

## SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION TOOLKIT

ARC is working with the Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education to create an 'education for sustainable development' toolkit for faith primary schools. This integrates religious wisdom and environmental education, using eco-schools as a strategy. Christian and Muslim toolkits are being developed in Kenya before being adapted for other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

## WASH IN SCHOOLS

Working in partnership with UNICEF and the New Psalmist Baptist Church in Baltimore, US, a website has been developed to map school water, sanitation and hygiene projects (WASH) worldwide. Visit the website: [www.washinschoolsmapping.com](http://www.washinschoolsmapping.com).

## ISLAM AND WATER

A booklet and CD has been produced to explore the role of water in Islam. *Islam and Water* uses the story of Hajjar, second wife of the prophet Ibrahim, to highlight the importance of water conservation.



A school is commissioned in Ghana: Erik Cleeves Kristensen



Youngsters at Olaimutiai Primary School, Maasai Land, Kenya, learn to plant and care for trees. Photograph: Konrad Glogowski

## WHAT IS ARC?

The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) was founded by HRH Prince Philip in 1995. It is a secular organisation that helps the world's major religions develop environmental programmes based on their own core teachings, beliefs and practices. It helps secular environment organisations work with the faiths to protect the natural world. ARC is not funded by any faith.

# ARC

THE ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS AND CONSERVATION

The House, Kelston Park, Bath BA1 9AE, UK

Tel: +44 1225 758004

Email: [arcworld@arcworld.org](mailto:arcworld@arcworld.org)

Website: [www.arcworld.org](http://www.arcworld.org)

With grateful thanks to Creative Commons photographers. Front page images: (left to right): David Dennis, Christina 'Jill' Granberg, J Schinker, Thomas Blower, Konrad Glogowski, Brad Ruggles, Steven Bayers of Water.org, Kim Tyo-Dickerson, Tree Aid, Jay Gold, Julien Harnais and Miguel Angel.

The paper in this leaflet comes from FSC-certified woodlands.

# FAITH IN EDUCATION



*Integrating religious wisdom  
and conservation education  
for young people and  
faith schools*

# ARC

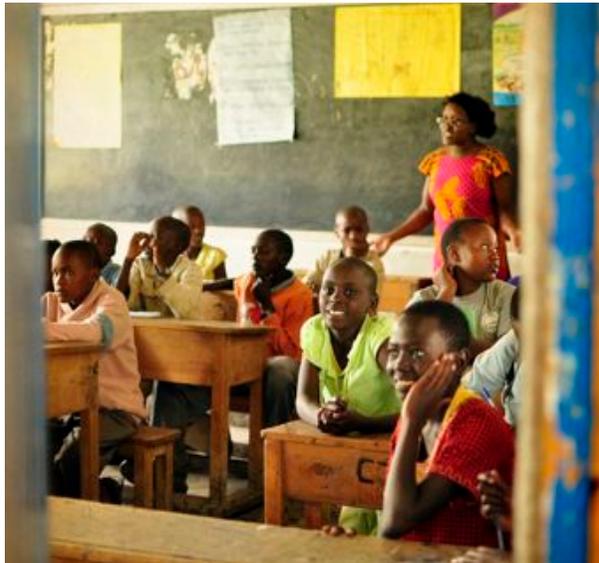
## WHY FAITH SCHOOLS?

Faiths are involved in around 50% of the world's schools, through founding, running, funding or managing them. And every faith has something powerful to say about our role, as human beings, in protecting, preserving and respecting the natural world.

Education is a powerful tool for positive change with the potential to spread both information and a sense of responsibility from each child to the wider community.

We believe knowledge about conservation matters, and how they relate to core faith values, leads to respect, responsibility and action to protect the natural world.

*'Knowledge is only one half. Faith is the other'*  
– Novalis (19<sup>th</sup> century poet)



Classroom, Makadara, Nairobi, Kenya. Photo: Brad Ruggles



School children in Kenya. Photograph: Thomas Blower

There are several ways in which religious wisdom can be integrated into environmental education.

**SCHOOL BUILDINGS:** Do you manage your school buildings and land in the most environmentally friendly way you can? How do you protect your ecosystems, water sources and energy supplies? Manage the school's water, sanitation and waste? Do you harvest rainwater?

*Each child confirmed into the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania is given a tree seedling as part of their confirmation ceremony.*

**CURRICULUM:** Do you teach children to value and protect biodiversity? Do you emphasise that respect towards the natural world is part of your faith's traditions and spirituality? Do you include environmental education in your formal subject teaching – in science, geography, mathematics, for example – as well as through practical applications such as planting trees? What about songs, drama, role-play, creative writing and painting? Using these creative tools can be a powerful way of teaching care for the earth.

**EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Do you have an eco club? Could you use school land to plant trees, create vegetable gardens, harvest water and recycle? What about involving the wider community?

**INFORMAL EDUCATION:** The environmental message can be applied through faith-based youth groups, scouts and youth skills training. By getting involved in eco-projects such as tree planting, sustainable land use and water source clean up, young people can be empowered to take action in their communities.

*At Qadiriyyah Sufi schools in Kano, Nigeria, children are given two tree seedlings – one for the school orchard and one to plant at home. Half of their graduation marks come from how well they look after their trees.*

**CHILDREN AS AMBASSADORS:** By giving children the chance to voice what they have learnt, to their families and neighbours and at their place of worship, school-based projects can have a wider outreach in the community.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Do you involve the whole school community – children, teaching staff, administrators, local authority, non-governmental organisations and parents – in your conservation activities? This strengthens your work; building support for projects; and celebrates the valuable work done by schools.

**CELEBRATION:** Do you celebrate your care and love of the natural world in all that you do? Do you have a festival at school to focus on the natural environment or to celebrate creation? Do you give thanks for nature?