Integrating a values-based approach into WWF’s conservation work by engaging with leaders and communities based on their spiritual, religious and cultural beliefs and value systems.
Partnerships: WWF & Faiths

Value of Partnerships

Islam - Indonesia

Buddhism - Asia

Advocacy

Summary: Effective Partnerships
Environmental NGOs can assist with:

- Guidance, information, advice related to the most pressing environmental issues and priority geographic areas
- Technical expertise in terms of skills building or the latest scientific methodologies, say in tree planting or M&E projects
- Resources like educational materials
- In some cases funding

...can help share best practices globally...
Introductory Film:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eM3SXHTJ7_k&feature=youtu.be
Islam - Indonesia

- For the last 6 years: Islamic approaches to reducing wildlife trade and fires in forests/peatlands

- Stage 1: Fatwas: Result of partnership with UNAS, MUI, WWF

- Main facilitating partner: Dr. Mangunjaya, UNAS

Stage 2: Resources & Training
Cambodia

Objective:

- Increase capacity of Buddhists engaged in conservation initiatives on issues like illegal wildlife trade, forest loss, and consumption of animal parts for religious ornaments/medicines and animal prayer release.
- Monks have asked for our help to raise their technical capacity.

Support to Monks
Support for Monks

Sharing information, resources and best practices:

- Producing a Buddhist Conservation Guidebook, and training
- Facilitating a country-wide network
- Bring to light key issues such as harmful practices like animal prayer release, work together on solutions
- Capturing Buddhist best practices in conservation to share with other Buddhist communities in and out of Cambodia
Political Advocacy

- Fill gap: Working with faith groups active at UN to strengthen faith engagement on nature advocacy
- Formation of Faith and Biodiversity Coordination Group as primary entity for faith advocacy on nature at key moments
- UN Biodiversity Summit Sept 2020: 60+ faith groups sign on to Faith Call to Action & commitment to LTPs

‘Act on nature’, demand hundreds of organisations, in unprecedented call to world leaders
Some Essentials of Partnerships

- Reach out to local environmental groups if you would like help with identifying priority issues, opportunities, locations; help on strategy and potentially joint projects, fundraising, capacity building

- Challenges: Miscommunication
  - Facilitation role, meaningful dialogue & trust building
  - Use of values language can build bridges

- SCB BPG for conservationists working with faith groups & an example of a grouping of conservationists interested in partnering with faith groups: [https://conbio.org/groups/working-groups/religion-and-conservation-biology/](https://conbio.org/groups/working-groups/religion-and-conservation-biology/)