

## Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) World Environment Day Statement 2024

### “Our land. Our future”

The Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) joins the rest of the world in commemorating the 2024 World Environment Day under the theme “**Our land. Our future**” #Generation Restoration.

This year’s commemorations come at a time when Zimbabwe has been hardest hit by the 2023-24 El-Niño phenomenon which escalated extreme weather conditions causing drought, hunger, loss of biodiversity and immeasurable climate related loss and damage. According to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, up to 40 % of the planet’s land is degraded, directly affecting half of the world’s population. The number and duration of droughts has increased by 29% since 2000 and without urgent action, droughts may affect over three-quarters of the world’s population by 2050.

As the part of the Christian community we recognise that nature is in an emergency mode, and thus we join the global movement to restore our lands, build drought resilience and combat desertification. Genesis 2:15 says “*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it*”. From this scripture we are reminded that, God entrusted humans with the responsibility of caring for his creation. Therefore, we must too protect the earth and be good stewards.

As good stewards of the earth, the ZCC pledges to take a leading role to action and lead the fight against the triple planetary crisis of **climate change**, and **pollution** and **waste**. We call upon all Christian communities and those alike from all corners of the world to join hands and work together on behalf of all creation to restore our lands, build drought resilience and combat desertification.

**#Generation Restoration**

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[www.zccinzim.org](http://www.zccinzim.org)