Dear friends and colleagues,

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform and engage our readers on the latest developments in the field of religion and conservation biology. Our mission is to promote a deeper understanding of the complex connections between religious practices and conservation efforts.

RELIGION AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

The Religion and Conservation Biology Working Group (RCBWG) has been established as a part of the Religion and Conservation Biology: Islamic Beliefs and Sumatran Forests symposium, which was held in conjunction with the 52nd Annual Conference of the Association for Landscape Ecology, held in Conneticut, USA 2010. The symposium, which explored the intersection between religion, conservation, and sustainable development, was supported by a range of international partners including the African Conservation Foundation, the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Netherlands, and the University of California, Berkeley. The symposium aimed to bring together experts from a wide range of disciplines to discuss the role of religion in conservation efforts.

The symposium featured a range of presentations on topics such as the ecological role of sacred sites, the role of religion in promoting conservation, and the challenges of implementing conservation policies in regions with strong religious traditions. The symposium also included a number of case studies, including the work of the Religion and Conservation Biology Working Group, which is focused on understanding the role of religion in conservation efforts in the African region.

The symposium was attended by a wide range of participants, including conservation professionals, religious leaders, and academics. The symposium was a great success and is expected to have a lasting impact on the field of religion and conservation biology.

The symposium was also the occasion for the launch of the Religion and Conservation Biology: Islamic Beliefs and Sumatran Forests report, which is available for download on the RCBWG website. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the symposium and includes a number of case studies and research papers.

In closing, we would like to thank all of the participants for their contributions to the symposium and to our efforts to promote a deeper understanding of the role of religion in conservation efforts. We look forward to seeing you at the next symposium, which is expected to be held in 2012.

Best regards,

Stephen Awoyemi
Chair, RCBWG

For additional info and inquiries, you are welcome to contact Stephen Awoyemi.

For more information on the Religion and Conservation Biology Working Group, please visit their website at www.rcbwg.org.