



The Coptic Orthodox Church's Statement on the Protection of the Environment



«The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.» (Genesis 2:15)

The Coptic Orthodox Church endorses the principles and values pertaining to the protection of the environment, believing that humanity is accountable to God for the stewardship of His creation. The Bible describes God's creation as "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." (Genesis 1:31). God entrusted humans with the abundance of the land as Psalmist says, "The heavens belong to the LORD, but he has given the earth to all humanity" (Psalm 115:16).

In view of the Coptic Church's responsibility to address global and societal challenges, the Church endorses and values Egypt's national strategy to address the repercussions of climate change and the efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals and improve the quality of life for all Egyptians. The Church affirms its role as an active national partner in building values about the importance of engaging in efforts to protect the environment, volunteering, and the adoption of sustainable production and consumption patterns.

This affirmation is a continuation of the commitment of the Coptic Church to develop initiatives aimed at protecting the environment and supporting the resilience of communities facing the repercussions of climate change. To this effect, the Bishopric of public, Social and Ecumenical Services (BLESS), the development arm of the Church, continues to collaborate with different governmental and non-governmental partners to support environmental initiatives in local communities.

HG Bishop Yolious

Yolious

The Bishop and Director of
the Bishopric of Public,
Ecumenical and Social Services

HH Pope Tawadros II

Tawadros II

Pope of Alexandria
and Patriarch of the See
of St Mark