

Looking for Climate Change in Spiritual Landscapes

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Act 1: Setting the Scene on Climate Change

What do you know about climate change?

Where did you get that information?

UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report (2013-4)

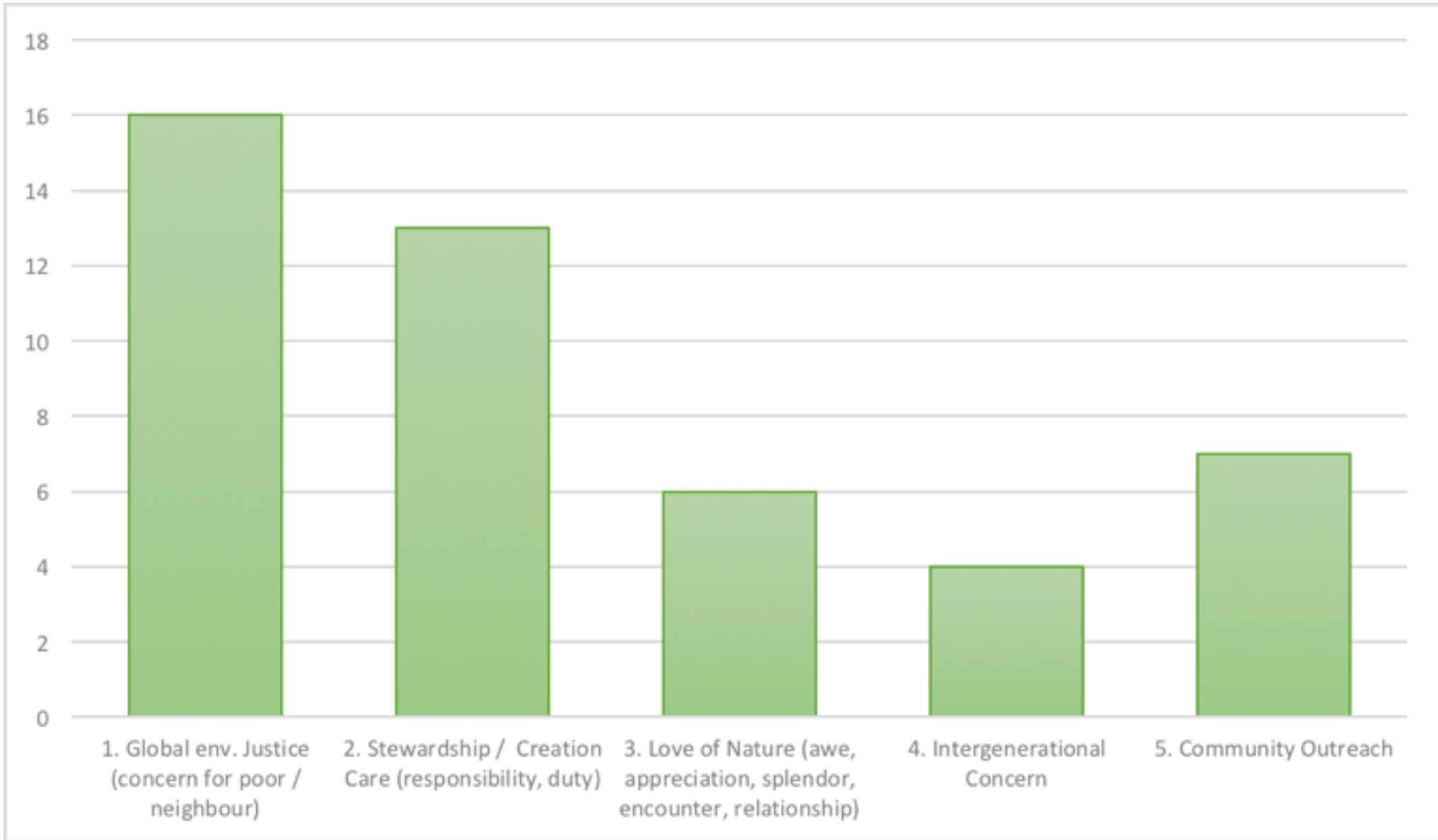
- Working Group I Report, *The Physical Science Basis* - authored by **258 experts**, includes **1,400,000 words**, 2000+ pages, **9,200 citations**.
- Working Group II Report, *Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability* - 302 experts
- Working Group III Report
271 experts
- 800+ experts
(from 3000 nominations)

Likelihood scale used in the report

Term	Likelihood of the outcome
Virtually certain	99–100 % probability
Very likely	90–100 % probability
Likely	66–100 % probability
About as likely as not	33 to 66% probability
Unlikely	0–33 % probability
Very unlikely	0–10 % probability
Exceptionally unlikely	0–1 % probability

LAY KNOWLEDGE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

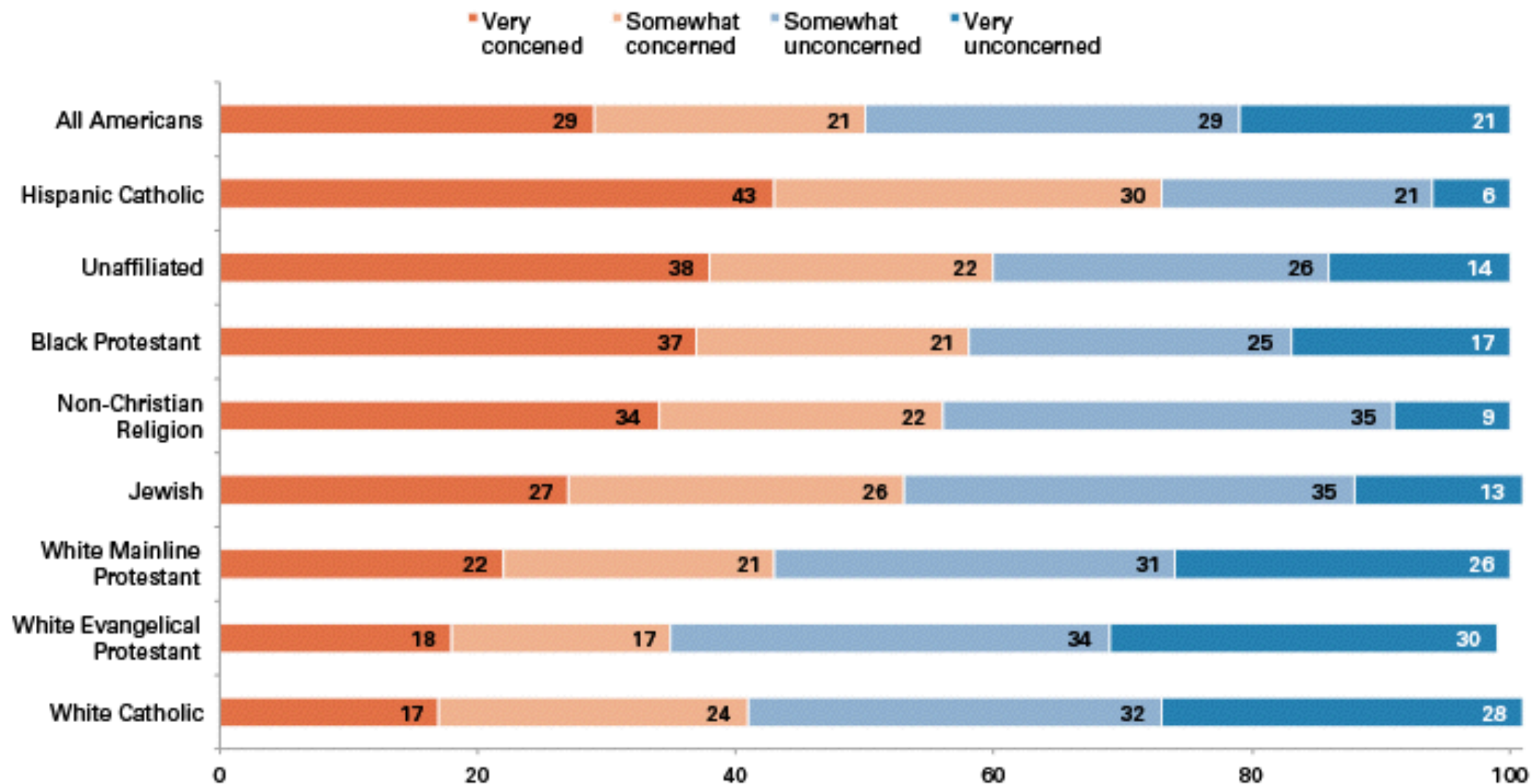
- As Brace and Geoghegan (2010) suggest, the IPCC and other global bodies have framed “atmospheric emissions as a universal and global-scale problem affecting the climate system of the whole planet” with the result that climate change has been “decoupled from the social and political contexts of its material production and cognitive understanding”
- This represents a change in research orientation: not starting with “what are you doing about climate change” but rather with “how are you experiencing climate change”?



“i think (ecocongregations) is an aspect of the church and it is very topical at the moment...**every time you pick up the paper it was about global emissions** and if you can believe it 'we are all doomed'...you can be flippant about it but it is a serious issue and we owe it to our children and grandchildren to be sensible and not be burning lights all the time... we all have to be conscious of these things.”

“> Last year, I think it was harvest thanksgiving... I did a climate change thing... in order to get the [island name omitted] folk to speak about climate change, I had tried speaking, you know, about remote places in third world, you know, it's all very well, but it doesn't speak to them. **So I said, 'what have you seen change in the climate here, over the years.'** [there were] Lots of ideas. They do see that and are concerned. And some of them mentioned that the birds and fish and whatever, the animals that used to be here are no longer here...”

Climate Change Concern Index by Religious Affiliation



Source: PRR/AAR, Religion, Values, and Climate Change Survey, November 2014

From “Believers, Sympathizers, & Skeptics: Why Americans are Conflicted About Climate Change, Environmental Policy, and Science” by PPRI/AAR. Available at: <http://publicreligion.org/research/2014/11/believers-sympathizers-skeptics-americans-conflicted-climate-change-environmental-policy-science>

Seeking: “Spiritual Landscapes”

"Spiritual landscapes are not just about religion, but open out spaces that can be inhabited, or dwelt, in different spiritual registers."

"landscape tells – or rather is – a story, ‘a chronicle of life and dwelling’... To perceive the landscape is therefore to carry out an act of remembrance, and remembering is not so much a matter of calling up an internal image, stored in the mind, as of engaging perceptually with an environment that is itself pregnant with the past."

- Tim Ingold

Developing Lay Knowledge:

Amateur Biological Field Recording

- 140k people attend FSC classes each year
- UK NBN has 127,945,818 species records
- timing of seasonal plant events records go back to the 1730s



The Scientist's Encounter With Creatures

- It is about more than just “data”, Creatures are charismatic!
- Jamie Lorimer: ecological charisma is experienced along “planes of consistency” (cf. Deleuze and Guittari)
- “charisma” can help us form attachments to creatures but this works out in an unexpected variety of ways:
- Through recognition of similarity (“the gaze”) and along lines of dissimilarity (“feral charisma”). Through difference creatures lend us a view of the wild sublime.

Jamie Lorimer, *Wildlife in the Anthropocene : conservation after nature*, (University of Minnesota Press, 2015).

Jamie Lorimer, “Counting Corncrakes The Affective Science of the UK Corncrake Census,” *Social studies of science* 3 (2008): 377-405.

Jamie Lorimer, “Nonhuman charisma,” *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 5 (2007): 911-932.

>This journal provides you with a place where you can record the development of this relationship. This project is unique in that, beyond keeping track of things like the date and time, species name, and location details which are standard for amateur biological field recording practice – we are asking you to keep track of the spiritual dimension of this relationship and the spirit of landscape and the creatures you encounter.

> To help you towards this goal, here are some questions to prompt reflection:

> Start with yourself: Sit quietly for 60 seconds, then consider: how do you feel today? Are there any preoccupations hanging over you? Do you have expectations for what you may hope to encounter or accomplish? Then move on to the landscape: What kind of ecology does it represent? What kind of weather, trees, soil and rocks define it? What are the sounds and smells? How does this place feel today? Can you sense any particular kind of presence with you? Can you see signs of human interaction? Improvement? Harm? As your journal develops, keep track of signs you can see of environmental change. The write a thought or two on what you might look for or expect when you come back the next time.

GRID REFERENCE						LOCALITY						
TETRAD						HABITAT						
VICE-COUNTY						RECORDER(S) NAMES						

CONSENT TO RELEASE OF RECORDS
 The records collected by the Atlas 2000 project will be sent to BRC on the understanding that the information provided by the recorder/compiler/determiner will be entered onto a computerised database and will be used for publication in an updated atlas, and subsequently for nature conservation, research and education and will be available for public information.

The information remains the intellectual property of the recorder/compiler/determiner at all times.

RARE, NOTABLE, CRITICAL, AND OTHER SPECIES, AND INFRASPECIFIC TAXA NOT INCLUDED OVERLEAF				
SPECIES	LOCALITY	6-FIG GRID	DATE	OTHER DETAILS

NOMENCLATURE FOLLOWS KENT (1992) LIST OF VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE BRITISH ISLES AND STACE (1991) NEW FLORA OF THE BRITISH ISLES

BSBI FIELD CARD N. SCOTLAND
BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE

“Taking a few steps back from violence you get anger and before that frustration and I think that’s where I am. **Frustrated and angry that I have no agency or feel powerlessness when it comes to this big picture of climate change.** I have been acting, advocating, writing, lobbying for over 10 years on the issue and things just seem to slide backwards regardless of what I do. Finally this now obvious link between my powerlessness and frustration is revealed!

Anyway back to you - **the thing about your project is that I feel I may get some of my agency back through it.** I have already changed all my lightbulbs, heating system, much of my lifestyle etc so on the mitigation side things can’t change much more. However on the adaptation side I haven’t really done much but am very aware that the main crux of successful adaptation is resilience... My hope then is that if others find their resilience increases because of vitamin N, they will further recognise the connection between the inside and the outside and then take more note of it and the wider ecology we are all a part of which I hope will engender better respect for the whole system.

-Participant in “Spiritual Landscapes” Workshop (Central Scotland)