



## Importance of the Environment to Religion

Our environment is a very important aspect of our lives; so much so that, many of the major religious teachings have taken the time to educate its followers on its importance and care as well as their roles in preserving it.

### Hinduism

*“Our beloved Earth, so touchingly looked upon as the Universal Mother, has nurtured mankind through millions of years of growth and evolution. Now centuries of rapacious exploitation of the planet have caught up with us, and a radical change in our relationship with nature is no longer an option. It is a matter of survival. We cannot continue to destroy nature without also destroying ourselves”.* The Hindu Declaration on Climate Change, presented in December 2009 at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Australia

The sentiments shared in this declaration epitomizes the true expression of not just our Hindu brothers and sisters but echoes sentiments that should be shared by every man, woman, boy and girl. For if we continue to ignore the signs that the environment is so violently expressing then we can be sure to inevitably destroy ourselves in the process.

*The earth is our home let us all work collectively to care and nurture the only home we will ever inherit and pass on to generations after us.*

### Christianity

Christianity teaches its followers that creation is the beginning and the foundation of all of God's work and its preservation has now become as essential as air is to our lungs. As we continue to cut down trees and burn gasses, our weeping earth suffers the effects and we unconscionably suffer ill health – numerous breathing problems, respiratory ailments never known to man before.



*“No less troubling are the threats arising from the neglect – if not downright misuse – of the earth and the natural goods that God has given us. For this reason, it is imperative that mankind renew and strengthen “that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom*

*we come and towards whom we are journeying”.* (His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of the WORLD DAY of PEACE, January 1, 2010).

## **Islam**

The earth has no less value to a Muslim who reveres it as his own, to tend and care for as Allah’s stewards and agents on earth.



*“We are not masters of this Earth; it does not belong to us to do what we wish. It belongs to Allah and He has entrusted us with its safekeeping. Our function as vicegerents, Khalifahs of Allah, is only to oversee the trust. The khalifah is answerable for his/her actions, for the way in which he/she uses or abuses the trust of Allah”.*

*(His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Omar Naseef, secretary general of the Muslim World League).*

## **Buddhism**

One of the Greatest and influential persons in Buddhism H.H. Dali Lama posited “Because we all share this planet earth, we have to learn to live in harmony and peace with each other and with nature. This is not just a dream, but a necessity”.



Indeed necessary unless we come to the understanding that we are all intricately woven into this fabric of creation, which like a mother holding the hand of her child, feeding, providing air, shelter nurturing and caring for them, mother earth has fulfilled her duty to us all. We as children of the universe are called to fulfill our “childly” responsibility to our source of substance as the good books teach us to.

**The Environment is everybody’s business, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, and even the None believer!!!!!!**

*Share your ideas and questions by sending letters to: “Our Earth, Our Environment”, C/o EIT Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Ganges Street, Sophia, Georgetown; or email us at [eit.epaguyana@gmail.com](mailto:eit.epaguyana@gmail.com)*