

FAITH FOR EARTH



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we bid farewell to 2020 with all its challenges and opportunities, we are proud of you, our partners, who have made this year a year of action for the faith communities. We will soon share with you our 2020 achievement report. The Faith for Earth Team and UNEP would like to wish you all a brighter, healthier and more prosperous year to come.



Sustainable Houses of Worship and the Example of the Living Chapel

[40% of energy consumption and nearly 30% of all related greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions](#) every year emanate from the building sector. Faith for Earth issued the [Guidelines on Green Houses of Worship](#). The guidelines prominently featured the [Living Chapel](#), a holistic expression of the sacredness of life through a sustainable building that celebrates harmony with the natural world infused with serene architecture, art, and music. Faith for Earth continues to engage further with the Living Chapel, and similar projects and initiatives to facilitate sharing of best practices with all faith-institutions and houses of worship. Our aim is to encourage building or renovating sustainable houses of worship. The Living Chapel shared a [summary of the guidelines](#) in their newsletter of 10 December 2020.

Mizan ميزان

Mizan: How a new initiative is mobilizing Muslims to help save the planet?

In an [interview with Iyad Abumoghli](#), the Director of Faith for Earth, he outlines the importance of Mizan in encouraging the world's 1.8 billion Muslims to embrace sustainability as part of their everyday lives, who are the partners, the process and how Islam and Muslim practices can save the planet and offer the world Islamic perspectives on sustainability and living in balance with nature.



[An Update of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative](#)

The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI) over the past few weeks has organized several important meetings and published many important resources in all the countries covered by IRI. This included a [Conference](#) in Columbia, and the [IRI Columbia Advisory Council Video](#). While in Indonesia, IRI delivered a two-day training to leaders from Indonesia's religious councils on discussions on deforestation. In Peru, IRI worked on strengthening discussions on forest protection and restoration with the Minister of Justice, Agrarian Development, Environment through working meetings. In Brazil, IRI Advisory Council called on 30 religion, environment and indigenous leaders in Belém and Manaus to strategically install local chapters. Finally, IRI featured prominently in the discussions and recommendations of the G20 Interfaith Forum (2020). Under 'Taking Common Action to Protect the Planet', the G20 Interfaith Forum stated that "Faith-linked initiatives such as the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI) play pivotal roles in directing global attention to the challenges facing the world's rainforests." See the outcome document [here](#).



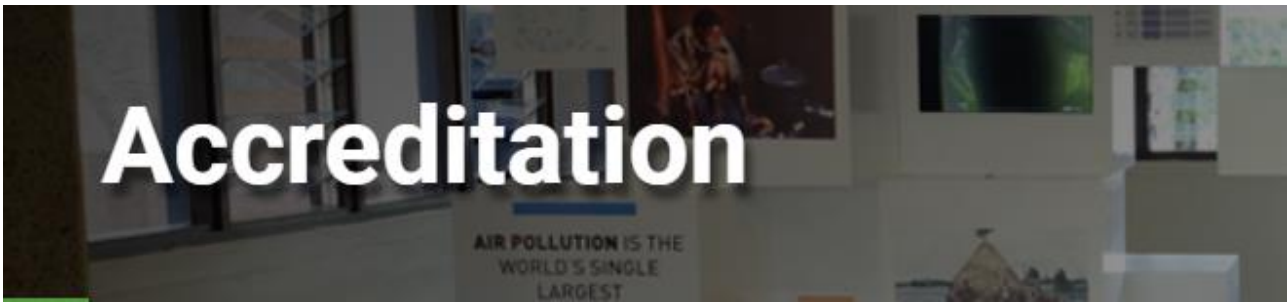
[Launch of Emissions Gap Report 2020](#)

UNEP's [Emissions Gap Report 2020](#) signals hope in a green pandemic recovery and growing commitments to net-zero emissions. The Report provides a yearly review of the difference between where greenhouse emissions are predicted to be in 2030 and where they should be. The world is still heading for a temperature rise in excess of 3°C this century – far beyond the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C. You can [Watch the Video](#) and [Explore the Six-Sector Solution](#).



[A River with Rights](#)

On 15 December 2020, our partners the Lutheran World Federation, with other partners, organized a [webinar discussion](#) in the framework of the 5-year anniversary of the Paris Agreement. The event explored the case of the Río Atrato, how the rights of a river can be recognised, how rights to a healthy environment and food are linked, and how they can contribute to building more resilient communities. Our colleague Dr. Musonda Mumba, Chief Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit of UNEP gave a great talk on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in the context of the rights of rivers. The event was inspired by the indigenous peoples perspectives presented during the webinar.



[Webinar for Major Groups and Stakeholders: Understanding the United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA 5.1\)](#)

The Civil Society Unit of UNEP is organizing an important webinar for **Accredited** Major Groups and Stakeholders to help understanding the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Webinar will be held on Wednesday, January 20th, 2021, 15:00 EAT Eastern Africa Time for a three-hour session. The three hour-session will take participants through the UNEA system, unravelling the process of negotiations, explaining how to influence sessions, understand policy complexities, and explain the political importance of the Medium-Term Strategy, the MTS, and the Programme of Works, the PoW. The MTS, which will be decided on by UNEA 5.1, is the work priorities and policy directions for the UNEP for the next four years. Formal invitations together with a link for registration will be sent out in early January 2021.

[Elections of Representatives of Major Groups & Stakeholders](#)

UNEP will be conducting the elections process for the new NGO members of the Major Groups and Stakeholder's representatives at UNEA. **Accredited** FBOs are kindly requested to observe the below timeline for the election process and participate in the nomination and the election process itself. For more information, interested organizations willing to nominate someone should contact the Civil Society Unit FBOs focal point Ms. Aurora Cheung (aurora.cheung@un.org).

- Call For nominations: 10 December to 31 December 2020
- Announcement of Nominations and opportunity to challenge nominations: January 5 - 10 2021
- Call for election of the nominated candidates: 10 January 2021 to 30 January 2021
- Analysis and presentation of results: February 1 - 7 2021
- Opportunity to challenge results: February 7 - 14 2021
- Endorsement of new members of MGFC by UNEP: February 15, 2021



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](#)

Iyad Abumoghli, Ph.D. Eng.

Director

Faith for Earth

Strategic Engagement with Faith-based Organizations

Executive Office

UN Environment Programme

Nairobi - Kenya

Telephone: +254-20-5122014

iyad.abumoghli@un.org

Twitter/LinkedIn/Skype: @iyadabumoghli

Instagram: iyad_abumoghli

www.unenvironment.org

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