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Earth Charter Initiative

Biannual Report 2002 - 2003

Earth Charter International Secretariat



EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE
BIANNUAL REPORT

2002-2003

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Earth Charter Initiative Mission

The mission of the Initiative is to establish a sound ethical foundation for the emerging global society and to help build a sustainable world based on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.

Earth Charter Initiative Goals

- To promote the dissemination, endorsement, and implementation of the Earth Charter by civil society, business, and government.
- To encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter.
- To seek endorsement of the Earth Charter by the United Nations.

EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE
BIANNUAL REPORT
2002-2003

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future."

Preamble of the Earth Charter

The role of the Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat is to facilitate collaborative efforts to advance the implementation of the mission and objectives of the Earth Charter Initiative.

In fulfilling this role, the Secretariat coordinates the core tasks of the Initiative namely, (1) major activities which aim to disseminate and promote the Earth Charter and (2) the work of the Education and Local Community Programmes. The realisation of these central tasks requires the support of a global network of volunteer organizations and individuals, without which it would be impossible to achieve the goals and objectives of the Earth Charter Initiative. The small Secretariat functions under the oversight of the Earth Charter Steering Committee, created by the Earth Charter Commission, and benefits from the cooperation of committed individuals and organizations whose expertise lends capacity and added value to the Initiative.

During the two-year period covered by this report, the Earth Charter Initiative has made substantial progress towards the objectives and priorities determined by the Steering Committee and the Commission, particularly in the areas of governmental support, Earth Charter dissemination and increased utilization of the Earth Charter in both formal and non-formal educational settings.

With the growing numbers of individuals and organizations embracing the Earth Charter and seeking its implementation, there is an increasing need for guidance and coordination. Thus the Secretariat has been a catalyst of many efforts, offering general information and assistance, responding to organizations' interests in collaboration, and coordinating the various efforts of organizations and individuals worldwide.

This Report provides information on the activities of the Earth Charter Initiative and its Secretariat for the years 2002 and 2003. The Report is organised in the following sections:

1. Political Process
2. Education Programme
3. Local Community Programme
4. Youth Initiative
5. Calendar of Events
6. Publications
7. Secretariat Management

Main Activities

It has been determined, in close consultation with Commissioners and Steering Committee members, that to be effective, the Secretariat must limit its areas of concentration to those which match its financial means and are of greatest interest to our global network. Priorities were then given to those activities which secure political support and strengthen the Education and Local Communities programmes.

The Secretariat continues to offer general support to the Youth Initiative, which is now being organized by a core group of volunteer young people. In dedicating its resources to these priorities, the Secretariat found it beyond its capacity to act further upon the Commission's initial recommendation to work with the business sector, media and faith groups.

The day-to-day operations of the Secretariat include communicating with partner organizations, managing the Earth Charter international website -which is now available in Spanish and French in addition to English- issuing Newsflashes, responding to public queries for additional information and following-up with a number of institutions that have endorsed the Earth Charter.

Political Process

Starting with the Earth Charter's launch in 2000, and through the end of 2002, much effort was dedicated to gaining the attention and support of government officials in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Secretariat organized a number of briefings for government representatives, and took part in several forums to generate interest in the Earth Charter. As a result of these efforts, the Earth Charter received wide acknowledgment from governments, from the heads of state speeches in Johannesburg, and through endorsement letters of the Ministers of Environment of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Honduras, Bolivia, Niger, Holland, Romania, Spain, Jamaica and Jordan. The Earth Charter was also recognized in a number of documents set forth in preparatory meetings for the Summit, including the UN regional roundtables, the Latin American and Caribbean Ministerial Initiative for Sustainable Development, and the report of the Secretary General's High Level Advisory Panel. Additionally, endorsements from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) continue to grow, for which significant follow up is still required in order to have such endorsements become part of the organizations' modus operandi.

A noted achievement was the adoption of a resolution in support of the Earth Charter at the UNESCO General Conference held in October 2003. According to this resolution, UNESCO member states recognized the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for sustainable development and affirmed their intention to use it as an educational instrument, particularly in light of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. This process benefited from the leadership of the Jordanian Government and was supported by Spain, Costa Rica and Honduras.

The Secretariat takes it as part of its main work in the coming year to follow-up on the UNESCO resolution and ensure the Earth Charter is centrally placed within the implementation of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which begins in 2005. This will require close collaboration with educational institutions and UNESCO.

More endorsements, including from UN agencies, are expected and the pursuit of this objective remains an important goal of the Initiative. The Secretariat intends to build on existing support and achievements to advance this goal.

Education

For the past two years one of the priorities of the Earth Charter Initiative has been to advance the educational uses of the Earth Charter. The Secretariat relies on a growing number of experts in education who take part either in the Education Advisory Committee, or in the broader informal network of educators who help plan and implement activities of the Education Programme.

An increasing number of educational institutions have endorsed the Earth Charter and are incorporating it in various teaching and learning settings. The Secretariat has been following up with these institutions in order to explore areas of cooperation and offer guidance for the implementation in education. As an initial effort to capture the diverse experiences and practices of groups utilizing the Earth Charter, an *Online Teaching Resource Database* was developed. These living examples, which have arisen spontaneously, are the most important testimony

to the growing recognition of the Earth Charter as a valuable instrument for education towards sustainability. They reinforce the educational value of the Earth Charter and highlight the urgent need to provide both formal and non-formal educators with the resources needed to comprehensively implement education for sustainable development. Excerpts of these experiences can be found in the Education section of this report.

In December 2003, the Education Programme initiated and facilitated an on-line discussion forum that brought together education experts to guide the programme's activities. The forum yielded input into processes such as the elaboration of a *Guidebook* for primary and secondary school educators in using the Earth Charter.

Local Communities

For years, the Initiative has considered of major importance the need to bring the notion of sustainable development to local communities and its integration within the policy frameworks and mechanisms of local governments.

To help move this forward, a project was initiated under the leadership of the World Resources Institute, with the aim of assisting communities in the process of identifying key elements of the Earth Charter and turning those elements into specific goals consistent with their reality. This project is still in its initial phase but involves the development of software that will include a database of goals, targets, strategies, and indicators to guide communities.

So far, nearly 400 local authorities from different parts of the world have endorsed the Earth Charter in addition to endorsements received by organizations and associations that represent large numbers of municipalities. This presents an opportunity for the Initiative and a need to offer guidance and assist local authorities that are keen to go further in the process of incorporating the Earth Charter in their planning and programmes. The Earth Charter Community Summits have also contributed in the goal of generating awareness and commitment within local communities.

Financial Resources

Generous contributions from The Humane Society of United States (HSUS), the Center for Respect of Life and Environment (CRLE) and The Philanthropic Collaborative (TPC) have allowed the Secretariat to continue to operate. The University for Peace has provided in-kind support contributing with office space, administrative and computer support to the Secretariat. All those associated with the Earth Charter Initiative, deeply appreciate the significant financial support that the University for Peace, HSUS, CRLE and TPC have offered in contribution to this endeavour.

However, increasing financial constraints and the challenge of raising funds over the past year, which has been more difficult than anticipated, generates serious and continuing limitations for the Secretariat. This situation has arisen mainly due to the broad scope of the Earth Charter Initiative, in addition to restrictions and different interests of foundations, as well as the overall decline in stock market values affecting contributions from foundations.

In these circumstances, the Secretariat, with the strong support of the Steering Committee, Commissioners and Senior Advisors, will place a high priority on fundraising activities over the next year or two.

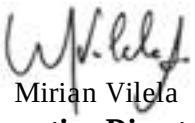
Publications

The Earth Charter Initiative has benefited from a number of remarkable publications and promotional materials launched in the past two years that have served to encourage the dissemination and promotion of the Earth Charter. One example of that is the Music CD "Where we all belong" produced and performed by Raffi, a Canadian environmentalist and vocal performer who has generously offered to

contribute his time and genius. Other examples include books such as *Just Ecological Integrity: The Ethics of Maintaining Planetary Life* prepared and edited by Peter Miller and Laura Westra, and *TerraAmerica* by Leonardo Boff, which have given the Earth Charter increased and important public exposure. Also, the exhibition *Seeds of Change: The Earth Charter and Human Potential*, launched in the Johannesburg Summit Exhibition Centre in 2002, has now been translated in different languages and is travelling around the world sensitizing the public on sustainability issues. The exhibition is an effort led by Soka Gakkai International.

Looking at the aspirations of the Earth Charter Initiative, we realize that although much progress has been made in many fronts, a great deal of work remains to be accomplished to ensure that the Earth Charter is not only a document but is indeed a living guide deeply rooted in schools and other educational institutions, as well as in the policy making and planning of local and national governments.

In this spirit, we want to thank all of you who made a difference and contributed greatly to the Earth Charter Initiative. There is no doubt that much of the accomplishment is due to volunteer work offered by inspired and committed individuals and organizations. We invite you to continue to work with us as we move ahead towards the goals of the Earth Charter Initiative.



Mirian Vilela
Executive Director

"The Earth Charter vision reflects the conviction that caring for people and caring for Earth are two interdependent dimensions of one task. We cannot care for people in a world with collapsing ecosystems, and we cannot care for Earth in a world with widespread poverty, injustice, economic inequity and violent conflict."

Prof. Steven C. Rockefeller,
Chair, Earth Charter Steering Committee/
Earth Charter Commissioner

POLITICAL PROCESS

"We acknowledge the importance of ethics for sustainable development and, therefore, emphasize the need to consider ethics in the implementation of Agenda 21."

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

I. The Earth Charter in The World Summit on Sustainable Development Process



Overview: A major focus for the Earth Charter Initiative in 2002 was to seek endorsement of the Earth Charter by governments and to gain recognition at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, 26 August to 4 September 2002. The Earth Charter Initiative actively participated at the Summit and was involved throughout its preparatory process, which started a year earlier and involved four Global Preparatory Committee Conferences (PrepComs) among others. This effort sought to build political support, raise awareness and present the Earth Charter to government delegates and non-governmental organization representatives, as well as to organize Earth Charter events alongside with the UN negotiations.

This section of the bi-annual report gives an account of the main Earth Charter outcomes and key events organized at the Summit and building up to it. A more detailed report on this can be found at: *http://www.earthcharter.org/wssd/Prep_Report_WSSD.doc*

During and prior to the Summit, members of the Earth Charter Commission, Steering Committee, and Secretariat worked together with Initiative partners and supporters to persuade government delegations and UN officials to support recognition of the Earth Charter in the Johannesburg Political Declaration.

In the year leading up to the Johannesburg Summit, the Earth Charter International Secretariat approached a number of government officials from all regions drawing their attention to the Earth Charter and requesting them to consider using the Earth Charter, endorse it or simply express their support to the vision of the Earth Charter. In April 2002 for example, during PrepCom III, the Earth Charter Secretariat organized a briefing session, which took place at the Dutch Mission to the United Nations in New York and had the participation of the Dutch, Swedish and Japanese delegations.

In his address at the opening session of the Summit, President Mbeki of South Africa cited the Earth Charter as a significant expression of "human solidarity" and as part of "the solid base from which the Johannesburg World Summit must proceed." A number of states including Costa Rica, Romania, Jordan, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and The Netherlands made a clear reference to the Earth Charter in their addresses at the Summit.



President Mbeki of South Africa.

The Summit pursued two different types of outcomes. The Type I outcome being the Political Declaration—the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development—and the Plan of Implementation, a lengthy document with over 150 sections. Second, the Type II outcome being partnerships involving governments, intergovernmental agencies, NGOs, and the private sector as well as others. The Earth Charter Initiative sought to have the Earth Charter included in both outcomes.

The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development

Discussions on elements for the Political Declaration started at the final plenary session of PrepCom IV held in Bali, Indonesia (June 2002), when government officials formally offered their recommendations on this theme. In this plenary session several government representatives recommended that the Earth Charter be reflected in the Political Declaration as an important contribution towards a global ethic for sustainability. The State Secretary of Environment from Romania made the first recommendation and was then supported by the Ministers of Environment of Indonesia, the Philippines, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Kuwait. Governmental representatives of Italy and Niger previously mentioned their support and use of the Earth Charter.

As a result, the first unofficial draft elements for the Political Declaration that were circulated in Bali had reference to the Earth Charter and the PrepCom IV Chairman's report mentioned in Point 4 under the heading - the Plan of Implementation: *"several ministers reaffirmed support for the values and principles contained in the Earth Charter."* Point 27 in connection with the Political Declaration stated: *"many called for inclusion of language that would reaffirm the Earth Charter as an ethical basis for sustainable development."* Efforts undertaken by the Earth Charter Secretariat and supporters during the Bali PrepCom resulted in great success, in terms of its events and the gained political support.

At the Summit the South African Government took leadership in drafting the declaration and only released their first draft once negotiations on the Johannesburg Plan of Action were completed. The timing of the draft released, being the closing days of the Summit, limited opportunities for input and open dialogue in its elaboration. The first draft of the Political Declaration included in paragraph 13: "recognition of the relevance of the challenges posed in the Earth Charter." On the last day of the Summit in closed-door negotiations among government officials, the reference to the Earth Charter was deleted from the Political Declaration.

While this outcome was very disappointing, the Earth Charter did receive significant support throughout the Summit from a number of governments. It also appears that the Earth Charter influenced the drafting of the Political Declaration. The final version of the Political Declaration includes in paragraph 6 wording almost identical to the concluding words of the first paragraph of the Earth Charter Preamble, which states that "it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations." Paragraph 6 of the Johannesburg Declaration states:

"From this [African] Continent, the Cradle of Humanity, we declare, through the Plan of Implementation and this Declaration, our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to our children."

These words express the spirit of global interdependence and inclusive ethical responsibility that underlie the vision in the Earth Charter. In earlier UN declarations and treaties, there are references to nature, the earth, and ecosystems, but in the Johannesburg Declaration one finds in paragraph six the first reference to the "community of life" in a UN international law document. It is also noteworthy that the Earth Charter ethic of care finds expression in the reference to a "caring global society" in paragraph 2 of the Johannesburg Declaration. For the full text of the Johannesburg Declaration, see: *http://www.johannesburgsummit.org*

"We don't have to share every value, every idea. But we do have to have a common basis that we can share with everyone; a certain set of ethical and moral principles which can guide the behaviour of people towards the Earth and towards each other."

- Hon. Maurice F. Strong, Earth Charter Commissioner, Canada

An Earth Charter Type II Partnership

The Secretariat, in collaboration with partner organizations, put together a partnership initiative with the main purpose to ensure that the concept and principles of sustainable development are incorporated into educational systems as well as local community planning. This partnership "Educating for Sustainable Living with the Earth Charter" was publicly presented on 1 September during the Summit sessions on Type II partnership launches. Joining this partnership were the governments of Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, and Niger, UNESCO, and thirteen NGOs. The Summit acknowledged these partnerships as key to the successful realization of sustainable development and as part of the formal outcomes of the Summit.

"A working meeting of partners held at the end of June 2003 in Urbino, Italy, formulated an Action Plan for the partnership initiative. While currently no funding exists for the full implementation of the Action Plan, a funding proposal has been developed and partners are using, as possible, their existing resources to work toward implementation."

State Government Intervention



The main speakers' podium from where 8 heads of state expressed their support to the Earth Charter.

Eight heads of states, or their representatives, included the Earth Charter in their official intervention in the following way:

Costa Rica: "Our aspiration is to bring an ethical and humanistic perspective to economic development. Later this month in Costa Rica, we will submit for the consideration of our Congress a Constitutional Chapter on Environmental Guarantees that includes the fundamental principles of the Earth Charter."

Dominican Republic: "As is evident, our commitment to sustainable development is a practical and real commitment, practiced every day and supported by an ethical conception of development. It is for this reason that we also want to state that the Dominican Republic supports the principles established in the Earth Charter that put people and the natural environment ahead of short-term economic interests."

Jamaica: "Jamaica supports the guiding principles of the Earth Charter as a framework for sustainable development. We affirm the wisdom that, for sustainable development to be realized, it must be pursued within a framework of true partnership in decision-making and action among all stakeholders."

Jordan: "As we strive through our collective efforts to reduce the disparities between countries, and enhance inclusiveness and equality, we would do well to draw on the ethical vision of the Earth Charter. It is a vision that seeks to inspire all peoples with a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well being of the human family and the larger living world. In our struggle to bring forth a sustainable global society, we must use this code of conduct as a common standard by which our actions are to be guided and assessed."

Mexico: "Mexico supports the Earth Charter, which contains fundamental ethical principles for sustainable development, and will disseminate it."

Niger: "Is there a need to recall that we live in a world increasingly interdependent and fragile, in which the future at once holds great worries and great promises? To move forward we must recognize that despite a great diversity of culture, interest and development, we belong to one humanity sharing a common destiny. Given this, Niger supports the Earth Charter which sets forth the fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society."

Romania: "The targets set in Agenda 21, post-Rio conventions, Millennium Declaration, and more recently the Doha Agreements and the Monterrey Consensus provide a sound basis for our renewed commitment to specific action in line with the implementation guidelines to be adopted at this Summit. The proposed Earth Charter further offers a moral underpinning for political action."

The Netherlands: "We should encourage business to make a commitment to accountability not because they have to, but because they want to, inspired by sustainable development. Such inspiration might be drawn from the Earth Charter."

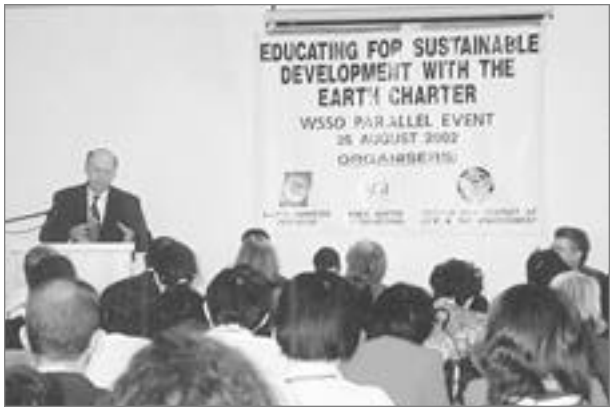
Earth Charter Events at the Summit

Prior to the formal opening of the Summit, the Earth Charter Secretariat organized a day-long meeting of Earth Charter supporters in an effort to plan and coordinate their activities, as well as to offer space for collaborating organizations to present their experiences in working with the Earth Charter. Strategies were developed for promoting the Earth Charter to government delegations, NGO caucuses, and the media. A core group of over twenty-five Earth Charter supporters functioned effectively as a team during the ten days of the Summit.

The Earth Charter was presented at many different events in the course of the Summit, as per list below:

- "The Celebration of the Earth Charter" was one of the most significant events as it brought together a high-level panel of speakers and an audience that included government delegates, NGO representatives, the Minister of Environment of Holland, Earth Charter Commissioners and supporters to celebrate the achievements of the Earth Charter Initiative over the past decade. It served as an opportunity to strengthen the role of the Earth Charter in the search for a more just and sustainable future. Speakers included Secretary General of the Summit, Nitin Desai; Jan Pronk, Kofi Annan's Special Envoy to the Summit; Jane Goodall; Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Minister of the Environment for Costa Rica; Parvez Hassan, former chair of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law; and Earth Charter Commissioner Steven Rockefeller, co-chair of the Earth Charter Steering Committee. Julia Marton-Lefèvre, executive director of LEAD International, chaired the panel of speakers. The event was held on 27 August 2002 at the IUCN Environment Centre in the Summit area.

- At the Ubuntu Village complex, the Earth Charter Initiative Secretariat, in collaboration with the Centre for Respect of Life and Environment, The Australian National University, Florida Gulf Coast University, and Soka Gakkai International held a successful WSSD parallel event on "Educating for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter."



Steven Rockefeller, Co-chair of the Earth Charter Steering Committee, at the Earth Charter event on Education in the Ubuntu Village.

- At the Local Government Parallel event, The International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) organized a special session on "Just and Peaceful Communities," which included several presentations on Earth Charter endorsement initiatives.

- On 1 September the Earth Charter Type II partnership was formally presented and launched in the Sandton Convention Centre where formal governmental sessions where taking place. The event included interventions from the Minister of Environment of Mexico, as well as partners from Bolivia, Japan and Jordan. Earth Charter Commission, Wakako Hironaka also spoke on this occasion.

- Earth Charter Exhibitions - At the UBUNTU Village, Soka Gakkai International (SGI) in partnership with the Earth Council presented a beautifully designed exhibition title "A Quiet Revolution: The Earth Charter and Human Potential." Joan Anderson of SGI reported that roughly 15,000 people attended the exhibition, which won third prize in the "Independent Exhibits" category at the UBUNTU Village. Another Earth

Charter exhibition, sponsored by the Earth Council, was featured in the IUCN Exhibition Hall at its Environment Centre.



Earth Charter Exhibition tent in Ubuntu Village.

The Earth Charter was also presented at:

- An event entitled "Engaging People in Sustainability: future and action orientated discussion on education for sustainable development" organized by the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication.

- A parallel event held in the NASREC Centre entitled, "Education and Values for Sustainable Development," organized by the International Environment Forum.

"I believe that the Earth Charter gives ethical and moral orientations that will help to strengthen the human spirit. Only a person who has self-confidence and is open to friendship and solidarity, can answer the challenges of our time. The Earth Charter opens a new phase not only in ecological movement, but also in the world's public life. We must do everything we can, so that this Charter is accepted exactly as it was designed: a set of vitally important rules."

-Hon. Mikhail Gorbachev,
President of Green Cross International/
Earth Charter Commissioner, Russia

The Ark of Hope – Not Constrained by National Borders



Ark of Hope event at WSSD, Sandton Convention Centre.

Under the leadership of Sally Linder, a group of artists and educators from the United States brought the Ark of Hope to the Johannesburg Summit in an effort to help promote the Earth Charter. The Ark of Hope is a large wooden chest beautifully decorated with images of the planet's cultural and biological diversity, and the Earth Charter is inscribed on papyrus parchment on the inside of its lid. The Ark is filled with prayers, poems, and images expressing the hopes and aspirations of thousands of people.

Supporters of the Earth Charter in the United States walked the Ark of Hope from the state of Vermont to the United Nations in New York City where it was on exhibition during PrepCom II. In Johannesburg, Sally Linder and her colleagues brought the Ark of Hope into the black settlements of Soweto, Zandsprite, and Diepsloot, where they spent over a week sharing with children and young people the vision of the Earth Charter and exploring with them through dialogue and art, hopes and aspirations for the future.

Earth Charter presence in the PrepComs

PrepCom II –January 2002 — New York, USA
Earth Charter Briefing Session

The purpose of this event was to present the Earth Charter to government officials and NGO representatives involved in the preparation of the WSSD and to engage them in a dialogue. This session provided an overview of the Earth Charter and considered the relevance of its widely shared vision of fundamental values on the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The panel had participation from the following Earth Charter Commissioners: Yolanda Kakabadse, Wangari Maathai, Steven Rockefeller and Mohamed Sahnoun. Each participant presented an in-depth vision with different perspectives on the Earth Charter. This was an official Side Event that took place at the UN Headquarters on 29 January.

PrepCom III – April 2002 – New York, USA

An Earth Charter/Earth Council Side Event took place to address the need to deepen and broaden civil society participation in sustainable development policy making. Erna Witoelar, Indonesian National Director for WSSD PrepCom IV and Earth Charter Commissioner, described the Indonesian experience in setting up the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) and the challenge of creating such a multisectoral process under conditions of political crisis. She stressed the fact that political realities can support or ruin sustainable development and underscored the need for an ethical framework, such as the Earth Charter, to be embedded within civil society and government actions.

PrepCom IV - June 2002 – Bali, Indonesia
Earth Charter Activists Working Session (1 – 2 June)

The Earth Charter Secretariat organized a meeting that brought together several organization representatives that collaborate with the Earth Charter Initiative. The aim of this gathering was to offer a space to share perspectives and concerns regarding possible outcomes for the Earth Charter at the Johannesburg Summit, as well as to share their experiences in working with the Earth Charter in different parts of the world.

Earth Charter Cultural Event (2 June)

Over 1,000 people attended the "Earth Charter Cultural Festival" held at the Candra Loka Amphitheatre in Nusa Dua on the evening of 2 June. The event brought together Indonesian artists and singers and served as a wonderful opportunity to promote the Earth Charter. The cultural event was sponsored and organized by Soka Indonesia and Soka Gakkai International (SGI) in cooperation with the Earth Charter Secretariat and Indonesian NGO Kehati.



Singer at the Earth Charter cultural event.

Earth Charter official Side Event (3 June)

Can we achieve sustainability without a common ethical framework? The promise of the Earth Charter .
Cielito Habito, former Minister of State of The Philippines, chaired this Earth Charter Official Side Event at PrepCom IV, held where intergovernmental negotiations were taking place. Participants included Minister Jan Pronk, from The Netherlands, Kamla Chowdhry, Earth Charter Commissioner from India and Alvaro Umaña, head of the Sustainable Development Division of UNDP. A number of government delegates were in the room and expressed interest. A representative from the Romanian Government expressed his government's endorsement of the Earth Charter. Participants highlighted that political debate on ethical issues was lacking in the WSSD process. The event fulfilled its purpose of raising awareness of and support for the Earth Charter.



Alvaro Umaña, Cielito Habito, Jan Pronk and Kamla Chowdhry at the event.

Earth Charter official Side Event (6 June)

This event entitled "Toward a Common vision for Sustainable Development" was organized in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Environment. Minister Jan Pronk (The Netherlands) spoke first, inviting all governments to support the Earth Charter and making a plea to have the Earth Charter discussed among parliamentarians. He was followed by Juan Mayr, former Minister of Environment of Colombia, who was very vocal in the WSSD process in stressing the need for an ethical dimension to be embedded in the political agreements. Then Maurice Strong, co-chair of the Earth Charter Commission, and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal of Jordan offered their contributions by



Picture by Jason Houston.

Jan Pronk, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General.

presenting their perspectives on the importance and the need to have such an instrument as the Earth Charter considered in policy making. Nabiel Makarim, the Indonesian State Minister for Environment, chaired the event.

Earth Charter Exhibition

An Earth Charter exhibition was displayed also in Bali, organized by Soka Gakkai International and the local Soka Indonesian group; all local staff involved did an incredible job in setting up the exhibition and staying throughout the 10 days of the PrepCom on a volunteer basis offering information on the Earth Charter to the exhibition visitors.



Part of the Earth Charter supporter team in front of Soka Gakkai's Earth Charter exhibition in Bali.

References to the Earth Charter in the Preparatory Process

In addition to the PrepComs, which were global formal gatherings bringing together government delegations and NGOs, a significant number of other preparatory events took place in the building up to the Summit. These preparatory events issued a number of documents to contribute to the WSSD process, many of which contained references to the Earth Charter. For example:

The U.N. Secretary-General's Advisory Panel for WSSD.

In the report of this panel's discussions held in February 2002, the panel issued a statement expressing strong support for the Charter and recommending WSSD to consider recognizing the Earth Charter as an important ethical instrument towards sustainability.

The Regional Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean elaborated the "Latin American and Caribbean Ministerial Initiative for Sustainable Development" which states the need for collaborative work on: "construction of a new ethical practice for sustainable development that takes into account the processes developed so far, such as the Earth Charter."

Following is a list of international meetings that produced statements that expressed a specific reference in support of the Earth Charter.

Organized by the United Nations

- Regional Roundtable for East Asia and the Pacific Region
- Regional Roundtable for Central and South Asia
- Asia Pacific High Level Regional Session For WSSD
- African Regional Prep conference for WSSD - Youth statement
- Ministerial Latin American and Caribbean Forum in preparation for WSSD

Organized by other groups

- Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED)
- Pan-European ECO meeting preparing Ministerial Conference
- WSSD Youth Political Declaration issued after PrepCom IV
- Southern NGO Summit Towards Johannesburg and Beyond
- The Earth Dialogues

National Reports

The following national reports, which also served as inputs for the Summit, included references to the Earth Charter:

- National report of Costa Rica
- National report of Honduras
- National report of Tajikistan
- National report of Chile

(The statements and links to all the original texts mentioned above can be found in a full report of the preparatory process placed on the Earth Charter website)

NGO and Local Government Endorsements

During the course of the Summit, a number of groups, NGOs and other organizations affirmed their support for the Earth Charter. Following is a list of these:

- The Statement on Education for Sustainable Development issued on 29 August by representatives of National and Regional Professional Associations for Environmental Education, which has members in 73 countries and all continents.
- The Ubuntu Declaration , issued by eleven of the world's foremost educational and scientific organizations, called for the greening of classroom curricula at all levels and endorsed the Earth Charter.
- The Johannesburg Call endorsed by over 700 mayors, and local community leaders from around the world included a reference to the Earth Charter. This was part of the Local Government conference organized under the leadership of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).
- The Local Government Declaration to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, issued at the closing plenary of the Local Government Session at the Summit, sets forth local government principles and commitments relevant to the goals of the Johannesburg Summit, and includes the Earth Charter.
- The Youth Major Group Statement on Governance, Globalization, Finance, and Trade, issued on 30 August by the Youth Caucus, recommended the Earth Charter as a valid ethical framework.

II. UNESCO

UNESCO adopted a resolution "recognizing the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for sustainable development."

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Building on previous efforts that generated significant political support for the Earth Charter and given the fact that the United Nations General Assembly declared the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development starting in 2005, the Earth Charter International Secretariat approached a number of Earth Charter Commissioners and government representatives to engage them in presenting a Draft Resolution to the UNESCO General Conference in support of the Earth Charter. This effort was undertaken between July and October of 2003.

As a result, the 32nd General Conference of UNESCO, which took place in October 2003, adopted a resolution in support of the Earth Charter "recognizing the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for sustainable development" and acknowledging "its ethical principles, its objectives and its contents, as an expression that coincides with the vision that UNESCO has with regard to their new Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007."

The draft resolution submitted by the government of Jordan and supported by Costa Rica, Honduras and Spain, also affirmed member states' intention "to utilize the Earth Charter as an educational instrument, particularly in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" which begins in 2005. This represents a significant expression of acknowledgement of the importance of the Earth Charter and recognition of it as an important instrument. The Earth Charter Secretariat plans to follow up by seeking close collaboration with UNESCO and member-states toward the implementation of this resolution.

III. The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

The IUCN has been a leader in the development of a focused and well-understood ethical consensus globally about nature. "Caring for the Earth" and "The World Charter for Nature," provide a strong rationale on the need of ethics as essential to achieving the objectives of sustainable development.

Over the decade of the 1990s, the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) played a significant role in the drafting of the Earth Charter. The 2nd World Conservation Congress held in Amman, Jordan in the year 2000, requested members and commissions, in Resolution 2.96, to study the Earth Charter and offer a recommendation to the 3rd Congress regarding its endorsement and use.

Building on these efforts, in early 2003, the IUCN Ethics Specialists Group of the CEL prepared a draft resolution on IUCN endorsement to the Earth Charter, which was presented to the IUCN Council meeting in May 2003. The Draft Resolution, which was accepted by the IUCN Councillors as a policy recommendation will be considered in the 3rd World Conservation Congress in Bangkok in November 2004.

The Earth Charter Initiative, together with key collaborators, will be actively working on the process of getting IUCN members to support the Earth Charter Resolution and also integrate it in IUCN programmes. The Secretariat has been contacting the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication to explore areas of collaboration.

IV. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

As generating political support for the Earth Charter continues to be one of the goals of the Initiative, the Secretariat has been exploring ways to have the Earth Charter play a significant role in the activities undertaken by UNEP. One way to carry that out is by following up on the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, issued by Ministers of Environment of the region, and which has a

reference to the Earth Charter under the need to construct a new ethical base for sustainability. The Secretariat has also started to approach a number of Ministers of Environment requesting them to consider presenting a Draft Decision to UNEP Governing Council. The purpose is to have the UNEP Secretariat and members affirm interest in using the Earth Charter and incorporating it in their different programmes towards environmental education and in UNEP's effort in working with an ethical framework for sustainability.

As a result of the Annual meeting of the European Regional UNEP National Committees held in Geneva, 26 – 28 November 2003, participants submitted a letter to the head of UNEP. Point 7 of said letter stated: "We believe that UNEP should follow the UNESCO example and adopt the Earth Charter. We think it would be a positive step in convincing the others to follow. In our opinion, Earth Charter can play a very important role as an ethical base for sustainable development, particularly for education in this sphere."

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

"Our biggest challenge in this new century is to take an idea that sounds abstract – sustainable development – and turn it into reality for all the world's people."

Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General



Picture by Jason Houston.

A mind is like a sponge.

Overview: The Earth Charter has been endorsed and utilized by educators around the world in various settings including schools, institutions of higher education, community and professional development. Primary and secondary school teachers have found the Earth Charter an inspiring vehicle for engaging students to think positively and creatively about their futures. University educators have found the Earth Charter a useful resource in courses on ethics, the environment, social justice, sustainable development, globalisation, peace education and international relations. Community educators have found that the Earth Charter can raise people's awareness of the global challenges we face, and assist them in evaluating their own situation and deciding on positive courses of action. Undoubtedly, all these different groups have found that the Earth Charter explains the abstract concept of sustainable development by offering concrete principles around which an educational programme can be constructed.

There is a community of educators grappling with questions such as: "What basic values should be at the core of education for sustainability?" or "What are the challenges associated with educating in the 21st century?" Our Education Advisory Committee, which was formed in 2001 with the participation of an international group of leading educators, believes that the Earth Charter offers a unique framework for responding to these queries. The Earth Charter reflects shared values supported by people in many different cultures, religions and societies from around the world. This section of the report offers an overview of the Initiative Education Programme's activities as well as some examples of the remarkable actions inspired by the Earth Charter's vision.

Earth Charter Education Philosophy

The Earth Charter Education Programme works from the understanding that cultural, economic and political change is necessary to advance the sustainability agenda. The programme recognizes the educational importance of articulating the implicit values of sustainable development.

A growing number of organizations, governments, and individuals recognize that the Earth Charter is a valuable educational resource for the necessary reorientation of educational curricula. In order to advance this process and ensure that the Earth Charter plays a more effective role in the educational field, the Earth Charter Secretariat facilitated a dialogue, over the past two years, among experts in education, including our Education Advisory Committee. This collaborative effort was instrumental in elaborating the Earth Charter education philosophy, suggested pedagogies for working with the Charter, and in identifying the main activities on which the programme should concentrate.

"What can we do to live more simply, so that others can simply live?

How can you bring this above message to students who are growing up in a consumer-oriented, materialistic world, in which your very identity is defined not by who you are but by what you wear, the house you live in, the car you drive, the holidays you take. What is it that lies behind this absolute warping of moral values? Perhaps teachers have been trying too hard to be neutral and objective, because in education we have been taught that is the professionally ethical thing to do."

Taken from John Fien's series of breakfast addresses, 'Leadership and Management in Education'. http://www.griffith.edu.au/school/ctl/clme

Earth Charter Pedagogies

The following unique themes and perspectives can provide focus for developing new educational materials for learners: to know what the critical challenges and choices are; to feel a sense of universal responsibility; to recognize that there are differentiated responsibilities because of the wide economic and development gaps among people; to see the interdependence of social, economic and environmental domains; to value partnerships; to recognize the importance of ecological integrity, social and economic justice, and democracy and non-violence in order to advance sustainability.

Despite this broad philosophical and pedagogical outline, the Education Advisory Committee suggested that it is neither possible nor advisable for the International Secretariat to produce a single, generic set of instructional materials with which to "teach" the Earth Charter. Instead, the Education Programme is committed to supporting the development of materials appropriate to different educational settings and to working with the growing network of educators who currently use the Earth Charter in their teaching and learning programmes and activities.

The practice of Earth Charter pedagogy involves:

- *Open, participatory and inclusive education processes*
- *Shared resources and materials*
- *Experiential learning activities*
- *Holistic learning*
- *Transdisciplinarity*



This gym class relies on recycled materials.

Strategy and Main Activities

The Education Programme works with the conviction that both top-down strategies and grassroots efforts are necessary to bring about the necessary transformations in the educational field. The Programme aims to develop and incorporate into educational systems a holistic educational pedagogy based on the Earth Charter with learning materials to support its implementation.

The main activities of the Education Programme are to:

a) Follow up with educational organizations that have endorsed the Earth Charter, engaging them in the further work of incorporating its values and principles into their teaching programmes and activities;

b) Seek and strengthen collaboration with educational institutions towards the common goal of advancing education for sustainable development with the Earth Charter;

c) Elaborate, in collaboration with others, an Earth Charter Education Guidebook;

d) Continue to improve the Earth Charter Online Education database with the goal of turning it into an Online Education Resource Centre;

e) Collaborate with educators who are making use of the Earth Charter in a variety of settings and document their work as case studies or living examples for other educators;

f) Nurture and reinforce communication with interested educators, toward developing an informal global Earth Charter Educators' Network.

The following is an outline of the main streams of activity the Education Programme undertook in 2003:

Collaboration with Educational Institutions

The International Secretariat is collaborating closely with a number of educational organizations to encourage the use of the Earth Charter as an educational tool, and to find areas of synergy and mutual support. Much of this activity was follow-up to the Earth Charter partnership Action Plan that was developed during a meeting held in Urbino, Italy in June 2003. The Action Plan set priority activities as well as mechanisms of coordination and implementation. It also helped to clarify lead organizations for specific activities. The Secretariat began to seek funding to ensure implementation of this global partnership and to enable partner organizations to have an ongoing commitment to move forward with the Action Plan.



The people and the place where the Action Plan was developed.

"An integrated vision of the different challenges that we face would help to guide us towards a better future... One of our biggest challenges now is to come to a better understanding of the inter-relationship of the various components needed to ensure a more just and peaceful world."

- Dr. Ruud Lubbers, Earth Charter Commissioner, The Netherlands

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the Earth Charter

In December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring 2005 the beginning of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. National governments, relevant international organisations and NGOs were asked to consider their contributions to the Decade, and UNESCO was designated the lead agency in this endeavour. The Earth Charter International Secretariat submitted a document recommending that UNESCO use the Earth Charter as an educational instrument and an ethical framework for the Decade.

Moreover, pursuant to the UNESCO resolution in support of the Earth Charter, the Secretariat began to explore efforts to build on its momentum and identify areas of collaboration with governments and educational institutions.

Online Educators' Discussion Forum



In December 2003, responding to the need to further elaborate and shape the Education Programme's activities, the Secretariat hosted an Online Forum focused on "The Earth Charter as an Educational Framework for Teaching and Learning about Sustainable Development." The Forum brought together 120 registered participants from around the world to share perspectives and experiences of utilizing the Earth Charter as an educational tool.

During the two-week forum, participants posted over 200 messages, offering comments, insights and advice for the Education Programme. A summary document capturing the richness of these discussions can be viewed on the Earth Charter website. The synthesis of these discussions, which builds upon the first online discussion in 2001 involving just the members of the Earth Charter Education Advisory Committee, will be used to guide the actions of the Education Programme in 2004.

Earth Charter Education Guidebook

Despite the sentiment of some members of our Education Advisory Committee that, "In the hands of a good educator, the Earth Charter is its own best resource," the Secretariat received numerous requests indicating the need for an *Earth Charter Education Guidebook* and resource materials. In late 2003, the Secretariat developed an outline and work-plan for the development of the *Guidebook*. Education experts are being consulted on issues of content, form, choice of target audiences, and potential funding sources for the development and production of the *Guidebook*.

The concept of the *Guidebook* is a user-friendly resource that aims to facilitate the educational implementation of the Earth Charter at different educational levels. It would include an introduction to Education for Sustainable Development, the philosophy and pedagogies for teaching with the Earth Charter, living examples of the Earth Charter in action, and suggestions for implementation at various different levels.



Inspired by the Earth Charter.

Highlights from collaborating organizations [1]

Educational Tools for All

"Where we all Belong" CD by Raffi, Canada



CD cover.

In the summer of 2003, Raffi, a famous Canadian children's troubadour, launched a music CD inspired by the Earth Charter. *Where We All Belong* invokes the power of music to help promote the Earth Charter message. It contains three beautiful songs inviting people to celebrate life. The songs convey the inclusive vision of the Earth as an abundant home, "a circle where we all belong." The CD is helping to promote the Earth Charter and it is also an excellent learning tool for students. It is giving an opportunity for diverse groups to share the Earth Charter with their membership and is already being used in many different educational spheres, from elementary schools in the Balearic Islands, Spain to St. Thomas University, USA. For more information, please visit: *http://www.raffinews.com*

"We translated Raffi's song to Catalan and sang it in our class."

Guillem Ramis, school teacher

UNESCO - Multimedia Teacher Education Programme, International

As part of its programme, "Educating for a Sustainable Future," UNESCO led the development of a multimedia teacher education programme entitled *Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future*. In 2002, a third version of this online module was launched. The programme contains 100-hours of professional development modules for teachers, curriculum developers, education policy makers, and authors of educational materials. It provides a valuable overview of the holistic and interdisciplinary concept of sustainability, its implications for teaching across the curriculum, its emphasis on values and ethics, and teaching methods that can be used for such subjects. The multimedia format of these modules means that they can be used by teachers either independently or in small self-study groups – even in isolated locations – thus avoiding traditional barriers of access to training and new information. This material includes a substantial section on the Earth Charter and also suggests ways to be involved in the Earth Charter process. It is available at: *http://www.unesco.org/education/tlsf/*



UNESCO's Multimedia Teacher Education Programme website.

[1] These highlights are by no means an exhaustive listing of institutional and individual works utilizing the Earth Charter.

Additional Resources for All

Resource	Brief Description	Organizations - website
Earth Charter Online Database	The database brings together educational materials that have been developed in different parts of the world using the Earth Charter as a guiding framework. The resources have been classified by educational level.	Earth Charter Initiative This resource can be accessed at: http://www.earthcharter.org/resources
Synthesis Document	The document articulates why the Earth Charter represents a unique framework for a values education programme, and discusses some of the main priorities and challenges of the Earth Charter Education Programme.	Earth Charter Initiative It can be accessed from: http://www.earthcharter.org/resources and then going to any educational level link.
CD/DVD on Earth Charter Principles	This project was launched in 2003 The CD/DVD's main purpose will be to increase awareness of the Earth Charter and its principles through songs reflecting one or more of the principles of the Charter. Free worldwide distribution is planned before the end of 2004.	Pour La Terre, France For more information contact: Nicole Redner, Pourlaterre@hotmail.com
Earth Charter CD-Rom	This Earth Charter CD-Rom has the purpose to serve as an Italian educational resource and raise awareness of the notion of sustainable development. For more information, please see: http://www.cartadellaterra.it	Pronatura, Italy: For more information, please see http://www.cartadellaterra.it

"There is no way out of poverty and no possibility to build the road to Sustainable Development without education. Access to formal basic and high-level education and to information is a priority."

- Yolanda Kakabadse, Earth Charter Commissioner, Ecuador

Primary/Secondary Education

Vivim Plegats (Living Together) Programme, Spain

This multicultural education programme for peace and cooperation was established in 2000 by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Department of Social Welfare of the Balearic Islands, in collaboration with the local offices of UNICEF and UNESCO and other public and private entities.



An intercultural presentation has the childrens' full attention.

The programme Vivim Plegats (Living Together) seeks to promote understanding, tolerance, peace, and cooperation. It was initiated to counter racism and xenophobia in the Balearic Islands in response to the arrival of new immigrant populations from Northern European, African and American countries.

The Programme has been implemented at all educational levels, but it is most active in elementary schools. During the last three years, over 76 schools in the Balearic Islands have put into practice the principles of the Earth Charter, with students working on themes related to multiculturalism, education for peace, and cooperation. A team of teachers developed a methodology to bring to the students an understanding of the values of the Earth Charter and to incorporate them into the curriculum.

The ideological base of Vivim Plegats stresses the knowledge and practice of human rights. For this reason, the programme uses the texts of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Earth Charter to foster a broader vision of human rights. Pedagogic materials have been edited for this programme, including adaptations of the Earth Charter for children and youth. These adaptations have been translated into a number of languages including Catalan, Spanish, Gallego, Euskara (Four languages of Spain), French, English, Russian, Portuguese, Greek, Japanese, German and Arabic to facilitate multicultural work; in this way, students study the text in Catalan at school and then share with their families the same text in their own language. Another priority has been to work with the communities in which the schools are located.

An 11-page detailed description of the Vivim Plegats programme can be found in the Earth Charter Education Database along with Earth Charter adaptations for youth and children. For more information visit: *http://www.earthcharter.org/resources*

Secondary School Experience in Aguascalientes, Mexico

The "Educating for sustainable development with the Earth Charter" programme was initiated and



Students and teachers of the school of Aguascalientes during an Earth Charter activity.

is being carried out by two teachers, Gina Ramírez and Ana Lilia Martínez, in the Secondary General School No.15 of Aguascalientes.

First, a curricular proposal was drafted using the main principles of the Earth Charter, with the purpose of stimulating a change in attitudes among the students and community. The goal was to turn them into agents for change, to cultivate a deep sense of caring for the Earth and the larger living world, and to generate a sense of responsibility to protect the environment.

The school board accepted the proposal and agreed that engaging the whole school community in this process would ensure an integrated understanding and commitment to the Earth Charter vision. Before the school year began, educational, administrative and support personnel attended a workshop about the Earth Charter, its history, content, and how it relates to their work. Teachers were encouraged to relate lesson topics with the principles of the Earth Charter. Both teachers and students learned to adopt an active and participatory role in working towards solutions to community problems.

Given the success of this Earth Charter-based education programme, the founding teachers have planned to share their experience and spread the Charter and their methodology to other schools in the Morelia and Zacatecas regions.
For more information, please *e-mail: Gina Ramírez at ginamireya@yahoo.com*

Bringing the Earth Charter to Primary Schools, France

The Earth Charter has been utilized as a pedagogical instrument in the work of the French organization *Actions Pour Une Charte de la Terre*, which involves schools in different regions of France. These learning workshops with primary school children were organized under the theme "I will do something for my planet." In November 2003, the organization coordinated three-day workshops for 150 students and teachers in Paris. The workshops concluded with the decision to develop a pedagogical kit on the Earth Charter, produce an Earth Charter song, and create a French Earth Charter website.



Students from one of the participating schools.

In addition, *Foundation of France* agreed to provide seed funds for *Action Pour Une Charte de la Terre* to further their work linking education, art and the Earth Charter. It involved the preparation of teacher-training materials for the Centre of Education and the Protection of the Environment in Auvergne, France. For more information, please e-mail Josianne Troillet at *anne.trollier@free.fr*

The Brink Expedition, Global

The Brink Expedition, an Australian initiative that began in May 2003, is a way to take positive social and environmental messages around the world. The Expedition is travelling through 30 countries using human power and the natural elements. The aim of the Brink Expedition has been to bring social and environmental issues into mainstream awareness – through technology (internet), media (radio, documentary), schools (curriculum) and sport (cricket).



As the Brink Expedition team visits a community, they communicate with those residents the message of the Earth Charter and spend time in schools to discuss the Earth Charter and the sustainable development Brink hotspots. All schools registering with the Brink School Room receive a School Pack, containing the Earth Charter, a children's adaptation of the Earth Charter and the UNESCO CD Rom – *Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future* as well as other Brink materials. The School Room of the Brink website currently includes 45 schools from Australia, Venezuela, Chile, Argentina and Brazil. These are schools that are either following the Brink Expedition through journals, studying the Brink Curriculum materials that are available online, or communicating with other schools. The first Curriculum Module – "The Brink Expedition and the Earth Charter," explores the Earth Charter and outlines the understanding that the Expedition itself is an example of the Earth Charter in action.



The story of the Brink Expedition has made its way to television, radio and newspapers in Australia. People otherwise uninformed have gained exposure to social and environmental issues because they have been attracted to the adventure of the Expedition. For more information, please visit *http://www.brinkx.org*

Ministryof Education - Costa Rica

The Costa Rican Ministry of Education has incorporated the core principles of the Earth Charter into the transversal curriculum themes for primary and secondary schools under the "Environmental Culture for Sustainable Development" effort. Programme implementation is underway and includes a consultation in which members of the Costa Rican Earth Charter Group gave input on the Government's proposals. This effort to integrate the core values of the Earth Charter into mainstream curriculum on a national level, led by the Ministry but in consultation with key stakeholders, is a model example of the Earth Charter Education Programme as catalyst to curricular reform.

As the Secretariat is located in Costa Rica, there is special interest to have the Earth Charter rooted in the Costa Rican educational system. The Secretariat has called for the collaborative efforts of the Costa Rican Ministry of Education, The Costa Rican National University and the Ministry of Environment in a joint project to produce educational materials based on the Earth Charter for primary and secondary schools. The Ministry of Education previously expressed the intention to work on this project but needed support as well as financial assistance, which has yet to be secured. Planning is underway to develop these materials over the course of 2004 and launch them at the beginning of the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development in 2005.

Higher Education

University for Peace, Costa Rica



University for Peace campus in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The University for Peace (UPEACE) was established in 1980 "with a clear determination to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace." From its headquarters in Costa Rica, UPEACE carries out peace education and research.

The "Introduction to Peace Studies" course, part of the core curriculum of the University, introduces students to the field of peace studies as an integrated, interdisciplinary area of research. As part of that course a 3-hour session is devoted to the Earth Charter with the goal of introducing it as a document, a process, and a tool. In 2002, the Earth Charter Secretariat collaborated with UPEACE professors in putting together this class and offering specific exercises that engaged students in using the Earth Charter as an instrument or a catalyst for multi-sectoral, cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue on global ethics.

In another initiative at UPEACE led by Professor Abelardo Brenes, the Earth Charter has been used as a reference for the development of a Master's Degree programme in Peace Education with a focus on training education policy makers and teachers.

The programme is geared to professionals in formal education who are working or would be interested in working in the development of peace education programs, particularly in the context of countries and regions experiencing conflict and development challenges. The preamble of the Earth Charter was used to articulate the learning goals of the program.

"The Earth Charter is also incorporated into the structure of one of the programme's courses 'Sustainable Development Education'. Its overall purpose is to develop a sound understanding of the relationships among worldwide economic development trends, environmental constraints and conflicts, and potential avenues for constructing a more peaceful and sustainable world economic order. This serves as a framework for considering the role of education in preventing and managing conflict through the promotion of sustainable development policies and lifestyles."

For more information, please see http://www.upeace.org

University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, Global Initiative

The mission of the association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (ULSF) is to make sustainability a major focus of teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities worldwide.

ULSF uses the Earth Charter as a key document in its programmes and partners with the Earth Charter Initiative on a range of activities. ULSF is also a partner of the *Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership* (GHESP), an effort to mobilize higher education institutions to support sustainable development teaching. Together the partners represent over 1000 universities committed to making sustainability a central focus of their teaching and institutional practice. From its founding, GHESP has used the Earth Charter as an inspiration and framework for its programmatic planning and is developing resource materials for teaching sustainable development in higher education of which the Earth Charter plays a central role. For more information, please see *http://www.ulsf.org*

> *"The Earth Charter is not a sacred writ, not something that we want simply people to sign on to. We want them to use it as a tool, to examine their own spiritual, ethical and moral motivational structures, to see how these can apply in practical ways to their own life, to the institutions they serve, to the governments and to international organizations."*
>
> **-Hon. Maurice Strong, Earth Charter Commissioner, Canada**

Michigan State University - USA[2]

In spring 2002, Professors Terry Link and Laurie Thorp of the Department of Resource Development, taught a course entitled *Earth Charter: Pathway to a Sustainable Future?* This course focused on the Earth Charter document as a vehicle for personal, institutional, community, national and global transformation. The professors designed the course as an alternative model for students, both in terms of pedagogical approach and learning assessment.

The class met twice a week for 80 minutes. In the first session of the week a featured speaker or group of speakers addressed a specific principle of the Earth Charter and were asked to provide short recommended readings. The second session was a discussion based upon the readings and presentation of the first session. Each student was required to participate in a semester-long project of engagement with the Earth Charter and their community. The project was documented through the compilation of a praxis portfolio.

Students chose their own projects and were encouraged to find areas in which they were passionate or deeply curious about. Projects included school gardens, literacy programs, underprivileged tutoring programs, green building standards, recycling lists, performance with a international dance for peace effort, and so on. Students learned about themselves and the complexities of life in a much deeper fashion than in the typical classroom experience. The use of various media presentations was also an important feature.

[2] Based on the Syllabus and Course Review by Terry Link and Laurie Thorp.

Both the 5-page syllabus and course review (which details course design, evaluation and operation) are available on the Tertiary Education section of the Earth Charter Education Database at *http://www.earthcharter.org/resources*

Florida Gulf Coast University, USA

The Earth Charter has been adopted in several courses and programmes at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). "The University Colloquium: A Sustainable Future," for example uses the Earth Charter. This course is a graduation requirement in all five colleges of the University.

The Charter is also used in English composition classes and in the Learning Academy – an academic community-building programme for new students. Professor James Wohlpart relies on the Earth Charter when he introduces sustainability as an organizing principle into his English courses. The undergraduate programme in English is currently under revision to include an emphasis on humans' relationship to the environment, a focus that will also be key to the new Master's programme in English. Students in these courses are asked to consider ways in which culture creates narratives that provide meaning in life and the way in which sustainability functions as a twenty-first century narrative. In an environmental literature course taught by Professors Wohlpart and Peter Blaze Corcoran, former Colloquium Coordinator, students are introduced to the Earth Charter as a new approach to global ethics and sustainability. In Professor Corcoran's environmental education course, the Earth Charter is the focus of education for sustainable development.

In late 2003, FGCU received the approval to establish a Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education. The Earth Charter will be used as inspiration in reconceptualizing environmental education. The Center will work with the Secretariat in Costa Rica on specific projects including teacher education related to the Charter.

Federal University of Mato Grosso, Brazil

The Federal University of Mato Grosso in Brazil has been using the Earth Charter in a number of different areas. In November 2003, the University organized a seminar on Environmental Education involving over 500 participants, with the Earth Charter as a central document and theme. The event, which took place in Mato Grosso from 6 to 8 November, was televised throughout Brazil.

The University is developing formative courses, for public schools teachers, to explore implementation of the Earth Charter within school curriculum and political and pedagogical projects. The State Secretariat of Education of Mato Grosso collaborates with the University working towards building new socio-cultural paradigms of behaviour that reaffirm the principles of sustainable development.
They have used the Charter in various regional seminars and meetings, teacher training courses, and in community education.
For more information please see: *http://www.ufmt.br/remtea/*

"In the Earth Charter, besides scientific, technological and economic directions, you will also find there is a running thread of spirituality, of peace and non-violence, of the need for compassion for others. The Earth Charter pleads for a new vision, a vision that recognizes that we are all one human family with a common destiny in spite of different social, cultural and biological diversity."

-Dr. Kamla Chowdhry, Earth Charter Commissioner, India

Saint Thomas University, USA

Two-thirds of all ethics courses taught at St. Thomas include the Earth Charter as a required theme and reading. Professors Elisabeth Ferrero and Joe Holland have co-authored a 100-page handbook entitled *The Earth Charter: A Study Book of Reflection for Action* (see section "Educational Tools for All")

In Professor Ferrero's classes, students apply Earth Charter principles by doing organic gardening and documenting their experiences and reflections via journals, reflection papers, etc. In 2003, the University partnered with a local NGO, Florida Yards Neighbours, in a field course involving students and community residents in organic gardening and zero landscaping. According to the organizers, the project was successful and will be repeated every spring semester. Beyond multimedia presentations of their work, students are also asked to reflect on the content of the Earth Charter as part of the course. For more information, please e-mail Elisabeth Ferrero at *eferrero@stu.edu*

Non-formal Education

The Paulo Freire Institute, Brazil

The Paulo Freire Institute (IPF) recognizes the Charter's potential as a powerful tool to inspire positive change in individuals and communities. In its last 10 years of involvement in the Earth Charter movement, IPF organized and participated in many national and international gatherings to promote the Earth Charter's values and developed a new eco-pedagogy based on the Earth Charter.

In the IPF "JOVemPAZ" project (the Youth Peace Project), social educators are trained to generate school and community activities that focus on the development of a culture of peace and sustainability. The Earth Charter serves as a key element in this training, to encourage reflection on how a change in lifestyle can contribute to social change and the common good. In 2002- 2003, over 200 educators were trained through this project in three regions of Sao Paulo.

The Citizen School Project which involves some 150 schools in Sao Paulo, works to develop and improve relationships among members of the school community—parents, teachers, students and administrators. The project invites schools to develop democratic management practices including participatory development and evaluation of the school curriculum. Schools are invited and conducted to utilize the Earth Charter as a project guide.

In IPF's literacy projects, the Earth Charter is utilized as a document to teach sustainability. "It is useful not only for environmental education but as a guide to all our curricula," says Moacir Gadotti, Director-General of IPF. For more information, please see: *http://www.paulofreire.org*



"The Earth Charter is useful not only for environmental education but as a guide to all our curricula."

Moacir Gadotti, Director General, Paulo Freire Institute

Earth Scouts, USA

Organized by the Institute for Ethics and Meaning, the Earth Scouts was developed as an outgrowth of the Earth Charter Community Summits hosted in the U.S. It is open to all youth and adults.

The mission of the Earth Scouts is to empower youth to "change the world one fun badge at a time," through learning about the Earth Charter, and participating in fun activities that will benefit themselves and the earth community.

"Trailblazer" groups are developing programme and badge templates for children and youth from ages 3 to 13. Similar to other scouting organizations, Earth Scouts will be working towards earning badges. In each age group, there is one badge for each Earth Charter principle. Badges prescribe specific steps for youth to follow. Youth will be given age-appropriate guidance and support in designing their own requirements for fulfilling the badge steps.

The process of earning a badge is based on the 'Learn, Show, Do' model often used in cooperative learning environments. First, the scout will learn the principle through research, answering guided questions, interviews, fieldtrips, etc. Second, the scout will demonstrate their knowledge of the principle by sharing it with their Earth Scout group. Finally, the scout will participate in an activity that exemplifies the principle. More information can be found at *http://www.earthscouts.org*

Earth Scout Programme Objectives:

- *to sensitize the youth about the fragility of the planet and its people*
- *to help youth become adults who raise their voices against war, hunger, injustice, and environmental destruction*
- *to help youth grow into a generation of stewards who work for change and live their lives according to the principles of the Earth Charter.*

NAIA (Nucleus of Friends of the Childhood and Adolescence), Brazil

Teachers and popular educators, who act in the sphere of formal education, looking for ways to organize alternative educational spaces to address themes not normally addressed in formal education, formed NAIA. In that search for an educational space for liberation, reflection, and action, they found in the Earth Charter a document that contains the fundamental values in the formation of eco-citizens, who respect themselves, others and the environment. With that, they also hosted a 3000-person event within the World Education Forum, entitled "Living Together: to Know and to Live the Earth Charter" held in January 2003 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.



Site for the fórumZINHO.

NAIA works with the Earth Charter to allow children to have a voice in their own future through proposing actions be accomplished in schools, communities, and global events related to the environment, human rights and ethical values. The goal is to help foster attitudes, habits and related values for a sustainable and peaceful global society.

In addition, and for the second year in a row, NAIA organized a parallel event to the 2003 World Social Forum, entitled 'FórumZINHO' (Forum for Children). The event was marked by the free distribution of an illustrated booklet with an adaptation in Portuguese of the Earth Charter for Children, developed by NAIA. This booklet was developed to offer key Earth Charter messages to children. NAIA plans to carry on its on-going contribution to the formation and awareness raise of children and youth.
For more information, please see:
http://www.forumzinho.org.br/

Seeds of Change Exhibition, Soka Gakkai International



Soka Gakkai International (SGI) is a lay Buddhist association headquartered in Japan, with 12 million members in 185 countries and with a strong tradition of social engagement. It is also an NGO actively promoting peace, culture, environmental awareness and education. Its members are encouraged to contribute to their local communities and work for change.

In 2002, SGI, in collaboration with the Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat, produced an Earth Charter exhibition entitled "Seeds of Change: The Earth Charter and Human Potential," which was first launched at the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development.

The exhibition describes the need for sustainable development and introduces the positive vision of the Earth Charter. It presents individual experiences from India, Costa Rica and Kenya, showing how personal commitment can make a difference when acting to solve local environmental problems such as deforestation and water shortage. The exhibition highlights the Earth Charter as a "map" showing the way towards a sustainable lifestyle.



During the Johannesburg Summit, the video "A Quiet Revolution" complemented the exhibition strengthening the message that "empowered individuals can change the world." The accompanying

video was later broadcast internationally by National Geographic.

Since then, SGI has taken the "Seeds of Change" exhibition to different parts of the world in order to promote public awareness of the Earth Charter and stimulate discussion about the Charter's educational potential. The exhibition is being produced in many languages, so it can be mounted in regional venues where there is the greatest need for grass roots education and information activities. To date, the exhibition has been translated into French, Italian, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese. The English version can be downloaded from the Earth Charter website.

Following is an overview of the itinerary of the exhibition in 2003:

- In May, SGI-United Kingdom opened the "Seeds of Change—the Earth Charter and Human Potential" exhibition to the public at its Taplow Court centre.
- In June, the exhibition was held in Urbino, Italy, at the Earth Charter in Action Conference.
- In October, SGI-Canada showed the exhibition at a celebration held at the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre, entitled "The World is yours to Change," which was attended by 700 people. The programme featured dance from different cultures, drumming and songs.
- In October, a Chinese-language version of the exhibition opened in some 120 locations throughout Taiwan. The exhibition, with its theme of individual empowerment, formed a central element of Taiwan Soka Association's "Community Friendship Cultural Festivals." The aim of the festivals was to promote friendship and energize local communities. Screenings of "A Quiet Revolution" were held together with showings of the exhibition.
- In November, the exhibition together with the screening of "A Quiet Revolution" featured in an event held in Nantes, France and which brought together 230 participants.

Further showings of "Seeds of Change" are slated for venues in the U.S., South America, Asia and Europe in 2004. For more information, please see *http://www.sgi.org*



Joan Anderson and Rick Clugston have both been seeds of many changes.

Earth Education Academy, Denmark

The Earth Education Academy seeks to develop, offer and host-learning programmes to assist learners in acquiring the vision, values and skills needed for regenerative care of Earth. The Academy aims to train teachers and educators in community-based learning which draws on the concept of lifelong learning for sustainability by situating local and region-specific needs within teaching and learning programmes. The Earth Charter is incorporated in their courses and projects.

The Academy is involved in projects in Nepal, China, Ghana and Romania to assist in creating community-based training and capacity-building opportunities that help people live in and develop their communities in sustainable ways. Earth Education Academy draws on a visionary and highly qualified interdisciplinary teaching-team and a number of new-thinking and pioneering practitioners and is part of the global Earth Charter. For more information, please contact Jesper Saxgren at e-mail: *sax@baaringhoejskole.dk*

Educational activities with the Earth Charter, Mexico

Through its new Civic and Ethical Foundation programme, the Ministry of Public Education introduced the Earth Charter as an educational theme for primary and secondary school levels. Teacher training courses and companion instructional materials are being planned for next year. (see Primary/Secondary education – School of Aguascalientes example).

Since 2000, the Network of Environmental Educators in Michoacan prioritised their activities around the Earth Charter. In 2002, the Network launched youth, adults, and a yearlong workshop for teachers at the Centro Educativo Morelia. They also introduced the Earth Charter as a didactic tool at the University of Vasco de Quiroga and the University of Morelia. They have developed a youth and adult training programme on utilizing the Earth Charter and a pilot project of companion materials and exercises. In 2003, the Network continued their educational workshops and added a training class for Montessori teachers.

Mateo Castillo Ceja, President of the Ecology State Council for the State of Michoacán, has been instrumental in Mexico's activities with the Earth Charter.

Individual Efforts

The above highlights from our network represent organizational efforts of working with the Earth Charter. It presents selected examples of how the Earth Charter is being implemented and is not an exhaustive list. In actual fact, the Earth Charter is being used as an educational resource by so many organizations in varied settings that we are not able to keep track of its usage.

In addition to these, a number of dedicated individuals have been working with the Earth Charter as an educational tool. A few people who have been collaborating closely with the International Secretariat on the development of materials include Guillem Ramis from Spain, Stephanie Tansey, currently based in Ashgabat, Karine Danielyan from Armenia, Gwen Hallsmith from Vermont, USA, Patricia Morales, based in Holland, and Valerie Brown, in Australia. Their materials can be accessed from the Education Database, at: *www.earthcharter.org/resources*

Looking Ahead

The year 2004 holds tremendous opportunity for the Earth Charter Education Programme as it is the year leading up to the launch of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. While the Decade may not yet have attained high visibility in all circles, a growing number of schools, universities, non-formal educational organizations, local and national governments, and multilateral agencies will be undertaking projects for the Decade, and even more can be motivated to do so.

The Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat envisions to not only continue to act as a catalyzing agent, working with our partners in coordinated action towards the Decade, but we also plan to help develop new resources to allow our network to realize the Earth Charter's educational potential. Within this context, the Education Programme will be expanding its database project into an Online Resource Centre and will develop an Earth Charter Educators Guidebook in response to many requests.

Words from Louise Erbacher, Brink Expedition Coordinator and schoolteacher, Australia

"Having always been interested in social and environmental issues, it has always been a difficult task for me to divide my time and energy between the two main fields. When I first heard about the Earth Charter in November 2001, I was overwhelmed to realise that there was something out there, supported by people all around the world, that connected all the issues and pointed out the need for interdependence, cooperation and understanding in order to reach solutions to those issues. Hearing all the personal stories, during the Asia Pacific Earth Charter Conference in Brisbane in 2001, gave me a very real opportunity to see that the Earth Charter was not just a flat document with a series of vague principles. Instead, it was a living document that inspired people to take action on so many different levels.

Working in the field of education, I am also continually searching for ways to encourage my students to become more aware of the world around them and for them to understand that they have a role to play in the future. The Earth Charter is a very valuable tool that helps people to see that we are all part of a much bigger picture and we all need to work together."

LOCAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

"Local Governments implementing sustainable development are determined to enter a decade of accelerated, effective action to create sustainable communities and protect the global common goods… We call upon national governments to recognise local government as a vital sphere of government that is the most visible face of the developmental state."

The Local Authorities Johannesburg Call, ICLEI

Overview: Of great importance to the Earth Charter Initiative is the need to make the concept of sustainable development accessible to local communities and to operationalize principles of sustainability through local government programmes, planning and activities. Local communities and governments are where the consequences of national and state policies and programmes are most felt. It is also where individual actors can be most involved and influential.

In this context, the Initiative aims to have Earth Charter principles incorporated as a guide for sustainability planning and assessment in the Local Communities and has taken up the task to first promote awareness and endorsement of the Earth Charter by local authorities. Much of this work has been done with the support of key organizations such as the Local Governments Association for Sustainability (ICLEI) and Fundación Deyna in Spain. Since 2000, for example, ICLEI has promoted the Earth Charter within its membership and encouraged public debate, adoption and use of the Earth Charter.

Since 2000, nearly 400 local authorities worldwide have endorsed the Earth Charter. In addition, endorsements have come from organizations that represent large numbers of municipalities such as: ICLEI, mentioned above; the Catalonia Network of over 100 municipalities, created by the Government of Barcelona; the Florida League of Cities; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which draws its membership from 1,183 cities with populations over 30,000. In Jordan, all 99-city governments have endorsed the Earth Charter. In Spain, the provincial government of Soria has a) worked to make the Earth Charter a guide for its planning initiatives; b) promoted the Earth Charter to all municipal governments in the province; and c) made a commitment to establish the Soria World Forum for Sustainability.

The present challenge for the Local Community Programme is to help local governments that have formally endorsed the Earth Charter to move forward in the process of realizing their commitment to incorporate the Earth Charter in their mechanisms for planning and operations. Efforts must be made also to assist, guide and train community actors and leaders in their parallel process of utilizing the Earth Charter as a framework for community visioning, planning, project implementation and evaluation. The Secretariat, in collaboration with organizations and field experts, seeks ways to encourage these processes, which require not only a considerable commitment on the part of the municipality but also the dedication of financial resources.

Local Community Advisory Group

In early 2003, the Secretariat called for recommendations from those who had been involved either in the Earth Charter Initiative or in the work of the Local Communities Programme on establishing programme priorities, strategies and actions. The group,

named the Earth Charter Local Communities Advisory PaneL (LOCAL Committee), helped to clarify that the programme's mission should be "to further encourage the endorsement and implementation of the Earth Charter at the local community level, in coordination with the other activities of the Earth Charter Initiative." There was consensus that priority actions should be documenting, creating and disseminating tools and resources to assist local communities to implement the Earth Charter at all levels.

Following are examples of groups whose work and enthusiasm in local communities have added value to the Earth Charter Initiative.

World Resources Institute - Indicators Project

In 2002, the World Resources Institute (WRI) began a project to develop a set of indicators that could act both as a road-map to sustainability for local government and as a practical checklist for community activities to track local progress against Earth Charter principles.

To help advance this project and to develop its conceptual framework, the Project Advisory Committee convened for the first time in December 2003 and agreed that the project should be broadened and refocused. A decision was made that the project should first provide guidance to assist communities in implementing Earth Charter principles, finding that indicators alone are not useful if it is not first determined what the Earth Charter means in the context of their community. As a result, the project will first help communities through the process of identifying elements of the Earth Charter most relevant to their needs and to develop those elements into specific goals.

The project requires the development of software tools that would be available online and an online database of goals, targets, strategies and indicators. This could be used by local communities and governments to help identify their own community goals, strategies and indicators. In 2004, project materials will be developed and tested in a few communities, and WRI will help them adapt the indicators to their particular context. The Advisory Committee plans to have a prototype ready to present at the Sustainable Communities conference in July 2004.

In addition, WRI has included the Earth Charter Initiative in the case studies of its 2002-2004 World Resources Report, "Decisions for the Earth." The report can be found at: *http://pdf.wri.org/wr2002fulltxt_173-214_chap08.pdf (see Chapter 8 page 212)*

ICLEI's New Charter has incorporated the Earth Charter

ICLEI
The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives

The 3rd ICLEI World Congress took place in Athens, Greece from 3 – 7 November 2003, bringing together over 400 mayors, local leaders and representatives under the theme "Local Action 21 and Local Governments Implementing Sustainable Development." In the session on "Principles that are essential to guide local action," ICLEI members addressed the need for a set of principles by which to measure performance. The Earth Charter and other instruments were considered when discussing the question "What principles fulfill these expectations, and how can they be underpinned by performance indicators?" The congress unanimously agreed that ICLEI would include the Earth Charter in its new Charter and continue to explore ways of combining its Local Agenda 21 efforts with the Earth Charter. As a result, ICLEI seeks to identify areas of complementarity between the two initiatives. For further information and the outcomes of the Congress see:
http://www.iclei.org/worldcongress/preface.html

"The Earth Charter embodies our shared destiny. By adopting the principles of the Charter, we, the community of Earth in all its diversity, reinforce our commitment to protect our common home."

-Princess Basma Bint Talal of Jordan

City of Joondalup - Australia

The City of Joondalup has effectively applied the Earth Charter into its strategic planning process. The City's strategic plan was developed with input from communities and other stakeholders including councillors and staff. The Integrated Planning Framework provides staff with a clear role in achieving key results and enables greater organisational and community alignment with the strategic plan.

In this process, the Earth Charter assisted the City of Joondalup to incorporate sustainability principles into the City's Strategic Plan. Much of this was done through a comparison of the Earth Charter with existing Council policies, which showed that many policies relate to or correspond with Earth Charter principles. The comparison also showed that existing policies tend to focus on specifics rather than the broad intent of Earth Charter principles. It served to highlight policy gaps, for example, in economic objectives relating to poverty alleviation.

From this experience, the City's Planning Unit considers the Earth Charter to be ideal for helping communities and organizations to establish and determine their strategic direction. The Unit found that the Earth Charter has practical applications as a comprehensive checklist for developing sustainability indicators, an educational tool for teaching and learning about sustainable practices, and an inspirational set of guiding principles in their community's activities. Joondalup won a state government award for sustainable development planning. For more information see the City of Joondalup website at: *http://www.living.joondalup.wa.gov.au/buorgnstrategic/sustainability/revised/living_services_sustainability_earth_charter.asp*



Personnel from the City of Joondalup at the Earth Charter Briefing.

City of Melbourne - Australia

Melbourne, with a population of three million, has incorporated the Earth Charter into its strategic plan, which envisions the city as thriving and sustainable by 2010. The city government undertook a comparative evaluation of their existing policy with the Earth Charter's main principles, finding the vision and many points in its Objectives Plan for 2010 to be consistent with the Earth Charter. The city government plans to explore opportunities to demonstrate their adoption of the Earth Charter principles through the Council's environmental programmes. The Mayor of Melbourne was

selected to represent all major Australian cities at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and supported acknowledgement of the Earth Charter in the Local Authorities Summit resolution. For more information see *http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au* or contact: Angela Lecomber, Earth Charter Victoria, at *e-mail: alecomber@ozemail.com.au*.

City of Toronto - Canada

The Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), after endorsing the Earth Charter, began a process in 2002 of comparing the Earth Charter principles with existing TRCA policies. It involved identifying, analysing, interpreting and commenting on those Earth Charter principles most relevant to the work of TRCA.

This process helped TRCA to find ways of reflecting or incorporating Earth Charter principles into its programmes and activities. It also contributed to the comprehensive review undertaken by TRCA staff of the challenges and opportunities facing the TRCA, its member municipalities and communities in the decade ahead. The review took place between 2002 and 2003 and involved extensive consultations both internally and externally, to assess strategic proposals and help prepare its strategic plan. Designing the strategic plan took into account a summary of consultations, assumptions about the future and an examination of the challenges to be faced in pursuit of the vision, values and principles of the TRCA (drawn largely from the Earth Charter). TRCA's strategic plan is called "The Living City." More information can be found at *http://www.trca.on.ca*

Local Sustainability Certification Initiative - Chile



The Instituto de Ecologia Politica has been disseminating the Earth Charter to schools and local communities throughout Chile in order to raise awareness and commitment to the Earth Charter principles. Its activities have included training workshops for community leaders on sustainable development and the principles that should guide communities towards a more sustainable future.

As part of that, the Institute's Local Sustainability Certification (LSC), is a voluntary process, that offers guidance and certification to encourage communities working toward a sustainable society, in which social justice, economic equity, ecological integrity and participatory democracy are addressed in a balanced way. Community progress is assessed against a set of predetermined standards. These standards are based on the principles of sustainability as expressed in the Earth Charter and a set of core LSC criteria. To date, LSC has been introduced to several communities, generating interest from both local authorities and communities.

It aims to create a mechanism for cooperation that enables diverse sectors of society to interact at the local level (institutions, civil society, private enterprise, state agencies and non-profit organizations) and build consensus on sustainability issues.

Canela and Tirúa are the first communities to be involved in the certification process. Both are working on the initial steps for complying with three LSC pre-requisites: a local sustainability plan, a commitment with Earth Charter principles and a website for reporting progress on sustainability certification. For more information see: *http://www.iepe.org*

Municipality of Santo Domingo - Costa Rica

The Ministry of Environment, the Earth Charter Costa Rican Group, and the ICLEI local office established an alliance to collaborate on a training project for local community leaders on what sustainable development means and ways it can be implemented in their communities. The project uses the Earth Charter to sensitise participants to sustainability concerns and



Cover of the report of the first workshop.

stimulate their reflections on those values and principles that should guide the community towards a more sustainable future. The project was initiated with a series of meetings that brought together community actors and organized groups linked to community development. This led to the first training workshop in May 2003, for the staff of the Municipality of Santo Domingo of Heredia. Once participants reflected on ideal guiding principles for the community, the workshop went on to examine topics related to local sustainable development.

The work carried out in this workshop generated the identification of individual and group values that should be adopted by the community as a basis for efforts toward sustainable development. Complementing this work was an analysis of problems specific to the community and possible solutions and a reflection on the Earth Charter. Plans are underway to address the required additional steps involving other key actors in the community and incorporate gained knowledge into community planning.

A declaration of support from all municipalities of Jordan

In May 2002, the heads of the Kingdom of Jordan's 99 municipalities jointly endorsed a declaration of support for the Earth Charter. According to the Jordan Times, the adoption of the Earth Charter by local municipalities is intended to promote an integrated and strategic plan in Jordan to advance sustainable development. This significant event occurred under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma and was organized by the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), together with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment, in cooperation with the General Corporation for Environmental Protection. The City of Amman's Deputy Mayor shared this information and plans for an implementation phase at the World Summit of Local Authorities held in Johannesburg in conjunction with WSSD. For more information contact: *http://www.johud.org.jo*

Earth Charter Promotion Group - Malaysia

For the past two years the Earth Charter Promotion Group in Senlangor has worked with local community leaders to ensure broader understanding of sustainable development. The Group includes individuals actively involved in residents associations, political parties, NGOs and other community-based organizations. The work is done through lectures and presentations on the Earth Charter, its history and content and the need to implement sustainable development policies at the local authority level. It also involves wide dissemination and group discussions about the Earth Charter with departmental heads of local governments to raise awareness and familiarity with the Earth Charter. For more information contact: *vision2020malaysia@yahoo.com*

Municipalities in Mexico

Municipality of Apatzingan

The municipality of Apatzingan, in Michoacán, implemented a programme called "Induction to an Integral Management of Solid Waste for a Healthy Apatzingan," geared to youngsters and ecological groups from all high schools of the city.

This programme was inspired by the Earth Charter and the workshop "Internalization of values and principles: Earth Charter" was offered by the Network of Environmental Educators of Michoacán. Participants continue their involvement as environmental promoters in their schools, acting as agents of change and raising awareness of an integrated approach to principles of sustainability.



A working group at the "Internalization of values and principles: Earth Charter" workshop.

Municipality of Mazatlan

To celebrate the endorsement of the Earth Charter by the Municipality of Mazatlán, the Instituto Cultural Occidente organized a series of activities and local radio programmes on Radio Cultura in November 2003. Activities involved primary and secondary school students and educators to reflect on ways Earth Charter principles can be implemented in their lives. Participating children and adults expressed enthusiasm for further collaboration to make the



Víctor Meneguzo, Director of Instituto Cultural Occidente, with staff and students.

Earth Charter vision part of their community vision of the future. In one of the radio interviews, a member of the ecological commission of the State Congress committed himself to bring the Earth Charter before the Chamber and request endorsement on behalf of Congress.

A mobile Earth Charter exhibition was prepared with background information and pictures, facts about the consultation process, the Earth Charter in different languages, and poems by youth. For more information please see the Events Section of: *http://www.cartadelatierra.org*

Municipality of Morelia

During the "First National Gathering of Ethics for Sustainability: Educating for Sustainable Living with the Earth Charter," held in Morelia, Michoacan in November 2003, the City Council in formal session endorsed the Earth Charter and expressed its intent to adhere to the Earth Charter principles and use the Earth Charter to raise citizen awareness of sustainability. This decision followed the local government's earlier decision to incorporate the Earth Charter into its Environment Education Programme and launch a



Formal endorsement of the Earth Charter on behalf of the Morelia's City Council.

publication for youth about the Earth Charter. Considering the need to strengthen the ethical awareness of citizens of Morelia, local government faces the challenge to promote principles to guide and facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21 as well as to raise awareness and understanding of values such as respect and care for the community of life. In that context, the environment programme promotes the Earth Charter as an educational tool for its citizens. For more information see:
http://www.morelia.gob.mx

Tribal Earth Charter - Papua New Guinea

The 870 tribes of Papua New Guinea (PNG) used the Earth Charter as a model to create their Tribal Charter through a public consultation process similar to the drafting process of the Earth Charter. The Tribal Charter describes historical and natural challenges faced by PNG tribes and how these challenges are linked to those faced by all tribes globally. It outlines fundamental principles and offers suggestions for forging partnerships with other stakeholders to develop and implement sustainable, peaceful and equitable practices in managing natural resources for long-term survival.

The final text of the "Mama Graun Tribal Charter" can be viewed at the Earth Charter website as an example of what a community or group can achieve with the Earth Charter as an inspiration vision.

Building Local Community Bridges in Fife - Scotland

Members from a region called Fife, between Edinburgh and Central Scotland, helped to organise, support and participate in Scotland's second Earth Charter Community Summit, which was held at Lochore Meadows Country Park on 11 October 2003. The "Propagating the Seeds of Change" event was billed as "a grassroots opportunity for all those who care about the interconnectedness of life and the need for peace, who want to build bridges and plan actions for learning for the years to come." On this occasion the exhibition "Seeds of Change" was displayed and attracted much interest from participants and the public. A variety of workshops explored key themes through interaction, reflective dialogue and art. The day culminated in the planting of a "Peace Tree" and the webcast viewing of the 33 Earth Charter Community Summits taking place on the same day in different locations.

The main organizers were members of Earth Charter Scotland in conjunction with the Fife Council, who co-sponsored it with BRAG (Benarty Regeneration Action Group).
The Lochore Country Meadows Country Park Rangers were also involved as well as Rev. Monica Michelin-Salomon from TIBAL, an interfaith organization. For more information contact: Enid Trevett at:
enid@colourandlight.co.uk

Municipalities in Peru Committed to the Earth Charter

Over the past three years the Foro Ecológico Región Lima has promoted the Earth Charter in Peru, approaching local governments and NGOs to raise awareness and support. As a result of this and in the context of the 6th National Reunion of the Peruvian Network celebrated in Lima on 22 – 25 April, twenty-four Peruvian cities freely and formally endorsed the Earth Charter. With that, their purpose was to create consensus around the values and principles on which the renewal of harmonic relations between our society and our planet depend. For more information contact Carlos Franco Pacheco at e-mail: *carlos.franco@foroecologico.org*

Foro Soria 21 - Spain

Since the initial gathering in March 2001, in which HRH Prince of Asturias and Maurice Strong participated, Forum Soria 21 has undertaken activities to make the Soria Province a continuing example of local initiative for sustainable development. With the support of the Mayor of Soria, Forum Soria 21 encouraged public authorities and the private sector toward long-term commitment to the Earth Charter principles and implementation of a local Agenda 21 programme. A representative of the Soria Initiative attended the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, participating in a number of Earth Charter activities.



Hon. Maurice Strong (to the left) at the first International Conference of Soria.

In March 2003, Forum Soria 21 organized its first meeting to address "Social and Ethical Responsibility of Private Companies Towards Sustainable Development." This event brought together key representatives from the private sector in Spain and served as an opportunity for key actors to reiterate their commitment to join forces in making the Soria Province a world model for implementing sustainable development at the local level. Its concluding declaration states, "the participants endorse the Earth Charter and have committed to promote a collaborative effort between the public and the private sector to implement and promote the principles of the Earth Charter." For more information see: *http://www.soria21.org*

Fundación Deyna - Spain



Authors of Project DEYNA, from left to right, Pelayo del Riego, Raúl Pisano and Victoria Palacios.

The Foundation Development and Nature (DEYNA) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that, since its creation in 1992, has promoted and shared guidance with local authorities on implementing Local Agenda 21.

DEYNA's activities focus primarily in the province of Soria—but include other areas of Spain—to guide local authorities in the process of translating the theory of sustainable development into practice, in accordance with participatory democracy and by making the public aware and sensitive to ecoethics. In 1997, DEYNA published a guidebook to serve local authorities in their task to elaborate and implement Local Agenda 21. The guidebook

has been disseminated to many municipalities in Spain. For the past three years, DEYNA has incorporated the Earth Charter into its efforts to help local authorities implement sustainable development policies.

The Project Model of DEYNA entails an articulated system of interrelated spheres of action. It offers local authorities guidance to establish coherent efforts between the various levels and areas in which the local authorities projects should take place— including education, structural programming, health and tourism. This DEYNA model of Local Agenda 21 is a direct response to the call of the 1992 Rio Summit to promote and stimulate local and polycentric action. DEYNA's activities also involve a Monitoring Station and Education Centre for Knowledge and Application of the Local Agenda 21.

Between 2002 and 2003, DEYNA, in close collaboration with Fundación Biodiversidad and Fundación Cultura de Paz, disseminated Earth Charter materials and posters featuring the Earth Charter text to 8,104 city governments and 150,000 educational institutions—a first step in ensuring that the Earth Charter vision is brought to the consciousness of Spanish youth and local authorities. As a result, a growing number of Spanish cities are endorsing the Earth Charter. All municipalities in the province of Soria have been exploring ways to incorporate the Earth Charter in their work following endorsement of the Earth Charter by the Association of Municipalities of the Soria Province. Several educational institutions have already endorsed the document. DEYNA, Fundación Cultura de Paz and a group of pedagogical specialists plan to issue an Earth Charter booklet for all levels of education, to complement the resource materials already disseminated. For more information see: *http://www.deyna.org*

Åre Municipality - Sweden

Åre became the first municipality in Sweden to endorse the Earth Charter when the Municipal Executive Board took such decision during a meeting held on 2nd December 2002. Following



Late Green Cross President Jan Danielson (to the right) during the Executive Board Meeting.

public promotion of this commitment, work is underway toward the next steps of implementation, starting with the development of an Earth Charter study material. As tourism is the Municipality's largest source of income and it brings both risks and possibilities to Åre's environmental quality, the local government plans to use the Earth Charter to help address these concerns in a region that benefits from mountain and forest with rare species living in an extremely sensitive ecological balance.

Local Community Summits – USA

The annually held Earth Charter Community Summits are grassroots efforts bringing people together to be inspired in making the Earth Charter's principles a reality in their lives and communities. The annual summits, celebrated simultaneously in different cities across the US and expanding internationally, give people a forum in which to connect with others who embrace the same inclusive, compassionate and just worldview that they do. The Earth Charter Community Summits combine festivities, music, art, inspiring speakers and dialogues for understanding and using the Earth Charter.

The 2002 summits were held on 28 September in 24 cities in the United States. Each city hosted

an event with the opportunity to see and hear speakers from other participating cities that joined in through a webcast, which generated a collective energy for positive change. This was the first year that web streaming was used and despite some flaws, it made keynote speakers available even to people at home and created the framework for an on-going Earth Charter Web Channel.

With the Earth Charter as the centrepiece, each summit had its own unique spirit and combination of activities. In addition to the 24 "official" summit cities, other gatherings were held on the same day focused on the Earth Charter.

In 2003, the summits held on 11 October included 27 cities in the US and four in other countries. The Earth Charter Summits generate many endorsements and local actions and are expanding internationally. The Institute for Ethics & Meaning, an all-volunteer grassroots community building organization based in Florida, coordinates the summits. Summit organizers are volunteers who simply want to spread the word about the Earth Charter in their hometowns. Many do not have organizing backgrounds but are guided by their passion for the Earth Charter.
More information can be found at:
http://www.earthchartersummits.org

Sanibel Island, Florida - USA

The Earth Charter of Sanibel (ECOSanibel) is a non-profit group of local individuals and organizations inspired by the Earth Charter and committed to having it grounded in Sanibel's community activities and planning. In 2003 ECOSanibel began a series of Earth Charter Study Circles during the summer. It also organized a number of lectures and activities to promote the Earth Charter vision in the community; one example is the Sierra Club's Earth Day Festival. In October 2003, ECOSanibel organized their first off-island event, a regional Earth Charter Community Summit and Celebration, coinciding with the simultaneous local summits.

Locations of Community Summits in 2003:

United States

Ann Arbor, MI
Atlanta, GA
Boulder, CO
Chicago, IL
Columbus, OH
Ft. Myers, FL
Hartford, CT
Honolulu, HI
Indianapolis, IN
La Puente, CA
Madison, WI
Marin County, CA
Oakland / Berkeley, CA
Oshkosh, WI
Philadelphia, PA
Portland, Oregon
San Francisco, CA
Santa Rosa, CA
Seattle, WA
Tacoma, WA
Tampa Bay, FL
Twin Cities, MN
Ventura, CA
Washington DC/MD/VA

International

Andhra Pradesh, India
Brussels, Belgium
Lochgelly, Fife , Scotland
Senegal, West Africa

YOUTH INITIATIVE

"It is imperative that youth from all parts of the world participate actively in all relevant levels of decision-making processes because it affects their lives today and has implications for their futures. In addition to their intellectual contribution and their ability to mobilize support, they bring unique perspectives that need to be taken into account."

Agenda 21, Chapter 25

Overview: The Earth Charter Youth Initiative was formed by a core group of volunteer young people from different countries committed to the Earth Charter and active in bringing it to young people worldwide.



Michael Slaby from the Earth Charter Youth Initiative.

All individuals and groups can join ECYI by meeting the criterion of actively promoting the Earth Charter locally and internationally. The aim is to have a culturally diverse network of actors with a thorough understanding of Earth Charter principles and values. During the past 18 months, some 100 activists and youth organizations from more than 20 countries joined the network and communicate through an online discussion group (if interested contact: *youth@earthcharter.org*). This group clarified the objectives of the Youth Initiative as to:

- Work with youth organizations, networks and individuals to share the Earth Charter as a tool for promoting an ethic for justice, sustainability and peace.
- Take the mission and aims of the Earth Charter Initiative and make them alive, relevant and applicable to young people around the world.
- Ensure that youth play an active role in promoting the values and principles of the Earth Charter.

Another objective of the ECYI is to expand its network to help disseminate the Earth Charter. This is done through networking opportunities and workshops. Its main focus is implementation, and the Earth Charter Youth Groups are developed with this in mind.

Activities

The University World Colleges Youth Action Summit (UWCYAS)

This event was held in Utrecht, The Netherlands, from 19 – 26 July 2002. "Our Planet" was the main theme of the first week, during which the Earth Charter Youth Initiative was most involved. For the Earth Charter Youth Initiative, the Summit was an incredible opportunity to accomplish the following:

1. Start the process of consolidating the Earth Charter youth network in close collaboration with other efforts of the Earth Charter Initiative;

2. Start a network with other organizations, specifically International Youth Parliament, UNEP Youth Reporter, and others;
3. Promote the Earth Charter through workshops and opinion exchanges;
4. Have the Earth Charter presented to governments at WSSD in Johannesburg by the official youth delegates of UWCYAS.

Earth Charter Youth Groups

The ECYI has developed a Five-page toolkit called "Earth Charter Youth Groups. Why? What? How? ... and Resources." An Earth Charter Youth Group (ECYG) is a committee, group or network of young activists and youth organizations working to bring alive the vision of the Earth Charter to their communities, locally and nationally. Many of them were organized in 2003, its general objectives are

- to inspire people locally to adopt sustainable ways of living and to be active in projects related to sustainable development and the Earth Charter.
- to make the Earth Charter known and implemented to a broad public.
- to empower young people to take action and change the world.
- *to enjoy life in giving joy to others !!!*

The idea of the ECYG was developed to strengthen the international youth network and help youth worldwide to build activities based on the Earth Charter. The toolkit is available on-line in the Youth section under Resources of the Earth Charter website.

In 2003, the core team came to a consensus on clarifying the common goal and strategies of working together. There is still much to be accomplished over the upcoming years. All interested individuals are invited to create an ECYG in their communities in close communication with the Youth Core-Group coordinating this effort. To date, ECYGs have been created in Ethiopia, Jordan, Sierra Leone and The Philippines with the following examples of experiences.

Jordan

In Jordan, an Earth Charter Youth Group was established together with the Jordan's national focal point for the Earth Charter Initiative.The ECYG-Jordan has achieved the following:

- Developed a national strategy to disseminate the Earth Charter among the youth of Jordan, aiming at launching youth-led initiatives based on the Earth Charter's integrated vision of sustainable development, justice and peace;
- Developed Earth Charter materials in Arabic;
- Started building a regional Earth Charter network with active youth in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine, aiming at promoting a culture of peace in this large conflict area;
- Introduced the Earth Charter to a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Jordanian Federation of Women;
- Initiated the organization of a Jordan Earth Charter National Forum to be held in summer 2004;
- Incorporated the Earth Charter as one of the guiding documents of Jordan's National Strategy for Youth.

Sierra Leone



Ex-combatants of Sierra Leone's civil war.

Four local ECYGs of some 20 people were created in Sierra Leone. Membership consists of representatives of youth networks and youth NGOs, students from secondary schools, university students and ex-combatants. Through them, the Earth Charter was presented to hundreds of young activists in workshops. Work is underway to set up programmes to promote a culture of peace and utilize the Earth Charter as an educational tool in schools.

In their latest activity, they used the Earth Charter in a sensitisation session for ex-combatants of the civil war that took place during the last decade. For more information see: *http://ww.ecygsierraleone.8m.net*

The Philippines

In the Philippines, the environmental organization Eco Trekkers joined the local ECYG in a programme utilizing the Earth Charter to underline their activities against the introduction of genetically modified organisms. Additionally, they recently cleaned a coastline of 200 meters and collected 6.000 kg of litter. In their activities to disseminate the Earth Charter among NGOs, institutions and individuals in their area, the ECYG also reached out to the government, which now is exploring ways to use the Earth Charter. More information can be found at: *http://www.freewebs.com/ecotreks/index.htm*

Costa Rica Youth Concerts

As a youth-led initiative, four Earth Charter concerts took place over a period of four months, beginning in May 2003. The very successful Earth Charter Concerts Season was organized by the Costa Rican Earth Charter Committee and celebrated at the Children's Museum, it brought together approximately 2000 people overall.



Poster of the activity.



Crowds entering the concert.

The proposal for an Earth Charter Concert Season arose from a desire to promote the Earth Charter and sensitise Costa Rican youth to the Charter's message. Given that music and art are more attractive to youth than speeches and presentations and to stem a growing apathy among youth, it was thought that the Earth Charter Concert Season could appeal to a diversity of young people who, through this medium, would be sensitised to the global situation, gain a sense of universal responsibility and apprehend the main Earth Charter principles. Each concert brought together rock and popular music. Effort was made to ensure the Earth Charter message was an integral part of this experience.

According to Nikol Jirón, coordinator of the concerts, considering the limited resources, the success of this project was due to a committed production team. This team proved to be a living example of the Earth Charter principles: they visualized a common goal, worked with respect toward each other, shared responsibility, were tolerant of each other's input and made efforts to harmonize their actions.

Inclusive Leadership Adventures

Inclusive Leadership Adventures is a non-profit diversity education project in Canada co-sponsored by Cowichan Valley Intercultural and Immigrant Aid Society and by Canadian Mental Health Association – Cowichan Valley Branch. Both organizations have endorsed the Earth Charter and have their activities guided by the Earth Charter vision as they bring diverse people together in camp settings to explore, share, and celebrate social diversity and biodiversity.



In Fall 2003, with encouragement from ECYI members, an Inclusive Leadership Adventure was developed focused on exploring the Earth Charter. This adventure was field tested by a group of 50 youth, caring adults and a few children. Dylan Spencer, Canadian Representative of the year 2000 Pole to Pole expedition was the guest facilitator representing ECYI.

Inclusive Leadership were successful with their goals of getting beyond the words of the Earth Charter to develop deep emotional and intelectual connections. Participants left the adventure with:

- A deeper understanding of the Earth Charter;
- Appreciation of social diversity and biodiversity as gifts that enrich communities;
- Inclusive leadership skills for acting in ways and guiding others to act in ways that respect and care for our diverse human family and all living beings in our Earth community;
- Plans for local actions to take back to their homes, schools, neighbourhoods and communities for implementing the principles and values of the Earth Charter;
- Confidence that by sharing leadership locally, we are each contributing globally in ways that are making a world of difference for our human family and the larger living world.

Inclusive Leadership Adventures has a video journal and a guidebook to share with others who wish to organize similar adventures. Some members of the ECYI are adapting the manual for use with youth in their countries.

In Canada, the Earth Charter continues to guide all Inclusive Leadership Adventures and they are supporting the Sierra Club Youth Coalition to organize a similar adventure during the summer of 2004 (the Making Waves project). For more information, contact: Linda Hill, e-mail: bridges@island.net or see: *http://www.island.net/~bridges/*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2002

February

Earth Dialogues – France

Addressing the question "Globalization and Sustainable Development: Is Ethics the Missing Link?," the first Earth Dialogues forum took place in February 2002 in Lyon, France. The Forum, convened by Mikhail Gorbachev and Maurice Strong, brought together over 1,000 participants. Speakers included French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, Raymond Barre, Ruud Lubbers and many others. The Forum welcomed the Earth Charter as a peoples' document that provides an ethical framework equally applicable to guiding the choices of individuals, organizations and states. More information can be found at: *http://www.earthdialogues.org*

May

Teaching for the Environment in Higher Education: The Promise of the Earth Charter – USA



Cover of the brochure for the symposium.

A remarkable Academic Symposium, co-sponsored by The Chewonki Foundation, the Centre for Respect of Life and Environment and University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, took place on 17 - 19 May in Wiscasset, Maine, USA. The organizing theme was the implication of the Earth Charter in higher education. The purpose of the symposium was to reflect upon the larger human, ecological, ethical and environmental dimensions in which teaching takes place, and to provide scholarly analysis and inspiration to advance teaching for the environment. The Symposium generated wonderful insights, motivation and materials to use in higher education.

June

The Earth Charter for a More Secure City - Brazil

This event took place on 19 - 21 June in Joinville, Santa Catarina. The objective was to motivate political, administrative and technology leaders of local communities as well as the general public to exchange experiences and reflect on the challenges of implementing sustainable development. The event served to promote the Earth Charter as an instrument to raise awareness and understanding of these issues. Promoters of the event included: the Paulo Freire Institute, Institute for Sustainable Development, the Brazilian Municipal Association and States, the Municipalities Mail Magazine in conjunction with the city government of Joinville, and the Earth Charter International Secretariat.

People and the Planet: Changing Values for a Sustainable Future - Canada

This conference, organized by the Sierra Club of Canada and the Society for Conservation Biology, was held at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario on 5 - 9 June. The main purpose was to derive solutions to major environmental problems by examining their root causes: fundamentally, problems with Western values. The Earth Charter was disseminated, and responsive comments came from speakers and through discussions. A quote from the final

Declaration that refers to the Earth Charter is as follows:

"… Earth Charter: Recognizing that, at the core of humanity's attack on our life-support systems lies a system of values and beliefs that are inherently dangerous, we call upon governments, and particularly Canada, to embrace and promote the Earth Charter, as a workable framework for a new set of values to govern human relationships to each other and to the biosphere. We call on the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development to endorse the Earth Charter and to act affirmatively to achieve its goals. We call on individuals to change course in their personal lives to reflect the caring, compassionate, non-violent and non-exploitative principles of the Earth Charter." For further information, see: *http://www.sierraclub.ca/national/getinvolved/event.shtml?x=560* and: *http://www.biology.queensu.ca/~scb/conference.htm*

July

Earth Charter Launch in Chile

On 16 July the Earth Charter was launched in Chile in a public event organized by the Institute of Ecological Policies (IEP). Over 150 participants attended the event, among them political authorities, ecological organizations,



Participants at the Earth Charter launch in Chile.

NGOs, and students. There was unanimous support for the creation of an Earth Charter Committee in Santiago to disseminate the Earth Charter throughout the country.

As a follow up, IEP undertook broad dissemination of the Earth Charter in Chile. For more information see *http://www.iepe.org/cartadelatierra*

August/September

An exhibition in Laval, Quebec - Canada

With the aim of raising interest in the Earth Charter theme among citizens, an exhibition on the Earth Charter took place at Marius-Barbeau Library in the City of Laval, Quebec, from 16 August to 3 September 2002. It displayed a variety of books, magazines and newspapers articles about planetary issues and related topics such as social justice, peace, human rights, equity and sustainable development. Earth Charter brochures were disseminated widely. Around 7,000 people visited the exhibition and browsed available documents. The same group organized a Conference on "Cities and Health: Toward Sustainable Communities" and other events where pamphlets of the Earth Charter and literature were distributed to participants.

December

Asian Civil Society Forum, Thailand

An Asian Civil Society Forum took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 9 to 13 December, aiming at addressing the diverse needs and challenges facing NGOs in Asia. This was a project of CONGO (The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations), and the theme of the forum was "UN/NGO Partnerships for Democratic Governance: Building Capacities and Networks for Human Rights and Sustainable Development."

The Earth Charter was presented and discussed during a Thematic Workshop on Educational Approaches for Human Rights and Sustainable Development. More information on the forum can be found at *http://www.acsf.net/why.htm*

2003

January

The World Social Forum – Brazil



Panelists from around the world came together for the Earth Charter event at the WSF.

The second World Social Forum (WSF) was organized under the slogan, "Another World is Possible," and convened in Brazil in January 2003 with the participation of 100,000 people.

A seminar entitled "The Earth Charter – a minimum consensus for human beings" kicked off the first day of events. The seminar opened with a moving slide show of powerful images of destruction while quotes from the Earth Charter, calling for an alternate vision, were simultaneously read aloud. There were 2 hours of thought-provoking discourse on the Earth Charter with Jose Romao, Secretary General of the Paulo Freire Institute, ending with a tribute to Paulo Freire. Following was a captivating address by Earth Charter Commissioner Leonardo Boff. A youth group assembled in Porto Alegre gave a magnificent closing presentation. The standing ovation was one of hope and empowerment, a sign of the kind of inspiration the Earth Charter generates.

World Education Forum - Brazil

The overarching theme of the 2nd World Education Forum was 'Education and Transformation: Public Education in the Construction of a Possible New World'. The Earth Charter was featured in a session on 22 January entitled: "Living together: understanding and living the Earth Charter," organized by NAIA. The audience, estimated of 3000 – 5000 participants, filled the massive warehouse on the docks of Porto Alegre. Leonardo Boff, was part of the panel, which also included members of the Earth Charter Network, the head of the Paulo Freire Institute (IPF) as well as representation from UNESCO.



Leonardo Boff at the World Education Forum.

March

The World Peace Forum - Australia

Various leaders came together to offer inspiring and practical advice for world peace - peace among individuals, peace between communities and nations. This successful 600-people event in Sidney featured the Earth Charter as its central theme. Among the speakers were Earth Charter Commissioner Rabbi Soetendorp and Brendan Mackey, Chair of the Earth Charter Education Advisory Committee. One of the specific outcomes of the Forum was endorsement of the Earth Charter by communities, governments and individuals present. More information can be found at *http://www.worldpeace-conference.net/sydney/home.htm*

April

Science, Religion and Caring for the Environment: A Personal and Global Responsibility - USA

The Club of Budapest USA in partnership with the International Diplomacy Council organized a panel event entitled, "Science, Religion and Caring for the Environment: A Personal and Global Responsibility," held in San Francisco on first April in commemoration of the Earth Charter and the UN Decade of Peace and Non-violence for all the Children of the World. The event explored the ideas of scientists, environmentalists and religious faiths on pathways and responsibilities for achieving global sustainability. Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker of Bucknell University was among the panelists. Copies of the Earth Charter brochure were made available for the participants. More information can be found in the Events Section of *http://www.earthcharter.org or at: http://environment.harvard.edu/religion/events/2003/club_budapest.html*

May

Partnership Fair UNCSD -11 - USA

The 11th annual session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was held in New York from 29 April to 8 May. This was the first meeting of the CSD after the Johannesburg Summit and was crucial to clarify political direction to the implementation of the Johannesburg outcomes. A parallel activity, the Partnerships Fair was organized as a networking opportunity for partnerships launched at the World Summit, encouraging an exchange of experiences and presentation of progress. On 2 May, the Earth Charter Initiative presented an update on its partnership, "Educating for Sustainable Living with the Earth Charter" in a session entitled, "The promise of the Earth Charter and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development." Among participants were government delegates and NGO representatives. The session offered an occasion for dialogue and further discussion on the Earth Charter's usefulness within the UN Decade of Education.

Earth Charter: Public Forum on Social and Economic Justice - New Zealand

SGI-New Zealand hosted a series of Earth Charter meetings from March to June in Christchurch. The first, on 21 March, was a panel discussion focusing on democracy, non-violence and peace. Among the topics discussed were overcoming apathy and what one citizen can do to contribute to peace.

Another seminar, on ecological integrity, took place on 16 April sponsored by the women of SGI-New Zealand. The seminar featured a screening of the film A Quiet Revolution. Discussions involved the audience on issues ranging from the traditional lifestyle of the Maori people, who value harmony with the natural environment, to the urgent need to raise awareness of environmental issues. Canterbury Regional Councillor Diana Shand and Maori representative Ben Uikau Te Aika were among the panelists.

June

The Vermont Peace Academy - USA

Vermont Peace Academy, an educational initiative based on the Earth Charter, was



Goddard Clock House building.

launched on 13 June. Resolutions in support of the Academy were received from the Vermont Legislature and the State Governor. Two local colleges, Goddard College and Woodbury College, collaborated to support the creation of the Peace Academy.

Goddard College offered space, at the Goddard Clock House building, and one full-time coordinator position. Woodbury College already has a well-known conflict resolution and community development program. The first courses are planned for spring of 2004.

Earth Charter in Action - Urbino, Italy



Part of the group attending the meeting.

The "Earth Charter in Action" meeting, held in Urbino from 26-30 June, brought together key Earth Charter partners to develop a two-year action plan. The event was sponsored by the Earth Charter Initiative, the Centre for Respect of Life and Environment (CRLE) and the City of Urbino. Representatives of attending organizations worked with the Earth Charter at the community level and in promoting its educational use in all sectors. The purpose was to articulate efforts that would significantly advance the development and implementation of the Earth Charter Education Programme as well as the Type II partnership, "Educating for Sustainable Living Using the Earth Charter," launched during the Johannesburg Summit.

IUCN Ethics Specialist Working Group - Urbino, Italy

From 27 June to 1 July, the conference "Global Ecological Integrity, Human Rights, and Human Responsibilities: Intersections Between International Law and Public Health" was held in Urbino. It brought together members of the IUCN Ethics Specialist Working Group and included presentation and discussion on themes such as "The Earth Charter: Linkages to Public Health and the Law" led by Klaus Bosselmann (New Zealand); "The Earth Charter and Ecological Integrity" led by Brendan Mackey (Australia); and "A New Covenant for Global Democracy: The Size of the Task Before Us" led by Ron Engel (USA). Conference co-organizers were Laura Westra, Colin L. Soskolne and William (Bill) E. Rees.

October

Global Environmental Action Conference - Japan

The GEA Conference for a Sustainable Future, held in Japan on 24 – 26 October, focused on three areas: education, information technology and natural resources. The Conference was attended by Earth Charter Commissioners HRH Princess Basma, Wakako Hironaka and Steven Rockefeller and other friends of the Earth Charter, who urged the Japanese Government to support the Earth Charter and use it as an educational tool in the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). At the end of the Conference a set of recommendations was adopted, including one on the Earth Charter, which reads as follows: "Partners to promote DESD should consider establishment of an ethical framework for sustainable development. The guiding principles in the Earth Charter could be reflected in materials used in all learning efforts to promote sustainable development, including those in the school systems." More information on the conference at: *http://www.gea.or.jp/41activ2/conf2003/41top_en.html*

November

First National Gathering on Ethics for Sustainability - Mexico

The first national gathering on ethics for sustainability took place in Morelia under the theme "Educating for a Sustainable Way of Life with the Earth Charter." The event included political support from all levels of government and was primarily organized by the State Council of Ecology, which functions with the support of the Ministry of Environment and The State Government of Michoacan.



Inauguration act for the gathering.

The event, part of the Mexican Commitment to the Earth Charter Type II partnership, gathered 380 representatives from all parts of Mexico, including educators, university students and professors, representatives of local governments and NGOs. All members of the Mexican National Council for Sustainable Development took part. At the opening ceremony the Minister of Environment (representing President Fox), the Representative of the Minister of Education, the Governor of the State of Michoacan and the Mayor of the City of Morelia expressed their support and commitment to the Earth Charter. Intent to provide financial support to the Earth Charter process was also offered.

"Zero Famine in Environmental Education" - Brazil

This event, held at Federal University of Mato Grosso (UFMT) on 6-8 November, convened some 500 participants to discuss world famine. Discussions focused particularly on the problem of poverty in less economically developed countries, in which foreign debt is a major cause of cultural and environmental degradation and democratic processes are unstable. The Earth Charter was utilized as a tool in examining underlying causes and reflecting on solutions. Participants included students from primary and secondary schools, university teachers and students, NGOs, government sectors and individuals. More information in Portuguese at: *http://www.ufmt.br/remtea*

December

Education Online Forum - Global

The Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat organized and hosted an online forum on "The Earth Charter as an Educational Framework for Teaching and Learning about Sustainable Development." This forum involved the growing network of educators worldwide working with the Earth Charter as an educational tool.

The forum included sessions on topics of educational philosophy for the Earth Charter, suggested pedagogies for teaching the Charter, as well as the educational resources that the Education Programme should focus on, especially in light of the Decade. The outcomes of the forum were compiled and made available on the Earth Charter website.

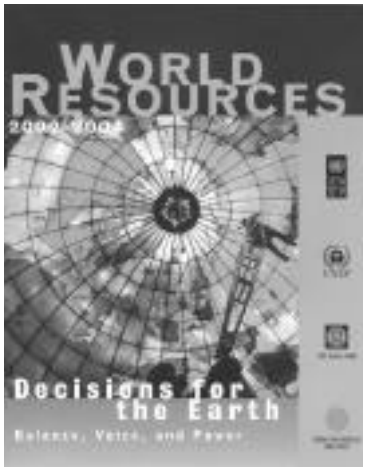
PUBLICATIONS

"The common underlying factor of conflicts today is the issue of insecurity prompted by the prospect of exclusion or the perceived threat of starvation for both people and communities. The circumstances for this feeling of insecurity are often brought about by degradation of the environment. An Earth Charter will make everyone of us conscious of this and help develop a culture of peace, care and solidarity."

–Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun,
Earth Charter Commissioner, Algeria

Following is a list of publications in 2002 and 2003, either about or referring to the Earth Charter:

WRI Report features the Earth Charter



Chapter 8 of the World Resources Institute report *World Resources 2002-2004: Decisions for the Earth: Balance, voice, and power*, features several case studies one of which is on the Earth Charter. This section can be found at: *http://pdf.wri.org/wr2002fulltxt_173-214_chap08.pdf*

Terra América by Leonardo Boff

The Earth Charter inspired and guided the book *Terra América*, co-authored by Leonardo Boff and Marco Antônio de Miranda. *Terra América* was published in Brazil in both English and Portuguese. It captures the beauty and images of the American continent, photographed by Marco Antonio de Miranda while travelling. The images express the rich diversity found in nature. The Charter text is not only fully incorporated but also used as reference in Boff's description of our planet's history and evolutionary process.

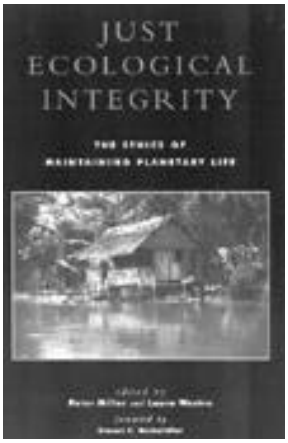


Terra América was publicly launched by Leonardo Boff at the Brazilian National Environment Conference held in November 2003. It can be ordered through Editorial Sextante, *E-mail: vendas@esextante.com.br or http://www.esextante.com.br*

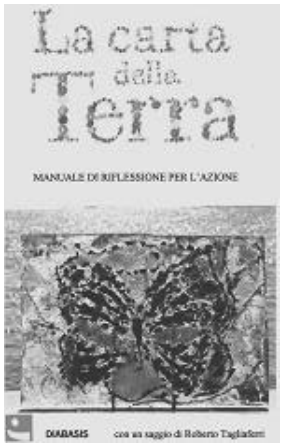
Just Ecological Integrity: The Ethics of Maintaining Planetary Life

This book takes an in-depth look at the history and meaning of the Earth Charter. It considers systems of measurement to indicate progress in achieving the Earth Charter's goals. Contributors to the volume explore such issues as the reciprocal impact between humans and nature; human destructiveness; and various ways in

which the revaluation of nature in terms of intrinsic qualities affects broader notions of justice. A rich collection of case studies enhances the volume and examines such issues as violence, risk, and the preservation of nature. Peter Miller and Laura Westra edited the book, which has a Foreword by Steven C. Rockefeller. Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield. For more information please visit:
http://www.ecointegrity.net



The Earth Charter: A Study of Reflection for Action, Italian version



Pax Romana, Catholic Movement for Intellectual & Cultural Affairs USA published the Italian edition of *The Earth Charter: A Study of Reflection for Action*.
More information at:
http://www.ECreflection4action.org

The Preface, written by Fr.Thomas Berry, reads in part: "We might think of the Earth Charter as perhaps the most comprehensive document ever to be proposed for approval by the United Nations Assembly."

An Introduction to Global Citizenship

The author, Dr. Nigel Dower, a senior lecturer in philosophy at the University of Aberdeen, UK, offers and introduction to the idea of global citizenship and examines the arguments from ethical, social and political theory for and against the view that we are global citizens. The book, published by Edinburgh University Press, has a discussion on the Earth Charter in pages 93-95, various other references to it and includes the whole text as Appendix 2.

From Environmental Ethics towards the Ethics of Sustainable Society – The Balance between Human and Nature as Basic Principles for Sustainable Development

The objective of the book, edited by A. Oja and launched in 2003, is to introduce the theoretical and practical aspects of environmental ethics as the basis of sustainability ethics. It is geared to two main audiences in Estonia: secondary-level and university students and those who work in the field of sustainable development. Eleven authors describe their theories and practices in 23 articles. There are also 6 annexes in 50 pages, introducing (1) theoretical and practical dilemmas in sustainable development; (2) Estonian preconditions to becoming a small sustainable society; (3) The draft Convention on Human Responsibilities; (4) The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development; (5) the UN Millennium Development Goals; and (6) the Earth Charter. All articles and annexes are in Estonian.



This fifth publication of Stockholm Environment Institute - SEI Tallinn was financed by the Estonian Environmental Investment Centre and by SEI Tallinn. It may be downloaded for free at:
http://www.seit.ee/artiklid.php3?f=1&artid=119

Eternal Spring: Living with Enough in a World of Abundance



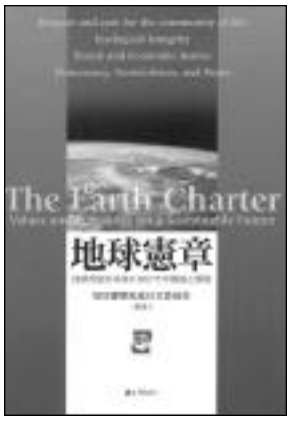
The Earth Charter is featured in the English edition of this book originally written in Dutch by ecologist Jeb Crab. It is now published by Ebron vzw, Belgium and Foundation Ecosystem 2000 of Suriname. "… This book goes beyond a theoretical study about the comprehensive high priority topic of sustainable development… it also offers insights on world ethics…." Eternal Spring presents a model of harmonious global and local societies working to preserve Earth and humankind. For more information about the book and how to order it, see: *http://www.sr.to/ecosystem2000*

Children's Earth Charter Adaptation - Brazil



Nucleus of Friends for Childhood and Youth (NAIA) and the Government of the State of Rio Grande do Sul published an Earth Charter adaptation for children. This leaflet brings the main ideas of the Earth Charter to children. It was first used during a Children's Forum held in conjunction with the World Social Forum. This was possible due to the adaptation of the original text into an accessible language, allowing the easy assimilation of the Earth Charter fundamental principles. The adaptation is by Sílvia Gonçalves, illustration by Leandro Bierhals and organization by Valéria Viana. With the sponsorship of the Government of the State of Rio Grande do Sul and UNICEF, 15,000 booklets were printed and distributed. The booklet can be found on the Earth Charter website at *http://www.earthcharter.org/resources*

Earth Charter Booklet in Japanese



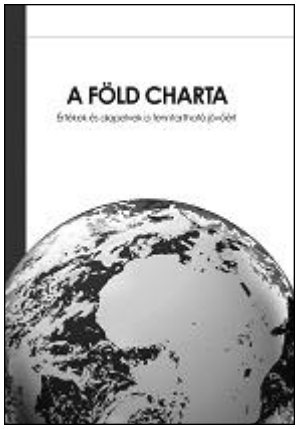
The Earth Charter Commission Japan (ECCJ) produced a useful booklet for use as educational material and promotion of the Earth Charter in Japan. The booklet includes both English and Japanese versions of the Earth Charter with explanatory notes. For more information on this *e-mail: eccj@on.rim.or.jp*

Earth Letter - USA



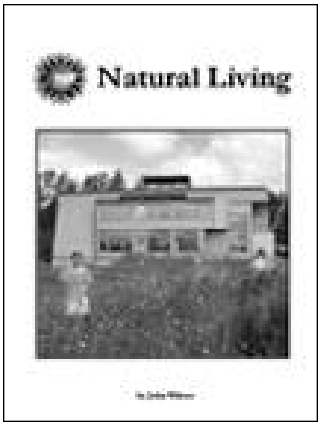
The Earth Charter is featured in a special November/December 2002 edition of the Earth Letter. The Earth Letter is the Earth Ministry's informative, inspirational, and acclaimed mini-journal published five times a year. Its articles, stories, and book reviews highlight Christian environmental spirituality, theology, and action. They reflect on the Christian call to care for all creation. The Earth Ministry promotes simplified living, environmental stewardship, justice for all creation and a worldview of creation as a revelation of God. To see this edition please visit the News and Events section of the Earth Charter website. For more information on the Ministry please visit *http://www.earthministry.org*

Pocket-Size Booklet in Hungarian



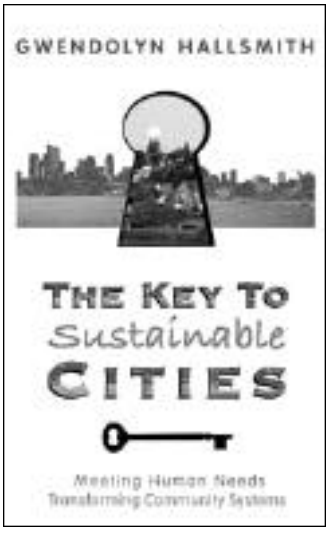
The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) Country Office for Hungary translated the Earth Charter into Hungarian and put together an Earth Charter booklet to raise awareness of the Earth Charter among citizens of Hungary. The foreword is written by environmental expert Tibor Farago, Head of the International Environmental Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment. Three hundred copies were distributed at the Annual Meeting of the Hungarian Green NGOs held in March 2002. More information about REC's activities can be found at: *http://www.rec.hu/*

Natural Living



This book, written by John Wilson, features the Earth Charter. A companion 25-minute video is also available. The book and video explain in simple terms, with hands-on demonstrations, how easy it is to use solar energy, wind power, breathing walls, straw bale home construction techniques, passive solar design, smart windows, green roofs and composting. For more information about the book or for mail orders see the website: *http://www.NaturalLifeNetwork.com/products/*

The Key to Sustainable Cities



This book, written by Gwendolyn Hallsmith, includes a chapter on the Earth Charter as the foundation for the community planning process.

The Key to Sustainable Cities: Meeting Human Needs, Transforming Community Systems uses the principles of system dynamics to demonstrate how today's problems were yesterday's solutions. The book points to a new approach to city planning to develop healthy, social, governance, economic, and environmental systems. For more information visit the New Society Publisher website at: *http://www.newsociety.com/bookid/3833*

101 Ways to Participate in Having a World that Works for Everyone

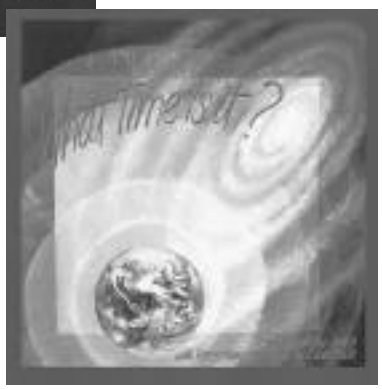


The book provides ideas of what people can do to better the world. It encourages people to get involved and contribute to various initiatives. Information on the Earth Charter Initiative as well as the text itself features in this book. This book by Lyle Benson Smith and published by Writer's Showcase Press, can be found at *http://www.book.nu/0595264727*

Calendar and Planner 2003 - USA



The Ministry of the Arts designed and published a beautifully printed calendar, called "What Time is it?" Fully dedicated to the Earth Charter, the calendar includes quotations from the Earth Charter



and reflections for each month. At the end of the calendar are 12 separators with pictures and principles of the Earth Charter. The Planner was similarly conceived and based on the Earth Charter. The Ministry of the Arts is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of La Grange, Illinois, in the USA. For more information please visit: *http://www.ministryofthearts.org*

Earth Charter Magazine in German



Since June 2001, The Ecumenical One World Initiative (OeIEW), the Earth Charter Initiative focal point in Germany, has published a quarterly Earth Charter magazine in German. For more information in German please visit: *http://www.oeiew.org.*

Building a Culture of Peace in Our Community

The University for Peace designed a series of ten instructional modules, which was jointly published by CIIP/UPEACE and the United Nations System in Uruguay in 2002. The material was elaborated in Spanish and is based on six years of the Culture for Peace and Democracy in Central America programme, led by Professor Abelardo Brenes, in small local communities in the region. The intention is to offer guidelines based on these experiences, which can be adapted as workshop modules in various settings, including community education and schools. It can be useful for educators or those interested in peace education.

The Earth Charter is the theme of Module 3, where students or workshop participants are introduced to the relevance of the Earth Charter as an ethical framework for guiding personal and community development on the basis of universal responsibility. The main objective is to have participants reflect upon the importance of following a set of values and a lifestyle in accordance to sustainability principles. Themes from the Earth Charter Preamble are highlighted and the module also introduces the four main principles of The Earth Charter, which express the key components of the principle of universal responsibility.



"We must make a revolution. It will not be a political revolution, but more basic than the political one, which is an ethical revolution. This is, when we talk about ethic, we talk about behaviors; we talk about a few fundamental values that we must accomplish."

- Leonardo Boff, Earth Charter Commissioner, Brazil

SECRETARIAT MANAGEMENT

In addition to the coordination of tasks and programmes outlined in the previous sections of this report, the Secretariat conducts on-going communications with interested individuals, continually updates the Earth Charter website, and produces and distributes the bi-monthly *Newsflash*. Some developments in the Secretariat's activities in 2002-2003 are highlighted below:

Earth Charter Secretariat Affiliation with University for Peace

Considering the synergies in the goals of both organizations, the University for Peace Council endorsement of the Earth Charter and the possibility of locating the Earth Charter Secretariat on the University for Peace campus, the Earth Charter Initiative in early 2003 signed an agreement of formal affiliation with the University for Peace.

As part of this new arrangement, the University for Peace has offered office space for the Earth Charter Secretariat, administrative services as well as computer and website technical support. The University's contributions have been of great value to the Earth Charter Initiative. For its part, the Earth Charter Secretariat has offered assistance to the University toward presentation of the Earth Charter and global ethics within the University's teaching programme and as a tool in peace education, peace building and conflict resolution.

Fundraising

For the past two years generous contributions from The Humane Society (HSUS), the Center for Respect of Life and Environment (CRLE) and The Philanthropic Collaborative (TPC) have enabled the Secretariat to continue operations. Funds raised in previous years were dedicated to the consultation and drafting process, translation, dissemination and general promotion of the Earth Charter.

In the present implementation phase of the Earth Charter Initiative, the needs and expectations of the Earth Charter programmes demonstrably exceed the current levels of funding. The Secretariat is therefore challenged to streamline its coordinating activities while seeking new sources of funding. Since September 2003, priority has been given to fundraising, and the Secretariat has submitted a number of funding proposals, but did not have positive responses to date. The Secretariat is working to ensure a more effective fundraising process.

Website



In July 2003, a newly designed Earth Charter website was launched after more than six months of teamwork. The website has been translated into Spanish and French which can be accessed at *http://www.cartadelatierra.org and http://www.chartedelaterre.org.*

Resource Materials

To respond to the demand for resource materials and activity guidelines geared to individuals and groups that have endorsed the Earth Charter, the Secretariat has produced the following materials which are available on the website:

Business Guidelines - "What can I do with the Earth Charter in Business?"

Many groups and individuals have expressed interest in having the Earth Charter embraced

and utilized by business groups. In 2003, a business guide was assembled under the guidance of the Secretariat. Chloé Kornberg undertook the project, bringing with her years of experience in the French private sector and an interest in promoting sustainable development practices. The material proposes ways the Earth Charter can be used as a values framework for assessing progress towards sustainability, in designing professional codes of conduct and in systems of accountability. It provides examples and tools mapping the Earth Charter to the business world and showing links between the Earth Charter and other sustainable development initiatives.

Youth Kit: "How to run a workshop with the Earth Charter"

Nicole Jirón, who worked for the Earth Charter Youth Initiative in 2002, compiled an Earth Charter Workshop Tool Kit to address the needs of youth groups interested in working with the Earth Charter. The Tool Kit responds to the many requests for suggested ways to develop an Earth Charter workshop and workshop material. The Tool Kit is divided into sections: What is the Earth Charter; How to Organize an Earth Charter Workshop; Activities to Promote Individual and Communitarian Values; and Activities to Design an Earth Charter Workshop.

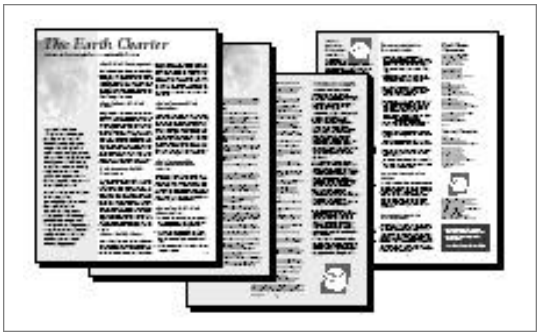
General Guiding material: "What can I do with the Earth Charter?"



Cover of the power-point presentation.

This power-point presentation is designed for individuals and groups seeking ideas for activities that contribute to the Earth Charter vision. The presentation, in full or in part, can be effective for associations, community groups and governmental agencies seeking to integrate the Earth Charter principles into their activities. Renaud Richard, who worked at the Secretariat, led the task of assembling this material.

Printer Friendly Brochures

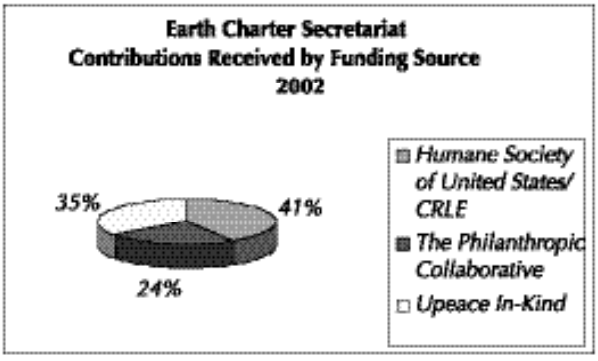


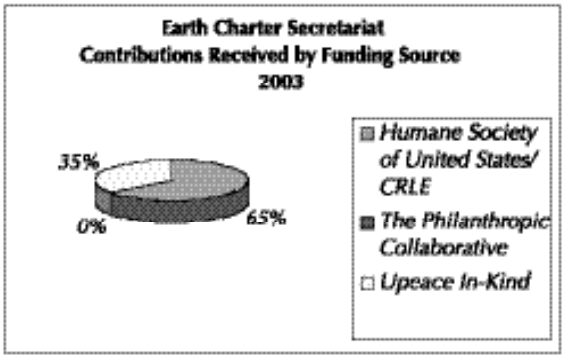
To respond to increasing demand for Earth Charter brochures (in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese), the Secretariat has arranged for printer-friendly versions to be made freely available on the Earth Charter website. The Secretariat is encouraging partner organizations and interested groups to download and locally print brochures to fulfil their needs.

Financial Statement - Earth Charter Secretariat

Statement of income and expenditures
for the years ended 31 October 2001, 2002,and December 31, 2003

	2001	2002	2003
Income			
Balance from prior period	$ 47,081.33	$ 12,816.48	$ 6,902.91
Income from donors	152,635.00	110,000.00	110,000.00
	199,716.33	122,816.48	116,902.91
Expenditures			
Salary	82,286.66	72,580.88	94,370.89
Travel	4,447.57	11,244.96	12,481.10
Consultants/Seed Money	23,780.00	10,414.00	2,308.79
Meetings	42,178.64	-	-
Translation and Printing	19,349.13	11,907.18	3,168.40
Stationary	195.98	4,423.05	2,305.95
Maintenance		-	-
Communications	11,582.57	5,046.37	2,444.32
Miscellaneous	3,079.30	297.13	528.09
Purchases	-	-	-
	186,899.85	115,913.57	117,607.54
Balance	**$ 12, 816. 48**	**$ 6, 902. 91**	**$ (704. 63)**





Partners – Collaborating Organizations

This is a sample list of key organizations collaborating with the Earth Charter Initiative. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

Action pour la Charte de la Terre, France

Arab NGO Network for Environment and Development (RAED), Egypt

Association for Sustainable Human Development, Armenia

Boston Research Center for the 21st Century, USA

Brink Expedition, Australia

Center for Community Development and the Environment, Nepal

Center for Respect of Life and Environment, USA

Conseil National de l'Environment pour un Developpment Durable, Niger

Consejo Estatal de Ecologia, Michoacan - Mexico

Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Sostenible - Honduras

Earth Charter Norway

Ecumenical One World Initiative, Germany

Florida Gulf Coast University/Center for Sustainable Development, USA

Foro Soria 21, Spain

Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives, Tajikistan

Fundacion Deyna, Spain

Green Belt Movement, Kenya

Green Cross International

Green Cross Italy

Green Cross Sweden

ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability)

Inclusive Leadership Adventures, Canada

Institute for Ethics and Meaning, USA

International Foundation for Survival and Development of Humanity, Russia

Instituto de Ecología Política, Chile

IUCN (The World Conservation Union) Commission on Environmental Law

IUCN (The World Conservation Union) Ethics Specialist Working Group

Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP), Jordan

LEAD International

LIDEMA, Bolivia

MAUDESCO, Mauritius

Ministry of Environment, Costa Rica

Ministry of Environment, Mexico

Ministry of Education, Costa Rica

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Bolivia

National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO), Holland

New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law

The Humane Society of United States, USA

The Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development, Jordan

The Nature and Society Forum, Australia

The Orion Society, USA

The Queensland Earth Charter Committee, Australia

Paulo Freire Institute, Brazil

Pro-Natura, Italy

Sierra Club of Canada

Soka Gakkai International

Universidad Estatal a Distancia, Costa Rica

Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica

Universidad Federal de Mato Grosso, Brazil

University for Peace, International

Vivim Plegats, Spain

World Resources Institute

Earth Charter Initiative Organization

Earth Charter Commission

Africa & The Middle East

- *Amadou Toumani Touré, Co-Chair, Mali*
- *Princess Basma Bint Talal, Jordan*
- *Wangari Maathai, Kenya*
- *Mohamed Sahnoun, Algeria*

Asia & The Pacific

- *Kamla Chowdhry, Co-Chair, India*
- *A.T. Ariyaratne, Sri Lanka*
- *Wakako Hironaka, Japan*
- *Pauline Tangiora, New Zealand/Aotearoa*
- *Erna Witoelar, Indonesia*

Europe

- *Mikhail Gorbachev, Co-Chair, Russia*
- *Pierre Calame, France*
- *Ruud Lubbers, The Netherlands*
- *Federico Mayor, Spain*
- *Henriette Rasmussen, Greenland*
- *Awraham Soetendorp, The Netherlands*

Latin America & The Caribbean

- *Mercedes Sosa, Co-Chair, Argentina*
- *Leonardo Boff, Brazil*
- *Yolanda Kakabadse, Ecuador*
- *Shridath Ramphal, Guyana*

North America

- *Maurice Strong, Co-Chair, Canada*
- *John Hoyt, USA*
- *Elizabeth May, Canada*
- *Steven Rockefeller, USA*
- *Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Canada*

International Steering Committee

Co-chairs

Kamla Chowdhry, India
Yolanda Kakabadse, Ecuador
Ruud Lubbers, The Netherlands
Steven Rockefeller, USA
Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Canada
Wakako Hironaka, Japan
Alexander Likhotal, Russia
Wangari Maathai, Kenya
Mohamed Sahnoun, Algeria
Rick Clugston, USA

Earth Charter International Secretariat

Mirian Vilela, Executive Director, Brazil
Mohit Mukherjee, Education Programme Manager, India
Betty McDermott, Project Officer, Costa Rica

"It is important that we realise our murderous ways in achieving industrialisation, and our life styles, and hopefully, one can move towards liberating the use and control of science from business, political and military interests.

With the growth and spread of industrialisation, we have also witnessed the decay of communities and the decay of our moral and ethical concerns. We have witnessed the savagery with which colonialism was established, and since then, we have witnessed two World Wars and several hundred smaller wars. With the rise of science and technology, there has been a phenomenal rise of violence everywhere. We have raped the soil and denigrated the ecosystems of the Earth because of our greed. And in the process we have lost touch with our inner self, and the sense of sacredness of the Earth, and all that which nourishes our spirituality and sustains us."

- Dr. Kamla Chowdhry, Earth Charter Commissioner, India



The Earth Charter Initiative has significant budgetary constraints.
Your financial contributions would be highly appreciated and may enable the Secretariat to continue its operations!

Contributions in support of the Earth Charter Initiative can be sent to:

The Earth Charter Fund/TPC
attention:
Claire Wilson
Post Office Box 648
Middlebury VT 05753
USA

Or to:

Mirian Vilela
Executive Director
Earth Charter Secretariat
P. O. Box 138-6100
San José, Costa Rica

Please make checks payable to:
The Earth Charter Fund/TPC.

This report was prepared by
The Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat
The information in this report was compiled and processed by
Betty McDermott, Mohit Mukherjee, Renaud Richard and Mirian Vilela
Edited by Esther Castain, Claire Wilson
Design: Alpi Productions

"Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life."

Earth Charter



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