

REPORT ON FAITH FOR EARTH COUNCILLORS PROGRAMME

UNEP AND URI



FAITH FOR EARTH



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF CONTENTS

Preface	6
Report	7
1.0 Genesis	8
1.1 Who are Faith based organizations?	8
1.2 Role of FBOs in SDGs	8
1.3 What is the Faith for Earth (FEC) Councillor?	9
1.4 Who is a Faith for Earth (FEC) Councillor?	9
2.0 Project Boundary	9
3.0 Vision	9
4.0 Goal	9
5.0 Objectives	10
6.0 Program Structure	10
7.0 Key Milestones	10
8.0 Approach and Methodology	10
9.0 Outputs	11
10.0 Project Outcomes	12
11.0 Phase - 1	13
11.1 Key Highlights	13
11.2 Priority SDGs	15
12.0 Phase - 2	16
12.1 1 st Meeting	16
12.2 2 nd Meeting	17
12.3 3 rd Meeting	18
13.0 Phase - 3	21
13.1 Day 1	21
13.2 Day 2	25
14.0 Phase 4	26
15.0 Phase 5	26
16.0 Phase 6	26
17.0 Key Attributes of FEC	27
18.0 Responsibilities of FEC	27

19.0 Conclusions and Way Forward	27
19.1 Conclusions	27
19.2 Way Forward	27
20.0 Partners	28
21.0 List of Annexures	28
Acknowledgement	29
Annexures	30
Annexure 1	30
Annexure 2	39
Annexure 3	46
Annexure 4	47
Annexure 5	49
Annexure 6	53
Annexure 7	55
Annexure 8	60
Snapshots	62

LIST OF FIGURES

1 Key Milestones	10
2 Priorities for three environmental challenges	14
3 Six SDGs covering environmental aspects	14
4 Top three SDGs selected from the survey	15

LIST OF TABLES

1 Outcomes of Faith for Earth (FEC) Councillor Programme, India	12
2 Responses obtained from the Faith for Earth Councillor Programme, UNEP-URI	14
3 Matrix on selection of SDGs by FBOs	15
4 Opportunities and Challenges from 2 nd Meeting with Faith Leaders	19

PREFACE

The world is currently facing a triple planetary crisis exacerbated by COVID-19 including climate change, nature degradation and pollution. The frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards continues to increase everywhere.

Biodiversity loss is at an alarming state threatening of losing one million species by the end of the century. While pollution is killing millions of people annually.

There is a growing awareness in India for biodiversity loss and grave concerns regarding water, soil integrity and the roles humans play in reversing global warming. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration that accompanies the recognition of the first cohort of Faith for Earth Councillors advocates for the responsible production and consumption at all levels as to stop and reverse ecosystem degradation, promote access to safe, clean water, and serve as finding natural solutions as carbon sinks.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a local and global framework to address these challenges and develop solutions that bring about ecological balance, social equity, and healthy economies. Unless there is a transformative shift in behaviours and attitudes towards green infrastructure, sustainable economies and financing, and responsible consumption, the targets set in the Paris Agreement and the goals of the 2030 Agenda will not be met.

The task at-hand requires compassion and trust-building, starting from actions at the local level and moving to a global scale.

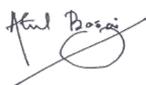
Faith-based Organisations (FBOs), are considered important and influential actors as spiritual advisors, social leaders, and frontline responders for humanitarian support. This is both because of the deep connections they share locally through their devotees [common understanding], and supporters as well as their theological and spiritual teachings that emphasize acts of

peace, harmony, and care for all of creation. FBOs are effective institutional spaces to provide education and amplifying the message about caring for Earth and related planetary crises.

Recognizing this perspective, UNEP's Faith for Earth Initiative, in partnership with the United Religions Initiative (URI) launched an innovative training in 2021 to bring interfaith and intra-faith communities and institutions together around climate action: The Faith for Earth Councillor Programme. In India, the project was implemented with the support of URI Cooperation Circle members, Religion World and Shristi.

This report documents the cumulative journey of the four-month programme and each of its four phases. Readers will learn elements of the project including objectives, activities, outcomes and first-hand perspectives from some of the stakeholders who participated in making this initiative an inclusive, diverse and productive exercise. The report captures the core messages of faith leaders on key questions and concerns related to the planetary crisis and possible engagement strategies for their followers. The report is supported by tables and figures, illustrating various phases of the project with its annexures, which might be of interest for those who are interested in reading examples or success stories, or reviewing the feedback compiled from the online survey. The report is a culmination of the many reflections, thoughts and sources of motivation supporting FBOs across the length and breadth of India, with focus on the National Capital Region (NCR).

The team of authors, working collaboratively across UNEP, URI and partners, sincerely hope that this report might be a worthwhile resource, supporting future interventions where science and faith come together to create a healthy thriving world.



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**REPORT ON FAITH FOR EARTH
COUNCILLORS PROGRAMME**

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“To resolve the covid-19 pandemic and environmental emergencies, we must work together as an international community. Like the coronavirus, environmental crises respect no boundaries. Isolation is a trap. We should work together NOW and TOGETHER.”

- Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, 2020



1.0 Genesis

There is an ongoing pandemic and the world is already in the midst of a climate emergency. The last decade has taught us that business as usual scenario would invariably bring a highly vulnerable scenario of increased climate refugees, drought, deforestation and species extinction.

Humanity is facing a major challenge in environment, social and economic spheres, which would take years to recover. However, there are windows of opportunities which if tapped now, could provide us with a chance to have better future.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are one such set of global goals to address these challenges and develop solutions that bring about ecological balance, social equity, and healthy economies. The interdependent nature of the 17 goals further demonstrates our global challenges and local problems are linked; and that they can best be solved through an integrated approach.

Education, campaigns, advocacy, activism and actions around climate change are some of the others. Partnership, collaboration and joint efforts of all stakeholders can accelerate the accomplishment of the vision of these global goals. One of the key stakeholders in the fight for equality and equity has been the Faith based organisations.

1.1 Who are Faith based organisations?

In 2008, a conference, The Global Forum of FBOs, organised by UNFPA with Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs) recognised these entities as religious, faith-based, and/or faith-inspired groups, which operate as registered or unregistered non-profit institutions

The World Bank also recognise FBO as “often structured around development and/or relief delivery programs and are sometimes ran simultaneously at the national, regional and international levels. Moreover, faith-based and religious entities contribute distinctive assets, resources, and capabilities in combatting poverty and boosting shared prosperity.”
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/partners/brief/faith-based-organizations>

1.2 Role of FBOs in SDGs

Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) have been a vital, necessary and influential group of actors in attaining the SDGs and changing the current course of climate and societal catastrophe. They are often considered as the 4th largest economic power, they own 10% habitable and estimated 15% educational institutions globally. On the ground, FBOs provide immediate support and care to people. Faith Leaders motivates, elevate the trust of communities and inspire action that brings social change and transformation to villages and cities around the globe, much of it in alignment with and working toward

the SDGs. When appropriately informed and sufficiently prepared, FBOs invite wide-spread local participation and mass mobilization for broad behaviour change, and cultural shifts.

Faith, ecology and science form the new generation pivots through which the message of SDGs could be disseminated to various corners of society. The numerous interactions, discussions and dialogues between diverse & faith based organizations and environmental programmes through their executing agencies time and over have proved the urgent need to sensitize different tiers of faith leaders and followers on the subjects of ecological consciousness including air, water, air, soil, noise, food and biodiversity systems. Such interventions could lay the foundations for appreciating and understanding the gravity of the situation prevalent among the faith based management structures for enhanced dissemination of the message of social equity, equality and environmental conservation through the lens of SDGs. This is also in line with the UNEP work with faith based groups. Science of things (SoT) could be integrated as part of their spiritual and moral practice for fulfilment towards SDGs.

The ensuing program was conceived based on a preliminary conversations with Faith Based organizations, interfaith organizations, faith inspired individuals and communities.

1.3 What is the Faith for Earth (FEC) Councillors Programme?

The FEC Programme is an informal implementation mechanism of UNEP's Faith for Earth initiative as a result of the MoU signed with the United Religions Initiative (URI) in 2020. The Faith for Earth Councillors Programme is coordinated by UNEP's India Office, and is one of the four National Coordination Hubs for the Faith for Earth Initiative for the period 2021-2022.

The Faith for Earth National Coordination Hubs seek to mobilise high-level faith leaders and FBOs to address the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity

loss, and pollution.

1.4 Who is a Faith for Earth (FEC) Councillor?

The FEC representing the FBO or community is someone who is very interested in caring for creation and is eager to learn more and invite others to get involved for education, campaigns, advocacy and action. The FEC is a recognized member within the organization or community and an individual demonstrating empathic leadership qualities.

2.0 Project Boundary

The current programme was initially scoped for the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi in India. However, with an ambitious team, it was decided to open the 1st phase survey for all relevant Indian faith based organisations as many of them have their headquarters outside the NCR and their work could be recorded in the survey. A total of 71 responses were captured by the deadline. The programme, therefore had focussed on local initiatives in and around NCR area but reflects the national canvas of environmental faith based organisations.

3.0 Vision

The vision of this program is creating a vibrant faith based network of religious leaders and organizations that are environmentally conscious and aware of the urgency that the environment around us needs.

4.0 Goal

The goal of this project is to engage and inspire faith based institutions and communities on prioritizing environmental concerns through a well-defined process of sensitization, capacity building and implementation. The associated goals are to encourage them to design, develop and execute programmes in key concern areas for their followers, members and devotees.

5.0 Objectives

The objectives of the project were -

1. Identification of top priorities of SDGs among faith based institutions in India.
2. Sensitisation regarding environmental concerns through focussed groups leading to Faith Ecology Councillors (FEC).
3. Motivate FECs for enabling the institutions to appreciate and act for conservation of natural resources .
4. A network of FBOs prepared to speak and take action supporting planetary crisis.
5. Inspire to take visible local / global action in identified area(s) of focus.

6.0 Program Structure

The Faith for Earth Councillors Programme is a series of online and in-person training sessions to educate and equip faith leaders with an engagement plan and tools so they effectively communicate with, and inspire others, to respond quickly and effectively to care for the Creation. Designed and conceptualized with the help of civil society groups like **Religion World** and **Shristi** in India, the training program seeks to build and document an

active and inspiring network that models cross sectoral learning in order to build cultures of peace, justice, and healing for all, especially our Mother Earth.

7.0 Key Milestones

The project had well defined milestones to achieve, which are illustrated in **Figure 1**. The project was divided into three phases before the selection of FEC followed by two more phases.

These are further described in Methodology and Approach.

8.0 Approach and Methodology

The approach for this project was participatory through directed dialogues and focussed group discussions. The methodology consisted of both secondary and primary interventions. The research component of the proposal was based on responses from a structured online questionnaire, which was designed for the project purpose. The questionnaire was shared with 100+ faith based institutions in India. Necessary follow up was carried out for improved response rate within a given time frame.

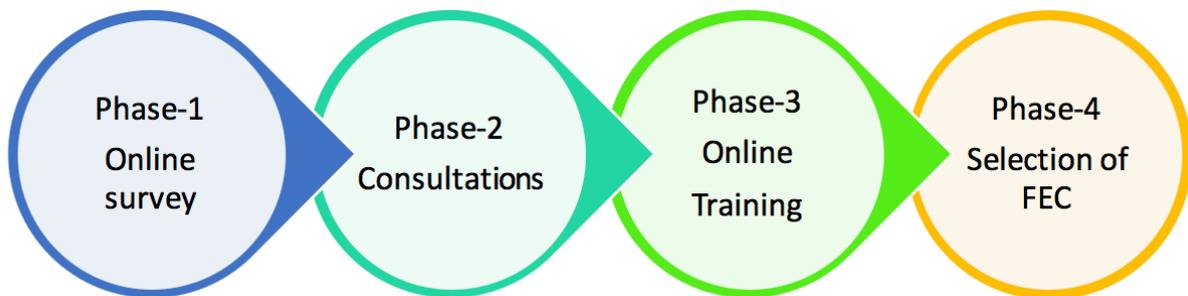


Figure 1: Key Milestones

The response so obtained from the FBOs was tabulated and analysed for relevant data as per the scope of the project. This formed the basis of further investigation and implementation.

The top three priorities in terms of SDGs was identified for the next phase of workshops and capacity building. However, it was ensured that the coverage of workshops is in line with environmental values and consciousness. These were referenced through scientific, ethical and cultural perspectives.

The cluster meetings were conducted with faith representatives across 6 faith groups. In addition to the above, the project included one interfaith two days online workshop.

The pedagogy of science of things (SoT) was followed in these meetings. Participants were presented with a brief background of current pressing issues on the environment through a showcase of scientific evidence. These were then be weaved into set of three pertinent questions for their responses.

1. The first question was about the aspect which would resonate with the followers of FBOs.

2. The second question to the participants was on their role to support the(se) cause(s),

3. The third question for the participants was to identify one opportunity and one barrier in implementing the possible actions for resolving the three planetary crisis.

9.0 Output

1. Connect a large number of small, medium and large sized faith based organizations, communities and leaders with UNEP for this program from different religions to create faith champions.
2. Build an interfaith network of faith ambassadors from Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, Christianity, indigenous cultures and traditions spread across Delhi.
3. Understand the existing capacity and theoretical understanding of faith institutions on the subject.
4. Build consensus on solutions and action oriented goals by using discussion, deliberation and feedback form as the methodology.
5. Build capacity of second line leadership by an online training or restricted physical meeting.
6. Build e resources in the form of key messages from first line high level faith leaders, short movie of proceedings from the cluster meetings and photographs for the documentation in stage two.
7. Recognize some leaders on world environment day by UNEP for their contributions.

10.0 Project Outcomes

The project was able to deliver the following outcomes -

Phase	Intervention	Outcomes
Phase-1: Online Survey	Set of structured questions for obtaining perspectives from local FBOs on environmental challenges, opportunities and needs thereof	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritization of SDGs 2. Current status of FBOs on key environmental challenges 3. Identification of needs of FBOs 4. Understand the existing level of environmental interventions 5. Mapping strengths and challenges
Phase-2: Consultations	A participatory focused group meeting with faith based leaders based on four questions on the current affairs of planetary crisis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding existing best practices or examples on ground. 2. Account for uniqueness in each religious system and highlighting the commonalities amongst the groups. 3. Understanding the need gaps from a religious institutional perspective. 4. Building ownership amongst the faith community for the process and take lead in solution building. 5. Mapping of strengths and challenges.
Phase-3: Training and Capacity Building	Two days online workshop curated for representatives of FBOs on community engagement, science and theological aspects of planetary crisis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encouraging faith leaders to pledge for a cleaner and greener environment 2. Building capacities of faith leaders that would impact the overall intent and working of their institutions. 3. Encourage eminent leaders to give scientifically informed messages to the public for bringing behavioural change in their followers. 4. Marrying science with religion. 5. Adapting scientific knowledge to suit the needs of religious institutions and common people. 6. Energizing leadership to undertake actions and mobilize community change behaviours.

Table 1: Outcomes of Faith for Earth (FEC) Councillor Programme, India

11.0 Phase-1

The objective of Phase-1 was to seek responses from a large representative group of FBOs operating at local and regional level. Therefore, the survey was circulated through email and social media channels for encouraging organisations to respond. This was also an attempt to contemplate the understanding between the institutions or organisations on utilising their faith based inspirations, knowledge, teachings, wisdom and scriptures for the good of environment, if any. The survey was also circulated through **URIs Cooperation Circles particularly, Religion World and Shristi.**

A list of **21 questions** targeted towards environmental concerns and the organisation's perspective were included as part of Phase-1 online survey from FBOs. These are provided as Annexure-1 to this report. A total of **71 responses** were obtained from the survey. It is interesting to note that out of the respondents, 20% of the organisations operate at local level and international level, while 60% at national level, which characterises that the survey also captured a national perspective. 62% of these organisations shared that they have a devotee and outreach base of 10,000 people or more, which cumulatively covers **a population base of more than 4 lakhs** from this survey.

The survey responses were collected through a google form. These were then classified into different faith and thematic categories. In terms of faith, the responses were then separated into the following seven major faiths (in alphabetical order)

1. Bahai
2. Buddhist
3. Christianity
4. Hindu
5. Islam
6. Jain
7. Sikh
8. Others*

* There were some responses from organisations or entities which recognise themselves as interfaith as well as from indigenous communities. Some of the responses were also from sects which follow a general faith path but have their own philosophies and practices.

11.1 Key Highlights

The key highlights from the survey are presented

1. 100% of the respondents do care about the present state of environment and believed that FBOs can be a partner in addressing key environmental challenges.
2. 50% of the respondents shared that they do understand the environment challenges we face and opportunities thereafter
3. In terms of awareness on three key issues namely climate change, biodiversity and waste management, the survey captured the trend as provided in **Figure 2**. It can be inferred that on an average, 40% of respondents show confidence of their high awareness quotient on these subjects, while 50% of the respondents voted to seek more resources for issues related to biodiversity. Around 20% of those completed the survey, stated their existing command on subjects related to climate change. This trend analysis provides that among the three subjects, better awareness on biodiversity followed by waste management is sought as compared to climate change.
4. There were six SDGs which were pointed for their choice of picking up the top three ones. There were however, no specific order of the chosen SDGs. The six SDGs provided in the questionnaire covers environmental aspects. These are illustrated in **Figure 3**.

Table 2 provides the number of responses obtained from different FBOs during the project. These could also fairly reflect the general trend of representation within the country.

Rate your awareness at a local, regional and national about:

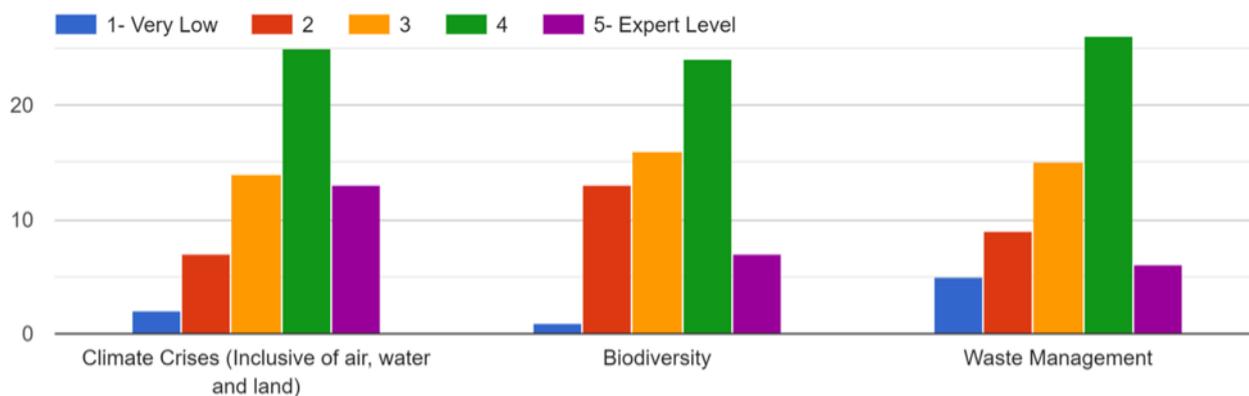


Figure 2: Priorities for three environmental challenges



Figure 3: Six SDGs covering environmental aspects

S.No	FBO	Respondents
1.	Bahai	01
2.	Buddhist	06
3.	Christian	07
4.	Hindu	25
5.	Islam	13
6.	Jain	07
7.	Sikh	08
8.	Others	04
	Total	71

Table 2: Responses obtained from the Faith for Earth Councillor Programme, UNEP-URI

11.2 Priority SDGs

The top three SDGs (**Figure 4**) which emerged from the survey across all faith groups in order of maximum votes pertains to climate change followed by water and sanitation and then life on land. There are eight organisations who have stated working on all the six SDGs.



Figure 4: Top three SDGs selected from the survey

The listing of the SDGs by different faith based organisations are provided in **Table 3**. The number indicate the votes polled for respective SDGs through the survey. The most prioritised SDG is marked in **blue** and the least one in **red**.

SDG 14, life below water was the least preferred or chosen SDGs. It could also imply that a more thorough sensitisation is required for this goal within the Faith based organisations.

The survey revealed that 89% of the organisations do undertake some kind of activities in the environmental sector. The rest 11% show their willingness to undertake similar programmes.

67.5% respondents stated that they were carrying out the environmental activities for 5 years and more.

A majority of the FBOs selected training (45% of the respondents) and educational resources (39%) as their top two needs for accomplishing a meaningful response to environmental crisis.

More than 80% of those who contributed towards the survey work with Youth groups.

The top two key expectations were creating a visual resource guide for Faith based leaders and organisations on the planetary crisis and granting recognition as Faith for Earth Councillors.

A slide deck illustrating an extract of the various responses obtained during the survey is provided as Annexure-2.

S.No	Faith	SDG6	SDG 7	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15
1.	Bahai			01			
2.	Buddhist	02	03	05	06	02	05
3.	Christian	02	04	01	04	00	04
4.	Hindu	21	10	08	22	01	15
5.	Islam	09	03	02	01	01	06
6.	Jain	06	04	02	05	01	03
7.	Sikh	03	04	02	04	01	04
8.	Others	02	02	02	03	00	03
	Overall Votes	46	30	34	45	07	40

Table 3: Matrix on selection of SDGs by FBOs

12.0 Phase-2

As part of a four months-long initiative, Phase 2 of the Programme consisted of three cluster meetings with high-level FBOs from the Christian, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Baha'i and Sikh communities along with other spiritualities. These meetings were held at the UN House in New Delhi on the 12th, 17th and 19th March 2021, to seek synergies between the ongoing work of many faith institutions and the vision of the UNEP.

These were aimed at strengthening and consolidating the network of FBOs that are working to address environmental emergencies.

Adhering to the Covid-19 guidelines, these meetings sought to engage with faith leaders primarily from Delhi, only to have a more nuanced engagement at an expansive scale through online convening/training meetings in April 2021. The full list of participants along with their affiliating organisations for Phase-2 are provided in Annexure-3

12.1 1st Meeting

In the first meeting held on the **12th of March 2021**, the tone was set by the phrase *“Plastics and climate change are the new immortals of this modern world.”* Stressing that Governments alone cannot achieve poverty reduction, environmental goals, peace and security, **Dr Iyad Abumoghli, Director- Faith for Earth, UNEP**, emphasised the importance to have everyone on board, including private and social sectors. One such important community is the FBOs, which have been proudly and boldly undertaking work on issues such as biodiversity conservation, pollution and climate change, he stated. To fulfil the aim of living in harmony with nature, **Faith for Earth Initiative Strategy** for the engagement of Faith-based Organisations, list three goals:

1. To strengthen partnerships with Faith-based Organisations' leadership for policy impact;
2. Green faith-based organisations investments, operations and assets; and
3. To strengthen the knowledge-based decision support system.

The triple planetary crises that the world is grappling with are pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss, and this assumes importance as the UN have declared the present decade as the decade of ecosystem restoration.

Dr Iyad mentioned an example of policy dialogue interjections, such as UNEA 5 held in 2021, in which faith leaders met global politicians and discussed issues of the UNEA, especially nature based solutions covering insights and experience of nature based solutions from faith based perspectives, indigenous knowledge, livelihood, poverty and health. He revealed that the UNEP Faith for Earth is working on creating the **Faith for Earth Coalition** in 2020 consisting of four Coalition Councils:

- 1. The Council of Eminent Leaders:** Composed of high-level faith leaders representing major and minor world religions.
- 2. The Youth Council:** Composed of young faith leaders and members of youth movements advocating for the protection of the Earth.
- 3. The Network of FBOs:** Composed of faith-based organizations with a focus on the environment or those working with (local) faith communities responding to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 4. The Faith-Science Consortium:** Composed of religious scholars, scientists and environmentalists to bridge the gap between environmental science and religions.

Mr Atul Bagai, Head of UN Environment Country Office, India, resonated with the sharings of Dr Iyad and requested the faith leaders to lend support in ensuring strong environmental actions. He emphasized that *Peace with Nature* should be a part of the messaging and urged FBOs to take this forward and widely disseminate the concept. Another dimension, he referred to, was that of the linkage between the environment and health, the

health issues pertaining not only to humans but also to the planet. He shared that India was the first country to recognize this issue and form a high-level steering committee at a policy level. Mr Atul stressed that as FBOs have a vast sphere of influence, they could be the catalyst for a green future and harmonious existence.

Following the keynote and welcome speeches, all faith leaders evoked blessings for Mother Earth from their respective holy books, focusing on the importance of nature in the Holy Scriptures.

The discussion followed was moderated by **Mrs Gayatri Raghwa, UN Environment Education Consultant and FBO Coordinator, UNEP India**. Along with sharing their good practices, the leaders were asked to identify one challenge and one opportunity which they perceive concerning the environment.

Rev. Anil J. T. Couto shared the several initiatives by the Church such as recycling programs, green parishes, green churches, green daises, ecological consciousness or commission of ecology. He also mentioned that due to the vastness of the problem, what we face is not easy to respond to unless political will is present along with due support for NGOs and FBOs. **Father Paul Moonjely** outlined that there are 174 catholic daises, and faith based response is one of their major thrust. They work on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as the core area. He also identified that the health and environment is the challenge and needs a lot of attention, locally, nationally and globally. **Hon. Sunil Simon** outlined that the biggest challenges are hunger and malnutrition and underlined that solutions lie in people, who share equal responsibility for everyone on this planet. **Hon. Merin Mathew** shared that it is important to raise community standards for the environment and spoke of the focus his organisation aims to give to coastal areas the fishing community. **Hon. Athar Hussain** mentioned that the biggest challenge is that of “ignorance on climate change and environment”. A revolutionary change is required, he emphasized.

12.2 2nd Meeting

The second meeting took place on the **17th of March, 2021** at the UN House with high-level Hindu faith leaders, which began with a welcome address by Ms Subhi Dhupar from URI, emphasizing ecology and faith along with the need to convene a multi-faith forum for the program. This was followed by the message from Dr Iyad who mentioned that the UNEP Assembly has endorsed a mid-term strategy for the planetary crisis, and that ecosystem restoration is a priority. Then, Ms Divya Datt, Sr. Program Officer, UNEP emphasized the collective power for universal action on climate for Earth. She mentioned that zoonotic diseases are on the rise due to environmental degradation. Human Development Index (HDI) for the first time is showing reversal, she cautioned. She shared that at UNEP, it is recognized that faith leaders drive transitions and that scriptures are a rich repository of knowledge on the environment to help mobilise in tackling the three planetary challenges. The results of the phase I survey reaffirmed that FBOs are showing commitment towards environmental protection while creating a movement for green faith based organisations, she said.

The introductory session was followed by quotes from scriptures from each faith leader.

Hon. Pujya Sister Shivaniji from Brahma Kumaris shared that values and consciousness lead to a better world, and we should take care of the inside along with the outside. She also shared details about the solar energy model in Mount Abu. Hon.

Mr Vikramjiet Roy mentioned how the Isha Foundation has been fundamental in planting trees in mines in Tamil Nadu. Soil and water are some key areas of focus for their organisation as 4% of the rains are from perennial sources. He also highlighted the large scale Rally for Rivers Campaign run by Hon. Sadguru.

Quoting the Bhagavad Gita, **Hon. Gauranga Dasji** shared that the five elements- earth, water, air, ether and

fire, are influenced by the mind, intelligence and false ego and that these should be properly taken care of for creating awareness. He highlighted the prominent work done by the ISKCON on the SDGs and shared some valuable information on integrating waste segregation and water conservation, amongst other sustainability patterns that are executed within the Govardhan Eco Village. He also mentioned how the ISKCON temples integrate science into daily functioning like reliance on hydrogeological survey, soil biotechnology, green buildings, etc.

Hon. Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati invoked a shloka from the *Atharva Veda* while elaborating on the work being done by Parmarth Niketan on different areas such as water conservation and tree plantation. The organization carried the Hariyali Yatra in 2019, bringing religious leaders together to build a connection with nature as part of eco-consciousness.

Hon. Dipankar Ji brought a perspective that is often not mainstreamed. Emphasizing noise pollution, he said that more than 3 crore people had lost their lives, and mindfulness and meditation must be utilised to reduce this, which will further nourish calm beings who will be sensitive towards the environment.

Dr Ramesh Bijlani recited a poem from their holy book "*Aurobindo Savitri*" which touched many facets of the environment. He gave emphasis to vegetarianism to reduce carbon emissions.

In his experience starting with the Swasth Bharat Mission, **Sh. Lokesh Kumar** explained that he found that the ground realities were different and there is a need to develop diverse strategies for the grassroots level on subjects such as sanitation and environment. There should be a local approach as well as a life cycle approach, he asserted.

When asked about the environmental crisis which the leaders resonated with, the collective response of most of the participants was pollution, followed by climate

change and biodiversity. As the participants shared their role to support this cause, Ms Gayatri reiterated their message by highlighting how humans have become distant from nature, calling it 'nature deficit disorder'.

The leaders were then asked to identify one opportunity and one barrier in implementing the possible actions for resolving the three planetary crises. The opportunities for most of the participants were identified in the tremendous following they have and the impact that they can create with the right guidance from the UNEP. Collaboration, network building and exploring the potential of bridging the gap between scriptural and scientific knowledge to establish solutions were some other opportunities that the faith leaders collectively identified. They saw tremendous scope in utilising resources from the UN and each other as tools for communication to enable disciplined actions towards the protection of the Earth.

Magnifying the ongoing work from the highest levels to smaller cities and centres, policy support, lack of funding and awareness strategies, ensuring actual implementation, stakeholder coordination, designing programs for different social sectors and regions and commodification of natural resources were some of the challenges that they collectively gave prominence to.

12.3 3rd Meeting

The last cluster meeting held on the **19th March 2021**, had a panel of faith leaders from the Sikh, Bahá'í, Jain and Buddhist communities. It started with a guiding note aligning with the UNEP strategy set by Dr Iyad and Ms Divya Datta followed by a comprehensive explanation of the Faith for Earth Councillors Programme by Ms Subhi Dhupar. During the enriching discussions, it was established that while all of the faith leaders were concerned about biodiversity, pollution and climate change, most of them were keen on focusing on biodiversity conservation and were also actively involved in action for the same. After sharing quotes from their respective scriptures on nature, and setting the tone for the discussion, the leaders then shared the great work that

Respondent	Opportunity	Challenge
BK	Awareness creation for everyone, use of media to spread the message	Reach in Smaller cities and centres to amplify whatever is done at the highest level
Isha Foundation	Potential to reach out to wider audience	Policy level support, funding, awareness at much higher level
ISKCON	Facts from UN and other FBOs could be utilised as tools for communication, facts and faith can collaborate, this would enable disciplined actions towards Earth	Convince to aspirational devotees and spiritual practitioners to be responsible towards Earth. To make them realise that divine also tell them to establish relevance on environment
Parmath	Data collection and evaluation by UN would be of great asset	Influence, we have to get across messaging and ensure actual implementation
Dipankar	Combined effort is the key	Awareness and awakening, the movement should go on. Media could be of help. Thought and heart would go together
Aurobindo	Ensure vegetarian food could be a way to solve the crisis. Give happiness back to Earth. Give back enough to Nature. Raise the level of consciousness. Best mediums are schools. Behave responsibly towards Nature.	Spiritual, taking care of the environment is spiritual, Ego willing consciousness. Give and take relationships with nature. This attitude should change.
Ahambhramasmi	Sanatan Dharma teaches us about connectivity, we rever our trees and rivers during festivals, vedic knowledge could be tapped. Vedic and modern knowledge could be connected.	Funding, stakeholder coordination, design for different social sectors. Multi-level decision making. Commodification of natural resources

Table 4: Opportunities and Challenges from 2nd Meeting with Faith Leaders

their organizations had been engaged in over the years.

Ven Dr Dhammapiya mentioned the work the International Buddhist Confederation had been doing to conserve nature and for climate action. They worked on all three issues, but the focus changes with region-specific needs, he said. Their associate members in Ladakh had been actively engaged in tree plantation on a large scale, and in Vietnam, they had been committed to rainforest conservation.

Lokesh Muni Ji highlighted the 1000+ programs on plastic that their community had been organising over the years. Drawing emphasis on how Jainism prohibits harm to nature and all living beings, he mentioned that even walking on flowers existed abandoned in their religion and protection of flora and fauna was highly essential. He reiterated that the new change had to imbibe the new way of being, and that new way of life was part of the larger solution. While recalling his march for climate change awareness from Gujarat to Rajasthan, he also took an oath to work more proactively for the environment and mobilize his followers for the same. The focus on minimalism and low consumption in Jainism seeks to establish a transformational change in society, it was concluded.

Hon. Yog Bhooshan Ji brought attention to vegetarianism and *Ahimsa* (non-violence) as a way of life. Motivated by the value that Jainism gave to trees, he mentioned the tremendous afforestation and reforestation programmes run by them. With the shortage of land faced by their followers to plant trees, they started giving guidance and training for terrace gardening so that the motivated followers could work towards making the terraces of Delhi green.

Hon. Raman Tikka from the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission explained in detail, the holistic approach to the environment and ‘grounded development’ that the Mission preaches and follows. He highlighted the motivating example of mass afforestation on the barren land of the ashram that was spread over 225 acres,

where micro-level changes could be seen. Out of the 108 disappeared trees, 72 species were revived. He also shared the sustainable and ‘respectable’ development practices, biodiversity preservation and clean water practices that the ashram follows. As more than 50% of devotees of the mission were youth, he gave stress on training young members in this direction.

Dr AK Merchant shed light on the holistic and exemplary educational approach that the Bahá’í community largely followed, and elaborated on the capacity building programs that were run for the young generations in both rural and urban settings where the environment is focused upon and many awareness programs are run to disseminate information on the climate policies. Their educational programs operate in about 5000 clusters around the world. While afforestation and reforestation are essential, they also focus on sensitizing families on pollution and how to tackle it. In rural areas, the main concern was noted to be biodiversity and agriculture, while in urban areas it was largely linked to pollution, as per Dr Merchant.

Drawing inspiration from Gurunanak Dev Ji, **Hon. Ranjit Singh** emphasized loving nature and being compassionate. The Bangla Sahib Gurudwara had planted around 8,00,000-10,00,000 plants and has been instrumental in serving large scale vegetarian langars, he shared.

Hon. Mary Pat Fisher described the implementation of the learnings from Gurunanak Dev Ji at Gobind Sadan, where the community used organic methods to tackle issues of climate change. Concepts of sharing resources through communal living are some practices that are diligently followed. By reforestation, they have restored 70+ species of trees, 72+ species of birds and also restored small organic ecosystems in the larger setting. She also emphasized the increased dependence on unused and renewable resources over non-renewable ones in the Sadan. No wastage, recycling, reusing, *jugad* (fixing) culture, organic farming and water harvesting were some other nature-based methods that she highlighted.

While creating awareness was just one aspect for the leaders, all of them identified the need to make this a way of life and influence and inspire people to adopt the same. They also mutually agreed to focus on educational resources and building together some best practices package templates for creating awareness amongst their devotees. Creating a 'culture of compassion in schools and creating Youth Councillors for Earth were also some opportunities they identified. The use of technology, multimedia and their massive following on social media was also something they wanted to tap into. **Hon. Ranjit Singh** urged delegates to create a movement for nature and Mr Khurana suggested that a mobile application must be created to disseminate the essential information on the cause.

Convincing people to get committed and take responsibility, human and financial resources, public resistance to move out of comfort zone, the prioritisation of livelihood, financial insecurity and job losses amongst the followers were some hurdles that the faith leaders could see coming. For devotees, the benefits of saving the planet always crop up, they said. They all acknowledged the practicalities of living in a developing country and emphasized that the basic needs of people must be fulfilled first and only then will they care for the environment.

Concluding the event by calling the FBOs a vital support system of India, **Mr Bhavya from Religion World** recognized the great work that is already being done but is not acknowledged both nationally and internationally. He also highlighted the connection gap between great leaders that this platform sought to bridge. He highlighted how religion is the 4th pillar of this country and one of the most powerful entities in terms of resources and organization, and that this must be utilized to connect all the faith leaders for Mother Earth.

India is being looked upon as a global leadership with its wisdom and actions and this program could develop as a model for the world, as rightly stated by Dr Iyad. The program was successful in collating the inspirational

work already being done in diverse organisations across India, and in establishing ecowarriors from religious and spiritual communities to address environmental urgencies. All the leaders suggested some nature-based organic methods of dealing with the climate crisis at the societal level, mostly focusing on individual and community transformation for greater action. The enriching discussions portrayed the will power of the faith leaders in preparing their devotees for social action and getting them to commit to saving the planet NOW.

13.0 Phase-3

The Phase 3 online convening and training workshop took place on **8th and 9th April 2021**, with the aim to educate communities and their leaders on the current environmental crises and how they can engage with science and their spiritual learnings in order to make long-term changes for Nature. The programme agenda for Phase-3 is shared as annexure-4.

Proceedings are shared in the succeeding paragraphs

13.1 Day 1

Day 1 proceedings took place on the 08th of April, 2021. Following are excerpts from the training. The training commenced with the opening remarks from UNEP and URI representatives.

The planet is facing unprecedented environmental crises, the most imperative ones being climate change, degradation of the ecosystem, and pollution. These factors have perhaps even led to our current unstable reality of the Covid-19 pandemic, scientific evidence proves that zoonotic viruses are caused due to the high rate of interaction between humans and wildlife. **Dr Iyad Abumoghli** highlighted how the global plan to tackle the socio-economic consequences and ensuring environmental prosperity and peace has been endorsed by Stakeholders of the UN in the form of Agenda 2030 and its 17 SDGs. Faith Based Organisations indubitably play a vital role in addressing environmental concerns, he mentioned as environmental degradation is a direct result

of our greed, selfish attitude, and lack of moral compass. The way forward is by acting on changing our behaviour which can be done by committing to religious values.

86% of the world population belong to a religious faith, and in India the population of religious believers is an outstanding 99%. **Swaminiji Adityananda Saraswati** identified faith to be the very guiding light to provide hope and inspiration. It is the individual effort that can collectively make a difference- *“You are the solution; you are the hope. Truly, the hope is all in your hands.”*

Chantal Elkin, the Head of Beliefs & Values Programme at WWF highlighted the new environmental consciousness that has emerged in the minds of religious leaders such as the Dalai Lama and the Pope. It is a critical decade of mass fires, species extinction and so much more, and through conscious activism and spiritual guidance, positive steps can be taken in lieu of ‘eco-anxiety’. The WWF is collaborating with Buddhist Monks in North Eastern Cambodia through the initiation of forest patrols and bans on illegal hunting and logging. By wrapping trees in monk’s robes, the Monks have initiated an innovative mechanism through which spirituality can prevent deforestation. In Indonesia, fatwas to protect nature have been declared for the Muslim community there to carry out their Islamic duty. In India, the fragile biodiversity in tiger reserves has been further destabilized due to pilgrimages that take place in those areas. People are being encouraged to be more mindful of biodiversity. The Long-Term Action Plan Programme has been put together to ensure commitment to innovative environmental protection.

Pinaki Dasgupta, the Secretary of Shristi shed light on the constitutional aspects related to Environmental protection through Article 21, 48(A) and 51. He also shared the different policies adopted by the Indian Government on Environment, including the Environmental Protection Act, 1986, and the National Environment Policy, 2006, and the Right to Healthy Environment included as an attribute to the Right to Live. The three main crises of climate change, biodiversity

loss and pollution planted a seed of distress in India in the 21st century. Environmental activism goes back to the 18th century with the Bishnoi community’s sacrifice for protecting local trees. The 19th century saw a rise in faith-based collaboration focused on peace and humanitarian values. In the 21st century, there is a growth in multi faith cooperation and a global alignment of environmental vision and global goals. Renewable energy has risen several folds, along with conservation efforts. However, these need massive scaling up. Faith based movements towards wastewater management (at the Golden Temple), plantation (by EcoSikh and Global Interfaith Wash Alliance), and water harvesting (in St Aloysius Church and Shahi Masjid) are examples of the immense change which could be brought forth by FBOs. Individuals, Institutions and Community level engagements are important elements towards ecological balance, conservation and maintenance.

H.H Pujya Sadhguruji, the Founder of Isha Foundation differentiated between the inwards and outwards- the inner being spirituality, and the outer science. He labels the inner and outer as the same, and encourages people to pay attention to both science and spirituality. He also describes how every religion has basic value in open ‘everything comes from nothing and goes back to nothing’. All religions say the same thing but speak a different language.

H.H Pujya Radhanath Swami the Founder of ISKCON-Govardhan Ecovillage shared that the true purpose of both religion and science being to understand harmony. This leads to compassion. *‘In order for there to be true peace, we need to appreciate everything that comes from the same source’*. Beyond sectarian differences there is one source and everything is sacred.’ we are not proprietors, but caretakers of the world interested to take care of it for ourselves and everyone else using the instrument of kindness in harmony with ecology. We must do this by embracing universal spiritual principles and the universal truth.

H.H Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji the

President of Parmarth Niketan, Chair Global Interfaith Wash Alliance describes how earth is a mother and we, her children. What happens to her happens to us. There is only a perceived gap between science and ecology. We must bridge this with innovation in both thoughts and actions. If there are religious practices that affect the ecology we need to move away from them - we need to move from greed to green by use of woodless crematoriums, gobar, by reducing carbon footprint, and through green innovation.

Kamlesh D. Patel, Daaji, the Founder and First President of Shri Ram Chandra Mission calls attention to the outer pollutants which have their roots in inner pollution of the psyche. Depression and anxiety are a result of the inner pollutant of greed which leads to disease, and it is important for us to regulate our mind and prevent the ripple effect outwards through meditation.

On April 8th 2021, URI and UNEP, as part of the Faith for Earth Councillors Project, engaged with faith-based organizations and their leaders to address environmental concerns and hosted a dialogue discussing the **Importance of Science and Religion working together**. The events of day one consisted of two sessions with a set of eminent faith leaders each discussing the **Religious Scriptural references emphasizing the praxis**. The first session was moderated by Pinaki Dasgupta, Secretary, Shristi, and the second moderated by Gayatri Raghwa, UN Environment Education Consultant, FBO Coordinator, UNEP, India.

The first panel of the speakers threw light on the role of the faith-based organizations in integrating science and spiritual values towards a more sustainable future. Moderated by **Pinaki Dasgupta**, the panel consisted of highly regarded personalities - Barbara Maas, Prof. Pankaj Jain, Swami Sachchidanand Acharya and Dr. A.K Merchant.

Being the Secretary for Environment and Conservation, International Buddhist Confederation, **Barbara Maas**

gave attention to Buddhism as ‘the science of the mind’, completely open to adjustment and change. We must abandon the egocentric view of the Earth and ourselves and be more ‘ecocentric’. We continue to see the world as centred around human beings, creating an ‘us’ and a ‘them’. We have separated ourselves from the biosphere and view non-human entities as resources, she said. Buddhism aims to ‘square the circle’ by changing ourselves internally. The Dalai Lama initiated the The Tibetan Conservation Awareness Campaign with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the Care for the Wild International (CWI) and reminded Buddhists never to ‘use, sell or buy wild animals, their products or derivatives.” He spoke about poaching of the endangered Tibetan antelope and the trade in *shahtoosh* wool and shawls. “I am ashamed and don’t feel like living when I see all those pictures of people decorating themselves with skins and furs.”

‘*Sabhi Jatiya ek dusre se judi hui hai*’ (all species are related and connected to each other) explains **Dr Pankaj Jain**, the Professor and Head of Indic Studies Initiative at FLAME University. We are all one and the same, and rather than being anthropocentric should view humans and everyone else in the same category. We all have the same rights to do and not to do, and certainly no authorization to kill. The Jain belief is described as a Triple A way of life with its core values in *Ahimsa* (Non-Violence), *Anekantvad* (Non-Absolution) and *Aparigraha* (Non-possessiveness). By way of minimal materialism, ahimsa and *shakahar* (being vegetarian), we can further the equal rights all living beings ought to have. Neminatha responds to animal slaughter, while Mahavira responds to cattle slaughter and states that ‘trees are inherently valuable’ (AS 2.4.2.11-12), and ‘vegetation has life just as humans’ (AS 1.1.5, 9-11).

Swami Sachchidanand Acharya shared the fundamentals of Bishnoi faith and its founder Guru Jam Beshwar Maharaj’s vision from 500 years ago of science and religion going together. Bishnoi have sacrificed their lives to protect wildlife and trees due to the traditions laid down by Guru Jambojhi’s teachings. The principles

and practices for environmental management which are common for all the religions of the world need to be identified and executed by UNEP. While dealing with resolving environmental issues, spirituality that harms it should not be brought into the picture.

Religion has been a feature of human civilization since the dawn of time, and Indian faith leaders have always taught to live a life of harmony with nature to maintain the ecological balance. The Baha'i believe that science and religion must always be in harmony. Quoting Bahá'u'lláh, **Dr. A.K Merchant** states the response to the present environmental crisis lies in a mature cooperative relationship between humanity and the ecosphere. *'Nature in its essence is the embodiment of God's name, the Maker, the Creator.'* As National Trustee & Secretary of the Temple of Understanding India Foundation & National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India, Merchant throws light on the fact that the design of Bahai temples and centers reflect on the idea that spiritual development and respect for nature are inseparable elements of all programs aimed at promoting the well-being of humanity while building a sustainable world civilization, as in the Hanging Gardens of Haifa in Israel. The Lotus Temple in India is partly run on solar energy.

The second panel was a continuation of the first, moderated by **Gayatri Raghwa**. The panel consisted of Rev. Merin Mathew, Basit Jamal, Ravneet Singh, and Shri Lokesh Kumar Sharma.

Ravneet Singh, a Project Manager of EcoSikh identified that 'we are the cause of our problems, so we have to fix it'. The EcoSikh community endeavour began a movement of Nanak kheti wherein in 2 years, they established 303 jungles. Environmental protection through reusing materials was historicised by the Sikh community according to Guru Arjun Dev who introduced the idea that the bricks of the Golden Temple were baked in domestic garbage. The Guru Nanak Sacred Forest is the first forest of its kind, and EcoSikh invites all people from different faiths and communities to come together and plant their own forests. There is always space for

another memorialised protected space.

The Eco theology perspective comments on the importance of science and the need for dialogue to permeate this idea everywhere and reworking people's consciousness. The first lines of the Bible, while telling the story of creation, emphasise on how everything created by God 'was good'. This discourse deals with the essentiality and one's duty to commit themselves to providing care to the ecology. The Mar Thoma Church aims to bring the understanding of the environment and repercussions of ecological sin to the forefront of the people at the grassroots. Jesus Christ's parables can be ecologically interpreted and the idea of a 'Green God' nurtured. **Revd. Merin Mathew** discusses the view that 'everything is alive, everything is sacred, everything is connected, everything has a personality, everything needs to be respected, and everything needs to be nurtured'.

The Quran consists of over 750 verses commenting on nature as a sign of Allah. **Basit Jamal** the Founder of Brotherhood of Humanity identifies that corruption is present in both land and sea because of what people have brought upon themselves (30:41). Quoting the Quran, he says 'There is none amongst the Muslims who plants a tree or sows seeds and then a bird, or a person or an animal eats from it, but is regarded as a charitable gift'.

'Samaj ke har ek praari ko apne saath jode' (Connect every life in the world to yours) is the lesson **Lokesh Kumar Sharma** is spreading through his organisation Aham Brahmasmi. Keep in mind the *Shanti Mantra* (Chant for Peace) published in the *Yajur Veda* when dealing with the pollution, climate change and ecosystem crisis. Maintain peace in everything from space to air, water to jungles, cities to villages.

Gayatri Raghwa concluded the day with a statement that reminded us of our religious values and faith traditions and using those ethics going forward in our fight towards the restitution of the environment.

13.2 Day Two

Day two of the Faith for Earth Councillors Online Training program took place on the 9th of April, 2021 and began with a message from **Pujya Bhagwati Saraswati**, President of the Divine Shakti Foundation, Parmath Niketan on the importance of preservation. Her words enlightened the audience about the idea of reducing waste and using a reasonable number of natural resources for the benefit of all of humanity. Creating a global conscious focusing ability of preservation stands to be a similar agenda for both Science and Religion. Her principal argument stands that using spirituality as an instrument that could channelize every individual's energy, enables us to build qualities of preservation among our society, devising the message of the United Nations being equated with United Creators.

Subhi Dhupar commented on the importance of practicality, innovating solutions, and converting words into action and actionable steps. Day 2 was all about listening and learning to create a ripple effect in order to invigorate society on its long term goals.

Mentioning the diverse responses of the survey, representing different faiths and religions that have taken part in this initiative, URI Climate Coordinator, **Lauren Van Ham**, provided updates on the current phase of Faith for Earth Councillors Programme. Sustainable Development Goal 6 - 'clean water and sanitation for all', Sustainable Development Goal 12 - 'responsible consumption and production'; and Sustainable Development Goal 13 - "climate action" are the resultant priorities out of the survey conducted in Phase 1 of the Program.

She continued by saying that focus should be on answering questions of what major requirements are for devising plans of change and actions. The way forward should be a place of protection and respect where everyone is happy and respectful. Ending her note by quoting Robin Will Kimmer, that the idea of restoration and conserving our environment is maintaining our

relationship with the world and nature itself.

Bhawna Luthra, Executive Director LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) International, emphasized the basic message of how faith is scientific in its operation and that respect to faith is the ultimate respect to nature itself. The establishment of the religious toolkit was that it assists in combining these ventures into a singularity. She threw light on how sensitization by Faith-Based Organizations can assist in committing to the action of preserving and conserving our environment in the long-run. Waste Management, Water Conservation and Climate Change are the essence and priority. Her principal argument was that Humanity can be preserved by FBOs.

Gayatri Raghwa initiated the first interactive session of the day. The ecological situation on the ground is not well versed towards an effective transformation. Can connecting faith with science alone lead to any certain positive action in society? Her emphasis was that the current practices are much more mechanistic and what lacks in the status quo is in adapting a certain emotional and social context-based approach. Promoting ecological intelligence by emphasizing emotions towards the environment can enable perpetual conservation programs. 'Empathy, Sustainability as Community Practice, Making Invisibly Visible, Anticipating Change and How life can be Sustained on a longer basis' was her message.

The participants then dispersed into breakout rooms to seek interactive and constructive engagements with each other, sharing good practices and planning the way forward. It was noted that all the grassroots faith based organisations were actively engaged in environmental action on all the three priority areas. Innovative and inspiring practices emerged from the discussions highlighting how the value systems direct humanity towards saving the environment. Practices like organic farming, waste management, recycling, harnessing solar energy, plastic management, promoting responsible tourism, tree plantation drives, reviving old species through research based approach, protecting the

endangered ones and several initiatives to curb pollution at the local level. Water conservation mechanisms like rain water harvesting, reusing wastewater, underground water movements are being widely undertaken while also promoting clean water and sanitation. Effective action plans were being highlighted by the representatives of FBOs to improve the spiritual connection of individuals with the earth to steer the movement towards environmental protection. Many of them gathered communities towards the cause through initiatives like green temples, green synagogues, green mosques, green villages, etc.

Regarding educating and training society on methods of protection and enlightening the ideas of conservation, a common consensus was seen considering a need to restructure the school curriculum. The reason behind this consensus was to enable long term strategic plans and developing the consciousness of sustainable thinking in youth and children. Mass awareness, meditation, focus on minimalism, lowering consumerism and promoting sustainable traditional Indian practices were some collective focal points for all the participants. While spreading awareness is essential in moving forward, the participants collectively emphasized environmental action to share and learn the best practices within their communities. Establishing local partnerships and collaboration with government and non-government bodies was found to be key in their future plans. The participants fostered a cross-cultural understanding, providing exemplary linkages between spirituality and science through their work.

The virtual training session was concluded by Bhavya Shrivastava and Subhi Dhupar as they projected the way forward while sharing the plans for upcoming June sessions. The integrated work of UNEP and URI focused on policy dialogue and integrating faith and spiritual values towards collective climate action. By linking science to religion, faith leaders can use their power of speech and outreach to engage with the masses to create a sustainable environmental movement through capacity building, dialogue, and meetings. The Faith for

Earth Councillors Programme acted as a collaborative networking platform to restore nature back to its previous glory, where the Phase III was successfully completed and attended by 90+ participants from 70+ diverse FBOs all across the country. This high level grassroots engagement and training created space for one of its kind synthesis of a scientific and spiritual approach to tackle the environmental crises.

14.0 Phase-4

The Phase-4 of the program included the call of various grass root action plans from FBOs on their proposed actions based on Phase-2 and Phase-3 interventions. The participants were provided with a template for submission of their ideas, based on which the selection of the FEC would be completed. The template is provided as Annexure-5. The different responses obtained in this phase have been analysed, collated and provided as Annexure-6. A total number of 25 organisations submitted their proposal based on the theme of biodiversity, waste management and climate change. The objective of this phase was to inspire and motivate FBOs for taking actions for addressing the triple planetary crisis, which could be a significant step for the FEC programme.

15.0 Phase-5

The Phase-5 consisted of an interfaith meeting on the 3rd June, 2021 with the objective of sharing the coordinated efforts of FBOs on faith for ecology councillor.

16.0 Phase 6

In the later part of 2021, Faith for Earth Councillors from each project happening concurrently in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Ethiopia, and Lebanon will share through online gathering best practices and stimulate even greater success in each region and beyond.

17.0 KEY ATTRIBUTES OF FEC

A Faith for Earth Councillor agrees to perform all eight activities while engaging in the Faith for Earth principles:

1. Commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
2. Respect for all spiritual and religious beliefs
3. Transparency in governance structure and decision-making
4. Interfaith collaboration with mutual acceptance and respect
5. Focus on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs
6. Building bridges between existing knowledge and experience scientifically and spiritually
7. Perform Actions that respect individual and communal beliefs
8. Aim at Transforming people's behaviours through their spiritual values.

18.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEC

The FEC is expected to fulfil the following six responsibilities

1. **Commit** to advancing the vision and mission statements of the Faith for Earth initiative
2. Faith for Earth Councillors **will be a resource and point of contact** for their FBOs, schools and/or local communities.
3. Like a “train the trainer” model, the Faith for Earth Councillors will be supported with knowledge resources to grow grassroots environmental action in their communities and increase the number of engaged people working to reduce global warming and to care for Creation.
4. **Participate** in relevant national, regional and global webinars.
5. **Co-create**, with other Faith for Earth Councillors, a Faith for Earth Network
6. **Leverage** their social media, if possible, to promote the

Faith for Earth Initiative in their location.

19.0 CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

19.1 Conclusion

1. The program model is a ready to use scale up model for different regions not only at local level but national canvas as well.
2. The programme supported that science and religion could be utilised together for addressing and tackling planetary crisis.
3. There were a number of success stories which were shared during Phase-1 survey. These are provided in Annexure-7 and could be examples for learning and practice for FBOs. 65% of these consists interventions in the Biodiversity sector followed by climate (25%) and Waste (13%).
4. The program reiterated the important role of Faith based organisations in building capacity among their followers, members and devotees on environmental challenges
5. The program successfully demonstrated that a structured intervention with social, economic and environmental components in the curriculum is a source of motivation for FBOs in appreciating inclusion of science based evidence for mitigating the planetary crisis
6. The journey of this program established that every faith builds its foundation through peace and compassion which in turn are leveraged for connecting a larger audience to environment matters.
7. The program allowed participants to think, innovate and implement diverse actions on planetary crisis as well as three environmental challenges namely climate change, biodiversity loss and that of waste management.

19.2 Way Forward

1. There is a need for similar programmes in different regions with understanding of local environmental challenges which have global implications

2. The programme could be utilised as a platform by the FBOs to disseminate the challenges and opportunities with respect to environment among their followers.
3. Opportunity also exist in collaboration and multi- and inter- faith educational interventions similar to approach considered by the FEC programme.
4. The program has an immense scope in extending resources to FBOs who show keen and genuine interest in implementing projects based on the aim and objectives of the programme

20.0 PARTNERS

UNEP Faith for Earth Initiative in partnership with United Religions Initiative (URI) launched the Faith for Earth Councillors Program to provide capacity building to unite Faith Based Organisations and collective action in response to the climate crisis. The Faith for Earth Councillors Program was a series of online and in-person training sessions to educate and equip faith leaders with an engagement plan and tools so they effectively communicate with, and inspire others, to respond quickly

and effectively to care for the Earth. The program was designed and conceptualized with the help of civil society groups like **Religion World** and **Shristi** in India. The training program aims to build and document an active and inspiring network that could be modelled enhancing the cross sectoral learning and amplifying the success stories in order to build cultures of peace, justice, and healing for all, especially our Earth.

21.0 List of Annexures

The following annexures are provided as supporting documents to the main report.

1. Survey Questionnaire
2. Selected Survey Outcomes
3. List of organisations participated in Phase-2
4. Programme agenda for Phase-3
5. Template for project proposal submission
6. List of FBOs - 3rd June 2021
7. Success stories of selected FBOs
8. FAQs on FEC

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ANNEXURE 1

Survey Questions

UNEP - URI - India Faith for Earth Councilors Program - 2021

Contact Information

1. Salutation

2. First Name

3. Middle Name

4. Family Name

5. Institution/Organization

6. Designation

7. Corresponding Address

8. State

9. Country

10. Year of Birth

11. Religious Belief/ Affiliation

Mark only one oval.

- Hinduism
- Sikhism
- Islam
- Christianity
- Jainism
- Buddhism
- Other: _____

12. Gender

Mark only one oval.

- Male
- Female
- Other: _____

13. Email

14. Phone No.

15. Are you comfortable using

Mark only one oval.

- Whatsapp
- Telegram
- Signal
- All
- None

16. Do you have concerns about nature and what humans are doing to the environment?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

17. How well do you understand the environmental challenges we face, and the opportunities there are to improve the health of our planet and everything that lives on it?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
1- Very Low	<input type="radio"/>	5- Expert Level				

18. Rate your awareness at a local, regional and national about:

Mark only one oval per row.

	1- Very Low	2	3	4	5- Expert Level
Climate Crises (Inclusive of air, water and land)	<input type="radio"/>				
Biodiversity	<input type="radio"/>				
Waste Management	<input type="radio"/>				

19. Please select the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) your organisation focuses on:

Mark only one oval.

- SDG No. 6- Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG No. 7- Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG No. 12- Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG No. 13- Climate Actions
- SDG No. 14- Life Below Water
- SDG No. 15- Life on Land

20. How long has your institution been teaching about the importance of conservation and environment?

Mark only one oval.

- 0- very recent < 12 months
- 1- recent < 2 years
- 2-5 years
- more than 5 years
- Other: _____

21. At what scale does your organisation operate?

Mark only one oval.

- Local
- National
- International

22. How many people have you reached through your organisation?

Mark only one oval.

- 500- 1000
- 1000- 5000
- 5000- 10,000
- More than 10,000

23. Do you believe your faith tradition can increase people's awareness on the existing environmental crisis?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

24. What methods have you/are you using to provide education about our climate crisis?

Check all that apply.

- Sermons
- Seminars/Webinars/Gatherings
- Pamphlets
- Educational Tours

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

Check all that apply.

- Training
- Capacity Building
- Expert Guidance
- Networking
- Funding
- Education Resources

Other: _____

26. Has your organization/ community taken meaningful action to care for the environment?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- We are interested

27. If yes to the above question, then how long you have practiced or implemented an environment related program?

Mark only one oval.

- 0- very recent, < 12 months
- 1- recent, < 2 years
- 2-5 years
- More than 5 years
- Other: _____

28. What are the different interventions of initiatives your institution has focused on?

Mark only one oval.

- Climate Crises (Inclusive of air, water and land)
- Biodiversity
- Waste Management

29. Which of the following seem most important for creating awareness, action and meaningful change regarding the environmental crisis?

Mark only one oval.

- Training
- Capacity Building
- Expert Guidance
- Networking
- Funding
- Education Resources
- Handholding
- Other: _____

30. Please check each group that is the target of your work.

Check all that apply.

- Youth
- Women
- Indigenous
- General Public
- Academics
- Government
- Civil Society
- International Audience

Other: _____

31. Would you be open to sharing your success stories or challenges in this program with UNEP & URI?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

32. If yes, please upload a two page pdf document with at least one photo of the work you have been doing, a title and brief description.

Files submitted:

33. What are your expectations from this program?

Check all that apply.

- Produce a simple creative resource guide on ecological perspectives for faith organisations
- Create audio visual content for promotion and dissemination of key messages
- Collect and Collate selected success stories on ecological conservation
- Recognise selected faith leaders as Faith for Earth Councillors (FECs)

34. Have you attended any similar program in the past?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

35. Would you be interested in participating in the Faith for Earth Councilors program?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

36. Do you accept to add your name and email to the global Faith For Earth mailing list?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

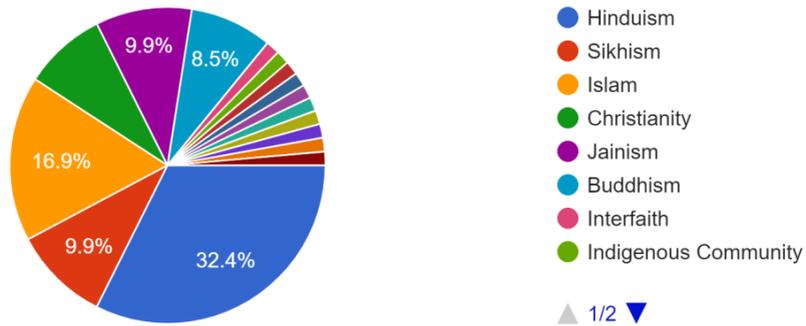
No

ANNEXURE 2

Faith Environment Councillor Program
Extract from Online Survey

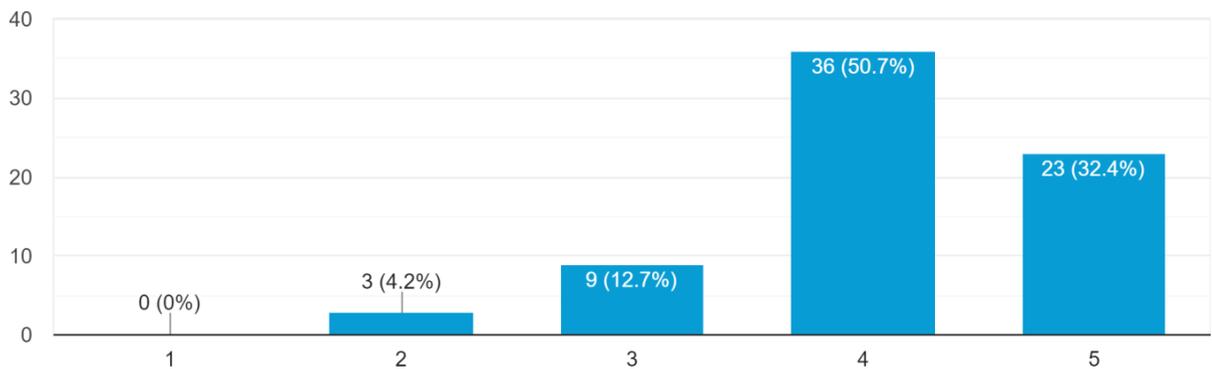
Religious Belief/ Affiliation

71 responses

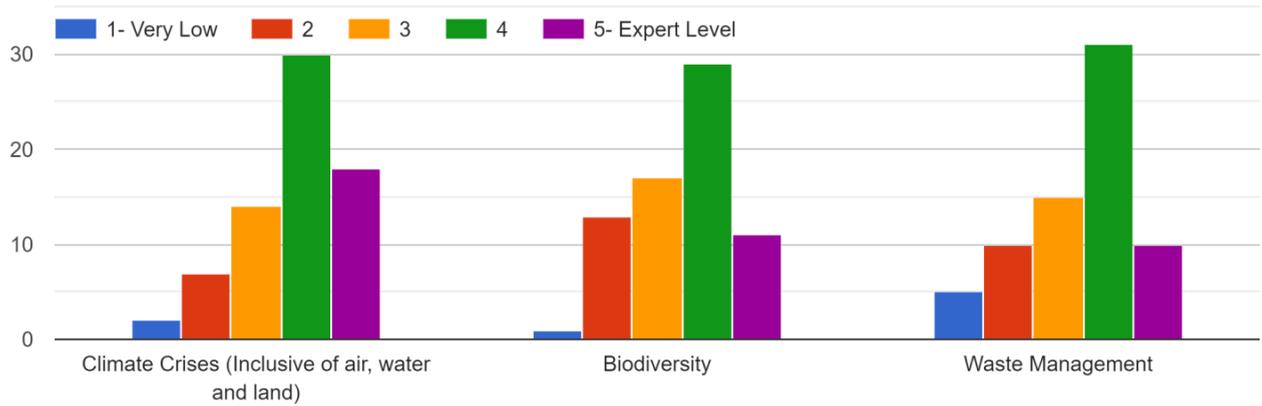


How well do you understand the environmental challenges we face, and the opportunities there are to improve the health of our planet and everything that lives on it?

71 responses

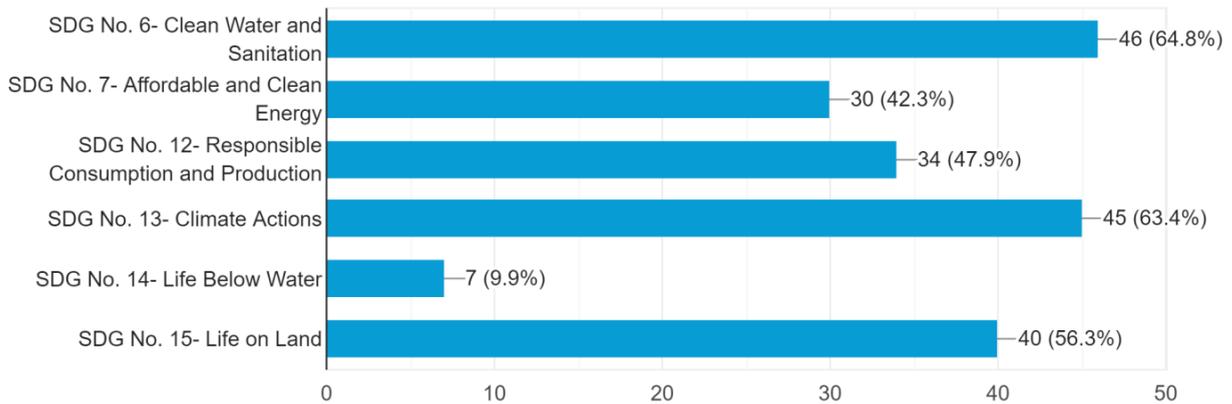


Rate your awareness at a local, regional and national about:



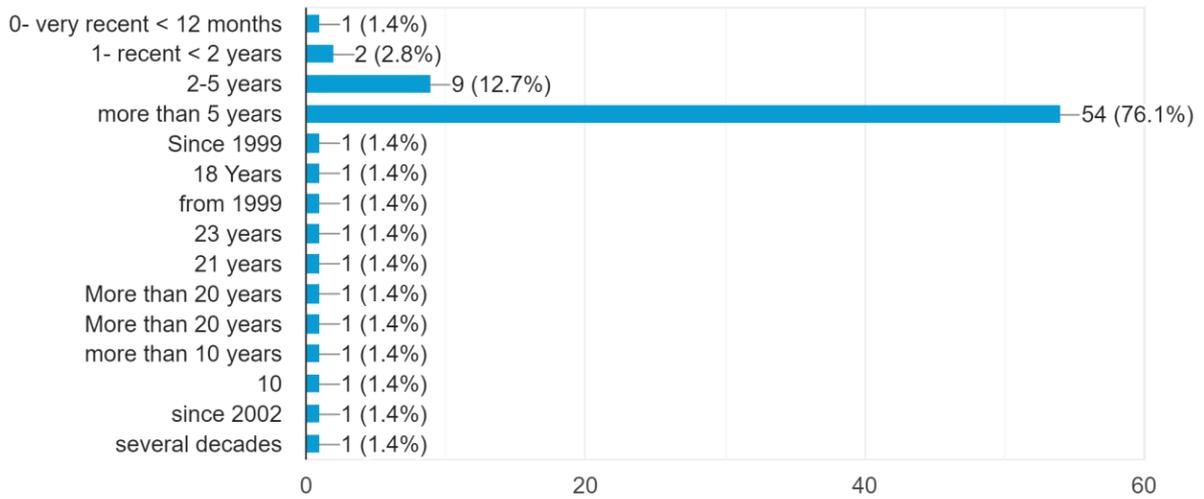
Please select the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) your organisation focuses on:

71 responses



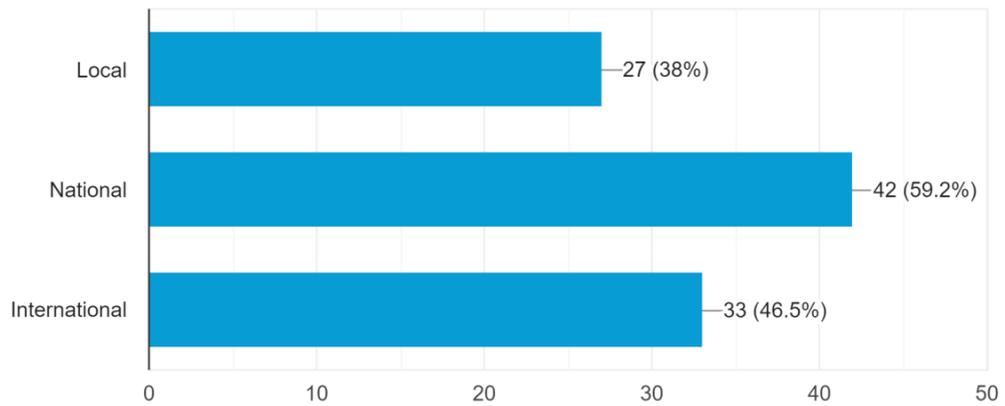
How long has your institution been teaching about the importance of conservation and environment?

71 responses



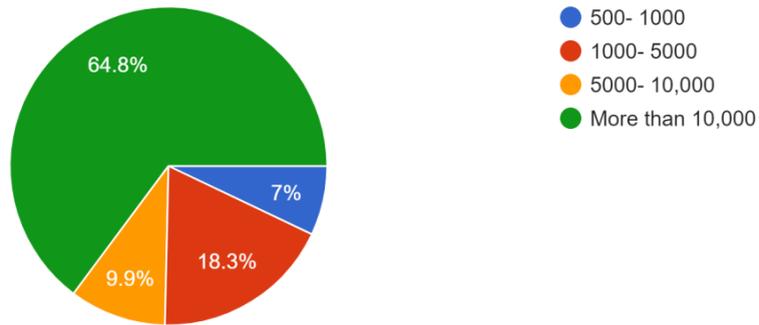
At what scale does your organisation operate?

71 responses



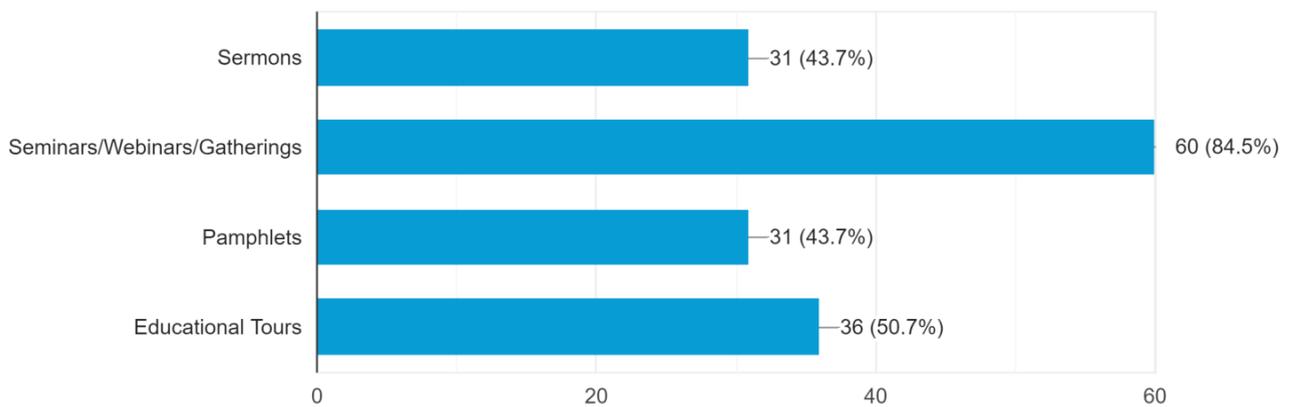
How many people have you reached through your organisation?

71 responses



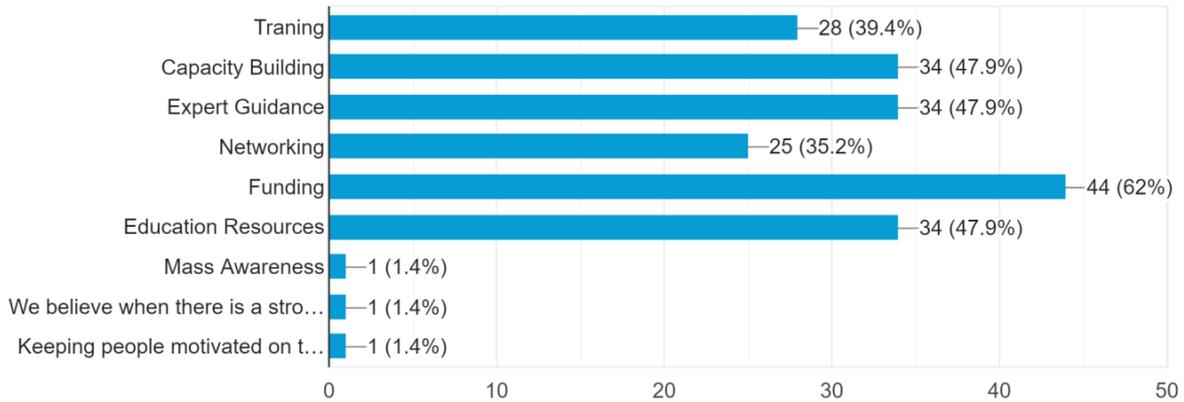
What methods have you/are you using to provide education about our climate crisis?

71 responses



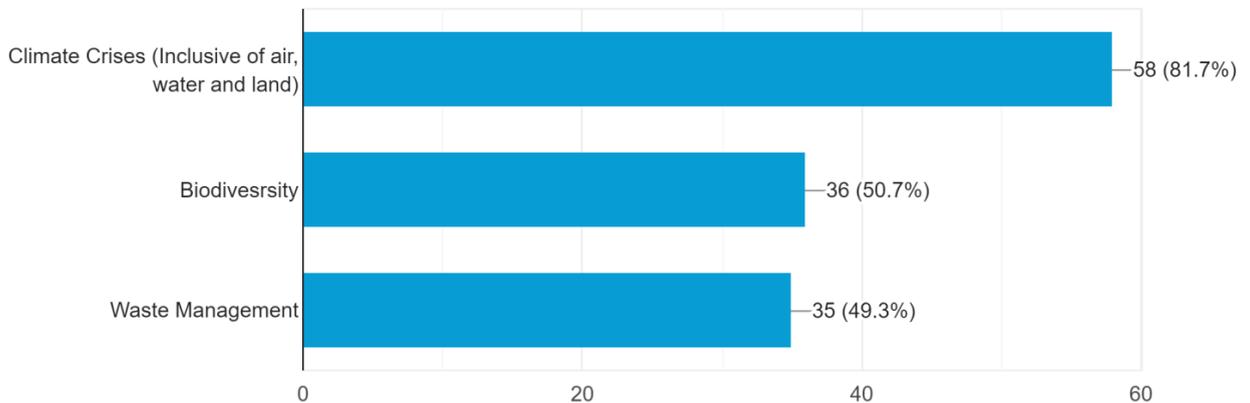
When you think about increasing environmental awareness and creating opportunities for your organization/ community to take action, what are your top 3 challenges?

71 responses



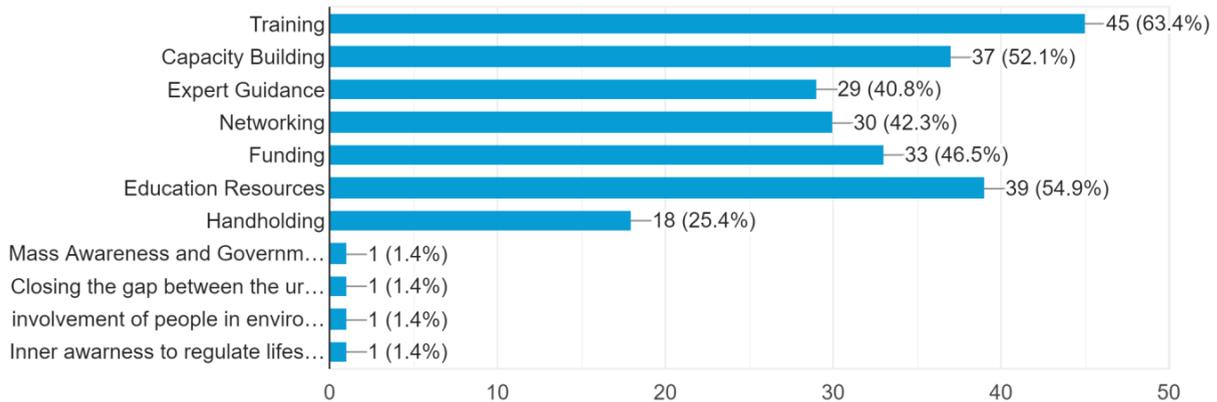
What are the different interventions of initiatives your institution has focused on?

71 responses



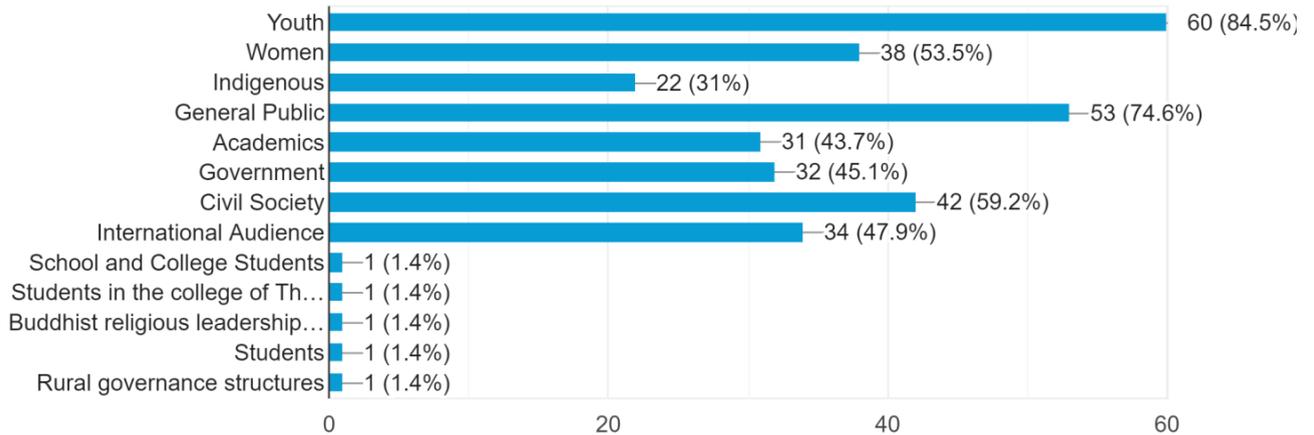
Which of the following seem most important for creating awareness, action and meaningful change regarding the environmental crisis?

71 responses



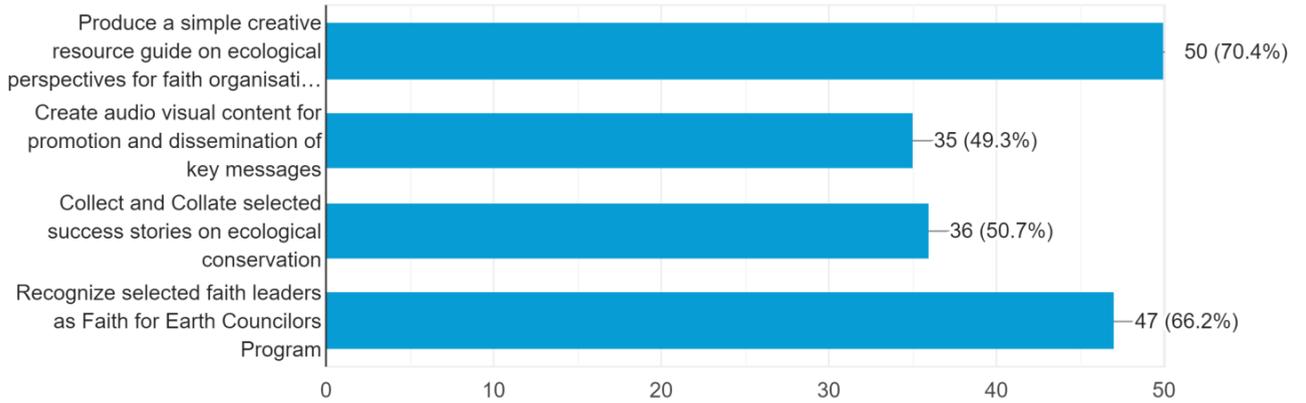
Please check each group that is the target of your work.

71 responses



What are your expectations from this program?

71 responses



ANNEXURE 3

Guest List for March Meetings

Cluster Meeting on 12th March 2021	
Name	Representation and Organization
Hon. Rev. Anil J. Couto	Archbishop of Delhi
Hon. Father Paul Moonjely	Executive Director, Caritas India
Hon. Sunil Simon	Secretary, St. Thomas Mar Thoma Syrian Church, Karol Bagh
Hon. Merin Matthew	Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, Delhi Diocese, Dharma Jyoti Peeth
Hon. Athar Hussain	Secretary, Indo- Islamic Cultural Foundation

Cluster Meeting on 17th March 2021	
Name	Representation and Organization
Hon. Pujya Sister Shivani	Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organisation
Hon. Pujya, Gauranga Das	Director, Govardhan Ecovillage
Hon. Pujya. Swami Prakarshanand	Head Swamiji, Chinmaya Mission, Delhi
Shri Lokesh Kumar Sharma	Founder, Aham Brahmasmi
Hon. Pujya Swami Dipankar	Founder and Chairman, Dipkankar Dhyana Foundation
Hon. Dr. Ramesh Bijlani	Head, Sri Aurobindo Ashram- Delhi Branch
Hon. Vikramjiet Roy	Isha Foundation
Pujya Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati	President, Divine Shakti Foundation, Parmath Niketan

Cluster Meeting on 19th March 2021	
Name	Representation and Organization
Hon. Alpa Gandhi	Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur
Hon. Raman Tikka	Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur
Hon. Dr. A.K. Merchant	General Secretary, Temple of Understanding Faith- Baha'I Community
Hon. Mary Pat Fisher	Gobind Sadan
Hon. Pujya Acharya Lokesh Muni	Ashima Vishwa Bharti
Hon. Singh Sahib Giani Ranjit Singh	Sikh Dharma Universal/Hear Priest Gurudwara Bangla Sahib
Hon. Sardar Narendra Pal Singh Khurana	International Ambassador, Sikh Dharma Universal
Yog Bhoosan Maharj	Founder, Dharmyog Foundation
Venerable Dr. Dhammapiya	Secretary General, International Buddhist Confederation
Dr. Heero Hito	Dean, Centre for Buddhist Studies, Subharti Vivekananda University

ANNEXURE 4

Agenda for Faith for Earth Councillor Online Convening & Training Workshop 8th & 9th April 2021

Day 1(8th April 2021): Current Scenario and Eco Practices

Time (minutes)	Theme	Trainer/facilitator
5:00 PM-5:02 PM	Joining and Welcome	Gayatri Raghwa UN Environment Education Consultant, FBO Coordinator UNEP India
5:02 PM-5:05 PM	Opening Interfaith Prayer	Bhavya Srivastava Head, Religion World
5:05 PM-5:10 PM	Roadmap: Role of FBOs in addressing Environmental concerns using the SDGs	Dr. Iyad Abu Moghli Director Faith for Earth Strategic Engagement with Faith-based Organizations Executive Office UNEP Nairobi – Kenya
5:10 PM-5:25 PM	Context Setting: Roadmap for India	Atul Bagai Head, UN Environment Country Office, India Rev. Lauren Van Ham URI Climate Action Coordinator
5:25 PM-5:35 PM	Sharing about Faith for Earth Councillors program	Subhi Dhupar Regional Coordinator for URI Afghanistan and India, North Zone
5:35-5:40 PM	Environmental Landscape- Opportunities and Challenges from a Global Perspectives	Chantal Elkin
5:40 PM-5:45 PM	Environmental Landscape- Opportunities and Challenges India Perspectives	Pinaki Das Gupta Secretary, Shristi
5:45 PM-5:50 PM	Song/poetry	
5:50 PM-6:35 PM	Session 1: Importance of Science and Religion working together: Role of Faith leaders in supporting the SDGs Video Messages	H.H Pujya Sadhguruji Founder, Isha Foundation H.H Pujya Radhanath Swami ji Founder, ISCKON-Govardhan Ecovillage H.H Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji President, Parmarth Niketan; Chair, Global Interfaith Wash Alliance Kamlesh D. Patel, Daaji Founder and First President of Shri Ram Chandra Mission
6:35 PM-6:45 PM	Break	
6:45 PM-7:05 PM	Session 2: Importance of Science and Religion working together. <i>Religious Scriptural references emphasizing the praxis (Part I)</i> Moderated By: Pinaki Das Gupta, Secretary Shristi	Dr. Barbara Maas Secretary for Environment and Conservation, International Buddhist Confederation Prof. Pankaj Jain Professor and Head, Indic Studies Initiative FLAME University

Time (minutes)	Theme	Trainer/facilitator
		<p>Swami Sachchidanand Acharya Bishnoi Samaj</p> <p>Dr. A.K Merchant National Trustee & Secretary, Temple of Understanding India Foundation & National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India</p>
7:05 PM-7:10 PM	Song/Poem/ Short Video	
7:10 PM-7:35 PM	<p>Session 3:</p> <p>Importance of Science and Religion working together. <i>Religious Scriptural references emphasizing the praxis (Part2)</i> Moderated by: Gayatri Raghwa</p>	<p>Rev. Merin Mathew Delhi Diocese, Faculty, Dharma, Jyoti Vidya Peeth</p> <p>Basit Jamal Founder Brotherhood of Humanity</p> <p>Ravneet Singh Project Manager (South Asia), EcoSikh</p> <p>Shri Lokesh Kumar Sharma Founder, Aham Brahmasmi</p>
7:35 PM-7:40 PM	Closing and Thanksgiving; invitation for next day	<p>Gayatri Raghwa UN Environment Education Consultant, FBO Coordinator UNEP India</p>

Day 2(9th April 2021): Transforming Religious values for Ecology and SDGs

Time	Theme	Methodology	Trainer/Facilitator
5:00 PM-5:05 PM	Joining and Welcome		<p>Subhi Dhupar Regional Coordinator for URI Afghanistan and India, North Zone</p>
5:05 PM-5:20 PM	Program update	Power Point Presentation	<p>Rev. Lauren Van Ham URI Climate Action Coordinator</p>
5:20 PM-5:35 PM	Religious toolkits	Power Point Presentation	<p>Bhawana Luthra Executive Director LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) International.</p>
5:35 PM-5:50 PM	Community Action Steps & Question Answer session	Power Point Presentation	<p>Gayatri Raghwa UN Environment Education Consultant, FBO Coordinator UNEP India</p>
5:50 PM-6:00 PM	Break		TBD
6:00 PM-6:05 PM	Song/Poetry/ Video clip		
6:05 PM-6:35 PM	Interfaith breakout sessions: Drafting your action plan.	<p>Breakout sessions + Fill a worksheet (Draft an action plan template)</p>	URI Facilitators.
6:35 PM-7:00 PM	Interfaith in action: Group findings	Interactive sharing by groups	Coordinators
7:00 PM-7:10 PM	Role of Project Partners	Q&A	<p>Bhavya Srivastava Head, Religion World</p>
7:10 PM-7:15 PM	Way Forward		<p>Subhi Dhupar Regional Coordinator for URI- Asia: Afghanistan and India, North Zone</p>
7:15 PM-7:20 PM	Closing remarks		<p>Gayatri Raghwa UN Environment Education Consultant, FBO Coordinator UNEP India</p>

ANNEXURE 5

WORKSHEET: Developing Your Faith for Earth Councillor Action Plan

1) Brainstorm (Create Plan). Which one of the three Action Ideas (list at back of Toolkit) do you want to implement in/with your Faith-based organization or community? Do you already have approval from your Faith Leader? Make some notes, as needed, about the idea and what support you will need to share the idea with your organization/ community:

2) Timeline. Using the high-level timeline below. Fill in and add dates to provide an approximate schedule for how your action will be planned (preparation), executed (day or days of action), and completed (final report submitted).

Date	Activity	Completed
April	Draft Action Plan & receive approval from Faith Leader, Institution, or Community	
April	Action Plan submitted to UNEP/URI for Faith for Earth Councillor approval	
June	Faith for Earth Councillors announced & recognized at World Environment Day	
	Detail dates & steps to implement each phase of your Action Plan between now and November, 2021:	
	Phase 1:	
	Phase 2:	
	Phase 3:	
	Phase 4:	
	Phase 5:	
Nov 1	Final report submitted to UNEP/URI	
End of 2021	Faith for Earth acknowledges all completed plans and Faith for Earth Councillors	

3) Educate and Inspire. What will work best for your organization/community to feel eager and excited to help you make the action successful? Is there education needed? Are you providing that training or is someone else? How will you recruit the team you need to join you for the action day or period of the project? The Faith for Earth Principles (below) and sacred scriptures from your Tradition will likely provide useful guidelines and encouragement. Are there ways you will share them with the group as part of the training and/or action day(s) you share together? What are your takeaways from the Faith for Earth Councillor training that you want to pass on to your organization/community? Write your ideas here:

<p>Faith for Earth principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ● Respect for all spiritual and religious beliefs ● Adoption of the principles of “Leave no one behind” ● Transparency in governance structure and decision-making ● Interfaith collaboration with mutual acceptance and respect ● Focus on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs ● Building bridges between existing knowledge and experience scientifically and spiritually ● Perform Actions that respect individual and communal beliefs ● Aim at Transforming people’s behaviors through their spiritual values 	<p>Sacred Scripture(s) or teaching(s) that you wish to include:</p> <p>Shri Guru Jambheshwer ji maharaj gave the message to humanity to live in harmony with nature by his teachings (His followers refer these teachings as Shabdvani). Few of his teachings talk about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “ <i>ja jivan ki vidhi jani, jivtada kuch laho hoyshi muva na aavat hani</i>” (Shabd-79) The main principle is to learn- “The art of living” The living in harmony with environ. ● Kindness & Dharma is one’s life. ● To be kind and compassionate to all living beings. Do not show cruelty and violence towards other living beings. ● Never cut or fell green trees. ● Never forget or ignore the rights of others. ● Self realization and choosing essential valuables of life in the world. ● Devotion to God (Shri Vishnu) and remembering him at all times for his kindness and blessings. ● equality between woman and man; A person should be recognized by their actions not by caste, creed and color. (Shabd-50) ● importance of practical education (Shabd- 27) ● Respect for all religious beliefs and learn best practises from them.
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4) Logistics and Content Checklist. The checklist below provides suggestions for ways to create a successful period of education and implementation as you both prepare for and host your day(s) of action / project.

Complete	Training/Encouragement Resource	Notes
	Begin with and/or include Sacred Scriptures at training and day(s) of action (above)	Guru Jambheshver ki vani, niyam, disha nirdesh, etc.
	Model and teach Faith for Earth Principles (above) as follows:	explanation about these principles
	Provide necessary education about selection Action Area (1 of the 3), including the connected SDG as follows:	ecological Restoration: what is this? why we need this? what action req.? how we achieve this with SDG
	Enlist support of team members from your organization, or outside partnerships who will be providing instruction or collaborating with your organization/community to complete your day of action/project.	<p>Organisation Members: Mamta Bishnoi Pinaki das gupta (shristi) R.K.Bishnoi Vinod Karwasara Ravinder bishnoi (lalar) Institutes: water shed development and soil conservation, Rajasthan Arid forest Research institute, jodhpur central arid zone research institute, jodhpur centre institute for arid horticulture, bikaner</p> <p>NGOs:</p> <p>Sarpanchs youth leaders individuals</p>

	<p>Create agenda, checklist and arrange other logistics for implementing action/project. Be sure someone on your team is taking care of photography or video and social media as well as an evaluation (optional) for those who participate. Photos, social media and evaluations will help you collect success stories and feedback about the action/project that will support your final report.</p>	<p>Agenda:</p> <p>Checklist:</p> <p>logistics:</p> <p>photography:</p> <p>videography:</p> <p>Social media:</p>
	<p>Media plan (optional) – Share social media with local news or media before the event and follow-up with photos and success stories after to increase awareness about your action/project in your region</p>	
	<p><i>Celebrate your success and completed project with your Faith Leader and Organization/Community!!</i></p>	
	<p>Consider how Faith for Earth Councillor work will continue in your organization/community and submit Final Report to UNEP/URI</p>	

ANNEXURE 6

Faith for Earth Councillor Online Recognition & Pledge Ceremony 3rd June 2021

10:30am – 12:30pm (IST)

List of Faith Based Organisations and Speaking Order

ORGANIZATION	FAITH FOR EARTH COUNCILLOR	DESIGNATION
SDF 6 - Clean Water		
Shrimad Rajchandra Mission	Hon. Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshbhai	Founder, Shrimad Rajchandra Mission
SDF 12 - Climate Action (all three areas)		
Art of Living	Hon. Pujya Sri Sri Ravi Shankar	Founder, Art of Living Foundation
Aham Brahmasmi	Hon. Shri Lokesh Kumar	Founder, Aham Brahmasmi
Church of South India	Hon. J. Phillip Robinson	Professor, Department of Biotechnology, KSR College of Technology, Church of South India
Global Gayatri Pariwar - Dev Sanskriti University	Hon. Dr. Chinmay Pandya	Pro Vice Chancellor, Global Gayatri Pariwar- Dev Sanskriti University
Nishan-E-Sikhi Charitable Trust Regd. Khadur Sahib, Punjab	Hon. Baba Sewa Singh	Head, Kar Sewa Sect, Nishan- E- Sikhi Charitable Trust Regd. Khadur Sahib, Punjab
SDF 12 - Climate Action- Eco-System Restoration		
Bishnoi community	Hon. Mamta Bishnoi	Project Coordinator for Faith for Earth Councilors/ Principal Advisor
Dharmyog Foundation	Hon. Shri Yog Bhooshan Maharaj	Founder, Dharmyog Foundation
Dipankar Dhyana Foundation	Hon. Pujya Swami Dipankar	Dipankar Dhyana Foundation
Ek Onkar Charitable Trust Seechewal	Hon. Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal	President, Ek Onkar Charitable Trust Seechewal
Gobind Sadan	Hon. Angelina Singh	

ORGANIZATION	FAITH FOR EARTH COUNCILLOR	DESIGNATION
ISKCON	Hon. Pujya Gauranga das	ISKCON Governing Body Commissioner (GBC) and Director, Govardhanecovillage
Prakriti Vyavasaya Samakhya	Hon. Prof. Srinivasa Reddy Kunuthur	President, Prakriti Vyavasaya Samakhya
Shri Ram Chandra Mission	Hon. Kamlesh D. Patel	Founder- President, Shri Ram Chandra Mission
VEETARAYAN	Hon. Pujya Sadhvi Shri Shilapiji Maharaj	Spiritual Leader and Social Reformer, VEETARAYAN
SDF 13 - Responsible Production and Consumption		
Parmath Niketan	Hon. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati	President and Spiritual Head of Parmath Niketan Ashram
Global Interfaith WASH Alliance	Hon. Pujya Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati	Secretary General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and President, Divine Shakti Foundation
Temple of Understanding Faith-Baha'i Community	Hon. Dr. A. K. Merchant	General Secretary, Temple of Understanding Faith- Baha'i Community
Sanitation		
Unity College		

ANNEXURE 7

FBOs and success stories

Name of Organization	Area of Operation		Scope of Work	
	Geography	Values (vision/mission/value of org)	Success stories	Focus Area
Aham Brahmasmi	India	Bringing harmony in all aspects of life	Awareness, promotion and revival of Sanatan Dharma through scriptures and verses; meditation programs	SDGs and Hindu scriptures
Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti	India and USA	Peace, Harmony, Non-Violence and Brotherhood in the world	Organized Interfaith Dialogue; international campaign on Environment protection through peace & harmony; seminar on Solution of Global Challenges through Mahavir's Philosophy; Green drive by Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti	Environmental awareness
Akhil Bhartiya Yuva Sangathan/ Bishnoi community	India	Follow Bishnoi practices	Tree planting initiative, campaigns on single use plastic, initiatives to save wild animals, locally and most eco-friendly measures for building homes, protest against nuclear plant construction	Protect wildlife, trees and community
Art of Living	Global	Serve society by strengthening individuals	Mission Green Earth - watershed management; green and renewable energy-innovative solutions; reclaiming wastelands; Air pollution - use of algae for cleaning the air; sustainable agriculture technologies; reclaiming exploited land; community capacity building	Stress free and a violence free world
CARITAS INDIA	India	Serve the poor and to promote charity and justice	Water and Agriculture Resilience villages - mitigation, governance, technology, and social adaptation SAKSHAM - climate resilient tribal community SABAL - food and nutrition security JEEVAN - empowering backward and vulnerable class of society UTTARAN/SHIRKAT/ - livelihood, farmers capacity building Improving Disaster Risk Reduction Environment	Adaptive agriculture and Livelihood

Name of Organization	Area of Operation		Scope of Work	
	Geography	Values (vision/mission/value of org)	Success stories	Focus Area
Chishty Foundation	Global	Love and respect for all creation	International Sufi Rang Festival - promoting Cultural, Spiritual & Ecological sacred regeneration Chishty Foundation's Bab Ul ilm - school for underprivileged children Peace ambassador at various conferences Plantation - campaigns & youth engagement, bicycle rally	Clean and green - spiritual ecology initiative in Ajmer
Church of South India	South India and North Sri Lanka	Solidarity with the broken communities; Unity, Peace and Reconciliation	Converting 1704 Primary Schools, 341 high and higher schools, into Green Schools. Current green schools - campus with variety of plants & vegetable garden, carbon footprint, drive for plantation and waste reduction	Sustainability - established dept. for ecological concerns, churches to honour local farmers; Inclusivity - women and vulnerable class
CR Park Kali Mandir Society	Delhi	Provide religious services and activities that embodies culture	Organic Matter Compost - manage the food and organic waste (flowers and leaves) generated by the temple	Building communities around composting
Democracy Africa Youth Parliament (James Alan)	Africa	Advocacy of youthful solutions to African challenges	A youth forum for exchanging ideas and collaboration; youth training programs for resource mobilisation, advocacy, media, organisational development, and project management	inclusion of youth in decision making
Devendra bhajji, Jan Arogya foundation	Madhya Pradesh, India	Promote Yoga and Indian heritage/culture	Awareness through social media and centre in MP	
Dharmyog foundation	India	Social welfare and enlightenment, spreading positivity and optimism	O2 universe mission - nature walk, plantation drive, plant on festivals, plants as gifts, community and youth engagement campaigns for plantation; Women empowerment programs; rehabilitation drive; waste management awareness campaigns	Green gifts
Dipankar Dhyan Foundation	India, UK and USA	To aid creation (humans, animals and birds)	Spiritual sessions in form of yoga and ancient science of spiritual healing, Vedic chants, Vedic martial arts, etc.; publish monthly journal; charitable activities; education and awareness for environment; women empowerment; animal welfare programs	Yog, culture and spiritual sciences

Name of Organization	Area of Operation		Scope of Work	
	Geography	Values (vision/mission/value of org)	Success stories	Focus Area
EcoSikh	Punjab, India	solutions for deterioration of nature and climate change	Guru Nanak Sacred Forests Projects - creating native forests, micro forests and natural agriculture Forests survey for potential natural vegetation, workshops for tree planting using Miyawaki Methodology	Reforestation and conservation of biological diversity
Ek Onkar Charitable Trust Seechewal	North India	Follow the preaching's of Guru Gobind Singh ji	Cleaning basin rivulets; rural linked roads; eco-friendly sewerage system; women empowerment; organic farming; public awareness through mass & social media	environmental conservation, social reform, education and economic development of backward areas of Punjab
Father Agnel School (Noida)	India	Respect for all, and equality of opportunity	Rated as Green school - Sustainable transportation, energy efficient lights, plantation, RWH, waste management	Every child with purpose, dignity and a commitment for a better world
Gayatri Pariwar, Dev Sanskriti University	Global	Global, Cultural & Spiritual Renaissance	Vriksha Ganga - planting trees by river; organic farming; waste management in university - 0 carbon campus, recycling and solar power	Greening to save rivers
Brahmakumaris	Global	Understanding of the connection between our consciousness, thoughts and actions, and their impact on the world.	6 large solar systems which produce steam for various process applications such as cooking, laundry and sterilisation. 350 photovoltaic battery systems (off grid) all over India with a total capacity of more than 1200 KW peak. A 1 MW solar thermal power plant near in Abu Road was commissioned.	Renewable Energy, Agriculture
Isha Foundation	Global	Offer the science of inner wellbeing to every human being – a science that helps a person realize the ultimate potential within.	17 million saplings planted (70% survival rate) 2 million volunteers 852,587 saplings planted in 3 days,	Biodiversity, land restoration
Go Green Go Organic	Ladakh, India	Ecological balance and environmental stability; generating eco-tourism	Large-scale tree plantation: Planting native trees to retain water in North-East Ladakh, organic agriculture for carbon-negative communities. Artificial glaciers: water reservoir through artificial ice glacier (Ice Stupa)	ecology with economic development
GOBIND SADAN	Global	People from all faith/ no faith find spiritual refreshment, relief and inner empowerment	Organic farming, tree plantation, bio-diversity park Solar energy	Green paradise

Name of Organization	Area of Operation		Scope of Work	
	Geography	Values (vision/mission/value of org)	Success stories	Focus Area
International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)	Global	a platform for global Buddhist community to engage in social-political discourse	various declarations and statements for climate crisis, nature conservation and animal welfare - Buddhist Climate Change Statement to World Leaders at COP21; The Nalanda Declaration on Nature Conservation and Animal Welfare	accountability for climate crisis
ISKCON	Global	Follow teaching and practices of Shri Krishna	GEV (Govardhan Eco Village) - Sustainable models for trash and recycling; organic farming; green advocacy through community education; bio-diversity parks; healthcare initiatives; clean energy - solar power, plastic turned into fuel, wastewater harvesting, biogas plant, soil biotechnology plant, Compressed Stabilized Earth blocks	Alternate sustainable models
Live to Inspire and Sajan Shah Foundation (Sajan Jayeshbhai Shah)	India	Help and inspire youth to unleash their full potential	Plantation pencil drive - plantable, non-toxic and sustainable pencils to reduce pencil stub waste (till now 40000 plantations in schools)	Ecosystem restoration with bio-waste alternative
Nishan e sikhi charitable trust khadur sahib	North India	Selfless service and welfare activities for public	Tree plantation, drive for horticulture, nursery plantation	Restore biodiversity
Parmarth Niketan Ashram	Global	Service of God and humanity	Global Interfaith WASH Alliance - safe water and sanitation, Preservation of Ganga river initiative - solid waste management and awareness for free-flowing ganga Ashrams and medical clinics in Mansarovar and Mt. Kailash Humanitarian programs - women, children, orphanage, rural programs, animal care program, disaster relief program	Humanitarian activities
Prakriti Vyavasaya Samakhya	Andhra Pradesh	Sustainable agriculture and organic farming	Work in the field of sustainable animal husbandry, dairying & fisheries; awareness programs for sustainable agriculture, to improve soil and water, awareness programs in school through nature club	Farmers awareness for sustainable agriculture

Name of Organization	Area of Operation		Scope of Work	
	Geography	Values (vision/mission/value of org)	Success stories	Focus Area
Pundrikji Goswami's Vijayanti Ashram	Global	Vedic wisdom in a scientific way	Spiritual-scientific connection - awareness through various mediums of engagement/interaction (books, social media, speeches, etc)	clear and logical understanding of the scriptures
Religion World	India	Spread awareness from social work of religious organisations	Published stories focused on environment - religious sentiments saved trees in India, switch to greener celebrations, beat plastic pollution	Religion and environment
Shri Ram Chandra Mission	Global	Balanced living through heartfulness meditation	Retreat centres, scholarship programs, medical centres, heartfulness events	Mental health and wellbeing
Shrimad Rajchandra Mission	Global	Follow preaching's of Shrimad Rajchandra	Green sewage treatment plants (using Soil Biotechnology) at headquarters; storing rainwater through dam construction; waste management; SRMD Youth - youth network and engagement programs	Multiple agenda
Temple of Understanding Faith- Baha'i Community	Global	Improve lives of individuals and communities following Bahá'í principles	Community building workshops; youth engagement program; gender equality; poetry to unite East and West	Multiple agenda
Unity College	Lucknow, India	Education	Waste management, green campus, composting, rainwater harvesting, raise student awareness on environment	Sustainable solutions
VEERAYATAN	Global	Non-violence and compassion for all	Education for underprivileged class (Kutch) Eco-friendly Veerayatan vidyapeeth campus - renewable energy, solar cookers, wastewater management, rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, plantations; green badges, saplings, workshops, seminars and awards for eco-friendly students; distribution of reusable bags	environment awareness; inclusivity
Universal Versatile Society	Maharashtra, India	Serve the community for wellbeing and sustainable development	Activities in Z.P. School and Washim district - tree planting; organic farming and regenerative agriculture; backyard gardening; youth mobilization, workshop and campaigns for organic diet + harmful effects of fertilizer and chemicals in farming	Green school, sustainable agriculture and organic farming

ANNEXURE 8

Who should be a Faith for Earth Councilor (FEC)?

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Does it cost money to participate?

No. The cost of the FEC training is generously being covered by a grant from UNEP. The training days and materials will be provided at no fee to the participants.

Who should become a Faith for Earth Councilor?

Faith-based Organizations (FBOs) are a vital, necessary and influential group of actors in attaining the United Nations's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and changing the current course of climate and societal catastrophe. Faith Leaders engender the trust of their communities and inspire action that brings social change and transformation to villages and cities around the globe.

For these reasons, the FEC representing your FBO or community is someone who is very interested in caring for Creation and is eager to learn more and invite others to get involved. Though perhaps not your most senior leader, your FEC is a recognized member and/or an individual demonstrating a natural ability to lead.

What are the benefits of being an FEC?

The FEC training will create an informed and well-prepared team of individuals ready to support and organize their communities in becoming aware of what's at stake for humans and Nature in the short term, and to take life-affirming action for the long term. The FECs will have the support of their FEC peers, as well as resources provided throughout the training, and recognition from their FBO. FECs will learn basic principles of community organizing, and share, with their communities, powerful ways forward by weaving together faith teachings, the SDGs and location-specific environmental education.

In the later part of 2021, FECs from each project happening concurrently in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), India and Lebanon will share a 1.5 hour online gathering to exchange best practices and stimulate even greater success in each region and beyond.

At the training's conclusion, FECs will be recognized at an event to be determined by each region.

What support will our FBO / FEC receive from UNEP?

Depending on the location (India, BiH, Lebanon), the FEC training will bring together various FBOs, universities and schools, hospitals, government officials and religious leaders to determine potential actions for the protection of the environment. UNEP will have a presence in the training, and the Faith for Earth initiative along with the United Religions Initiative (URI) will provide website and curriculum resources to support the creation of an FEC action guide or other promotional materials to be used in each region.

Who else is participating?

The FEC participants will look slightly different in each region but will always be comprised of a diverse group of faith leaders, students and young activists, government officials, NGOs or other leaders from the community. Each region's training group will range from 10-25 participants, maximum.

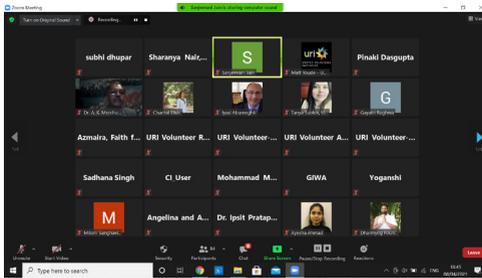
Once trained, what will the FECs be expected to do?

Beyond the training and 2021 goals connected to it, FECs are not bound to ongoing action, however FECs will be a resource and point of contact for their FBOs, schools and/or communities. Like a "train the trainer" model, the FECs will be encouraged to grow grassroots environmental action in their communities, and to encourage stronger partnerships between FBOs, NGOs, and civil society. Religious leaders and faith communities are already working with UNEP and others to create more widespread understanding and communication to engage all people in reducing pollution, consuming less and protecting Earth's resources. With the increased awareness and resource tools, FECs will spread this message to others this year, and increase the number of engaged people working to reduce global warming to care for Creation.

How will the FECs be successful?

The FEC training will include suggestions and support for effective ways to foster change and to create lasting impact within communities. Using faith teachings, the environmental SDGs along with environmental concerns specific to the area, FECs will be well-resourced for inviting greater action from their communities. It will be very important for FECs to feel the endorsing support of their religious leaders and those who hold seniority or influence so that the work plans happen with verbal and visible solidarity.

SNAPSHOTS





FAITH FOR EARTH

