

2024 Annual Report

Living Laudato Si' Philippines (LLS)

I. Introduction

The year 2024 was marked by intensifying climate impacts, worsening ecological degradation, growing inequalities, and increasing calls for climate accountability across the Philippines and the world. Amid these interconnected crises, Living Laudato Si' Philippines (LLS) continued to strengthen its mission of promoting integral ecology, ecological conversion, climate justice, and care for our common home.

Guided by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and grounded in the realities of vulnerable communities, LLS deepened its work in ecological education, policy advocacy, movement-building, ethical finance, Church engagement, biodiversity protection, and international climate governance. Through partnerships with faith institutions, civil society organizations, schools, youth groups, and global climate networks, the organization sustained its commitment to linking the cry of the Earth with the cry of the poor.

Throughout 2024, LLS expanded its role not only as an environmental organization, but also as a platform for dialogue, accompaniment, and transformative action rooted in justice, solidarity, and hope.

II. Strengthening Capacities for Ecological Action

A major focus of LLS's work in 2024 was strengthening capacities of communities, institutions, and movements to understand and respond to the climate and ecological crisis through the lens of integral ecology.

The organization organized and co-organized various educational engagements, lectures, workshops, and webinars that reached students, youth leaders, faith-based organizations, civil society groups, and local stakeholders. These sessions addressed themes such as climate justice, ecological spirituality, just transition, biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation and mitigation, loss and damage, and the Laudato Si' Schools Framework.

Among the notable engagements during the first half of the year were the Order of Friars Minor (OFM) National Retreat, the Art Workshop and Seminar on Mining and Youth, the UDYAk Musika Para sa Kalikasan at Karapatan initiative, the Prelature of Infanta's environmental assembly, and the Laudato Si' Executive Course session at Don Bosco School of Theology. LLS also participated in regional discussions on climate and disaster risk reduction during the Liga ng Barangay Regional Assembly in Cebu City.

Educational sessions also reached academic institutions and youth groups in the Philippines and abroad. LLS delivered talks to students and faculty from Ateneo de Naga University, Ateneo de Manila University, Providence University in Taiwan, Wenzao Ursuline University, and De La Salle University Manila. Discussions focused on climate science, environmental activism, climate justice, and ecological leadership among the youth.

In partnership with Aksyon Klima Pilipinas (AKP), LLS also facilitated online learning sessions on the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Law, just transition, and loss and damage. These engagements contributed to strengthening public understanding of climate governance and the urgent need for equitable and science-based climate action.

Collectively, these educational and capacity-building initiatives reached thousands of participants throughout the year, reflecting LLS's continuing commitment to ecological education and movement formation.

III. Advancing Climate Justice and Policy Advocacy

In 2024, LLS intensified its policy advocacy efforts at the national, regional, and international levels. The organization actively engaged in climate governance processes and contributed policy recommendations grounded in ecological justice, human rights, and inclusive participation.

A significant milestone during the year was the publication of the Philippine National Adaptation Plan (NAP) on May 30, 2024. LLS, through AKP and allied civil society organizations, had long advocated for stronger climate justice principles, ecological education, and participatory governance within the NAP process. Several of these recommendations were reflected in the final national document, demonstrating the value of sustained civil society engagement in shaping national climate policy.

LLS also submitted several policy papers and position documents to Philippine government institutions and international climate platforms. These included submissions on:

- ASEAN Environmental Rights Framework;
- Philippine government positions during UNFCCC SB60 and COP29;
- the Biennial Update Report process under the UNFCCC;
- climate justice and loss and damage;
- just transition and human rights;
- the proposed Climate Accountability (CLIMA) Bill;
- the Blue Economy Act;
- the Low Carbon Economy Investment Bill;
- and policies related to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.

LLS also participated in discussions surrounding the updating of the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), emphasizing the need for stronger adaptation measures, community participation, renewable energy transition, and accountability mechanisms.

These advocacy initiatives reflected LLS's growing role as a civil society actor contributing substantive policy inputs rooted in both scientific evidence and moral responsibility.

IV. Engagement in International Climate Processes

Throughout 2024, LLS expanded its participation in international climate and faith-based environmental networks.

Representatives of the organization participated in global climate engagements connected to the UNFCCC process and Catholic climate movements. Notably, LLS staff joined the first global Catholic actors' meeting with the Holy See delegation inside the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City in June 2024. The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration and synergies among Catholic organizations engaging in climate advocacy and COP-related processes.

LLS also strengthened its regional and global partnerships by becoming a member of Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA) and the Network of Catholic Climate and Environment Actors (NCCEA) during COP29.

These international engagements helped position LLS within broader global conversations on climate justice, loss and damage, ecological spirituality, and ethical climate governance while bringing Philippine grassroots realities into international advocacy spaces.

V. Laudato Si' Schools and Faith-Based Engagements

Faith-based engagement remained central to LLS's mission in 2024.

The organization continued accompanying dioceses, seminaries, Catholic schools, and Church institutions in integrating Laudato Si' principles into educational programs, institutional priorities, and advocacy initiatives.

LLS sustained technical support to the Diocese of San Carlos, particularly in relation to the Laudato Si' Schools Framework (LSSF) and divestment initiatives. The organization also facilitated consultations with Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) member schools and collaborated with Caritas Philippines in exploring sustainable and ethical investment pathways.

The organization continued promoting the Laudato Si' Schools Framework among schools and seminaries, including San Lorenzo Ruiz Seminary and partner institutions in Taiwan. The framework seeks to integrate ecological education, sustainability, and climate action into educational systems and institutional cultures.

Through these efforts, LLS reinforced the role of faith institutions and educational communities as important actors in ecological conversion and climate action.

VI. Ethical Finance and Divestment Advocacy

One of LLS's continuing priorities in 2024 was promoting ethical finance and fossil fuel divestment within faith-based institutions.

Through the Laudato Si' Convergence network and allied campaigns such as Withdraw From Coal, the organization continued advocating for investment shifts away from destructive industries and toward sustainable and socially responsible alternatives.

Three Catholic institutions undertook partial or full divestment actions from coal-related investments during the year:

- Roman Catholic Diocese of Tuguegarao;
- Carmel of St. Therese of the Child Jesus;
- Carmel of the Divine Infant Jesus of Prague, Inc.

LLS also produced the “Divest from Our Common Home” report, which helped shape advocacy directions and discussions within Catholic networks regarding ethical finance and sustainability.

These initiatives demonstrated the growing recognition among faith institutions of the moral and ecological implications of financial investments.

VII. Communications, Media, and Public Engagement

LLS sustained an active public communication and media engagement strategy throughout 2024.

The organization produced numerous op-eds, articles, and media appearances focused on climate justice, ecological issues, biodiversity conservation, energy transition, and environmental governance. During COP29 alone, LLS generated multiple media engagements and public discussions aimed at broadening public awareness on international climate negotiations and Philippine climate realities.

LLS also continued expanding its digital and social media presence across Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, and LinkedIn, contributing to wider public engagement and movement-building.

Through strategic communication efforts, the organization amplified ecological narratives grounded in justice, faith, science, and community realities.

VIII. Reflection: Hope, Conversion, and Collective Action

The year 2024 revealed both the deepening wounds of our planet and the growing courage of communities responding to the ecological crisis. Across the Philippines and the world, climate disasters, biodiversity loss, pollution, and widening inequalities continued to expose the fragile relationship between humanity, development, and creation. Yet amid these realities, signs of hope also emerged through collective action, ecological awakening, and renewed solidarity.

For Living Laudato Si' Philippines, 2024 became a year of accompaniment and discernment. The organization witnessed how ecological conversion is no longer simply an abstract spiritual invitation but an urgent social, political, moral, and ecological responsibility. Communities facing climate impacts, youth demanding accountability, Church institutions exploring ethical finance, educators integrating ecological consciousness, and civil society networks strengthening climate justice advocacy all reflected a growing recognition that caring for creation is inseparable from protecting human dignity and the common good.

The engagements undertaken throughout the year also highlighted the interconnectedness emphasized in *Laudato Si'*. Climate change cannot be separated from poverty. Biodiversity protection cannot be separated from justice. Energy transition cannot be separated from workers and vulnerable communities. Ecological education cannot be separated from culture, spirituality, and participation. The cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor continue to call for transformative responses rooted in compassion, courage, and systemic change.

The organization's participation in local, national, and international climate spaces further affirmed that faith communities and civil society organizations have an important role to play in shaping ecological futures. Through policy advocacy, educational initiatives, divestment campaigns, and movement-building, LLS saw how moral voice and grassroots realities can contribute meaningfully to climate governance and public discourse. The increasing engagement of young people, schools, dioceses, and partner organizations also became a source of encouragement and renewal.

At the same time, the year underscored the magnitude of the challenges ahead. Many communities remain vulnerable to climate impacts. Destructive development pathways continue to threaten ecosystems and livelihoods. Financial systems still largely favor extractive and fossil fuel-driven economies. Ecological awareness remains uneven, and climate action often struggles against political and structural barriers. These realities remind us that ecological conversion is an ongoing journey that requires persistence, humility, and collective responsibility.

Nevertheless, 2024 affirmed that hope is alive in communities that continue to organize, educate, pray, advocate, and act for our common home. Hope is present in every young person choosing ecological leadership, every school integrating sustainability, every faith institution embracing ethical stewardship, every community defending ecosystems, and every movement advancing climate justice despite difficulties.

As Living Laudato Si' Philippines moves forward, the organization remains committed to nurturing this hope through action grounded in integral ecology. The journey toward ecological justice continues, guided by faith, science, solidarity, and the conviction that another future remains possible if humanity chooses care over exploitation, justice over indifference, and compassion over apathy.

IX. Conclusion

The work of Living Laudato Si' Philippines in 2024 reflected a year of sustained advocacy, expanding partnerships, deepened ecological engagement, and growing public influence.

From grassroots education to international climate policy spaces, from diocesan accompaniment to divestment campaigns, LLS continued to embody the principles of integral ecology and ecological conversion articulated in *Laudato Si'*.

As climate impacts intensify and ecological challenges deepen, the organization remains committed to strengthening collective action, defending vulnerable communities, promoting ethical and sustainable systems, and accompanying institutions and movements toward transformative ecological change.

In hope and solidarity, Living Laudato Si' Philippines continues its mission of caring for our common home and advancing climate justice for present and future generations.