

## Nigel Crawhall

Nigel Crawhall (South Africa / France) is a political scientist and sociolinguist by training. He is currently working at UNESCO in the Natural Sciences Sector dealing with indigenous knowledge systems and Small Island Developing States. He is the former Director of Secretariat for the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee and programme coordinator of the South African San Institute.

In his voluntary capacity he serves on the Executive Committee of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists and has an advisory role with both the Inter-religious Climate and Ecology Network (ICE) in Asia and the We Have Faith – Act Now for Climate Justice (WHF) network in Africa. He has served on the Interfaith Liaison Committee at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, assisting with interfaith coordination and communication for climate justice.

From 2015, Nigel has been the co-Chair of the Specialist group on Religion, Spirituality, Environmental Conservation and Climate Justice (ReSpECC). He served for six years as co-Chair of the IUCN Theme on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA).

In 2014, he jointly managed the Cross-cutting theme on the New Social Compact for effective and just Conservation (NSC) at the World Parks Congress. In 2016, he co-managed the Spirituality and Conservation Journey of the IUCN World Conservation Congress. His work in IUCN has dealt with protected areas, the World Heritage Convention, the relationship between nature and culture, human rights and conservation, and the role of religious and spiritual communities in climate change and the environment. He has a particular interest in drylands systems, climate adaptation and the application of traditional knowledge systems in environmental and climate challenges. He holds a PhD from the University of Cape Town in historical sociolinguistics and an MPhil from the University of Zimbabwe. He teaches yoga and meditation in his spare time. Twitter: @crawhall7 and @IUCN\_Respecc