



Office of Religious Congregations  
for Integral Ecology

Bureau des congrégations religieuses pour  
une écologie intégrale

**English Translation: PowerPoint Presentation**

**Webinar: From Ecological Debt to Ecological Hope**

**Speaker: Elton Bozzetto**

**Slide 1:** Ecological Debt and Environmental Responsibility

**Slide 2:** Elton Bozzetto: I'm the son of small farmers. I have a degree in Journalism, Philosophy, Theology and a higher qualification in Cooperativism. I am president of the union of workers in culture, social assistance and professional training in RS. I work for an organization that has been working with the Circular Economy for 68 years, refurbishing, recycling and reusing furniture, household utensils and electronic equipment received as donations and passed on for use by families in situations of social vulnerability.

**Slide 3:** I recently worked as an instructor in the organization of eighteen recycling cooperatives in our city of 1.3 million inhabitants. I teach Theology of Creation and lecture on environmental sustainability. I work as an advisor on social projects for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery.

**Slide 4:** Ailton Krenak - Pajé Jê

“We became alienated from this organism of which we are a part, the Earth, and we began to think that it is one thing and we are another: the Earth and humanity. I don't understand where there is anything that isn't nature.

Everything is nature. The cosmos is nature.

Everything I can think of is nature.

We are part of the earth. We are nature.

The destruction of the environment is our destruction”.

**Slide 5:** Destruction of ways of life and cultures

'This chief's thoughts express his apprehension of what the explorers and colonizers have done. They have destroyed nature, biodiversity, patented the active principles of our flora, brought in polluting products and imposed a way of life that disconnects the person from the environment, even destroying with their culture the ancestral knowledge about the embryonic relationship between the person and the environment.

**Slide 6:** Cumarú:

German and Japanese laboratories have already patented more than 400 active pharmaceutical ingredients extracted from plants in the Brazilian Amazon. This plant has 11 medicinal active ingredients, including cardiotonics, bronchodilators, analgesics and anti-inflammatories.

**Slide 7:** Appropriation of wealth

'For centuries, the rich countries of the North have exploited and bought our minerals, our timber and the food produced by technology that destroys the environment for insignificant prices.

'In the 1990s, the value of a ton of ore exported to Japan, for example, was similar to the value of a needle in a vinyl record player.

**Slide 8:** Appropriation of wealth

'One of the noblest woods in our Amazon, mahogany, was cut down from our forests for the construction of noble buildings in Europe and North America.

**Slide 9:** Imposition of a production technology that kills life (Production Model)

'North America and Europe, along with China, are the biggest producers of agrochemicals in the world. Monsanto, Bayer and Dow Chemical lead the ranking of agrochemical production.

'This Sunday, Brazil's main television program. Rede Globo's Fantástico showed that between 2016 and 2023, 4,555 children were born in Brazil with microcephaly. The main influencer that caused this situation was the pesticide 2,4-D applied to soy and corn crops.

'In Brazil, each person consumes 7 liters of pesticides a year, according to the equation: pesticide applied x population of the country;

### **Slide 10:** Immediate impact of imbalance

- Human health
- Lucas do Rio Verde/Brazil

A study carried out by the Federal University of Mato Grosso with 62 breastfeeding women showed that 100% of the samples collected contained pesticides in breast milk.

Biologist Danielly Palma

“Contamination is mainly caused by eating contaminated food, but also by inhalation and skin contact.”

### **Slide 11:** Decommittment to Global Environmental Agreements

-The Paris Agreement needs to be implemented in practice, because there has been no progress on the decisions agreed and their effectiveness. The northern countries, the biggest generators of CO2 emissions, committed to reducing emissions by 25 by 2025. There has been zero reduction so far, according to the scientific institutes that monitor global emissions. On the contrary, there has been a 5 to 7 percent increase.

-This not only represents the continuation of a standard of living that imposes a heavy burden of consequences and penalties on the poor South, but also the maintenance of a utilitarian and predatory way of using natural resources.

### **Slide 12:** Decommittment to Global Environmental Agreements

-Today, the world releases 221 gigatons of carbon into the atmosphere, while only 215 gigatons are absorbed. There is an equation that doesn't add up.

-This factor represents the lack of investment in renewable energies and the adoption of compensatory mechanisms in the face of rampant CO2 emissions. Therefore, the energy transition is the first item on a global agenda to be defended in a serious advocacy on integral ecology by international organizations.

### **Slide 13:** The environmental cost of external financing and financial exploitation

-The entire development process in the Global South is carried out through unpayable debt, which steals the resources needed to invest in development programs, including environmental regeneration actions. In the case of Brazil, 42.9% of the 2024 federal budget has been earmarked to pay interest on the public debt from financing contracted abroad (450 billion dollars in 2024 alone). This is the resource that is lacking for social policies such as health, education, social assistance and environmental projects.

**Slide 14:** Environmental cost of external financing and financial exploitation

[Diagram]

**Slide 15:** Organic and ecological agriculture and changes in living and consumption patterns.

-If the whole world were to eat the way the US population consumes, we would need three planets to produce enough to feed the global population. This information indicates that the Global North needs to change its mode of development and consumption.

-There are many organic production projects that need financial support to consolidate a chain between production and consumption.

**Slide 16:** “The cry of the earth and the poor must be heard, which cries out for care and protection: a challenge to our selfishness, self-centeredness and individualism”.

Jean Poul Hansen

**Slide 17:** Thanks for the images:

Vatican News, Agência Globo/Brasil, Government of RS, CNBB, Brazilian Academy of Letters, Arayara Institute, Itaipú Binacional

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