

LUNGS OF THE EARTH AT COP17

WHEN ONE LUNG IS DAMAGED, ALL CREATION
STRUGGLES TO BREATHE – AND IT IS THE
POOREST WHO FEEL IT FIRST

*‘Protecting our oceans is vital
not only for ocean health, but for
the stability of the entire planet
and the flourishing of humanity.’*



The Rt Revd Graham Usher
Bishop of Norwich
House of Lords debate, 2026

ANGLICANS AT UN CBD COP17

The Anglican Communion is a worldwide family of churches in over 165 countries. Representing this wide range of churches and experiences, Anglicans are attending the 17th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to:

- 1 Share generational wisdom to **secure nature and communities**.
- 2 Ensure **government finance gets to those who need it most**.
- 3 Call on governments to **restore and protect the oceans** as one of the ‘lungs of the earth’.
- 4 Show that **balancing agricultural security and sustainability** is possible.

ABOUT LUNGS OF THE EARTH

Lungs of the Earth invites Anglican churches everywhere to restore and protect the vital ecosystems of oceans, forests and frozen landscapes – because when these lungs are damaged, we all struggle to breathe.

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

**“THE OCEAN IS NOT A BOUNDARY. IT IS A BRIDGE,
CONNECTING PEOPLES, CULTURES AND FAITH
ACROSS VAST DISTANCES.”**



The Most Revd Sione Ulu'ilakepa, Bishop of the
Diocese of Polynesia and Archbishop of the Anglican
Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

PSALM 104:24-25

*How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number –
living things both large and small.*

Find out more at:
anglicancommunion.org/lungsoftheearth

Follow the campaign on social media:
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LUNGS
OF THE EARTH



ANGLICAN
COMMUNION
IN OVER 165 COUNTRIES



HOW ARE ANGLICANS WORKING TO SECURE NATURE AND COMMUNITIES?

RESILIENCE

Helping front-line communities withstand and recover from crisis.



1 RESILIENCE

Share generational wisdom to secure nature and communities

Case study: Pacific Islands

Anglican youth in Tonga have developed a Community Vulnerability Assessment (CIVA) initiative, using surveys and drone footage to map how vulnerable each household is, so that the most vulnerable are prioritised for supplies and assistance before and after a disaster. Their data are now used by governments in the Pacific Islands Forum.

RELATIONSHIP

Repairing what injustice has broken between people, nations and creation.



2 RELATIONSHIP

Ensure government finance gets to those who need it most

The challenge:

Debt is severely limiting many countries' ability to respond to environmental damage – especially countries that have done little to cause environmental crises. Repairing damage to the earth needs funding that communities can rely on and plan around.

RESTORATION

Actively healing damaged ecosystems.

Call to action:

Strengthen collaboration with faith communities, civil society, businesses and investors to ensure nature restoration contributes to security for the most vulnerable.



3 RESTORATION

Call on governments to restore and protect the oceans as one of the 'lungs of the earth'

Case study: Malawi

The youth wing of the Anglican Church in Malawi campaigns against single-use thin plastics, organising community clean-ups and promoting eco-friendly alternatives. Working alongside networks such as the Malawi Creation Care Network, the church supported a national ban on thin plastics and pushed back against corporate legal challenges.

Call to action:

Government finance can catalyse progress on biodiversity targets if it is:

- **Enough and reliable** – so communities can plan.
- **Grants, not debt.**
- **Aimed at the front line** – reaching Indigenous and community-led projects directly, with faith groups as partners in distribution.
- **Paid by the polluter** – for plastic, for emissions, for damage done to distant shores.



4 RESTORATION

Show that balancing agricultural security and sustainability is possible

Case study: United States and England

Faith-motivated farmers in the Episcopal Grasslands Network practise regenerative ranching that respects the land without compromising food quality or quantity. Hoskins 101 Ranch in Texas has moved from 'maximising' to 'optimising' cattle production, with a mission to restore grassland bird habitat. In England, 90% of tenant farmers surveyed on Church Commissioners' farmland are actively pursuing improved biodiversity.*

Call to action:

- **Stop the destruction at source.** End plastic pollution where it is produced, not where it washes up.
- **Protect the ocean in law.** Implement the High Seas Treaty, in force since 17 January 2026, and deliver the 30% marine protection pledge with real, enforced protected areas.
- **Listen to the front line.** Indigenous and local coastal communities in the room, in the delegation and in the decisions – not consulted afterwards.

Call to action:

Strengthen collaboration with faith communities, civil society, businesses and investors so that food sources are both secure and sustainable. Incentivise sustainability throughout food production and its supply chain.

* Church Commissioners, 'Faith in our Future Episode 2 – Farming'.

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