

**The CYNESA Laudato Si' Youth Assembly on the Occasion of the  
Ninth Anniversary of Laudato Si' and the 10th Official Anniversary  
of CYNESA**



**Workshop Duration:** 3 Days

**Workshop Location:** African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) Conservation Centre

Karen, Nairobi, Kenya

**Dates:** May 30 – June 1, 2024

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## Background

As early as in paragraph 3 of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis invites everyone living on this planet to “enter into dialogue with all people about our common home”. In the Bible, Jesus Christ invited us to “go out to the ends of the earth and preach the good news to the whole creation” (Mark 15:16). Agenda 2030’s rallying call is that we “leave no one behind”. In July 2019, CYNESA partnered with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and other partners to bring together about 300 people from across five of the six continents of the world for the Second *Laudato Si'* International Conference. The principal outcome of the Conference was the establishment of a network of young people dubbed the *Laudato Si'* Generation in Africa working on the care of our common home. Since then, CYNESA has been working towards bringing *Laudato Si'* to more young people in Africa and engaging them in coordinated and effective action to address the twin challenges of environmental degradation and climate change from a policy and grassroots action approach.

In July 2022, CYNESA organized a youth assembly ahead of the AMECEA quadrennial plenary, which culminated in the development of 13 youth demands that were handed to the AMECEA bishops during their quadrennial plenary. Following the success of that Assembly and the need to continue promoting dialogue and action that is inspired by *Laudato Si'* in Africa, CYNESA organized the first-ever CYNESA *Laudato Si'* Youth Assembly to commemorate the eighth anniversary of *Laudato Si'* in Arusha, Tanzania. Inspired by the resounding success of the 2023 Assembly and further encouraged by the release of the exhortative encyclical, *Laudate Deum*, which was released in 2023, CYNESA is holding its Second CYNESA *Laudato Si'* Youth Assembly to create more awareness around *Laudato Si'* and to promote intergenerational dialogue and action on the care for our common home.

## The *Laudato Si'* Youth Assembly

The 2024 CYNESA *Laudato Si'* Youth Assembly coincides with the ninth *Laudato Si'* Anniversary and a commemoration of the 10th anniversary since CYNESA was registered officially as an international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). At the height of increased calls for multilateralism in environmental policymaking, the Assembly will focus on intergenerational dialogue and action-inspired approaches to live *Laudato Si'* and engage better in multilateral environmental policymaking and action in their respective countries in Africa. The Assembly seeks to inspire dialogue and action informed by *Laudato Si'* and exhorted by *Laudate Deum*. The Assembly’s theme, “**A pilgrimage of reconciliation with our home<sup>1</sup>; every little bit helps<sup>2</sup>**”, is a call to journey towards reconciling ourselves with our common home and to encourage and appreciate every contribution. The objectives of the youth assembly are:

- 1) To engage at least 80 people (in-person) in intergenerational dialogue about environmental policymaking and multilateralism.
- 2) To showcase CYNESA’s work over the last 10 years of official registration.
- 3) To organize a march dubbed, “**Pilgrimage of reconciliation.**”
- 4) To plant at least 200 indigenous tree seedlings to demonstrate that, “**Every little bit helps.**”
- 5) To develop an intergenerational statement of commitment to reconciliation with our common home.

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<sup>1</sup> *Laudato Si'* 69

<sup>2</sup> *Laudate Deum* 70