

# Earth Charter Initiative Annual Report 2004



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## *Message from the Executive Director*

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In a world that faces so many negative events, growing lack of hope and skepticism, the Earth Charter has inspired individuals and groups from academia, business, government, religious/spiritual groups, conservation and local communities, not only to lift up hope, but also to join forces in the building of a more just and sustainable future.

Five years ago, when the Earth Charter was first launched, we had a significant challenge ahead of us: to make the document widely known and used. To fulfill the Initiative's mission requires promoting an understanding of the relationship between nature, people, communities, countries, etc. and perseverance in establishing an ethical foundation for the emerging global society. This is not something that can be achieved in the short term. Much of it depends on an international movement that mobilizes individuals and groups from different fields towards a common goal.



*Mirian Vilela*

We are very glad to see how much the Initiative has been able to advance and inspire individuals, particularly given the existing small team and limited resources at the Secretariat. Over the years, collaboration has been one of the main engines that has made possible the progress of the Earth Charter Initiative. The Initiative's success really depends on the sense of ownership of many individuals and organizations. With this report we share with you highlights of how the Earth Charter Initiative has evolved in 2004 and moved ahead towards our main goal of building a more just and sustainable future.

In the midst of the world's differences, this unique movement has engaged individuals from Western as well as Eastern cultures. It has helped many to overcome our territorial borders and attitudes to find some commonalities as human beings who are all part of one planet with a common destiny. We hope this report will motivate you to continue your existing collaboration with the Initiative or to begin making use of the Earth Charter as we all work towards better conditions for future generations. Any financial contributions you may offer to the Earth Charter Secretariat are gratefully received and important to ensure the continuation of this unique international movement.

*“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 Preamble*

# The Earth Charter Initiative - Understanding the Movement

The Earth Charter Initiative is a global movement that promotes the understanding and implementation of principles for sustainable development and more sustainable ways of living. The Initiative involves organizations, groups and individuals worldwide. The International Secretariat, its governing bodies, partner organizations, and the thousands of individuals around the world who have been inspired by the document, are collectively referred to as the Earth Charter Initiative.

### 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.

The Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat is based on the campus of the University for Peace in San José, Costa Rica. The role of the International Secretariat is to facilitate collaborative efforts and help catalyse its vast volunteer network to implement the Charter.

Guided by the Initiative’s goals, the Secretariat takes an active role in disseminating and promoting the Earth Charter, encourages its educational usage, and seeks international political recognition. Some of its core functions include maintaining the Earth Charter website in three languages, issuing a monthly online newsletter, managing all external communication, and organizing international meetings for our network.

Programmatically, it is organized around an Education Programme, a Local Communities Programme, and a Youth Initiative. However, increasingly, its projects and work overlap these three areas.

### Mission Statement

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.



The International Secretariat Staff

## *Featured Cases – Implementing the Charter*

The following short featured cases represent a small sample of the many examples around the world of the Earth Charter in action. They have been chosen to help illustrate how the Earth Charter Initiative progressed during 2004 in different contexts:

<b>Context</b>	<b>Feature</b>
A. Global Governance	The World Conservation Union endorses the Earth Charter.
B. Primary Education	A multicultural education programme in Spain is built upon the Earth Charter.
C. Higher Education	Harvard includes Earth Charter in a course at the Graduate School of Education.
D. Non-formal Education	A huge bi-national public enterprise in Brazil/Paraguay uses the Charter as a framework.
E. Community Strategic Planning	The World Resources Institute creates a comprehensive tool to help communities implement the Charter.
F. Youth Action	Youth leads Earth Charter team at the Parliament of the World's Religions.
G. Empowering the Network	Earth Charter Online Resource Center now includes over 600 resources.



*The Earth Charter Initiative is a global movement*

## *A. Global Governance:*

### *The World Conservation Union Endorses the Earth Charter*

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The World Conservation Union (IUCN) is a unique organization as it brings together both governments and NGOs into one body. Founded in 1948, it now has over 1,000 member organizations from approximately 140 countries. The IUCN's mission is, broadly, to help societies throughout the world conserve the integrity and diversity of nature. The 3rd IUCN Congress was held in Bangkok from 17-25 November 2004 and was titled People and Nature – only one world.

For many years, several members of the Earth Charter Initiative had been working towards an Earth Charter motion for endorsement by the IUCN. At the 2000 Congress, which took place in Jordan, a first attempt to have the IUCN adopt the Earth Charter was not successful as it was decided that more time was needed for members to consider the document. Subsequently, at the 2004 Congress, an Earth Charter Motion, sponsored by IUCN's Governing Council, was proposed, seeking endorsement of the document by the IUCN and a commitment to use the Charter as a guide for IUCN's policies and programmes.

Consistent with standard procedures during the deliberations of the Congress, a 'Contact Group' was formed to further consider the wording of the Earth Charter motion. The purpose of Contact Groups is to allow interested IUCN members to address any concerns with a motion and, when possible, arrive at a consensus on modified wording. The Earth Charter Contact Group, chaired by Carlos Manuel Rodriguez (Minister of Environment, Costa Rica), met on the evening of 21 November. Following intense discussions, agreement was reached on some substantial changes and the Motion was edited accordingly.

Late on the evening of 24 November, the agreed-upon Earth Charter motion was presented to the plenary. There was overwhelming support for the Earth Charter motion from both government and NGO members.



*The Thai were gracious hosts*

#### **The Four Main Points of the Approved Resolution:**

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17-25 November 2004:

- 1. ENDORSES** the Earth Charter as an inspirational expression of civil society's vision for building a just, sustainable and peaceful world.
- 2. RECOGNISES**, consistent with IUCN's mission, the Earth Charter as an ethical guide for IUCN policy and will work to implement its principles through the IUCN Programme.
- 3. RECOMMENDS** that the Earth Charter be used by the IUCN to help advance education and dialogue on global interdependence, shared values, and ethical principles for sustainable ways of living; and
- 4. ENCOURAGES** member organizations and states to examine the Earth Charter and to determine the role the Earth Charter can play as a policy guide within their own spheres of responsibility.



## *B. Earth Charter in Elementary Schools: In Retirement, the Work Goes On*

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Guillem Ramis has been an elementary-school teacher on the Mediterranean island of Mallorca for most of his life. Over the years, he saw that the Island's ethnic composition was changing, due to increasing immigration. He noticed racism and growing xenophobia and realized that there was a need for 'multicultural education'. When he came upon the Earth Charter, he knew that he held the blueprint to address these issues, as well as many more.

Guillem initially worked on a children's adaptation of the Earth Charter in order to make the language accessible to his young learners. He made several translations of the adaptation, helped by foreign immigrants to Mallorca.

His children's adaptation of the Earth Charter became the starting point for a number of activities for his class. One example is a photography project, where students illustrated each of the Charter's 16 main principles with a photo they took (an example is available on the Online Teaching Resource Database). Another project linked his students to an informal network of schools around the world. They shared the Earth Charter with these other schools, thereby establishing a common link between them all, and then exchanged letters and e-mails.

Today, after nearly 30 years of working with the public school system, Guillem has retired. Through his work, there are about 70 schools in the Balearic Islands, that have incorporated his multicultural education programme based upon the Earth Charter.

Retirement has actually freed up Guillem's schedule. He continues to promote the Earth Charter, such as traveling to Portugal, where he spoke about the Earth Charter as an educational tool for action.

*"My name is Emma and I am 11 year old: I think that the Earth Charter helps us understand other cultures, religions, and lifestyles in any region of the world."*

"For me, education is bringing out the values within the student...it is believing in that person."

*Guillem Ramis, posted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earth Charter Education Online Forum.*



*Guillem at his recent visit in Portugal*



*We're all different, we're all the same*



## *C. Earth Charter in Higher Education: Harvard Includes Earth Charter in a course*

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In August 2004, the Earth Charter Secretariat invited Dr. Fernando Reimers, professor at Harvard's Graduate School of Education, to learn about the Earth Charter Initiative.

Dr. Reimers, who is also the Director of the International Education Policy Programme, decided to include the Earth Charter in his introductory course titled, 'Education Policy Analysis and Research in Developing Countries'. He taught it in 2004 and it is now part of the syllabus for future years.

This builds on existing support for the Earth Charter by Harvard. The Forum on Religion and Ecology, the largest international multi-religious project of its kind, which is supported by the Harvard Center for the Environment, includes the Earth Charter as an important publication in its materials and website.

In addition, a number of professors in various universities around the world, such as University of Alberta, Canada; The Australian National University; Florida Gulf Coast University, USA; University for Peace, Costa Rica; Yerevan University, Armenia; Schumacher College, UK; and many others, are using the Earth Charter in their teaching.



*Dr. Fernando Reimers*



### HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

"We discussed the Earth Charter yesterday in the four sections of my class, that is, there are now 70 additional people who have read it and discussed it. The general reactions from my section were:

- 1) They liked the ethical and humanistic approach it conveyed
- 2) They found it very idealistic, not too practical to inform an education strategy - we compared it to Education For All goals and to Millennium Development Goals.

I emphasized that we need dreams and that today's dreams become tomorrow's goals and the realities down the road. I would be honored to help advance the Earth Charter vision in any way you found helpful."

*E-mail from Fernando Reimers, Director of the International Education Policy Program,  
Harvard Graduate School of Education*

## *D. Non-formal education: ITAIPU - Cultivating Good Water*

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The Itaipu Hydroelectric Power Plant, one of the largest power generators in the world, is a bi-national enterprise jointly developed by the governments of Brazil and Paraguay. ITAIPU is a public-sector body committed to a high level of social engagement in the Cuenca of Paraná region, where it operates.

Under the leadership of Nelton Friedrich, ITAIPU has used the Earth Charter as a valuable ethical framework, an educational tool, and as the common thread linking the 70 or more individual projects that are part of the programme Cultivando Agua Buena (Cultivating Good Water), which began in 2003. The projects, of a socio-economic benefit to the local population, are staffed by more than 150 people and account for a budget of US\$ 7.5 million annually. According to Friedrich, the ethical framework of the Earth Charter provides a counterbalance to the utilitarian culture that is becoming more prevalent over time.

The education component of the programme includes documents such as Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals, but mainly the Earth Charter. ITAIPU has printed more than 6,000 copies of the Earth Charter in Portuguese in its efforts to disseminate the document. It has also included the Charter in a number of other publications, including its Newsletter. To date, 29 municipalities, 145 NGOs, and 318 schools representing over 88,000 students, have been involved in ITAIPU's educational work with the Earth Charter. According to Friedrich, "All participants get the Earth Charter."

"Just as we cultivate earth to have the good fruits of our labor, it is necessary to cultivate water, so that it maintains its quality and quantity for everyone, since everyone depends on her."

*Jorge Samek, Direction General of ITAIPU, Brazil*

ITAIPU's production of the year 2000 was responsible for the supply of 95% of the electric power consumed in Paraguay and 24% of the total demand in the Brazilian market.

*Source: ITAIPU web-site*



*Nelton Friedrich, Project Dir.*



*Environmental Protection Belt*

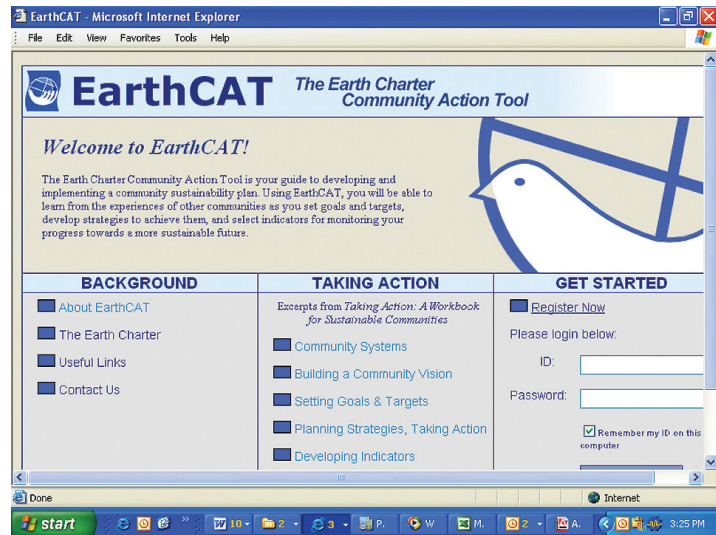
## *E. Community Strategic Planning: World Resources Institute Creates a Comprehensive Tool for Communities to Implement the Charter*

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Each community is different, varying in size, composition, and organization. The Earth Charter Action Tool (EarthCAT) has risen to the challenge of providing communities with a framework that permits them to identify their own priorities and approaches as they work towards a sustainable future. EarthCAT provides two complementary resources for communities to use when developing sustainability programs: an online software available at [www.earthcat.org](http://www.earthcat.org) and a hardcopy workbook titled, *Taking Action: A Workbook for Sustainable Communities*.

EarthCAT was developed by the Earth Charter Partnership for Sustainable Communities (ECPSC), a partnership consisting of the Earth Charter Secretariat, Global Community Initiatives, the World Resources Institute and communities and organizations around the world. Its methodology takes users through each major Earth Charter principle, one by one, helping them set specific goals guided by each principle. There is a built-in database, allowing users to see what goals other communities have set.

A version 1.0 of the *EarthCAT* software was released at the Sustainable Communities conference in Vermont, USA, in July 2004. The accompanying methodology workbook, *Taking Action: A Workbook for Community Sustainability*, was completed in January 2005 and will be available via the website later this year. Communities around the world are invited to test both products free of charge.



*The home-page of EarthCAT*

EarthCAT strives to provide value to communities in three major ways:

- Provides a methodology that gives clear steps to take in defining goals and targets, developing strategies, and measuring progress.
- Shares experiences of other local communities via a database.
- Provides practical instruction and theoretical background for the overall process of developing a community's plan.

## *F. Youth Initiative:*

### *ECYI Leads Earth Charter Team at the Parliament of the World's Religions*

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The Parliament of the World's Religions, from 7-13 July 2004 in Barcelona, was a gathering of some 4,000 religious leaders, scholars, lay people, and journalists from around the world. The Parliament's panels and discussions focused on four major topics: water, refugees, international debt, and religiously motivated violence. The parliament laid special emphasis on youth involvement.

Earth Charter Youth Initiative (ECYI) Coordinator, Michael Slaby, organized a panel within the Parliament. The event, titled The Earth Charter: Shared Values for Building a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable Future, was scheduled in the biggest venue at the Parliament and was attended by approximately 350 participants.

Among the speakers at the panel were Prof. Mary Evelyn Tucker, from Bucknell University; Earth Charter Commissioner, Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp; Josiane Troillet, with Actions Pour Une Charte de la Terre, France; and Michael Slaby.

Given the success and interest shown, an international interfaith youth network was established. Michael joined this network and now makes links between the members of this network and the Earth Charter Youth Initiative.



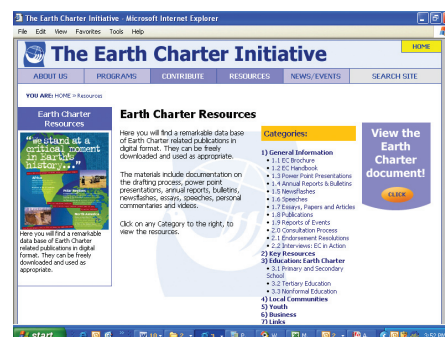
*An inter-religious group; Michael is 2<sup>nd</sup> from right, sitting.*

“The Parliament laid special emphasis on the involvement of youth. I was able to meet around 100 youth leaders from around the world. We agreed to stay in contact after the parliament and are now establishing an international interfaith youth network. I could present the Earth Charter and our youth activities and am involved in the follow-up. The network is facilitated by members of the United Religions Initiative (URI).”

*Michael Slaby, ECYI Coordinator*

## G. Empowering the Network: Online Resource Center Now Includes Over 600 Resources

This is a remarkable database of over 600 Earth Charter related resources in digital format, which can be freely downloaded! The materials include documentation on the drafting process, power point presentations, annual reports, educational materials, brochures, case studies, workshop guides, newsflashes, essays, speeches, personal commentaries, and much more.



### Database Categories & Contents

[www.earthcharter.org/resources](http://www.earthcharter.org/resources)

#### 1) General Information

- 1.1 EC Brochure *(In English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, German, Hungarian and Danish)*
- 1.2 EC Handbook *(In English and Spanish)*
- 1.3 Power Point Presentations *(Over 10 different presentations of the Earth Charter Initiative)*
- 1.4 Annual Reports & Bulletins *(Earth Charter Bulletins and Annual reports - '97 onwards)*
- 1.5 Newsflashes *(From June 2000 onwards)*
- 1.6 Speeches *(Over 70 full-text speeches relating to the Earth Charter)*
- 1.7 Essays, Papers and Articles *(Over 30 non-published documents on the Charter)*
- 1.8 Publications *(Over 30 publications, starting with a 16-page Earth Charter Bibliography)*
- 1.9 Reports of Events *(Selected reports of events, including the Summit in Johannesburg)*
- 2.0 Consultation Process *(Over a dozen reports from the extensive consultation process)*
- 2.1 Endorsement Resolutions *(Text of selected endorsement statements)*
- 2.2 Interviews: EC in Action *(Six interviews of individuals implementing the Charter)*

#### 2) Key Resources *(A selection of 20 or less important resources which reside in the larger database)*

#### 3) Education: Earth Charter *(over 50 educational resources developed using the Earth Charter, classified according to the three levels below. See page 15 of report for more details)*

- 3.1 Primary and Secondary School
- 3.2 Tertiary Education
- 3.3 Nonformal Education

#### 4) Local Communities *(A dozen cases of how local communities are implementing the Earth Charter)*

#### 5) Youth *(Over 15 resources, including 'Organizing an Earth Charter Youth Workshop')*

#### 6) Business *(A presentation on 'How can a business use the Earth Charter' and two more documents)*

#### 7) Links *(Web-links to relevant sites in the categories below)*

- 7.1 Earth Charter Sites *(Over 12 national groups or organizations have their own webpage)*
- 7.2 Collaborating Organizations *(Over ten collaborating organizations listed)*
- 7.3 Education for S.D. *(5 organizations engaged in the area of ESD listed)*
- 7.4 Related Websites *(Over 50 related websites listed)*

## Programme Highlights for 2004

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The Earth Charter Initiative is organized into three programme areas, namely Education, Local Communities, and the Youth Initiative. In actual fact, most of the projects have elements in all three programme areas. Given that, as well as the limited human and financial resources, a decision was made to prioritize the Earth Charter's educational applications. Below are some selected programme highlights from 2004.

### Education Programme

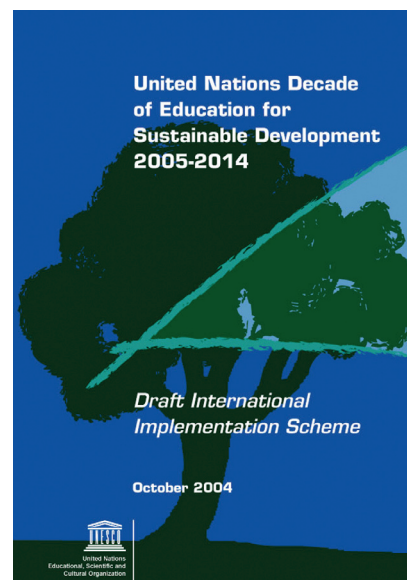
A growing number of groups in different parts of the world have been approaching the Secretariat to seek guidance, examples, and materials to help them integrate the Earth Charter into their teaching. Responding to this need, a draft *'Teacher's Guidebook'* was developed in 2004 and is being tested. In parallel, the Earth Charter Online Teaching Resource Database has been expanded and now has over fifty documents that are available via the website (*see table on following page*). The Secretariat is also working in partnership with a number of organizations in the development of materials, courses, and activities using the Earth Charter.

The Earth Charter's relevance as an educational tool was highlighted at several international meetings and conferences in 2004, including a 350-person international consultation hosted by the Swedish Government in May 2004, in preparation for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The report from the consultation, *Learning to Change Our World*, mentions the Earth Charter a number of times, including a note of its important role as an international document of values and principles for sustainable development.

UNESCO presented its draft International Implementation Scheme for the Decade to the UN General Assembly on 18 October 2004. The Implementation Scheme prominently features the Earth Charter on pg.14. The notable mention of the Earth Charter sends a clear message to all stakeholders of the importance and relevance of the Charter's vision in the context of the Decade. Throughout 2004, the Secretariat was in close communication with UNESCO about the development of the Scheme.



A participatory process was used in the Sweden consultation. The final report has a recommendation to "Explore the use of the Earth Charter as a major tool for teacher education curricula."



"The Earth Charter sets forth a concise formulation of the meaning of sustainable living and development."

*International Implementation Scheme, Oct. 2004*

## Overview of the online Teaching Resource Database

The online Teaching Resource Database is a growing set of educational materials that have been developed around the world using the Earth Charter as a framework. The materials have been classified into the following three categories:

	Primary/ Secondary	Tertiary/Higher Education	Non-Formal
<b>Number of Resources</b>	36	13	28
<b>Kinds of Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several illustrated children's adaptations in many languages</li> <li>• Classroom activities</li> <li>• Approaches to using the Earth Charter</li> <li>• Description of activities and projects</li> <li>• Online student and teacher activities</li> <li>• Teacher training modules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 100-pg. handbook on the Earth Charter</li> <li>• Several syllabi</li> <li>• A course review</li> <li>• Description of various Universities using the Charter</li> <li>• Recommendations from the Education Advisory Committee</li> <li>• A PowerPoint presentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Study Book for Action</li> <li>• Earth Scouts programme</li> <li>• Description of environmental education programme</li> <li>• Exploring the Earth Charter Activities</li> <li>• Various non-formal educational activities</li> <li>• Organizing an Earth Charter Workshop</li> </ul>

Illustrations of resources that can be found in the Teaching Resource Database



An Earth Charter adaptation using photos



A couple of children's adaptations

## Local Community Programme

The focus of this programme is to promote the Earth Charter as a values framework and soft law instrument that can serve as a guide for local sustainability planning and assessment. Over 400 local authorities from around the world have endorsed the Earth Charter in addition to endorsements by associations that represent a large number of municipalities.

The present challenge for the programme is to help local governments that have endorsed the Earth Charter to move forward in the process of incorporating the Earth Charter in their mechanisms for planning.

In response to that, under the leadership of the World Resources Institute, a project was launched 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. (See Feature on page 8)

### A few selected Local Community Events in 2004

- The Earth Charter is sent to all municipalities in Mexico (March-April)
- The Earth Charter is the central theme of a conference in Kazakhstan (March-April)
- Earth Charter Community Initiatives office established in Tampa, USA (June-July)
- The Charter is used by public libraries in Pará, Brazil, as part of their 'guiding principles' (ongoing)
- Sustainable Communities Conference is held in Vermont, USA (July)
- A new online software tool for communities is made available via [www.earthcat.org](http://www.earthcat.org) (July)
- Sixteen paintings depicting the values of the Earth Charter are publicly displayed in Brisbane, Australia. (July-Aug.)



Wangari Maathai, Earth Charter Commissioner from Kenya, was awarded the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy, and peace. She was the first woman from Africa to receive the award. (October)

### Community Summits 2004

The 2004 Earth Charter Community Summits, which took place in 29 cities in the U.S. as well as in three other countries, inspired people to implement the Earth Charter's principles in their communities.



The above panel was created in 2004 by Soka Gakkai International in collaboration with the Earth Charter Secretariat. SGI continues to add panels to its highly acclaimed 'Seeds of Change' exhibit, which continues to tour around the world.



## Youth Initiative

The Earth Charter Youth Initiative (ECYI) was put together by a core-group of young people from different countries committed to the Earth Charter, and active in bringing it to a larger number of young people worldwide. The only criterion for youth to join the ECYI is to actively promote the Earth Charter.

In early May 2004, volunteer Earth Charter Youth Initiative Coordinator, Michael Slaby, visited schools and youth organizations in British Columbia, Canada. Together with Renaud Richard and Dylan Specer, he co-facilitated an intercultural skills training programme for youth, based on the Earth Charter. This was organized by Inclusive Leadership Adventure from Canada, under the leadership of Dr. Linda Hill.

In July, Michael led an Earth Charter panel at the Parliament of the World's Religions (see feature story on page 9).

During 2004, Earth Charter Youth Groups in Ethiopia, Jordan, Sierra Leone and the Philippines have maintained their efforts to promote the vision and the values of Earth Charter both locally and nationally.

### New Youth Group in the Philippines

A group of twenty-two dynamic students in the Mindanao Polytechnic College launched its Earth Charter Youth Group and joined the global partnership of the Earth Charter Initiative. This took place on 3 October, 2004 in Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao. This group hopes to answer the call of the UN to build a global society for a better world through, *understanding, disseminating, and implementing* the Earth Charter.

*"The e-mail network of the ECYI rose to a membership of around 150 youth from 25 countries. Several new members came from Nepal and various African Countries."*

Michael Slaby, ECYI Coordinator



"The Earth Charter Youth Group, Sierra Leone, is making positive impacts among leading youth organisations in the country. For the past two months, we've been receiving special invitations to participate in programmes of other leading youth organisations."



Sylvanus Murray, coordinator of ECYG, Sierra Leone

## *New Resources for the Initiative*

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In 2004, the Secretariat, with the support and in some cases leadership of its partners, has made available a number of new resources for the Initiative.

### Earth Charter Guidebook for Teachers

The Guidebook, titled *'Bringing Sustainable Development into the Classroom'* aims to respond to the needs of many teachers around the world who feel that fundamental changes are needed in our values and ways of living, but feel they need help in approaching this difficult task.

The development of this Guidebook draws upon the experiences of the growing network of educators who are using the Earth Charter in their teaching. They were consulted on the content, structure, and target audiences for the Guidebook via an Online Forum, which yielded valuable advice into the process of developing this Guidebook.

The Guidebook is currently in draft format as it is being test piloted by several teachers in the Earth Charter network. For more information, or if you are interested in testing it, please contact [mohit@earthcharter.org](mailto:mohit@earthcharter.org).

### Secretariat leads the development of Costa Rican educational materials

The Costa Rican Ministry of Education has incorporated the Earth Charter into the cross-cutting curriculum issues for all primary and secondary schools in the country. The Earth Charter Secretariat, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the National University (UNA), the Children's Museum and the Distance Learning University (UNED), is leading a project to develop a teacher guidebook and student publications (workbook and agenda) to facilitate the implementation of these cross-cutting issues.

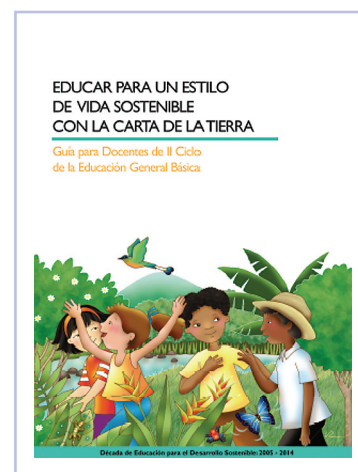
For this project, funding was secured from the Japanese Embassy in Costa Rica. In 2004, much of the development work on the teacher's guide and student publications was completed. Over 35,000 books for teachers and 100,000 for students will be distributed in Costa Rica in early 2005.

The project represents a concrete contribution towards the implementation of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in Costa Rica. Ideally, there will be the possibility of adapting these materials for usage in other countries, regionally or beyond.

### **The Guidebook...**

...offers guidelines on approaching the area of education for sustainable development, using the Earth Charter as a framework.

It is written to all teachers, irrespective of their subject area.



## [A Book on the Earth Charter in Action](#)

*Toward a Sustainable World: The Earth Charter in Action*, is a book that is being edited by Peter Blaze Corcoran, Senior Advisor to the Initiative, in partnership with the Secretariat, the NCDO and Kit Publishers in the Netherlands. It will demonstrate the rich diversity of uses of the Earth Charter and point towards the many possibilities of future utilization. The book celebrates five years of accomplishments by Earth Charter activists since the Charter was launched at the start of the new millennium. This publication will show the utility of the Earth Charter in diverse cultural and geographical contexts, including its ability to bridge the Islamic and Christian worlds, and work across the divide between the northern and southern hemispheres.

The book follows the structure of the Earth Charter's principles and shows their efficacy in meeting the challenges of a globalizing world. It will be launched in November 2005, during the Earth Charter+5 event in Amsterdam.



*Peter Blaze Corcoran, Chief Editor*

## [Earth Charter CD/DVD](#)

Launched in 2003, this project has advanced considerably in 2004 under the leadership of *Pour la Terre* and in close collaboration with the Secretariat.

The concept is for the production of a CD, geared toward children aged 5 to 13, with Earth Charter related songs performed by major local and independent artists. Each CD will contain at least 20 songs. The product is to be freely distributed and made available via Internet to educational facilities throughout the world by UNESCO, WWF and the Earth Charter Initiative.

This CD aims to be a teaching tool helping with the task of educating for sustainable development using the Earth Charter. An accompanying school kit will serve as a bridge between the songs and the Charter's principles, suggesting practical activities and applications. The resources should be ready by March 2005, in time for the official launch event of the Decade in New York.



*Project partners and sponsors*

# Looking Forward to 2005

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## Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

The United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD), 2005-2014, presents a unique opportunity for the Earth Charter. In 2003, UNESCO adopted a resolution affirming member states' intention *“to utilize the Earth Charter as an educational instrument, particularly in the framework of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development.”*

The Secretariat will continue to explore ways to provide concrete follow-up to the resolution passed and to promote UNESCO's political recognition of the importance of the Charter in the context of the Decade.



*UNESCO's Decade mascot*

## Earth Charter+5 Event

A major Earth Charter+5 event will be taking place in from 7-9 November 2005 in Amsterdam, marking five years since the Earth Charter was launched. The Earth Charter+5 will also be linked with the celebration of Netherlands's Queen Beatrix's 25th year anniversary on the throne. This event will gather not only Earth Charter Commissioners but also key Earth Charter partners.

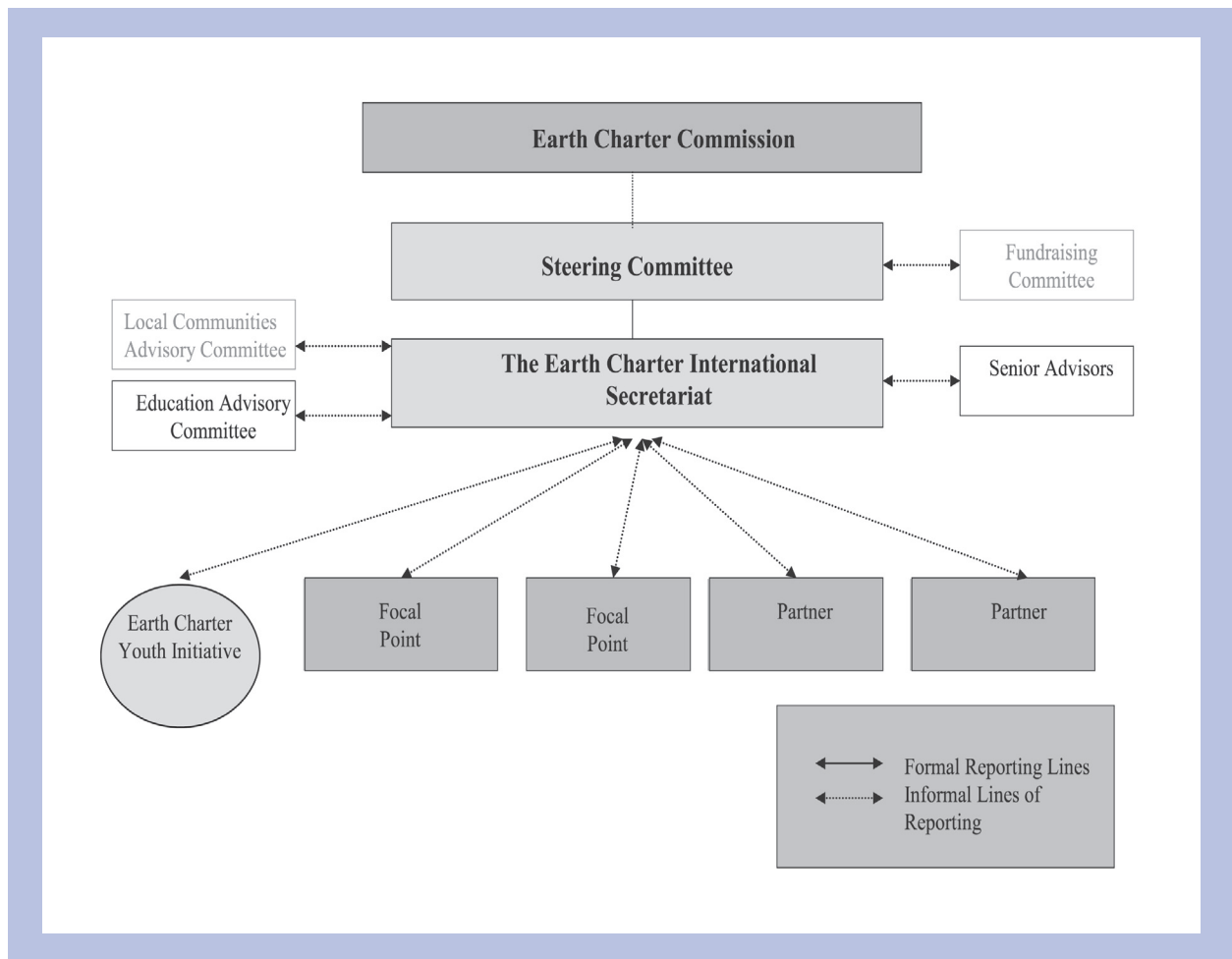
Some of the main objectives for the meeting are to undertake an assessment of the Earth Charter Initiative's strengths and weaknesses, set goals and priorities for the next five years, agree on how best to organize the Initiative in the future, and offer a platform for our partners to share their experiences in using the Earth Charter.

## Reorganization of the Initiative

In the 1990s, the Secretariat was formed to coordinate the drafting of what became perhaps the most widely consulted international document in history. In the year 2000, the Charter was finalized thereby bringing to a close this initial phase of the Earth Charter Secretariat's work. However, many supporters realized the immense potential of the Earth Charter to be promoted and implemented in a variety of fields, and hence the need for an organizational structure to spearhead this endeavour. It was decided that the Secretariat should continue operations and a Steering Committee, drawn from members of the Commission, was assigned the task of overseeing the Secretariat.

Five years later, the Secretariat has made tremendous progress galvanizing a network to disseminate and implement the Earth Charter. However, the office stands on a very unsteady financial footing. For the Initiative to continue to gain momentum, it is necessary to evaluate the situation, set new priorities, plan a fundraising strategy, and develop and institute a new organizational structure that will take the Initiative forward into a third phase. An external consultant will be helping with this critical recommendation, which will be finalized and presented for deliberation at the Earth Charter+5 meeting in Amsterdam.

## *Earth Charter Initiative Organization Chart*



## *Fundraising: A Challenging Task*

While the Secretariat has worked intently towards helping create a more sustainable world, it has yet to secure its own financial sustainability. The core activities of disseminating and promoting the Earth Charter, facilitating its educational usage, and seeking international political recognition, do not generate revenue that can help allay the costs of running the Secretariat. Indeed, many supporters argue it would be inappropriate for the Secretariat to try and generate income streams by somehow “commercializing” Earth Charter activities. The Secretariat is therefore extremely grateful to the individuals and organizations whose generosity allows its operations to continue for the benefit of all.

### *2004 Donors*

<b>Benefactor (above \$10,000)</b>
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ECO Sanibel, Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, Hartford Farm Institute, Elisabeth Kinkard-Ehlers, Sisters of St. Joseph, Boston Research Center for the 21st Century, Judy Friedman, Jessica Metter, Bill Bittenger, Marida Babcock, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province, St. Chretien Education, Daniel L. Triman, Terry Burki, Dr. R. Joyce, Robert Ewing, Susan Graefe, Susan Carthe, Maryknoll Sisters, Penny Lake.

Three reasons to financially support the Secretariat:

1. The small Secretariat acts as a catalyst to a vast volunteer network of thousands of partner organizations and individuals, so its work has a big multiplier effect.
2. Foundations rarely support the long-term attitudinal change type work the Secretariat is engaged in. It therefore must rely on individual supporters and organizations.
3. Given the generous in-kind support, the Secretariat's operating expenses for 2004 were under \$165,000 so even a small contribution makes a big difference.

**The University for Peace contributed towards the Earth Charter Secretariat with in-kind support estimated to be US\$70,000.**

## Supporting the Secretariat

Your support at any level is important to the Secretariat. Your gift will be recognized on the website and in the next annual report at the following levels:

Benefactor	above \$10,000
Sponsor	above \$5,000
Sustainer	\$2,500-\$4,999
Supporter	\$500-2,499
Encourager	\$300-\$499
Friend	\$50 - \$299

Please let us know if you would **not** like your name to appear on the list of donors.

Contributions can be mailed to the following address:

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

### Thank you!

Your gift to the Earth Charter International Secretariat is critical for our small office to continue to serve as a coordinating body in helping promote the Earth Charter.

Checks should be made payable to: ***The Earth Charter Fund/TCP***

In-kind contributions: The Initiative is very grateful to The University for Peace in Costa Rica for hosting the Secretariat office and providing it with administrative services. It would also like to recognize the immense contribution of Dr. Brendan Mackey in his role as Chair of the Education Advisory Committee. It would further like to thank Jean-Luc Marçais and Renaud Richard for updating the French website and Michael Slaby for serving as the volunteer Earth Charter Youth Initiative Coordinator.

The Secretariat has immensely benefited from the guidance of its Senior Advisors during 2004: Joan Anderson, Abelardo Brenes, Peter Blaze Corcoran, Karine Danielyan, and Alide Roerink.

## *Financial Statement: The Earth Charter Secretariat*

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### **Statement of income and expenditures in US\$** for the years ended 31 October 2001, 2002, 2003 until 31 Dec. 2004

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Balance from prior period	47,081.33	12,816.48	6,902.91	(704.63)
Income from donors	152,635.00	110,000.00	110,000.00	218,642.28
	<b>199,716.33</b>	<b>122,816.48</b>	<b>116,902.91</b>	<b>217,937.65</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Salary	82,286.66	72,580.88	94,370.89	107,847.07
Travel	4,447.57	11,244.96	12,481.10	3,851.46
Consultants/Seed Money	23,780.00	10,414.00	2,308.79	-
Meeting and workshops	42,178.64	-	-	7,516.61
Translations and Printing	19,349.13	11,907.18	3,168.40	43,311.00
Stationery	195.98	4,423.05	2,305.95	182.68
Communications	11,582.57	5,046.37	2,444.32	1,111.48
Miscellaneous	3,079.30	297.13	528.09	-
Purchases	-	-	-	1,123.16
	<b>186,899.85</b>	<b>115,913.57</b>	<b>117,607.54</b>	<b>164,943.46</b>
Liability Printing				<b>(42,675.00)</b>
IUCN meeting reimbursement				<b>(7,344.38)</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>12,816.48</b>	<b>6,902.91</b>	<b>(704.63)</b>	<b>2,974.81</b>

In addition US\$70,000 should be added as the University for Peace contribution for office space, computer and website technical support and general administrative and finance support. This means that the total expenditure of the Earth Charter Secretariat for 2004 is US\$234,943.

Given the nature of the Earth Charter Initiative movement, in which many organizations contribute significantly to advancing the Initiative's objectives, financially accounting for all of this would considerably increase the total yearly expenditure of the Initiative. The University for Peace is the only one stated here because these are contributions that can easily be accounted for.



## Samples of New Endorsements in 2004

Schools and Universities	Other educational organizations	Faith Groups	Businesses	Local Communities	Other NGOs
<p>Centro de Estudios Universitarios, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Columbia School, <i>Argentina</i></p> <p>C.P. Arturo Duperier, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>C.P. Ignacio Martín Baro, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>C.P. Montero de Espinosa, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>C.P. Ntra. Sra. de la Piedad, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Escuela Universitaria de Relaciones Laborales, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Escuela Universitaria Politécnica de Almadia, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>I.E.S. Garcilaso de la Vega, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Universidad de Castilla, Facultad de C.C. Sociales, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Universidad de Salamanca, Departamento de Psicología Básica, <i>Spain</i></p>	<p>Claymont Society for Continuous Education, <i>USA</i></p> <p>Colegio de Bachilleres del Estado de Michoacán, <i>Mexico</i></p> <p><i>Education 21 Scotland, UK</i></p>	<p>Archdiocese of Louisville KY, <i>USA</i></p> <p>Australian Presentation Sisters Justice Committee, <i>Australia</i></p> <p>Congregación B.V. María (Irish), <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Franciscan Sisters of Mary, <i>USA</i></p> <p>Religious Society of Friends [Quakers], <i>Canada</i></p> <p>Sinsinawa Dominican Central Council, <i>USA</i></p> <p>Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Board, <i>USA</i></p> <p>The Social Concern Office of the Catholic Diocese of Jefferson City, <i>USA</i></p> <p>The Cathedral Church of Christ the King, <i>Australia</i></p> <p>Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis, <i>USA</i></p>	<p>Advancement Through Evolution Enterprises, <i>USA</i></p> <p>Dennis Moss Partnership Inc., <i>South Africa</i></p> <p>Druide, <i>Canada</i></p> <p>Dayspring House of Prayer &amp; Retreats, <i>Canada</i></p> <p>Grupo Xcaret, <i>Mexico</i></p> <p>iD2 Communications, <i>Canada</i></p> <p>OMCISE S.A., <i>Argentina</i></p> <p>Wyetech Labs, <i>Canada</i></p>	<p>Andorra, Teruel, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Azuara, Zaragoza, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Bellingham, <i>USA</i></p> <p>Diputación Provincial, León, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Heidelberg, <i>Germany</i></p> <p>La Orotava, Tenerife, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Laviana, Asturias, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Morón de la Frontera, Sevilla, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>Polanco, Cantabria, <i>Spain</i></p> <p>San Ramón, <i>Costa Rica</i></p> <p>Santa María del Mercadillo, Burgos, <i>Spain</i></p>	<p>Agence de Diffusion du Droit International Humanitaire en Afrique Centrale, <i>The Netherlands</i></p> <p>Art of Living Foundation, <i>USA</i></p> <p>Bahamas Association for Social Health, <i>Bahamas</i></p> <p>Congolese Youth Association for Development – CYAD, <i>Africa</i></p> <p>European Environment Bureau, <i>Belgium</i></p> <p>Foundation HELP, <i>Tanzania</i></p> <p>Friends of the Environment Association, <i>Egypt</i></p> <p>Justice pour Tous -ONG, <i>France</i></p> <p>Nigeria Grassroot Youth Forum (NGRYF), <i>Africa</i></p> <p>The Centre for Sustainable Transportation, <i>Canada</i></p> <p>UN Association of Australia – UNAA, <i>Australia</i></p> <p>Voluntary Health Association of Kanyakumari (VHAK), <i>India</i></p>

# *The Organization*

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## **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

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Yolanda Kakabadse, Ecuador  
Ruud Lubbers, The Netherlands  
Steven Rockefeller, USA  
Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Canada  
Wakako Hironaka, Japan  
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