

# ON THE FRONT LINE OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

**“It is our sacred duty to protect the planet, as well as our neighbours around the world who are on the front line of climate change.”**

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

## ANGLICAN RESPONSES

**We are facing a climate and ecological crisis.** Extreme weather events, sea level rise and changed rainfall patterns are severely impacting millions of people across the world; climate change is wreaking havoc on the biodiversity of our common home, threatening the integrity of creation.



### A view from the Pacific

“Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu are anticipated to be under water by the end of the century.

“Hundreds of villages are listed for relocation in Fiji.

“Rising sea levels are also causing salination of soil, leading to crop failure.”

Tagolyn Kabekabe, Anglican Alliance Facilitator for the Pacific

### A view from Latin America

“Climate change is provoking extreme dry season in some regions, affecting the capacity of people to endure heat and cold, shrinking ecosystems completely, and creating a shortage of water in many parts of the country, including the Amazon.

“The instability of the weather lately is also affecting the production of food, leading to poverty and scarcity.”

Paulo Ueti, Anglican Alliance Facilitator for Latin America



Drought in Nicaragua. Image: ACT Alliance / Sean Hawkey

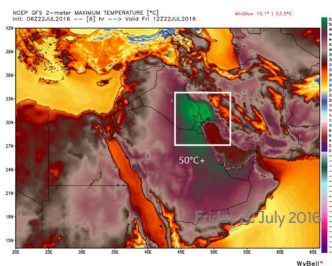
### A view from the Middle East

“Increased desertification is leading to decreased arable land (particularly along the Nile and Tigris/Euphrates) and more sand storms.

“There are increasing water shortages across the region, with long term depletion of the region’s aquifers and a reliance on desalinisation.”

Joel Kelling, Anglican Alliance Facilitator for the Middle East

Extreme temperatures are increasing in the region.



“Unpredictable weather patterns make it difficult for crops to grow to maturity.

“Many parts of the continent are experiencing drought, which can lead to famine.

“Pest infestation and disease prevalence are increasing.

“Floods and cyclones are a growing threat.”

Nicholas Pande, Programmes Officer, Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa and Anglican Alliance Facilitator

### A view from Africa



Aftermath of Cyclone Idai, Mozambique Photo: Finn Church Aid

## How are people across the Anglican Communion responding?

This briefing looks at some of the ways the worldwide Anglican family is taking action:

- \* at local level
- \* by connecting across the Communion and sharing best practice
- \* through Communion-wide initiatives



**ANGLICAN ALLIANCE**  
Development · Relief · Advocacy

Connecting, equipping and inspiring the worldwide Anglican family to work for a world free of poverty and injustice and to safeguard creation



# How are people across the Anglican Communion responding to climate change?

## EXAMPLES OF LOCAL RESPONSES

### Disaster Response and Resilience

The Church and its members are an integral part of local communities.

The Church is present...

...before disasters hit - building community cohesion and resilience

...during disasters - providing emergency relief

...long after the cameras have left - helping with long-term recovery



Photo: Episcopal Relief & Development  
After Cyclone Idai - Mozambique, 2019



Young Anglicans in Kerala used their technology skills to help the emergency services reach victims of the floods, August 2018

### Engaging the Church

### Mitigation initiatives

Tree planting initiatives are happening from the Solomon Islands to South Africa (pictured). The Anglican Church of Burundi has planted over 1 million trees.



Young Green Anglicans pray after a litter pick, Mozambique



Creation care round table of church leaders and civil society environmental organisations, Bahrain.

### Helping communities adapt to the consequences of a changing climate



Salt tolerant seedlings on their way to Ontong Java  
Anglican Church of Melanesia food security initiative



### Advocacy and action

South Africa - campaigning for divestment from fossil fuels



Lambeth Palace round table on migration caused by climate change





# How are people across the Anglican Communion responding to climate change?

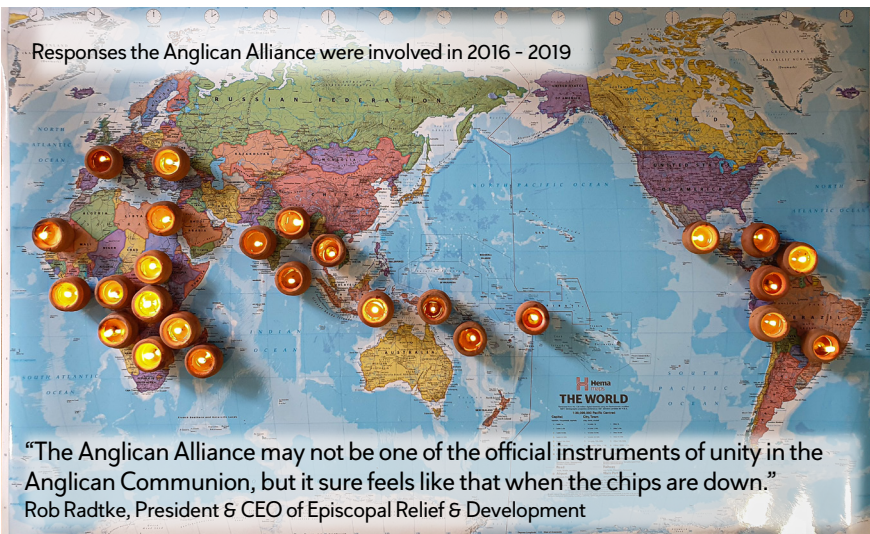
## CONNECTING AND SHARING



The Anglican Alliance provides a convening platform after disasters.



Connecting across the Communion. Fisher Young, Disaster Response and Resilience Manager for the Anglican Church of Melanesia, and Janice Proud, Disaster Response and Resilience Manager at the Anglican Alliance



Sharing best practice. Resilience workshop, Zimbabwe



Caribbean regional training in disaster response and preparedness using the Pastors and Disasters toolkit



Working with other organisations, agencies and campaigns, such as Renew Our World



Climate resilience workshop for Asia and the Pacific



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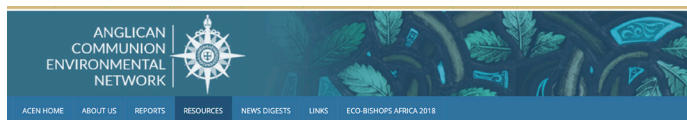
## COMMUNION-WIDE INITIATIVES

### Resolutions

The Lambeth Conference and Anglican Consultative Council are two of the instruments of the Anglican Communion. Their resolutions aren't binding on member churches but do reflect the common mind of the Communion. Both have made a number of statements about creation care and climate change, most recently ACC resolution A17:05 (opposite).

### Anglican Communion Environmental Network

The Anglican Communion Environmental Network (ACEN) connects many thousands of faithful and concerned people around the Communion to enable the sharing of experience, knowledge and resources of all kinds – theological, liturgical and practical. Find out more at <https://acen.anglicancommunion.org/> and follow Green Anglicans on Facebook.



#### Resources

##### World Environment Day 2019

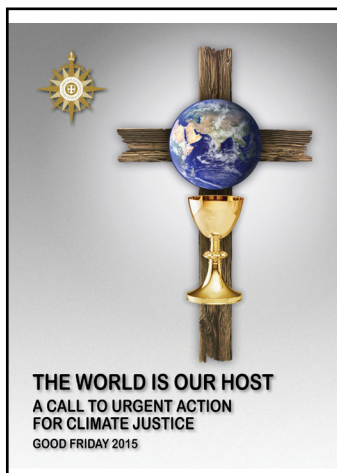
Beat Air Pollution: Sermon notes and liturgical resources.

##### Care for Creation - Youth Manual

This resource, from the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, is aimed at 13-18 years olds taking confirmation classes: Youth Forgive and Youth.

##### Less Plastic for Lent 2019

This Lent we are challenged to turn away from the sin of damaging God's planet and hurting our neighbours: *hu nu or near you will sinalla veta.*



### Across the Communion are "Eco-Bishops" who have a special focus on creation care

"Our urgent cry is to the Anglican Communion: our Dioceses, Provinces, the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA), and Lambeth 2020, that Good News for creation and ecological justice be placed at the top of the agenda."

An urgent cry for ecological justice: reclaiming the gospel imperative for all creation. Eco-bishops 2018

### Anglican Consultative Council Resolution A17:05 (2019)

The Anglican Consultative Council:

1. **recognises that there is a global climate emergency**
2. encourages Member Churches to make the Fifth Mark of Mission, **'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'**, a living testament to our faith, and calls upon Member Churches to:
  - a. promote a day during the Season of Creation as a day of public repentance
  - b. develop an action plan and resources for sustainable living at individual, parish, diocesan and provincial level; including policies and procedures to minimise waste, increase use of renewable energies, and incorporate creation care into liturgical practice

### Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations

The Anglican Communion Office at the UN (ACOUN) brings Anglican expertise and perspectives from across the Communion to meetings at various levels at the United Nations.

ACOUN is accredited to the UN Environment Assembly and has applied for accreditation to the UNFCCC. Find out more at: <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/at-the-un.aspx>

### And much, much more...

The examples in this leaflet are just a small selection of the many ways the Anglican Communion is working to tackle climate change. At Communion-wide level we are also engaging through: theological education, through the Season of Intentional Discipleship; through the Indigenous Network; through Bible studies on the Sustainable Development Goals; through prayer and through speaking out.



The Anglican Alliance brings together development, relief and advocacy work across the Anglican Communion. Established in 2011, our role is to connect, equip and inspire the worldwide Anglican family to work for a world free of poverty and injustice and to safeguard creation, reflecting the Anglican marks of mission.

### How is our work related to climate change?

Climate change is a major factor driving poverty and migration; it therefore contributes to many aspects of our work in a general way. Climate change also impacts our work in a more specific way: the Anglican Alliance provides a convening platform for Anglican churches and agencies to work together in the aftermath of disasters. Many of these are climate related and they are growing in number and severity. Building partnerships for response and resilience is an increasingly important part of our work.



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