



## Building a Green Common home in Faith

### FAITH PLAN

**This Plan was compiled with the support of FaithInvest as part of their FaithPlans Initiative.**

#### **1. Profile of organization**

As **JPIC** Franciscans we are called to care for our mother earth, this is our continuous call. We focus on the Franciscan spirituality to care for our common home. Our focus area is on interfaith dialogue for peace and environmental justice, integral ecology and climate justice. We have taken part in tree planting projects over the years to sustain and promote continuous care of our common home both nationally and regionally. Please find attached link to previous work projects.<sup>1</sup>

The following projects were undertaken in different places to promote environmental conservation

#### **JPIC - Birthday tree planting:**

Baha'I joined in 2018 an interfaith youth forum on climate change and tree planting in the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) and cleaned up areas around that institution.

In 2019 was built a temple of matunda soi (2 acres indigenous trees) there are many facilities and orchards. It is not only a place of worship but a place for communities to learn about the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.jpicfa.org>

environment and how to care for it. It is a repository for trees seedlings where people can grow more trees.

At Mercy schools was launched a tree planting campaign where we brought together Youth of various religious groups to plant trees for environmental caring. We brought together youth not just through words but also actions that contribute in care of our mother earth.

Plastics recycling competition is also among the activities undertaken where Youth worked together with mentors by giving exposure to all youth regardless of their social class. This also involves a pro-life issue because the dump site is a place to hide unborn babies. There is also drug and illegal arms trade in those sites.

When we launched the tree planting campaign at Mercy schools 7 primary schools and 6 secondary schools were invited including Huruma girls school and this school was a success in this campaign. Post Covid-19 schools will not start again and not all school heads are not interested some of them understand well our vision and mission for conserving environment. Youth did also the animators course and there are no clubs integrated. However, Colleges in west West Pokot, Makueni, Miguta, Githunguri and Nuu in Kitui Ngararinga are planning to start clubs for each school and nurture Stan early stage, People's livelihoods - food, timber, Carbon credits

In the year 2007, when the country was facing the post-election crisis, JPIC under the chairmanship of Sister Mary Francis in partnership with faith-based partners such as AOSK, GreenBelt Movement by Wangari Maathai , we brought different communities together especially the women who would then convince the men to stop the violence by planting trees in order to restore peace in the region. Trees were symbolic in the state of war and conflict which was used to restore peace. Later on, we organized a nature walk with the Late Wangari Maathai of the Greenbelt, nominee of the Nobel Peace Prize in order to commemorate the post-election violence and to envision a brighter future. This was also symbolized by planting of trees at Karura forest.

According to SDGs - Goal number 17 on partnerships, JPIC exists to animate franciscans, people they minister to and in collaboration with other partners to work for ecological justice, peace and integrity of creation which directly contributes to climate action. The organizations are as follows:

**YOUNG FRANCISCAN**, this is a group of young people committed to taking care of the environment by doing environmental cleaning, conservation and tree planting, with the aim of taking care of our common home.

**CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA (CUEA)** believes in having a green world and a clean environment by training experts in the field of environmental works as well as advocating for climate justice.

At the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) we undertook tree planting including fruit tree planting, nurture club like YCS and choir and alter groups. Land is used to clean the school and the agenda is in line with SDG groups.

**FAITH - BASED MEDIA** plays a vital role in climate change reporting. We influence climate action and ensure dissemination of information is well dispersed especially in the marginalized communities. We cover success stories of tree planting, solid waste management and climate action to give hope all for our common home.

Our Strength is the ability to mobilize people of various back groups where you find that YOUNIB TV has a partnership with IRCK. The partnership resulted in organizing the Peaceful protest in 2019 in places located near slums and dumpsites. They work with children to address issue of hopelessness. Sasumwa with Hindu council of Kenya interacted about how to become environmentalists with Laudato si movement and decided to start a campaign in schools on how to plant trees and care for it for environmental conservation. Using the media like YOUNIB TV is changing the environment to address all the social issues including environmental conservation.

## **2. Project Title : Building a Green Common Home in Faith**

### **3. Project Description:**

Our goal is to restore forest cover by planting 1 million trees per year in order to cut down carbon emissions that contribute to climate change. Our strategy for abating Africa's contribution to carbon emissions is limiting carbon use/emission through restoration projects by improving forest cover. As part of the Franciscan spirituality, we hope to provide sustainable income for the youth and women regionally through growing of various tree to combat the adverse effects of climate change as well as provide a sustainable income in the agribusiness sector.

According to a publication by UNEP about Tree Billion Campaign, it is intended to convey the range of partners moved to action: from children to giant corporations, from women's groups to technocrats, dancers to diplomats, farmers to national governments. "The symbolism – and the substantive significance of planting a tree have universal power in every culture and every society on Earth, and it is a way for individual men, women and children to participate in creating solutions for the environmental crisis." Al Gore, 2007 Nobel Peace Prize Winner.

In the year 2022, the Conference of Bishops (AMECEA) held a plenary in Tanzania to adopt "Laudato Si" Pope's encyclical on care for our common home. They encouraged people of faith to plant more trees to combat climate change. The AMECEA has also empowered the use of media and technology such as CAPUCHIN TV, AMECEA Online, ACI Africa, and Radio Maria amongst others to disseminate information on care for creation and how to combat climate change.

According to a recent publication by Nation (Kenya), His Excellency the President William Samoei Ruto addressed the citizens stating his concern about climate change and its impact on our motherland, most especially in the arid and semi-arid regions.

President's speech on Jamhuri Day said that: "To combat effects of climate change, we have commenced our plan to grow 15 billion trees on 11 million hectares in every part of Kenya by 2030. Our objective is to increase the national tree cover from the current 12 per cent to 30 per cent over that period. This programme will be implemented through the Ministry of Environment

in collaboration with county governments and many other stakeholders, local and foreign. Working with the County government of Nairobi, we will recruit at least 11,000 young people to grow a minimum 1.5 million trees in the city's open and public spaces as part of the big dream of greening the city of Nairobi.”

He urged the citizens to plant trees in order to address the effects of this phenomenon and its ravaging effects at home and abroad, he termed the ongoing drought the worst in 40 years. Faith-Based institutions such as universities, Secondary and primary schools and other leading institutions have adopted this strategy to plant a number of trees without leaving the corporate sector.

It is in this regard that we heed to the call of the president and the SDGs by the United Nations to help combat climate change through planting trees as well as provide a sustainable income in the green sector. This has mostly encouraged more multilateral relationships and partnerships in the international space such as Green faith, FaithPlans, Laudato Si Movement.

**Implementers:** Faith partners

**Target group:** Schools and places of worship (since it is a Faith plan we shall get faith leaders and wisdom and assets, we are using these places as entry points)

**Beneficiaries:** Communities

**Target areas:** (mapping our assets, communities and opportunities in the country)

### **SMART goals and objectives we want to achieve per year**

#### **YEAR 1**

1. Training and engaging faith based organization and institution on tree planting and care of our common home.
2. Sensitizing the community on water harvesting by giving education, tips and tools that fit best with the local situation.
3. Working with local governments to establish / developing the policies and legal frameworks.
4. Forming new partnerships with local stakeholders and strengthening existing partnerships.
5. Establishing an office that will help in evaluation and monitoring.

6. Inviting professionals to train the partners and impact the knowledge for us to train others on tree growing, environment and climate change.
7. Establish tree nurseries.
8. Social Media and Media campaigns.
9. Yearly nature walks.
10. Publish bi-annual magazines/newsletter.
11. Yearly negotiations (UNFCCC (COP), convention on biodiversity (CBD), INC-on plastic pollution.
12. Monitoring and Evaluation reports from all the projects.
13. Annual Reports.

## **YEAR 2**

1. Establish Training programmes.
2. Establish clubs in different regions and counties.
3. Create awareness through media and engaging churches, schools and institutions.
4. Yearly nature walks.
5. Social Media and Media campaigns.
6. Publish quarterly magazines.
7. Tree planting.
8. Yearly negotiations (UNFCCC (COP), convention on biodiversity (CBD), INC-on plastic pollution.
9. Monitoring & Evaluation reports from all the projects.
10. Audit & Annual Reports.

## **YEAR 3**

1. Establish agribusiness for our sustainability e.g bee keeping and fruit tree growing.
2. Advocacy in tree planting.
3. Yearly nature walks
4. Publish quarterly magazines
5. Social Media and Media campaigns

6. Yearly negotiations (UNFCCC (COP), convention on biodiversity (CBD), INC-on plastic pollution.
7. Monitoring & Evaluation reports from all the projects.
8. Audit & Annual Reports.

#### **YEAR 4**

1. Partnership with government organizations and NGOS.
2. Visit indigenous communities and marginalized people in different regions.
3. Sites visit to check the progress of growing trees and tree planting.
4. Yearly nature walks.
5. Publish quarterly magazines.
6. Social Media and Media campaigns.
7. Yearly negotiations (UNFCCC (COP), convention on biodiversity (CBD), INC-on plastic pollution.
8. Monitoring & Evaluation reports from all the projects.
9. Audit & Annual Reports.

#### **YEAR 5**

1. Social media campaigns and media engagement.
2. Training for climate reporting for young journalist.
3. Yearly nature walks.
4. Publish quarterly magazines.
5. Social Media and Media campaigns.
6. Yearly negotiations (UNFCCC (COP), convention on biodiversity (CBD), INC-on plastic pollution.
7. Monitoring & Evaluation reports from all the projects.
8. Audit & Annual Reports.

#### **YEAR 6**

1. Lobbying and advocacy in churches, parishes, and media for tree growing.
2. Documentaries and publishing of a book.

3. Publish quarterly magazines.
4. Yearly nature walks.
5. Social Media and Media campaigns.
6. Yearly negotiations (UNFCCC (COP), convention on biodiversity (CBD), INC-on plastic pollution.
7. Monitoring and Evaluation reports from all the projects.
8. Audit & Annual reports.

## **YEAR 7**

1. Establishing centers for training and research.
2. Yearly negotiations (UNFCCC (COP), convention on biodiversity (CBD), INC-on plastic pollution.
3. Yearly nature walks.
4. Social Media and Media campaigns.
5. Publish quarterly magazines.
6. Tree planting.
7. Monitoring & Evaluation reports from all the projects.
8. Audit & Annual reports.

## **YEAR 8**

1. Train different churches, schools and institutions.
2. Distribution of seeds and seedlings to communities and interested individuals.
3. Yearly nature walks.
4. Tree planting.
5. Publish quarterly magazines.
6. Social Media and Media campaigns.
7. Yearly negotiations (UNFCCC (COP), convention on biodiversity (CBD), INC-on plastic pollution.
8. Monitoring & Evaluation reports from all the projects.
9. Audit & Annual report.



## **YEAR 9**

1. Invite professionals in different fields like environment, forestry and climate to discuss the current trends in environmental development goals and train the already empowered grassroots teams.
2. Organizing conferences, webinars and seminars to create awareness with different interest groups .
3. Yearly nature walks.
4. Publish quarterly magazines.
5. Social Media and Media campaigns.
6. Yearly negotiations (UNFCCC (COP), convention on biodiversity (CBD), INC-on plastic pollution.
7. Monitoring & Evaluation reports from all the projects.
8. Audit & Annual report.

## **YEAR 10**

1. Site visit and tree planting.
2. Yearly nature walks.
3. Publish quarterly magazines.
4. Social Media and Media campaigns.
5. Yearly negotiations (UNFCCC (COP), convention on biodiversity (CBD), INC-on plastic pollution.
6. Monitoring & Evaluation reports from all the projects.
7. Audit & Annual reports.
8. End of 10 year documentary launch.

In summary, to be in line with the call of the government about environmental conservation as mentioned above we must plant a million trees per year which means 10 million trees in 10 years. By doing this, we will be promoting already ratified laws of Kenya such as the Environment Conservation and Management Act (2012), the Forest Management and Conservation Act 2016 and the Constitution of Kenya 2010 that all promote the right to a clean and healthy environment.

To achieve that the following will be done:

- Collective community environmental literacy by using the community approach to understand and adjust their needs to ensure positive collaboration, and a general progress on both parties.
- Involvement of all community members without any form of discrimination
- Finding alternative solutions for vulnerable or marginalized people in the community,
- Establishing tree nurseries through different religious institutions - this will be done by creating community forums to foster good relations and creates appreciation on their cultural traditions as well as religious traditions.

### **Anticipated outcomes**

According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), “illegal logging and unsustainable forest management result to GHG (Greenhouse Gas Emission) while sustainable forest management can prevent deforestation, maintain and enhance carbon sinks and can contribute towards GHG emissions reduction goals. A 2015 report by the United Nations Commission to Combat Desertification stated that the land use sector represents almost 25 percent of total global emissions of GHG and that the depletion of the soil organic carbon pool has transferred 78 gigatons which is roughly 78 trillion kilograms of carbon in the atmosphere.

In this regard, our expected outcome will be as follows:

1. Significantly contribute to the Paris Agreement goal of 45% lower carbon emissions by 2030.
2. Reach out to 100 institutions every year such as schools, churches/diocese, counties to create awareness on carbon offsetting, decarbonization, and landscape restoration.
3. Hold quarterly trainings and sensitization programs quarterly especially for at least 100 marginalized peoples in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) regions on importance of tree growing.
4. To create awareness in all 47 counties through the use of media and technology (IT) on tree planting, water harvesting and agribusiness.
5. To provide a sustainable income for youth and women in the community.
6. Stabilization of climate resilience.

7. Achieving SDG goals on climate change, water, and partnerships for the goals.
8. Placing Kenya at a strategic position among other African countries to replicate from.
9. Carbon sequestration .
10. Mainstreaming the action for climate movement by engaging students from primary to tertiary institutions.
11. Food security through prioritization of fruit trees and awareness for climate smart agriculture.
12. Producing a report that will be used as a resource to reach a wider population.
13. Slow down the rate of deforestation by having more trees that communities can use in a sustainable way for fuel.
14. Trees for fodder in the community.
15. Preservation of indigenous trees, which is a source of medicine for treating livestock and contributes to traditional knowledge.
16. Forests to protect biodiversity as a habitat for various animals.
17. Forests as a source of spiritual wellness especially for certain cultures who use it as a place of worship.

#### **4. Project Site(s):**

The project sites will include:

- Forest, degraded forest or landscape.
- Schools by involving the students and teachers.
- Faith based institutions: these are social institutions owned by faith groups.( hospitals, rehabilitation centers, schools)
- Religious institutions: (Christian Christmas trees and palm trees, specific trees that are heavily valued, or other religious practices that are done in other religions, for example the Hare Krishna-plant trees once they turn 75 years old.
- Sacred places and Cemetery.
- Safe houses: it can be used for people who are hiding for protection purposes
- Hospital: for rehabilitation purposes pre, during and after treatment. The patients can be taught how to nurture the trees that will help them in their counseling purposes.
- Mt.Kenya region: Embu County
- Mau forest-Rift, Valley, Baringo Tugen elders involvement.

- Coastal regions: mangrove restoration.
- Kilifi: kaya forests (religious institution).
- Kajiado Franciscan schools: targeting school children and elders.

The ratio will be different from each other due to the intensity experienced in the specified areas according to the climate impacts.

### **5. Total Area of Project Site(s):**

The total area that will be planted with trees or degraded land that will be restored during our Faith Plan implementation will be:

- For indigenous trees land to use will be 13215 acres.
- While exotic trees will use land of 3915 acres totaling it to 17130 acres (can be rounded off to 20000 acres or 15000 acres).

This could include land owned by members, where agro-forestry and other farm-based conservation initiatives are envisaged (for faith groups)

- Both own land and state/community land will be used to unlock the maximum potential
- Letter of allotment or memorandum of understanding will be attached to prove the permission to operate in those lands
- We understand that a lot more independence is given to faith groups and faith based organizations.

### **6. Number of trees to be grown:**

As specified before in the project description, 10 million trees is the overall goal. It will be divided into a 6:4 ratio of indigenous to exotic that is 6 million to indigenous and 4 million to exotic.

### **7. Type of trees to be grown:**

The trees to grown will involve variety of species including: Grevillea, Fruit trees, Bamboo, Mangrove, Indigenous trees species.

### **8. Project Period:**

The project period will be 10 years as specified before in project description.

**9. Project Activities:** See the list of activities in Table of Budget

**10. Project partners:**

- The partners include: Faith groups, faith-based organizations, NGOs, government line agencies in environment, as well as community-based organizations (CBOs)
- In more than one sites the role of each partner will depend on the needs:
  - Faith groups, faith-based organizations will contribute in spiritual inspirational support in promoting faith-based tree growing, or help in mobilization, sensitization.
  - NGOs will help in providing Technical training in their areas of expertise
  - Community-based organizations (CBOs) will help in mobilization and sensitization.

**11. Private Sector Involvement:**

The private sectors that will be involved in this project include:

- The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA): its role is to help mobilize students and providing places to plant trees
- Green faith, Faith Plans, and Laudato Si Movement: They will contribute for trainings and sensibilization

**12. Strategies of Implementation:**

1. Having a clear plan with dates and deliverables
2. Clarifying responsibilities internally and externally
3. Inviting participation of stakeholders
4. Working with existing partners and forming new partnerships
5. Regular monitoring
6. Regular evaluation
7. Frequent meetings and communication across teams
8. Risk mapping
9. Budgeting and accountability.
10. Aligning structures and processes.

### **13. Sustainability of the Project**

- The trainings, tree planting and agribusiness will help cut down cost and provide communities with partners and create a positive impact to the environment.
- The trainings will bring knowledge to the communities, church and schools to be able to start, continue and improve agribusiness and tree planting.
- The measures that will support project continuity during and after the project period include:
  1. Recording keeping and auditing.
  2. Fostering partnerships.
  3. Highlighting key events in the media.

### **14. Project Benefits:**

- **The beneficiaries of the project around the selected sites include:**
  1. Local community and individuals
  2. Churches, institutions, schools, and hospitals.
  3. Youth and women.
  
- **The anticipated benefits of the project, include:**
  1. A mobilized network of individuals who care about the environment.
  2. A group of young people who are empowered to combat climate change
  3. Reduced occurrences of gender based violence.
  4. Income generation, employment and a means of sustenance for the poor.
  5. Food security.
  6. Peacebuilding.
  7. Communing with nature; wellness.
  
- **The total number of beneficiary households or people:**
  1. Churches: 2,000,000
  2. Schools: 500,000

3. Faith Based Institutions: 1,000,000
4. Hospitals: 200,000
5. Counties: 2,000,000

## 15. Addressing Gender issues

- Gender inclusion: (No one to be left behind, partnerships, solving GBV, partnering with people with disabilities, on employment, how different gender are affected, Youth middle get jobs and girls are saved from early pregnancy ,Provide toolkit and materials online for people to access information)
- The estimated number:
  1. Youth - 1000000
  2. Women-300000
  3. Men-250000
  4. People with disabilities- 2000
- The specified groups mentioned above will be benefited as follow:
  1. Youth-income generation and employment.
  2. Women- employment and ending of gender based violence.
  3. Men- income and end of gender based violence.
  4. People with disability- sense of belonging.
  5. Good health as a result of proper environmental conservation

Sr. Mary Wangare Sebastian

JPIC-Franciscans Africa, Director

