

THE  
**BHUMI**  
PROJECT

*Working with Hindu communities  
to take better care of Mother Earth*





## Project Background

The Bhumi Project is an international Hindu response to the environmental challenges facing our planet. The initiative is facilitated by the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS), in partnership with the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), with backing from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Work started on the project in early 2009 and was launched later that year at Windsor Castle in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, and His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Using Hindu teachings, perspectives, and its ancient culture, we are working with Hindu temples and communities to take a more active role in the care and protection of our Mother Earth - Mother Bhumi.



## Bhumi ethos

Hindu teachings such as dharma, ahimsa, and sattva, (responsibility, non-cruelty, and goodness) underpin our work. The ongoing debate on climate change is not our motivating factor. We view caring for the planet as being the right thing to do.

Hindu tradition personifies the planet as Bhumi Devi – Mother Earth. This personification of the Earth allows us to see and treat Bhumi as we do our own mothers - with respect, compassion, and service.

*“Mother Bhumi, may whatever I dig from you grow back again quickly, and may we not injure you by our labour.”*

—Atharva Veda

## Our work

The Bhumi Project encourages Hindu temples, communities and organisations to develop long-term, 9 year plans, to transform and align their environmental practices with Hindu teachings.

We have identified over 20 individual projects that can be adapted and implemented by all. These include the encouragement of compassionate living principles, green temple initiatives and educational resources. Other initiatives include:

- Conservation Projects
- Internet resources
- Bhumi Awards for good environmental practice
- Green Pilgrimages
- Energy Efficiency information for homes and temples
- Researching Hindu scripture
- Training Courses for temple priests



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OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



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The Bhumi Project is one of the long  
term faith commitments of the  
ARC / UNDP partnership.

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