

# MISSION PRIORITIES

What do you see as the  
priorities of the Church?

Caring  
for  
God's  
world

# The Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. To .....

# The Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society,
- 5. To seek to safeguard the integrity of  
creation and sustain and renew the life of  
the earth**

*“God so loved the world ...”* (John 3:16)

*“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.”*

(Genesis 1:31)

The God we worship is a  
creator God:

***“In the beginning, God...***

***In the beginning God  
created...***

***In the beginning God  
created the heavens  
and the earth.”*** (Genesis 1:1)

# Consider the purpose and mission of the Church

## The Lord's Prayer:

- WORSHIP:  
    We worship God; *Hallowed be your name.*
- We pray God's kingdom will come  
    ` That God's will will be done on earth,  
        as it is already being done in heaven
- We pray that our essential needs may be met with our daily bread.

# God's Kingdom is for all of creation

This prayer for the establishment of God's Kingdom includes all creation:

*"..in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God."* (Romans 8:20-23)

God told us to care for all of creation:

*"and God said to Adam...have dominion over every living thing that moves upon the earth."* (Genesis 1:28)

In being given "rule" or "dominion" we were given responsibility to care for, nurture and look after creation.

*"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till and keep it".* (Genesis 2:15)

# Why should the Church be involved in caring for Creation?

- We worship a creator God
- Our survival is at stake- Jesus came to bring to life in all its fullness
- It is a justice issue
- The churches have an extensive network
- The churches have a moral authority
- This is an opportunity for mission, unity, peace and renewal.

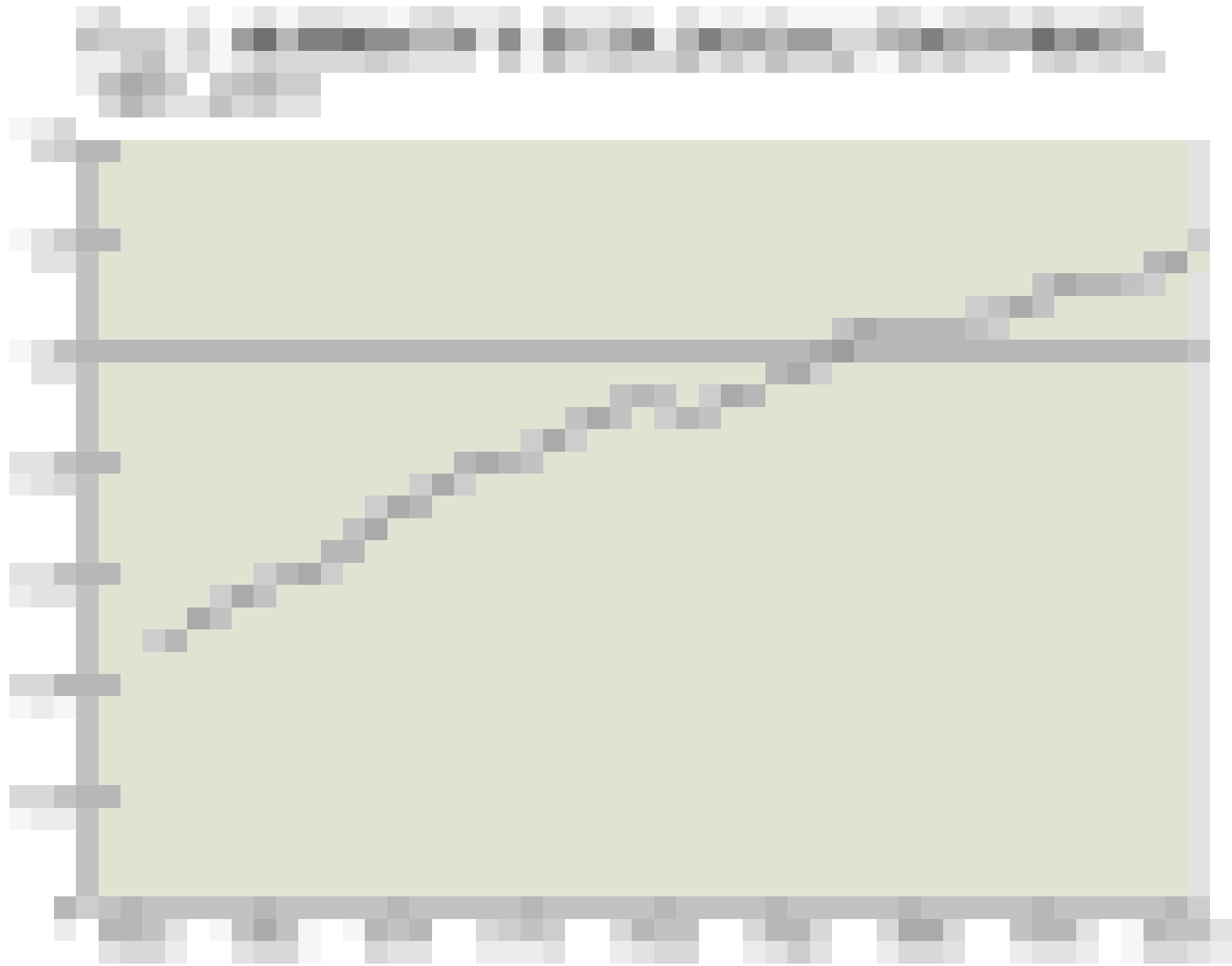
We are failing in our responsibility.

Creation is rapidly being destroyed.

There have been 5 great extinctions  
on this planet.

We are in the midst of the 6th great  
extinction.

The difference is that we are  
causing it.



# Millennium Assessment Report released in 2005

## Experts and Review Process

- Prepared by 1360 experts from 95 countries
- 80-person independent board of review editors
- Review comments from 850 experts and governments
- Includes information from 33 sub-global assessments

## Governance

- Called for by UN Secretary General in 2000
- Authorized by governments through 4 conventions
- Partnership of UN agencies, conventions, business, non-governmental organizations with a multi-stakeholder board of directors

# MILLENNIUM ASSESSMENT

## Findings

- Everyone in the world depends on nature and ecosystem services
- Among the outstanding problems are the dire state of water, fish, forests, agricultural land...
- We are bringing the planet to the edge of a massive wave of species extinction, further threatening our own well-being.
- Pressures on ecosystems will increase globally unless human attitudes and actions change.

# Environment and Development

- Many people don't understand why the environment is important - not realizing the environment is all that is around us.
- In South Africa there is an urgent need for development, poverty eradication and job creation – this will not be possible if we don't take care of our environment.

# The most serious threat is **CLIMATE CHANGE**

This is changing ecosystems,  
impacting on all aspects of life including:

- natural resources: e.g. water, fish, forests....
- agriculture,
- health
- human wellbeing.

We dare not allow the  
temperature of the  
globe to continue to  
rise.

# What is causing the problem?

## FOSSIL FUELS

Coal and oil are made of ancient fossilized carbon.

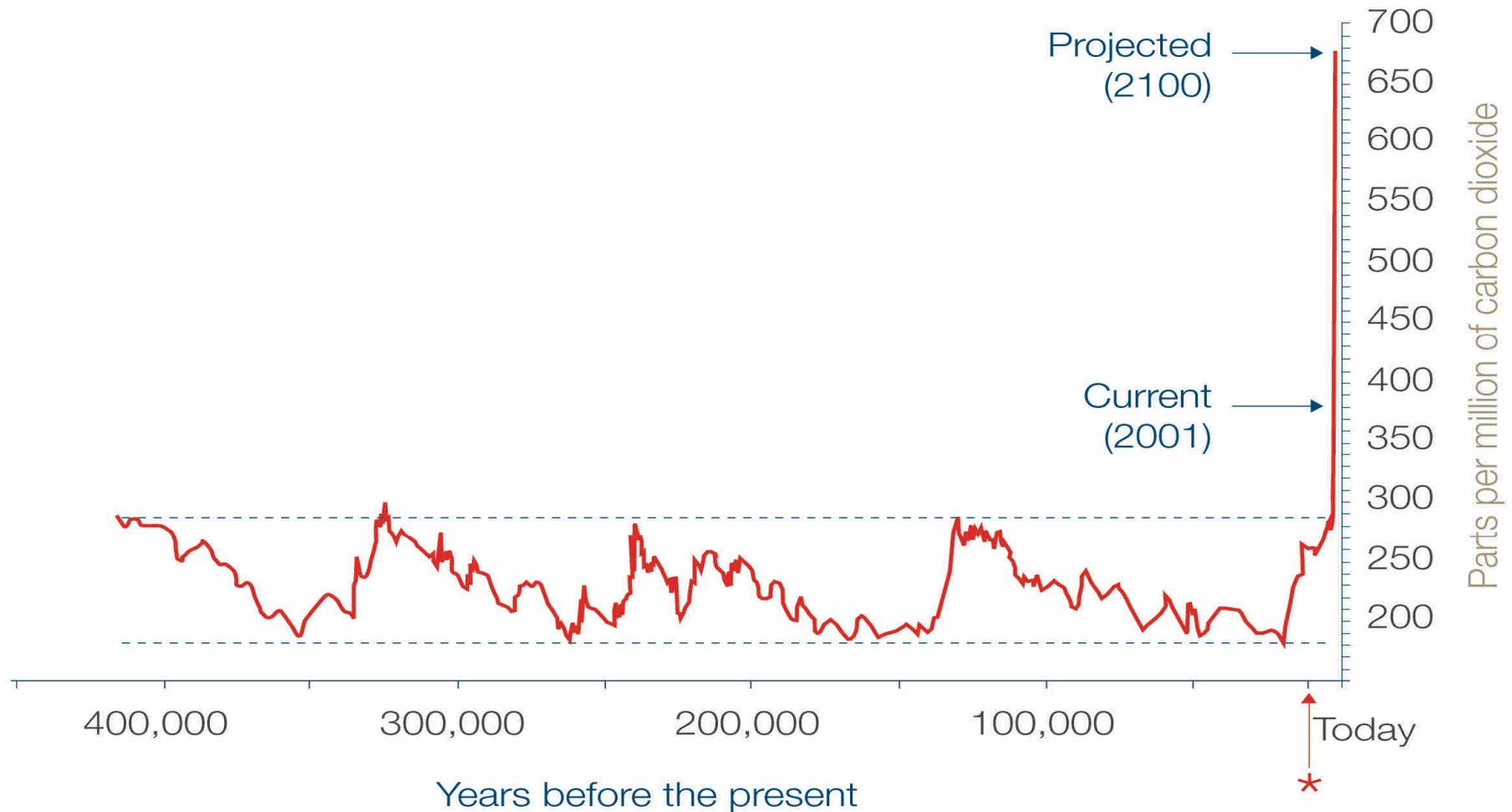
Burning these fuels for our industrialized lifestyle releases carbon into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Rising levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere traps heat from the sun, causing global temperature rise.

This is upsetting the delicate balance of gases which make life on earth possible.

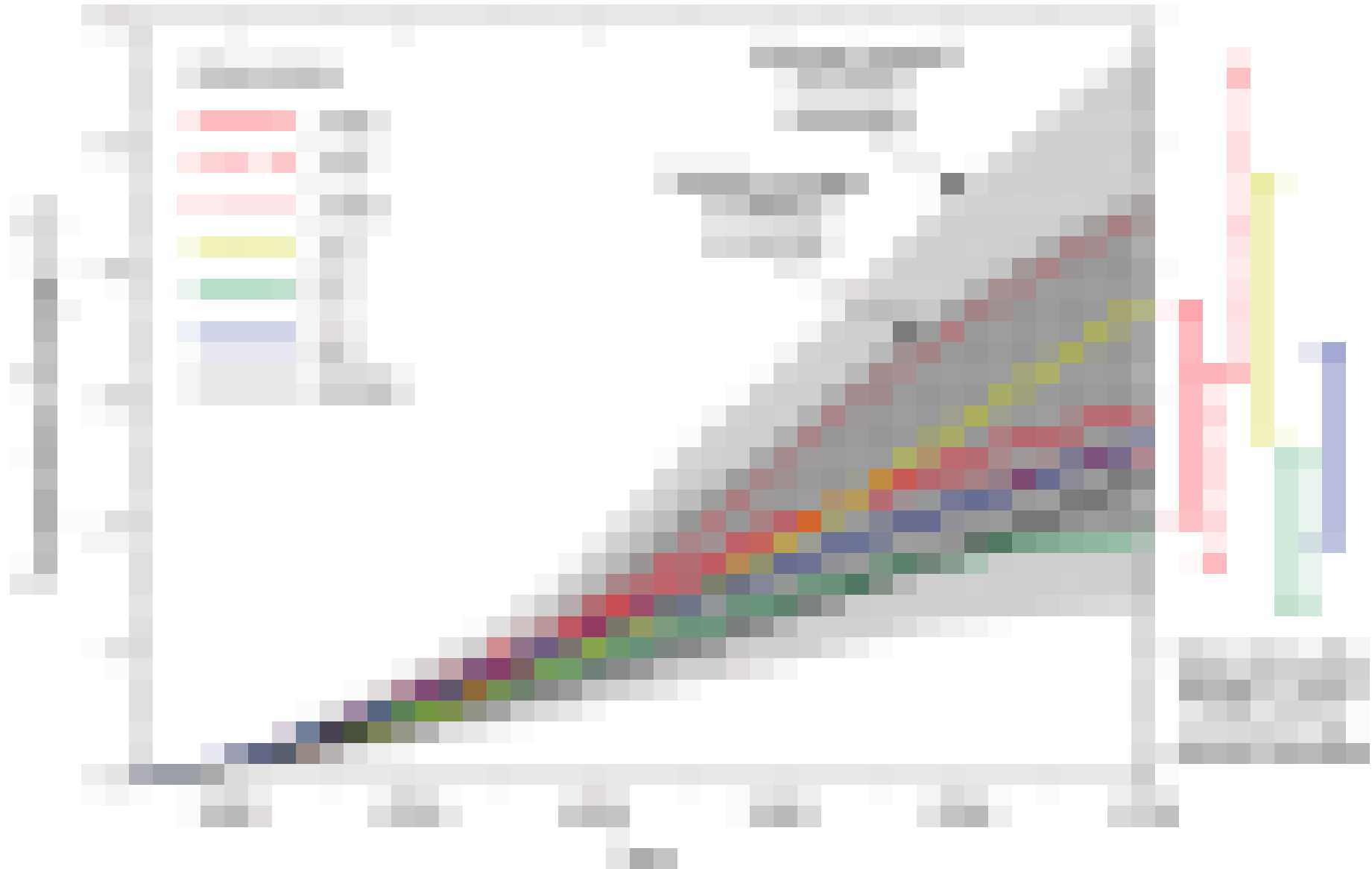
## Carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are at a higher level than for 400,000 years

Source: Co-operative Research Centre for Greenhouse Accounting, 2001



\*Note: Civilisation began 7,000-10,000 years ago

# Projected global warming



## The underlying drivers:

- Population growth
- Consumption per person
- Societal values



I FEEL SO MUCH  
SAFER IN A  
4 WHEEL DRIVE

# How could we create unsustainable futures?

- Exponential population growth
- Growing consumption per person
- Deplete mineral resources e.g. oil
- Over-use fisheries, forests & natural resources
- Disrupt global climate
- Widen inequality
- Embrace crass materialism

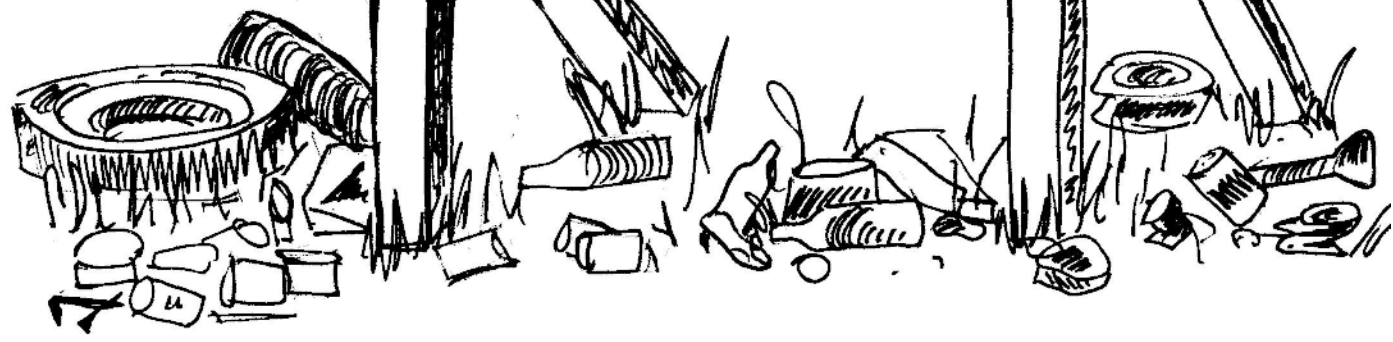
Given what you know about the  
state of the world,  
is it your top priority to:

*become twice as rich in the next 20  
years & double your consumption?*

This is the top priority of our  
governments –  
to achieve continuing  
3 to 4% economic growth.

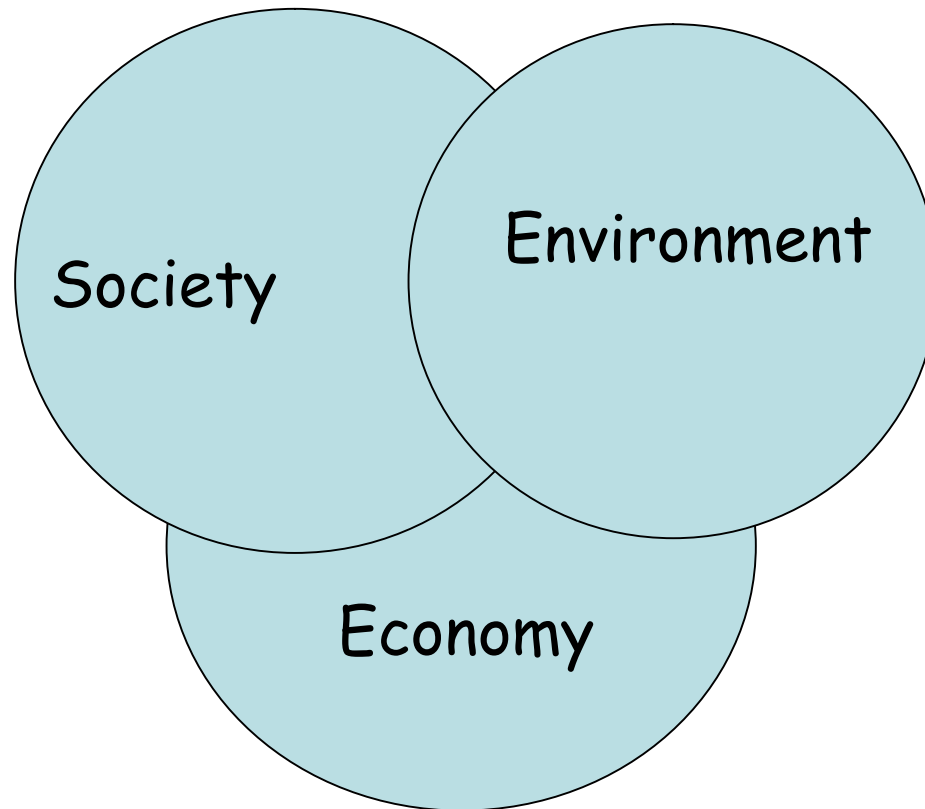
**BUY!  
CONSUME!  
WASTE!**

**LET'S GET OUR  
ECONOMY  
MOVING AGAIN**



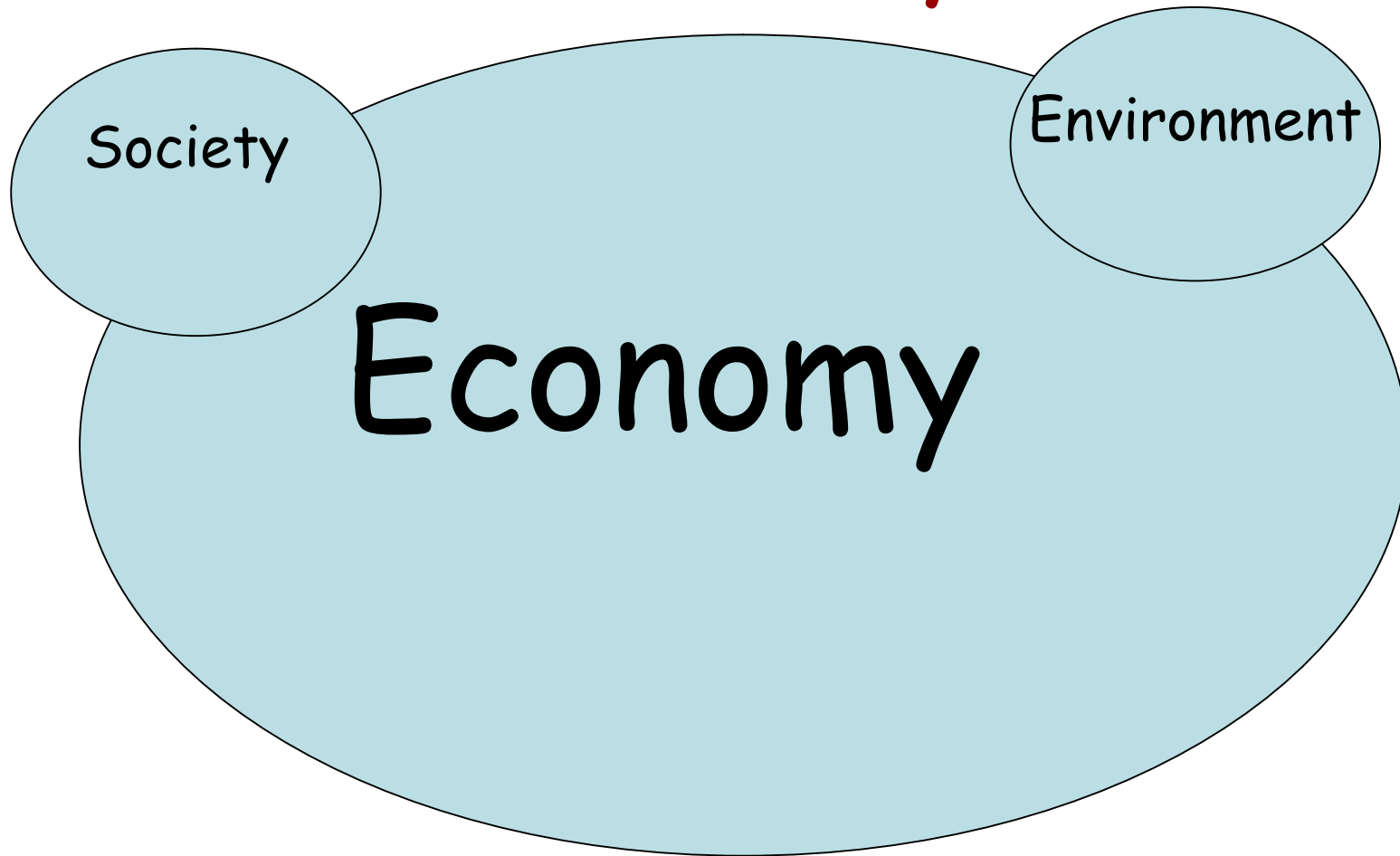
# Components of 'Sustainable Development'

▪

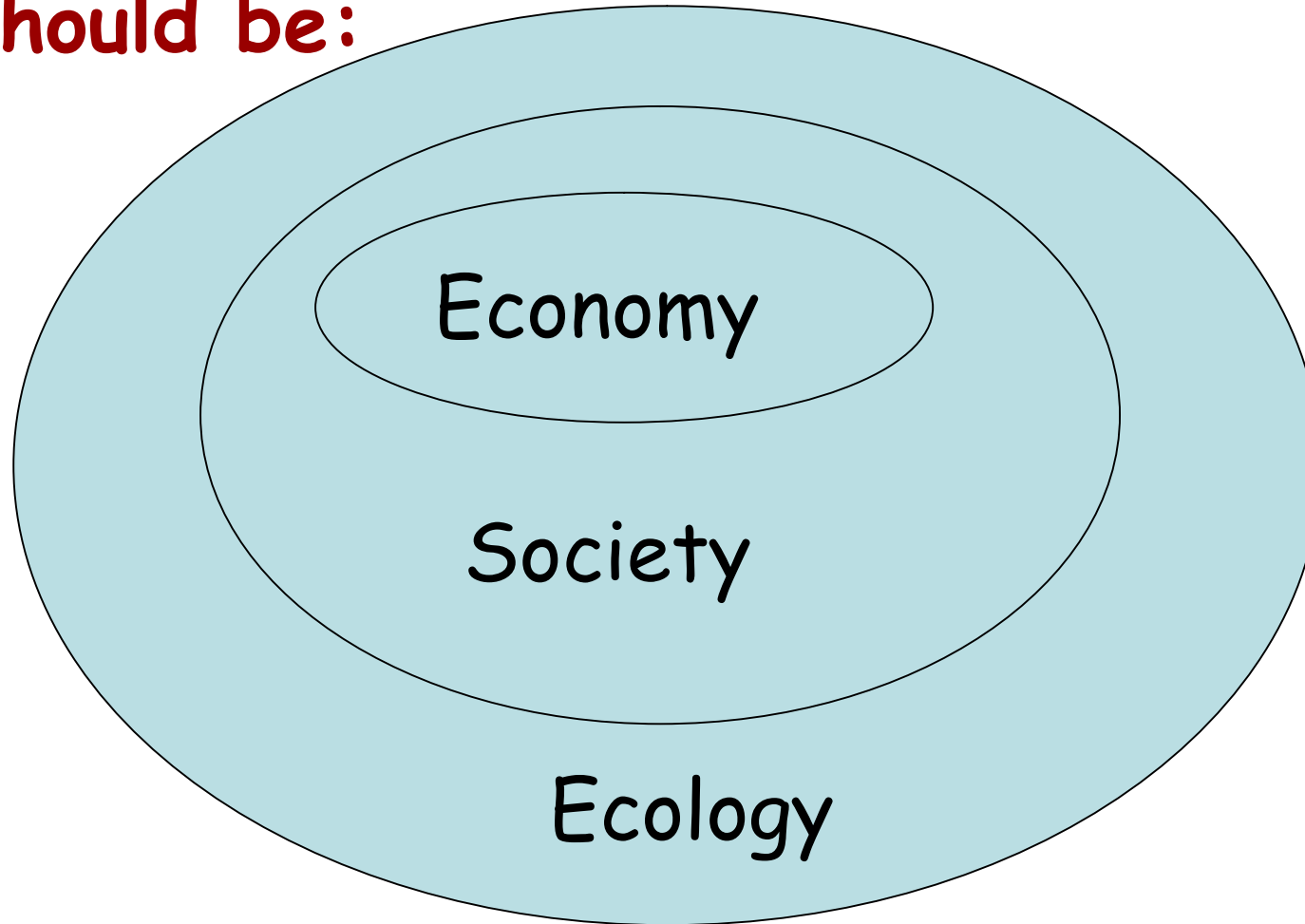


# Sustainable Development

'The reality'



How sustainable development  
should be:



# A Sustainable Future?

A sustainable  
future is possible  
only if we establish

## **ECO-JUSTICE**

**\*Economic**

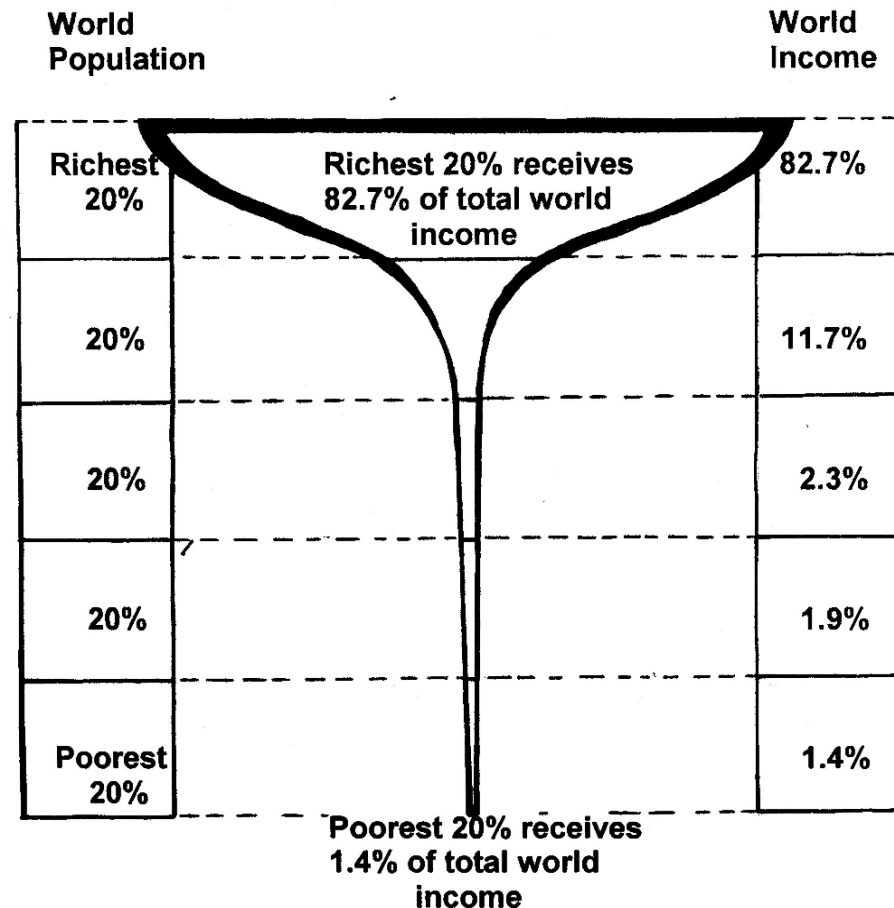
**\*Ecological**

# Economic Justice

- Overcome the economic disparities
- Poorest 20% of the world's population receives 1.4% of total world income

## Global Distribution of Income

UNDP 1992



# Economic Justice

- Overcome the economic disparities -  
5% of the world's population control  
85% of the wealth
- Establish Fair Trade  
and cut agricultural  
subsidies

# Economic Justice

Don't waste resources on  
so-called "Defence".  
Security comes through  
establishing true justice.

***Zechariah 7:9-11;***

***Psalm 33:16***

Even half the US Defence  
Budget would solve the  
world's problems of  
poverty and  
environmental  
degradation.

# Ecological Justice

Treat the natural environment with respect & justice:  
That means living in harmony with God's creation -  
not pillaging and poisoning it.

# Conclusion

- Our decisions shape the future
- Aim: a sustainable future
- We must make decisions regarding:  
resources, economics, environment,  
society, health, culture & spirituality
- As Christian communities we have a moral responsibility to God, to other species and to future generations

# Moral Imperative

It is essential that  
**churches and faith  
communities**  
are involved in seeking  
a sustainable future  
for all of  
God's creation

# Action needed

Each denomination and individual must take action.

This is a moral issue, and therefore involves the faith communities at the centre of their being.





**SOUTHERN  
AFRICAN  
FAITH  
COMMUNITIES'  
ENVIRONMENT  
INSTITUTE**

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**SAFCEI**

# **VISION**

**Faith communities  
committed to cherishing  
living earth.**



**SAFCEI**

**was  
launched  
in  
July 2005  
by  
Nobel Peace  
Laureate,  
Wagari  
Maathai,**



**SAFCEI**

# **MISSION**

**We are an institute of people of many faiths, united in our diversity through our common commitment to earthkeeping.**

**Our aim is to support the faith communities in fulfilling their environmental & socio-economic responsibility.**



# SAFCEI

## OBJECTIVES

In the spirit of our respective faiths, through collaboration, networking, research & action, our objectives are to:

- raise environmental awareness
- engage in formulating policy & ethical guidelines
- within our faith communities
- facilitate environmental responsibility & action
- confront environmental & socio-economic injustices
- support environmental training and learning.



# The Earth Charter

**The principle core values:**

- I Respect and care for the community of life**
- II Ecological integrity**
- III Social and economic justice**
- IV Democracy, non-violence and peace**



# The Earth Charter

## Principle I

### Respect & care for the community of life

- **Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.**
- **Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion and love.**
- **Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable and peaceful.**
- **Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.**



# The Earth Charter

## Principle II

### Ecological integrity

Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.



# The Earth Charter

## Principle III

### **Social and economic justice**

Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.



# The Earth Charter

## Principle IV

### **Democracy, non-violence and peace**

Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making and access to justice.

Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.

Promote a culture of tolerance, non-violence and peace

The End