

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

FOR RELIGION AND ENVIRONMENT

ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS AND CONSERVATION

The Alliance of Religions and Conservation was launched by HRH Prince Philip at the Summit of Religions and Conservation in 1995. Working closely with its parent organization, the International Consultancy on Religion, Education and Culture (founded after the Assisi meeting in 1986, see p. 8), and World Wildlife Fund-UK, ARC aims to help religious communities and environmental organizations work together on faith-based conservation projects that respect and build upon the teachings of the faiths involved. ARC has initiated several sacred land and other projects around the world based on local/global alliances. (See pages 27 and 69.)

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FORUM ON RELIGION AND ECOLOGY

The Forum on Religion and Ecology grew out of a 1996-1998 series of conferences held at Harvard and at the United Nations and American Museum of Natural History in New York City that involved more than 1,000 scholars and activists. They explored how particular religious traditions view nature and highlighted the need for religious voices in grounding a comprehensive ethic of respect toward nature. It became apparent that religions need a dialogue with those who have addressed environmental concerns, in science, economics, education and public policy. This led to the Forum's creation — to further the dialogue and assist in establishing religion and ecology as a field of

study at universities, seminaries and other institutions of religious learning through research, education and outreach.

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Web: www.hds.harvard.edu/cswr/ecology

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The National Religious Partnership on the Environment is an alliance of the US Catholic Conference, Coalition on Environment and Jewish Life, National Council of Churches, and the Evangelical Environmental Network that serves more than 100 million Americans. Since its founding in 1993, the partners have reexamined the roots of their theologies on the idea of care for creation, and each has developed its own distinctive message and materials that have gone to more than 150,000 congregations. Clergy and lay members have been trained, and local projects initiated. Although NRPE is nonpartisan, it meets with legislators at all levels to seek solutions for the common good, not to lobby for specific legislation. (See page 23.)

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THE EARTH CHARTER CAMPAIGN

The Earth Charter is a statement of ethical principles, similar to the UN Declaration on Human Rights, aimed at guiding the conduct of people and nations to ensure peace, equity and a sustainable future. Hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals have been involved in the process for more than a decade. Following this worldwide consultation process, the Earth Charter Commission issued a final version of the document after meeting 12-14 March 2000 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Although endorsement of the Earth Charter by the United Nations remains an important objective, the consultation process itself was intended to serve as a powerful force for change.

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SEE ALSO:

Islamic Foundation for Ecology and
Environmental Sciences (IFEES)
93 Court Road
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Web: www.ifees.org

U.S. National Council of Churches
Eco-Justice/Web of Creation
Web: www.webofcreation.org

The United States Catholic Conference
Environmental Justice Program
www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/ejp/index.htm

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RELIGION AND ENVIRONMENT WORKS

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