

Earth Charter International

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



®



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About this report



Earth Charter International's Annual Report is an overview of activities within the Secretariat and the wider Earth Charter Initiative globally between 1 January and 31 December 2013. The report contains information regarding Earth Charter International's operations and finances, as well as its impacts worldwide. The report also highlights several activities and achievements from affiliates and other groups working with the Earth Charter document around the world.

This report is organized following the Global Reporting Initiative's G3 reporting indicators (see section IX). These indicators detail Earth Charter International's performance in areas including Programme Effectiveness, Economic Performance, Environmental Performance, Labor Practices,

and Society Performance. Although the GRI G4 indicators are available, ECI was granted permission to use the G3 guidelines for the 2013 Annual Report and will develop the capacity to use the new guidelines for next year's report.

As part of Earth Charter International's commitment to environmental sustainability, ECI has offset its carbon emissions for the fourth consecutive year. All emissions from air travel will be compensated through the FONAFIFO (National Fund of Forest Financing) mechanism, a Costa Rican government programme.

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Cover photo:

Kids of Bolinao by Clémence Bourrin, Pangasinan, Philippines
Winner of the Earth Charter Human Rights Day Photo Contest



Foreword

We are living in a period of transition. There is widespread recognition that the current model of development is not sustainable. As developing countries come out of poverty their impacts also start approaching those of the developed world. The need to find more sustainable solutions is apparent at all levels of society: at the individual and family level; in our communities; in our countries; and in the world.

The Earth Charter Initiative, as a worldwide movement, is likewise in a constant process of change and transformation and has now entered a new phase. In spite of these changes, the Earth Charter document continues to be one of the best formulations of the ethical foundation for a sustainable world.

Thousands of individuals, groups, and communities around the globe have been actively and diligently working in their daily lives towards the improvement of the well-being of society as a whole. Some have been promoting a culture of sustainability and peace, both locally and globally. Other groups have been striving to ensure more justice in human endeavors, both socially and economically. An increasing number of groups have been working towards ecological balance.

Many of these groups have existed for many decades and were created long before the emergence of the Earth Charter.

Whether consciously or not, they are contributing to the actualization of the vision embedded in the Earth Charter. They are doing it their own way. But as we look at them from a broader perspective, they could be considered to be an active part of the Earth Charter movement.

Many of these individuals and groups try to make a difference in the world by being systemic in their way of thinking and taking action. They know that there is a direct connection between justice and peace. They honor justice, peace, and sustainability together, as a means for achieving the well-being of all living beings and happiness in society as a whole. Their work is imbued with the systemic essence of the Earth Charter. They do it intuitively, naturally, and driven by pure motivations and noble intentions.

Others live the spirit of the Earth Charter consciously. They explicitly use the Earth Charter's systemic perspective as the principal reference for ethics in decision-making. They consider the Earth Charter to be the most legitimate universal reference point, because it represents the vision of the common good from the perspective of a large number of peoples.

In our constantly changing world, the Earth Charter has emerged to become a part of a broader transition already underway, encouraging an even deeper and integral

transformation in the way we perceive and experience the process of life. Within this broader process, 2013 was just another small transition period in the EC Movement. The need to play a greater role in Education for Sustainable Development and to assist the use of the EC as a tool for decision-making have become more central to the movement today. The ECI Council is positioning the Earth Charter within the overall process of change and evolution taking place worldwide, also honoring other movements that have been contributing to the actualization of the EC vision, and focusing on two main areas: education aligned to EC values, and ethics (EC as a reference for decision making).

The goal now is to catalyze the necessary transformation in the world through ethics. The Earth Charter, a legitimate worldwide consensus vision of the common good, is well-positioned to become the main reference for ethics in decision-making processes in every realm of human activity. The ECI Council hopes that this will happen organically through a viral mode of diffusion, rather than through a mechanical, centralized, hierarchical process. This means that the Earth Charter Initiative should evolve in the very rhythm of life itself, in a perpetual process of change and transformation. The process is already underway. And it has been underway for quite a long time if we include all the initiatives that have been working towards the vision of a better tomorrow for all.

As the EC Initiative is a worldwide process, no individual will ever know what is actually happening in every part of the world, through all the constructive initiatives undertaken, under the umbrella of the EC or not. The silent and "invisible" anonymous actions may be much more significant and substantial than what one individual or group can possibly know. The hope is that we are getting closer to the turning point when the global evolution in the direction of the EC may experience a quantum leap.

Humanity has always been in transition.
The Earth Charter Initiative exists to help that overall transition be to the benefit of all beings while always honoring the essence of life on Earth.

ECI looks forward to working together with more individuals and groups from all over the world on this journey towards the effective actualization of the vision embedded in the Earth Charter. To all the friends of ECI that have helped the movement reach the present momentum, ECI offers its heartfelt gratitude.

Oscar Motomura and Kartikeya Sarabhai
Co-chairs, Earth Charter International Council



Executive Summary



This Earth Charter International (ECI) Annual Report offers an overview and highlights Earth Charter activities undertaken during 2013.

This was a year that represented significant learning and adaptation for the Earth Charter International Secretariat, especially due to the process of setting up the new EC Education Center, the establishing of and adjusting to a new ECI Council, as well as the process of strengthening relationships with key organizations in the Earth Charter Network. As usual, a number of Earth Charter efforts were generated and organized by the ECI Secretariat and many others were undertaken in a decentralized manner by the broad network. The following is an executive summary of the activities mostly undertaken by the ECI Secretariat.

EDUCATION

Over 2013, the Earth Charter Education Center offered three one-week intensive Executive Programmes, on

education, on international law and global governance, and on leadership and sustainability, all based on the Earth Charter principles. The Center organized three seminars in the course of the year, one with Leonardo Boff, one with Severn Suzuki, and one with Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, as well as two short courses or workshops related to sustainability, ethics, and education. In addition, the Center offered 10 on-line webinars, some in English and some in Spanish, involving over 600 participants on various topics. Finally, the Center hosted an academic Conference on *Ecological Integrity, Globalization and Radical Social Change*, jointly organized with the Global Ecological Integrity Group that brought together approximately 50 scholars in international law and philosophy from various universities.

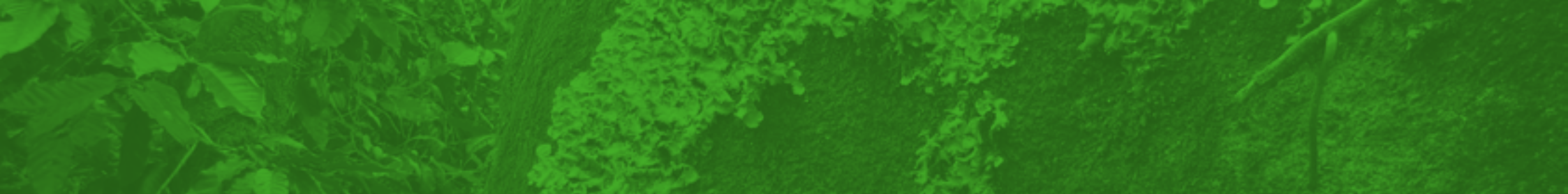
As part of ECI's collaboration with the University for Peace, ECI also offered a course on Education for Sustainable Development to students of the Peace Education Masters' Programme and one on Environment and Sustainability Governance to the Natural Resources and Sustainable

Development Masters Programme. A new database cross-referencing the Earth Charter principles with principles of International Law was launched with the aim of helping researchers on international law and principles of sustainability.

The ECI Secretariat continued its commitment to engaging young leaders, facilitating youth empowerment, and offering capacity building on themes related to sustainability, education, climate change, and the Earth Charter. As part of this commitment, ECI organized a seven-week on-line course, as well as two webinars and two small local workshops focusing on young leaders, in addition to a number of informal dialogues with individuals actively involved in the Earth Charter Youth Network.

NETWORK, OUTREACH, AND COMMUNICATIONS

In 2013, the ECI Secretariat invested somewhat less energy than in previous years in outreach to new partners, affiliates, volunteers, youth groups, or endorsers. Rather, it followed the decentralization empowerment policy in



which much of the outreach work and awareness raising relied on the network itself. To a certain extent, the Secretariat limited itself to nurturing its relationship with the existing network, guiding and collecting stories of experiences, at the same time as undertaking an evaluation of the relationships with affiliates, partners, and youth groups.

The Secretariat also dedicated efforts, as a communication hub, to facilitating and sharing information about activities generated both from the Secretariat and also from the global Earth Charter network. Towards those ends, the Secretariat continued to manage a tri-lingual website and facebook pages (English, Spanish and French), where it consistently posts news articles and relevant sustainability information, as well as issued regular newsflashes. The Secretariat persisted in managing and constantly updating a virtual library, with more than 800 resources, which includes an Earth Charter Bibliography that can be helpful for researchers and university professors. The International website received 802,548 visits in 2013, and in addition there are approximately 30 national websites in languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Arabic among others. Even

in a year when ECI focused less on endorsements, 300 new organizations endorsed the Earth Charter over the year and there are now 6,718 organizational endorsers and over 25,000 individual endorsers. The Secretariat received 218 Earth Charter volunteer registrations in 2013 from 50 countries.

The Secretariat continued to make an effort to collect stories of Earth Charter good practice and showcase those experiences as short videos or case studies. In 2013, two good practice stories were produced along with several video interviews.

DIALOGUE

The Secretariat has also continued to engage, as much as possible, with major topics of the international community. One of the main reasons for this is to engage the Earth Charter network on global governance initiatives and to expand understanding and awareness of ongoing challenges and issues. In 2013, some ECI efforts were directed towards raising awareness within the Earth Charter Initiative Network about the post-2015 development agenda and about the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. Additionally, ECI continued to

sensitize youth leaders about the theme of climate change through webinars and offered opportunities for amplifying the voice of the EC Network within these processes.

Movements such as the Earth Charter Initiative that are seeking a paradigm shift that will require radical changes in humans' view of the world and behavior can only succeed with a massive collaboration of many individuals and organizations that share a common vision and are willing to overcome self-interests and differences to join forces for the common good.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for all of those individuals and organizations who have embraced the Earth Charter vision of sustainability and continue to actively support the Initiative and dedicate their resources, whether they be financial, time, skills, or expertise to a great challenge of our time.

We look forward to our ongoing collaboration!

Mirian Vilela

Executive Director



I

Introduction

The Earth Charter Initiative is a global network of people, organizations, and institutions that participate in promoting and implementing the values and principles of sustainability expressed in the Earth Charter. Participants include leading international institutions, national governments, universities, non-governmental organizations and community-based groups, city governments, faith groups, schools, and businesses – as well as thousands of individuals.

Earth Charter International (ECI) consists of a Council and Secretariat. ECI's purpose is to advance the Earth Charter Initiative Mission and Vision. It endeavors to promote the dissemination, adoption, use, and implementation of the Earth Charter and to support the growth and development of the Earth Charter Initiative. The ECI Council was created in 2006 as part of a major reorganization and expansion of Earth Charter activities. Currently, there are EC Initiative projects and activities underway in over 80 countries. Countries that are particularly active include Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain, Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Russia, Germany, The United States, Kenya, Australia, India and the United Kingdom.





Mission

To promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace.




Vision Statement

We envision individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and multilateral institutions throughout the world, including the United Nations General Assembly and UN agencies, acknowledging the Earth Charter, embracing its values and principles, and working collaboratively to build just, sustainable, and peaceful societies.



Governance structure of Earth Charter International – ECI






The Earth Charter International Council provides leadership and guidance to the broader EC Initiative. However, it does not directly govern or control the Earth Charter Initiative as a whole. The Initiative is not governed in any formal sense. The Council is responsible only for the governance of Earth Charter International and in particular, overseeing the work of the ECI Secretariat and its Center on Education for Sustainable Development.

Following several years of service, the Council required a rotation of members. Therefore, over the course of 2013, the Council re-formed almost completely. Most of the previous Council departed and the Council started fresh with six members from the Netherlands, India, Brazil, Russia, and Mexico. This small Council began the process of selecting the remaining members. The new Council will have between 10 and 14 members, to be established in 2014. The ECI Council elects its own members in consultation

with the global network of Earth Charter supporters and typically meets once a year. The Executive Director of the ECI Secretariat participates in all these meetings, as an ex-officio member.

The ECI Secretariat staff is composed of the Executive Director, two regional coordinators, one who also functions as a communications coordinator, and one youth facilitator. In addition, during 2013, 9 interns worked on a full time basis at the Secretariat. Some of them were graduate students from Jyväskylä University, Finland and from Sciences Politiques of La Sorbonne, France. ECI also hosted four staff members from AmanaKey Brazil for periods of several months who, in addition to performing work tasks for AmanaKey, helped ECI with communications, marketing, event organization, and networking responsibilities. Finally, about twelve part-time interns from the University for Peace student body collaborated on specific projects. There are also a number of volunteers in different parts of the world constantly helping the efforts of the Secretariat.



The ECI Secretariat operates in Costa Rica as a semi-autonomous center under the legal umbrella of the University for Peace. The ECI Secretariat and the University for Peace cooperate in several ways. UPEACE provides administrative management services, while the ECI Secretariat offers courses in UPEACE Masters programmes related to sustainability, and occasionally supports students in their research.

As ECI is not a legally incorporated organization, Earth Charter Associates, Ltd. (ECA) was created in the United States in 2006 to provide legal, financial, and fundraising services in support of ECI, such as the trade mark registration of the EC logo. ECA is registered in The United States as a charitable (501c3) organization.



Goals and Achievements of the ECI Secretariat



ECI Goals:

The ECI Secretariat aims to raise awareness about the Earth Charter and its vision of sustainability worldwide and promote its use with the purpose of facilitating the transition towards a more sustainable society.

1. To raise awareness worldwide of the Earth Charter and to promote understanding of its inclusive ethical vision.
2. To seek recognition and endorsement of the Earth Charter by individuals, organizations, and the United Nations.
3. To promote the use of the Earth Charter as an ethical guide and the implementation of its principles by civil society, business, and government.
4. To encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter in schools, universities, religious communities, local communities, and many other settings.
5. To promote recognition and use of the Earth Charter as a soft law document.

1. Network Facilitation, Outreach Efforts and Communication Services

Given the decentralization strategy of ECI and the small size of the Secretariat, ECI relies significantly on its network and partners to move towards the implementation of the Earth Charter Initiative objectives. Therefore, the ECI Secretariat works primarily in nurturing, guiding, and inspiring the existing network and in the outreach of new groups that would embrace the Earth Charter vision and incorporate it as part of their work. In this context, during 2013 the ECI Secretariat worked with the following groups:

AFFILIATES

ECI Affiliates are organizations that share the Earth Charter vision and are committed to promoting the Earth Charter and helping implement ECI strategies in their countries. By the end of 2013, there were 116 ECI Organization Affiliates from 70 countries. No new Affiliates were added in 2013. Towards the end of 2013, many Affiliate relationships were under review and 2014 will be a year when Affiliate relationships will be

redefined, some agreements will come to an end, and others will be added. Many of these relationships began six years ago, if not more.

In early 2011, the ECI Secretariat decided that cultivating existing relationships was the priority moving forwards rather than increasing the number of affiliates or partners. Therefore, the number of new affiliates and partners has not changed significantly since 2010. There are countries, such as the United States or Mexico, where there are many Earth Charter actions by volunteers, but there are only one or two Affiliates, and many Earth Charter actions that are not led by ECI Affiliates. Some examples of ECI Affiliates work are provided in section VIII and more details can be found in the respective country page on the Earth Charter website.

YOUTH

EARTH CHARTER YOUTH NETWORK

The Earth Charter youth network is a diverse, interactive global network representing over 50 countries from around the **world**. Members of the youth network have embraced the Earth Charter and are committed to implementing its

principles into their daily lives towards building a more sustainable future. The EC youth network and its activities are composed of the following: Earth Charter Youth Groups, Earth Charter Youth Task Force, Online Youth short courses, webinars, and workshops (face-to-face).

EARTH CHARTER YOUTH GROUPS

The ECI Secretariat encourages and empowers young people to take on the responsibility of initiating Earth Charter activities in their home communities so that they can spread the importance, knowledge, and principles of sustainability. Earth Charter Youth/Student Groups (ECYG) are groups of youth studying the Earth Charter, drawing upon it as a source of inspiration, and then organizing small action projects in their local communities on sustainability.

There are 147 Earth Charter Youth Groups around the world. They are located in 63 countries. There were 5 new youth groups in 2013, one of them representing a new country: Lesotho. The new youth groups are the following: [ECYG The Greens](#) (Cameroon), [ECYG Synergy](#) (United Arab Emirates), [ECYG Baranquilla Sostenible](#) (Colombia),

ECYG Children of the Earth (The Netherlands), ECYG Faith Miracle Centre Maseru (Lesotho), and [Students for the Earth](#) (United Arab Emirates).

The [Wikispace](#) page for Earth Charter youth activists, created in 2009, was further developed in 2013. Its purpose is to facilitate contact between Earth Charter Youth/Student Groups. The ECYG Wikispaces page was visited 59,045 times in 2013 by people from 194 countries. This means that there was an average of 162 visitors per day throughout the year. The top three countries represented by these visitors were the United States (52.4%), Costa Rica (6.2%) and Canada (5.6%).

EARTH CHARTER YOUTH GROUP OF THE MONTH

As part of the Earth Charter youth network, the ECI Youth Coordinator began showcasing an EC Youth Group every month that is actively using the Earth Charter in creative and innovative ways in projects and activities. To view all featured EC Youth groups thus far, please click [here](#). To view Earth Charter Youth Groups in a google map format, click [here](#).

EARTH CHARTER YOUTH TASK FORCE (YTF)

The development of the [Earth Charter Youth Task Force](#) (EC YTF) has its roots in an EC online course, entitled "[Youth Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics](#)" held in August 2010. At the close of this month-long course, the participants continued (for several months) meeting once a week online to share their experiences with the Earth Charter.

From 2010 and throughout most of 2013, this group of EC Youth activists from various parts of the world formed an ad hoc task force to work together through on-line meetings to share views and forge collaboration on how to move forward in a number of Earth Charter Youth efforts. In 2013, the EC YTF decided to reshape the structure of the YTF by dividing its members into 10 Regional Hubs: Europe, Russia, Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, North America, Latin America, Australia-South Pacific, Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia. The intention for doing this was to improve communication and increase the level of productivity throughout the EC youth network.

ONLINE YOUTH SHORT COURSES, 2013

The purpose of online courses is to train youth about sustainable development and the Earth Charter and inspire them into action using the Earth Charter as an ethical framework towards building a more sustainable, just, and peaceful world. The expectation is that these youth participants will become multipliers who will then promote and disseminate the Earth Charter to other youth after completing one of these courses.

This year, the Earth Charter Youth Network has conducted one online 7-week short course in partnership with US-based youth organization [IDEASforUS](#). IDEASforUS is a youth-led International sustainability movement growing across universities, K-12 schools and communities around the world, providing people of all ages with the opportunities to grow their ideas and leave a positive



ECI Youth presentation

impact for generations to come. The idea was to train 25 US university chapter leaders in leadership, sustainability, and ethics and facilitate the development of their sustainability action projects, all of which will be implemented throughout their different university campuses across the US. To learn more about this online course, please click [here](#).

EL RODEO COMMUNITY

Together with the UN Mandated University for Peace (UPEACE), ECI Secretariat has established a partnership between El Rodeo School and a group of students who committed to teach English to students from grade 1 to 6 on a weekly basis. El Rodeo is the local community where the ECI Secretariat and UPEACE are located. The vision and the aim of this project are to support the academic work of the school, in particular for English as a

second language (ESL), by offering after-school class activities in English. The Secretariat has also collaborated with UPEACE's Sustainability Club's Outreach Committee, which aims to enhance the relationship between the local community (El Rodeo) and the University community.

This year the ECI Secretariat participated in two community workshops, which aimed to assess the areas and activities community members share in order to make it a better place to live in. These workshops were done in collaboration with UPEACE students, Earth Charter International Secretariat and a representative from the Environmental department of the Costa Rican National Institute of Electricity.

The ECI Secretariat, through the generous donation of those UPEACE students who organized the 2012 Latin American cultural night, purchased tickets to take the group of young people (from UPEACE and el Rodeo) who participated in the previous community soccer match to watch a live national soccer match at the new National Stadium in San José in June 2013. The intention of this activity was meant to complement the identified need for more recreational activities and therefore build on relationships between el Rodeo and UPEACE community members. You can read more about the soccer game outing [here](#).

Earth Charter International has also continued to participate in a number of other smaller workshops at the Community Center in el Rodeo with young people and

UPEACE students to further build on relationships and identify how community members envision a more peaceful and sustainable community. You can read more about ECI projects in El Rodeo [here](#).

YOUTH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Partner organizations integrate the Earth Charter into their work in different ways. Some examples are Earth Charter-inspired trainings, supporting the operations of the Earth Charter youth network, creating EC-related materials, or promoting the EC Initiative on their Web sites, among others.

Partner organizations include [Youth Action for Change](#) (YAC), [Tread Lightly](#) (a programme of TakingITGlobal), [Thumbs Up](#), [Road to Rio+20](#), [Reto Juvenil Internacional Costa Rica](#), [EOTO World](#), [OAYouth](#), [SHIFT Network](#), [IDEAS for Us](#), and [CliMates](#).

To view our youth partner organizations in a google map format, click [here](#). For more information about Earth Charter Youth Network, click [here](#).

EC YOUTH ACTIVITY IN INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES: TOWARDS COP 19

CLIMATE REALITY TALKS AND THE EARTH CHARTER

As part of the Climate Leaders programme of the The Climate Reality Project of Al Gore, the ECI Youth Coordinator gave seven presentations about climate change and how the Earth Charter plays a key role in developing the

solutions that are needed to solve the crisis. This activity was intended to inform participants in advance of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 19th Conference of Parties (COP19). This presentation was given to more than 250 people from high schools, universities, NGO's, and governmental institutions in 2013.



COP in San Jose Youth activity

COP IN MYCITY

COP in MyCity is a youth-led project which ambitions to bridge the gap between climate negotiations and the mainstream public, foster education and action about climate change locally and create an international community of youth climate leaders committed to the success of COP21 (2015). This project is led by [CliMates](#), a French student

Think & Do Tank committed to finding and promoting innovative solutions to climate change.

The main goals of this initiative are:

- Bring the expertise about climate change to young people and citizens, raise awareness about the COP and act locally by gathering climate actors in our cities.
- Influence the climate negotiations by building a common vision using the tool of simulation games.

The Earth Charter Youth coordination partnered with CliMates to develop the following activities held in November under the COP in MyCity initiative:

- *Webinar: "Climate Change 2013, Towards Warsaw and beyond"*. The objective of this webinar, was to present the current situation of climate change from a scientific, political and ethical perspective, putting special emphasis on its relation with youth and The Earth Charter, in order to have a better understanding of the current and future climate summits and their implication for sustainable development. You can see the recording [here](#).
- *Climate Negotiations Simulation*. The Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development hosted the first-ever Climate Negotiations Simulation in Costa Rica. The event was supported by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation and by the youth-led organization CO.cr.



Free Gaza by Ronnie Oh, Melbourne, Australia/ Earth Charter Human Rights Day

The goal of the event was to simulate the real climate negotiations under the UNFCCC in order to familiarize young people about this type of international process and encourage them to create their own positions on future climate policy.

One innovative element was the introduction of the Earth Charter in all the decision that were made by the national delegations, which made the participants reflect on ethical issues of sustainability that are mostly absent or ignored in these processes.

SPECIAL DAYS EVENTS

To raise awareness about different sustainability topics, the EC Youth Network started to develop short initiatives

for special occasions such as Earth Day, Peace Day, Environment Day, etc.

In December 2013, the first of these initiatives was launched to celebrate Human Rights Day. Through a photo contest, young people were asked to submit a picture of their school, community, or surroundings that illustrate both a principle of the Earth Charter and a principle of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [Here](#) you can see all the photos that were submitted from people all over the world.

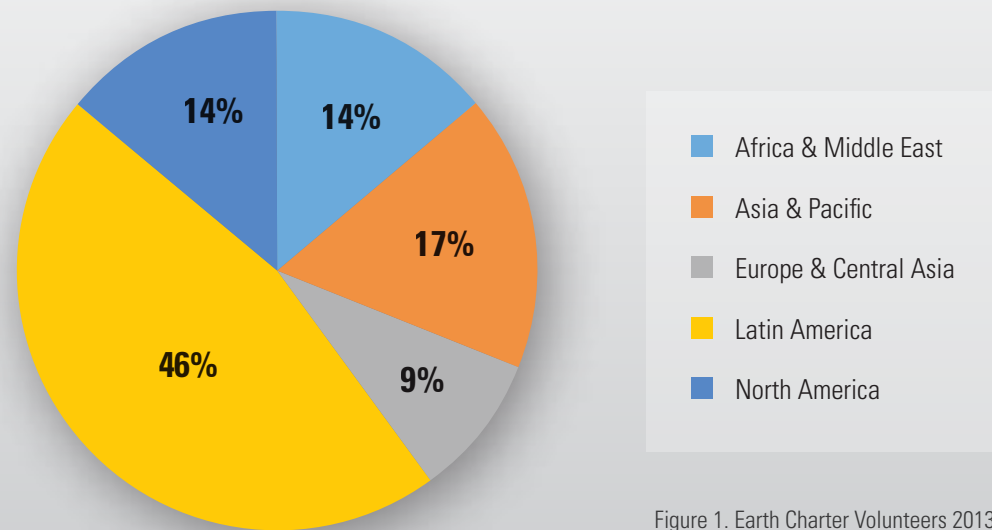


Figure 1. Earth Charter Volunteers 2013

VOLUNTEERS

In total, 218 persons signed up as Earth Charter volunteers in 2013, representing 50 countries. For the first time there was a volunteer from Angola. Figure 1 presents the regional distribution of the volunteers. The volunteer programme is most successful in Latin America.

The project that attracted the most people was Project 1, which is about translating the Earth Charter or other important documents. This was closely followed by Project 3, in which volunteers commit to giving presentations about the Earth Charter. The one that had the least amount of volunteers was Project 5, asking people to create Earth Charter groups in their companies.

Not all the volunteers that sign up communicate their activities to ECI, and sometimes it takes many months, up to a year, for them to share the results of their actions with the ECI Secretariat. In 2013, some specific activities that were communicated to ECI included:

- The use of the Earth Charter in monitoring a sustainable livelihoods and agro-practices project in six villages in the Dadu District, Sindh, Pakistan;
- A volunteer translated the Earth Charter into Bahasa Malaysia, and the translation is in the process of being proofed;
- A volunteer from India started a [blog inspired by the Earth Charter](#);
- The Earth Charter was introduced by an EC volunteer from Florida in a project called [FutureFlash! Project](#);
- A university professor from Peru created a group for her students in which they analyze the principles of the Earth Charter and come up with personal actions to put the principles in practice;
- In Argentina, a high school professor distributed copies of the Earth Charter in her school, and decided to use the Charter in an environmental project with the municipality and at her high school.



Earth Charter homepage



Earth Charter endorser page

ENDORSERS

The ECI Secretariat also has the task of maintaining an on-line endorsers' database. The most common method to endorse the Earth Charter is through the EC Initiative website. However, there are instances where endorsements are done at public events on paper, and there are a few countries that keep their own databases, which makes it difficult to keep such information in the current ECI database.

Only organizational endorsements are made public. Among the most recent organizational endorsers are: CANACINTRA (Chamber of Industry) from Mexico, the Iona Stichting and Inner Sense from the Netherlands, the California Institute for Integral Studies, and Fundacion Neotropica and CANAECO (the Chamber of Ecotourism) of Costa Rica.

As of December 2013 there were 32,358 registered endorsements of the Earth Charter, out of which 6,718 are organizations and 25,640 are individuals. The number of endorsers continues to rise steadily and 2013 more than 300 new organizations endorsed the Earth Charter and an average year of individual endorsements. The numbers are slightly down due to a decreased focus on endorsements and fewer large events.

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

The ECI Secretariat maintains an international [website](#), available in English, French, and Spanish. The site serves as an information hub for the EC network, offering an overview of activities and organizations involved with the Earth Charter Initiative, organized by country (there are 110 country pages) and by topic or focus area.

One of the main objectives of the website is to offer basic information about the Earth Charter Initiative and to allow for the sharing of experiences and good practices. For this purpose, specific pages within each focus area were created for the display of systematized stories on how different organizations work with the Earth Charter. The international website also contains a Virtual Library with over 800 resources available for free, and work to improve them is ongoing.

In 2013, the communication strategy work, which began in 2011 under the auspices of the Kalliopeia Foundation grant, continued to be implemented and several of the goals were reached. Specifically, the storytelling goals specified in the communications strategy began to bear fruit with two short documentary projects completed (La Reforma and Earth Scouts), and several video interviews



Earth Charter facebook page



Earth Charter YouTube page

and case studies also published. One of the documentary films was selected at the Costa Rican CRiterio Ambiental Film Festival. The social media work continued and Earth Charter's presence and reputation in online platforms, especially facebook, continued to grow steadily.

In 2013 there were 802,548 visits to the main Earth Charter website as compared with 715,137 in 2012, and 599,351 in 2011. This is a sign that interest after the Rio+20 conference remained high and continued to grow, almost reaching the levels of the record year 2010 when the Earth Charter celebrated its 10-year anniversary and the website received 849,645 visits. The continued increase in visits to the main EC site, especially in a year with no major events, is probably due to the increased use of social media, the augmented work on marketing, and the presence of a full time communications officer at the secretariat. Most visitors came from the United

States, Norway, Mexico, China, and Ukraine. Attachment D shows the list of all available EC websites.

The Wikipedia articles on the Earth Charter are also an important resource. The article in English received 22,445 visits during 2013, an approximate 15% decrease over the previous year's visits. The Spanish article received 318,819 visits, more than a 27% increase from 2012. For both articles, there was an evident increase of visits on Earth Day (22 April).

The ECI Secretariat is also active on social media sites and made a special effort to increase its work in this relatively new field (including understanding how to make better use of it and its limitations). ECI operates several Facebook pages in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and now French, has a Google+ account, and is active on YouTube with more than 200 uploads and favorites, and around

20 new videos in 2013, almost 500 channel subscribers, and almost 350,000 views, an additional 60,000 from the previous year. The Spanish facebook page grew significantly in 2013, by almost 300%, most probably due to small investments in advertising. The English page continued to grow at a moderate rate, increasing by slightly more than 25% in 2013 and breaking the 10,000 barrier in October 2013. The YouTube channel had almost 20,000 fewer views in 2013 than in 2012, however the channel videos were watched more than 2,000 hours in 2013 compared to around 800 hours in 2012. This is probably due to the larger quantity of short videos in 2012 and the more substantial, although fewer, videos in 2013.

The [Wikispace](#) page for Earth Charter youth activists was visited 59,045 times in 2013 by people from 194 countries, down from 2012 levels, but still very active with an average of more than 150 visits per day.

2. Education

CENTER FOR EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2013, the Earth Charter Center for ESD was honored to receive the accreditation of [EDU International](#), a treaty-established Intergovernmental Agency that offers International Accreditation for Learning Institutions. EDU International promotes quality education and seeks to enable international job seekers the confidence that their institutions will be recognized as legitimate and of high quality overseas.

ECI appreciates having the support of this accreditation for the Education Center activities, which have been organized under the framework of the [UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter](#). These activities are: Executive Programmes, Short courses (online and face to face), Seminars, Webinars and Conferences.

EXECUTIVE PROGRAMMES

These are one-week intensive courses with limited number of participants, whose purpose are to be transformative experiences for participants using the Earth Charter as an instrument for this transformation, focusing on



specific areas of knowledge. Another purpose of these programmes is to generate funds for the services that the ECI Secretariat offers to the global Earth Charter network for free.

In 2013 there were three Executive Programmes, two in English and one in Spanish. A total of 48 people participated in these intensive programmes, representing 14 countries, the programmes were:

[Education and Values for Sustainable Development](#). Offered from 13-17 May, facilitated by Sam Crowell, Professor of the University of California in San Bernardino and Mirian Vilela, Executive Director of the EC Center for ESD.



Executive Programme participants

[International Law, Global Governance and the Earth Charter principles](#). Offered from 3 -7 July, facilitated by Prof. Klaus Bosselman, from Auckland University in New Zealand.

[Internalization of Sustainability Values and Principles](#). Offered in Spanish from 26-29 November, facilitated by Mateo Castillo, ECI Council Member and Mirian Vilela.

ONLINE SHORT COURSES:

The target group for these courses are youth leaders, see page (17) in the Youth section of this report, with information about these courses.



Earth Charter workshop at the EC Center



Earth Charter workshop in San Jose

COURSES FOR THE UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE:

As part of the Agreement between the ECI Secretariat and the University for Peace, the EC Center for ESD has been offering several courses for UPEACE's Masters' Programmes. In 2013, it offered an intensive 10 session course on Education for Sustainable Development and another intensive five-session course on Environmental Governance.

SHORT COURSES, WORKSHOPS AND TALKS:

There were two short face-to-face courses or workshops, both on education for sustainability in 2013. One of the courses was offered for the [UNESCO Schools Network of Costa Rica](#) in June, with eighteen teachers mostly from Costa Rican public schools. A short video with their impressions of the course was created, find it [here](#).

The other activity was a workshop that took place on 13 June, and was offered to a [group of teachers](#) who came to Costa Rica through a Fulbright-Hays scholarship organized by Michigan State University. The workshop

provided an overview of Costa Rica's development using the Earth Charter perspective, as well as bringing up the importance of education for sustainable development for fomenting sustainability changes in the world. With this group of teachers, ECI organized a number of meetings with Ministers and many other organizations in Costa Rica that work on topics related to the Millennium Development Goals (which was the thematic focus of this group), and helped organize some field trips to different parts of Costa Rica. One of the meetings was with the President of Costa Rica, Mrs. Laura Chinchilla, who was kind enough to receive the group at the Presidential House.

In addition, EC Center staff members are often invited to offer Earth Charter talks in conferences, seminars at schools, universities, NGOs or companies. Some of them include:

- In June, the EC Center was invited for a talk on integrating sustainability in curricula to the [University of Costa Rica's Food Technology Department](#).

- In August, the ECI Executive Director spoke about people's charters, the significance of the Earth Charter and ethical foundations for fostering societies that focus on universal values and the common good, at the opening session of the three-day Common Good Forum. The Forum brought together experts and practitioners in various fields to reconsider economics and other areas of human enterprise while focusing on the common good.
- In September, ECI celebrated the 20th anniversary of Green Cross International. Several ECI Council members and EC Commissioners joined the Earth Dialogues and the Green Cross conference held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Also in September, ECI Staff facilitated a workshop to North American leadership students at Maximo Nivel Institute in San Jose, Costa Rica.



Leonardo Boff speaking at the EC Center



ESD Webinar screenshot

- In November, the EC Center for ESD was invited by PERL and Consumers International Latin America to offer a talk and be part of a Regional Network for Education for Sustainable Consumption, in Bogotá, Colombia. There were 30 participants from 14 countries from influential organizations in Latin America.

SEMINARS

In 2013, the ECI Secretariat organized the following two-hour face-to-face events at its Education Center:

1. [The Universe Story and the interconnections with life With Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim](#). On 11 March, around fifty participants attended this seminar, which involved the presentation of the documentary "The Journey of the Universe", followed by a discussion.
2. [Reflections on knowing how to care, with Leonardo Boff](#). On 4 April, around 70 people in the EC Center and 140 people online participated in this event, which was broadcast over the internet.
3. [Understanding our interconnections and recognizing our responsibilities, with Severn Suzuki](#). On 22 April, as part of the Earth Day celebration, this seminar took place, face-to-face and then online, with around 100 people.
4. Author, philanthropist, and development expert Fred Matser from the Netherlands delivered a lecture and facilitated a discussion on development projects, sharing his personal experiences to students of the University for Peace on 12 November.

This year's speakers came to Costa Rica sponsored by other organizations. ECI wants to express its gratitude to the sponsors for allowing these speakers to come to the EC Center and offer the seminars.

WEBINARS:

This year the ECI Secretariat organized ten webinars, five in English and five in Spanish. The following is the list of webinars, more details for each webinar can be found through the hyperlinks. The number of participants refers to the users that logged in the webinar, however, there were several large groups, especially classrooms in other countries, that saw some of the webinars, using just one user name. This means that the number of people that viewed the webinar is much larger than indicated below. In any case, the number of users or participants in total was 685.

Date	Topic	Speakers	# Participants
18 March	Values Education for sustainability.	Sam Crowell, University of California, US; Stephen Sterling, University of Plymouth; UK Bernard Combes, UNESCO Paris.	114
22 April	Empowering a new generation of sustainability leaders through education.	Severn Suzuki, Canada	93
22 May	Environmental law and global governance	Peter Brown, McGill University, Canada; Cormac Cullinan, EnAct Int, South Africa	75
12 September	The post-2015 development agenda and the Earth Charter	Brice Lalonde, France; Felix Dodds, former Stakeholders Forum, UK; Gemma Burford, Brighton University, UK-	72
25 September	Dialogue on ESD and its foundations (in Spanish)	Cruz Prado, La Salle University, Costa Rica; Teresa Salinas, University Ricardo Palma, Perú; Valeska Carbonell, Ministry of Education, Chile	89
8 October	ESD in Higher Education (in Spanish)	Waverli Maia Matarazzo-Neuberger, Metodista University, Sao Paulo, Brasil; Mariana Buendía, San Luis Potosí University, Mexico; Olga Bermúdez, National University, Colombia	39
15 October	Education for sustainable development and transformative learning	Daniella Tilbury, University of Gloucestershire, UK; Mark Hathaway, Writer, Canada; Sam Crowell, University of California, US	69
6 November	ESD in Primary and Secondary Education (in Spanish)	Rosa María Chacón, Simón Bolívar University, Venezuela; Gina Ventura, Mexican Institute of Pedagogy Studies, México; Jeannette Cordero & Karla Aguilar, CEUNA School, Costa Rica	39
20 November	ESD in Non Formal Education (in Spanish)	Patricia Abuhab, Harmony with Earth, Brazil; Michelle Calderón, Youth leader, Mexico; Cardiela Amezcua, Culture Office of Michoacan, Mexico	60
3 December	Latin America Regional Consultation on ESD and the way forward (in Spanish)	Astrid Hollander, UNESCO Chile; Norma Mota, Universidad of Coahuila, Mexico; Mirian Vilela, Earth Charter Center for ESD	35



Global Ecological Integrity Group conference

CONFERENCES

In 2013, the [Conference of the Global Ecological Integrity Group](#) took place from 27 June to 2 July at the ECI Education Center facilities. This is a group of academics and researchers from diverse disciplines, including ecology, biology, philosophy, epidemiology, public health, ecological economics, and international law. They have met once a year in different parts of the world for the last 20 years. They frequently discuss topics related to the Earth Charter, and many members are great admirers and users of the Earth Charter in their academic disciplines. The 2013 meeting was entitled "Ecological Integrity, Globalization and Radical Social Change: From the UN, to the Earth Charter; from the World Social Forum to the Rights of Mother Earth and Beyond"

More than 50 participants attended and shared papers and ideas. A tangible result of the Conference is a book to be published in 2014.

It is expected that in 2014, more executive programmes will be offered at the Earth Charter Center for ESD and with partners from different parts of the world. One programme that ECI started creating in 2013 is "[Art Therapy for Sustainability](#)", which is a Certificate Programme organized in Spanish with ASART (Earth Charter Affiliate in Costa Rica). It is expected to be launched in 2014.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Database of EC and international law instruments: Collaborative effort of ECI Secretariat, the University for Peace and Simon Bolivar University. Main researcher: Maria Elisa Febres. The database is available through

these links: English: www.earthcharterinaction.org/law
Spanish: www.earthcharterinaction.org/leyes

2. Revised [Earth Charter Bibliography](#)
3. Article: "[Bringing the "Missing Pillar" into Sustainable Development Goals: Towards Intersubjective Values-Based Indicators](#)" Authors: Gemma Burford, Elona Hoover, Ismael Velasco, Svatava Janoušková, Alicia Jimenez, Georgia Piggot, Dimity Podger and Marie K. Harder.
4. Book: "Education, neoliberalism and social justice. A critical look at human development through the Earth Charter and social economy perspective". Author: Francisco Miguel Martínez Rodríguez
5. Book: "Recovery of the Heart, Dialogues with People Working towards a Sustainable Beijing". Author: Stephanie Tansey

3. Facilitating dialogue



UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND THE UNESCO DECADE FOR EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Following the outcomes of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, ECI continued to follow and participate in the intermediary processes following the conference. The twin processes, which are converging and that ECI is participating in are known as the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda. These two processes are becoming one as was expressed in the hopes of Felix Dodds and Brice Lalonde

during an Earth Charter webinar in September 2013. During that same webinar, Gemma Burford discussed her paper and ideas about bringing values-based indicators to the SDG process.

Along with the SDG process, ECI has been fulfilling the requirements of its jointly held UNESCO Chair on ESD and the Earth Charter through many of the activities mentioned above in the education section. Specifically, the EC Center for ESD collaborated with the UNESCO Chile Office to organize a series of webinars in Spanish on ESD in the



Latin American region (all these webinars are mentioned in the sub section above). These activities are all meant to facilitate dialogue and thought, foster collaboration on research and publications, and lead towards contributions to the UNESCO Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). The GEIG Conference and resultant publication collaboration, the multitude of webinars, the collaboration on a values-based indicators for SDGs paper, and the in-house workshops and discussions, all fall under the aegis of ECI's facilitating dialogue and fostering activity in support of the DESD.

IV

Strategy and Challenges





STRATEGY

The [Decentralized Empowerment for Scaling Up strategy](#), adopted in 2007, continued to provide the main guidance for ECI work. Therefore in 2013, the ECI Secretariat continued to nurture relationships with organizations and individuals from around the world as the primary vehicle for achieving the goals of the Earth Charter Initiative worldwide. Along these lines, a key function of the ECI Secretariat has been to serve the organizations that are affiliated to ECI, offering guidance, sharing information and materials, processing information about activities and projects and make all of this available through the website, newswatches, and social media instruments.

The Education Center offered its first one-week intensive executive programmes, one in education, one in international law and global governance, and one in ethical leadership. The strategy behind these courses is to equip participants, experts and educators, as multipliers of the Earth Charter vision through their work. The plan is to multiply such efforts, both in English and Spanish, and to offer them not only in Costa Rica but also in other places in conjunction with key strategic partners.

Towards the end of 2013, ECI began a comprehensive review of all affiliates and youth groups to establish which organizations were still actively using the Earth Charter. The majority of Memoranda of Understanding with these organizations reached their term limits in 2013, so the

end of 2013 and into the following year resulted in the clarification and renewal of relationship criteria, and, in some cases, particularly youth groups, the discontinuation of formal relationships. The strategy is to strengthen existing relationships for the maximization of networking and communication efforts, both for continuing to spread the use of the Earth Charter, for marketing courses and webinars through these affiliated organizations in the future.

The Secretariat continued to foster dialogue and grow the international network of the Earth Charter Initiative through ongoing outreach, free educational webinars online, and engagement in discussions and policy forums in 2013 as part of the strategy to promote the Earth Charter and Initiative.

CHALLENGES

Many of the challenges of 2012 remained the challenges of 2013. The Council was yet to conclude its reformation by the end of 2013, making the year one of slow transition and little strategic direction change. Scaling up the Earth Charter movement, mainly through social media and with the help of the existing network continues to be a challenge and goal. As mentioned in the strategy section above, the process of clarifying and renewing the relationship with the affiliates and partners is ongoing. Inspiring individuals and organizations, both who already know or who are new to the Earth Charter, to use the Earth Charter and engage with the Earth Charter mission, maintaining ongoing communication with the EC Network, and gathering information on global EC activity and processing it into stories in the shape of case studies and videos are all areas in which the Secretariat has made some progress, but nevertheless continues to seek ways to improve and achieve more.

In addition, the ECI Secretariat focused on the development and marketing of new executive programmes, a completely new approach for the Secretariat's work, and assessed its efforts in this area during 2013 in order to refocus and renew efforts in the future. In this context, the Secretariat will probably require some additional support in promoting and marketing its executive programmes.

The legal issues around the new ECI Education Center facility continued to progress at a slow pace and to a certain extent hindered progress in other areas of ECI work.

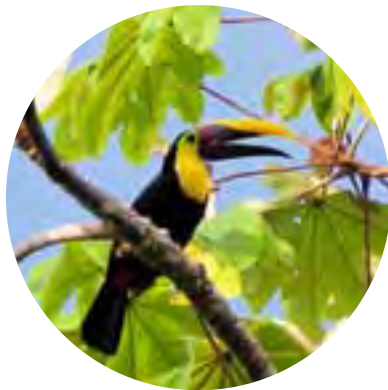
Also, in the second half of 2013, the former Youth Coordinator departed and was replaced with a new one, and a fifth staff member, an executive assistant, joined the team. The integration of new staff members, training and familiarizing them with the network, the work areas, and related tasks also drew attention and resources from the team's efforts in all work areas.





V

Plans for 2014



In 2014, ECI will continue to organize networking, outreach, and educational activities, as well as engaging and influencing, as much as possible and as appropriate, key international processes such as the post-2015 development agenda, climate change, and the UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development programme.

The year will have a focus on scaling up on networking activities, as well as a continued emphasis on the UNESCO Chair and organizing executive educational programmes in English, Spanish, and potentially in Portuguese as well. The scaling up activities surrounding the network and broadening the reach and use of the Earth Charter will be a priority, as well as the ongoing work in making the education center become a reference and well-recognized educational institution in the field of sustainability, education, and ethics.

ECI will continue the previous year's effort in strengthening the network, consolidating the youth groups and affiliates, increasing the reciprocity of relationships to benefit both the EC Initiative and ECI's work. The communication activities will also continue, including putting together stories of good practices, expanding the efforts in social media, and attempting a slight shift towards making the use and responsibilities in social media more horizontal and participatory. There are plans to renew the website homepage and the newflash, which is sent to more than 20,000 subscribers per month. To make this work more effective, ECI will be seeking strategic partnerships to increase the communication capacity and multiply efforts.

A photograph of a group of children and an adult in a field. In the foreground, a young boy in a white t-shirt looks towards the camera. To his right, an adult wearing a wide-brimmed hat is partially visible. In the background, other children are standing near a large tree. The entire image has a warm, orange-yellow tint.

VI

Walking the Talk



Continuing with a 2009 decision to critically assess its own operations and openly discuss its sustainability impacts, the ECI Secretariat decided for the fourth time to use the GRI G3 Guidelines in reporting on its sustainability performance.

The goal of the 2013 Annual Report is the achievement of the GRI Level C Application of the Guidelines. The Application Levels (A, B, or C) communicate to the Report's readers to what extent the G3 Guidelines have been utilized in the drafting of the document. To better monitor changes and trends on ECI performance, the ECI Secretariat decided to maintain the structure of the 2009 annual report using previously selected GRI Indicators.

The Secretariat relies fully on hydroelectric power and its offices do not use any air conditioning system. However, international air transportation remains an area of environmental impact related to the ECI Secretariat's work. As previously, CO₂ emissions from air travels will be compensated through the FONAFIFO (National Fund

of Forest Financing) mechanism, a Costa Rican government programme. FONAFIFO collects the funds which are linked to carbon sequestration and other environmental services (e.g. water production), and distributes these to landowners or organizations that are protecting the forests on their lands.

The offset price for one CO₂ ton in Costa Rica is US\$5, therefore the ECI Secretariat will pay US\$145 to FONAFIFO to compensate for the 29 CO₂ tons emitted during business travels in 2013. The decrease of 32 tons in comparison with 2012 is attributed to the Secretariat representatives traveling to many fewer events. Furthermore, a carbon footprint reduction and offsetting scheme will also be developed for the new building and Center. As noted above, sustainable construction practices for the new building have been followed. To this end, steps have been taken to obtain LEED Certification for sustainable construction.

Section IX provides more details on the ECI Secretariat performance based on GRI Indicators.





VII

Finances



STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES - 2013

Earth Charter International - All Activity Centers

1 January – 31 December 2013

Income	USD	USD
Major Individual Donors		
Seaward Fund, RPA	29,550	
Amana-Key /Oscar Motomura	<u>160,000</u>	189,550
Corporate/Business/Affiliates		
NCDO		6,676
Kalliopeia Foundation	20,000	
Fred Master Foundation	<u>13,650</u>	33,650
International Agencies		
Unesco		6,932
Individual Donors (Less than USD 10,000)		4,242
Interest Income (Includes \$1,938 on restricted funds at EC Brazil)	1,847	
Courses & Other Services		<u>48,058</u>
Total Cash Income		290,955
In-Kind Support		
Universities & Foundations		20,000
Corporate / Business Donations		<u>25,000</u>
Total In-Kind Support		45,000
Total Income		<u>335,955</u>

**Expenses**

Salaries, Professional Services and Related Expenses	150,251
Employment Related Insurance	11,578
Travel Staff	15,104
Strategic, Program, and Communications Consulting Support	0
Office Construction	18,722
Telecommunications & Internet	4,575
Translation Services	429
Courses and Workshops	10,079
ECI Council Expenses (Travel and Meeting Costs)	696
Events and Meetings	275
Office (Rent, Equipment, Security, and Expenses)	6,723
Equipment Purchases	30,422
Publication, Media, & Web Development	588
Printing and Postage	2,443
Fin Exp & Currency Devaluation Charges	4,598
Maintenance	17,656
Taxes	4,348
Miscellaneous	6,339
Financial Consultant, ECA	6,000
Fund Management Expenses, ECA & RPA	2,286
Total Cash Expenses	293,112

In-Kind Services

Education Center Administrative and Marketing Support	25,000
Administrative Support	20,000
	45,000

Total Expenses	338,112
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SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	-2,157
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Earth Charter International

Statement of Fund Balances

AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2013

ASSETS:	USD
RPA / Earth Charter Fund Balance	\$ 65,703
UPEACE / Earth Charter Account Balance (1)	84,449
UPEACE/Earth Charter Account Balance - Construction Project	(214,404)
Earth Charter Brazil	<u>13,787</u>
NET AVAILABLE ASSETS	<u>\$(50,465)</u>
UNRESTRICTED & RESTRICTED BALANCES:	
General Fund	\$130,153
RESTRICTED BALANCES:	
Kalliopeia Foundation	\$9,999
Earth Charter Brazil	13,787
Construction Fund	<u>(214,404)</u> <u>(180,618)</u>
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED & RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES	<u>\$(50,465)</u>

(1) Includes Kalliopeia Fund balance.

The University for Peace Human Resources and Finance Departments administrate all legal and financial issues pertaining to contracts with personnel and payments for staff and services. The ECI Secretariat ensures an adequate and transparent management of ECI funds through these UPEACE resources. This Financial Statement shows a negative balance at the end of the year, which is due to the Center construction project. The University for Peace offered an advance to cover this balance and the repayment schedule is being finalized. The in-Kind support shows direct support to ECI activities, it does not reflect all other activities of ECI Affiliates and partners in their countries.

VIII

The Earth Charter Initiative:

Examples from Affiliates, Partners and other people and organizations using the Earth Charter



Following are some examples of Earth Charter activities led by affiliates and partner or other volunteer organizations in 2013. It is important to note that there are many Earth Charter activities led by individuals and organizations that are not affiliated to ECI and which are happening without ECI's knowledge.

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Having the Earth Charter translated into all languages of the world is one of ECI's objectives, and to achieve that it will be necessary to count on the support of committed volunteers, like Elizabeth Tesfaye Haile, an alumna from the International Peace Studies programme at the University of Peace, Costa Rica, who translated the Earth Charter into **Amharic, Ethiopia's national language**. This translation is available on the Earth Charter's website [here](#).

In **Kenya**, two Earth Charter Affiliates have been collaborating: Green Cross Sweden and the Green Belt Movement (Kenya). These two organizations are promoting peace, security, and sustainability in Kenya. This cooperation

began in 2005 under the direction of the late Professor Wangari Maathai.

The Earth Charter has been incorporated in two specific projects that these organizations are implementing in the Rift Valley region: *Sustainable Communities Peace and Reconciliation Project* (which started in 2013), and the *Smart Water for Green Schools Projects* (started in 2012 and is still active in two schools: Kamara and Mau Summit). Some specific activities of these projects include the *Peace Building Councils*, the *Children's Peace Clubs*, which are run by the local schools. Also the annual *Children's Peace Festival* was celebrated in 2013; the first one was held in Molo Town in 2012, it was the first time that as many as 1,189 youth and school staff members from different ethnicities joined together in the name of peace.

These projects included the production and distribution of 3,000 copies of the Children's Earth Charter, and 500 brochures of the Earth Charter, as well as 100 posters, which were utilized as training materials and information dissemination tools.



Children's Peace Festival, Kenya

The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), an Earth Charter Affiliate from **Jordan**, is planning to create an eco/agro tourism project and learning center close to the Baptism site in Jordan. Around that area there are mostly expensive four to five-star hotels that prevent many Jordanians from enjoying the area. In addition, not many educational centers exist there. To address these issues, JOHUD is developing an eco and/or agro tourism project, where people can enjoy the area and learn about traditional agricultural practices. JOHUD plans on using the Earth Charter as a foundation for its educational activities, but also as an inspiration for the project's actions

(in terms of agriculture and construction). One of JOHUD's staff members, Muttasim Al-Hayari, attended the Earth Charter executive programme on education and values in May 2013. He said that this experience will help him and his team to bring the Earth Charter principles as a foundation for this exciting project.

In the **Seychelles**, the NGO Sustainability for Seychelles (S4S) printed Earth Charter posters in Kreol and English and have been using them to promote sustainable living in their projects, especially with a network of community groups. They organized several workshops facilitated by Peter Corcoran, an Earth Charter advisor and long-time supporter from the USA. A member of S4S, Michelle Martin, teaches at the University of Seychelles and is helping to develop a new specialization based on education for sustainability for their BSc in Environmental Science, in which they are planning to incorporate the Earth Charter.

Disseminating the Earth Charter in conflict areas is another aim of the Earth Charter Initiative, and although it is not easy to do, Melhem Mansour, from **Syria**, made an attempt to do so through a peace workshop organized by the World Council of Churches, in Beirut, Lebanon from 19 to 21 June 2013 at the Lady of the Mountain Conference Center. The workshop focused on training Syrian activists in international humanitarian law, reconciliation, and post-conflict recovery. Mr. Mansour, who led the workshop, presented the Earth Charter as a foundation and ethical framework in the post-conflict recovery of Syria.

In **Uganda**, the Department of Good Governance and Peace Studies of Uganda Martyrs University has been engaged in a number of Earth Charter environmental activities. In 2013, their efforts focused on an initiative called Equator Greenbelt, in which they planted around 5,000 trees in a demonstration plot at the University campus. They also organized Earth Charter workshops with more than 100 people, including students from local schools and the University, and organized other types of activities to mobilize University staff members to take care of the environment.

They also finalized the design of a Master's Programme on Environmental Security and Peace, in which the Earth Charter will be used as education instrument.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The **Earth Charter Australia Committee** organized the Brisbane Peace Lecture in St. John's Cathedral on 21 September 2013 during the United Nations International Day of Peace. The guest speaker was the Honourable Michael Kirby, international jurist and retired High Court Judge of Australia. Over 250 people attended the Lecture, which included a programme of choirs and musical performances.

The President of EC Australia attended the Global Environment Integrity Group Conference in Costa Rica and visited Earth Charter International offices in Costa Rica.



Earth Charter event, India

Plans were also undertaken for the EC Australia treasurer to attend one of the Education and Values Executive Programme, organized by EC Center for ESD in 2014. The goal of these visits is to increase capacity and generate projects to better promote the Earth Charter in Australia (mainly Brisbane), focusing on developing education programmes for the Earth Charter Initiative.

In **India**, the [Centre for Environment Education \(CEE\)](#), an Earth Charter Affiliate, organized several activities with the Earth Charter in 2013. One of them was a campaign against polythene use with the theme "[SANKALPA- for a polythene free city](#)". This campaign was coordinated by CEE's Paryavaran Mitra programme in collaboration with the Regional Science Centre, Kalpadroom Foundation, and others. The event took place on 1 January 2013 and it was inspired by Earth Charter principle 7a: "*Reduce, reuse and recycle the materials used in production and consumption systems, and ensure that residual waste can be assimilated by ecological systems.*"

An exhibition called 'Avtart' was part of this campaign. It showcased useful items made from waste materials. School students also sang in chorus about the harmful effects of polythene and enacted plays to drive home the message. A survey of 200 visitors was also done to assess polythene usage.



CEE celebrated *Earth Day 2013* with a three-day event in Bajali HS School in the Barpeta district of Assam, India. The theme was *Face of climate change*, and many activities were carried out with large groups of students. A cycle rally passed through the locality to create mass awareness about the importance of Earth Day.

An [Earth Charter Think Café](#) was organized during the second day of Earth Day celebrations. It was a day-long interactive session with students from five schools, where the CEE team presented the Earth Charter principles and guided students to take action to sustainably conserve mother Earth. During the session, students realized their role in making the earth a livable place.

In Andhra Pradesh, India, the Montfort Social Institute (MSI), Earth Charter Affiliate since 2008, has been working on the establishment of an education center on human rights and sustainability, to be launched in February 2014. The organization has been undertaking developmental

activities aimed at reconstruction of village societies for the advancement of individuals, families and communities; eradication of the high prevalence of child labour; and ensure basic education and health care for all through a rights based approach. Formation of Neighbourhood Parliament, Young People's Initiatives (YPI), and Children's Parliament helped harness the human potential for collective action and to create a democratic ethos in villages. Sustainable agricultural methods, cooperative farming by women and vocational education were introduced. The Earth Charter is used as an education instrument for empowering women, low paid workers, the youth and other vulnerable groups in the villages MSI work.

The **Taiwan Ecological and Stewardship Association**, EC Affiliate in Taiwan Province of China, worked hard throughout 2013 to organize the 28th [Caretakers of the Environment International Conference](#) 'Nature, Culture and Future'. The aim is to have 200 international and 50 local participants, mostly high school students. This Conference will provide a very interesting setting to promote the principles of the Earth Charter, and see its applicability with children from different ages and cultural settings. TESA also continued offering training programmes for students, in the form of Conferences and support for project implementation, to empower them to participate in this international Conference. The involvement of TESA with CEI Conferences comes from the collaboration between

two Earth Charter Affiliates (ASPEA from Portugal and TESA). This is a great example of how members of the Earth Charter Initiative can collaborate in a decentralized way and bring the values of the Earth Charter to different settings.



In **Beijing, China**, Stephanie B. Tansey, a longtime supporter of the Earth Charter, published the book ["Recovery of the Heart, Dialogues with People Working towards a Sustainable Beijing."](#) This book introduces nine extraordinary Beijingers, both Chinese and American, their

struggles, passions, and why Chinese wisdom and values are interconnected with a future, sustainable Beijing. Some of the Beijingers in this book have used the Earth Charter in their work. For example, Mac Fan was one of the founders of the New School of Collaborative Learning, in China. This school used the Earth Charter as a tool for intercultural dialogue. Mac Fan explains his experience with the Earth Charter in detail.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Earth Charter's Affiliate in **Azerbaijan**, the IRELI Public Union, co-organized an event on the Green Economy in early August 2013. The main objective of the ecological camp on the Green Economy was to raise awareness of



Week of Sustainable Development, Belarus

environmental protection, the ecological benefits of applying non-waste and low-waste technologies, and study the role of youth in reducing harmful effects of economic development to the environment.

The Week of Sustainable Development is a traditional event that is annually held in **Belarus**. [The SD School Partnership Network](#) is one of the main participants and co-organizers of the event and supports and promotes the ideas of sustainable development through local actions wherever their members are active. The SD School Partnership Network uses the ideas of the Earth Charter as its basic principles: Earth is our home; providing global safety is our care; universal responsibility is our principle of collaborative work and general activities. In 2013, there were about 50 different actions during SD Week that were organized for various social groups and local authorities by the SD School Partnership Network members. The Earth Charter activities were supported by Earth Charter Affiliate Youth International Education Club "New Line".



Cross-cultural Festival, Bulgaria

The Balkan Agency for Sustainable Development (BASD), Earth Charter Affiliate in **Bulgaria**, carried out many activities and actions representing the Earth Charter in Bulgaria and in cooperation with European initiatives. BASD co-organized the Festival of Euromed Contemporary Arts: "Culture Versus Crises" in collaboration with partners from Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia, and Montenegro and had the opportunity to present the Earth Charter during that festival in Radomir, Bulgaria. BASD also used the Earth Charter in its cross-national BREAD project, promoting cultural exchange and improving relations between Bulgaria and Serbia. BASD also presented the Earth Charter at a meeting of the LIST project in Luxembourg at the Public Research Center Henri Tudor. They also presented the Earth Charter at two separate meetings in Kovachevtsi, Bulgaria in 2013.

Earth Charter **Finland** concluded the Earth Our Home exhibition introducing the Earth Charter in Helsinki, the last city of its tour around Finland, from 8 January to 16 February 2013. The exhibition venue was Laituri, The City Planning



Earth Our Home Exhibition organizers, Finland

Department's meeting place on Narinkka Square in the city center and about 1,600 people visited in January. The opening ceremony featured four distinguished speakers who discussed different aspects of sustainable development: Member of Parliament Pekka Haavisto; Jaana Hirsikangas from the project team; development studies researcher Anja Nygren from the University of Helsinki; and Alpo Tani from the City Planning Department.

In **France**, long-time Earth Charter educator Josianne Troillet, used the Earth Charter to create different learning units for three high schools where she works in Toulouse. These units were based on the four pillars of the Earth Charter and she provides examples of leaders in each of the fields related to specific pillars of the Earth Charter. This past year, she used a unit called "Wangari Maathai" to highlight the Earth Charter pillar on democracy, non-violence, and peace. She also used the Earth Charter in discussion on law in combination with Jacques Chirac's Charter for the Environment.

In **Germany**, the Earth Charter Affiliate, Ecumenical One World Initiative continued to carry out a variety of Earth Charter activities, as well as promote the Earth Charter Initiative nationally. EOWI continued to maintain and update the [Earth Charter website in Germany](#) and published and distributed three newsletters per year. Some of the activities carried out in Germany included an online youth dialogue between German and Indian young people on Earth Charter topics, various talks and lectures around the country at different forums, and inter-faith dialogues, including one with Earth Charter Commissioner Rabbi Abraham Soetendorp. EOWI also continued its "Earth Charter Ambassadors" training and capacity building, to strengthen the network of people in Germany able to implement the Earth Charter in their lives and communities. EOWI also developed a new didactic method for teaching Earth Charter values using theater techniques, created a new poster for children and youth, and has gained the interest of many schools, including one that intends to become an "Earth Charter School".

There were several events in **Italy** in 2013. Green Cross Italy, an ECI Affiliate, once again held its Earth Charter Youth Contest, this year for the 21st time. This environmental education initiative was co-organized in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Education. The aim is to teach and inspire youth to become environment superheroes and find solutions to our Earth's problems. This year's theme was focused on one of the biggest problems humanity faces today: "Inizia da te: l'acqua (It starts with you: water)".



EC Commissioner Rabbi Abraham Soetendorp at EC Germany event

In March, 2013, the Italian Earth Charter Committee, in collaboration with the Italian Japan Foundation and under the patronage of the Japanese Embassy to Italy and the Japanese Embassy to the Holy See, co-organized a photo exhibition to remember the destruction of Civitavecchia in 1943 and the destruction of Ishinomaki in 2011. The event was attended by several hundred visitors, many from local schools in Rome.

The [Altaura Farm](#), an Earth Charter endorser in Italy, held an event in February, 2013 that heavily featured the Earth Charter. The event was also in support of organic farming using self-produced organic seeds. The event featured a guided proposal for organic seed exchange led by Dr. Silvia Ferro of an association called Diversamentebio.



Earth Charter in the **Netherlands** continued to be very strong in 2013. The Earth Charter Friends in the Netherlands network began to be active in 2013. In September 2013, a sustainability conference was organized on the island of Terschelling in the North of the Netherlands. Many of the people who actively advocate for the sustainability agenda in the Netherlands were present and shared the newest insights and best practice experiences. The main topic of the brainstorm sessions was the current challenge to make sustainability part of the mainstream agenda. Business, finance, government, academia and civil society representatives contributed. [Ashok Khosla](#), former Chair of the Club of Rome and former Chair of IUCN International, and Earth Charter International Affiliate in India offered a presentation at this event.



DJ100 event in The Netherlands

A list consisting of 100 young front-runners in the Netherlands in the field of sustainability was launched on 15 November in Amsterdam. The list, which was fully published by one of the largest Dutch newspapers, is an initiative of the Earth Charter Endorser 'DJ100'. Together with Earth Charter Affiliate NCDO, DJ100 organized a launch party in a club in Amsterdam. During this event, which was attended by around 150 innovators in the field of sustainability, attention was paid to the principles and the global network of the Earth Charter.

'It Starts with One' was the slogan used for an inspiration day on 10 December 2013 in De Horst, Driebergen, The Netherlands. The leadership event was organized by Geke

Kiers and her organization, L'Esprit. The speakers at the event included Earth Charter Commissioner Ruud Lubbers, Claudete da Costa from Brazil, Earth Charter Friends Geke Kiers, Alide Roerink, Bart Kuil, and Lynn Zebeda. Inspired by the slogan "It Starts with One", a song by Jazz Singer Astrid Serieese and guitarist Erwin van Lugten was composed especially for this inspiration day on leadership for managers and coaches.

On 19 December, Earth Charter Netherlands organized the meeting "The Earth Charter in Action" at the Peace Palace in The Hague, where the Earth Charter was launched 13 years ago. The network meeting focused on business and centered on the following question: How can you, as an



EC meeting in the Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands

individual, make an active contribution to the solutions to global issues using the Earth Charter? Participants were given the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences on how they use the Earth Charter as a compass for their actions and were inspired by plenary contributions by Ruud Lubbers (Earth Charter Commissioner and former Prime Minister of the Netherlands), Volkert Engelsman (CEO Eosta), Ralien Bekkers (UN Youth Representative for Sustainable Development), Jan van de Venis (Chair, Stand Up for Your Rights, lawyer, and World Connector), and Abraham Soetendorp (Earth Charter Commissioner). Eveline Fokker provided the musical entertainment and Ama van Dantzig (Dr. Monk) was responsible for moderating the event.



Impulses for a better world, Spain

In **Spain**, and since 2012, [Values Foundation](#), an ECI Affiliate in this country, has been organizing a series of conferences called “*Impulses for a better world*” in different Spanish cities. These conferences connect the Earth Charter principles and overall message with different topics related to sustainability. In 2013, they organized two conferences:

- “The Earth Charter works. The path of the heart”, in March
- “The Earth Charter: Finding our inner strength. Living without fear”, in October

Find all the details on the wealth of information and inspiration from these conferences through [this link](#).

Another activity that Values Foundation organized with the Earth Charter was the 7th edition of the [Projects and Utopias for a better world](#) Conference, on 13 and 14 April in Vitoria Gasteiz. This conference focused on showing and discussing solutions for a more sustainable way of living. Find a summary of the event in this [video](#).

Finally, another important activity to report from Values Foundation in Spain is the training programme that they organized called “Emotional Intelligence through the Earth Charter”. This programme was created as a response to a request from professors of a school in Madrid (Colegio de Enseñanza Infantil y Primaria “La Rioja”).

The Department of Education of the University of Granada continued to use the Earth Charter in five undergraduate courses and in many other graduate level courses in 2013. They’ve also done research with students. For example, the thesis called “Experiential learning for the development of Earth Charter values, a study for primary school” (“El aprendizaje vivencial para el desarrollo de valores de la Carta de la Tierra. Un estudio en educación primaria”) was presented in September 2013. In this paper, the research team proposed a series of educational activities to promote Earth Charter values in primary schools.

In **Russia**, the Earth Charter Affiliate Center for Environmental Policy and Culture (CEPC), jointly with Institute for Sustainable Development of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation (ISD), was very active in 2013,

presenting the Earth Charter and recommending it as a foundational document for Education for Sustainable Development at many lectures, roundtables, conferences, and social fora, reaching hundreds of people.

The Guidelines for the All-Russian Open Lesson “Ecology and Culture - the Future of Russia” was elaborated by experts of CEPC and ISD in 2013. The Lesson was recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and conducted in schools throughout Russia. The focal point of the Lesson is to provide the basic knowledge on sustainable development ideas based on the principles of the Earth Charter.

The Russian Social Forum “Priorities of Sustainable Development: Challenges of Civil Society” in September, publicized a Declaration suggesting the adoption of the Ethic Code of Sustainable Development on the basis of the Earth Charter.

Also in Russia, the Declaration of the Third National Conference on Environmental Education in November, “...recommends educational institutions to include basic ideas of the Earth Charter and the Green Economy in the Curriculum of the scientific and humanitarian disciplines.” The Earth Charter document was given to all participants at this conference.

The Earth Charter Affiliate Green Cross in **Sweden** continued to actively promote the Earth Charter in 2013 by way of information and news updates via social media and on the GCS website, where a specific page is dedicated to the Earth Charter. Green Cross Sweden works to promote the Earth Charter within Swedish society, as well as internationally (see the news in the Africa section about the project in Kenya). Specific target groups for Earth Charter dissemination are businesses, educational institutions, and other non-governmental organizations, and information was disseminated to all of them through various networks in 2013.

In **Switzerland**, Earth Charter Schweiz was very active in 2013, with representatives making appearances, facilitating workshops, collaborating with other organizations, and participating in international sustainable development dialogues. Some of the activities of EC Schweiz in 2013 include co-organizing the 12th LifeFair Forum on the Green Economy in Zurich, collaborating with Greenpeace Switzerland on educational initiatives, and participating in a national dialogue to determine the Swiss position on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. In 2013, the Earth Charter was presented to hundreds of people at different venues and from a variety of communities including faith groups, private sector groups, and other NGOs.

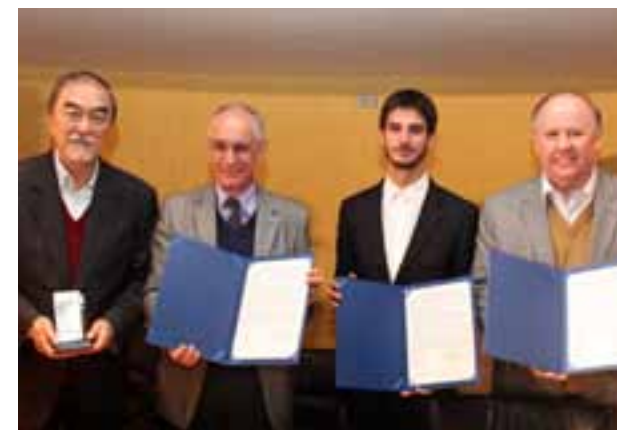
LATIN AMERICA

In **Argentina**, the Earth Charter Affiliate Ala Plástica has been developing educational artistic projects with

biologists, sociologists, and other professionals, to help them enhance their creativity in their work with communities. The organization used Earth Charter values in this project, and now not only works in Argentina, but has expanded to work in Ecuador and New York. In 2013 they collaborated more closely with Solo con Natura, an Ecuadorian organization, to expand this project to a larger scale.

The Paulo Freire Institute, in **Brazil**, has been working with the Earth Charter for over a decade. They affirmed that the principles of the Earth Charter guide all their projects and programmes. They consider that a meaningful socio-environmental education should help individuals to be committed to value life in all its forms, to respect themselves, others, and the whole world. Towards this end, they continued to implement "Eco Political Pedagogical" projects in different parts of Brazil, where they have been trying to reinforce the importance of the environmental dimension in connection to other subjects in the school curricula. They continued in 2013 with a research project with a school in Osasco, Sao Paulo, where they have been building and experimenting with a curricula to promote "planetary citizenship".

On 23 September in Sao Paulo, Brazil, at an event convened by the Faculty of Economy, Administration and Accounting of the University of São Paulo (FEA), three organizations embraced the Earth Charter vision of ethics and sustainability to guide their day-to-day operations.



Earth Charter endorsement event at FEA - University of Sao Paulo/USP, Brazil

These are: [FEA, the Management Institute for Civil Society Entities \(IGESC\), and the Academic Center Viscount of Cairo \(CAVC\)](#). These organizations signed a formal endorsement of the Earth Charter, and committed to working with the Earth Charter and to its dissemination.

Also in September, the Lusophone Network for Environmental Education (Rede Lusófona de Educação Ambiental - Redeluso) adopted the Earth Charter as one of the guiding documents for the Network. The decision was reached during the 2nd International Congress on Environmental Education of Portuguese Speaking Countries, held from 9 to 11 September in Cuiabá, Brazil. Altogether, participants from more than 50 institutes, research groups, educational centers, and even Secretaries of State, representing more than eight countries, embraced the principles of the Earth Charter as guidelines in their work and personal lives.



Mobile EC photo exhibition

In Pernambuco, Brazil, the photographer Miguel Igreja has been using the Earth Charter as inspiration for a Photo Arts Exhibition that promotes arts, culture, sustainable transportation and new technologies. The exhibition is called “Pernambuco: Culture, History and the Sea”.

He showcased this exhibition during the People’s Summit in Rio+20, and in 2013 it featured at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Development Science Association (at the Federal University of Pernambuco).

In 2013, Mr. Igreja requested and was granted permission by the Culture Office of Pernambuco to continue to present this exhibition. It is a mobile exhibition, showcasing pictures that are carried around using bicycles. The panels of this exhibition have a QR Code, so people with smart phones can access other images and information about sustainability. The exhibition traveled around different areas, helping to democratize information regarding sustainability, and also prompting conversations regarding sustainable urban transportation, access to arts, and the use of new technologies for learning.

In **Costa Rica**, the Municipality of Heredia organized the “Earth Week” around 22 April to celebrate [Earth Day](#). Each day they featured one organization’s work for sustainability. A representative of the organization sat in a stand at the Municipality’s main building, a high traffic area, so the wider public was able to learn and share ideas and actions regarding sustainability.

The National University of Costa Rica’s Earth Charter Network continued to actively use the Earth Charter in 2013. They organized the [Earth Charter Students Award](#), an annual event to recognize students from this University that are implementing the Earth Charter values and principles in their homes, universities, and communities. This year, eleven students were awarded representing all UNA Campuses (Sarapiquí, Brunca, Nicoya, Liberia and Heredia).

Members of the Earth Charter UNA network are active in promoting the Earth Charter inside and outside the National University. At the University, several courses of the General Studies Center use the Earth Charter as a theoretical framework for their activities. The courses that this Center offers are mandatory for all students in this University. An interesting research project was carried out in 2013 by a student from the Faculty of Education, promoting an environmental culture with the Earth Charter at a Youth Retention Center. Isabel Herra, the student, presented the results of this project in Spain. Another research project done by Education students in 2013 generated a proposal to use the Earth Charter in Science education classes for middle schools.



EC Student Awards, National University, Costa Rica

Outside the university, Geannina Herrera Blando offered different talks about the Earth Charter to students of Education at the Arts and Science University. She also offered a waste management workshop using the Earth Charter for women leaders in marginal urban areas of San José, capital of Costa Rica. This workshop was part of a programme of San José Municipality to promote environmental leaders.

With a process that started in 2008, the Judicial Power of Costa Rica generated a [Policy on Ethics](#) (Política Axiológica) for all members working in this government branch (judges, advocates, policemen). This Policy includes the Earth Charter in its ethical framework. All Judges of Costa Rica's Supreme Court (Magistrados de la Corte Plena) approved this Policy in 2013, recognizing the Earth Charter as a reference for Costa Rica's justice system.



EC Mexican Network members

Finally, in Costa Rica in 2013, the [Chamber of Ecotourism](#) endorsed the Earth Charter in a ceremony at an art gallery with more than 100 members of this organization, representing hotels, car rentals, tour agencies and other companies that follow the principles of ecotourism. The endorsement signified: a) a commitment to the spirit and objectives of the Charter; b) the intention to use the Earth Charter in appropriate ways; c) a commitment to work towards the implementation of the Charter's values and principles and; d) the willingness to cooperate with others in this endeavour.

In January 2013, the Earth Charter was presented for the first time in the **Island of Nevis** by [Nicole Helene Augusta Slack](#), a University for Peace student who also works as Health Planner and Health Educator with the Nevis Island Administration. Nicole organized several workshops, one

targeted for children and youth, another for university undergraduates from the University of Virginia visiting the Island, and a third for a religious community.

Many things happened in **Mexico** with the Earth Charter in 2013. A very important development was the establishment of the [Earth Charter Mexican Network](#), comprising forty individuals who are very actively using the Earth Charter in different sectors (private, universities, NGOs, government agencies, etc.) who were appointed as focal points in the States where they live. The first meeting to establish this network took place in early November 2013, in Aguascalientes. It was organized by the Social Participation and Transparency Unit of SEMARNAT (Ministry of Environment), with the support of the Aguascalientes Municipality, and in coordination with Mateo Castillo, Earth Charter International Council



CANACINTRA endorsement, Mexico

member. The objective of the meeting was to share and better understand the national Earth Charter movement, its vision, mission, and formalize this national network.

At an event on 20 August, the [National Chamber of Industries \(CANACINTRA\)](#) in Mexico City formalized its endorsement of the Earth Charter. CANACINTRA, with more than 50,000 members, publically expressed its commitment to using and promoting the Earth Charter as a reference and guide in its decision-making processes and work programmes.

On the previous day, 19 August, two important Mexican companies, [Delta Development Group](#) and [Madisa CAT](#), pledged to follow the sustainability vision articulated in the Earth Charter at an event in Monterrey, Mexico. This event was organized by the Sustainable World Foundation, which is part of the PASA Company, and which has been working for many years with the Earth Charter.



Delta Development Group endorsement, Mexico

The University of Guanajuato continued to actively promote the Earth Charter in 2013. Participants there organized a workshop for youth leaders from different parts of the country (see Youth section of this report). Also, they launched the book [The Earth Charter, Images for Life](#), which collected pictures from a photo contest they organized several years ago, where participants had to link an image to an Earth Charter principle. For the winning pictures they asked photographers to write an essay to further explain the meaning of the picture.

The Mexican University network called Complexus launched a book containing the results of nine years of research on the indicators to measure the sustainability of higher education institutions. They used the Earth Charter as a reference to develop these indicators. The launching of this publication took place at the University of Coahuila.

The Municipality of Aguascalientes is an example of a local government that has been using the principles of the Earth



EC Images for Life book, University of Guanajuato, Mexico

Charter for their strategic planning, policies and projects. In [this video](#), the Mayor Mrs. Lorena Martínez (2011-2013), explains how they've been putting the Earth Charter into action. This speech was given during the Earth Charter Mexican Network meeting in November 2013.

In Morelia, Michoacán, the organization Fundación La Planta, S.C., published a booklet called "[La Carta de la Tierra 40 acciones en torno a la no violencia y paz](#)." This booklet contains the Earth Charter written in a way that is appealing to teenagers. They have been using this version of the Earth Charter in a project called "Promoting a culture of peace using the Earth Charter", where they organized camps for under privileged youth.



Publication promoting peace and non-violence, Mexico

The University of International Cooperation has been organizing Local Agenda 21 processes for many years. They use the Earth Charter as benchmark to define the values that are important to promote in the community. In 2012-2013, the UCI Quintana Roo campus organized the [Local Agenda 21 process for Bacalar Municipality](#), where the Earth Charter was used as a reference.

NORTH AMERICA

There were a number of activities in the **United States of America** in 2013, some through Affiliates, some through new partners, and many Earth Charter activities carried out independently. Earth Charter US held its fifth annual Sustainable

Business Awards ceremony, celebrating 13 businesses and with an attendance of more than 200 people.

Another Earth Charter Affiliate, the Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and its Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, continued to implement the Earth Charter on many different levels and through a variety of programmes and educational initiatives. In the academic year 2012-13, the University awarded 10 Earth Charter mini-grants to the Center's Faculty and Staff, which supported activities such as organizing presentations and lectures at conferences, art teaching in Guyana, and assisting research projects, among others.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, FGCU started a new initiative, a Live Learn Community (LLC) titled "Leadership through Service." The unique LLC focuses on the intersection between serving others and assuming leadership in the communities in relation to important issues facing us as a local and a global community.

Another mini-grant helped fund the development of a study abroad, interdisciplinary, team-taught, service-learning course, which was delivered across two semesters. The programme introduced students to sustainable living in relation to food, energy, waste, and consumption. Meetings in the spring semester laid the foundation for the study abroad experience at Rancho Margot, a self-sufficient ranch in the Arenal region of Costa Rica, dedicated to environmental sustainability. The Earth Charter was a central

document for the course allowing students to broaden their understanding of the issues being explored by engaging them through an ethical perspective.

In order to advance the goal of ethics, activism, and the literary arts, FGCU's Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education created the Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture to bring public intellectuals to Southwest Florida to discuss issues such as sustainability, ethics, democracy, and literature. The 2013 edition of the lecture featured Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver, who performed a reading of her poems, including those from her recent publication, *A Thousand Mornings*, and others from forthcoming publications. The Center chose Mary Oliver to present the 2013 Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture because her poetry urges readers to reconsider the role of nature in our everyday lives.

Another programme inspired by the Earth Charter at FGCU is the Student Associates for a Greener Environment (SAGE), a student branch of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education. Students who become members are nurtured in their leadership capacity and develop their identities as environmentally conscious individuals. Students who become associates are expected to make a serious commitment to SAGE, the mission of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, and to environmental and sustainability education at FGCU. Seven small grants were issued to students and student groups to implement environmental projects during the 2012-13 academic year.



IX

GRI Indicators



GRI Indicator	Description	Report Ref.	Pages
STRATEGY AND ANALYSIS			
1.1	Director statement	Executive Summary	7-8
ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE			
2.1	Name of reporting organization	Intro.	10-11
2.2	Primary brands, products and/or services	Earth Charter ECI provides different services to help advance the Earth Charter Initiative Mission and Vision (e.g. capacity building, publication and materials available in various languages, sharing of experiences and networking possibilities among others)	
2.3	Operational structure	Intro and Section II	10-11, 13
2.4	Location	University for Peace campus, Costa Rica	
2.5	Countries where organization operates	Section I and III	10, 15-27
2.6	Nature of ownership	Section II	13
2.7	Markets served	Schools, Universities, Teacher's networks, youth networks/groups/organizations, Local and National Governments, NGOs, Private companies, Religious organizations	
2.8	Scale of reporting organization	Section II	13
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE			
4.1	Governance structure	Section II	13
4.2	Chair of highest governance body	The co-chairs of the ECI Council, they are not executive staff.	
4.3	Governance body	Section II	13
4.4	Mechanisms to provide recommendations to governance body	ECI Executive Director participates in the Council meetings and brings the recommendations of staff and other members to these meetings, which happen once a year. The staff and network is often consulted to provide inputs and advice on strategies being developed.	
REPORT PARAMETERS			
3.1	Reporting period	January – December 2013	
3.2	Date of most recent previous report	Annual Report 2012	
3.3	Contact person	Last Page	66



REPORT SCOPE AND BOUNDARY

3.6	Boundary of the report	ECI Secretariat and submissions from the Earth Charter Initiative Network	
3.7	Limitations on scope or boundary	This report does not reflect the overall impact of the Initiative worldwide due to its level of decentralization.	
3.8	Basis for reporting on joint ventures	Section VIII	41-52
3.10	Explanation of re-statements		
3.11	Changes from previous reporting periods	Same structure and GRI Indicators used in 2012 Report are used in 2013.	

GOVERNANCE, COMMITMENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

4.14	List of stakeholders	Section I and II and Attachments A,B, and C	10, 13, 58-64
4.15	Basis for selection of stakeholders	For Affiliates and Partners, ECI Secretariat identifies strategic countries and then searches for networks or influential organizations that are in alignment with the vision and mission of the Initiative. In some cases, organizations request an affiliation with ECI. Criteria: the organization's proven commitment in using EC and is relatively well positioned. Youth groups submit an online application to become a recognized group, part of the network.	

REPORT CONTENT

3.5	Process for defining report content	<p>Materiality: Operations of ECI Council and Secretariat</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How ECI is putting the Earth Charter principles into action. • ECI role in EC Initiative. • ECI influence in education for sustainable development processes. • ECI involvement in climate change negotiations. • ECI approach to the private sector. 	
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GRI CONTENT INDEX

PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS

4.2 NGO SS6	Process to coordinate with other actors	Info on joint projects: sections III and VIII	15-28, 41-52
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ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

NGO SS8	Breakdown of funding received by source	Section VII	37-39
EC 1	Direct economic value generated and distributed.	Section VII	37-39
EC4	Significant financial assistance received from government	No financial assistance received from governments.	

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

EN 16	Total direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions	Section VI	35
EN 18	Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Section VI	35

LABOR PRACTICES

LA 1	Total workforce	Section III	15-28
LA 10	Average hours of training per year	20 hours of average training time per employee in 2013	
LA 13	Composition of governance bodies and breakdown of employees per category	ECI Council had 6 members in 2013, from 6 countries (11 members and 6 countries fewer as compared to 2011). 2 were women and 4 were men. There were no youth members. ECI Secretariat has 4 full time employees. ECI hosted 7 interns in 2013, 3 women and 4 men. They came from 4 different countries and all were under 30 years old.	

SOCIETY PERFORMANCE

SO 1	Nature, scope and effectiveness of any programmes and practices	Section III (network mgt) and IV (strategy and challenges)	15-28, 30-31
SO 4	Actions taken in response to incidents of corruption	Section VII	37-39
SO 5	Public policy positions and participation in public policy development and lobbying	Less emphasis this year on advocacy and public policy development, efforts focused on strategies for future involvement with post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals processes.	

X

Attachments



A. Earth Charter International Council

The Earth Charter International Council is undergoing a restructuring and the Council decided in 2012 to reduce its numbers to between ten and fourteen. The Council retained five previous members and is in the process of selecting several more. The Council as of 2013 was as follows:

- Oscar Motomura (Brazil), Co-Chair
- Kartikeya Sarabhai (India), Co-Chair
- Mateo A. Castillo Ceja (Mexico)
- Alexander Likhotal (Russia/Switzerland)
- Alide Roerink (Netherlands)
- Mirian Vilela (Brazil/Costa Rica), Ex-officio



B. List of ECI Affiliates

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

BURKINA FASO

Ouseeni Diallo
Green Cross Burkina Faso
E-mail: greencross.burkinafaso@gmail.com
<http://greencrossinternational.net/zh/green-cross-burkina-faso>

BURUNDI

Vital Nshimirimana
Réseau des Citoyens Probes (RCP)

CAMEROON

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Suliaman Turay
Social Development International
E-mail: sulaiman.turay@sodeit.org
www.sodeit.org

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Arab Network for Environment
and Development (RAED)
E-mail: aoye@jritsec1.com,
eadly@hotmail.com
www.aoye.org/Raed/elba.htm

IRAN

Alireza Omidvar
Corporate Social Responsibility
Development Center, CSR-DC
www.csriran.com

JORDAN

Ziyad Alawneh
Land and Human to Advocate
Progress (LHAP)
E-mail: ziyad@index.com.jo
www.lhap.net

Muttasim Al-Hayari
The Jordanian Hashemite Fund
for Human Development
E-mail: johud@johud.org.jo
www.johud.org.jo

KENYA

The Green Belt Movement
E-mail: gbm@jwananchi.com
www.greenbeltmovement.org

MALI

Association de Formation et d'Appui
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MAURITIUS

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ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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C. List of EC Youth and Student Groups

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

CAMEROON

- ECYG AFREDECC, Limbe
- ECYG ASYUSED, Limbe
- ECYG Better World Cameroon, Yaoundé
- ECYG Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child (CAPEC), Yaoundé
- ECYG Group Save Our Planet (GSP), Yaoundé
- ECYG Help AIDS Orphans (HAO), Yaoundé
- ECYG LUKMEF-Cameroon

CONGO

- ECYG AZUR Development

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- ECYG Congolese Youth Association for Development (CYAD)
- ECYG Groupe Jeunesse Espoir
- ECYG - PRODECE - MAISON DES JEUNES

ETHIOPIA

- ECYG Jimma

EGYPT

- ECYG African Youth in Egypt
- ECYG African Enviropreneurs for Ecodevelopment
- SHIFT Network (Euro-Arab Youth Initiative)

THE GAMBIA

- ECYG - Global Unification, The Gambia

GHANA

- ECYG For Sustainability and Peace Ghana
- ECYG THE PIGOP
- ECYG Visionary Youth Ghana
- ECYG Youth in Action Ghana
- ECYG Youth in Environment and Agriculture (YEA)
- ECYG IMAANI Foundation

ISRAEL

- ECYG Earth Charter Youth Initiative Israel

KENYA

- ECYG Lake Victoria
- ECYG Kenyan Disabled Youth Action Network (KEDAN)
- ECYG Kibera Community Youth Programme
- ECYG Mathare Roots Youth Group
- Students for Global Sustainability – University of Nairobi (SfGS-UoN)
- ECYG Baraza La Taifa- Nairobi
- ECYG International Youth Council Kenya

UGANDA

- ECYG East Africa Network for Peace Builders – EANEP
- Africa Intercultural Development Support Trust (AIDEST)
- Dynamic Earth Charter Initiative Developers (DECIDE)
- ECYG Students for Global Democracy
- ECYG Integrated Community Development Initiative

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

- ECYG for Cosmo Foundation

ZAMBIA

- ECYG for Social Empowerment and Development (SED)
- Global Youth Initiative Zambia
- ECYG Charity Centre for Children and Youth Development

LIBERIA

- ECYG for Sustainability and Peace
- ECYG Fiamah Youth in Action for Development
- ECYG for Peace and Democracy in Liberia
- ECYG Liberian Youth for Climate Change, Environmental Protection and Gender Equality (LYFPCB)

MALAWI

- ECYG Global Hope Mobilization

NIGERIA

- ECYG Abia State
- ECYG Abuja
- ECYG Active Youth Initiative
- ECYG Calabar
- ECYG (CCN)
- ECYG for Sustainability, Corporate Governance, Peace and Security
- ECYG for Sustainability, Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (YEDI)
- ECYG Fresh & Young Brains Development
- ECYG Get Organized for Change
- ECYG Lagos and Abuja
- ECYG OGUN
- ECYG Sokoto for Change
- ECYG Suleja at the African School of Excellence
- ECYG Warri
- ECYG Youth Vision Alliance Network
- Earth Charter Youth Committee Save a Youth Soul (SAYS)
- ECYG Youth Action Movement (YAM)
- ECYG Youth Action Movement/ International Center for Accelerated Development (ICAD)

RWANDA

- ECYG Youth Association for Dissemination of Development Information (YADDI)

SIERRA LEONE

- Earth Charter Youth Group Sierra Leone (ECYG-SL)

SYRIA

- ECYG for Syria Youth

SOMALIA

- ECYG Somalia

TANZANIA

- ECYG Aids Community Care and Orphan Trust
- Togo
- iEARN-TOGO YOUTH
- ECYG ASTERADHD
- ECYG LOME
- ECYG Togolese Foundation for Peace
- ECYG Plan Sud

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

BANGLADESH

- ECYG Climate Natural
- ECYG International Youth Council Bangladesh (IYCB)
- Bangladesh Youth Movement for Climate (BYMC)

CHINA

- ECYG for Community Development
- ECYG GreenSOS (Green Student Organizations Society)

INDIA

- ECYG Green-Clean Himalaya India AAGAAS FEDERATION
- ECYG Kodagu Consortium
- ECYG STEP
- ECYG JODHPUR
- ECYG Youth Link (YL)
- ECYG Greeny Minds
- ECYG India
- ECYG Cosmo Youth Foundation (CYF)

NEPAL

- ECYG Caring Animals
- ECYG Nepalese Mission Organization

INDONESIA

- ECYG – Transformasi Hijau

MALAYSIA

- ECYG ABC4All
- ECYG Vision Quest Foundation (VQF)

MYANMAR

- Myanmar Youths In Action

PAKISTAN

- ECYG Farz Association of Rehabilitaion and Development
- ECYG Rafique Research & Educational
- ECYG Aware Girls

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Earth Charter Youth Committee PNG for Ecological & Economical Sustainability

PHILIPPINES

- ECYG at Mindanao Polytechnic State College
- ECYG UYCDO
- ECYG RSD
- ECYG Negros

TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA)

- ECYG Taiwan Youth

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA

- ECYG UISCUMARR

BRAZIL

- ECYG Diversity Institute, Bahia

COLOMBIA

- ECYG ASOTEMIRE

COSTA RICA

- ECYG at United World College
- ECYG University for Peace Environmental Club
- ECYG SUCM

GUATEMALA

- ECYG ORCONDECO

HONDURAS

- ECYG Asociación de jóvenes por una Honduras mejor

MEXICO

- Grupo Juvenil de Promotores de Carta de la Tierra de la Universidad de Guanajuato
- ECYG Universidad Tecnológica de TabascoClub: "Carta de la Tierra UTTAB"
- ECYG Grupo Juvenil de la Carta de la TierraAmbientalista (Balam)

PERU

- Asociación Peruana de Escultismo (APE)

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

ARMENIA

- ECYG for Sustainable Human Development, Yerevan (SHD)

AUSTRIA

- ECYG for Diversity, Sustainability, Peace and Connection

BELARUS

- Youth International Club "NEWLINE"

CROATIA

- ECYG de leut's environment

FINLAND

- ECYG Finland

GERMANY

- ECYG Marburg

GREECE

- ECYG Hellas

LATVIA

- ECYG Students for Sustainability

MALTA

- ECYG Greenhouse - University of Malta

THE NETHERLANDS

- Earth Charter Youth Network Netherlands
- Youth Worldconnectors
- ECYG MONK

ROMANIA

- ECYG Constanta

SERBIA

- ECYG KRIO

TAJIKISTAN

- ECYG Dushanbe: "Live Earth"

UKRAINE

- Earth Charter Ukraine for Education for All

UZBEKISTAN

- ECYG School Connect

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

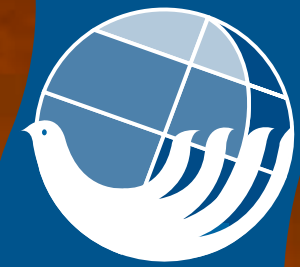
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