

# 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?

"Saving the Earth and its peoples from dangerous climate change is an economic, social and environmental issue – and a moral and ethical one too that goes to the core of many if not all of the world's greatest faiths... Religious institutions need to find their voice and set their moral compass on one of the great humanitarian issues of our time"

**-UN Climate Chief Christiana Figures (2014)**

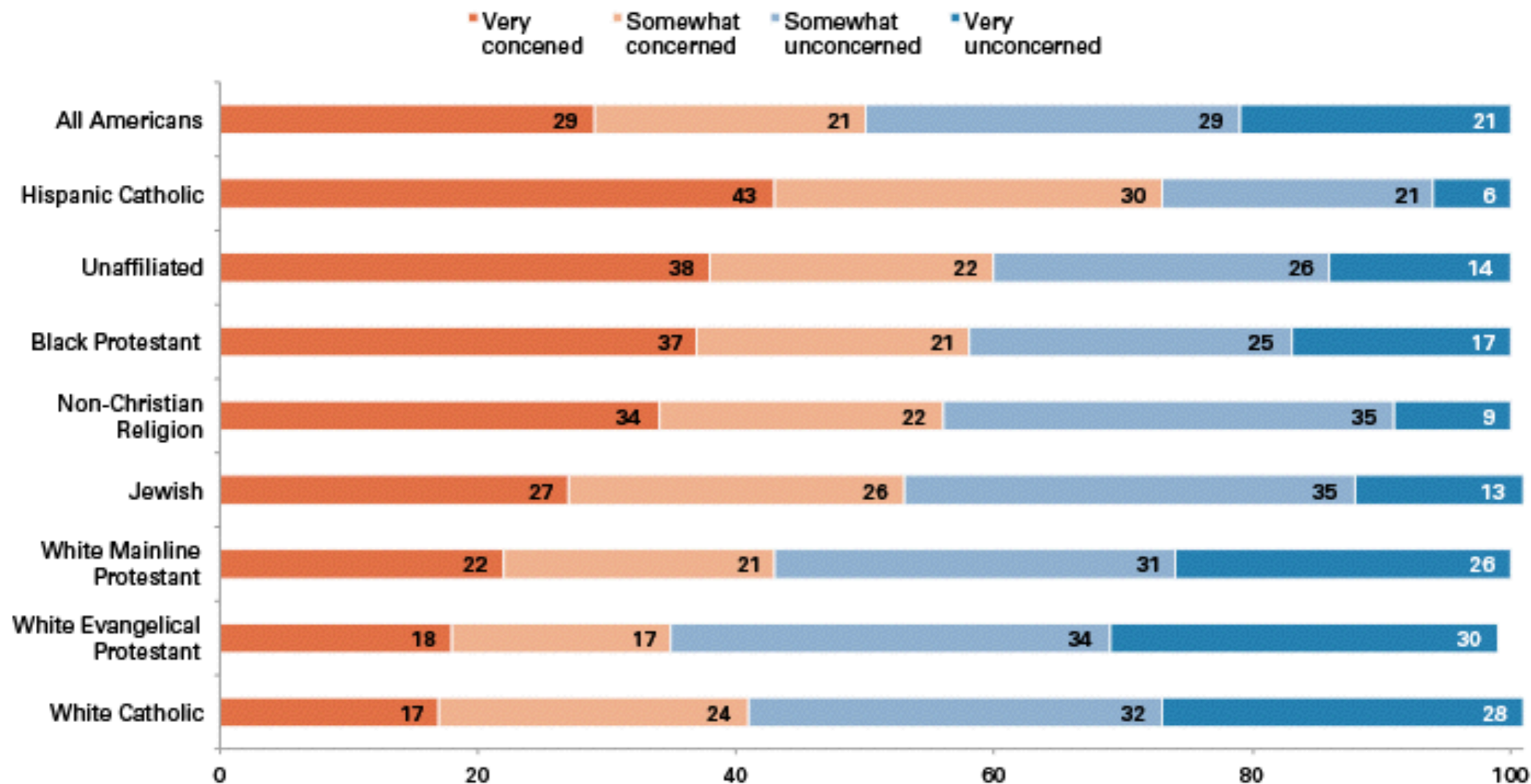


Paris COP21 Climate Summit 2015 - People's Pilgrimage  
religious leaders delivered nearly 2 million signatures from faith-based petitions  
for climate justice



*addressing a crowd of 4000 for the people's climate march - Edinburgh - 2014*

## Climate Change Concern Index by Religious Affiliation

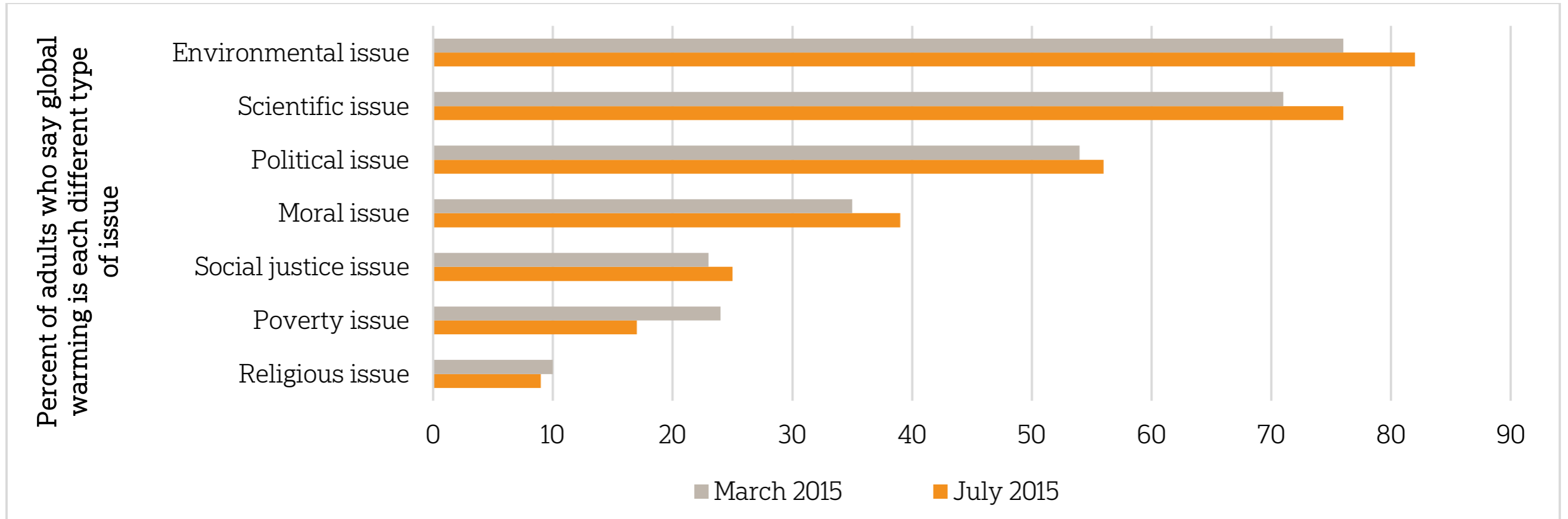


Source: PRR/AAR, Religion, Values, and Climate Change Survey, November 2014

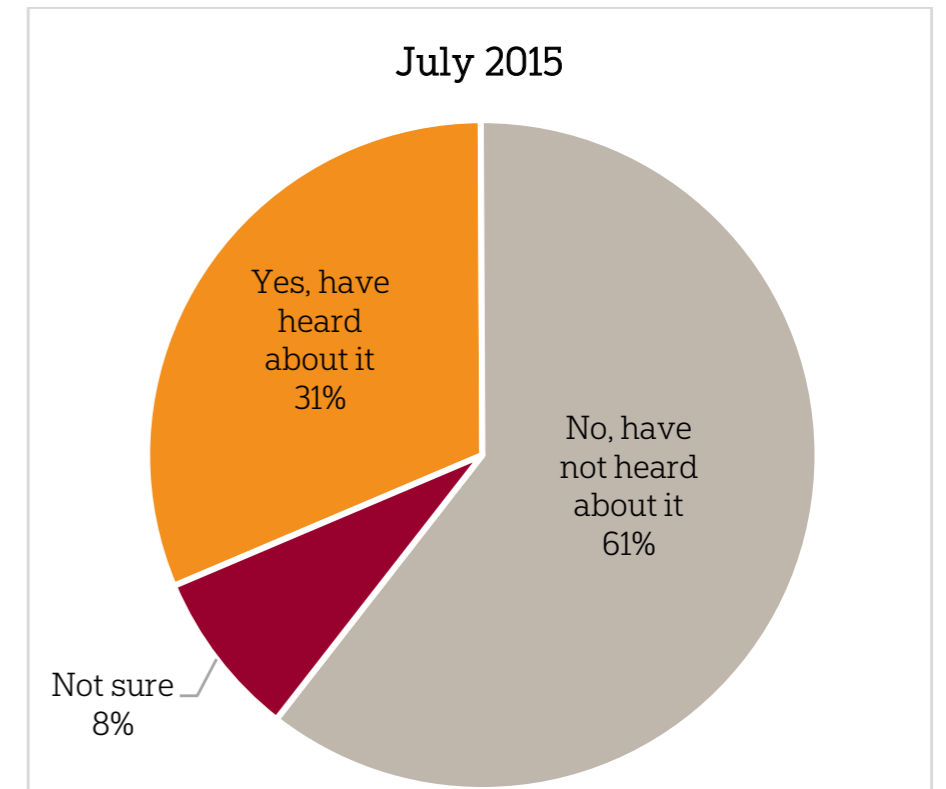
From “Believers, Sympathizers, & Skeptics: Why Americans are Conflicted About Climate Change, Environmental Policy, and Science” by PPRI/AAR. Available at: <http://publicreligion.org/research/2014/11/believers-sympathizers-skeptics-americans-conflicted-climate-change-environmental-policy-science>



# Views on global warming virtually unchanged (*Laudato Si'* pub. May 2015)



## Have you heard of *Laudato Si'*?



From "Speaking Out on Global Warming: Public Attitudes toward the Papal Encyclical on Climate Change" by Associated Press-NORC Centre for Public Affairs Research. Available at: <http://www.apnorc.org/projects/Pages/speaking-out-on-global-warming-public-attitudes-toward-the-papal-encyclical-on-climate-change.aspx>

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

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- 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

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- 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”?

- ▶ Skepticism and inaction on anthropogenic (“human caused”) climate change is not just a moral problem, but may also be an “epistemological” problem...
- ▶ It is not just enough to possess “knowledge” about a problem. We can know about something in different ways...

Questions?

Act 2: Seeking after “Personal Knowledge”

# Developing Lay Knowledge:

## Amateur Biological Field Recording

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- 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






CITIZEN SCIENCE  
ASSOCIATION



<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitoolkit/>

<http://citizenscience.org>

<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>						<b>LOCALITY</b>						
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>							
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**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



<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>								<b>LOCALITY</b>												
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<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>LOCALITY</b>	<b>6-FIG GRID</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>OTHER DETAILS</b>

2395	Abies alb	212	Atrip gla	404	Carex pen	613	Dacty pur	821	Festu*ovi	687	Hyaci non	1188	Lonic per
2396	gra	216	lac	405	pil	1915	Danth dec	823	pra	999	Hydro vul	1191	Lotus cor
2397	pro	217	lit	408	pul	5474	Daucu*car	824	*rub	1000	Hymen tun	1194	ped
3	Acer cam	218	pat	412	rem	627	Desch*ces	826	viv	1001	wil	1195	Lunar ann
4	pla	214	pro	413	rip	627.2	ces <u>alp</u>	831	Filag min	1003	Hyper and	1197	Lupin noo
5	pse	220	Avena fat	414	ros	627.1	ces <u>ces</u>	830	vul	1010	hir	2428	pol
7	Achil mil	224	Balde ran	415	rup	627.3	ces <u>par</u>	833	Filip ulm	1011	hum	7444	x reg
9	pta	226	Barba int	417	sax	628	fle	836	Fraga ana	1006	*mac	1199	Luzul arc
14	Aconi*nap	229	vul	421	syl	629	set	838	ves	1006.1	mac <u>mac</u>	1201	cam
19	Adoxa mos	231	Belli per	423	vag	640	Digit pur	841	Fraxi exc	1006.2	mac <u>obt</u>	1204	*mul
20	Aegop pod	232	Berbe vul	424	ves	1213	Dipha alp	844	Fuchs mag	1014	per	1207	pil
2241	Aescu hip	234	Berul ere	7117	*vir	646.1	Dipsa ful	845	Fumar bas	1015	pul	1208	spi
22	Agrim eup	235	Beta *vul	387	vir <u>bra</u>	648	Doron par	847	*cap	1016	tet	1209	syl
23	pro	238	Betul nan	361	vir <u>oed</u>	651	Draba inc	850	*mur	1020	Hypoc rad	1210	Lychn flo
35	Agros*can	239	pen	7118	vir <u>vir</u>	653	nor	854	*off	1023	Ilex aqu	1214	Lycop ann
35.2	can	240	*pub	427	Carli vul	655	Drose int	860	Galan niv	1026	Impat gla	1215	cla
40	cap	244	Blech spi	428	Carpi bet	654	lon	864	Galeo bif	1033	Inula hel	1219	Lycop eur
36	gig	246	Blysm ruf	431	Carum ver	657	rot	867	spe	1038	Iris pse	1221	Lysim nem
39	sto	1860	Bolbo mar	432	Casta sat	658	Dryas oct	868	*tet	1043	Isoet ech	1222	num
35.1	vin	248	Botry lun	433	Catab aqu	660	Dryop aem	869	tet	1045	lac	1223	pun
41	Aira car	250	Brach syl	434	Catap mar	662	*aff	873	Galiu apa	1046	Isole cer	1350	thy
42	pra	251	Brass*nap	2422	Centa mon	666	car	874	bor	1047	set	1225	vul
45	Ajuga pyr	254	*rap	444	nig	661	dil	879	*mol	1048	Jasio mon	1444	Lythr*por
46	rep	256	Briza med	5486	Centa ery	2274	exp	183	odo	1050	Juncu acuti	1227	sal
48	Alche alp	272	Bromo ram	460	Ceras alp	665	fil	882	*pal	1053	alp	1230.1	Malus dom
4480	*fil	269	Bromu*hor	465	arc	659	ore	882.1	pal <u>elo</u>	1057.1	amb	1230.2	syl
50	fil <u>fil</u>	2383	x p'th	461	arv	670	Echiu vul	882.2	pal <u>pal</u>	1054	art	1232	Malva mos
57	fil <u>ves</u>	277	Buddl dav	464	cer	671	Elati hex	878	sax	1055	bal	1233	neg
51	gla	288	Butom umb	462	dif	673	Eleoc aci	883.2	ste	1056	big	1236	syl
52	glo	291	Cakil mar	467	*fon	674	mul	887	uli	1057	*buf	1242	Matri dis
59	wic	293	Calam epi	466	glo	675	*pal	888	ver	1057.2	buf	1239	rec
60	xan	2249	Calli*agg	469	sem	677	qui	2244	Gault muc	1058	*bul	1246	Mecon cam
63	Alism pla	303	*ham	555	Cerat cla	678	uni	890	sha	1061	cas	1250	Medic lup
64	Allia pet	302	her	473	Ceter off	679	Eleog flu	891	Genis ang	1063	con	7129	*sat
75	Alliu urs	307.1	pla	474	Chaen min	681	Elode can	898.1	Genti <u>ama</u>	1067	eff	1256	Melam*pra
76	vin	307	*sta	476	Chaer tem	7006	Elymu can	904.2	<u>sep</u>	1057.3	fol	1257	syl
77	Alnus glu	307.2	sta	2398	Chama law	28	Elytr jun	901	cam	1069	ger	1262	Melic nut
80	Alope bor	309	Callu vul	477	Chame ang	33	*rep	906	Geran col	1070	inf	1263	uni
82	gen	310	Calth pal	480	Cheli maj	683	Empet <u>her</u>	907	dis	1072	mar	1267	Melil off
85	pra	2266	Calys pul	482	Cheno alb	685	<u>nig</u>	908	end	1075	squ	1272	Menth aqu
97	Ammop are	311	*sep	484	bon	690	Epilo als	909	luc	1077	ten	1273	arv
99	Anaga*arv	313	sil	504	Chrys seg	691	ana	911	mol	1078	trifid	1285	spi
456	min	312	sol	505	Chrys alt	699	bru	914	pra	1079	triglu	1279	x pip
100	ten	316	Campa lat	506	opp	688	cil	916	pus	1080	Junip*com	1286	x ver
1218	Anchu arv	320	rapunculo	2381	Cicer mac	692	hir	917	pyr	1080.2	com <u>alp</u>	1289	Menya tri
105	Anemo nem	322	rot	509	Cicho int	695	mon	918	rob	1080.1	com <u>com</u>	1291	Mercu per
109	Angel syl	325	Capse bur	513	Circa lut	696	obs	920	san	1084	Knaut arv	1292	Merte mar
113	Anisa ste	327	Carda ama	512	x int	697	pal	921	syl	1087	Koele*agg	1294	Meum ath
116	Anten dio	328	fle	515	Cirsi arv	698	par	924	Geum riv	1091	Labur ana	1296	Miliu eff
117	Anthe arv	329	hir	518	het	700	ros	925	urb	1098	Lamiu alb	1298	Mimul*agg
121	Antho odo	331	pra	520	pal	7292	tet	923	x int	1099	amp	4331	gut x lut
125	Anthr syl	335	Cardu cri	522	vul	705	Epipa hel	930	Glaux mar	1102	con	501	Minua sed
126	Anthy*vul	339	ten	525	Clayt per	712	Equis arv	931	Glech hed	1100	hyb	1305	Moehr tri

# The Scientist's Encounter With Creatures

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- 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.

Are you ready to become a “citizen scientist”?

Act 3: A Modest Proposal: “Spiritual Landscapes”

“landscapes”

To use the word 'nature' is to rely on a binary, there is the self, and then there is nature... out there. But the landscape is a place we coinhabit with many other forms of life. It is a place where we dwell, and in so doing, we also contribute to the meaning of the place. We do not attach meaning to this place, we gather meaning from it.

Tim Ingold, *Evolution and social life*, (Cambridge University Press, 1986).

Tim Ingold, "The temporality of the landscape," *World Archaeology* 2 (1993): 152-174. (see especially pp. 163-7).

Tim Ingold, *The perception of the environment : essays on livelihood, dwelling, skill*, (Routledge, 2000).

“[A] focus on practical enskilment, conceived as the embodiment of capacities of awareness and response by environmentally situated agents... [may] help us to overcome both an overly rigid division between the works of human beings and those of non-human animals and, in the human case, the opposition between the fields of ‘art’ and ‘technology’”



“spiritual”

Can Science Integrate “Spiritual” Awareness?

What does the “spiritual aspect” of a landscape mean for you?

Download this presentation from:

[http://jeremykidwell.info/iras\\_spiritual\\_landscapes/](http://jeremykidwell.info/iras_spiritual_landscapes/)

“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)**