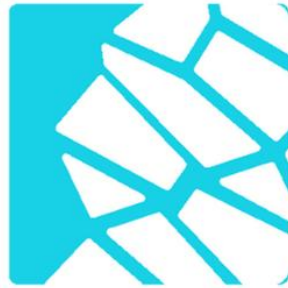
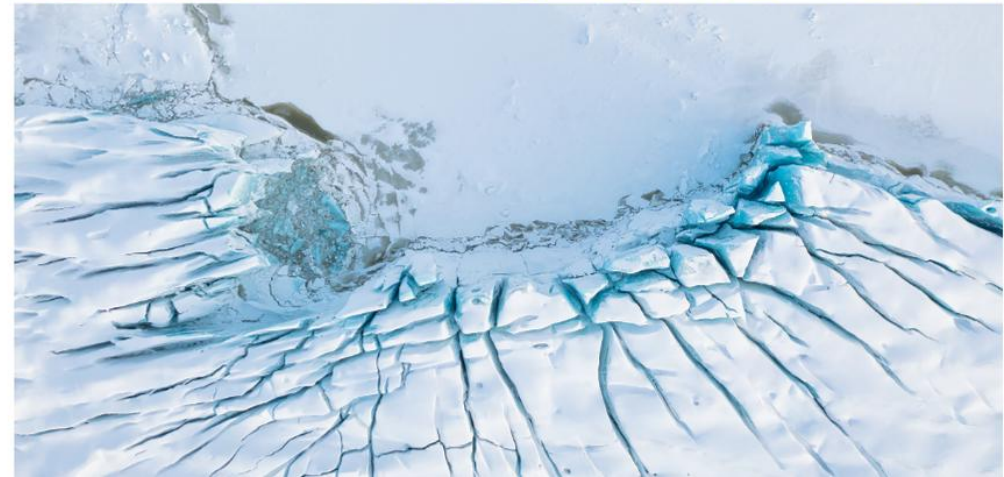




LUNGS OF THE EARTH



Restore and protect the lungs of the earth



ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

What is Lungs of the Earth?

Use this pack to guide your church in how to get involved





2026: the year of the ocean

This pack has been created for churches that want to get involved in 'Lungs of the Earth' - a call for environmental action and advocacy.

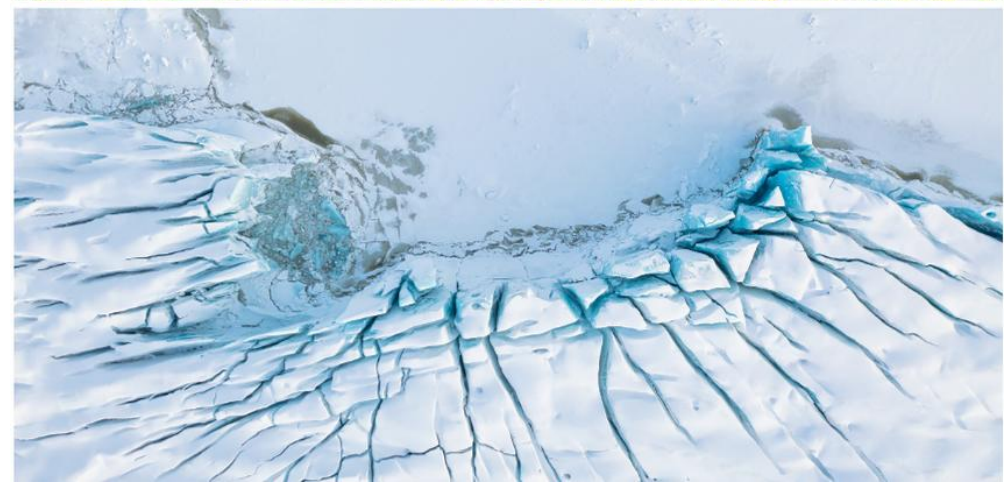
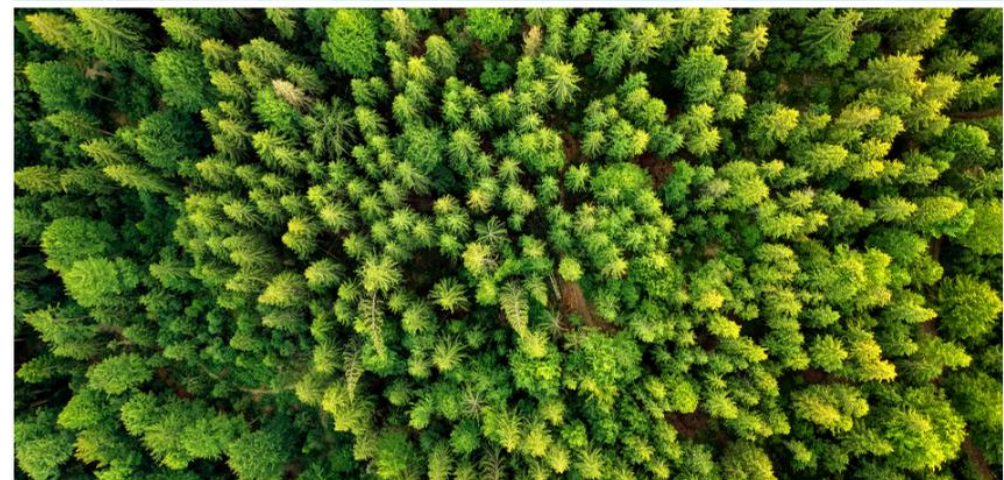
The campaign aims to restore and protect the lungs of the earth - vital ecosystems of oceans, forests and frozen landscapes - because when these lungs are damaged, we all struggle to breathe.

Use it to understand this year's focus on **Oceans**, learn more about how Anglican churches are restoring oceans and water ways in their settings, think about ways to protect an ecosystem where you are, and get **advocacy** information to influence your government for change.

Learning from Indigenous wisdom

The campaign was developed with environmental advocates across the Communion, particularly Indigenous Anglicans, and reflects their wisdom, traditions and sustainable practice.

anglicancommunion.org/lungsoftheearth



WELCOME

How to use this pack

The pack is designed as an information resource – but also a set of slides that you can share with your church or community group. It contains:



1. Guidance

Explains what Lungs of the Earth is, and how you can work to restore and protect oceans.



2. Case Studies

Stories and case studies about how Anglican churches and communities are advocating.



3. Action

All year-round actions you can take in community restoration projects for individuals, churches and dioceses.



4. Advocacy

Year-round advocacy ideas

Lungs of the Earth is a call for environmental action and advocacy. It was launched by the Anglican Communion Office in 2025. It involves several Anglican environmental groups around the world. This year's focus is on Oceans.



THE 2026 FOCUS – WHY GET INVOLVED?

The ocean

The ocean is not a boundary. It is a bridge, connecting peoples, cultures and faith across vast distances. When one lung is damaged, we all struggle to breathe.



When one lung is damaged, we all struggle to breathe

Lungs of the Earth is about protecting oceans, forests and ice landscapes. In 2026, the campaign will take a particular focus on Oceans.

2026 FOCUS

Oceans

Produce around half the oxygen we breathe, absorb most of the excess heat and much of the carbon we emit, and feed billions of people.

UNDER THREAT FROM

Warming, acidification, plastic, overfishing, coral loss

Forests

Absorb carbon dioxide, release oxygen, hold vast biodiversity and regulate rainfall far beyond their own borders.

UNDER THREAT FROM

Deforestation, logging, mining, conversion to farmland

Frozen landscapes

Reflects sunlight back into space, drives ocean currents and the freshwater that ecosystems and cities depend on.

UNDER THREAT FROM

Accelerating melt, sea level rise, disrupted weather



Stand with coastal communities

The environmental crisis is a global concern, but it is felt more directly by some communities than others.

Many Anglican churches are on the front line of ocean and waterways damage.

Through the Lungs of the Earth campaign, you can stand with coastal communities and learn more about their response.

Advocate and take action in your setting to restore and protect oceans as a vital ecosystem.



When the lungs of the earth are damaged, all creation struggles to breathe - and it is the poorest who feel it first.

Stand with coastal communities

Anglican communities across the Pacific, particularly in low-lying nations like Fiji, Tuvalu and Kiribati, sit on the front line of the climate crisis despite contributing almost nothing to its causes. Rising seas and coastal erosion are swallowing the land on which villages and churches have stood for generations, while warming, acidifying oceans bleach the coral reefs and deplete the fish stocks that families depend on for food and livelihood.

Nor are they alone: coastal and island communities worldwide - from Bangladesh's flooding delta to fishing villages in West Africa, the Caribbean and the Arctic - face the same rising waters, dying reefs and vanishing catches. Some villages have already been forced to relocate, and the prospect of losing entire islands raises profound questions of home, identity and justice. For these communities, where faith and daily life are deeply interwoven, caring for the ocean and caring for its people are one and the same - a moral and spiritual imperative at the heart of protecting the lungs of the earth.



“

When the lungs of the earth are damaged, all creation struggles to breathe, and it is the poorest who feel it first.

Why the ocean matters

50%

of the oxygen we breathe is produced in the ocean

90%

of the excess heat from global warming has been absorbed by the ocean

84%

of the world's coral reefs hit by bleaching-level heat stress, 2023-25

1bn

people benefit from coral reefs; a third of known marine life depends on them

What that means on a shoreline

- Reefs that bleach stop breaking the force of storms, so waves reach further inland.
- Erosion and salt-water intrusion spoil gardens, wells and burial grounds.
- Fisheries move or collapse, taking food and household income with them.
- Plastic keeps arriving on beaches that did not produce it.
- Storms come harder, and recovery takes longer each time.
- People move and the pressure lands on the church that stays.



SHAPED BY A THEOLOGY OF CREATION CARE

Living out the Fifth Mark of Mission



The Fifth Mark of Mission

Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Creation care is an integral part of sharing the Good News of Christ. The Lungs of the Earth campaign is one way of living out the Five Marks of Mission, which call us to safeguard God's world.



Colossians 1:16-17

For in him all things were created... and in him all things hold together.



Love Your Neighbour

Christ calls the Church to 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. Caring for damaged shorelines and waters helps us care for current and future generations.



A matter of justice

Bleached reefs, eroded shorelines and failing fisheries hit the communities with least responsibility for causing them, and least money to adapt.



PRAY

A prayer for the oceans

*God of the deep waters,
you called the seas to teem with life
and called it good.*

*Forgive us for what we have taken,
and what we have thrown away.*

*Teach us the patience of those who plant
what they will not live to see full grown,
and join us to our sisters and brothers
on every shore.*

Amen.



Scripture to read with it

Genesis 1:20-22 · the waters teeming with life

Psalms 104:24-26 · the great and wide sea

Job 12:7-10 · ask the fish, and they will tell you

Colossians 1:15-20 · all things held together, all things reconciled



In the life of your church

- Name the ocean in intercessions every week
- Hold one service beside water - a river, a harbour, a reservoir, a font
- Pray for the communities in the Anglican Communion most impacted by ocean damage



CASE STUDIES: LEARNING FROM CHURCH COMMUNITIES

Stories from churches protecting waters

1

Sails of Hope

Fiji · Relationship

2

Plastic Waste Innovation

Malawi · Restoration

3

CIVA vulnerability mapping

Polynesia · Resilience

Sails of Hope - Soko ni Nuinui

Fiji, April–May 2026 · Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

An expedition known as the Soko ni Nuinui (Sails of Hope) initiative, combined Indigenous traditional Pacific ocean-faring wisdom and stewardship knowledge with Christian theology and climate science to engage churches and communities as protectors of oceans.

The core vision of the initiative centres on the theme 'We Are the Ocean,' reflecting a deep connection between the Moana (ocean) and the community's identity, mission and unity.

- Over 1,400 people trained in ocean stewardship and climate science, across nine ports from Pacific Harbour and Sigatoka to Labasa and Suva.
- Indigenous navigation wisdom, Christian theology and climate science taught together under the theme 'We Are the Ocean', through talanoa, prayer and Bible study.
- Wind-powered throughout, the method carries the message, showing low-carbon technology as a live option, not a museum piece.
- A train-the-trainer manual, so local leaders keep teaching after the canoe has gone.
- Participants sign a commitment to ocean stewardship and join a standing network for sharing resources.



Working together – the impact

Sails of Hope helps to cross dioceses, cultures and generations, amplifying advocacy messages and sharing indigenous wisdom in how to respond to crisis

Malawi - Plastic Waste Innovation

The youth wing of the Anglican Church in Malawi actively campaigns against single-use thin plastics, organising community clean-ups and promoting eco-friendly alternatives.

What the church does

- Operating under groups like [Green Anglicans](#), church youth lead clean-up campaigns in public spaces like markets and community hospitals
- The church works alongside networks like the Malawi Creation Care Network to support national bans on thin plastics and push back against corporate legal challenges.



Working together – the impact

A church that changes how a whole community handles waste protects the ocean upstream and provides learning that other churches can adopt in their settings.



CIVA - young Anglicans mapping risk

Community Integrated Vulnerability Assessment · Diocese of Polynesia: Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga



What it is

A community-led way for parishes to work out their own risk before disaster arrives. Trained parish leaders and young people use QGIS mapping alongside talanoa - sustained community conversation - to identify hazard zones, at-risk households, evacuation routes and the social networks people rely on.



What it changes

- Evacuation centres strengthened before they are needed.
- Food and safe water secured for emergencies.
- Emergency supplies pre-positioned and coordinated.
- Named responsibility for reaching vulnerable people first, before and after a disaster.



Working together – the impact

Youth-led CIVA from Polynesia became an Anglican case study in a UN submission on climate response. After flooding in Nelson, New Zealand, Anglicans asked to learn the method from the Pacific, not the other way round.

ADVOCACY AND ACTION

What can you do?

Ideas to take forward in your setting



Prioritise Relationship, Restoration and Resilience

A theology of creation care calls us to consider the power of **relationship**. Relationships our around the world give us responsibilities. Together we can work on the **restoration** of vital ecosystems, build **resilience** amongst the communities most affected and strengthen our advocacy, by joining our voices.



Relationship

The Anglican Communion is a global network of churches in 165+ countries. Working together, churches can share learning, support one another and strengthen advocacy efforts.

Our relationships around the world give us responsibilities. They change how we live and want our governments to act, because we see the impact on our sisters and brothers. When tackling environmental crisis, relationships can make the difference between life and death.



Restoration

Together we can restore damaged areas in our communities or help others impacted by environmental crisis around the world, through coastal protection, reforestation initiatives or anti-pollution projects.



Resilience

Sharing knowledge and experience, we can help to prepare communities before the storm hits rather than reacting after it. Knowing who is most at risk, where they will go, and who is responsible for checking on them.



Relationship

ACTION - WHAT TO DO

ADVOCACY - WHAT TO ASK FOR



Relationship

Together we can share learning and strengthen our advocacy across a global Communion of churches in 165+ countries.

Adopt a coastal community facing the crisis. Pray for them, partner with them, learn from what they are already doing.

Find a partner. Use your diocese's companion link, an Anglican mission agency or the Anglican Alliance to connect with a coastal parish or diocese facing the crisis.

Pray for a church or coastal community by name. Include their place and their needs in your weekly intercessions.

Hear from them. Invite someone from that community to speak to your church online, to inform your environmental and creation care activities.

Amplify their calls. Share and endorse statements from frontline churches, such as the April 2026 call from Anglican leaders in Oceania for just climate finance.

Write together. Send a joint letter from several parishes or your deanery to your elected representative. A shared ask from many churches carries further into a negotiating room than a lone letter.



Restoration

ACTION - WHAT TO DO

ADVOCACY - WHAT TO ASK FOR



Restoration

Together we can restore damaged places in our own communities and protect the waters that connect us all.

Choose one project. For example: a beach, river or canal clean-up, a mangrove or wetland planting, or cutting single-use plastic from church events.

Measure what you do. Count or weigh what you collect, or what you stop using, so you can show the difference you've made.

Register it. Add your site to [Restor](#) a global hub for nature and conservation.

Take the next step. Do a practical audit of your church's buildings and lifestyle through a programme such as Eco Church.

Press for protection at source. End plastic pollution where it is produced and reject deep-sea mining.

Ask about plastic. Ask your supermarket and your elected representative what they are doing to cut single-use plastic production, not just to recycle it.

Back a moratorium on deep-sea mining. Ask your government to support one, so the deep ocean is protected before damage starts.



Resilience

ACTION - WHAT TO DO

ADVOCACY - WHAT TO ASK FOR



Resilience

Together we can share knowledge and experience and help communities prepare before the storm hits, rather than after it.

Know your risk. Check your area's flood or storm risk with your local authority or national weather service.

Make a list. Note who in your congregation and neighbourhood would need help first: older people living alone, people with disabilities, and families without transport.

Name responsibilities. Agree who will check on each person, how you'll contact them, and where people can gather. Ask whether your church building could serve as a meeting point.

Learn from the Pacific. CIVA, one of the case studies featured in this pack, shows how parishes can map their own risk step by step.

Make sure help reaches those most at risk: Support international and national advocacy efforts to push for more effective resilience and response systems.

Early warnings for everyone. Ask your government to fund early warning systems that reach every community, including remote and island ones.

Just finance. Call for adaptation and loss-and-damage funding that reaches frontline communities directly, including local churches and community groups. The cost of repair should fall on the polluters, not the victims.

Local plans. Ask your local council or authority what its emergency plan is for vulnerable residents, and how faith groups can help.



Join the Communion Forest

The Communion Forest is a global initiative comprising local activities of forest protection, tree growing and ecosystem restoration undertaken by provinces, dioceses and individual churches across the Anglican Communion to safeguard creation.

Sign up for a guidance pack or read inspiring stories for how Anglican churches around the world are growing the Communion Forest, to restore and protect the lungs of the earth.

<https://www.communionforest.org/>



COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Share the Story



SHARE THE STORY

Send us your story

Tell us how you are running with 'Lungs of the Earth' in your setting.

Send us photos, reels or stories about how you are working to restore and protect oceans in your setting.



Send it to

news@anglicancommunion.org

Put 'Lungs of the Earth' in the subject line.



SHARE THE STORY

Where to find more



anglicancommunion.org/lungsoftheearth

Campaign page, shareable assets and downloadable resources.



communionforest.org

Register a project, see what other provinces are growing and protecting.



restor.eco

Map your restoration site so it joins the Communion Forest collection.



anglicanalliance.org

Disaster resilience, relief and development across the Communion.



climateactiontracker.org

Check how ambitious your country's climate pledge really is.



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Practical energy, land and lifestyle audits for congregations.

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X

@AnglicanWorld

#LungsOfTheEarth

#WeAreTheOcean

#Anglicans



LUNGS OF THE EARTH

*When the lungs of the earth are damaged,
all creation struggles to breathe.*

Relationship / Restoration / Resilience

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