

AFRICAN FAITH COMMITMENTS FOR A LIVING PLANET

FULL GOSPEL CHURCHES OF KENYA Long-term plan on the environment – summary

INTRODUCTION

The Full Gospel Churches of Kenya was started by missionaries from Finland in 1949. Now it is a locally registered church with 1.2 million members. It is organised in 12 regions, 85 districts and has 545 local church assemblies and 5,000 branches across Kenya. It has four Bible Colleges, runs health facilities, and has 182 schools (pre-school to secondary) as well as homes for street children and physically challenged children, and child sponsorship programmes. It is among the largest of Pentecostal Churches in Kenya with a network of churches all over the country.

In 2009, FGCK leadership agreed to make the environmental problems facing Kenya a priority for action. In January 2012, FGCK leadership met for a three-day workshop to consult on drawing up a seven-year plan and policy on environment stewardship for the Church. It was attended by 28 key figures from the entire church and leadership levels at region, district, local church assembly and comprised of men and women leaders, youth leaders and Bible school principals. They agreed on the main strategic priorities and a draft plan for the next seven years. These are the Seven-Year Plan Strategies:

1. EQUIP AND TRANSFORM CHURCH LEADERS TO TEACH AND ADVOCATE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Goals:

- An empowered church leadership that is able to articulate and advocate climate change issues and environmental stewardship
- Climate change and environmental stewardship mainstreamed in all Church Bible schools
- FGCK to develop/formulate and disseminate a policy document on environmental stewardship and climate change in Kenya

2. EMPOWER/BUILD THE CAPACITY OF THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO IMPLEMENT PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Goals

- A well-informed Church and community who will implement practical solutions in climate change and environmental conservation for equitable gender based sustainable development;
- Empowered communities practicing nutritious food security measures that are adaptive to climate change and weather variability;
- A community that is able to promote safer and healthier environmental practices, that is involved and committed to sanitation, hygiene, water conservation and management and a clean and healthy environment;
- A community that is living in a clean and healthy environment and participating in WASH – Water Sanitation and Hygiene – programmes;
- A community that is using appropriate technologies such as:
- Energy saving stoves

- Solar power
- Alternative fuels
- Establishment of tree/fruit nurseries
- Agroforestry
- Economic empowerment for communities, with diversified sources of livelihoods for improved standards of living.

3. NETWORK AND COLLABORATE WITH LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS IN SOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Goals

- The Church will establish networks and partnerships, mobilise resources and share information in addressing climate change and environmental conservation.

A Committee has been formed to develop the long-term plan activities.

This Seven-Year Strategic Plan has been endorsed by the General Overseer of the FGCK, Dr. Bishop Samuel Mureithi, and the FGCK General Secretary, Bishop Samuel Mbithi Kathitta, and members of National Executive council (NEC). It will be presented to the National Pastoral Council later in the year for ratification. Meanwhile, with the acceptance of the official leaders of the church (NEC), implementation and support is assured.

This plan was launched at ARC's Many Heavens, One Earth, Our Continent celebration held in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2012