

FAITH FOR EARTH



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Entitled “For People and Planet: The United Nations Environment Programme Strategy for 2022–2025 to Tackle Climate Change, Loss of Nature and Pollution”, [UNEP’s Mid-Term Strategy for 2022-2025](#) was discussed and adopted by 193 countries that participated in the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly virtually held 22-23 February.

Congratulations to UNEP, the international community, and in particular to the faith community and our accredited faith-based organizations who participated and contributed to making sure that the role of religious players is included in the Strategy and highlighted as an innovative communicating strategy driving environmental advocacy. The Mid-Term Strategy has further stressed that UNEP will continue to promote faith-based organizations and communities as custodians of far-reaching, value-based perspectives on environmental sustainability that speak to billions of people around the world. UNEP will operate on the basis of an inclusive multilateralism that reaches beyond governments and supports systemic shifts, with the help and collaboration of the private sector and business community, youth, civil society at large and faith-based organizations.



Minister of Environment of Iceland calls for the adoption of a UNEA resolution to support Faith for Earth Initiative

In his address during the Leadership dialogue that was organized during the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly on 22 February 2021, His Excellency Mr. Guomundur Ingi Guobrandsson, Iceland Minister for Environment and Natural Resources called the international community and the decision makers meeting during UNEA to adopt a resolution to support the Faith for Earth Initiative of UNEP. His Excellency reiterated the important role faith-based organizations are playing in restoring our nature and adopting nature-based solutions. The part that includes his call for a resolution can be [found on this link](#).



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON **ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION** 2021-2030

A Strategy for Engagement: The Role of Faith Leaders and Faith-Based Organisations in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)

Motivated by spiritual values and driven by an ethical responsibility to mitigate human impact on the environment, Faith for Earth highlights, through a [strategy document](#), the necessity of faith actors in overcoming the barriers stated in the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#) through social and political influences of faith communities around the world, and actions that can be adopted by faith actors in realizing the objectives and goals of the UN Decade. Explore [How Faith-based Organisations are Restoring Nature](#), and share your unique contributions to the UN Decade. 3.2 billion people are affected by land degradation. It impacts the food they produce and the water they drink. We need to heal our ecosystems to heal ourselves – it's time for everyone to [join #GenerationRestoration](#).

Major news! [#WorldEnvironmentDay](#) 2021 - the UN's flagship day for action on the environment - will be all about ecosystem restoration and will be hosted by Pakistan. Are you in? Tell us what you are planning to do for [#GenerationRestoration](#) on June 5 and beyond. <https://bit.ly/3kdWYqC>



Interfaith Collaboration to Address Planetary Crises: TV Interview

On 10 January 2021, Dr. Iyad Abumoghli was featured in a [TV Interview](#) hosted by [Cimpatico Studios](#) to discuss the critical role that faith communities play in advancing environmental stewardship by sharing the vision and mission of Faith for Earth; This candid interview highlighted the work and objectives of Faith for Earth; the value in living sustainable lifestyles; and a sneak peek into the work of [Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth](#) and the [Faith for Earth Coalition](#).

Global Youth for Environment



UNEP MAJOR GROUP FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Environment and Faith Thematic Consultation: Global Youth Environment Assembly

On 12 February 2021, Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, Director of Faith for Earth joined members of the Steering Committee of UNEP MGCY Shantanu Mandal from Brahma Kumaris; Alphonse Munyao Muia from Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability Africa (CYNESA); and Neeshad Shafi, Arab Youth Climate Movement, in a Youth and Faith-Based Engagement Thematic Consultation.

The session drew over 160 participants and delved into the faith perspective and how it resonates with environmental governance within the intergovernmental processes, and the need to eliminate inter-generational gaps in collaboration amongst faith groups in tackling environmental challenges. The dialogue was moderated by youth representatives of UNEPs Major Group for Children & Youth (MGCY). Please visit the [Thematic Consultation on Facebook](#) for more information. You can also follow their social media channels on Twitter: @unepmgcy, @unmgcy. Always [#Faith4Earth](#).



Vatican Faith and Science: Towards COP 26

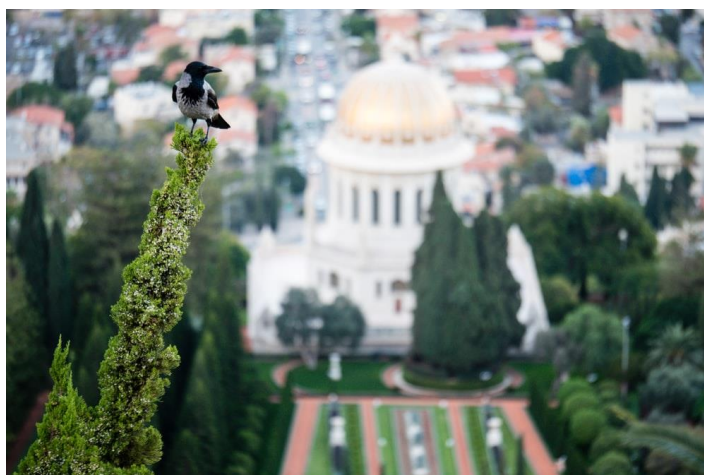
In recognition of the role of faith leaders in tackling climate change and to lead preparations for COP26 to be held in Glasgow in November 2021, the British and Italian Embassies to the Holy See, together with the Holy See, and facilitated by Wilton Park, have started a series of [virtual preparatory meetings](#) to enable faith leaders to share their faith's theology on care for the environment; outline the action they have taken so far in tackling climate change; and discuss the way forward to COP26. Faith for Earth has been invited to take part as a UN advisor to these discussions.

This series of dialogues, culminating in an event to be held in Rome prior to COP26, will provide a platform for faith leaders to articulate our common duty to address climate change, encouraging national governments to raise their ambition regarding their NDCs, to reach the Paris Agreement goals; to show how the faiths are leading the way by greening their own operations at central and local level, and making new commitments; and to encourage the faithful to take action to slow global temperature rises.



Mapping Faith Actors' preparations for COP 26

We need your help! We are aware that many organizations have been discussing and planning activities and events in the lead up to and at COP 26. While such initiatives are very much needed, and encouraged, we do need to be aligned and maximize the impact of these activities. To map these activities, provide advice and ensure coherent messages and faith approaches, we are kindly requesting you to fill the [mapping survey](#). This survey has been initiated by the working group of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the UN Task Force on Religion and Development in partnership with UNEP, UNFCCC and several faith-based organizations including the Parliament of World's Religions, the World Council of Churches, Brahma Kumaris, Bhumi Global, and the Anglican Communion Office to the UN. We count on your support to make this a fruitful exercise.

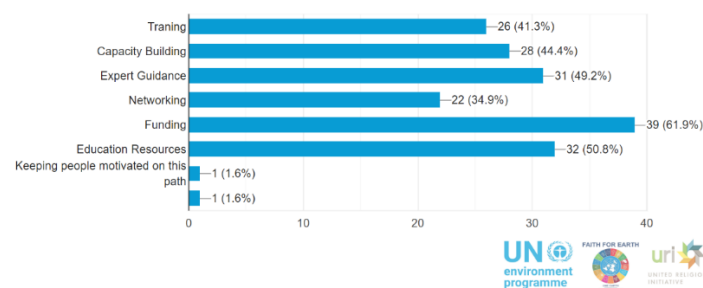


Imams, Mosques & Climate Change Workshop

The Imams, Mosques & Climate Change Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya seeks to focus on strengthening partnerships with Faith-based Organisations leadership and their knowledge-based decision support system at a grassroots level. The Workshop is part of a series of capacity building sessions facilitated by [The Bahu Trust](#). The Nairobi edition introduces a multi-stakeholder dimension to the series, seeking to engage with men, women, and youth leaders. Interest to participate in this Workshop can be shared with Azmaira (Azmaira.alibhai@un.org).

When you think about increasing environmental awareness and creating opportunities for your organization/ community to take action, what are your top 3 challenges?

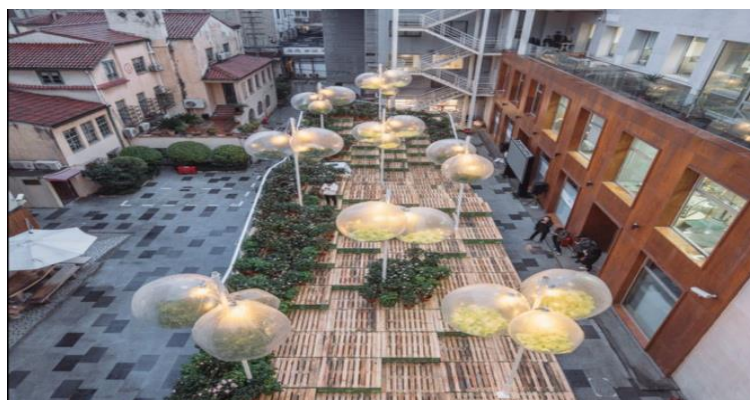
63 responses



National Faith for Earth Coordination in India

Faith for Earth announced, in its [January Newsletter](#), the launch of three National Coordination Hubs in India, Lebanon, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As part of the National Coordination Hub in India, The United Religions Initiative, in partnership with Religion World and Shristi, sought to circulate a mapping survey to a group of 70+ FBOs in and around Delhi. Seven world religions as well as interfaith organizations and Indigenous groups participated: there were 63 responses! The results of the survey will be shared in April but preliminary results indicate that in order to actively engage local, grassroots faith-based organisations in addressing the environmental challenges in India, training, capacity building, and science-based education resources are essential. URI are therefore, guided by the results of the survey in focusing on Water & Sanitation, Life on Land, and Climate Action during the Capacity Building and Development Program in March. Learn more about the [National Coordination Hubs](#).



The Living Chapel Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

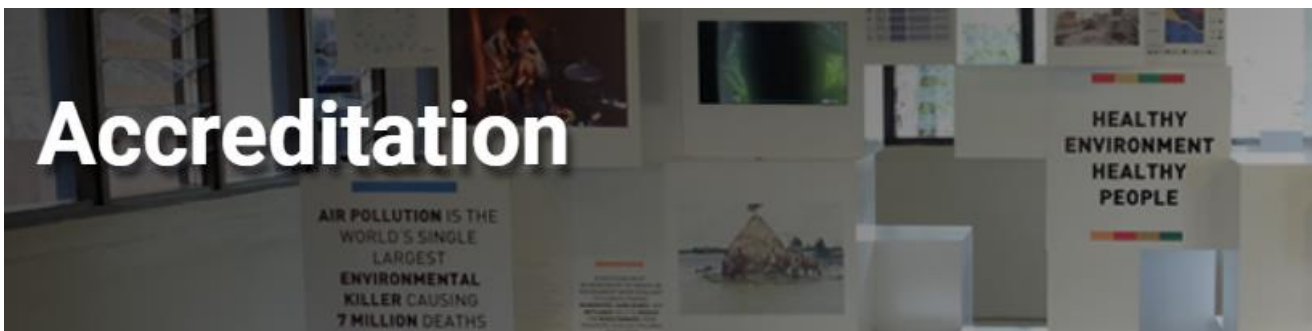
Nearly 700kg of recycled aluminium was used to create the structure of the Living Chapel, which was repurposed by the Penn College team who worked tirelessly to create what is the Living Chapel today. Parts from automotive metal stamping plants were used in their original form to create the walls alongside recycled PVC to incorporate the plants. This and more can be found in the [latest newsletter](#) of our partners at the Living Chapel.



Resources on Judaism at the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology

Our knowledge partner, the [Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology](#), has worked for over 25 years to inform and inspire people to preserve, protect, and restore the Earth community. In gratitude for the environmental contributions made by Jewish leaders, scholars, and practitioners worldwide, visit the Yale Forum website and its resources on [Judaism](#) to find:

- An [overview essay](#) that provides an introduction to Judaism and ecology
- [Statements](#) on the environment and the global ecological crisis from Jewish organizations and institutions
- Official [Climate Change declarations](#) from Jewish leaders and networks
- List of [Engaged Projects in Judaism](#) from organizations around the world who are working on environmental issues
- [Multimedia Offerings](#) and [curated YouTube playlist](#) featuring the intersection of Judaism and ecology
- A voluminous [Bibliography](#) of works that feature the environmental dimensions of Jewish traditions, beliefs, and spiritual practices
- [Advisory Specialists in Judaism](#) for the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology



We continue to encourage Faith-Based Organizations to get accredited to UNEP. With UNEA 5 first session is behind us, we encourage you to submit your accreditation requests in preparation for the second session.

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

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Medium](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



FAITH FOR EARTH

