

FAITH FOR EARTH



ONE EARTH
MANY RELIGIONS
ONE GOAL



FAITH-BASED ACTIVITIES COMPILATION

World Environment Day 2019



Beat Air
Pollution



WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY

CHINA
2019





[© 2019 Pixabay](#)

How Faith-based organizations participated?

Facts and figures:

- **482 faith-based related activities** were organized all around the world.
- **56** different faith-based organizations participated
- Activities performed in **40 countries**.
- **India**, the country with most activities: **328**.
- **Isha Foundation**, with 320 activities worldwide, the most active, followed by **Brahma Kumaris**.

A beautiful success

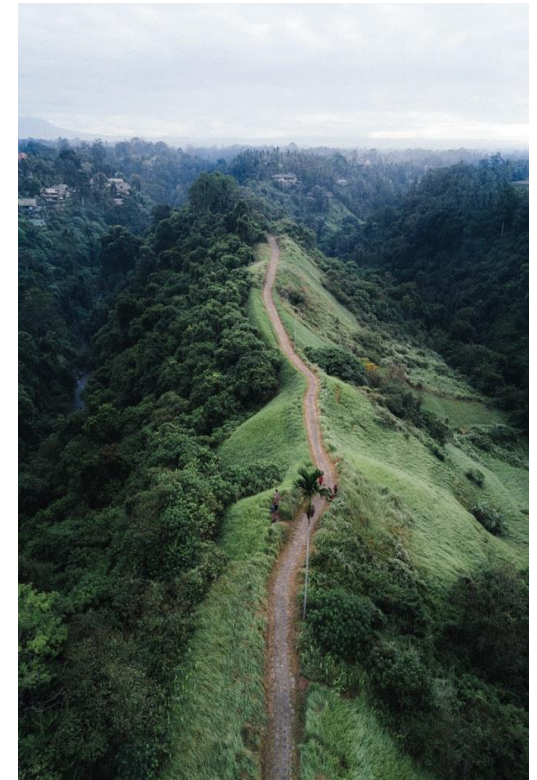
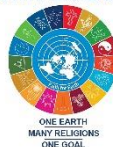
Beating Air Pollution

The World Environment Day is a UN day celebrated to promote awareness and inspire action. It has been celebrated since 1974. The event has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries.

The host country for the World Environment Day 2019 was China with *Beat Air Pollution* as the theme.

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) took a leading role in celebrating the day, organizing different spiritually-related activities to promote awareness on protecting the environment in general and beating air pollution in specific.

FAITH FOR EARTH



[© 2019 Pixabay](#)

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Celebrated worldwide on June 5, 2019



[© 2019 Pixabay](#)

World Environment Day

Since its beginning in 1974, World Environment Day has developed into a global platform for raising awareness and taking action on urgent issues from marine pollution and global warming to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime.

Millions of people participated over the years, helping drive change in our consumption habits as well as national and international environmental policy.

“In the celebration of World Environment Day, 482 faith-based related activities were organized all around the world”

Faith-based organizations took a leading and relevant role in WED, organizing different and spiritual-related activities to generate awareness on protecting the environment. Clean-ups, prayers, seminars, speeches or tree plantation were some of the activities. All main religions and spiritually-based organizations participated in the World Environment Day activities.



Buddhist monk praying. © 2019 Pixabay

What is Air Pollution?

Nobody is safe from air pollution, which comes from five main human sources. The main source is the household air pollution, caused by the indoor burning of fossil fuels, wood and other biomass-based fuels to cook, heat and light homes. 3.8 million people die every year caused by indoor air pollution. Besides household, air pollution comes from other human sources such as the Industry, Agriculture and Waste.



Pictures provided by Iyad Abu Moghli. Above Skalholt Church, Iceland. Below Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca, 2019.

Faith For Earth Initiative

Founded in 2017, the initiative promotes the engagement of Faith-based organizations in the field of environmental conservation.

The goal of Faith for Earth is to strategically engage with faith-based organizations and partner with them to collectively achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#) and fulfill the [objectives of the 2030 Agenda](#).

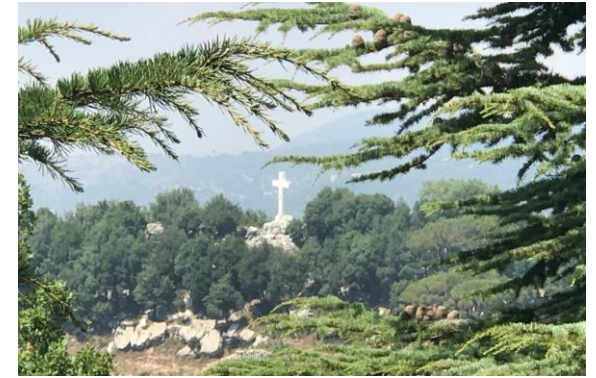
Spiritual values drive individual behaviors for more than 80 per cent of the people

In many countries, spiritual beliefs and religions are crucial to define cultural values, social inclusion, political engagement and economic prosperity.

“We aim to unite the efforts of the religions around the world to focus on environmental issues”

Because traditional stakeholder’s engagement strategies have sometimes shown limited effectiveness, therefore, new, creative, inspiring and innovative actions bringing like-minded networks around a common goal are required.

Faith For Earth is a new horizon to engage with faith-based organizations and achieve SDGs.



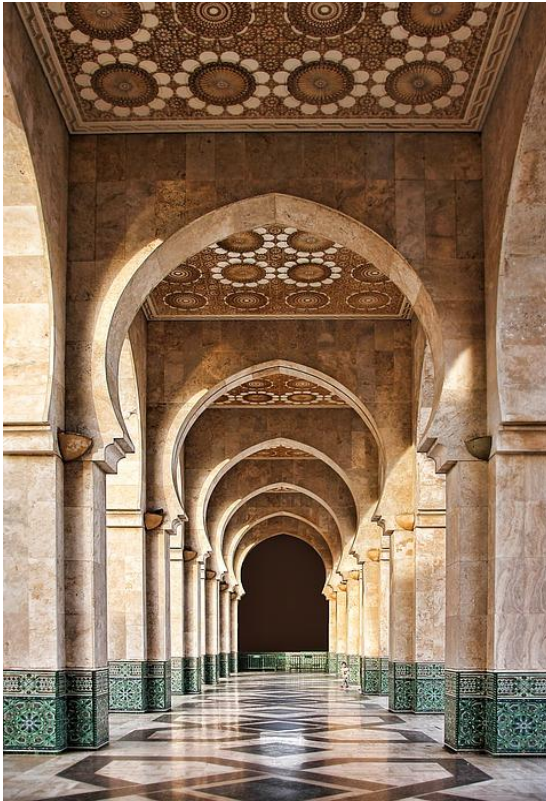
Pictures provided by Iyad Abu Moghli. Lebanon, 2019.

Stewards of the Earth

Faith-based organizations have been recognized not only as key players in eradicating poverty or improving people’s health, but also in protecting the environment and working toward sustainable development.

Main objectives Faith for Earth

- Inspire and empower faith organizations and their leaders to advocate for protecting the environment,
- Greening faith-based assets and investments,
- Making knowledge and the scientific evidence available for more powerful spiritual messages.



© 2019 Pixabay

Islam

Eid-al-Fitr and World Environment Day falling on the same day

If we look at the holy Quran, we'll find several mentions on air and wind. In Chapter 7 verse 57, the Quran says: "And HE it is Who sends the winds as glad tidings before HIS mercy, when they bear a heavy cloud, WE drive it to a dead land; then WE send down water therefrom and WE bring forth fruits of every kind. In like manner do WE bring forth the dead that you may remember."

The first step to avoid Air Pollution is to Buy only what you need

After all, the Quran tells us not only that we are the stewards of this Earth, but that we should not waste.

"Eat and drink: but waste not by excess, for Allah loveth not the wasters"

Air and wind in Islam is referred to for different purposes:

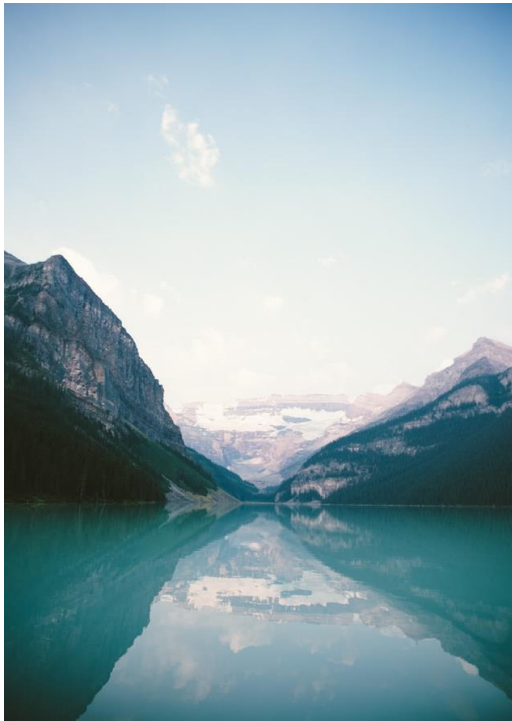
- Blowing light particles (e.g. sand) (51:1)
- Lifting heavy weights (Rain) (51:2)
- Moving with gentleness (51:3)
- Dividing and distributing by command (taking several paths) (51:4)



Kid praying in a mosque. © 2019 Pixabay

Tips for Muslims on the celebration of World Environment Day and Eid-al-Fitr:

- Buying only what you need – this will minimize air pollution and climate change.
- Use public transportation, cycle or walk, and share car rides where possible.
- Avoid burning rubbish.
- Organize a tree planting activity or litter picking event with your community.
- Ask your local authorities to provide timely, regular air quality data and petition for legislation to control the worst polluters.



[© 2019 Pixabay](#)

Christianity

Pope Francis cares about air pollution

In his Encyclical letter *Laudato Si* the Pope refers to air pollution as “Exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor, and causes millions of premature deaths.” Pope Francis said: “It is irresponsible to pollute water and air, governments must act. We can not stand with our arms crossed, when we notice a serious environmental degeneration”.

In the Bible, humans are the stewards of God’s creation and must take care of what He created (Genesis 2:15, Genesis 28:1, Leviticus 25:23).

Humans should ensure the continuation of God’s creation, avoid abusing and polluting the resources they are given and pass them to the future generations as they inherited.

“Facts are as important as the ideas”

***Laudato Si’* no. 53:** “Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years”

***Laudato Si’* no. 119:** “Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God”



[© 2019 Pixabay](#)



[© 2019 Pixabay](#)

Some Christian oriented tips for World Environment Day:

- Worship Outdoors. As a way of connecting people with God in and through the earth.
- Include Nature in various kind of prayers. Worship leaders are increasingly integrating messages about Creation into various parts of worship services - calls to worship, prayers of intercession, prayers of confession, and prayers of praise.
- Encouraging and promoting the tree plantations.
- Promoting zero tolerance on improper waste management disposal with the slogan “reduce, reuse and recycle”.



© 2019 Pixabay

Judaism

The Jewish festival of Shavuot fell this year on 9-10 June, within a week of World Environment Day.

Judaism took some important steps through the environment. As the Bible says: "You shall take some of every first fruit of the soil, which you harvest from the land that the Divine, your God is giving you, put it in a basket and go to the place where the Divine, your God will choose to establish His name" (Deut. 26:2)



© 2019 Pixabay

Jewish tradition teaches to care for our planet in order to preserve that which God has created.

In addition, emphasizes our need to preserve our natural resources and generate new ones for future generations.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof"

Psalm 24

Any act that damages our earth is an offense against the property of God.

The Jewish concept of *bal tashchit*, that it means "do not destroy," forbids needless destruction.

The sacred texts teach that humankind has an obligation to improve the world for future generations, Jewish tradition encourages families and communities to reduce their waste and make smart consumer choices, investing in companies that do not pollute and supporting behaviors and policies that encourage conservation.



© 2019 Pixabay

Shavuot is a harvest festival and celebration of the receiving of the Torah (Hebrew Bible) at Mount Sinai

Shavuot gives us some pointers. We can make a start by growing leafy vegetables in our gardens, or window boxes; by walking in nature and by celebrating this Shavuot - studying Torah sources that discuss care for the environment, immersing ourselves in God's gifts of verdant freshness and savoring the flavor of each beautiful fruit and luscious vegetable that we have the fortune to eat.



Picture provided by Kiran Parmar. India, 2019

Isha Foundation

Rally for Rivers, the amazing initiative

The worldwide campaign performed 320 activities in 29 different countries, joining hands against plastic suffocation. **India's rivers are undergoing a drastic change.** Due to the pressures of population and development, the perennial rivers are becoming seasonal. Many of the smaller rivers have already vanished.

The massive campaign Rally for rivers consisted on a massive clean-up drive and the plantation of thousands of trees on the main and most affected Indian rivers .

The campaign included different activities besides tree plantation, such as awareness lectures, seminars, speeches, spiritual meditation and praying, from India to USA.

“This is not a protest. This is not an agitation. This is a campaign to raise awareness that our rivers are depleting. Everyone who consumes water must Rally For Rivers.”

With more than 9 million volunteers worldwide, Isha Foundation was the faith-based organization that organized most of the activities.



Picture provided by Hetal Shah. Kenya, 2019.

About Isha Foundation

Isha Foundation is a non-profit, spiritual organization founded in 1992 by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev. It is based at the Isha Yoga Center near Coimbatore, India. The foundation is run entirely by volunteers and it has over 9 million volunteers. They offer Yoga courses all around the world.



Picture provided by Kiran Purmar. India, 2019.



Activities performed in Raipur, India.

Brahma Kumaris

82 activities, 72 cities, 5 countries

The main activities performed during World Environment Day were:

- Tree plantation.
- Awareness lectures, seminars and speeches around 'Ethics and human awareness' and which role we play in climate change.
- Mass meditation.
- Clean-up programs.

The Spiritual leader of Brahma Kumaris, **Sadhguru**, is strongly committed to the environment and proposes:

“A shift in awareness is needed to promote changes in behavior and lifestyles to foster low emissions and climate resilient development.”

Across India, more than 30 Brahma Kumaris centers celebrated World Environment Day with great enthusiasm. Many hundreds of people were taught new ideas about protecting the environment.

Brahma Kumaris is strongly committed with the environment protection and has three big environmental projects:

- Green Angel initiative.
- Solar Energy Project.
- Sustainable Agriculture in India.



Raipur (C.G.) : On the occasion of "World Environment Day" Mr. Mudit Kumar Singh Ji (IFS) Principal Chief Conservator of Forest is Planting a tree at Shanti Sarovar premises. Also seen in

Plantation of trees in Raipur, India.

About Brahma Kumaris

Is a Spiritual movement founded by Lekhraj Kripalani in Hyderabad, India, during the 1930s. Affiliated with the United Nations, is known for the prominent role that women play in the movement. It teaches a form of meditation that focuses on identity as souls, as opposed to bodies. The Brahma Kumaris provides courses, seminars and retreats on a wide range of personal growth subjects such as meditation, self-esteem, positive thinking, stress-free living and anger management. All the courses are inspired by the principle at the heart of *Raja Yoga* - that there is a place of peace within all of us - and by learning to experience it we can solve problems with greater compassion and integrity.



The activities made by the volunteers on World Environment Day were:

- Tree Plantation Drive
- Cleanliness Drive
- Awareness for a better environment.



Volunteers in Namchi, India.



Volunteers cleaning up in Lonavla, India.

*“Beat Pollution of the mind,
be human, caring and kind”*

Mass messages, speeches, songs and the cycle rally in 17 cities

Thousands of Foundation volunteers and residents of respective cities carried out Mega Cleanliness Drives and planted saplings.



Volunteers planting trees in Nandi Hills, India.

Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation

Beat Pollution of the mind

With the blessings of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, the Foundation organized a program at 17 Hills Stations in India: Manali, Shimla, Nainital, Panhala, Mussoorie, Darjeeling, Rishikesh, Dharamshala, Saputara, Mahabaleshwar, Panchgani, Lonavala, Khandala, Panhala, Nandi Hills, Mount Abu and Patnitop.

About Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation

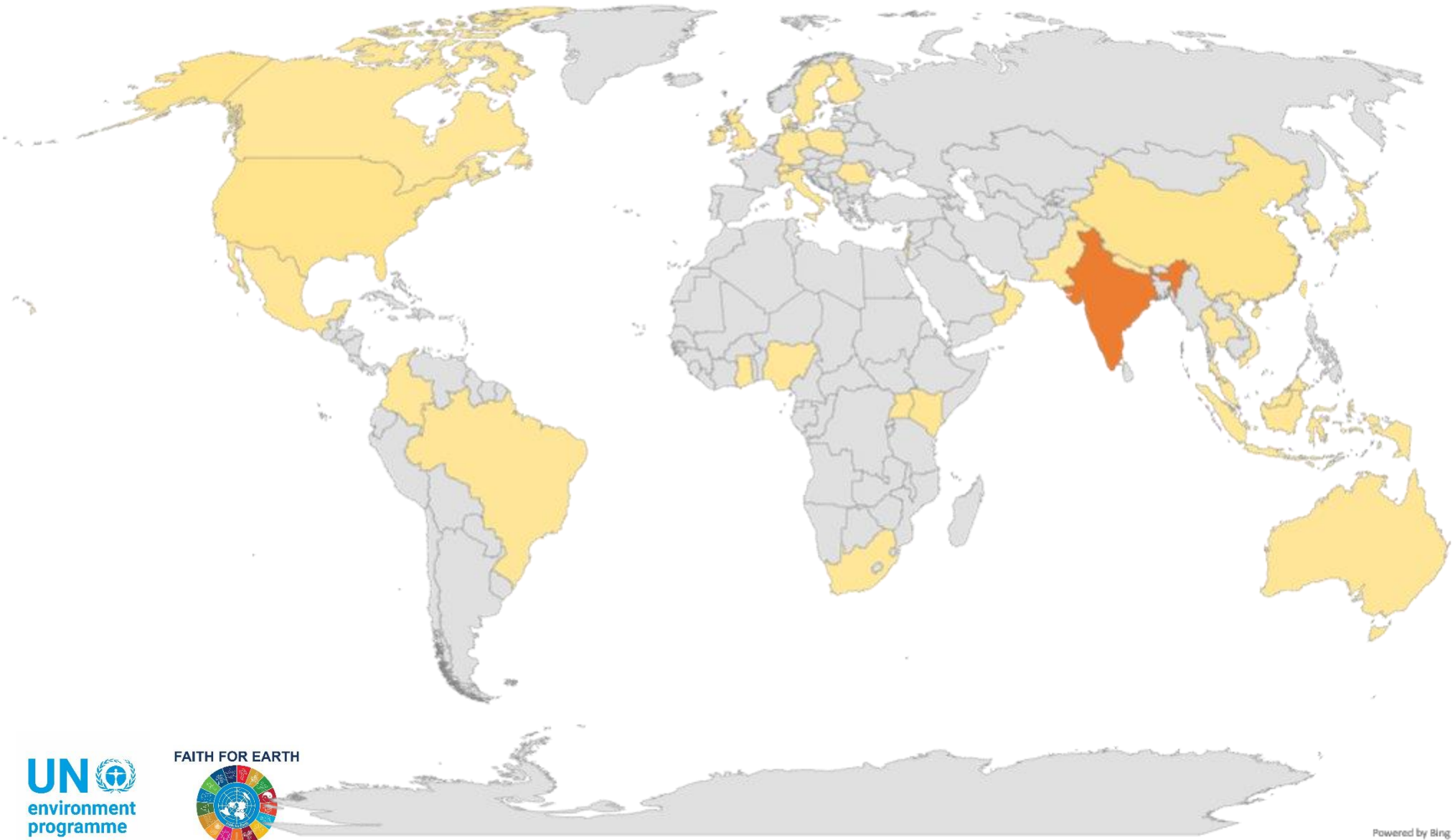
Is an organization with socio-charitable activities as its primary objective and selfless service of humanity as its pivotal philosophy. The Foundation has been formed to effectively implement the broad vision of **Sant Nirankari Mission**; the vision of reaching out to more and more people and around the world, and touching their lives with love, care and kindness, bringing smiles on every face. The Mission was established in 1929 by Baba Buta Singh and has more than 3000 centers and millions of followers across the world.

List of Faith-Based Organizations and cities where activities were held

Faith Based Organization	Country	City
ISCKON	India	New Delhi, Shivamogga
URI	Pakistan	Lahore
Art of Living	India	Jalgaon
Bhumi	India	Chennai
Nairobi Chapel	Kenya	Nairobi
Free Pentecostal Fellowship	Kenya	Lamu
Akasha Academy	Nepal	Suntakhan
Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya Gayatrikunk Shantikunj Haridwar	India	Haridwar
Seeds of Grace	USA	Bremerton
The Lake District	India	Pune
Lodhi Foundation	India	Ludhiana
Mastermind Foundation	India	Chennai
Latur Vruksha	India	Latur
Arogyabharathi Andhrapradesh	India	Vijayawada
Caritas	Pakistan	Karachi
Vidya Gurkul	India	Dhanbad
Vijoriya Foundation	India	Hindaun
Mtn Ghana Foundation	Ghana	Different Locations
ISCKON	India	New Delhi
Nairobi Chapel	Kenya	Nairobi
Human Development Foundation	Thailand	Ranong
Shree Rash Bihari Mission	India	Bhagalpur
Karthilappally Cathedral Ocym	India	Different cities
Legambiente Onlus	Italy	Fiumicino
Fundacion Jesus de la Divina Misericordia	Colombia	Maicao
Jama'atu Nasril Islam	Nigeria	Borno
Global Interfaith Wash Alliance	India	Rishikesh
Northfield Methodist Church	Australia	Benoni
AYUDH	India	Jaipur
URI	Kenya	Nairobi
Bhumi	USA, Indonesia	New York, Surabaya

Faith Based Organization	Country	City
Ahimsa Vhimsa Vishwa Bharti	India	Mumbai
Green Anglicans	South Africa	Capetown
Bahu Trust	UK	Birmingham
Shree Shree Radhakrishna Trust	India	Bokajan
Bharatiya Paryavaran Chetana Samiti Ayodha	India	Ayodhya
Sokka Gakai	Japan	Tokio
Destiny Center	India	Anand
Scientology Israel	Israel	Tel Aviv
Anglican Church	Kenya	Thika
Environmental conflict mediation and women research development initiative	India	Villupuram
CYNESA	Kenya	Mombasa
Divine Foundation	Bangladesh	Dhaka
The Salvation Army	Australia	Green Point
Christian Women Networking Forum	Nigeria	Lagos
Ecosick	India	Ludhiana
Christian Environmental Education Center Salim	South Korea	Different cities
Mukunda Yoga Dham	Mexico	Puebla
Vishwa Shanti Vardhan	India	New Delhi
Stewardship of the Environment Anglican Diocese of Montreal	Canada	Montreal
St Thomas a Becket Church care for the Common Home	USA	Reston
Rajyoga Education and Research Foundation	India	Khargone
The Church of Jesus Christ of the Later Days	USA	New York
AYUDH	India	Thirukovilur
Art of Living	Brasil	Rio de Janeiro
Shanti Dham	India	Tiruchengode
Sahaja Yoga Meditation	Australia	Sydney
Anglican Communion	UK	Different locations

World Environment Day Activities



FAITH FOR EARTH

