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Dr Husna Ahmad, Global One

Dr Husna Ahmad OBE is the CEO of Global One 2015, an international Muslim women-led development organisation. With a PhD in Environmental Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at London University, she spent seven years of Group CEO of Faith Regen Foundation which is a Muslim-inspired multi faith organisation working with disadvantaged communities in the UK. She continues as a board member and is adviser to the East London and Palmers Green mosques. She sits on the task force for Faith Action's work on Together in Service supporting faith groups in multi-faith social action communities in the UK. She is the Secretary General of the World Muslim Leadership Forum and has set up Women's WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Networks in Malaysia and Indonesia. She has presented many papers internationally, focusing on climate change and faith. She co-authored the Green Guide to Hajj and wrote Islam and Water, the Story of Hajjar. (UK) Twitter: @DrHusnaAhmad

Dr Elizabeth Allison, California Institute of Integral Studies

Dr Elizabeth Allison, PhD, is an associate professor of ecology and religion at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, where she founded and chairs the graduate program in Ecology, Spirituality, and Religion. Her research and teaching explore connections between religion, ethics, and environmental practice, with particular attention to biodiversity, waste, ecological place, and climate change. The Earth Charter and the World Bank's Development Dialogue have cited her research on the religious response to climate change. Her articles appear in WIREs Climate Change, Mountain Research and Development, the Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, and in edited volumes on Bhutan, religion, and geography. She is working on a book entitled The Political Ecology of Happiness: Religion, Environment, and Development in Modernizing Bhutan. A former Fulbright scholar, she holds degrees in environmental management from the University of California - Berkeley and Yale University, and in religion from Yale and Williams College. (USA)

Mary Bellekom, Faith in Water, ARC

Mary Bellekom is a member of the La Retraite Catholic community. She joined ARC in 2010 as Education & Water Project Manager and Finance Officer. She is currently one of the leaders of the independent Faith in Water initiative, helping donor organisations work with faith schools and faith leadership to improve water, sanitation and hygiene for children and communities around the world. (UK)

Rev Canon Sally Bingham, The Regeneration Project /IPL

Sally Grover Bingham is an Episcopal priest and Canon for the Environment in the Diocese of California. She is founder and president of The Regeneration Project, and the Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) campaign, a religious response to climate change in the US. The IPL campaign includes a national network of more than 18,000 congregations with affiliated programs in 40 states. She has received numerous awards including the 2007 United States EPA Climate Protection Award, the Purpose Prize, the Energy Globe Award, the commendation as a “sacred gift to the planet” by WWF in 2012, and in 2013, the Rachel Carson Award. She has been recognized as a Climate Hero by *Yes! Magazine*, was featured as one of the leaders of the new green revolution in *Rolling Stone* and was named as one of the 50 most powerful women religious leaders by the Huffington Post. She is the lead author of *Love God Heal Earth*, a collection of 21 essays on environmental stewardship by religious leaders, published by St. Lynn’s Press in 2009. (USA)

Cara Byington, The Nature Conservancy

Cara Cannon Byington is a science writer and editor for The Nature Conservancy and writes regularly about the conservation research of the Conservancy’s nearly 600 scientists. Previously, she worked as the lead writer for several of the Conservancy’s most ambitious international projects, including the Great Bear Rainforest Campaign, Forever Costa Rica and the Caribbean Challenge. Cara has written and published widely on conservation issues around the world, and is especially fond of any story assignment that involves travel by boat, kayak, or mule. She has an M.A. in science writing from Johns Hopkins University, and when not working on a story, can usually be found hiking with her family, reading, or honing her skills as a birder. @ccbyington

Byung Ju Choi, Grand Master of the Choi Family, Korea

Byung Ju Choi has been Grand Master of Chi in Korea since 1983, and is also President of Gyoung Ju Choi clan which consists of around two million People. He is chair of the Kowoon International Culture Exchange Society. Kowoon, or Choi Chi-won, was a sage in the Unified Shilla Dynasty (676-892 AD), and he is the forefather of the Gyoungju Choi clan. Byung Ju Choi is currently on the organizing committee for a major International Conference on Kowoon. He will work with ARC and the Research Institute for Spiritual Environments (RISE) on conservation issues, and in 2017 will run an International Conference on The Sacred City, in collaboration with RISE and the Mayor of Gyoungju City (who is a member of the Gyoung Ju Choi clan). (Korea)

Philippe Curutchet, R20

After having created and run food-trading companies, Philippe CURUTCHET was a partner in a consulting firm in human resources management. Engaged for more than 20 years in a

spiritual approach aiming at the improvement of the individual, he is convinced that the man should not seek to dominate nature, but must find the place allotted to him, and thus to participate in the harmony of the universe. Philippe CURUTCHET thinks that if the wealth of a nation lies in the defence of its values, it is also based on the involvement of its individuals to work for the betterment of the human condition. Philippe CURUTCHET is consultant for R20 Regions for Climate Action.

Dr Joyce D'Silva, Compassion in World Farming

Dr Joyce D'Silva taught in India and was Head of Religious Education (RE) for six years at a comprehensive school in Essex. Since 1985 she has worked for Compassion in World Farming, including 14 years as Chief Executive. CiWF is the world's leading farm animal welfare organisation, with the mission to end factory farming. She now works as CiWF's Ambassador and has given talks at conferences and institutions across the world, from the World Bank to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the European Parliament. She played a key role in achieving the UK ban on sow stalls and in getting recognition of animal sentience enshrined in the European Union Treaties (where previously animals were just seen as units or products). In October 2015 Joyce received an honorary Doctorate (D.Litt.) by the University of Winchester. She is a Patron of the [Animal Interfaith Alliance](#). In 2010 Earthscan commissioned Joyce to produce and co-edit *The Meat Crisis*. In her spare time, she practices and teaches Tai Chi and Qigong. @Joycedsilva (UK)

Dr Chris Elisara, WEA Creation Care Task Force

Dr Chris Elisara applies more than two decades of experience in the US creation care movement to his leadership of the World Evangelical Alliance's Creation Care Task Force, which he started in 2012. After growing up in New Zealand he moved to the USA to undertake graduate studies at Eastern University (MBA) and Biola University (PhD). While he was there, in 1995, he and his wife Tricia founded the first Christian undergraduate environmental study abroad program—the Creation Care Study Program (CCSP)—taking students to Belize and New Zealand. In 2010 he founded the Center for Environmental Leadership. (USA)

Chantal Elkin, Wildlife and Forests Programme Manager, ARC

Chantal Elkin is Manager of the Wildlife & Forests Programme at the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), based in the UK. She was with Conservation International (CI) for eight years as the Washington DC-based Manager of the Indo-Burma program and then as Director of CI's Wildlife Trade program, focusing on the illegal trade in Asia. She holds two Master's degrees from the University of London, the first in Environment and Development in Southeast Asia and the second looking at Buddhism and conservation. Prior to working with CI, she co-authored the 1998 publication, *Logging Burma's Frontier Forests: Resources and the Regime* for the World Resources Institute. She is also author of the chapter "Strengthening Forest Conservation through the Buddhist Sangha" in *Cambodia's Contested Forest Domain* (2013). (UK) Twitter: @celkin2

Victoria Finlay, ARC

Victoria Finlay has been head of Communications at ARC since 2004. In 2009 she became ARC's coordinator for EcoSikh, and has been proud to see that movement grow exponentially within the Sikh community (particularly in India, the US and UK). In 2011

EcoSikh created the first Sikh Environment Day on March 14 with 200 gurdwaras and schools participating. By 2014 several thousand were joining in, not just symbolically but with concrete actions. She is now the only non Sikh board member of EcoSikh. She has an MA (Hons) in Social Anthropology from St Andrews University and in her work at ARC has always been most interested in the stories, and the potential of stories to generate social change. She is an author of three popular non fiction books (*Colour: Travels through the Paintbox*, Hodder & Stoughton 2001; *Jewels: A Secret History*, Hodder & Stoughton 2004, *The Brilliant History of Color in Art*, Getty, 2014. (UK). Twitter: @victoriafinlay @arcworld

Grazia Francescato, Greenaccord

Grazia Francescato is an environmental leader, green politician, journalist and writer. She has been President of WWF-Italy, member of the Board of WWF-International, President of the Italian Green Party, Member of Parliament for the Italian Green Party and Spokesperson for the European Green Party. She has been foreign correspondent for the major Italian news agency ANSA, correspondent for major nature magazines (*Airone, Oasis, Natura Oggi*) and Italian TV nature programs (GEO, The Traveller). She is now in charge of Foreign Relationships for Greenaccord, a secular Association for the Safeguard of Creation, very close to Pope Francis, dealing with capacity building and information on environmental issues. She has written several books on sustainability and she explored the relationship between conservation and spirituality in two books (*In Viaggio con L'arcangelo, Lo sguardo dell'anima* Ed. Mediterranee) and in a chapter "The Roman goddess Care: a therapy for the planet" in *Sacred Species and Sites* published by Cambridge University Press.

Fabrizio Frascaroli

Fabrizio Frascaroli is a conservation ecologist working on the link between cultural and biological diversity. Fabrizio earned a BA and MA in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Iceland, and an MSc in Environmental Sciences and PhD in Ecology from the University of Zurich. He is currently research associate at the Universities of Zurich and Bologna, and visiting scholar at the University of Florida thanks to a generous grant from the Cogito Foundation (Switzerland). Fabrizio has worked extensively on sacred natural sites in Central Italy, highlighting their importance for both nature and people. He engages regularly with local communities, faith organizations and public administrators at all levels to promote better conservation of these sites. Fabrizio serves as vice-president of the Society for Conservation Biology's Religion and Conservation Biology Working Group, which he is contributing to bringing to the forefront of the field of faith and conservation.

Betsy Gaines Quammen, Yellowstone Theological Institute

In 2002 Betsy Gaines Quammen visited the Eg-Uur watershed and Dayan Derkh Monastery ruins and fell in love with the rivers, landscapes and people of Mongolia. She set up The Tributary Fund to protect endangered wildlife (especially the taiman fish) and their habitats by celebrating and amplifying cultural traditions that honor nature. TTF worked with faiths in Mongolia, Bhutan and the rural American west. Betsy earned her MS in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana and is set to complete her doctorate in Religion and Environmental History at Montana State University in 2016. She has lived in Kenya, working for the East African Wildlife Society, but has mainly focused on ecosystem protection, endangered species and logging and grazing reform in the American Northern Rockies. She has served on the boards of several organizations, including the Sierra Club. She has held

positions at the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, MSU's Center for Native American Studies, and American Wildlands. Today she is a lecturer in Nature and Religion at Yellowstone Theological Institute. (USA) @betsygquammen

Amy Gambrill, Environmental Incentives

Amy Gambrill has more than 20 years of experience in international development and the water and natural resources sectors. She is currently working on the USAID Measuring Impact project for their Forestry and Biodiversity Program, where she works to make biodiversity programs more effective and adaptive. She recently supported USAID's water program by providing technical assistance to USAID water for food and water for health projects. From 2010-2012, she explored the linkages between faith and conservation in sub-Saharan Africa for USAID's biodiversity program. As a conservation specialist at the Gorongosa Restoration Project in Mozambique, she wrote Gorongosa National Park's Management Plan. She was Communications Director for the US Environmental Protection Agency's National Water Program and a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco. She has an MS in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Johns Hopkins University and a BS in Geology and Environmental Studies from Yale. @amy_gambrill (USA)

Rev Fletcher Harper, GreenFaith

Rev Fletcher Harper is the Executive Director of GreenFaith, developing programmes linking religious belief and practice to environmental action, including innovative leadership and green certification programmes. An award-winning spiritual writer and nationally-recognised preacher on the environment, he teaches and speaks at houses of worship from a range of denominations around the USA. (USA) Twitter: @greenfaithworld

He Yun, China Programme, ARC

He Yun (Claudia He) is the manager of ARC's China programme. She has worked with ARC since 2009. She trained as a political scientist. She was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Maryland between 2012 and 2013 and a Tsinghua Scholar at Cambridge University. (China)

Dr He Xiaoxin, Dachi International Consultancy

Dr He is a well-known expert in China on architecture, landscape and environmental design and the science of *fengshui*. She has extensive teaching experience on traditional Chinese architecture. Her first book *The Origins of Fengshui* published in China (1990), Taiwan (1995) and Japan (1995) is highly regarded as a landmark work in the scientific research of *fengshui*. From 2002-2011, she was leading consultant for the ARC China programme, based in the UK. Since 2012, she has been a consultant on environmental and landscape design, and has conducted research on architectural conservation in China. She is also a member of the editorial board of *Architect 建筑师*, one of the most influential academic architectural journals in China. (China)

Jeremy Lindsell, AROCHA

Jeremy Lindsell is a conservationist who has been working on globally threatened species and tropical forest conservation for the last 18 years. Jeremy's experience – much of it

during 11 years at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - includes the conservation of long distance migrant birds, understanding the biodiversity importance of protected, unprotected and degraded tropical forests, and other aspects of tropical forest ecology. He has worked in West and East Africa, the Middle East and in Southeast Asia, including a period living in Uganda. He holds a degree in Geography from the University of Cambridge and a PhD in Zoology (Ornithology) from the University of Oxford. He is currently supporting the existing science programmes and developing new areas of research at A Rocha International where he is happy to live out his Christian commitment to creation care.
@jeremylindsell (UK)

Dave Livermore, TNC

Dave Livermore joined The Nature Conservancy in 1980 working out of the Conservancy's Western Regional Office in San Francisco. In 1986, he moved to Salt Lake City to open the Great Basin Field Office and has lived there ever since. Major land and water conservation projects Dave has led in his 35 years with TNC include Ash Meadows, Stillwater, Ruby Valley and Red Rock Canyon in Nevada, and the Great Salt Lake, Strawberry River, the Washington County Lands Bill and the Dugout Ranch in Utah. This last project, spanning over 350,000 acres in the heart of Utah's redrock country, is now home to the Canyonlands Research Center. Dave has led five successful campaigns raising over \$137 million in private and public funds for conservation and has been engaged in faith-based conservation efforts in Utah with Brigham Young University and the LDS Church. In 1994 Dave received a Loeb Fellowship in Advanced Environmental Studies from Harvard University and in 2003 he received the Chevron Conservation Award. He currently serves on the board of Envision Utah and on the Leadership Council of the Land Trust Alliance. His wife, Rebecca, is an accomplished watercolour artist who paints landscapes of the American West. (USA)

Dr Fachruddin Mangunjaya, Centre for Islamic Studies

Dr Fachruddin Mangunjaya is Vice Chair of the Centre for Islamic Studies at Universitas Nasional in Jakarta. He grew up close to the lovely tropical rainforest of Kalimantan, Indonesia. He obtained a PhD in Environmental Management and Natural Resources from Bogor Agricultural University and was one of the Climate Reality Leaders trained by Al Gore. Over the past decade he has been intensively involved in many activities related to religion and environment, including attending the UNDP/ARC Windsor Celebration in 2009 in which the Seven-Year Muslim Action Plan for Climate Change was launched. He recently led an initiative, with the support of conservation NGOs in Indonesia, as well as the Government of Indonesia and ARC, to work with the Indonesian Council of Ulama (MUI) to issue a formal Muslim edict (fatwa) to protect wildlife. He has helped disseminate this key fatwa around the country, which is already having a positive impact on wildlife and habitats. (Indonesia)
@FachruddinM

Dr Elizabeth McLeod, TNC

Lizzie McLeod is a Marine Climate Scientist at The Nature Conservancy. She was instrumental in developing an online toolkit and training curriculum for coral reef managers, which has trained nearly 1,500 managers in more than 75 countries on addressing threats to reefs. She has spent the past decade researching and developing new strategies to reduce the impacts of climate change on tropical marine ecosystems. She conducted her PhD at the University of Hawaii on developing a climate vulnerability and adaptation framework for tropical island communities. She has published extensively on climate change and marine

conservation in tropical systems. She has recently launched an initiative to broaden TNC's engagement with faith groups to address the most pressing global challenges and to build the evidence base that **protecting** and restoring land and water enriches human lives and protects the diversity of life on earth. (USA)

Michael Alexander Mercer, Valley Foundation

Alexander Mercer (1984) is Programme Manager of the Valley Foundation (De Vallei Stichting), a Dutch non-profit organisation founded by his grandfather, Allerd Stikker. The Valley Foundation's main objective is to support initiatives concerned with the conservation of natural resources in their startup phase. Over the last ten years, the Valley Foundation has been supporting ARC programmes. For ARC's China Programme, Alexander represents the Valley Foundation at events connected herewith. In his capacity of Programme Manager, he is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Faith in Water Foundation, a British non-profit initiative and offshoot of ARC, working with faith schools to improve water, sanitation and hygiene for children and communities. Born in Texas, USA, he lived alternately in the Netherlands and Portugal while growing up, learning to speak all three languages fluently. After studying Graphic Design at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, and Fine Arts at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam, he is currently a trader of art and design, specialising in European mid-century modern furniture. (Netherlands)

Kenji Nagoshi, UBrainTV

Kenji Nagoshi is the Managing Director of UBrainTV. In 2007, he was invited to Gotland, Sweden to interpret for a major ARC and WWF conference on forestry and religion. Many Shinto priests were invited. What he heard, and translated, changed his life. He had not thought about this in this way before. At one point a Shinto priest stood and said Shintoism does not believe in protecting nature; quite the opposite, it believes that nature protects us, and that we have to respect it for that. This experience triggered his action on the environment and led directly to the creation of UBrainTV, an internet based TV company which has worked with ARC since its 2009 Windsor celebration. What drives the UBrainTV team is a sense that if human all remembered that the environment is a place where the sacred both lives and comes alive, then we would not be facing this climate crisis today. And in a small way UBrainTV tries to help this remembering happen. @KenjiUbrainTV (UK/Japan)

David Nussbaum, WWF-UK

David Nussbaum became Chief Executive of WWF-UK in 2007, and chairs WWF's Global Climate and Energy Initiative. He is also non-executive Chair of Transparency International UK, and a Trustee of ARC. David originally studied theology at Cambridge and Edinburgh universities, and then qualified as an accountant with Price Waterhouse. He moved into venture capital with 3i Group, and then into manufacturing, latterly as finance director of Field Group plc through its management buyout and subsequent successful flotation. He joined Oxfam in 1997 as finance director and deputy CEO and was later seconded to head up Oxfam's operations in India. In 2002 he joined Transparency International, the leading global anti-corruption organisation, as Chief Executive based in Berlin @DavidNussbaum1 (UK).

Christophe Nuttall, R20

Christophe Nuttall has been Executive Director of the R20 Regions of Climate Action since January 2012, following exchanges between Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and UN

Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, and with approval from R20's members and partners. He has previously been Director of UNDP's Hub for Innovative Partnerships, through which he led the development of partnerships with local/regional authorities for the UN system. He developed the Territorial Approach to Climate Change (which aims to chart a new low-carbon route to development at the subnational level with official recognition from the UNFCCC's COP 16 in Cancun), has been in charge of Geographic Information Systems at the UN Institute for Training and Research, and launched the International Multi-Partnerships Initiative on access to basic services, adopted at the 2007 UN-HABITAT Board. The Initiative led to the listing of access to water as a human right in 2011. He has an Ecological Engineering degree and a PhD in Development Geography. He has worked as a space engineer at CNES, the French National Centre for Space Studies, and spent two years as scientific advisor within the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (France/Switzerland)

Fr Charles Odira, Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops

Father Charles is a Catholic priest, working for the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops in Nairobi as the National Executive Secretary for Pastoral and Lay Apostolate, Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue. He is also Chair of the newly formed Kenya Interfaith Network on Environmental Action. He holds a PhD in Missiology specialising in interreligious dialogue. He has written several books on faith and conservation, has conducted workshops on faith and the illegal wildlife trade and has organised several faith-based environmental days for religious leaders at all levels (Kenya). @KenyaCatholics

Martin Palmer, ARC

Martin Palmer is Secretary General of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) founded with HRH Prince Philip in 1995 to help faiths develop environmental and conservation projects based on their own beliefs and practices. He is the author and editor of more than 20 books on religious and environmental topics. He has translated many ancient Chinese texts, including China's oldest history book the Shang Shu and the writings of Daoist philosopher Chuang Zi for Penguin Classics. He is a regular contributor to the BBC and is a lay preacher in the Church of England. (UK)

Gopal Patel, The Bhumi Project

Gopal Patel is Director of the Bhumi Project. Working with Hindu communities across the world, Bhumi aims to encourage good environmental practice using Hindu teachings and traditions. Its work focuses on helping and encouraging Hindu temples and pilgrimage sites in India to become greener. Every February Bhumi hosts Hindu Environment Week, which has seen 15,000 people participate to date. @BhumiGopalPatel @bhumiproject

Brian Pilkington, Chairman of ARC Trustees

Brian Pilkington studied fine art at Chelsea School of Art, then went on to study philosophy at University College London under Professor Richard Wollheim, a world expert in the field of aesthetics. After gaining his degree he founded Pilkington Press, a publishing house promoting innovative thinking in the fields of art and environmental studies. He subsequently developed an interest in Japan and created the Pilkington Anglo-Japanese Cultural Foundation to promote cultural exchange. The Foundation is now supporting many programmes to enhance understanding of Japanese culture and craft and to promote Museum activities between UK and Japan. Brian has been the Chairman of the Trustees of

ARC since its inception. He now focuses on working with leading scientists worldwide seeking creative solutions in the field of clean and sustainable energy.

Sanjay Rattan, ATREE/ARC

Sanjay Rattan is Project Coordinator for Religion and Conservation at ATREE with the specific role of working with faiths and conservationists to protect sacred sites and tiger reserves in India. For example, deep within Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan lies a shrine dedicated to Ganesha the elephant deity; millions of people pass through, culminating on the annual Ganesh Chaturhi festival. Sanjay's team worked on a multi-stakeholder model for green pilgrimage in the reserve. He earlier worked with the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF), focusing on the Asian elephant. Responsibilities included managing a tribal schools education project. After a short corporate management career in the 1980s, he has been associated with development, religion and conservation programs over 30 years, including project coordinating (and later project directing) forest programmes and community initiatives in the holy city of Vrindavan. (India)

Dr Tanu Rattan

Dr Tanu Rattan teaches postgraduate nanoscience at the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in India. She did a PhD in physical chemistry, specialising in high energy materials and nanoceramic oxides. She has an abiding interest in religious values education, and provides policy level inputs in this area in her home state of Karnataka. In 2005 she was asked to foster a new program for young people to adopt universal religious values in their everyday living, a programme she headed until 2012. Presently, she is engaged with the Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini (flow of knowledge) project, integrating religious values and character building into the school curriculum. The project uses animation, education modules and books, question banks, educational games, quizzes and events. (India)

Jay Ramsay, poet in residence

Jay Ramsay is the author of 35 books of poetry, non-fiction, and (with Martin Palmer) classic Chinese translations. Publications include: *The Most Venerable Book*; *Shu Jing* (Penguin Classics, 2014) *Alchemy, Tao Te Ching, I Ching* (the shamanic oracle of change), *Kuan Yin, Kingdom of the Edge—Selected Poems 1980-1998*, *Out of Time—1998-2008*, *Anamnesis—the remembering of soul* (in residence at St. James', Piccadilly) and *Places of Truth* (2009). His latest collection is *Monuments* (Waterloo Press, 2014). He is poetry editor of *Caduceus* magazine, and works in private practice as a UKCP-accredited psychosynthesis psychotherapist and healer, running workshops worldwide. He has often worked with ARC as poet in residence. www.jayramsay.co.uk

Aishath Rifaae Rasheed, IUCN

Aishath Rifaae Rasheed is a marine conservation scientist working with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2012 in projects based in the Maldives. She is a co-founder of the Maldivian branch of *Maldives Whale Shark Research Programme*, a UK-based NGO that is involved in community mobilisation and species conservation. She has also worked with major industries and rural communities to garner support towards marine conservation initiatives in Maldives, and was the organiser of the first marine conservation festival held in the country. She was also a reviewer of the national science curriculum in Maldives for the period 2014 – 2015. She received her Bachelors degree from James Cook

University, Australia in Marine Biology and Aquaculture. She is presently attending The Australian National University to pursue her Masters degree in Environmental Management and Public Policy. Rifae is currently researching the social resilience capacity of island communities of one atoll to marine conservation initiatives, the role and scope of Islam in fostering marine conservation in the Maldives, and working with the national government and IUCN to develop a management plan for the largest Marine Protected Area in Maldives.

Yoshi Sada, MOA

Yoshiro Sada is Deputy Director of the International Support Centre for the Mokichi Okada Association (MOA), which has been a trustee organisation of ARC since 1995. He has a BA from Gifu University, majoring in English Education, and an MA in Religious Education from Boston College, USA. He has been working for MOA since 1978 in the field of international exchange, including stages in New York and Los Angeles as a representative. MOA promotes Integrative Medicine, Art and Culture, and Nature (i.e. organic) Farming based upon the philosophy and practice of Mokichi Okada(1882-1955). MOA Museum of Art in Atami is known as one of the best private art museums in Japan. (Japan)

Yasuhiko Saito, MOA

Yasuhiko Saito was born in 1952 in Kyoto, Japan. He was awarded MS in economics from Doshisha University in Kyoto in 1975 followed by an MA in economics from California State University East Bay in 1979. In the 1980s he was stationed in New York as liaison officer for the Mokichi Okada Association (MOA), Japan. As well as organising Japanese language classes in Manhattan he also coordinated three consecutive annual conferences on Japanese Art with scholars from Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Tokyo and Kyoto Universities Conferences. In 1986 he set up Japanese ceramic classes with UCLA Extension Programs in Los Angeles. He first worked with the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in 1995 when he was represented the MOA Foundation on the organising committee for the Summit on Religions and Conservation held both in Atami, Japan and Windsor Castle. In 2011 he became Executive Director of MOA Foundation, and organizes MOA Art Museum's prestigious annual Children's' Art Contest with 450,000 entries each year. The contest has been endorsed by Ministries of Culture & Science, Agriculture & Fishery, Foreign Affairs and others. Attention to the natural world is a key part of MOA's process of helping people back to health, and in this context he organises "Kohrinka" flower arrangement classes with more than 1,500 flower instructors throughout Japan. He chairs the International Committee of MOA International, which focuses on building community health care. (Japan)

Michael Shackleton, Osaka Gakuin University

Mike Shackleton is a special advisor to ARC on Japanese religions. He was born in the UK and currently is an Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Osaka Gakuin University in Japan. He has been connected with ARC for many years and has attended most of ARC's events as an advisor and consultant. (Japan)

David Shreeve, Church of England

David Shreeve has been the Environmental Advisor to the Church of England since 2005. He is also Director of The Conservation Foundation, which he co-founded in 1982. He was awarded a Lambeth Degree in 2003 in recognition of his influence in helping the Church of England's understanding of environmental issues. His publications include: *How Many*

*Lightbulbs Does It Take to Change a Christian?; Don't Stop at the Lights – leading your church through a changing climate; and a pocket guide to shrinking your ecological footprint. His latest book, *Sharing Eden* co-written with Natan Levy and Harfiyah Haleem, sets out to show how respect for the environment is at the heart of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths. (UK) Twitter: [@c_of_e](#)*

Rob Soutter, WWF International

Senior Adviser, Special Campaigns, WWF International, Gland Switzerland. Born in northern England, Rob spent much of his life in South Africa, where he worked as a teacher and environmental journalist before joining WWF-South Africa in 1983 as Programme Director, where his passion was, and remains, environmental education, to help people live within the limits of their environment, and pass on a world which remains healthy and full of beauty and wonder. He moved to Switzerland in 1991 as Special Assistant to the WWF International Director General, where among his tasks he helped plan and organise several WWF Annual Conferences, revised the organisation's governance, and set up WWF's Prince Bernhard Scholarships for Nature Conservation. After launching and completing a CHF25 million major donor initiative called the WWF Conservation Leadership Fund, he directed WWF's Living Planet Campaign, which promoted achievement of big conservation wins using mechanisms such as high level events and Gifts to the Earth awards. A highlight was a major initiative in 2000 with the world's faiths, called Journey to Kathmandu, where WWF worked with the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) to bring together 11 of the world's major faiths to pledge substantive conservation commitments called Sacred Gifts for a Living Planet; Rob is a founder Trustee of ARC. More recently, Rob is now Senior Adviser to WWF where his focus is to help WWF teams in priority areas escalate their conservation achievement. (Switzerland) [@robsoutterwwf](#)

Peter Wheeler, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Peter Wheeler joined TNC as a London-based Executive Vice President in September 2013. He has a long and distinguished career as an investment banker, including working as a partner at Goldman Sachs, initially in New York, then based in Hong Kong. He was the firm's first Chief Representative in Beijing. In his post-banking business life, Peter was a seed investor and Board member of Climate Change Capital. He is an active angel investor and sits on the Board of Rift Valley Corporation, a dynamic African agro-industrial enterprise in Eastern and Southern Africa. He is a co-founder and trustee of New Philanthropy Capital, a charity that works as a consultancy and think tank, dedicated to helping charities and funders achieve the greatest impact so the lives of the people they serve are improved. He is a Board member of Social Finance, a social enterprise dedicated to the transformation of the third sector's capabilities by developing access to a range of innovative financing methods. He has recently served on the Board of the Young Foundation (as Chair) and Virgin Unite. He is a conservation fellow of the Zoological Society of London (UK) [@PeterWheeler](#)

Prof Sim Woo-Kyung, Research Institute for Spiritual Environments, Korea

Professor Sim Woo-Kyung is Founder and President of the Seoul-based Research Institute for Spiritual Environments [R.I.S.E.], which researches the methodology and technology on planning and design of spiritual environments [sacred places] for conservation. Also he was founder and President of Korean Society of Plants, People and Environmental Relationship

and Korean Institute of Traditional Landscape Architecture. He has received Ph.D. in landscape design from Korea University in 1984 and Professor Emeritus of landscape architecture at Korea University, specializing in garden history and planting design since 1981. Before teaching, he worked for KLDC, state landscape organization from 1974 to 1980 in Korea and abroad as a landscape architect and worked as guest member of staff for Newcastle University, UK in 1987 and design critic for landscape department of Harvard Graduate School in 2004. He believes that in order to protect Only One Earth, the first stage is to conserve the religious sacred places but that in the second stage this should be expended to making new spiritual environments in new towns with the purpose of bringing the local communities together. "It has been known that communities can be strongly united through religious activities, but recently built cities have no spaces for the indigenous faiths." Thus, he believes, planning and designing of conservation for the sacred places is our duty. (Korea)

Philip Tabas, TNC special advisor

Philip Tabas is Special Advisor with the North American Conservation Region of TNC in Arlington VA. He has been with the Conservancy for 35 years. He served as the Conservancy's General Counsel from 2003 to 2013. He has also held a range of legal and non-legal positions in TNC in the areas of land protection, government relations, compatible economic development and conservation planning. He has been involved in numerous private land conservation and compatible economic development projects, and has worked to secure tax policy and legislation changes for conservation at the US Federal and state levels of government as well as in other countries. Before TNC, he practiced law with a private law firm, worked as an attorney for a government water resources management agency and was an attorney with an environmental consulting firm. He has a BA in English from Pennsylvania State University, a JD from the George Washington University Law School, a Masters of Land Use Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, and an LLM in tax law from Boston University Law School. He co-authored *Comprehensive Planning and the Environment* (Abt Books, 1979), is a member of the Board of Directors of The Potomac Conservancy; and he regularly teaches the "Ecosystem Conservation Strategies" summer school course at the Vermont Law School. (USA)

Dr Tony Whitten, Fauna and Flora International

Tony Whitten is a wildlife biologist who spent 15 years working as the Senior Biodiversity Specialist in the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific Region before taking on his current position at Fauna and Flora International in 2010. As a biologist his first research was on ducks' sense of smell and his second was on the mating display of the Blue Duck. For his PhD, studying the endangered Kloss gibbon on remote Siberut Island, west of Sumatra. He began work as Advisor in the Centre of Environmental Studies at the University of North Sumatra and initiated a series of major ecology books on different areas of Indonesia where he lived for 10 years, consulting for major development agencies on land settlement, indigenous people, forest issues, and biodiversity. He joined the World Bank in 1995, working in three areas: support to others' projects on habitat policy issues, regional initiatives, and his own conservation projects in Mongolia, China, Indonesia, etc. He was a champion within the Bank of linking faiths and environment, an initiative which has led to a number of interesting developments.

Dr Zhou Jinfeng, Biodiversity and Green Development Foundation

Dr Zhou was born in Beijing, China. He earned his PhD degree in Chemistry at Peking University in 1985, and then he worked on his Post Doctoral degree at Purdue University, Indiana, in 1988. He is passionate about the conservation of acer pentaphyllum Diels (wu ziao ye feng, a rare, endangered maple species endemic to southwestern Sichuan) and malus sieversii (a now rare wild apple found in central Asia, which has been called the “original apple” tree). He has also focused on monitoring the Baer’s Pochard diving duck found in eastern Asia. He is the Secretary General of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF), and in that role has raised record amounts of funds to support the foundation’s aim to cooperate with corporations on linking conservation with development. Under his leadership, the Foundation has conducted many training workshops and summits for Chinese entrepreneurs around the country, improving awareness of environment protection and working on legislation for the environment. Dr Zhou was a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Vice Chair of the National Association of Vocational Education. (China)

<http://www.arcworld.org/projects.asp?projectID=672> for more details.