

Climate change and faith

Sudan action plan draft

Introduction:

Climate change and its effects represent one of the greatest issues facing the leaders of the world both secular and religious.

Islamic leaders and scholars, like their peers from all faiths, are greatly concerned by the effect climate change is having on the earth and its inhabitants especially since conservation and preservation of Gods creations is one of its most important teachings.

Sudan shares the concerns of all other countries about the effect climate change is having on its people, land and economy. Being a country with a religious Muslim majority it is making an effort to apply Islam's teaching to combat the issue in order to reduce its effects, under the leadership and guidance of Shaikh Mohammad Alshaikh Gariballah the leader of the Samanniya Sufi sect.

Objectives and goals:

The main objective is to create an awareness of the dangers of climate change and the effects they have upon us, as well as providing a knowledge of the means of remedying this problem and how to sustain the earth so it may be able to sustain us within the context of Islam's teachings on preservation.

Target group:

The main target group for this project are schools: both elementary and high schools.

Plan outlines:

The first year of the plan is focused mainly on Khartoum state, as mention before the target group for this program is mainly school children (primary- secondary school)

The details are as follows:

- Awareness workshops for school teachers educating them on the effects of global warming, climate change and Islam's views on the issues.

- Providing lessons and activities for kids that explain to them the importance of earth conservation and the need to make changes to stop climate change.
- Recycling: teaching recycling methods to the students and teachers by reusing already available materials and turning them into other uses such as creating art pieces or flowerpots from plastic bottles.
- Planting: this part of the plan is aimed towards both the schools and the general population though it has thus far only been applied to the schools. Its purpose is to provide seeds and seedlings for planting all around Khartoum.
- Providing water coolers for schools made out of natural materials.

Plan details:

1. Preparing a monthly program for schools in all three cities of Khartoum.
2. First visit was in Omdurman city of around 11 schools a group of around 1400 children along with their teachers helped plant trees around their schools and attended a seminar on Islam's teachings about nature conservation.
3. A study carried out by the Sudanese Society for Nature Conservation came up with an invention of a sand cooler that has been deployed in several schools , it is planed that we should aid in this launching and distribution of the coolers by providing lessons to the teachers and school children on how to build this cooler.
4. An art exhibition with artifacts made of recycled materials is being planned showing the usefulness of objects that might otherwise be harmful to the environment if thrown away.
5. A conference to take place in March 2012 aimed at raising awareness about global warming, its effects and Islam's views on the matter as well as ways of combating it, in collaboratio with the British Council in Khartoum.