes of Sao Paulo about the harmful effects of urban pollution.

6. Joint Ecumenical IEAB

• In 2010, the Holy Trinity Parish in Sao Paulo launched the "Spring for Life Campaign" promoted by the ecumenical body CESE, Ecumenical Coordination of Service. The activity called "Environmental Justice", involved Christian churches and social groups such as the People-with-no-Land Movement, The Recycling Workers Movement, and the Movement of the Homeless. The opening of the meeting was a lecture offered by Leonardo Boff, a respected figure in the causes of Theology of Liberation, who brought important contributions to the churches.



7. Anglican Service for Development (SADD)

- SADD is part of the General Secretary of the IEAB and is responsible for the design and the approach to promote the actions for the development in the Anglican communities. This body of the Church works on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Among them, we highlight six experiences that work: the 7th Millennium Development Goal titled "Quality of Life and Environment" in communities of Rio Grande do Sul, Rio de Janeiro and Belem.
- In its newly started activities, SADD has been an important instrument to improve the actions of development within the IEAB. The General Secretary General welcomes more projects in the churches on environmental justice.

- During the next month of October, Brazil will host the Anglican Alliance Meeting and the SADD will contribute with the support.
- Also, in November, the SADD joint with Christian Aid and Episcopal Relief Development, will organize the meeting for discuss health and human rights, and there will have an special moment to discuss the environmental local experiences of each diocese.

- 8 - Participation of the IEAB in the meeting of Anglicans in the Americas in the Dominican Republic in December 2010. The IEAB, together with other Anglican churches, signed the final statement on Commitments for Justice for the Earth's Climate



III. The approaches the Anglican Church will work on during the next coming years to make a practical difference in the province of Brazil

- 1- To form an Environmental Working Team, in the short term, with a view to create in the next General Convention in Rio de Janeiro in 2013 an Environmental Provincial Commission. The WT will prepare the canons and the items to be approved by the Synod. During this time, this WT will maintain contact with other provinces involved in ACEN.

- 2. To challenge the Brazilian dioceses from within their local realities to build an environmental policy to foster environmental sustainability through responsible actions, and attitudes involving the community, always taking into account the regional and local rules.
- 3. Through the Anglican Service of Development, seeking to raise funds to promote local environmental projects aimed at reducing problems due to climate change to be in compliance with two of the eight Millennium Goals which are: quality of life, respect of the environment by maintaining sustainable growth.

- 4. To challenge the IEAB seminaries and educational institutes to incorporate environmental justice themes in their curriculums.
- 5. The IEAB will make partnerships with ecumenical entities to attract more people, to form multipliers, with the appeal that they are serving the Lord by being involved in sustainable and protective attitudes towards God's creation, and with an open heart to be involved in activities related to those most affected by Environmental disasters or crises, such as: floods, droughts, mudslides, and displacement.
- All this, with a focus on providing advice on how to understand and to contribute to the future of the environment and the new generations with preventative education to preserve nature.