

ecoIslam



We are delighted to be back!

Having pioneered this form of environmental journalism on and off since 2006 we have put together a dynamic editorial team which we hope will give us the continuity we need. Things of course have changed in the interim. This is reflected in the accelerated pace of change in technology: the hardcopy format which was normal 20 years ago has now been replaced by quick fix information technology euphemistically referred to as social media. "People have no time to read" is the soundbite that comes across frequently and there is fierce competition for people's time.

We take the holistic view reflecting the deep connections between technology and lifestyles and their impact on the natural world. We will attempt to deal with these issues as we move forward and also bring you news of Muslim communities as they innovate for change and also news of what is going on in the wider world of policy and politics.

If exciting things are happening in your part of the world do let us know and we will try to find spaces to accommodate them in future editions.

لَخَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ
خَلْقِ النَّاسِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا
يَعْلَمُونَ

"The creation of the heavens and the Earth is a far greater matter than the creation of humankind – but most of humankind do not know it."

Qur'an 40:57

Contents

Environmental Events	2
Think Tanks	3-4
Environmental Activism	5
Upcoming Events	6-9
Climate Declaration	10
Help	11

In this issue we report on our contribution to the COP 15 Biodiversity Convention in Montréal, followed by a discussion paper on Islam and Biodiversity. We also bring you news of our contribution to the 8th UNESCO Bioethics, Multiculturalism and Religion held in Bangkok. In our editorial our founder examines the connection between our current concerns over the destruction of biological diversity and the historical destruction of cultural diversity which is now causing the sixth mass extinction of species. We reproduce an article by Najma Mohammed on the social contract for climate justice. Ramadan is now upon us and Luzita Ball takes a look at the burgeoning global green iftar movement. We conclude with a brief roundup of the material available on our website - www.ifees.org.uk - for climate activists in the Muslim world and an [appeal](#) for your support.

Important Environmental Events

COP15 - the Global Biodiversity Framework



We were represented by our Director Kamran Shezad at COP 15 the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) In December 2022. The convention took place in Montreal, Canada, where nations of the world gathered to agree on a once-in-a-decade pact to protect ecosystems and to safeguard biodiversity.

[Read more...](#)

IFEES at UNESCO Chair Workshop



RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES
ON BIOETHICS:
PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT,
THE BIOSPHERE AND BIODIVERSITY.

8th UNESCO Workshop on Bioethics,
Multiculturalism and Religion

Sept. 20-22, 2022
Chulalongkorn University Bangkok, Thailand



info@unescobiochair.org - unescobiochair.org

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_FaH2yh9ts&t=1s

IFEES was invited by the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights to participate in their 8th international Bioethics, Multiculturalism and Religions - this one focused upon Religions and Biodiversity. It was held between the 20th and 22nd of September 2022, at the Royal River Hotel, in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was organized by the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and

Human Rights in collaboration with the Chulalongkorn University. Luzita Ball was the trustee delegated to write and submit the 10 page paper needed for this workshop, and to make a 15 minute presentation summarising her paper at the workshop.

[Read more...](#)

Think Tank

COP 27 A New Social Contract for Climate Justice Najma Mohammad



The Green Economy Coalition (GEC) nature a new social contract that leads headed to the climate conference in to an economy and society where all Sharm El Sheikh with a plan: to inspire life flourishes.

support and ownership of the ongoing [Read more...](#)

agenda for a 'new social contract'. By social contract we mean the unspoken agreement that establishes mutual accountability between people, governments, business and we argue,

Acknowledgement — Green Economy

Think Tank Fazlun Khalid

Is there a link between the loss of biodiversity and the destruction of cultural diversity?

We have so far been overlooking the fact that the destruction of cultural diversity is at the root of the destruction of biodiversity. Let's leave discussions of the historical process that brought us to this point for another time but it is easy to see now that the roots of this crisis lay in the obliteration of traditional societies that had protected the sources of life which our civilization is now turning into resources for plunder.

[Read more...](#)

Biodiversity and Islam

Luzita Ball

Many scientists are claiming that we are going through the world's 6th Great extinction, or era of rapid biodiversity decline, which they are naming the 'Anthropocene' - the era dominated by human beings. This is because human activities seem to be the main cause of these extinctions and threats of extinction to many species on our planet, especially over the last couple of centuries. So, what is Biodiversity? Biodiversity is the variety of all living things on Earth.

Hundreds of thousands of species work together in the web of life, consisting of many globally connected ecosystems, which provide oxygen, water, good soil, food, building materials, medicine and innumerable other benefits to humans and to each other.

[Read more...](#)

30 by 30 – UN COP 15 AND THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Dr Husna Ahmad OBE

The 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (GBF), including four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030. It was hosted in Montreal in December 2022 by Canada and chaired by China.

At COP 15 the focus was on bio-diversity and nature loss. It is scary to imagine the triple planetary crisis that we are facing – the thought that what through the actions of humans today we are accelerating the rate of species extinction far greater than could be seen in over the past 10 million years is beyond scary. We need to recognise NOW the interconnectedness of all who live on our planet and the impact of our actions – in the past, the present and in the future. Within religious traditions including Islam, relations between humans and other elements of the natural world are not compartmentalised but instead conceived of as being tied into a series of continuous

spiritual interactions. So, what has gone wrong? The Global Biodiversity Framework's 4 goals have focussed on maintaining the connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems; valuing and managing biodiversity sustainably and by 2050 enhancing nature's contribution to people through restoration and support of sustainable development for present and future generations; sharing fairly and equitably the monetary and non-monetary benefits of genetics resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources; and the final goal was to ensure equity and access, that in order to fully implement the GBF there was sufficient financial resources and capacity building of all parties.

[Read more...](#)

Muslim Environmental Activism

Ramadan is here!

The communal Iftars during Ramadan are a time where Muslims come together in the spirit of Community and mindfulness to break their day long fast. Having sustainable iftars is a good place to showcase how we can all do our part to reduce the negative environmental impact on planet Earth from the lessons we learn in Ramadan.

Ramadan and Sustainability

Luzita Ball

Green or environmental iftars are an idea which is much needed in a world where many thousands of tonnes of plastic waste are buried in the ground- taking up space where we could grow food, interfering with water drainage and causing pollution, or is burned producing toxic gases, or ends up in huge islands in the sea or washed up on beaches. Also, food is wasted on a huge scale in the Muslim world, especially in hotels and after large events. The excess use of water, energy and burning of fossil fuels which increases rapid climate change, are other issues that need addressing and having more sustainable iftars is a good place to showcase to the Muslim community how we can all do our part to reduce the negative environmental impact that the Muslim Ummah is having on the planet Earth.

[Read more...](#)

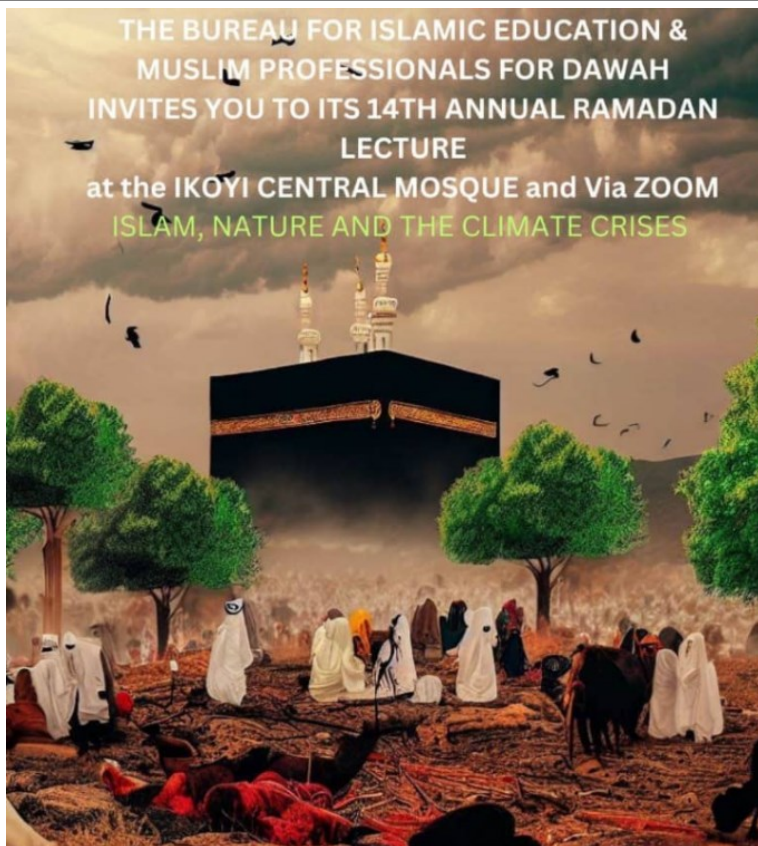


Greener Iftars- a Growing Global movement

Alhamdulillah, over the last couple of decades, the idea of greener iftars has spread far and wide. In the USA, an organisation called the Green Muslims, began as 15 people in 2007 holding an 'environmentally- friendly Iftar' in Washington D.C.. Committed to seeing Muslims living the environmental spirit of Islam, and striving towards connection with nature and environmental stewardship, initially they called them 'leftars', or zero-waste potluck iftars, which encouraged people to use up leftovers from previous iftars and to bring re-usable utensils and containers to eat with.

[Read more...](#)

Environmental Events coming up...



Speaker: Brother Kamran Shezad MSc. MIEMA, C.Env
Director Islamic Foundation For Ecology and
the Environmental Sciences, Birmingham UK.

Saturday 17th of Ramadan (8th April) 1444 AH
11 am - 12 pm

Please Join us for Tree Planting! (TBC)



Islam, Nature and the Climate Crises - Ramadan Lecture

Speaker: Brother Kamran Shezad
Director Islamic Foundation for Ecology and the Environmental Sciences. www.ifees.org.uk
Time: April 8th (17th Ramadan) 2023 11:00am - 12:00pm (GMT +1)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82712982915>

Meeting ID: 827 1298 2915

We request that you also kindly
Join us for tree planting (TBC)

April 2023

WHO World Health Day (April 7th) Worldwide

Please see: [75 years of improving public health \(who.int\)](#)

Spring 2023 Interfaith Environmental Stewardship Event (April 23rd 1:30-4:30pm CDT) Houston, Texas, USA

Please see: [Spring 2023 Interfaith Environmental Stewardship Event Tickets](#),
Sun, Apr 23, 2023 at 1:30 PM | Eventbrite

Launch of The Tide Turners, the global, youth-led movement against the plastic crisis (April 20th) Online and New Delhi, India

Please see: [Launch of the Tide Turners, the global youth-led movement against the plastic crisis \(unep.org\)](https://www.unep.org/launch-of-the-tide-turners)

Stop Food Waste Day (April 27th) Worldwide

Please see: About (stopfoodwasteday.com)

Earth Day (April 30th) Worldwide

Please see: Earth Day 2023 - [Earth Day](#)

May 2023

No Mow May (May 1st - 31st) UK

Please see: [Take part in No Mow May - Plant life](#)

No Meat May (May 1st – 31st) World wide

Please see: [No Meat May | 31 Days. No Meat. 4 BIG Reasons](#)

Bonn Climate Change Conference (June 5th-15th) Bonn, Germany

Please see: [Bonn Climate Change Conference - June 2023 | UNFCCC](#)

International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) (May 7th -13th) Worldwide

Please see: [International Compost Awareness Week \(compostfoundation.org\)](#)

Walk to School Week (May 5th-19th) UK

Please see: [Walk to School Week | Living Streets](#)

World Bee Day (May 20th) Worldwide

Please see: [World Bee Day | FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

Children's Gardening Week (May 27th-June 4th) UK

Please see: [National Children's Gardening Week - Together, we help children grow. \(childrensgardeningweek.co.uk\)](#)

June 2023

30 Days Wild (June 1st- 30th) UK

Please see: [30 Days Wild 2023: Sign up | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

World Bicycle Day (June 3rd) Worldwide

Please see: [World Bicycle Day | United Nations](#)

World Environment Day focused on 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution' (June 5th) Worldwide, Hosted by Cote d'Ivoire

Please see: [World Environment Day](#) and #beatplasticpollution

World Oceans Day (June 8th, 10-1.30pm ET) Worldwide

Please see: United Nations World Oceans Day (unworldoceansday.org)

Great Big Green Week (June 10th-18th) UK

Please see: [Great Big Green Week](#)

SPANA International Working Animals Day (June 15th) Worldwide

Please see: [SPANA | International Working Animal Day](#)

Clean Air Day (June 15th) UK

Please see: [Clean Air Day | Action for Clean Air](#)

World Refill Day (To prevent plastic pollution) (June 16th) Worldwide

Please see: [World Refill Day - Refill - Join the Refill Revolution](#)

Plastic-free Beauty Day (June 17th) Worldwide

Please see: [Home Page - Plastic Free Beauty](#)

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (June 17th) Worldwide

Please see: [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought | United Nations](#)

Sustainable Gastronomy Day (June 18th) Worldwide

Please see: [Sustainable Gastronomy Day | United Nations](#)

World Rainforest Day (June 22nd) Worldwide

Please see: [World Rainforest Day](#)

July 2023

Plastic-free July (July 1st-31st) Worldwide

Please see: [Plastic Free July \(July 2023\) | Days Of The Year](#)

U.N. Food Systems Stock-Taking Moment (July 24th -26th) Rome, Italy

Please see: [Stocktaking Moment \(unfoodsystemshub.org\)](#)

U.N. High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (July 18th-19th) New York

Please see: [High-Level Political Forum 2023 \(un.org\)](#) And: [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](#)

National Marine Week (July 26th—August 5th) UK

Please see: [National Marine Week | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

Love Parks Week (July 29th-August 5th) UK

Please see: [Love Parks Week | Keep Britain Tidy](#)

International Tiger Day (July 29th) Worldwide

Please see: [International Tiger Day: 29th July | WWF](#)

August 2023

National Allotments Week (August 7th- 13th) UK

Please see: [National Allotments Week 2023 will be 7th-13th August 2023 – The National Allotment Society – National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd \(nsalg.org.uk\)](#)

September 2023

Organic September (Sept. 1st-30th) England

Please see: [Organic September | Soil Association](#)

Regenerative Agriculture & Food Systems Summit 2023 (Sept. 6th-7th) in Amsterdam

Please see: [Regenerative Agriculture & Food Systems Summit 2023 \(regenerativeagriculturesummit.com\)](#)

November/December 2023

5th International Congress on Planted Forests (Nov. 7th - 10th) Nairobi, Kenya

Please see: 5th International Congress on Planted Forest - Call for Abstracts ([decadeonrestoration.org](#))

COP28 UN Climate Change Conference (Nov. 30th - Dec. 12th) United Arab Emirates

Please see: [UN Climate Change Conference - United Arab Emirates Nov/Dec 2023 | UNFCCC](#)

Responding to the Climate Emergency

Our educational and training resources available as free downloads

Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change

<https://www.ifees.org.uk/about/islamicdeclaration/>

Full versions available as free downloads in Arabic, English, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Kiswahili, Malay, Spanish, Turkish.

Poster versions available as free downloads in Arabic, English, German, Indonesian, Italian, Kiswahili, Malay, Spanish, Turkish, Urdu.

Listen to the audio version of the climate declaration in English -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0qhZMqiqdo>

(Voice-over provided by www.alvoice.co.uk)

Further translations into Chinese, Russian and Persian projected

Dear reader,

We rely on a global network for news, and you are part of it. If exciting things are happening in your part of the world do let us know and we will try to find spaces to accommodate them in future editions. We also welcome comments but please keep them brief if you want them published.

Contact: ecoislam@ifees.org.uk

Editors

How can you help!

The Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES-EcolIslam) is a multidimensional organization whose work started in the mid-1980s.

In this period of time, we have established an international reputation as leaders in developing a specifically Islamic approach to environmental protection and natural resource management.

We have developed and shared ecological knowledge and promoted conservation and sustainable development based on environmental ethics contained in Islamic teachings.

We now seek support from far-seeing visionaries to progressively expand this work, to exemplify the best that Islam has to offer.

Get unlimited rewards in Ramadan from supporting our work, especially in Ramadan!

This is Sadaqah Jariah!- Sharing knowledge, especially to encourage care of the planet, is an ongoing charity

To donate please [click here](#)



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