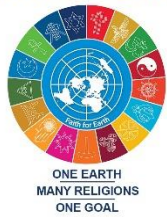


## FAITH FOR EARTH



## Faith for Earth Updates on 25 June 2020



Early this month, we celebrated the [World Environment Day](#) where millions of people - many of them confined to their homes due to the pandemic - came together online to remind us to, 'Wake up! It's Time #ForNature.' World Environment Day was trending #1 globally on social media. Individuals, [faith groups](#), businesses, cities, governments and youth groups came together to respond to the urgent call to protect the nature that we all depend on. [Watch](#) recap of the moments. Children have also made prayers to God to protect the only earth we live on. Listen to this child [message to God](#). Faith leaders have also sent [a message to the world](#). Thank you for being part of the conversation and organizing dozens of webinars and taking action on the ground.

## [IUCN Virtual Dialogue: Spiritual Perspectives for a New Normal #BuildBackBetter](#)

People of faith and spirituality are thinking about, and offering guidance on, what an earth-centered, new normal, might look like, and how we can practically contribute to it. IUCN, [Culture, Spirituality and Conservation](#), on 26 June 2020, has hosted a group of faith leaders to discuss visions for a new post-2020 world, more than ever before, we need Solidarity, Unity, and Change. Faith for Earth presented UNEP's strategic response to building back better post COVID19 "[Working with the Environment to protect People](#)".

## [From Islam to Buddhism, faiths have long encouraged stewardship of nature](#)

Spiritual leaders play an important role in sharing religious practices and passages so that followers can live a more sustainable lifestyle respecting the 8 million species we share our planet with. That message was echoed by World Environment Day 2020, which fell on 5 June. The celebration cast a spotlight on the services nature provides us—from food to medicine—and highlighted that, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, life on earth would not be possible without nature's bounty. [Here is](#) how seven faiths remind us how we are connected to nature.

## [People and Planet: Faith in the 2030 Agenda](#)

In March 2020, Sida, UNEP, SIWI, and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency convened actors from around the world in a digital, flight-free conference entitled People and Planet: Faith in the 2030 Agenda. The event sought to elevate and enrich partnerships towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on strengthening linkages and collaborations with faith-based and indigenous knowledge, networks, and resources. A policy brief was issued to discuss the role of faith communities in environmental action and highlights

the ways forward as direct results of the discussions of the themes of this important event. You can download the policy brief [here](#), or access it on SIWI's [website here](#).

Another policy brief was also recently released by SIWI which focused on the [role of indigenous peoples'](#) solutions to tackle the climate and water crisis and how countries can draw on these experiences to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement.

## **The Living Chapel**

Live from Rome's botanical garden, the Living Chapel [was launched](#) as a living demonstration that we can start in our houses of worship to provide solutions to the challenges facing nature. More countries have joined the Living Chapel movement by planting their Laudato Si' Gardens on June 5th, World Environment Day. The global tree planting program was launched in February 2020 and, despite the challenging circumstances, these communities responded to the call to action becoming part of the global family. Click on [this interactive map](#) to explore all the joining countries and find out more about single projects. Communities, working together with NGOs, municipalities and governments are involving their young generations through the inclusion of local schools in planting trees species with religious and cultural relevance. Each tree planted is the cornerstone of many Laudato si' gardens to come all around the world. For anyone interested in creating a Laudato Si' Garden we encourage you to [get in touch](#) to receive more information on the planting guidelines. Here is [Faith for Earth address](#) at the launch.

## **The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative Launches a new Resource Guide**

IRI has recently launched the [Resource Guide on Rainforest Protection for Religious Communities](#) along with a [statement](#) from the World Council and Honorary Presidents of Religions for Peace calling for an end to tropical deforestation and endorsing all of the educational materials produced by the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, including the Resource Guide. IRI is planning a full launch and outreach around the International Day for the Conservation of Tropical Forests on June 26<sup>th</sup>. This flagship publication outlines how rainforests and the rights of indigenous peoples are key to efforts to halt biodiversity loss and achieve global climate and sustainable development goals. It also includes perspectives from 10 different religious leaders on the spiritual basis in their faiths for protecting rainforests, as well as guidance on how religious communities can get involved on this critical issue.

## **Religious Leaders' Perspectives on Coronavirus- Survey**

The coronavirus pandemic has severely impacted people's lives all over the world. In this unprecedented situation, the perspectives of religious leaders are of fundamental importance. Our partners at the Research Programme on Religious Communities and Sustainable Development at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is conducting an Online-Survey: Religious Leaders' Perspectives on Corona. How are religious leaders guiding their communities in the current situation and what is their vision for the time after the pandemic? Your expertise is of great value to us. We would highly appreciate your participation in the survey. It will take approx.

15 minutes. Kindly [click here](#) to answer the survey. Please note that it is possible to do the survey in English, French or Arabic.

## **Accreditation to UN Environment Assembly**

You can apply for accreditation using the [New Online Accreditation System](#) and gain a consultative status within the [rules of procedure](#) of the [UN Environment Assembly](#), please refer to the criteria for accreditation as derived from Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure and submit your request accordingly. [Guidelines here](#).

[Previous Updates can be found HERE](#).