

# AFRICAN FAITH COMMITMENTS FOR A LIVING PLANET

## QADIRIYYAH MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA Long-term plan on the environment – summary

### INTRODUCTION

The Qadiriyyah Sufi movement already has an environmental programme in which its schoolchildren are given two tree seedlings to plant at the start of the school year; one to plant in the school orchard and one to take home. At the end of the year they are assessed on how well they have looked after their trees, and this contributes to half their academic marks.

It intends to expand the school tree planting programme further among its 120,000 schoolchildren. In addition it will:

#### **Education & schools:**

- Develop a tree seedling nursery to supply the schools with seedlings;
- Hold a teacher training workshop on environmental care;
- Hold a workshop on tree planting & care for teachers & muqaddams (religious officials);
- Start weekly collections of used polythene water bags; the children will collect the bags as part of a street cleaning programme and they will be recycled for use in the tree nursery programme. Longer-term the Qadiriyyah Sufi Movement intends to lobby for a polythene bag recycling plant to be established in Kano city.

#### **Environment:**

- It plans to develop environmental education materials for schools;
- It plans to develop a theological guide on Muslims & the environment;
- It will establish Green Clubs in schools;
- It will plant trees in selected streets to green Kano metropolis;
- It will distribute blessed tree seedlings to muqaddams (religious officials); qadiris (members of the Qadiri Sufi Order); and Maukib pilgrims (1.5 million Muslim pilgrims from West Africa come to Kano each year to visit the tombs of the local Qadiriyyah Saints for the annual Maukib festival).

#### **Food:**

- It plans to acquire land to develop a 'Green Pilgrims Orchard';
- It intends to develop organic gardens and orchards in its schools.

#### **Faith & Lifestyle:**

- It plans to green the Kano Hajj Pilgrims camp;
- It will distribute tree seedlings as part of its Green Cemeteries Programme;
- It intends to introduce solar power for lighting in its mosques.

**Media:** It is also planning several media campaigns including:

- Islam & Your Environment
- Your Faith & Your Carbon Footprint
- War Against Polythene Bags
- War Against Bush Burning
- Fighting materialism with Sufism
- Longer-term it would like to establish a Green FM Radio station in Kano

#### **Partnerships / Alliances**

The Qadiriyyah Sufi Movement intends to build alliances on environmental action with other local Islamic groups and develop secular and technical partnerships with Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; KNARDA, the Forestry Research Institute; the Federal Environmental Protection Agency; and Kano State Ministry Of Environment.

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