

HB Patriarch Alexey II
Primate, Russian Orthodox Church

Protecting the Creation of God

Yalta, Crimea
September 24, 1997

The human is on Earth, not as a stranger who came to receive a monetary profit, but as a careful owner who cultivates the earth for future generations and takes care not only of his own profit, but also of the good of his neighbors and those far off.

*“The care of Creation... is our practical task
but also a spiritual and religious duty,
a fulfillment of the commandment of God.”*

Moreover, the care of protecting the Creation of God in all its beauty and harmony is not only our practical task but also a spiritual and religious duty, a fulfillment of the commandment of God and a trail of moral feeling.

The Black Sea region has suffered from many sad consequences of an unreasonable selfish use of nature and this has been especially dramatic in our century.

*“We must understand the need to work together
for the transfiguration of this wonderful... land...”*

Today we must understand the need to work together for the transfiguration of this wonderful piece of land, for the improvement of the condition of the Black Sea, the pearl of our planet...

Ed. Note: Most of HB Patriarch Alexey’s ecological comments exist only in Russian.

Translations of his statements are usually not made for English language readers.

