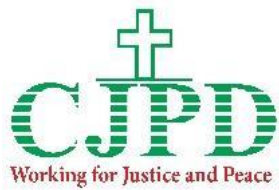
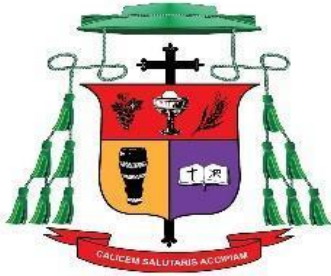


# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KAKAMEGA



Our Faith Plan  
@2023

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## About the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega

Created in the year 1978, the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega (CDKK) is one of the 27 Catholic Dioceses of Kakamega.

The Diocesan Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (CJPD) Office, an executive arm of the CDKK undertook an asset mapping exercise to have an understanding of resources available for inclusion in environmental conservation intervention within the Diocese. From this assessment, the following was notable;

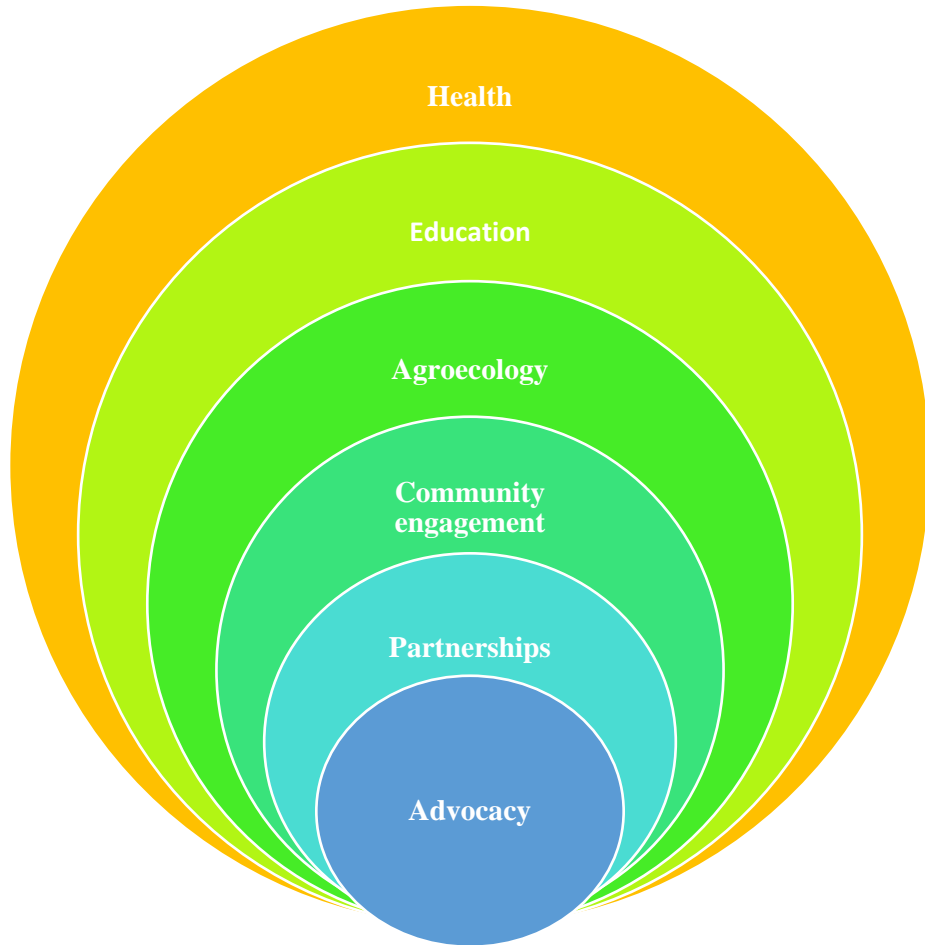
- i. 470 educational institutions (inclusive of primary, secondary and tertiary institutions)
- ii. 15 health facilities (inclusive of 2 fully fledged hospitals)
- iii. 46 Parishes with more than 200 built up sub-parishes
- iv. A diocesan Model tree nursery

The Diocese also maintains 36 staff across all relevant departments working fulltime for the benefit of communities served by the Church. Beyond the scope of the Diocese, religious institutions also maintain influence over schools, land holdings and Churches/mosques numbering more than 2,000



Our **6 areas of work** include Witness of the Gospel, Human Dignity, Equality and inclusiveness, Transparency and Accountability, Love and compassion with preferential option for the poor and stewardship of God's creation.

## The Seven Key Areas of the Long-Term Environmental Plan



## 1. Advocacy

Media and advocacy are core to our work with the youth being central to our mandate. Without employing tools of media in our areas of concern, achievement of our goals will prove futile and challenging to implement and attain success. One of CDKK's area of focus is networking through creating resourceful relationships within the community of its faithful. This enables the community in concise deliberation and making of sound decisions. Whilst recognizing and appreciating the value of the conventional media, our major area of focus has been so far social media (mostly Facebook and Twitter) and at times radio has been employed as a tool as well. The major challenge is that the CDKK has been relying solely on volunteer personnel and this has for sure proven to be a major impediment in terms of consistency with the media arrangements and interactions.

By the fall of the year 2030, CDKK will:

- Enhance use of media by running annual conventional and social media advocacy Campaigns that promote conservational sustainable consumption and production
- Enhance partnerships with media houses to enable the running of 1 weekly radio program on Laudato Si' in Vihiga and Kakamega Counties.
- Produce state of the environment annual report and development of other such literature as scientifically-backed material content for guides, videos and handbooks, which appeal to young Catholics and elderly alike in the two counties, that is, Kakamega and Vihiga Counties.
- Promote operationalization of environment organs for example county environment committee through continually running advocacy campaigns on need-basis to influence lifestyle choices and policy within and without the above aforementioned counties.
- Organizing annual forums of the interfaith within the two counties under the jurisdiction of the diocese.
- In order to use art such as music to speak to care for our common home, a studio shall be set up to encourage and nature such young talents.
- Hold at least a bi-monthly YouTube conversation on conservation

## 2. Partnerships

When it comes to regional, and global development and policy making, partnerships play a pivotal role. Similarly, collaborations and partnerships are important in our Catholic faith especially in the organization of the church structures. The Church structures emulate the scriptural text by St. Paul in Romans 8 in the analogy of the Body of Christ. Additionally, partnerships are so important to the fore most extent of making the 17<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

Just as the CDKK has been doing, and in order to facilitate implementation of campaigns and projects sustainable to the environment, it will continue to partner with the young people through their organizations, movements and institutions.

Promote collaborations between religious organizations, governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil organizations with at most focus of direct community engagement through such avenues as public participation. This is embodied during the formation and development of the Diocesan Environment Policy where its public participation employed a multi-stakeholder approach.

On March 9<sup>th</sup> 2023, CJPDK Kakamega organized for a stakeholders Forum on development of a Diocesan Environment Policy. The forum brought together all relevant internal offices and representatives including; Education, Health, Caritas (Social Development), Clergy and Religious, Women, Men, Youth and Children.

As part of this engagement open discussions were held on environmental challenges and opportunities to address the same. Expert presentations on the policy making process were also made by Mr. Peter Mathia (County Department of Environment – Kakamega) and Mr. John Maniafu (County Director – National Environment Management Authority (*See attached presentations*)). Suggestions were also provided on possible intervention by the Catholic Church in Kakamega with resolutions reached for establishment of a subcommittee to reduce the proposals made into a draft policy document.



Figure 1 Mr. Peter Mathia from the County Department of Environment - Kakamega makes a presentation during the stakeholders' forum on development of a Diocesan Environment Policy - 9TH March 2023



Figure 2 Rev. Fr. Kizito Mmasi makes a presentation during the Forum. He attended on behalf of Clergy.

The committee subsequently met on 22<sup>nd</sup> March during which agreement was reached on the scope and content of the policy.

Presently, a draft Environment policy is in place and undergoing public participation within the church's public. Upon conclusion of this stage, a validation session will be held before the policy comes into effect. The policy framework will provide a standard framework of reference for all church affiliated institutions and actors ensuring best environmental practice across board.

The CDKK is actively involved in fostering of cohesion and partnerships amongst the aforementioned sects through creation of amicable working relationships. For example, the CDKK has a working memorandum of understanding with the County Government of Vihiga on the rehabilitation of the degraded Maragoli Hills Forest. This has seen the CDKK through collaboration with its partners establish a tree nursery with a carrying capacity of producing more than 20, 000 tree seedlings at the foot of the degraded Maragoli Hills Forest.



The CJPD Diocesan office together with CJPD members from Eregi Deanery have from time and again joined the Governor of Vihiga Dr. Wilber Ottichilo and multiple stakeholders for a monthly clean up exercise within and without Mbale town (Vihiga County Headquarters). As part of our contribution we donated cleaning equipment and other necessities to the initiative.

We recognize the urgency to take care of our common home and remain willing partners with the county in advancing the care of our common home.



*Figure 3 The Governor Vihiga County Dr. Wilber Ottichilo is joined by the Diocesan team led by the CJPD Programs Officer Mr. Arnold Ambei during the Mbale Market Clean up exercise*

Through collaborative efforts with the Catholic Justice and Peace Department (CJPD) and the County Government of Vihiga, Environment Department more than 30 community members at Gilwazi in Maragoli have been trained on Nursery establishment, management, and sustainability and transitioning. And in a true living embodiment of its core value on transparency and accountability, the CDKK has continually been establishing working partnerships with the local government on project decisions and policies to infuse the voice of faith.

In the spirit of collaboration toward inter-religious dialogue and ecumenism the CDKK today's just as in the past, reaches out to the leadership of the other religious groups especially in carrying out humanitarian programs for the good of the society on such matters as environment conservation, civic engagement, leadership and governance.



*Figure 4 Rev. Fr. Wycliffe Emoja - Coordinator of the Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism (CIRDE) gives the opening remarks during the forum. Religious leaders took stock of the role of religion in*

*environmental conservation. Fr. Emoja spoke for cooperation noting where such had been promoted before, challenges had been overcome.*

On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023, with the support from FaithInvest, religious leaders from various faith persuasions gathered at Bishop Stam Pastoral Centre in Kakamega for a Forum on Environment. The purpose of the forum was, in line with FaithInvest's objectives, to promote dialogue and cooperation among faith actors on intentional long term planning of environmental action.

As part of the forum, consideration was given to finding answers to the following questions;

1. What are the realities on the ground in terms of the environment?
2. What initiatives are you implementing or plan to implement in response to these realities (positive or otherwise)?
3. What recommendation would you make going forward?



*Figure 5 Bishop Nicholas Olumasai from the Interfaith Council of Kakamega County follows proceedings of the Interreligious Forum on Environment held on 9th May 2023 at Bishop Stam Pastoral Centre Kakamega.*

Within the next 7 years, the CDKK will be in the course of channeling a discourse on the care for our common home through amplification of the voice of faith in the local, national, regional, continental and international discourse.

In order to set up collaborative working partnerships, the CDKK by the fall of the year 2030 shall work towards achievement of the following:

- Partner with 46 Parishes across the diocese to offer them a foundation as guided by the papal encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.
- Mobilization of other faith actors and government agencies (at least 15 faith groups brought on board)



### 3. Community engagement

The CDKK holds community engagement of its faithful core to its heart since the Church of Christ is found in every group of the faithful in a certain neighborhood or area, who together with pastors are called the Church in the writings of the New Testament. Therefore, the CDKK has established Small Christian Communities as a good way of enhancing and nurturing community engagement.



*Figure 6 A skills transfer session at Ideleri Primary School involving 5 community members*

Consequently, with the spirit of love and care for one another and for purposes of enhancing good human relationships and cohesion in society, the CDKK through its arm, that is, the CJPD has held and continues holding community engagement sessions such as 3 Skills Transfer Session for 5 Community Members at Ideleri, 3 Community Forums on Rehabilitation of Maragoli Hills Forest, together with a team from implementing partners ACTS 4 Change.





*Figure 7 The Bishop of Kakamega and the First Lady Kakamega County Prof. Janet Kassily Barasa pose for photo during the inception of the Wezesha Mjane Project in Mumias East Constituency*

Through the initiative, the CDKK has facilitated implementation of the Wezesha Mjane Project; an initiative aimed at improving livelihoods through bio intensive kitchen gardening and awareness on land/property rights among a targeted group of 400 widows in Mumias West and parts of Mumias East Constituencies. This is to name only but a few. The CDKK looks forward to foster more of such community engagement sessions such as

#### 4. Agroecology

By 2030, the CDKK shall work towards achievement of the following;

- Protection of riparian land from agricultural activities.
- Promote use of organic familiar
- Capacity building of households on water harvesting and agroforestry.
- Support community initiatives on environment protection through establishment of tree nurseries, vegetable gardens, and protection of catchment areas.
- Capacity building of farmers in improved farming technologies and agronomic practices for improved agricultural/ Livestock production.
- Undertake training on marketing, sourcing, governance and value addition to ensure access to markets.
- Training of farmers' producer organization and value chain analysis.
- 20% improved agricultural productivity (in quality and quantity) among the living within the jurisdiction of the CDKK.
- Conduct a baseline survey on agricultural production within the Diocese.
- Conduct at least 700 consultation forums for farmers within 5 years to form groups.
- Conduct 120 trainings per year in 10 parishes on Good Agricultural Practices such as minimum tillage and integrated pest management technologies
- Conduct at least 10 farmer field days in each of the 10 identified parishes per annum
- Conduct 50 trainings per year on formation of farmers producer organizations
- Conduct 20 capacity building forums for 500 farmers on animal health and production practices annually.
- Hold 20 capacity building forums for 500 farmers on marketing, sourcing, value addition and governance.
- Conduct profiling of suppliers in relation to A.I and feeds
- Protect 4 springs with community watering points (access viability of gravity system).

- Drill 5 shallow wells and 2 Boreholes by 2027.
- Form and train 4 water catchment users associations (WRUA's).
- Establish and promote indigenous tree nurseries in 5 deaneries by 2028.

## 5. Education

Education is an important factor in promotion of ethics and consciousness on various matters and well-designed serves to inculcate lifelong attitudes that shape how individuals and societies interact not only amongst themselves, but with nature. The Diocese of Kakamega is a significant stakeholder in the Education sector in the region directly associating with over 450 educational institutions ranging from basic learning to tertiary education. And through its network, the CDKK has made all Catholic affiliated schools environmental hubs and second transform individual and social attitudes that have long challenged environmental conservation efforts.

For enhancement of the tree planting/ growing and documentation of the same under the Diocesan Parish/School greening programme, the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega in 2019 rolled out the Parish Greening Programme and School based environment programme all aimed at promoting tree growing through Church affiliated institutions. Under this project steps were taken to enhance documentation and monitoring strategies. Such documents as; Delivery forms, Commitment forms and Monitoring forms are now embedded in our record system allowing for tracking of progress.



*Figure 8 Rev. Fr. Maina, the Parish Priest Emalindi Parish joins the pupils of Mwirembe Primary school during a tree planting exercise at the school*

For instance, from March 2023, a total of 6,899 tree seedlings have been planted in 31 schools, 1,500 tree seedlings planted in 5 Parishes and 1,100 tree seedlings planted in Kakamega Forest.

On 11/7/2023, the first session on Deanery CJPD leaders training on leadership, planning, implementation, reporting and social advocacy was rolled out in Kakamega Deanery. The 3 phase training is in partnership with KCCB-CJPD. The sessions are aimed at enhancing capacity of CJPD leaders from across the Diocese. The training aims at equipping leaders with requisite skills in management, social advocacy and community leadership for



social/communal development. The first session was attended by Parish CJPD Leaders from 9 Parishes and MMUST Chaplaincy as well as the host Parish Priest Rev.Fr. Boniface Kibaki and host Chaplain Rev Fr Ken Lwile.



Figure 9 The CJPD Coordinator Rev. Fr. Boniface Mbwanga and Deanery CJPD leaders during the first session held at Lutonyi Parish

By 2030, the CDKK shall;

- Foster the School greening program to enable planting of a minimum of 64,000 trees in 270 educational institutions.
- Establish 5 satellite nurseries in 5 schools within 5 regions of the Diocese (deanery).
- Establishment of community Tree nurseries and ongoing supply of seedlings to schools and community members
- Hands-on skill transfer training of community members on nursery establishment and management
- Making faith based schools model centers for communities on creation care through such activities as tree growing and proper waste management.
- Holding debate sessions where learning institutions are invited to compete discussing matters on environment conservation. Those who win will be taken for an environmental trip to areas endowed with natural scenery and beauty.
- Organizing essay competitions whereby winners will be gifted and even made to meet influential persons in line with environment matters such as the Cabinet Secretary, Environment.
- Establishment of Environment clubs across all targeted schools.
- Capacity build personnel on resource mobilization, projects concepts development and research projects writing.

## 6. Health

In recognition of the significant interests the Diocese holds in the health sector, and aware of the great potential the medical sector has in significantly impacting the environment, by 2023, the CDKK shall;

- Mainstream environmental care into operational standards of health facilities including Service charters, annual plans and strategic plans.
- Ensure proper construction and maintenance of effluent management systems including waste water pipes, manholes and septic tanks.
- Encourage the adoption of rain water harvest systems and water recycling.
- Enhance environmental awareness among administrators and personnel working within all facilities.

- Provide compliant alternatives for handling wastes for facilities whose waste volume or financial capacity is under the level that would require the establishment of an incinerator. Such alternatives will include but not be limited to designation of waste delivery vehicles and containers.
- Prepare facility spatial plans with consideration to strategic development goals of the facility as integrated with environmental conservation targets.
- Promote safety of ground water and quality of air in the positioning of sanitation facilities including toilets, storm water runoffs and waste pits.
- Avoid material considered toxic or environmentally disruptive in construction of infrastructure such as asbestos. Where such material has already been employed, remedial measures will be effected to ensure compliance with best practice.
- Through the Diocesan Medical Coordinator develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the handling of medical and non-medical waste in all medical facilities. Such a provision shall cater for among others designation of temporary and permanent waste disposal facilities and segregation of waste.
- Cause to be established, where they don't already exist, compliant incinerators.
- For purposes of enhancing marketing of the diocesan health facilities the Diocese shall enhance mobile clinics (community outreach) within and outside the Diocese.
- In order to answer the growing need for specialized services, the Diocese shall partner with other medical entities and institutions.

### ***Conclusion***

The motivation to care for the environment through faith continues to be valid and greatly justified, even when considering spiritual texts and guidance. We are grateful for the chance given to the CDKK to contribute through taking part in writing of its faith plan.

FAITH PLAN COMPILED AND PREPARED BY THE  
CATHOLIC JUSTICE AND PEACE DEPARTMENT  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KAKAMEGA  
16/08/2023