



FAITH FOR EARTH

NEWSLETTER
27 JANUARY 2022

STARTING THE YEAR WITH GREAT NEWS & EVENTS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The resumed [Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly \(UNEA-5\)](#) is an opportunity to be part of multilateral environmental efforts on biodiversity, climate, food systems, and pollution.

The theme of [UNEA 5.2 “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”](#) is closely linked with the [Faith for Earth Strategy](#) and the tremendous efforts that our faith partners are undertaking.

Faith for Earth, in collaboration with a diverse group of faith-organisations, faith leaders, partners and friends will be organising the **Faith for Earth Dialogue Session** that will be held as part of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) from **21 February to 4 March 2022**.

More information about the Dialogue will be share in a special edition of the Faith for Earth Newsletter on 31 January 2022.



Upcoming Events:

2-3 JUNE 2022
STOCKHOLM
A HEALTHY PLANET FOR THE PROSPERITY OF ALL
- OUR RESPONSIBILITY, OUR OPPORTUNITY



FAITH GROUPS RESPOND

[Stockholm+50](#) marks the 50th anniversary of the UN's Summit on the Human Environment, which was the UN's first major conference on international environmental concerns held in 1972.

In that context, representatives from the World Council of Churches, FaithPlans, Faith Invest, the Act Church of Sweden, Brahma Kumaris, PMU Sweden, Pentecostal World Fellowship, Center for Earth Ethics, LM Läkarmissionen, SMC Global, and others, came together in January 2022 to map a way forward and feature in this upcoming historic international meeting.

Faith for Earth is facilitating a process of engagement of faith actors in Stockholm +50 by organising side events, issuing statements, highlighting faith perspectives and conducting workshops.

For more information about the way forward or to participate, contact Melanie Michel (melanie.michel@un.org).

MINDFULNESS FOR PROTECTING THE PLANET FROM CLIMATE- RELATED CRISES

1 February 2022

During World Interfaith Harmony Week, [Faith for Earth will join Interfaith Scotland in launching the 'Mindfulness for Earth Initiative'](#). Participants from several countries from a variety of faiths and religions will be involved in a guided

mindfulness meditation and prayer session led by different religious leaders. Ms Frances Hume, the National Development Officer, [Interfaith Scotland](#) will join us in organising this special event.





SIGNED MOU WITH SRMD

[Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur \(SRMD\)](#), a charitable and religious trust registered in India. UNEP Faith for Earth Initiative has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create an environmental programme for children and teenagers focused on enhancing a culture of compassion to help engage and empower the next generation of leaders towards environment and sustainability.

In India, the Faith for Earth Empathy Leadership (FEEL) Programme expects to motivate youth leaders and promote avenues for climate action using interactive learning material.

FAITH-BASED TREE PLANTING & FAITHPLANS

Faith-based tree planting has enormous potential to meet global ecosystem restoration and conservation needs. Faith groups globally plant millions of trees, yet to date there has been no concerted effort to understand the scale of faith tree growing efforts and its potential to meet global conservation goals, particularly amongst the faith community.

Faith for Earth and the World Wide Fund for Nature UK Beliefs and Values Programme (WWF-UK BVP), seek to collaborate on the issue of faith and environmental sustainability.

In 2022, this partnership aims to support the goals of the Faith Strategy on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration through faith-based tree planting in Kenya and the Faith for Earth National Coordination Hubs in India, Ethiopia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Lebanon, map projects on nature-based solutions, and implement the Faith Plans Programme.



Publications:

THE ROLE OF FAITH, VALUES AND ETHICS IN STRENGTHENING ACTION FOR NATURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

This [report](#) calls for faith actors to be better integrated into environmental governance and policy-making processes, from the local to the global level.



To support this argument, the report outlines the role of faith, ethics, values, and culture, highlighting the benefits of values-based approaches in addressing environmental challenges.

[The Green Hajj and Umrah Guide](#) by [Ummah for Earth](#) seeks to guide 1.8 billion ordinary Muslims to walk gently on Earth as the Quran demands.

The guide provides recommendations for communities, governments and institutions to enable a greener pilgrimage and the potential that 'the Ummah' has to be part of the solution.

THE GREEN HAJJ AND UMRAH GUIDE



YALE FORUM
LAUNCHES
NEW ONLINE
COURSES IN
RELIGION AND
ECOLOGY

Our partners at the [Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology](#) are pleased to announce that their new series of online courses, "[Religions and Ecology: Restoring the Earth Community](#)," has recently been launched by

Yale University on the Coursera online learning platform.

These online courses highlight religious ideas and practices in response to ecological and climate challenges. With a variety of multimedia resources, they feature scholars, religious leaders, and environmental specialists from around the world:

Introduction to Religions and Ecology

Indigenous Religions and Ecology - representatives from every continent

South Asian Religions and Ecology - Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Baha'i

East Asian Religions and Ecology - Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Shinto

Western Religions and Ecology - Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Christianity and Ecology

These courses have been many years in the making and will be an important addition to the field of Religion and Ecology to galvanize moral force needed for transformative change. Learn more. | [Register for the Courses](#). | [See the FAQ Fact Sheet](#).

FAITH ACTION ON THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS PLATFORM

Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology as we partner with UNEP's Faith for Earth Initiative, Parliament of the World's Religions, and United Religions Initiative to launch an interactive database tracking religious activity within the scope of environmentally-focused Sustainable Development Goals.



[About the Platform](#) | [Submit your Project](#)

Past Events:



MAPPING ABRAHAMIC FAITH-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST-NORTH AFRICA REGION



ABRAHAMIC TRADITIONS & ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE MEETING

13 January 2022

Following the [Abrahamic Traditions & Environmental Change Workshop 2019](#), a meeting was recently held to share recent work and projects in the Abrahamic Traditions & Environmental Change space.

Since the workshop in Rhodes, Greece in June 2019, the UConn Abrahamic programs have continued to advance collaborations and grow the network of colleagues involved in the environmental initiative, while also branching out to build its other initiatives in [Literature Culture & Arts](#) and [Entrepreneurship & Innovation](#), with the first entrepreneurship workshop slated for spring 2022.

As a direct result of relationships forged during the June 2019 workshop, find published [proceeding and working papers](#) and an [array of interviews](#).