

AFRICAN FAITH COMMITMENTS FOR A LIVING PLANET

GREEK PATRIARCHATE OF ALEXANDRIA AND ALL AFRICA

Long-term plan on the environment – summary

INTRODUCTION

The Greek Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa is second in rank among all Orthodox Patriarchates and operates in 53 countries. It has 10 million Orthodox believers in Africa and around 1,000 clerics in some 5,000 parishes and small mission centres. There are eight seminaries in Alexandria, Nairobi, Kinsasa, Mwantza, Lagos, Yaunde, Kampala and Johannesburg. The Greek Patriarchate also produces several publications and runs schools, orphanages, nursery schools, clinics, old age homes and shelters for the poor.

This Seven-Year Plan was presented at the ARC Windsor Celebration in 2009. Since then, some financial assistance has been provided to rural areas to get clean water for schools and local Orthodox communities in Tanzania, Uganda, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana and Zimbabwe. Competitions on the environment have also been launched in some of the Church's educational institutions.

ARC sponsored a seminar in July 2012 in Harare, Zimbabwe, to train young people from the Greek Orthodox Church about care of the environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Church will establish a new Environmental Centre in Johannesburg to promote the protection of the environment in Africa. This will organise seminars and facilitate action on the environment for church members throughout Africa.
- The Church will set up Environmental Awakening Centres in all parishes to coordinate initiatives on the environment and raise awareness.
- All churches and members will keep September 1st each year as a day dedicated to the environment and its protection.
- New programmes of Christian environmental education will be initiated in all the dioceses in Africa, with the creation of material for use in public and church-run schools and tertiary education institutions.
- Each Metropolitan archdiocese and diocese will plan projects at the local parish level for recycling and responsible use of water and transport.
- Parishes are also to play a leading role in reforestation and tree planting in cities.
- Every diocese will examine the use of its land, buildings and investments and carry out energy saving programmes.
- All young people in the Church will be encouraged to undertake environmental projects.
- Clergy will use sermons and catechism to talk about the environment and teach the theology of creation.
- The Church will work with all secular groups, government and NGOs to co-ordinate action relating to environment and refugees.
- The Church will also focus on advocacy that calls for no industrial products to be exported and no waste discarded in Africa if its country of origin would not itself accept such products or waste.

*The Seven Year Plan has the blessing of the Primate of the Church, Theodoros II, and of all the Members of the Holy Synod of the Greek Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa.
It was drawn up by the Archbishop Seraphim Kykkotis, of the Greek Orthodox Archbishopric of Zimbabwe and Angola, Member of the Commission on Environment of the Holy Synod of the Greek Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa*

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