



INTERFAITH RAINFOREST INITIATIVE

ABOUT US

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.

WHY RAINFORESTS?

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. 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.

WHERE WE WORK

The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative works globally and in major rainforest countries on the mobilization of faith-based leadership, advocacy and on-the-ground action 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. Our work in each country is focused on education and training, program development, communications and public outreach, faith-based mobilization, political advocacy and connecting religious leaders with allies from across sectors to multiply their collective impact.

OBJECTIVES

The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative is a platform for religious leaders and faith-based communities to work hand-in-hand with indigenous peoples, governments, civil society and businesses on actions that protect rainforests and safeguard those that serve as their guardians. Our mission is simple.

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.

THE PARTNERSHIP



Norwegian Ministry
of Climate and Environment



Regnskogfondet
RAINFOREST FOUNDATION NORWAY



World Council
of Churches



Yale
FORUM ON RELIGION
AND ECOLOGY

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