

## WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR WITH GREAT NEWS #FORNATURE

As we kick-off the new year with echos of the engaging discussions that the faith network coordinated at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15), we recall the UN Secretary General's advice to work together for a "peace pact with nature".

Now, we have a Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) with four long-term goals related to the 2050 vision for biodiversity and 23 targets for strengthening the achievement of the Framework, a foundation is laid for action.

Whereas "around 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihood, and a quarter of all modern medicines come from tropical forest plants", a "whole of society approach" must include the diverse set of values and cooperation for common goals #ForNature #GenerationRestoration.

To this end, we renew our commitment to support the Faith + Biodiversity UN Coordination Group and the larger faith network to deliver on this ambitious Global Biodiversity Framework.

UNEP Faith for Earth would like to wish all our friends and partners a New Year of peace, prosperity and partnerships.

[READ THE GBF](#)

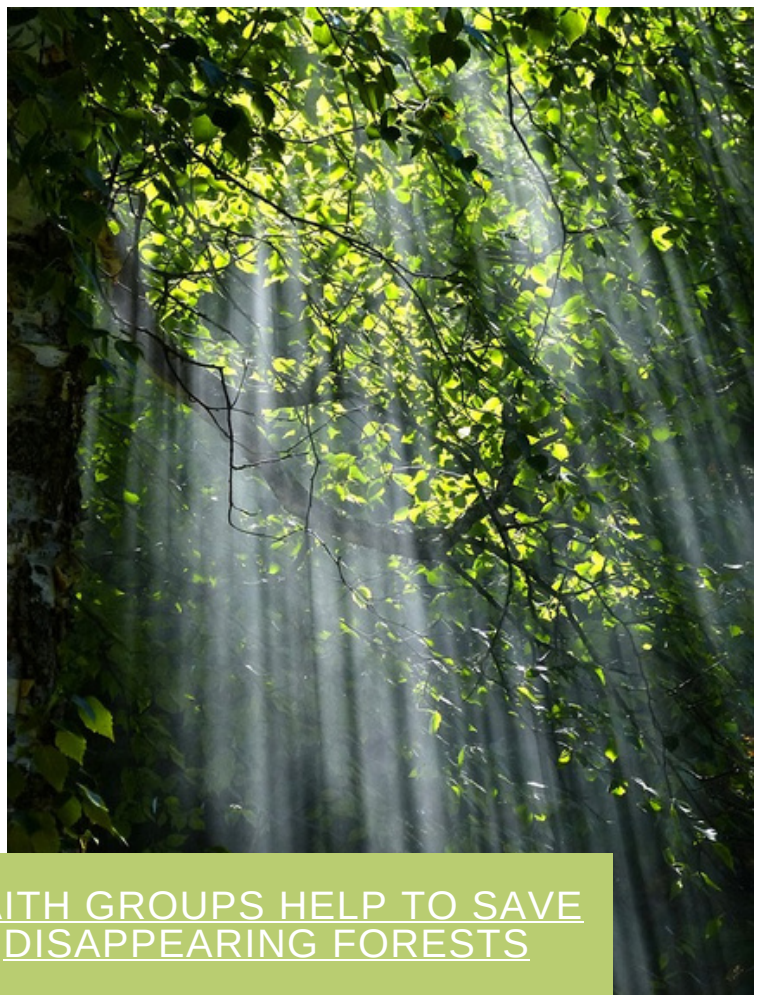
The Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will only succeed if everyone plays a part.

WWF, Trillion Trees and UNEP Faith for Earth offer an easy, step-by-step reading for activists, local communities, and faith actors who look for implementing catalytic actions toward ecosystem restoration.

Faith actors may use this toolkit to effectively communicate content oriented to promote inclusive and participatory governance, restoration activities, address causes of degradation, and more. I'm interested to read more.

See also:

- [10 Principles for Ecosystem Restoration](#)
- [Community Organizing Toolkit on Ecosystem Restoration, International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#)
- [Sacred Groves: How the Spiritual Connection Helps Protect Nature](#)



[FAITH GROUPS HELP TO SAVE  
DISAPPEARING FORESTS](#)

Mosaic Interfaith Youth Action, Massachusetts, USA hosted their annual MLK Service Learning Day in partnership with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization to mobilise youth ages 12-18 years in a workshop focusing on climate justice.

Dr. Iyad Abumoghli was pleased to make the opening remarks #Youth #ClimateJustice



The poster features the logos for Mosaic Interfaith Youth Action and Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). The main title is "MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SERVICE-LEARNING DAY". Below this, a red box contains the date and time: "SUNDAY JAN 15, 2022 2:00PM - 6:00PM". A photograph of Dr. Iyad Abumoghli speaking into a microphone is on the left. Text on the right invites participation: "Please join the Mosaic & GBIO communities at our MLK Service-Learning Day workshop!" and "We will come together as a community to honor the work & legacy of MLK Jr. and his work in advocacy and climate justice."

## ROLE OF FAITH IN PROTECTING THE PLANET



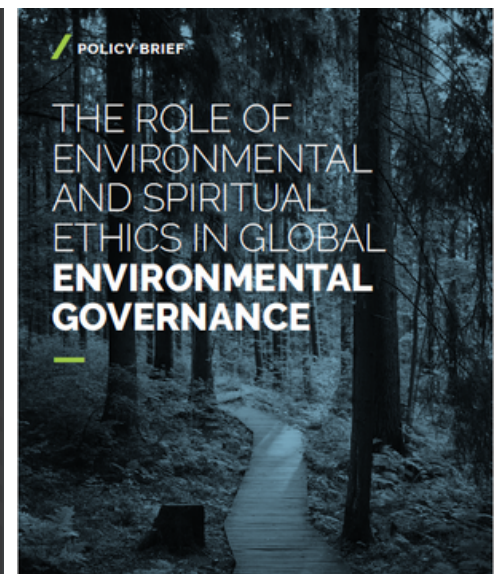
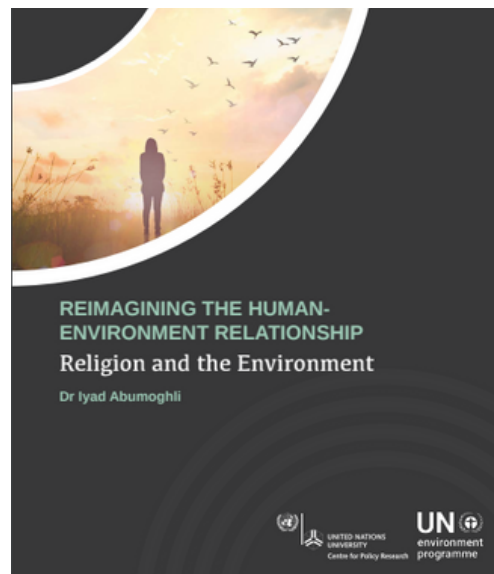
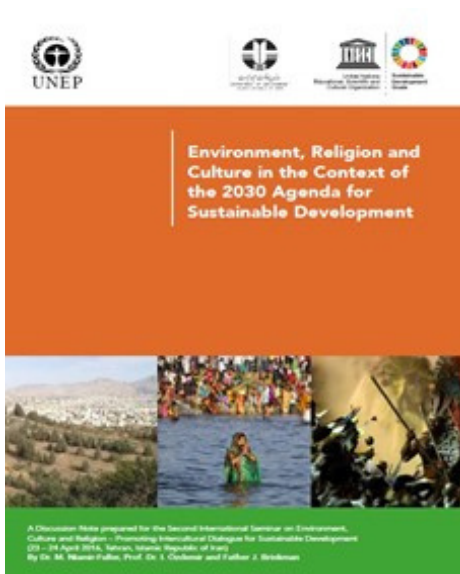
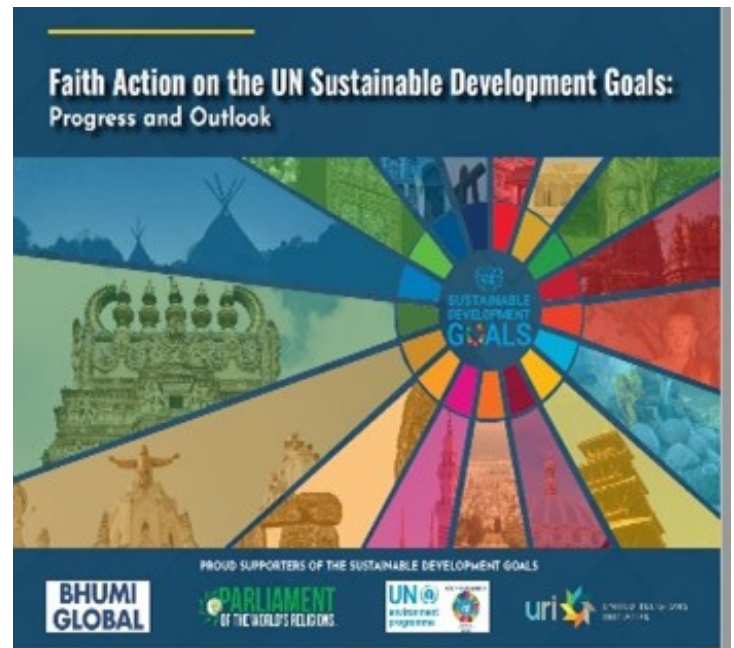
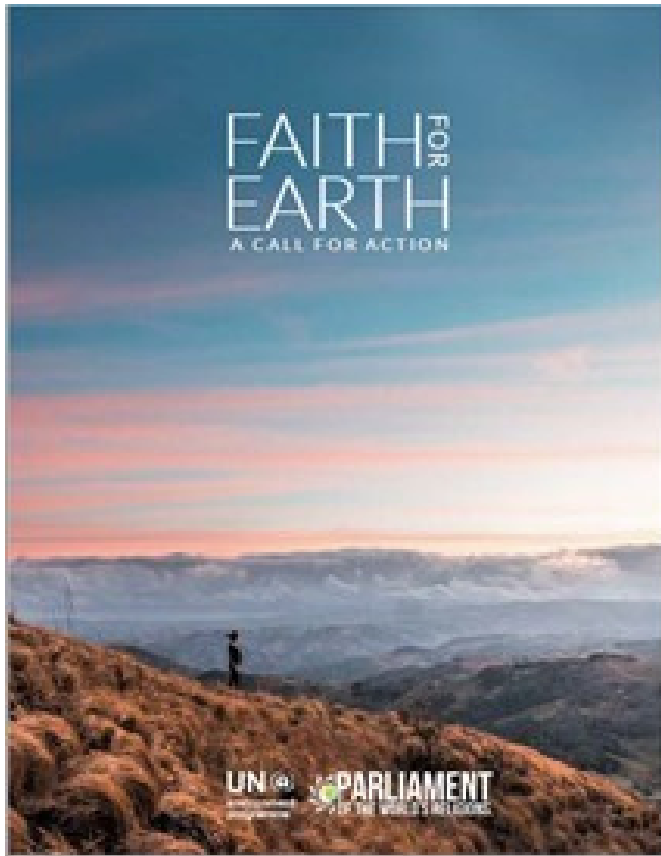
URI- MENA Office in Jordan organized a full-day workshop on 17 December 2022 on the "Role of Faith in Protecting the Earth" shedding light on the important role of the faith-based organizations and religious leaders in mobilizing people to respond to the climate crisis.

This workshop was held as part of the Faith for Earth National Coordination Hub.

The event was attended by 45 people from 5 countries representing several community-based organizations, academia (students and faculty), religious leaders, subject matter experts and young people.

[Read a summary of the workshop.](#)

# PUBLICATIONS



## ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE UPDATE: JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2022

### LECTURE SERIES ON RELIGION AND ECOLOGY

Humboldt University's Research Programme on Religious Communities and Sustainable Development launched a Lecture Series on Religion and Ecology featuring Dr. Iyad Abumoghli on The Role of Religions, Values, Ethics and Spiritual Responsibility.



**UN environment programme**

*"The role of Environmental and Spiritual Ethics in Guiding Nature Based Solutions"*  
5 October 2020  
By Iyad Abuomghali and Euan McCartney  
Faith for Earth Initiative

**Introduction**

We are currently facing unprecedented multiple crises of climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, zoonotic diseases amongst many others. Unsustainable human activities continue to degrade vast areas of the planet and if left unchecked could result in widespread ecosystem collapse and further biodiversity loss. The climate crisis continues to be the greatest existential threat to humanity and will exacerbate challenges of poverty, food security, water supplies, natural disaster resilience and peace. This crisis transcends all barriers and will negatively impact everybody as despite drastic developments over time, all civilisations remain firmly rooted in nature and cannot afford to destroy it. We must act quickly to reverse this trend before the negative impacts on human beings, and the planet, become irreversible.

Many consider humanity to have entered the age of the Anthropocene, whereby the human race is the single most influential factor dictating the current and future state of planet earth. There are no quick technical fixes to solve the climate crisis and our overexploitation of natural resources. We cannot afford to be complacent and hope that science and technology alone will solve these pressing problems. Instead, transitioning to a more sustainable future requires the engagement of the full spectrum of society and the employment of innovative approaches that address climate change and protect the natural environment based on behavioural and environmentally ethical changes in production and consumption patterns. One of these approaches, and the focus of this paper, is that of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), an emerging concept with great potential. This paper will outline what NBS are, how the UN is supporting these practices, how FBOs are already engaging with NBS and what can be done to scale up action. This will be framed in the context of environmental and spiritual ethics that will help galvanise momentum to adopt nature-based solutions.

**What are Environmental and Spiritual Ethics?**

Environmental ethics can be described as a set of norms describing how humans should behave towards nature and its resources. These norms reflect a moral attitude concerning what is viewed as good/permissible or bad/unethical. Given that the climate crisis is rooted in a complex web of economic, social and cultural factors, as well as belief systems, social attitudes and perceptions, it is worth considering how these ethics impact our ability to address it. The unsustainable socio-economic systems, and consumption and production patterns that dominate much of the world today, arguably reflect belief systems and social attitudes. To make global human activity more sustainable therefore requires an examination and potential return of the values, beliefs and ethics that drive human beings and their relationship with the natural environment.

For many people, these values and ethics will be derived from or inspired largely by their particular faith. There exists a multitude of different spiritual traditions and religions throughout the world, varying in size from a few hundred adherents to many millions, reflecting the incredibly diverse cultures of the world. Overall, roughly 85% of the global population is

**People and Planet:  
Faith in the 2030 Agenda**

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**UN environment programme** **FAITH FOR EARTH**

United Nations Environment Programme  
Faith for Earth Initiative

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

**UN environment programme** **FAITH FOR EARTH**

**Guidelines on  
Green Houses of Worship**

Home / about un environment programme / faith earth initiative

**Strategy**

**UN environment**

**Faith for Earth Dialogue  
United Nations  
Environment Assembly 4  
Synthesis Paper**

PUBLICATION

**Faith for Nature: Our Sacred  
Commitment**

14 October 2020

CONFERENCE

**Faith For Nature: Multi-Faith  
Action**

7 - 8 October 2020



**Tree growing for conservation and ecosystem restoration:  
A guide for faith-based actors**

Printed on 10 December 2022

The first-ever tree growing guide for faith groups aims to support organizations in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss

Knowledge Hub - E-Learning - E-Learning Courses

**Faith, Environment and Climate Change**

Type	Moderated Online Course	Fees	Free of Charge
Number of Modules	8 Modules	Programme Area	Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Interreligious Dialogue
Duration	8 weeks	Start Dates	The first Monday of each month

ANNUAL REPORT

**Faith for Earth: Achievement Report**

21 November 2022

These annual reports highlight the achievements of the Faith for Earth Initiative and progress made towards the attainment of its three overarching goals:

- 1) Strengthen Partnership with Faith-Based Organizations' Leadership for Policy Impact
- 2) Green Faith-Based Organizations' Investments, Operations and Assets
- 3) Establish an Accessible Knowledge-Based Support System

**Related Updates**

**Faith for Earth Updates - 8 December 2022**

In this edition of the Faith for Earth Newsletter, discover how faiths are engaged at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15)

**Faith for Earth Updates - 31 October 2022**

In this edition of the Faith for Earth Newsletter, discover how faiths are engaged at COP27

**Faith for Earth Updates - 14 October 2022**

In this edition of the Faith for Earth Newsletter "Faith for Earth in October" discover: GIWA's Campaign on Global Handwashing Day (15 October 2022...)

**All Updates and News**

See all the newsletters from Faith for Earth

**Values, Culture, and Spirituality:  
Ecosystems Restoration  
Conversation Guide**

**Center for Earth Ethics** **uri** UNITED RELIGIOUS INITIATIVES

**FAITH FOR EARTH COALITION**

A global Coalition to inspire cooperation with and among faith leaders and faith-based organizations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for a world where everything is in balance.

## List

1. [Faith for Earth: A Call for Action](#)
2. [Faith Action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Progress and Outlook](#)
3. [UNEP: Environment, religion and culture in the context of the 2030 Agenda](#)
4. [Reimagining the Human- Environment Relationship: Religion and the Environment](#)
5. [The Role of Environmental and Spiritual Ethics in Global Environmental Governance](#)
6. [The Role of Environmental and Spiritual Ethics in Galvanizing Nature Based Solutions Paper](#)
7. [People and Planet: Faith in the 2030 Agenda](#)
8. [A Strategy for Engagement The Role of Faith Leaders and Faith-Based Organisations in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021-2030\)](#)
9. [Guidelines for Greening Houses of Worship](#)
10. [Faith for Earth Strategy](#)
11. [Faith for Earth Dialogue Synthesis Report \(UNEA 4\)](#)
12. [Declaration Faith for Nature: Our Sacred Commitment](#)
13. [FAITH FOR NATURE: Multi-faith action](#)
14. [Tree growing for conservation and ecosystem restoration: A guide for faith-based actors](#)
15. [Faith, Environment and Climate Change - series of thematic courses](#)
16. [Ecosystems Restoration Conversation Guide](#)
17. [Faith for Earth Achievement Reports](#)
18. [Faith for Earth Coalition](#)
19. [Faith for Earth Newsletters](#)