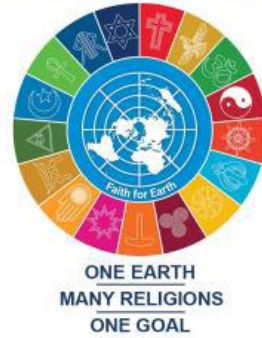


FAITH FOR EARTH



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You might have been following the recent meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP on the issue of the [United Nations Environment Assembly 5th session](#) in February 2021. UNEA Bureau took a decision on the timing and format of UNEA 5 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, to the effect that UNEA 5 will be convened with a two-step approach, starting with a short virtual Assembly on 22 February 2021, which will then be adjourned and reconvened for an in-person meeting in February 2022.

Our Sacred Commitment is now available in eight languages and can be accessed [here on our website](#).



[Second Retreat of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council \(MFAC\)](#)

The second retreat of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council was held on 24 and 25 November with the participation of the 45 Council members and representatives of all UN agencies member of the UN Inter Agency Task Force on Religion and Development. The retreat took stock of the extent to which the UNIATF-MFAC partnership has achieved its objectives, identified good practices and lessons learned as well as gaps and challenges raised during the previous year. The retreat was also an excellent opportunity to discuss the work and plans of the four working groups of climate change, gender, UN 75 and COVID 19. The Climate Change working group has agreed on an action plan of three priorities:

- 1) Map out all efforts planned for COP 26;
- 2) Explore how to enhance faith constituency at UNFCCC; and
- 3) Explore interfaith contribution to COP 15.

If you have a plan for COP 26 or know of a group planning to do something, **kindly share with me to include in the mapping**. The ultimate purpose is to ensure coordination, maximize impact and provide support.



[Ab Khulke Phodo e Pataakhe/Go all out with eCrackers – A Campaign!](#)

As part of the Faith for Earth local chapter in India, UNEP colleagues in the India Office launched a campaign to spread awareness of air pollution in India. With the Diwali celebrations and season and the use of fire crackers, the Campaign [Ab Khulke Phodo e Pataakhe /Go all out with e Crackers !](#) was launched pre-Diwali and will continue until February 2021. The Campaign aims to raise awareness about the harmful pollutants that are released in the air by firecrackers and throughout the year during various celebrations, religious festivals, events, weddings, cricket matches, and New Year's celebrations.

The Faith for Earth Team aims to engage faith leaders, especially during the auspicious season of Diwali, to heed the potential to be guided towards a more environmentally conscious celebration. For more on this campaign, please contact Madhu Das (madhur.das@un.org) or Gayatri Raghwa (gayatri.raghwa@un.org).



[Faith-Based Organisations for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#)

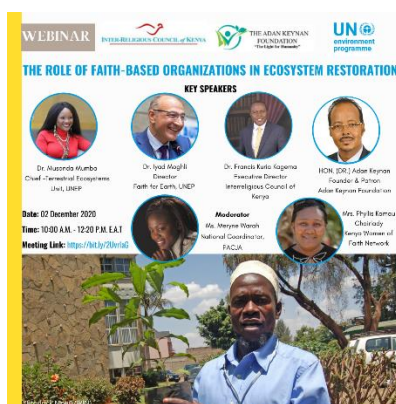
As the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration starts in 2021, and to align all stakeholders in contributing to the successful implementation of its [strategy](#), UNEP Ecosystem Division has made available the following resources:

- Communication resources in 8 languages: <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/resources>
- Interested FBOs may use the social media cards to show their action in different ecosystems. FBOs and others can add the organization logo next to the UN Decade logo to share FBO action.
- UN Decade Brand Guide: <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/resources>
- Use #GenerationRestoration when posting on Social Media to connect FBO actions for the UN Decade. [All actions are collected here.](#)



[The World Sustainable Development Teach-In Day](#)

[The World Sustainable Development Teach-In Day 2020 \(WSD-TD 2020\)](#), organised by the [European School of Sustainability Science and Research \(ESSSR\)](#) and the [Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme \(IUSDRP\)](#), is an opportunity for lecturers and learners to engage using the latest information and latest trends and insights on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to showcase strategies and examples of projects from around the World. You can join the live broadcast on Friday 4 December 2020 at 09:00 AM CET, with UNEP Faith for Earth Director Dr. Iyad Abumoghli who will speak about the SDGs and the potential of Faith Leaders and Faith-based Organisations (FBOs) in achieving the SDGs. [Register Here](#).



[The Role of Faith-Based Organizations in Ecosystem Restoration](#)

UNEP colleagues in the Africa Office will be hosting a Webinar on 2 December 2020 from 10am to 12pm (EAT) centred on avenues for FBO engagement with the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#). The Webinar seeks to:

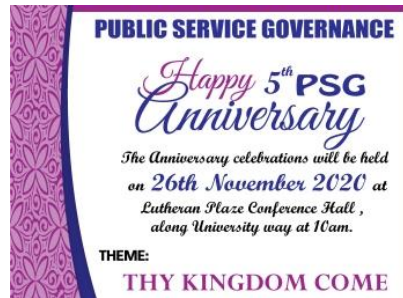
1. Raise awareness on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
2. Explore the role that FBOs play towards the achievement of the objectives of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
3. Promote mainstreaming of ecosystem restoration as a core activity amongst religious communities; and
4. Discuss synergy between Faith-based Initiative and environment sustainability.

For more details on this webinar, [click here](#).



[Youth Engagement in the Faith for Earth Coalition with Green Hope Foundation](#)

The highly anticipated Faith for Earth Coalition will introduce a Faith Youth Council composed of young faith leaders advocating for the protection of the Earth. The Youth Council aims to mobilise youth voices as global ambassadors on Faith for Earth across the Coalition and beyond. On 7 December 2020 9am (EST), Faith for Earth will present the Youth Council to Green Hope Foundation and its Chapters around the world, seeking to onboard the Foundation as potential leaders of the local chapters around the world.



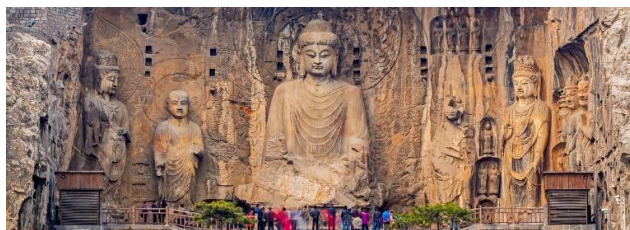
5th Anniversary of Public Service Governance

On 26 November 2020 from 10am at the 5th Anniversary of Public Service Governance, the themes of Environment and Good Governance will be highlighted. Faith for Earth will address a group of leaders in Kenya to speak about the role of environmental and spiritual ethics in global environment governance.



Convention on Biological Diversity

One of the three planetary crises is nature expressed in its ecosystems and biodiversity. Faith organizations have an important role to play at the intergovernmental level to bring attention to this important issue. A special virtual session for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice [SBSTTA](#) and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation [SBI](#) on the theme of "Biodiversity, One Health and the response to COVID-19", will be held on 15-16 December 2020. The special session is being convened with a view to maintaining momentum towards COP 15 and to facilitating preparations for the twenty-fourth meeting of the (SBSTTA 24) and the third meeting of (SBI 3), which have been postponed to 2021. The special session, which will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Montreal time on both days, will also provide opportunities for the presentation of information and for statements by Parties and observers. No decisions or formal recommendations will be made at the special session. Interpretation will be provided in all UN languages. Further information, including the programme, will be available at the special virtual session webpage: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3-prep-02>. As per the practice for meetings of the subsidiary bodies, the designation of representatives to participate in the above session should be addressed to the CBD Executive Secretary through an official letter of nomination, to be sent by e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int.



Buddhist Voices at the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology

For more than 25 years, the [Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology](#) has worked to inform and inspire people to preserve, protect, and restore the Earth community. In gratitude for the environmental contributions made by Buddhist leaders and practitioners worldwide, visit the Yale Forum website and its resources on [Buddhism](#) to find:

- [Overview essays](#) that provide an introduction to Buddhism and ecology
- [Official environmental statements](#) from Buddhist organizations and leaders
- [Official Climate Change declarations](#) from Buddhist leaders and networks
- [Engaged projects](#) led by Buddhist communities doing hands-on work the globe
- [Multimedia Offerings](#) and [YouTube playlist](#) featuring the intersection of Buddhism and ecology
- A voluminous [Bibliography](#) of works that feature the environmental dimensions of Buddhist traditions, beliefs, and spiritual practices
- [Advisory Specialists in Buddhism](#) for the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology



Accreditation to UN Environment Assembly You can apply for accreditation using the [New Online Accreditation System](#) and gain consultative status within the [rules of procedure](#) of the [UN Environment Assembly](#). Please refer to the criteria for accreditation as derived from Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure, [the Guidelines](#), and submit your request accordingly.

[Faith for Earth Newsletters](#)

Best wishes,
Iyad

[Faith4Earth Website](#)

Social Media Hashtag [#Faith4Earth](#)

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