

Integral Ecology and Women

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There was a time when the Malagasy population lived off the land thanks to the vast forestland. The forest accounted for their whole life, a natural and free resource at their fingertips: food, firewood, timber, raw materials for clothing, a source of water, healing plants. The forest was a common good. A treasure in common for everyone. But in the face of rapid population growth and the arrival of many foreign immigrants, the face of the earth changed and continues to change: unrestricted deforestation, felling of precious wood, bush fires, illegal exploitation of land and marine resources, and excessive erosion. The law of the jungle prevails – survival of the fittest. There is no longer human value. The common good has been replaced by private property. Spiritual, social and economic poverty take place. Man, greedy for money, is at the point of destroying and even killing his neighbour. Love for community, for solidarity, for life has become meaningless. As the environmentalists say: “Man is a creature and creator of his own environment”.

It is for this reason that we Catholic women are bound to educate our children, from the earliest age, within the family, to LOVE the environment created by God our Creator, quoted in the book of Genesis, and to LOVE man (our neighbour), a key element of this environment.

TO LOVE, is to protect, care for, preserve, and watch over.