



# Calling faith actors: Make a commitment for land this World Environment Day




**Our Land. Our Future**  
We are  
**#GenerationRestoration**



**WORLD  
ENVIRONMENT  
DAY**



**Kingdom of  
Saudi Arabia**  
2024



At the [Faith for Earth Coalition](#), the work on [Faith and Nature Action](#) has engaged faith actors on Tree Growing and Restoration aiming to halt nature and biodiversity loss under the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021 - 2030).

This guide speaks to communities and individuals motivated by religious and spiritual principles to be engaged on **land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience**, and drive solutions.

Discover key values and principles that drive this work and prime examples for #GenerationRestoration.

[\*\*Get Solutions\*\*](#)

[\*\*The Practical Guide 2024\*\*](#)

[\*\*Faith & Ecosystem Restoration Course\*\*](#)

# Principles & Values

## Stewardship and Responsibility

Many faith traditions emphasize the concept of stewardship, where humans are seen as caretakers of the Earth.

This World Environment Day, share with individuals and communities how land restoration is a sacred duty entrusted to them.

## Gratitude and Reverence

Instill a sense of gratitude and reverence for the natural world as a manifestation of divine creation.

Organise prayers, meditations, or rituals that express thankfulness for the Earth's resources and a commitment to protecting and restoring them.

## Community Engagement

Emphasize the importance of collective action and community engagement in environmental conservation.

Encourage religious congregations to organize clean-up drives, tree growing events, or educational seminars on environmental stewardship.

[Click to download the Faith Tree Growing and Restoration Guide](#)



Photo: UNEP/Todd Brown

## Environmental Justice

Highlight the interconnectedness of environmental degradation and social injustice, particularly its disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities.

Encourage advocacy efforts to address environmental inequalities and support policies that promote equitable access to land and resources.

## Education and Awareness

Use religious teachings and scriptures to raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire action.

Incorporate environmental themes into sermons, religious education programs, or interfaith dialogues to foster a deeper understanding of the spiritual dimensions of environmental stewardship.

## Interfaith Cooperation

Facilitate collaboration and dialogue between different religious communities to promote environmental conservation as a shared moral imperative.

Encourage interfaith partnerships to amplify the message of land restoration and foster greater unity in addressing environmental challenges.

## Practical Action

Encourage practical initiatives such as sustainable agriculture practices, water conservation measures, and land restoration projects guided by ethical principles derived from religious teachings. Promote the adoption of eco-friendly lifestyles that reflect values of simplicity, moderation, and respect for nature.



# 6 Areas to Apply the Principles & Values

## Advocacy and Policy Engagement

- Mobilize religious communities to advocate for policies and initiatives that promote environmental conservation and sustainable development.
- Encourage engagement with policymakers, government officials, and community leaders to support legislation and funding for land restoration, conservation, and climate resilience measures.
- Emphasize the moral imperative of protecting the Earth and safeguarding the rights of future generations to inherit a healthy and sustainable planet.

## Sustainable Agriculture

- Draw inspiration from religious teachings that emphasize responsible stewardship of the land and promote sustainable agriculture practices.
- Encourage farmers and agricultural communities to adopt methods such as organic farming, agroforestry, and crop rotation to enhance soil fertility, conserve water, and minimize environmental impact.
- Emphasize the importance of treating animals ethically and avoiding practices that degrade the soil or harm ecosystems.



## Water Conservation

- Highlight the significance of water as a precious resource entrusted to humanity by a higher power.
- Encourage individuals and communities to practice water conservation measures such as rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, and efficient water use in households, farms, and religious institutions.
- Promote awareness of the spiritual significance of water and the moral imperative to safeguard it for future generations.

## Land Restoration

- Inspire action on land restoration guided by religious principles of stewardship and reverence for the Earth.
- Encourage participation in reforestation efforts, soil rehabilitation projects, and ecosystem restoration initiatives aimed at reviving degraded lands and combating desertification.
- Mobilize volunteers from religious congregations to engage in tree planting activities, habitat restoration, and community-based conservation projects that restore biodiversity and enhance ecosystem resilience

## Ethical Consumption

- Advocate for ethical consumer choices rooted in religious teachings of compassion, justice, and moderation.
- Encourage individuals to support sustainable and ethical products, such as fair-trade goods, organic produce, and eco-friendly alternatives to reduce their ecological footprint and promote responsible consumption.

- Promote awareness of the environmental and social impact of consumer choices and the importance of aligning economic activities with ethical values.

## Environmental Education and Outreach

- Utilize religious teachings and scriptures as a platform for environmental education and outreach.
- Develop educational materials, workshops, and seminars that integrate environmental themes into religious curriculum and promote environmental literacy among religious communities.
- Encourage religious leaders to incorporate environmental stewardship into sermons, religious services, and youth programs to foster a deeper understanding of the spiritual dimensions of environmental responsibility.

[Click to view the Latest Updates: World Environment Day](#)



# Diverse Ways Religious Traditions are Taking Action



## Christianity

### Community Gardens:

Many Christian churches and organizations have established community gardens to promote sustainable agriculture, provide access to fresh produce in underserved communities, and foster community engagement.

Organize training sessions and leadership opportunities specifically for women in the community to take on prominent roles in managing and leading community garden projects.

Organize youth-led community gardening projects, providing opportunities for young people to learn about sustainable agriculture, environmental stewardship, and teamwork.

### Laudato Si' Movement:

Inspired by Pope Francis's encyclical "Laudato Si'", Catholics around the world have initiated various environmental projects, including tree planting initiatives, energy conservation programs, and advocacy for climate action.

Ensure gender diversity in leadership positions within environmental organizations and initiatives inspired by Laudato Si'. Encourage the active participation of women in decision-making processes and advocacy efforts.



Photo: UNEP/Todd Brown

Photo: National Catholic Reporter

Establish youth-led environmental clubs or initiatives inspired by Laudato Si', engaging young people in activities such as tree planting, recycling programs, and advocacy for climate action.

**Creation Care:**

Numerous Christian denominations have adopted creation care programs that emphasize responsible stewardship of the Earth, such as reducing carbon emissions, supporting renewable energy, and conserving natural resources.

[Faith Action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) [Submit a Project](#)



## Islam

**Water Conservation:**

Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of water as a precious resource. Muslim communities have implemented water conservation measures, such as rainwater harvesting, water recycling, and efficient irrigation techniques in agriculture.

Provide education and training for women on water conservation practices in households and communities, empowering them to take a leading role in managing water resources effectively.

Integrate water conservation education into school curricula and youth programs, empowering young people to become advocates for water sustainability and champions of water-saving practices in their communities.

**Islamic Gardens:**

Islamic gardens, characterized by their use of water features, lush vegetation, and geometric designs, serve as symbols of paradise on Earth. Many mosques and Islamic institutions incorporate gardens into their architecture, promoting environmental beauty and biodiversity.

Encourage women's participation in designing, cultivating, and maintaining Islamic gardens within mosque compounds or community spaces, creating opportunities for women to connect with nature and engage in environmental stewardship.

Create spaces for children to explore and engage with Islamic gardens, organizing educational tours, workshops, and hands-on activities that teach them about the significance of nature in Islam and the principles of environmental stewardship.

**Green Ramadan:**

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims engage in acts of charity and self-discipline. Some Muslim communities have launched "Green Ramadan" initiatives, encouraging fasting practices that minimize food waste and environmental impact, as well as promoting eco-friendly habits such as recycling and energy conservation.

Organize women-led initiatives during Ramadan focused on sustainable food practices, waste reduction, and eco-friendly lifestyle choices, fostering a sense of environmental responsibility among women within Muslim communities.

Involve youth in Green Ramadan initiatives, encouraging them to participate in eco-friendly Ramadan practices, such as reducing food waste, minimizing plastic usage, and supporting environmentally conscious Ramadan events and activities.

Photo: The Conversation





## Judaism

### Sabbath Practices:

The Jewish tradition of observing the Sabbath includes principles of rest, reflection, and environmental stewardship. Some Jewish communities promote “Shabbat Shmita” practices, where fields are left fallow every seventh year to promote soil regeneration and sustainable agriculture.

Offer educational programs specifically tailored for women on the ecological significance of Sabbath practices such as Shabbat Shmita, highlighting their role in promoting sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation.

Organize youth-led projects focused on environmental themes related to Sabbath practices, such as community clean-up events, nature walks, and ecological restoration projects.

### Kosher and Sustainable Diets:

Jewish dietary laws, known as Kashrut, include principles of ethical eating and respect for animals. Some Jewish organizations advocate for sustainable and humane food practices, such as sourcing locally grown produce, supporting organic farming, and reducing meat consumption.

Create platforms for women to share knowledge and recipes for sustainable and ethical food choices within Jewish communities, promoting dialogue on the intersection of Jewish dietary laws and environmental stewardship.

Engage children in interactive workshops and cooking classes that teach them about

kosher and sustainable food practices, promoting awareness of ethical eating habits and environmental responsibility from a young age.

### Tikkun Olam:

The concept of Tikkun Olam, or repairing the world, is central to Jewish ethics. Many Jewish communities engage in environmental activism, habitat restoration projects, and advocacy for policies that address climate change and protect natural ecosystems.

Establish women’s networks or organizations dedicated to environmental activism and social justice, providing opportunities for women to lead and participate in initiatives aimed at repairing the world and protecting the environment.

Empower youth to take action on environmental issues through Tikkun Olam projects, providing opportunities for them to volunteer, advocate, and participate in initiatives that promote social and environmental justice within their communities.





## Buddhism

### Mindful Consumption:

Buddhist teachings emphasize mindfulness and moderation in consumption. Buddhist communities promote sustainable living practices, such as reducing waste, conserving resources, and practicing vegetarianism or veganism to minimize environmental impact.

Offer mindfulness and sustainability workshops tailored for youth, teaching them about mindful consumption, conscious living, and the interconnectedness of all life, and empowering them to make eco-friendly choices in their daily lives.

### Forest Conservation:

Buddhism has a long tradition of reverence for nature, particularly forests. Buddhist monastic communities in countries like Thailand and Sri Lanka have established forest conservation projects, protected areas, and reforestation initiatives to preserve biodiversity and mitigate deforestation.

Create women-led conservation projects focused on protecting and preserving forests, biodiversity, and natural habitats, providing women with opportunities to engage in hands-on conservation efforts and ecological restoration.

Organize youth-led expeditions and field trips to forests and natural habitats, providing opportunities for hands-on learning, ecological exploration, and experiential education on the importance of forest conservation and biodiversity preservation.

### Interfaith Dialogue:

Some Buddhist organizations participate in interfaith dialogue and collaborative environmental projects with other religious groups, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation in addressing environmental challenges.

Encourage women's participation in interfaith environmental dialogues and collaborative projects, fostering cross-cultural understanding and cooperation in addressing environmental challenges at the local, national, and global levels.

Facilitate interfaith youth dialogues and collaborative projects focused on environmental themes, fostering mutual understanding, empathy, and cooperation among young people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds in addressing environmental challenges.



Photo: Yale Climate Connections



## Hinduism

### River Conservation:

Hindus consider rivers, especially the Ganges (Ganga), as sacred and purifying. Many Hindu communities and organizations are involved in river conservation efforts, including clean-up drives, advocacy for pollution control measures, and campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of preserving river ecosystems.

Empower women to take on leadership roles in community-based river conservation initiatives, advocating for policies that prioritize women's access to clean water and sanitation services in areas affected by river pollution.

Educate children about the sacred significance of rivers in Hinduism and the importance of river conservation through interactive workshops, storytelling sessions, and experiential learning activities that inspire them to become stewards of their local waterways.

### Tree Planting Initiatives:

Trees are revered in Hinduism as symbols of life, sustenance, and divine presence. Hindu communities often organize tree planting initiatives, particularly during religious festivals such as Arbor Day (Van Mahotsav) and the Hindu New Year (Vishu), to promote reforestation, combat deforestation, and enhance biodiversity.

Provide resources and support for women's groups to establish and maintain community gardens and tree planting projects, emphasizing the role of women in nurturing biodiversity and promoting environmental sustainability.

Involve children in tree planting initiatives and greening projects, organizing tree planting ceremonies, nature walks, and environmental education programs that instill in them a sense of responsibility for protecting and preserving the environment.

### Ahimsa and Vegetarianism:

Hinduism promotes the principle of ahimsa, or non-violence, which extends to compassion for all living beings. Many Hindus choose to follow a vegetarian or plant-based diet as an expression of ahimsa and environmental sustainability, recognizing the ecological benefits of reducing meat consumption and promoting plant-based nutrition.

Offer cooking classes and nutritional education programs tailored for women, promoting vegetarian and plant-based diets as a means of practicing ahimsa and reducing the environmental impact of food consumption.

Teach children about the principles of ahimsa and vegetarianism in Hinduism, encouraging them to embrace compassionate and eco-friendly dietary choices and promoting the environmental benefits of plant-based nutrition.





## Bahá'í Faith

### Unity in Diversity:

The Bahá'í Faith emphasizes the oneness of humanity and the interconnectedness of all life.

Bahá'í communities promote environmental sustainability through initiatives that foster unity in diversity, such as interfaith

dialogue, collaborative environmental projects, and partnerships with diverse communities to address shared environmental challenges.

Create spaces for women's voices to be heard and respected in interfaith environmental initiatives and collaborative projects, ensuring gender equality in decision-making processes and leadership roles.

Create youth-led interfaith environmental clubs or initiatives that promote unity in diversity and collaboration among young people from different religious and cultural backgrounds, fostering friendships, solidarity, and collective action for environmental sustainability.

### Education for Sustainable Development:

Bahá'í educational institutions incorporate principles of environmental stewardship and sustainable development into their curriculum, promoting environmental literacy, ethical values, and practical skills for sustainable living. Bahá'í-inspired schools often emphasize holistic education that integrates environmental awareness with spiritual and moral development.

Develop educational materials and workshops specifically designed for women and

girls, focusing on environmental stewardship, sustainable living, and the spiritual dimensions of environmental responsibility.

Integrate environmental education and sustainability principles into children's classes and youth programs within Bahá'í communities, providing them with opportunities to learn about environmental issues, ethical values, and practical skills for sustainable living.

### Community Building and Service:

Bahá'í communities engage in service projects that contribute to the well-being of both people and the planet. Environmental service activities may include community clean-up efforts, neighborhood beautification projects, tree planting



Photo: National Centre for Vegetation Cover, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



## Sikhism

### Langar and Food Sustainability:

Sikhism emphasizes the principle of seva, or selfless service, and community welfare.

Many Sikh gurdwaras (places of worship) operate langar, community kitchens that provide free meals to all, regardless of background. Some gurdwaras prioritize sourcing local, organic ingredients for langar meals, promoting sustainable agriculture and supporting small-scale farmers.

Empower women to take on leadership roles in managing langar kitchens and implementing sustainable food practices, promoting women's participation in decision-making and resource management.

Educate children about the principles of langar and the importance of sustainable food practices through interactive workshops, cooking demonstrations, and storytelling sessions that highlight the connection between food, faith, and environmental stewardship.

### Community Gardens:

Sikh communities around the world have established community gardens, known as "Guru Ka Bagh," where volunteers cultivate fruits, vegetables, and medicinal plants. These gardens serve as spaces for meditation, education, and environmental stewardship, promoting self-sufficiency, biodiversity, and connection to the land.

Create opportunities for women to lead community gardening initiatives and urban agriculture projects, providing spaces for women to cultivate leadership skills and

promote food security and environmental sustainability.

Establish youth-led community garden projects and urban farming initiatives, providing children with opportunities to learn about gardening, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture, and empowering them to take an active role in cultivating healthy, organic food.

### Water Conservation and Reuse:

Sikh teachings emphasize the importance of water as a sacred resource and advocate for its responsible use and conservation. Sikh organizations and individuals implement water-saving measures, such as rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge projects and waste water recycling, to address water scarcity and promote sustainable water management practices.

Offer training programs and workshops specifically targeted at women on water conservation techniques and sustainable water management practices, equipping women with the knowledge and skills to address water scarcity and promote water security in their communities.

Teach children about the sacred significance of water in Sikhism and the importance of water conservation through experiential learning activities, games, and educational materials that promote water-saving practices and responsible water management behaviors.



## Indigenous Spiritualities

### Sacred Land Conservation:

Indigenous religions recognize the spiritual significance of land and natural resources and advocate for their protection and conservation.

Indigenous communities worldwide engage in efforts to preserve sacred sites, traditional territories, and biodiversity hotspots, resisting threats from deforestation, resource extraction, and land encroachment.

Support women's leadership in indigenous-led conservation efforts, recognizing their traditional roles as stewards of the land and protectors of sacred sites, and ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes.

Involve children in cultural heritage and land stewardship programs that teach them about the spiritual significance of sacred sites, traditional territories, and ancestral lands, and empower them to become advocates for indigenous rights and environmental protection.

Indigenous cultures possess rich traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) accumulated over generations through intimate interactions with the natural world. Indigenous elders and knowledge holders share their wisdom and practices for sustainable resource management, including hunting, fishing, agriculture, and land stewardship, to promote ecological resilience and community well-being.

Promote the transmission of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) from women elders to younger generations, creating platforms for women to share their wisdom

and expertise in sustainable resource management and environmental conservation.

Integrate traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into children's education and youth programs, organizing storytelling sessions, nature walks, and hands-on activities that transmit indigenous wisdom and practices for sustainable resource management and ecological resilience.

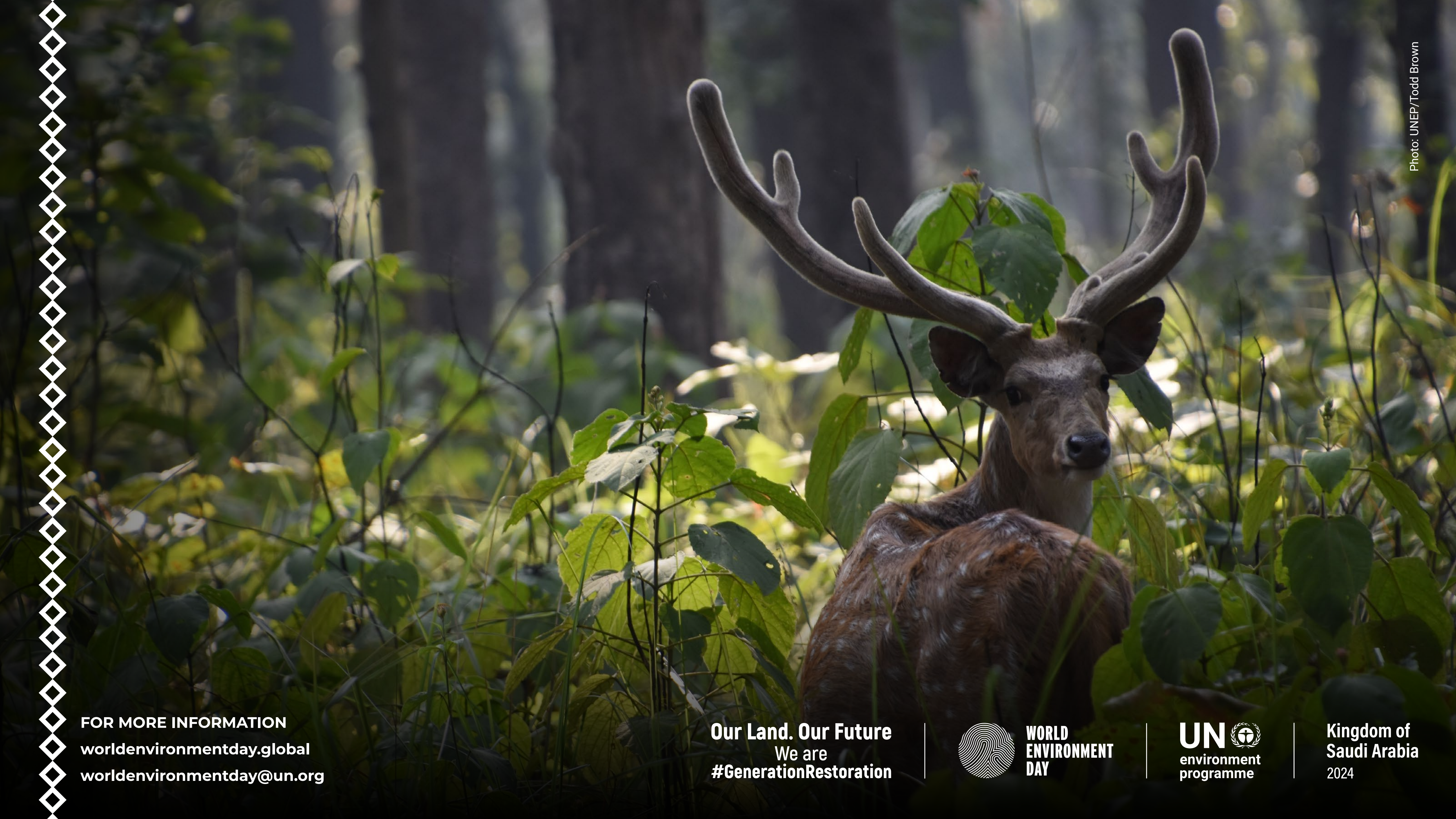
### Cultural Revitalization and Environmental Justice:

Indigenous movements for cultural revitalization and environmental justice advocate for the recognition of indigenous rights, land sovereignty, and self-determination.

Indigenous communities lead protests, legal battles, and advocacy campaigns to protect their ancestral lands, defend sacred territories, and preserve traditional lifeways in harmony with nature.

Advocate for women's rights and gender equality within indigenous communities, ensuring that women have equal access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making power in environmental and social justice movements.

Encourage children to participate in cultural revitalization efforts and environmental justice campaigns led by indigenous communities, providing them with opportunities to learn about indigenous rights, cultural heritage, and environmental activism, and inspiring them to become agents of positive change in their communities and beyond.



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[worldenvironmentday.global](https://worldenvironmentday.global)  
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