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African Faith and Environment Yearbook
‘An interreligious dialogue on the law and praxis of faith based environmental protection in Africa’
Call for Papers - July 2022
Publication date: May 2023

Introduction

Kabarak University Press is pleased to invite papers on the role of beliefs and faith-based action in environmental governance and conservation for the first volume of the *African Faith and Environment Yearbook* (2023).

The *African Faith and Environment Yearbook* is an interdisciplinary periodical dedicated to the study of the faith-based approaches to regional and international environmental governance and protection practices from African perspectives.

This Call for Papers for the first volume of the *Yearbook* invites authors to submit papers that focus on how faith inspired values impact secular public policy, highlighting examples of positive influence as well as instances where influences have produced less than desirable outcomes. A specific focus will be placed on original research on the theme as applies to the policy and law making at the East African Community.

Theme of the *Yearbook*

The values of a people's faith are the primary drivers of their worldview and donate either positive or negative value judgements to both individual and communal behaviours. Faiths (religions and belief systems) around the world underscore the importance of nature and the responsibility of humankind to respect and protect nature and the environment, not only as an element of appropriate human conduct *but precisely as direct divine instruction*.

As such, faith inspiration, overtly or otherwise, regulates behaviour of human interaction with the environment, including influencing individual behaviour, to influencing the formulation of local, regional, national and international regulation on environmental protection. Aligning environmental protection with local cultural practices and religious beliefs can help us understand how to better protect our environment. It may also lead to value-driven behavioural change and effectively aid in incentivising long-term environmental protection.

The need for multi-stakeholder engagement urgently calls for effective actions as a 'last push' in achieving the climate and environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals, for the benefit of present and future generations. As such, religious and spiritual leaders, faith institutions, an overall value-driven approach combine together with environmental scientists and policy-makers, to enhance environmental governance and galvanise action.

Both interreligious and interdisciplinary approaches

Contemporary Africa, can be understood as an amalgam of three traditions and belief systems: indigenous faiths, Islamic faith and Christian faith (Ali Mazrui, 1986). Scholarly discussion on the legal aspects of faith and environmental protection remains largely unconnected across the various disciplinary silos that study this interdisciplinary question. While it is true that theological, anthropological and legal texts abound on various aspects of local, national and international regulation of environmental protection, the diverse religious perspectives from African (religious) governance structures and African traditional practices are still rather understudied. Similarly, there is underappreciated scholarly discourse on the Africa's position and perspectives in formal international environmental governance, save for a few high-profile events.

These lacunae call for reanimated scholarship towards better coverage of these areas of understudy, as is urged by this Call for Papers.

Special focus on the policy and law making of the East African Community

In addition to inviting submissions on general scholarship along the theme of faith and environment, the *African Faith and Environment Yearbook* will dedicate this inaugural issue to conducting an exhaustive and comprehensive review of whether and how faith values and principles influence public policy making in the East African Community.

The Board of the *African Faith and Environment Yearbook* therefore welcomes any specific original submission on this special focus.

It is our intention to use the research collected to advise the EAC's institutions on areas in which recognition of faith values and principles on environmental protection can be implemented or improved in its policy and law making.

Submission guidelines

Papers submitted for consideration should be original and not published or under consideration by any other platform. The papers should be of no more than 10,000 words including footnotes.

Papers should be submitted on or before 30 November 2022 to editor.kup@kabarak.ac.ke. An acknowledgement will be returned upon receipt of the submission. Authors of the accepted submission will be informed by **15 December 2022**.

Accepted papers will be published in the first volume of the *Yearbook* which is expected to appear in May 2023.

Inquiries relating to submission can be sent to: editor.kup@kabarak.ac.ke