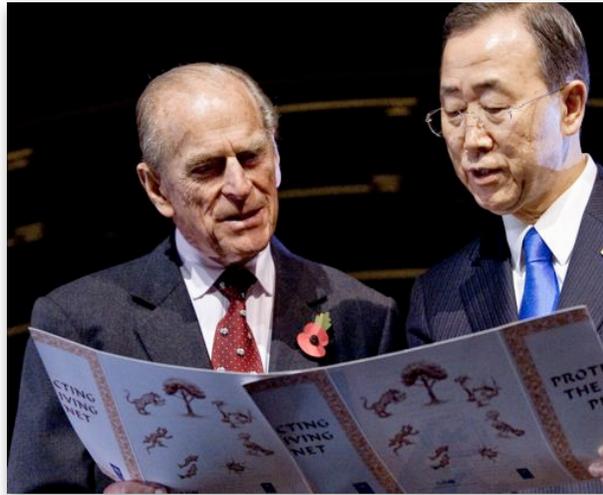


ON WORKING WITH RELIGIONS

“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 way of living, to make them change. Who is able to do this? The faiths. So why don't we work with the faiths?” (HRH Prince Philip)

In 1986, when Prince Philip founded the initiative that became ARC, many people, including from the faiths themselves, were sceptical about religions playing a significant environmental role. Now the participation of faith groups and traditions has become part of how many programmes on the environment are conceived. Olav Kjølven, Deputy United Nations Secretary-General described the work of the religions as “potentially the biggest civil society movement on climate change we have ever seen”. We are honoured to be part of making this happen.



WHAT IS ARC?

The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) is a secular organisation founded by HRH 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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The paper in this leaflet comes from FSC-certified woodlands

ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS AND CONSERVATION



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

ARC works with 11 major faiths around the world. Here are just a few of our programmes.

AFRICA

The faiths have huge outreach in Africa, with 90% of people describing themselves as Christian or Muslim. In 2012, 27 Christian, Muslim and Hindu faith traditions in sub-Saharan Africa launched long-term environment plans, focusing on how they can manage their land and water more sustainably, and how they teach about caring for nature. ARC is also supporting Farming God's Way and Farming Allah's Way initiatives.



GREENER PILGRIMAGE

More than 200 million people go on pilgrimage every year. This is a blessing and a problem: they need resources and leave litter, but pilgrim places can also work with faiths and municipalities to make the whole area better more sustainable. ARC's Green Pilgrimage Network helps pilgrim places become models of care and respect for the environment.

WATER & EDUCATION

In some parts of Africa, 70% of schools are faith-run. And many of them don't have clean water or effective toilets. ARC is working with partners to help faith schools provide safer water, good sanitation and hygiene education.

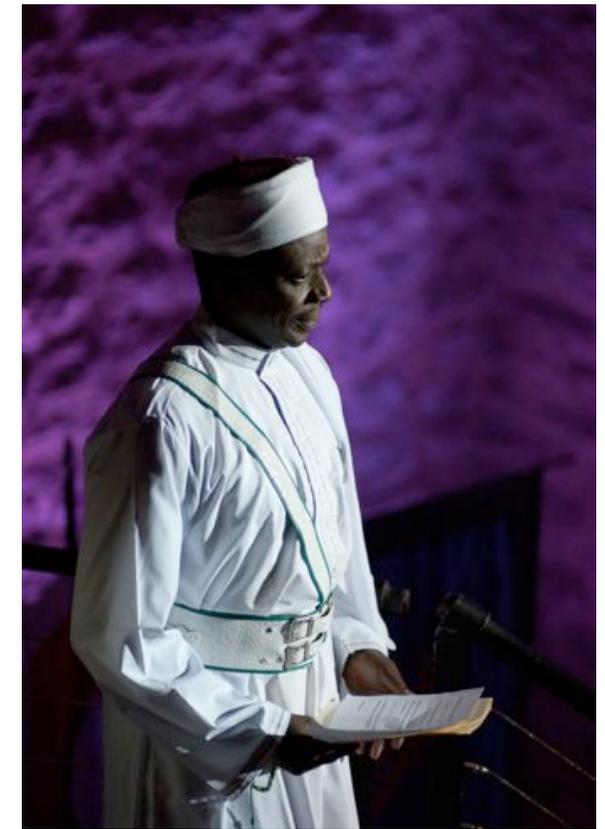
SACRED LAND

We work with all major faiths to protect sacred sites such as mountains, forests and rivers. Joint research with WWF International has shown these places have high levels of biodiversity – protected by being sacred.



CHINA

The Daoists have protected China's sacred mountains for millennia. With ARC, they have set up eco-temples and created environmental projects across China including a new pilgrim eco centre at Louguan. They are also working to protect species threatened by Traditional Chinese Medicine. In 2013 the International Confucian Ecological Alliance (ICEA) was set up to work with ARC and Confucianism's many followers on sustainable projects.



WHY WORK WITH THE FAITHS?

- The faiths reach 85% of the world's people. There are 2.1 billion Christians; 1.34 billion Muslims; 950 million Hindus; 50-70 million Daoists; 24 million Sikhs; 13 million Jews.
- They own 7-8% of the habitable land surface of the planet;
- They own 5% of the world's forests and have influence over 15%;
- They are involved in more than half of all schools worldwide;
- They are the third largest investment block on the global stock market;
- They are often trusted where politicians, governments and military leaders are not.