

# FAITH FOR EARTH



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

2020 was a year that will be remembered in history as a milestone year for the “new normal”. While the year seen devastating health impacts that we continue to witness, it was also one of the hottest years in records. However, 2020 was also one of the best years for Faith for Earth achievements as we took the initiatives to higher grounds with your engagement and support. Preparations for the launch of the Faith for Earth Coalition are continuing with many FBOs sending letters of interest to UNEP’s Executive Director. This was encouraged by the consultation meeting held with the Multi-Faith Advisory Council of the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development held on 23 March 2021.

## Faith for Earth Achievement Report 2020 – From Rising to Soaring

Faith for Earths annual [Achievement Report](#) for 2020 showcases Faith for Earth’s further steps towards realising the [Strategy](#) for engaging with the faith community. We continued our journey with our partners at all levels and we have stepped up our partnerships in a strive to make a better impact. More faith-based organizations have been accredited to UNEP, thousands have engaged in discussing UNEP’s priorities and strategies, and faith leaders have engaged in policy dialogue and came together to emphasize their important role in driving sustainable development.



## A Roadmap Leading to COP26



UNEP's Faith for Earth, UNFCCC, The Multi-Faith Advisory Council for the UN Task Force on Religions, and The Interfaith Liaison Committee seek to coordinate efforts by Faith-Based Organisations leading to COP26. Be part of the **Global Interfaith Dialogue at COP26** by completing this [Survey](#).

## UN Decade: Capacity Development

FAO, UNEP's co-lead on the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and in conjunction with a coalition of 38 organisations, seek to **identify existing capacity development needs for Organisations involved in restoration efforts**.

The survey will help us determine priority activities and support needed to be deployed for an effective engagement. Faith-based organizations are encouraged to indicate "International development partners" from question 23 onwards.

The [survey](#) will remain open until **April 15, 2021**.



Reduces social & environmental vulnerabilities



Generates societal benefits



Restores, maintains or improves ecosystem health



Is supported by policies at multiple levels



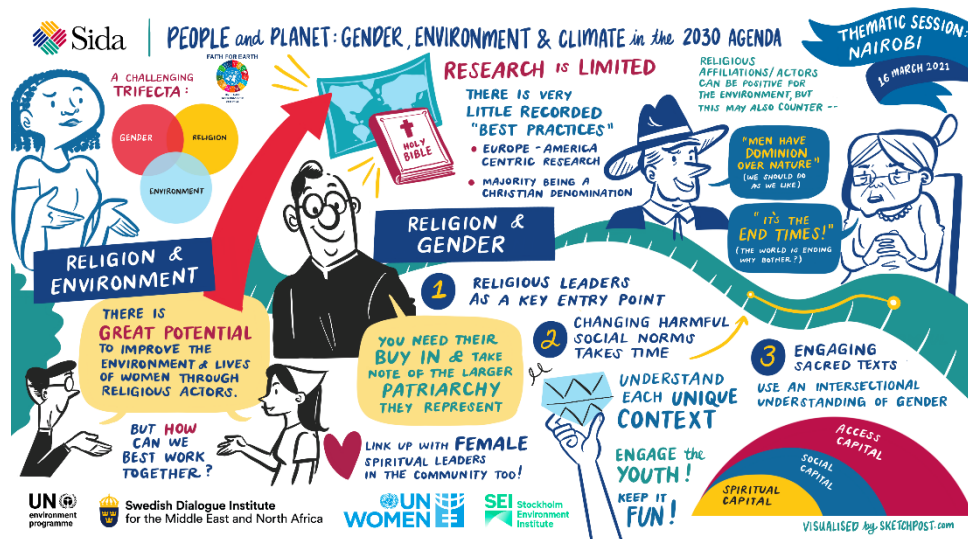
Supports equitable governance and enhances capacities

## Global Fund for Ecosystem-based Adaptation opens first call

The [Global EbA Fund](#) has opened its first Call for Proposals. Led by IUCN and UNEP, the Global EbA Fund is a quickly deployable mechanism for supporting innovative approaches to [Ecosystem-based Adaptation \(EbA\)](#). The Fund aims to encourage catalytic initiatives to help overcome barriers for upscaling EbA. In line with current IKI policies, the Fund will not provide grants directly to government partners but to organisations working directly with national, sub-national and local governments to create an enabling environment for EbA and the implementation of strategic partnerships. Learn about the [Grant Selection Criteria](#).

This call for proposals is open until **April 30, 2021 at 23:59 UTC+2**.

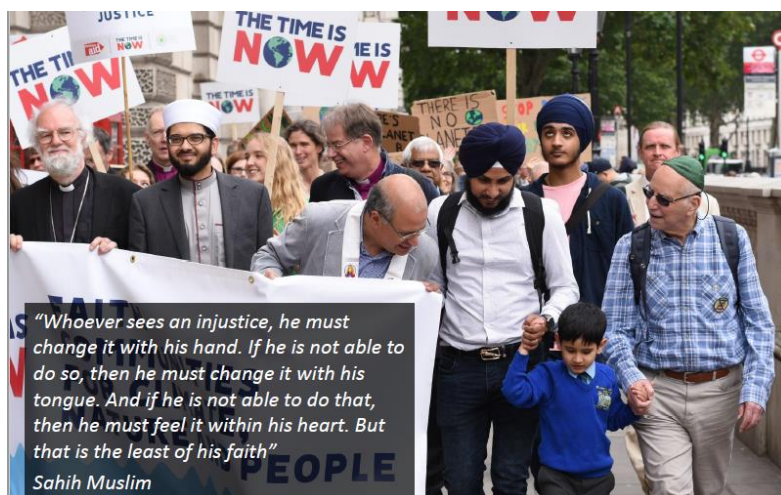




## People & Planet: Gender, Environment and Climate in the 2030 Agenda

The Sida Partnership Forum facilitated a global learning event on 16-18 March 2021 in collaboration with UNEP Faith for Earth, [UN Women Asia and the Pacific](#), [SEI – Stockholm Environment Institute](#) and the Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa, with regional learning hubs in Nairobi/Kenya, Amman/Jordan and Bangkok/Thailand as well as Härnösand in Sweden.

People and Planet: Gender, Environment and Climate in the 2030 Agenda highlighted the challenges and the opportunities between gender, environment and climate, with Faith for Earth adding one more perspective to the discussion- Inclusive Religious Leadership. The Hub focused on presenting grassroots organisations' local solutions to water management, drought resilience, and practical ways in which the local communities have derived economic benefits from environmentally sustainable projects.



## Imams, Mosques & Climate Change Workshop

The Imams, Mosques & Climate Change Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya held on 24 March 2021 in collaboration between Faith for Earth, The Bahu Trust and the Islamic Foundation on Ecology and Environmental Sustainability (IFEES). Muslim FBOs and Faith Leaders focused on local environmental challenges. The group were able to identify lacunae in the areas of environmental education, green spaces, responsible consumption, and religious festivals or observances, and demonstrated an understanding that sustainable environmental action at the local level requires innovative solutions to meet the limited financial resources and creativity.

To join the working group dedicated to addressing the challenges and opportunities established, Muslims FBOs in Kenya, environmental champions in their communities, and innovative thinkers are encouraged to email Azmaira ([Azmaira.Alibhai@un.org](mailto:Azmaira.Alibhai@un.org)).



## Christian Resources on the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology website

In honor of the Easter season, the Yale Forum celebrates the contributions of voices from within Christianity, past and present, that inspire environmental protection and care for the Earth. Explore the [Christianity](#) section of the Forum website to find:

- An [Overview Essay](#) that provides an introduction to Christianity and ecology
- [Official Statements](#) on the environment and climate change declarations from [Roman Catholic](#), [Eastern Orthodox](#), and [Protestant](#) denominational leaders and networks
- A list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on Pope Francis' encyclical [Laudato Si](#)
- List of [Engaged Projects in Christianity](#) working on environmental issues
- [Multimedia Offerings](#) and [curated YouTube playlist](#) featuring the intersection of Christianity and ecology
- A [Bibliography](#) of works that feature the environmental dimensions of Christian traditions, beliefs, and spiritual practices
- [Advisory Specialists in Christianity](#) for the Yale Forum

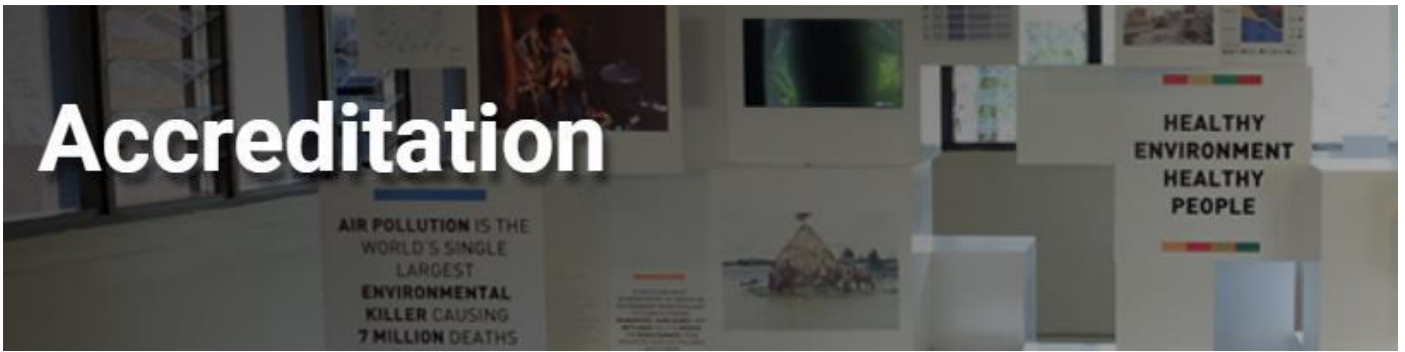


## The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative

In March, IRI-Columbia delivered training and capacity building workshops involving religious, social leaders, and indigenous peoples' groups, in all 36 local chapters on deforestation and climate change, articulating a local strategy and action plan. The action plan covers early childhood education on forest protection, creating Amazon Management Boards, river recovery, public outreach campaigns, and inter-institutional environmental roundtables.

IRI-Peru were engaged in electoral dialogues on the "[Use of the territory in the Amazon](#)" with each region focusing on specific present challenges. The IRI's strong public outreach and [Commitment for the Amazon](#) secure IRI-Peru's support and role in monitoring compliance on policies that advance protection and restoration of the Amazon.

Stay updated on [IRI Country Projects](#).



**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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