2018 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
ACTION FOR WATER: CARE AND DEFEND

Ecojesuit is the global ecology network of Jesuits and partners seeking to discern an integral ecology as the basis for action and operates under the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat, broadening efforts in networking.

The 2018 annual meeting in Colombia was held from 1 to 7 August 2018, and sought to update and strengthen the Ecojesuit network to bring about energetic solutions in moving identified ecology themes for collaboration across and out through the different Conferences, given new commitments of Conference Presidents and Social Apostolate Delegates. The annual meeting’s objectives were to:

1. Provide network members with an understanding of the urgency and diversity of water concerns globally
2. Encourage actions from the community level where network members are based
3. Establish a clear process for network coordination and communication, and clarified roles and membership, and
4. Deepen collaboration and participation within and beyond the network with an informed and consolidated response to ecological concerns with clear lines of commitment.

Contemporary global and local water concerns were shared and discussed, as well as updates on regional and local actions from each Conference. An initial five-year (2019-2023) strategic plan for the Ecojesuit network was drafted.
SPARKING A RENEWAL FOR WATER ACTION: A FIRST STEP IN THE AMAZON

DIALOGUE IN BOGOTÁ

On 1 August, the Ecojesuit team also met with the leaders and faculty of Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (PUJ) and local actors from the social sector in Bogotá in a dialogue organized by the Conferencia de Provinciales Jesuitas en América Latina y El Caribe (CPAL). It was a day of sharing and learning about the different initiatives and strategies in the Amazon Region, and to explore and identify potential areas for collaboration.

PUJ Rector Jorge Humberto Peláez SJ welcomed the Ecojesuit team and participants and the possibilities of cooperation, especially with the Synod on the Amazon in October 2019. Fr Peláez shared that the University decided to create a permanent symposium on Laudato Si’ as the encyclical has the greatest integration of the problems of mankind. Two of the most important strategic plans of the University are sustainability and peace and reconciliation and the University has committed to contribute to the sustainable development of Colombia with comprehension and conversation.

CPAL President Roberto Jaramillo SJ found the dialogue a unique opportunity to get to know each other and that an important step in this path is to find alliances. There is a need to network so that more can be done. There are thousands of Jesuit initiatives especially on ancestral lands threatened by agriculture and big industrial groups. He recognized that there were previous attempts to work with ecology but there were some difficulties in moving these further, and communication is a challenge. At this point, there are a lot of Latin American groups willing to work with Ecojesuit.

The Provincial of the Jesuits in Colombia, Carlos Eduardo Correa SJ, shared his willingness to support the activities, and Assistant to the Provincial Luis Javier Sarralde SJ looks forward to further Jesuit presence in an extended Amazon and to do things right in the future.

Xavier Jeyaraj SJ, Director of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES) in Rome, was deeply impressed with how the PUJ has taken action on Laudato Si’ with the involvement of its faculty and students. He explained GIAN, the Global Ignatian Advocacy Networks, of which Ecology is one, which is Ecojesuit, and he expressed the importance of networking and three words in GC 36: discernment, networking, and collaboration.
Pedro Walpole SJ, Ecojesuit Global Coordinator, expressed gratitude for the welcome and explained that Ecojesuit is a small group of people with large ideas and requires a lot of collaboration. Connections are being felt across universities, parishes, international groups, church organizations, among others. A priority of the Holy Father is culture on the ground and the forthcoming Synods on the youth and on the Amazon allow other bishops to join and take this message to their parts of the world. The recent Deusto Assembly in Bilbao of Jesuit higher education institutions also tackled economics and the environment as one of the key themes of the International Association of Jesuit Universities.

There is a momentum growing and Ecojesuit wants to facilitate a broader networking, taking action on the call of Father General Arturo Sosa for reconciliation. He noted that we are all entangled and we are working for the good and with a humble hope and engagement with people who suffer. Tackling climate change requires a global to local response and divestment from fossil fuels is the most urgent but also the most challenging.

Ecojesuit identified water as a common ground for action on climate change, as water provides a common language, everybody has a role in responding. Ecojesuit is also following the circular economy conversation and the dialogue and engaging through the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) because it has a language that helps us progress with many government institutions. Ecojesuit also connects with trend-setting reviews of the crisis we are in, and this period in Colombia is an important time to deepen.

Fr Walpole also shared the programs that Ecojesuit runs such as Ecojesuit online, Flights for Forests, the Jesuit disaster response coordination protocol (working with Jesuits in Asia Pacific to go beyond relief, to build back better, and to reduce the vulnerability of people from where they are located), Ecosystem, and stories and workshops on living Laudato Si’. The invitation is for all to help heal a broken world and letting the exhaustion go. If the intention is to make a difference and get Laudato Si’ moving on the ground, Jesuit education and social centers can have a major contribution. Creativity and hope need to be circulated. Ecojesuit is small, but it is porous and wants to work with all the Ignatian dynamics and beyond.

University initiatives on the environment were shared through brief presentations from: Dr Maria Adelaida Farah Quijano, Dean of the School of Environmental and Rural Studies (Facultad de estudios rurales y ambientales); Dr. Nelson Obregón, Instituto Javeriano del agua; Professor German Mahecha SJ, Facultad de Teología de la PUJ; Claudia Marcela Cuevas, Colombian Amazon Program (RSU Iniciativa Amazónica) who shared a video message from Fr Peláez (http://www.ecojesuit.com/pontificia-universidad-javerianas-colombian-amazon-program-building-an-open-university-in-constant-dialogue-with-national-reality/11582/).

Presentations from local organizations working on the Amazon followed with: Tatiana Cuenca and Jenny Ortiz from Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular (CINEP) /Programa por la Paz (PPP); Erminsu David Pabon from Instituto Mayor Campesino (IMCA); Mariana Gómez from Gaia Amazonas; and Ruth Chaparro from Fundacion Caminos de Identidad (FUCAI).
Fr Jaramillo sees paths for the University to engage with Ecojesuit as the two are now connected and can go beyond teaching, research, and service. Topics in the Ecojesuit meeting can be used for PhD studies.

Fr Walpole sees the university connection as developing also through its business schools which are willing to engage with community realities as that is the point of conversion. There is a need to engage communities through their sense of context and priorities and listen to what they want to say and how to say it. There is a need to look at our institutions and where the quality of education can be moved forward for all. The global reality is that there is often little coherence between policy and needs, between poverty and profit.

Fr Ferro sees the need for a connection point at the Conference level and where much support is needed. It is important to continue to explore and understand what it is to network like Ecojesuit through news, sharing stories, having online platforms and continuous exchange, and advocacy on the ground.

**Questions that emerged:**

**How do we work for this information to be transformed into a reality?**
**How do we develop Conference networks and collaboration?**
**Can we identify what is needed in building a network, a collaboration?**

Most indigenous communities have a tradition of collective leadership, and leadership as a result is a helpful perspective in engaging with communities. Work need not be focused on the leaders, but on the communities and the youth so that their process for leadership is assisted. Indigenous Peoples are inter-cultural, they also have weak governance, and are full of contradictions. The results of our work must impact both environmentally and culturally.

Laudato Si’ is a common tool we can work with in Ecojesuit and in all our collaborations.

The work shared in the Amazon has many parallels in Asia Pacific and in other Conferences such as the diversity of people and resources, the talents and the blessings, and also the pains and the struggles. Comprehension and conversation, a continuing dialogue with reality, and continuously learning are main takeaways from this dialogue, as we work with the pain of the territory (the land) and the people in healing a broken world and reconciling with creation.
After Social Apostolate and network leaders sought a greater understanding of “ecology” in a meeting in Rome from 23-27 April 2018, the theme of water was again identified as the common objective connecting virtually all ecological concerns. Given its universality, it also acts as a possible basis for integrating actions with Justice in Mining and other networks and Secretariats. Its value lies in its connectivity - whether one is talking about disaster risk reduction in Asia Pacific, droughts and food production in East and South Africa, land use changes in the Amazon and Congo Basin, water is always central to discussions of environmental and social impacts. These concerns were grouped into five related areas of action:

1. Disaster Risk Reduction and Water
2. Energy Transition and Divestment
3. Lifestyle, Organic Farming and SDGs
4. Land-Use Change, Mining and Resource Extraction
5. Education and Solidarity

With this integral approach, Action for Water is not meant as a way to limit focus from other works, but as a means to weave together different initiatives. Incidentally, the UN has also prioritized water, declaring 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development.
The diagram shows the centrality of water in our world and how we live. It illustrates the integral relationship of water with the five related areas of action stated and how these connect on various levels. These are core points of reflection, care, and discernment that seek the justice, solidarity, and reconciliation called for in ecological conversion and greater collaboration.

**ENERGY TRANSITION & DIVESTMENT**

- 1.5°C IPCC Special Report
- Corporate Accountability & Attribution
- Investment Analysis Cap
- Human Rights: Stable Climate
- Social Vulnerability
- Water Air Quality
- Circular Economy
- Contamination & Rehabilitation
- Divestment
- Glacial Melt
- SDGs
- Sustainable Institutions
- Attitude
- Public Transport
- Gender Opportunities
- Cultural Identity & Practice
- Ecological Footprints

**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & WATER**

- Gender Exposure
- Social Vulnerability
- Health & Sanitation
- Climate Change
- Forests
- Community Resilience
- Flood
- Water Resources
- Commodity
- Drought
- Scarcity
- Watershed
- Safe Water
- Landslides
- Contamination

**ACTION FOR WATER: CORE VALUES, AREAS OF ACTION AND LINKAGES**

**SEEKING RECONCILIATION**

SUSTAINING THE WATER AND ENERGY ENVIRONMENT

BEING JUST LAUDATO SI'
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THE ECOJESUIT 2019–2023 STRATEGIC PLAN
GOAL & OBJECTIVES

The goal of Ecojesuit is to facilitate dialogue and engagements to reconcile with God, with one another, and with Creation, addressing the broad call for action of Laudato Si’ and the urgency of a just global transformation in care for the Earth and the most vulnerable. This involves Jesuit social, educational, and pastoral institutes, and collaborations with other religious congregations and the Church, the scientific community, faith-based organizations and movements, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and those seeking the common good. Ecojesuit encourages and shares information and approaches, and animates and collaborates with the Jesuit Conferences in fulfilling their mission.

For the next five years, Ecojesuit commits to engage, educate, and advocate on Action for Water and its integral relationship with people and the environment. These actions are underwritten by the sense of gratitude, discernment, and care, both personal and communal in sharing with others the continuous conversion and reconciliation needed in seeking a just and harmonious world. The three strategic objectives of the network are:

1. PROMOTE GLOBAL COOPERATION
   a. Networking globally and becoming an established regular participant in processes like the annual UN Climate Change Conference (known as COP), Synods, and water conferences and forums like World Water Week
   b. Nurturing linkages with other Jesuit networks for strengthened and sustained exchanges and engagements. This involves the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU), Fe y Alegria, Justice in Mining, Migration, EduJesuit, EduMagis, Xavier Network, and others with whom Ecojesuit is already engaged
   c. Promoting global education, awareness, and advocacy campaigns on water
   d. Building deeper support in Jesuit ministries that relate to water, forests, land, and people
   e. Enabling a divestment strategy for fossil fuels in all Jesuit ministries due to the impact on climate change and imbalances in the water cycle that impact communities and basic human rights
   f. Strengthening online resources in Ecojesuit online and EcoStream, and developing platforms for focused group engagement

2. ACCOMPANY REGIONAL ACTIONS

3. SHARE AND PROMOTE LOCAL INITIATIVES
The Ecojesuit 2019-2023 Strategic Plan

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The three strategic objectives of the network are:

1. **Promote global cooperation**
   - Developing platforms for focused group engagement
   - Strengthening online resources in Ecojesuit, and Ecostream
   - Enabling a divestment strategy for fossil fuels in all Jesuit ministries due to the impact on climate change and imbalances in the water cycle that impact forests, and building deeper support in Jesuit ministries that relate to water, forests, land, and people

2. **Accompany regional actions**
   - Building further support for regional Church networks like REPAM, REBAC, and Asia Pacific that relate to water, forests, land, and people
   - Forming and sustaining Ecoteams which will assist Conference Coordinators in implementing ecological actions, and seeking the support of Social Apostolate Coordinators. Ecoteams will be made of 3-8 committed members identified and appointed by the Conference Coordinators
   - Mapping and articulating Action for Water: Care and Defend initiatives per Conference

3. **Share and promote local initiatives**
   - Assisting and organizing regional events and initiatives such as water conferences, eco-spiritual workshops for action, for disaster risk reduction reviews, and Flights for Forests, and developing a Water Challenge that is regionally applied (similar to the Ignatian Carbon Challenge)
   - Engagements and advocacy on water and related concerns at the local level, including water management and conservation, agroforestry, ecoagriculture, disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, building back better, and more
   - Reports on water-sensitive urban design, waste management, lifestyle changes, food consumption, and renewable energy transition in accompanied communities and also where incorporated into planning and activities by Jesuit ministries
   - Initiatives focusing on the right to a stable climate, divestment, human rights, the Sustainable Development Goals, circular economics, the legalization of rivers as persons, and other efforts to institutionalize ecological principles and rights in national and global governance
   - Educational programs and community engagements that strengthen the sense of human dignity, solidarity, care for creation, conversion, and social awareness among the youth and those concerned with indigenous people and culture, land-use change and extraction, and others that contribute to the formation of communities of practice and justice
   - Sustainability and climate gatherings such as the Annual Climate Change Conference at Loyola University Chicago, meetings of the International Association of Jesuit Universities Task Force on Economic and Environmental Justice, Living with Earth: Our Ecological Conversion by being with God in nature in Cairns, Australia, and other forthcoming events

Other forthcoming events include:
- Migration, EduJesuit, EduMagis, Xavier Network, and others with whom Networking globally and becoming an established regular participant in Synods, and water conferences and forums like World Water Week
- Sustained exchanges and engagements. This involves the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU), Fe y Alegría, Justice in Mining, and the Universities Task Force on Economic and Environmental Justice, Living with Earth: Our Ecological Conversion by being with God in nature in Cairns, Australia, and other forthcoming events.

Articulating Action for Forests, and developing a Forest Challenge (similar to the Ignatian Carbon Challenge)
STRUCTURE: DEPTH IN THE WAY FORWARD

The Conferences are called to develop teams deepened commitments of “passion, focus, and energy” from the Conference level would be essential for Ecojesuit to move forward with increased vigor. This entails establishing a formal system of Ecojesuit-Conference governance with open participation, sustained and active communications, and means of accountability and responsibility. In this way we build a greater solidarity.

This clarity in structure and governance responds of General Congregation 36 for greater “collaboration among Jesuits and Jesuit apostolates through networks.” By fostering our connections locally, regionally, and globally, we can significantly contribute to greater solidarity and reconciliation in the world. We are all connected (LS’ 16, 42, 70), and it is by building relationships that we can attain a “new and universal solidarity” (LS’ 14) for our common home.

We are reminded of this in the ongoing preparations for the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon that calls for greater collaboration in our engagements.

REPAM AND THE SYNOD FOR THE PAN–AMAZON REGION

A conversation with Mauricio López, Executive Secretary of the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (Red Eclesial Panamazónica or REPAM) highlighted the urgency of the work needed in the Amazon, especially where actions can contribute to the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region in October 2019. Mauricio clarified that the Synod is not a regional event, but a universal Synod that has impact on the local church globally.

This is an implementation of Laudato Si’ and calls for a broader perspective. The Synod is oriented towards a territorial approach and Ecojesuit can assist in moving this territoriality, as there is now REPAM for the Amazon, the Ecclesial Network of the Congo Basin (Réseau Ecclésia pour le Bassin du Congo or REBAC) for the Congo Basin Forest, and he is looking forward to an emerging network in Asia Pacific for its forests, land, and people. The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is actively moving on the Synod preparations, with 45 territorial consultations all for the Amazon and discussions at the international level and working with Georgetown University. Both the Asia Pacific and South Asia regions will be involved.
The Ecojesuit Task Force is composed of a core team made up of Ecojesuit Conference Coordinators, a working group, and a secretariat. The activities of the Task Force are dovetailed by the Ecojesuit Coordinator, Pedro Walpole SJ.

- Conference Coordinators are those appointed by their Conference.
- Working group members are resource persons significantly involved in Ecojesuit activities and processes.
- The Secretariat fulfills administrative and technical roles.

CONFERENCCE COORDINATORS
1. **Mario Serrano Marte SJ**, Conferencia de Provinciales Jesuitas en América Latina y El Caribe (CPAL)
2. **Makasa Chikwamo SJ**, Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM)
3. **Sylvia Miclat**, Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific (JCAP)
4. **Cecilia Calvo**, Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States (JCCUS)
5. **Edmond Grace SJ**, Jesuit Conference of European Provincials (CEP)
6. **Lumnesh Swaroop Kumar SJ**, Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA)

WORKING GROUP
7. **Nancy Tuchman**, PhD, Founding Director, Institute of Environmental Sustainability, Loyola University Chicago in Chicago, Illinois, USA
8. **Sue Martin**, Sustainability Centre Coordinator, Saint Ignatius’ College Riverview in Sydney, Australia
9. **Mauricio López Oropeza**, Executive Secretary, REPAM (Red Eclesial Panamazónica)
10. **John Braverman SJ**, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
11. **Martin van Nierop**, Managing Director, Gondwana Environmental Solutions (which collaborates with JCAM)
12. **Andreas Carlgren**, Director, Newman Institute, former Environment Minister of Sweden, and Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Stockholm Environment
13. **Jaime Tatay Nieto SJ**, Professor, Universidad Comillas in Madrid, Spain

SECRETARIAT
14. **Rowena Soriaga**, Asia Forest Network and Ecojesuit technical support from ESSC, based in the Philippines
15. **Andres Ignacio**, Ecojesuit technical support from ESSC, based in the Philippines
16. **Albrecht Arthur Arevalo**, Ecojesuit research and networking support from ESSC, based in the Philippines
Ecojesuit Programs

A. Ecojesuit News
Ecojesuit writes and feature the latest news and events on the ecological work of Jesuit institutions and communities. News articles are available in English, Spanish, French, and German. To gain an overview of Jesuit ecological efforts across the globe, visit [http://www.ecojesuit.com/category/news_events/](http://www.ecojesuit.com/category/news_events/).

B. Flights for Forests
Flights for Forests is a voluntary carbon accountability scheme by contributing US$5 for every flight taken to support rural communities affected by global, economic, and climate changes. A new website will be launched in the coming months. Contact flights4forests@gmail.com to learn more.

C. Platforms
Ecojesuit promotes discussions on initiatives centered around the five themes of Ecojesuit, both from Jesuit and non-Jesuit entities. By taking part, one contributes not only to the broadening of knowledge, but to the movement towards more concerted and joint collaborations and partnerships.
D. Ecostream

Ecostream is an online resource and reference system for sharing ongoing initiatives on ecology and sustainability. To gain an overview of the actions and advocacies of Jesuit institutions and communities from around the world, visit https://ecosj-stream.ecojesuit.com.

E. Disaster Protocol

Ecojesuit Support

F. Healing Earth Text
Healing Earth is a free-access online textbook in environmental science, ethics, spirituality, and action recognized by the Vatican. To learn more about how to take an integrated, global, and living approach to ecological problems, visit https://healingearth.ijep.net/.

G. Sustainable Business Leadership Formation
Ecojesuit supports business students in forming knowledge and awareness of the dangers of the present capitalist system. This is to help shape them into leaders who understand and care for the sustainability of natural resources and ecological services.

H. Sustainable Development Goals
The SDGs are a set of 17 interrelated global goals set by the United Nations to be achieved by year 2030, covering a broad range of social, environmental and economic issues. To find out how to make lifestyle initiatives based on these targets, and the actions needed to attain the world we want by 2030, visit https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld.

I. Living LS’ Workshops for Action
The Living Laudato Si’ workshops for action intends to contribute to the formation of an apostolic community of practice that is capable of reconciling with creation. To support apostolic action and communications in addressing Our Common Home’s root problems, contact ecojcap@gmail.com or visit Ecojesuit Online at http://ecojesuit.com.
Ecojesuit Support

**J. Carbon Challenge**

The Ignatian Carbon Challenge invites both individuals and institutions to address climate change and environmental justice through a series of monthly challenges. To take it up, visit [https://ignatiansolidarity.net/ignatian-carbon-challenge/](https://ignatiansolidarity.net/ignatian-carbon-challenge/) and challenge your friends and family as well.

**K. Divestment from Fossil Fuels**

Ecojesuit supports the worldwide Jesuit movement in divesting from fossil fuels and switching to renewable energy sources. To help put an end to the fossil fuel era, visit [https://catholicclimatemovement.global/divest-and-reinvest/](https://catholicclimatemovement.global/divest-and-reinvest/) and support the movement.