

ENDORSEMENTS for SAFCEI

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond M Tutu

"I endorse this initiative of the Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute enthusiastically.

We, who recognise that all good things come from the Divine Creator, have taken too long to acknowledge that the living out of our beliefs concerns most deeply the care and nurture of living things and the environment on which they depend.

I hope and pray that the Institute that has been established will strengthen and be empowered to play an important role in our society. We are stewards of the diversity of life around us. Those who would destroy or misuse what is in fact our life support system must be challenged and admonished. Our children are our future, as they learn the spiritual truths we espouse; they should also learn that our interdependence on God is bound up in our interdependence on each other and the wonderful world in which we live.

I hope many will support this Institute generously. God bless you."

John Green, Former President of WESSA the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa:

"SAFCEI, with its vision of "faith communities committed to cherishing living earth", is critical to achieving WESSA's mission of "promoting public participation in caring for the earth" in Faith Communities where they gather in temples, mosques and churches. WESSA fully endorses the vision and work of SAFCEI and encourages Faith Communities and WESSA to work together in partnership to cherish the living earth".

Professor Wangari Maathai (Founder of the Greenbelt Movement, 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate), said the following in her address at the inaugural general meeting of SAFCEI on 20 July 2005:

"I want to commend you very highly for thinking about this initiative and for coming together. I must say that for people of faith, you are right on mark, because the people of faith are really the ones who should be in the forefront (*of caring for the planet!*)"



SOUTHERN AFRICAN FAITH COMMUNITIES' ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE