

ADVOCACY

“Water is Life”

Ezekiel’s vision describes waters flowing from God’s sanctuary, bringing life, healing, renewal, and abundance to all. Churches can reflect this message by advocating for the issues impacting our human and physical water cycles: caring for catchments, rivers, drinking water resources, wetlands and seas, and all life in them, loving our neighbours who depend on them, directly and indirectly. We are calling for Christians around the world to step into God’s vision of fullness of life and abundance for all creation through living lives that glorify Him and reflect His heart for restoration and flourishing.

Here are some suggestions that you might like to consider:

1. Local Community Advocacy

Bring together Christians and other faith groups to discuss urgent local issues. You could invite different speakers such as water officials, scientists, NGOs, fishermen, farmers, women’s groups, youth activists. Invite theologians, Bible scholars, and members from your Church who have studied environmental issues in the light of the Gospel values. Issues to be discussed might include:

- Inadequate access to water, sanitation, and hygiene in rural villages, poor districts, and informal settlements, as well as in critical locations such as prisons, healthcare facilities, schools, and refugee camps.
- Protection of the aquatic ecosystem, i.e. wetlands, rivers, oceans, etc.
- Protection of water infrastructure for civilians during conflicts.
- Caring for, using wisely and replenishing underground water resources.
- Watershed management, through inclusive processes and integrated water resources management.
- Unaffordable water tariffs.
- Frequent water rationing.
- Pollution from industries, crude oil extraction, farms, or sewage systems.
- Unsustainable sand harvesting and riparian encroachment.

A simple petition or letter to a newspaper can be prepared addressing these issues.

Deliver the petition during the Season of Creation to:

- Member of Parliament / Government.
- The Water Departments.
- Local water service providers.
- Ward administrators or community environment committees.
- The business that is causing the pollution.

2. Dialogue on National or Global Water Justice

Organise a Water Justice Dialogue. This might be in the form of webinars or a Sunday of Reflection (sermon/prayers with a discussion forum after church).

Involve a mix of scientists, activists and Bible scholars on a topic such as:

- Inequality in water access for example: impact on gender, education, the elderly or people living with disabilities.
- Water and conflicts, water and peace.
- Causes and impacts of pollution, as well as possible solutions.
- Over-extraction from rivers and aquifers.
- Climate-related droughts and floods.

These meetings can result in statements or a joint action plan.

3. Campaign to protect local Rivers, Wetlands, Oceans

Advocate for:

- Lobbying to stop water pollution.

Organise:

- Church led eco-system restoration efforts.
- A community clean up - this could coincide with the Coastal Clean up on the 19th of September.

4. Digital advocacy campaign #SeasonofCreation

Use newspapers and local radio stations to:

- Highlight polluted or dying rivers, lakes or wetland areas.
- Share stories of communities affected by water scarcity.
- Celebrate positive steps by governments and communities.
- Publicly call for urgent action.

Offer faith perspectives that link Scripture, justice, and environmental stewardship:

- Weekly educational posts or podcasts.
- Short testimonies from farmers, women, and youth.
- Infographics on pollution impacts.
- Calls to sign petitions or attend town halls.
- Stories of local rivers and springs.

This will amplify the voices of faith communities beyond the walls of the church.

5. **Biblical Resources on Water Justice**

You could have a Bible study or sermon series on Water Justice, considering some of these resources:

- [World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water network site](#)
- The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development released in 2020 [the orientations on water Aqua fons vitae](#) as well as [a collection of tools, statements, and initiatives on water](#).
- [A Rocha Resource Hub](#)