



Seven Key Areas

Faith-consistent use of assets

Water

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Water has particular significance for many faiths. It is fundamental for all life on earth and for this reason is often regarded as a gift of the Divine. All major faiths have teachings about the spiritual significance of water, and water and cleanliness are central to many faiths' teachings and practice. Today many water resources are threatened by unsustainable use, pollution, and climate change. Because faiths manage a great deal of land – including many bodies of water, from rivers and lakes to springs and seas – they have a particular role to play in protecting and influencing the way we value and use water.

This guideline provides prompts and pointers to help you identify what steps you can take to protect and conserve your water resources.

Steps and questions to consider as you develop your Faith Plan

<i>Name of faith community/group/organisation</i>	
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Use, management and protection of water

First steps: Explore your faith's theology of water.	
1. What does your faith teach about water? Do you have access to a theology of water from your own faith tradition, which outlines your faith's traditional understanding of water?	
2. Can you use your theology of water to influence people to avoid undesirable behaviours and to adopt positive behaviours in how aquatic environments are managed and cared for and in how water use is managed?	

<p>3. What are the main uses of the water resources under the ownership or management of your faith community / organisation / network?</p>	
<p>4. Have you mapped the extent of the aquatic environments under your ownership/management? Have you assessed the quality of these aquatic environments, including recording levels of biodiversity?</p>	
<p>5. In what ways can you incorporate your faith's teachings and wisdom into promoting environmentally responsible irrigation, bathing, gardening, sewerage and other uses of water?</p>	
<p>6. Do you implement practices/techniques that actively seek to reduce demand for or conserve water?</p>	
<p>7. Dirty water and inadequate sanitation are a major cause of disease and death, especially among children. Do the water and sanitation</p>	

<p>facilities – toilets and hand washing – in your schools, places of worship, universities and other buildings reflect your values?</p>	
<p>8. If not, what can you do to improve those facilities?</p>	
<p>9. Can you promote good handwashing and hygiene practices in your schools and communities?</p>	

<p>Next steps: <i>Think about the practical actions you could take to protect and conserve water.</i></p>	
<p>1. Are your water resources shared with other stakeholders?</p>	
<p>2. How can you actively monitor the rivers and aquatic environments running through or close to the land you manage to assess how polluted they are?</p>	

3. How can you track and measure the impact of your actions to reduce that pollution?	
4. Who can you partner with to support these efforts (academic institutions, research institutions, the laity, other faith groups)?	
5. How is your commitment to gender, racial and societal equality reflected in your long-term water plans?	

For more information...

Water:

- CBCGDF www.cbcgdf.org/English/
- Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development: <https://www.interfaithsustain.com/?s=Water>
- A Rocha Uganda: <https://uganda.arocha.org/projects/bio-sand-water-filters/>
- Global One - Islam and Water: The Story of Hajjar
 - Watch this [charming cartoon](#) telling the story of Hajjar