Greetings from ARC

This is our first newsletter since our meeting in Nairobi in September to launch the 27 long term plans on the environment. Thank you for the inspiration, commitment and enthusiasm you brought to that meeting – and for sharing your best practice and your plans.

Now the process of implementing those plans begins in earnest, as well as securing partnerships to help make your vision of protecting the planet a reality. At ARC we are now in discussion with the Norwegian Government and with the World Bank, with ABCG, with ACT Kenya and UNICEF and with UNEP in Nairobi. You may remember that UNEP’s Regional Representative for Africa said at our meeting that "working with religions will go to the top of UNEP’s programme agenda in Africa".

I will keep you posted on the outcome of our conversations. I know, too, that you are taking every opportunity to partner in your own country – whether with government or other agencies. Please share your progress with us also.

Alison Hilliard
ARC has made two short videos

Have a look at the short video we've prepared for potential partners. You might find it useful and please send us any other photos or footage you have of your projects. We've uploaded it to Vimeo and there is also a link to it on the ARC website. On the same page you will find a link to a longer 20-minute video about the Nairobi Celebration.

Anglican Church of Uganda launch

We were delighted to see these pictures of the Anglican Church of Uganda's launch of its long-term plan, which Bishop Nathan shared with us at the Nairobi Celebration. The launch was officiated by its most senior official, Archbishop Henry Orombi, a sign of the Church's commitment to the plan.

Kenya Episcopal Conference launch

Father Charles Odira has sent us some photographs of the Kenya Episcopal Conference launch.

Welcome to Erasto Njavike

We are very happy to welcome Erasto Njavike, who was at our Nairobi Celebration, to our group. He will be preparing the long-term plan pioneered by Archbishop Valentine Mokiwa, Primate of the Anglican Church of Tanzania. As many of you know, Erasto is also the co-ordinator of Jane Goodall Institute's Roots and Shoots activities in Tanzania.

Welcome also to SUPKEM - the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims. Chairman Prof Abdulghafur El-Busaidy (right) and Abdalla Kamwana joined us in Nairobi.

Precise planting - Farming God's Way

More than 50 faith leaders from the Anglican Church of Kenya and the Catholic Church attended a Farming God’s Way workshop at Craig Sorley's demonstration farm in Kijabe, Kenya.
Conference's launch of its long-term plan in Mombasa, Kenya. Pastoral co-ordinators of different Catholic Dioceses planted trees as part of the successful launch.

Click [here](#) to see the video created by Hajjat Sebyala Aphwa of her Gomba Women's Project in Uganda. Why not consider doing the same about your work?

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**Education toolkit progressing well**

The Education for Sustainable Development toolkit is making good progress with ten demonstration schools in Kenya now taking part. I think we were all inspired by the work and message of eco schools given at our Celebration by Tom Barasa (above) of Goibei High School in Kenya:

“If you have a good idea, get on and do it, and funding will follow. Do what you believe in. Begin small, finish big.”

Tom is preparing a document on what savings can be made by eco-schools and their activities such as growing vegetables in schools gardens, keeping bees or using solar power, roof water harvesting or biogas to supplement woodfuel. We’ll share his findings Kenya, in October 2012. As well as looking at what the Bible says about farming and how God was the first farmer, the participants had practical sessions on Farming God’s Way, a form of sustainable agriculture rooted in the Christian faith.

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**Farming Allah's Way**

After the session on Farming God’s Way in Nairobi, several of our Muslim colleagues said it would be very useful to have a version that is based on Islamic teaching. So work is beginning in Tanzania to develop an Islamic guide to agriculture. Hamza Mtunu of the National Muslim Council of Tanzania and Ishak Ahamed of Islamic Help have begun working on a small book and have already reached out to colleagues in Uganda about it. We wish them all the best in developing this important resource.

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Charles Agboklu of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana has sent us some lovely photographs of tree planting.

Fr Bennette of the Catholic Church’s Wa Diocese in Ghana’s Upper West Region "has done a wonderful job", he says.
Community tree planting project

Some inspiring pictures from Imam Kasozi in Uganda. He recently revisited a community forest project he worked on with the community of Buyita in Seeta Namuganga and the British Council. The trees were planted two years ago and they are doing very well indeed. Other forests in Lugazi, Kikooto, Bwera and Kiryasaka are also doing well, he says.

BBC – Born Before Computers

Even for those of us who are BBC – Born Before Computers – the reminder of AKVO at our meeting in Nairobi is to use every opportunity to get the environmental message out – using Twitter, Facebook and YouTube as well as through sermons, youth clubs, and schools. So thank you again for your commitment and for expressing your faith in such a practical way. Faith moves big mountains!

Do you have any news or information to share with us?

If so, please let us know – and don’t forget to include photographs. We’d also love to hear your feedback on this newsletter, and any examples of

SAFCEI newsletter

Many of you will have met Kate Davies of the Southern African Faith Communities’ Environment Institute at our Nairobi Celebration. SAFCEI has an excellent newsletter with information on environmental issues and resources. To sign up, email communications@safcei.org.za and ask to have your name added to the newsletter list. The latest one has a useful article on how to make a solar funnel cooker (see below).

How to make a solar funnel cooker

The solar funnel cooker is a safe, low-cost, easy to make way of capturing the sun’s energy for cooking food or pasteurising water for drinking. You need some cardboard, aluminium foil, a jar painted black or a black pot, and a plastic bag. Find out how to make it here. Cooking vegetables such as potatoes, carrots or squash takes about 1.5 hours. Beans take 2-3 hours (soak tough or dry beans in water overnight).
good practices/guidelines you can share with us. Email us: alisonh@arcworld.org or susie.weldon@arcworld.org.

With all good wishes from all the team at ARC

Inspiring quote of the month

"The world's forests are a shared stolen treasure that we must put back for our children's future."
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu