



INTERFAITH
RAINFOREST
INITIATIVE

Uniting people of all faiths to end tropical deforestation



Rainforests sustain all life on the planet.

They are irreplaceable. Not only do they exhibit creation in its most exquisite beauty, they provide billions of people with food, shelter, livelihoods, medicine and clean water. They are also the best climate solution we have. If protected and restored, rainforests can provide an indispensable contribution to sustainable development. Instead, they are at grave risk.

Global deforestation is accelerating.

Extractive industries and land conversion for agricultural products like beef, soy, palm oil, and pulp and paper are driving tropical deforestation. These drivers are exacerbated by corruption, weak governance, inefficient land use and unsustainable patterns of consumption. In the last decade alone, an area of forest the size of the United Kingdom, France and Germany combined has been lost forever. This destruction is unnecessary and is undermining efforts by the international community to address climate change, sustainable development and human rights.





Momentum to protect rainforests is growing, but more is needed.

A coalition of government, business, indigenous peoples, science, NGO and civil society partners are working to halt deforestation. However, to achieve the speed and scale of change required, we need to bring the moral, ethical and spiritual dimension of humanity to bear more strongly on these efforts.

Together, religions and faiths can help end tropical deforestation.

The leadership, moral authority, and unparalleled influence of the world's religions and faith communities are urgently needed to protect the planet's remaining rainforests. Now is the time to mobilize the broadest possible support for their protection.



The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative is an international, multi-faith alliance that aims to bring moral urgency and faith-based leadership to global efforts to end tropical deforestation. It is a platform for faith-based leaders and communities to work hand-in-hand with indigenous peoples, governments, civil society and business on actions that protect rainforests and safeguard those that serve as their guardians.

Our mission is simple.



Raise awareness.

Raise awareness of the tropical deforestation crisis and equip religious leaders with the science, information and tools needed to serve as effective advocates for rainforest protection.



Mobilize action.

Mobilize faith-based action by connecting religious leaders with allies from across sectors to multiply their collective impact.



Influence policy.

Advocate for policies that protect forests by encouraging governments and companies to adopt, fulfill and expand upon their commitments to protect rainforests and the rights of indigenous peoples.

AREAS OF WORK

Build consensus.

Facilitate dialogue across religions about the shared moral, ethical and spiritual responsibility to protect rainforests.

Raise awareness.

Raise public consciousness about the gravity of the global deforestation crisis, making clear that this is not just another environmental issue, but a fundamental precondition for our ability to push back climate change, achieve sustainable development and survive as a planet.

Make the case.

Create opportunities for religious leaders, scientists and indigenous peoples to speak in concert about the case for ending tropical deforestation.

Facilitate learning.

Equip religious and spiritual leaders with the science, training and tools they need to become effective advocates for protecting rainforests.

Mobilize commitment.

Mobilize religious and spiritual leaders to make ending tropical deforestation an ethical priority and create space for them to advocate for policies that protect rainforests and those that serve as their guardians.

Inspire action.

Create a worldwide movement for rainforest protection that is grounded in the values, ethics and moral guidance of faith communities.

Influence policy.

Serve as a moral force for change to influence governments and companies to adopt, fulfill and expand upon commitments to protect rainforests.

Build new coalitions.

Facilitate new partnerships between religious and faith leaders, indigenous peoples, and other sectors – government, business, the UN, and civil society – to anchor global commitment to on-the-ground action in rainforest countries.



WHERE WE WORK

We work globally and in major rainforest countries to support religious leaders and spiritual communities that are mobilizing to protect rainforests.

We currently work in **Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia** and **Peru**, which together contain more than 70% of the world's remaining tropical forests.



PARTNERS



Norwegian Ministry
of Climate and Environment



Regnskogfondet
RAINFOREST FOUNDATION NORWAY

Religions for Peace 



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