

A decorative border of palm trees surrounds the text. The border consists of a top row of 15 palm trees, a bottom row of 15 palm trees, and two vertical columns of 15 palm trees each on the left and right sides.

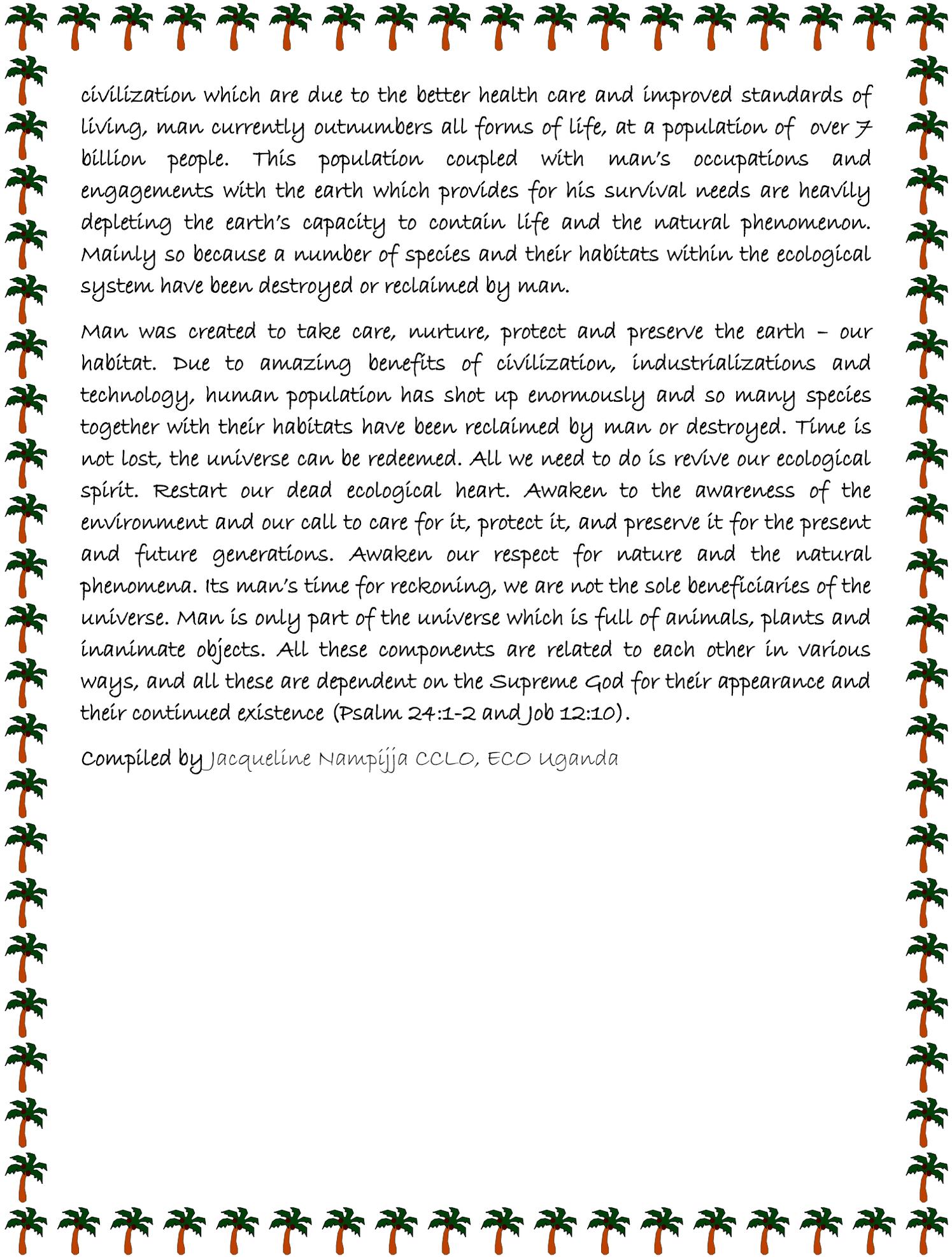
Revamp your ecological spirit

In ancient, traditional societies, man lived with a sense of the significant others in the ecological system. The earth then was a habitat for both man and all the species God so endearingly created on this wonderful planet earth. Life was viewed spiritually with an enduring presence of God as the creator, sustainer and upholder of all natural phenomena. Man had respect for animals and reverence for forests, rocks, mountain and rivers. It was very evident that natural phenomena had a supreme being that defined the relationship between man and nature. Everything, biotic and abiotic was intimately associated with God. All creation spoke out that it did not only originate from God but bore him witness as its creator and sustainer (Col 1:15-19).

Contemporary man seems to view the universe quite differently. Truth stands that in Genesis 1:28, God blessed man to be fruitful and fill the earth. However, earlier on, on the fifth day of creation, God had bestowed the same blessing on all other creatures that fly above the earth, those that move and live in the waters, the beasts of the earth both wild and domestic and all the creeping things on the earth. He blessed them to be fruitful, to multiply, and to fill their habitats each according to its kind. His work was good and it pleased Him greatly. All his creation was woven up in the universe with earth as home for all natural phenomena which existed in a closely knit relationship that was interlinked and interdependent.

With civilization at play, man's sense of the significant others began to fade away. He shifted from his reverent interaction with the earth and began to view it as something to be totally exploited for the sole benefit of man. He polluted the environment with his activities, invaded the habitats of the other creatures through reclamation of forests, swamps and occupying more ground. These interesting occupations of man against the natural phenomena, disorganized the ecological system and put it totally out of balance.

An ecosystem is made up of biotic and abiotic factors, i.e. organisms interacting with each other and the environment. A stable ecological system has the lower species occurring in large numbers so as to sustain the high order life forms (lion, man, whale, etc.) however due to man's sophistication and

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civilization which are due to the better health care and improved standards of living, man currently outnumbers all forms of life, at a population of over 7 billion people. This population coupled with man's occupations and engagements with the earth which provides for his survival needs are heavily depleting the earth's capacity to contain life and the natural phenomenon. Mainly so because a number of species and their habitats within the ecological system have been destroyed or reclaimed by man.

Man was created to take care, nurture, protect and preserve the earth - our habitat. Due to amazing benefits of civilization, industrializations and technology, human population has shot up enormously and so many species together with their habitats have been reclaimed by man or destroyed. Time is not lost, the universe can be redeemed. All we need to do is revive our ecological spirit. Restart our dead ecological heart. Awaken to the awareness of the environment and our call to care for it, protect it, and preserve it for the present and future generations. Awaken our respect for nature and the natural phenomena. Its man's time for reckoning, we are not the sole beneficiaries of the universe. Man is only part of the universe which is full of animals, plants and inanimate objects. All these components are related to each other in various ways, and all these are dependent on the Supreme God for their appearance and their continued existence (Psalm 24:1-2 and Job 12:10).

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