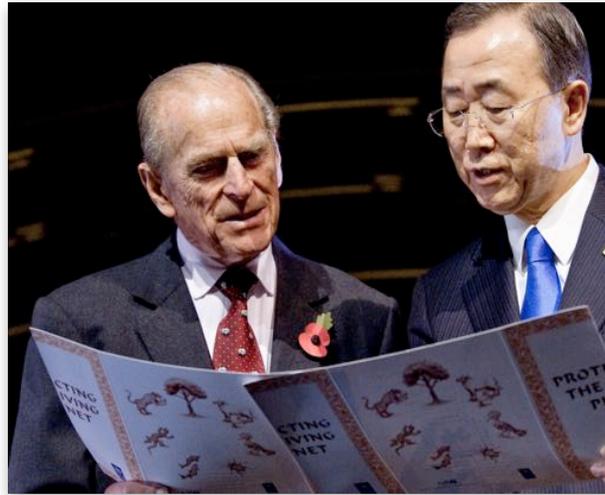


## INDONESIA & MALAYSIA

In 2014, ARC and the Centre for Islamic Studies at Indonesia's National University helped bring about the first ever national religious edict, or fatwa, to protect threatened wildlife. It was issued by Indonesia's powerful Islamic council after a series of consultations with conservation groups and the government. We are now working with WWF and Muslim clerics to translate the fatwa's guidelines for Muslim communities near two high priority tiger and rhino conservation areas. The aim is to improve local awareness and support for wildlife protection. ARC is also working with local NGO Rimba and the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu to support the first Malaysian wildlife trade fatwa.



PRINCE PHILIP AND UN SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON

## WHAT IS ARC?

The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) is a secular organisation founded by His Royal Highness Prince Philip in 1995. It works with the world's major religions to help them develop environmental programmes based on their own core teachings, beliefs and practices. It also helps secular environment organisations work with the faiths to protect the natural world. ARC receives no funding from any faith.



ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS AND CONSERVATION

launched in 1995 by HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT

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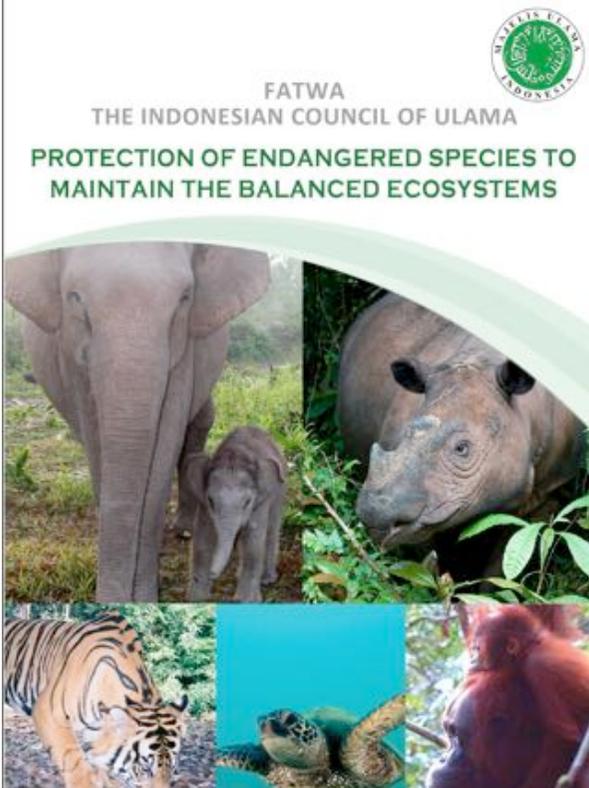
# ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS AND CONSERVATION

# ARC



## WHY WORK WITH THE FAITHS?

- They reach 85% of the world's people including 2.1 billion Christians; 1.4 billion Muslims; 950 million Hindus; 500 million Buddhists
- Threatened species/habitats occur disproportionately in countries where religion is a dominant aspect of the culture
- Faiths own more than 7% of habitable land and hold influence in some 15% of the world's forests
- They are involved in around half of all schools worldwide;
- They are often trusted where politicians, governments and military leaders are not.

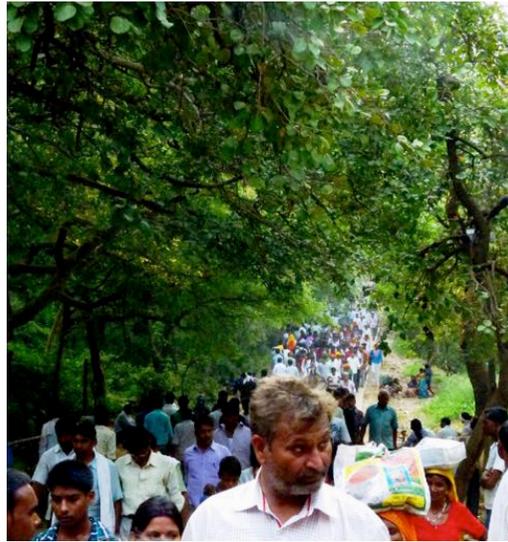




CHINA'S FIRST DAOIST ECO-TEMPLE

## CHINA

With 300 million Buddhists and Daoists and some 40,000 temples across the country, religious leaders are trusted sources of wisdom and authority in China. China is also one of the biggest global consumers of rhino horn, ivory and other wildlife parts, in food and medicine as well as luxury and sometimes religious items. ARC is working with Daoist, Buddhist and Confucianists leaders as well as Chinese media to expand awareness of the impact of these consumer choices, as well as to stop people buying or trading threatened species. Religious leaders are incorporating messages into their teachings, as well as protecting sacred lands (which often have high biodiversity). In 2016 Buddhists banned the practice of so-called "mercy release" of caged animals into the wild. This is not compassionate, and also encourages an illegal wildlife trade and has the effect of introducing invasive species.



RANTHAMBORE GANESH PILGRIMAGE, ATREE 2015

## INDIA

In recent years there has been a massive escalation in visitor numbers to temples inside wildlife protection areas, with a huge impact on wildlife. Sometimes more than a million people go through these reserves in just a few days. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has instructed every tiger reserve to develop plans to manage this new level of religious tourism. ARC and the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) have developed green pilgrimage models in several tiger reserves. Park managers, religious authorities and ordinary people work together, taking shared responsibility. This, coupled with awareness campaigns, has led to shifts in visitors' attitudes and behaviours. ARC is also working in the Indian Himalayas on encouraging local Buddhist monks to learn about snow leopard protection and incorporate wildlife protection into their teachings.



THE MONKS' COMMUNITY FOREST, CAMBODIA

## CAMBODIA

ARC is supporting grassroots Buddhist initiatives aimed at protecting Cambodia's wildlife and natural areas. In the Monks' Community Forest, Buddhist monks are leading the protection of what is now one of the largest community forests in the country. With few resources, these monks have: acquired legal protection of more than 18,000 hectares; established patrol teams of monks and villagers using Buddhist-based principles; encouraged rural villagers to adopt conservation attitudes and behaviours, and significantly reduced forest crime. ARC is supporting the development of a network of monks across Cambodia, leading and guiding initiatives to prevent environmental destruction. Buddhist-based enforcement and awareness programmes hold great promise for other priority conservation areas in Cambodia and other Buddhist countries.