

«Man and Creation»

Project description

The objective of the project is to advance participation of Christian church community members in Belarus in environmental protection activities and make them socially active and responsible.

The **direct goals of the project** are:

- To provide local church communities members in different regions of Belarus with opportunities to take part in environment protection activities.
- To strengthen cooperation between environmental NGOs, local churches, and local communities for protection of the environment

In order to achieve these goals the first part of the project is devoted to preparation of the mobile environmental exhibition on Christianity and Environment for Christian church parishes, which will be used as an entry point for activation of environmental topics in local parishes. During the second part, project activities will be concentrated on arranging training seminars for active members of church communities and on usage of exhibition among different church communities.

The concept of mobile ecological exhibition “Man and Creation” includes informational stands and rollups on various environmental and public participation topics along with theological background, which are placed inside or outside of local church buildings during certain number of days. Parish members and interested people could visit exhibition individually or with excursion, guided by local trained parish activists. The exhibition is primarily made for Russian Orthodox and Roman Catholic local church members in Belarus, priests, Sunday school teachers, church youth activists and also for local community members who are interested in church and environment issues.

The exhibition will consist of the following elements:

- 10 informational stands- L-stands 100X200 cm size with illustrations and text, printed on natural materials. Themes of the stands will preliminary include the following: 1. Christian churches and creation care; 2. Water – a part of God’s creation; 3. Eco-management in church; 4. Sacramental vision of creation; 5. Environmental stewardship in the Bible; 6. Public participation in environmental activities in local communities; 7. Christian attitude to the animals and wildlife; 8. How to make your parish ecologically friendly; 9. Fair of eco-initiatives for Christians; 10.Environment in Belarus. Final thematic topics will be identified during the project implementation.
- Online library of the exhibition in Internet. Using QR codes on each of the stand visitors of the exhibition could get access to additional thematic information, listen exhibition excursion, watch thematic videos, read and download various documents and guidelines and learn more about how they could take part in environmental movement in their region and in Belarus.
- Informational pick-up leaflets for visitors.

During the exhibition period, the local parish will hold exhibition opening events: workshops, talks, excursions, lectures on environmental issue for Christians.

During the project period, the exhibitions will be organized in Grodno, Vitebsk and Brest regions. In each of the region, a local volunteer eco-team from church parish members will be created to support running of the exhibition.