

## We achieve our vision through:

- \* BROKERING PARTNERSHIPS:
- \* STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS TO TELL THE STORIES OF THE FAITHS AND THE PROJECTS
- \* MANAGING AND ENCOURAGING DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS:
- \* HOLDING EVENTS, FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS:

## Our criteria for measuring the success of a project are:

- \* Did it meet its formal objectives from both faith and secular sides?
- \* Is it able to continue without ARC's input?
- \* Has it made a real difference to the lives of a community?
- \* Can it be (or has it been) reproduced?
- \* Has it – and the reasons behind it – been told to, and understood by, a wider faith community?
- \* Are we, personally and as a charity, proud of the results?



Cambodian Monks vote for policies in a new Buddhist Environmental Network, founded by ARC, the World Bank, and the Buddhists of Southeast Asia



Our projects in Africa are designed to make generational changes for many years to come



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# ARC

*A vision of people, through their beliefs, treading more gently upon the earth.*

*A strategy of helping faiths realise their potential to work with the natural environment, and of helping secular groups recognise this and become active partners.*

**ARC:** THE ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS AND CONSERVATION

# ON WORKING WITH RELIGIONS

**“If information is all that is needed, then the environmental crisis would be over. We need more than facts and figures. We need to inspire people, to make them look at their ways of living, to make them change. Who is able to do this? The faiths. So why don't we work with the faiths?”**

With these thoughts in 1986, H.R.H. Prince Philip invited the major faiths to explore how they could work with conservation groups to improve the environment. The discussions took place at a major gathering in Assisi in Italy, the birthplace of St Francis. The success of this event caught everybody by surprise, and in response WWF International and WWF-UK assisted the development of a network working on Conservation and Religion for the next nine years.

The increasing requests for help from environmental groups and faith communities led Prince Philip in 1995 to launch a new organisation, the Alliance of Religions and Conservation. From five faiths in 1986 to eleven in 2000 the range of religiously-based projects around the world has continued to grow. Our role has increasingly been to find appropriate secular partners, with the imagination and creativity to work with the faiths as equals. In 1986 many people, including some from the faiths themselves, were sceptical about religions playing a significant role. Now it is almost universally assumed this will happen. And the participation of the religions has become part of the way many programmes on the environment are now conceived. We are honoured to be part of making this happen.

**Martin Palmer, Secretary General, ARC**



**ARC is a secular body, set up to help the major world religions develop their own environmental programmes based on their own core teachings, beliefs and practices.**

We help religions link with key environmental organisations, creating powerful alliances. We help them develop practical projects that make a real difference, using the resources of the faiths themselves. We became an independent charity in 1995, after operating for a decade under the umbrella of WWF. We now work with scores of different traditions within the world's eleven major religions.



TOP: Sikh eco-activist in India.  
ABOVE: Muslim children in Birmingham support a city cleanup, urging a Cleaner Medina.



## ARC's Member Faiths

BAHA'ISM

BUDDHISM

CHRISTIANITY

DAOISM

HINDUISM

ISLAM

JAINISM

JUDAISM

SHINTOISM

SIKHISM

ZOROASTRIANISM