

# 2005 - 2014 REPORT



Earth Charter International Contributions  
to the United Nations Decade of Education  
for Sustainable Development



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair on Education  
for Sustainable Development  
and the Earth Charter



Earth  
Charter  
International



# **2005 - 2014 REPORT**

Earth Charter International Contributions  
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for Sustainable Development

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Earth Charter International  
2015

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# INTRODUCTION

In 2003, UNESCO approved the Resolution 32C/17 which reads: “recognizing the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for sustainable development...affirms member states’ intention to utilize the Earth Charter as an educational instrument, particularly in the framework of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development”. After this resolution, the Earth Charter International (ECI) Secretariat has been making extra efforts to promote education for sustainable development processes, especially using Principle 14 of the Earth Charter, which emphasizes the importance of “Integrating into...education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life”.

In 2005 ECI created the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), to support the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). Through its capacity building activities, the Center deepens participants’ understanding of sustainability vision and practice while building the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values needed to shape a sustainable future.

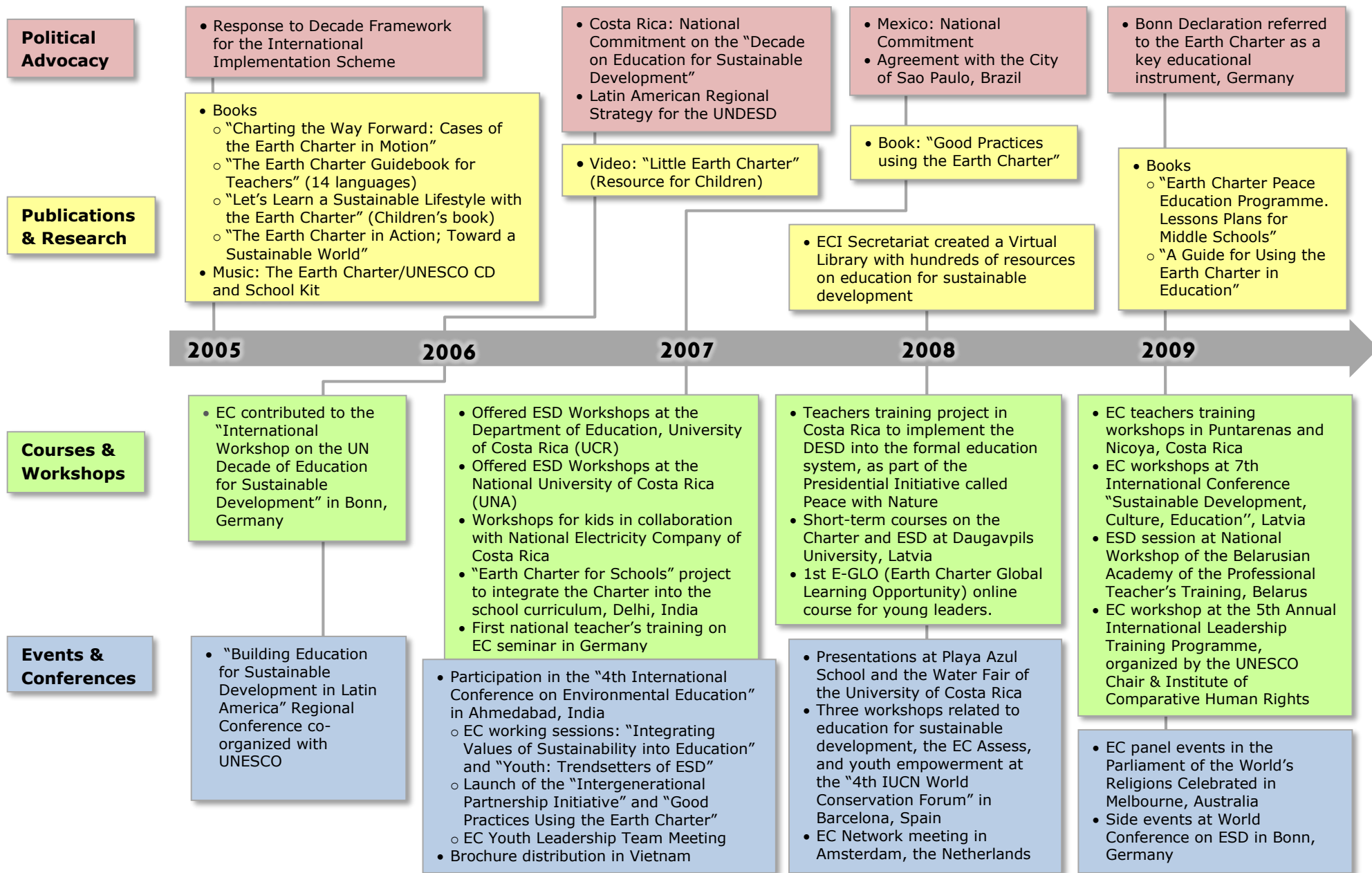
This report presents an overview of the main contributions of Earth Charter International, through the Education Center, to the DESD. One of the highlights is the creation of the UNESCO Chair of ESD with the Earth Charter, in collaboration with the University for Peace in Costa Rica. Receiving the approval and recognition of this UNESCO Chair has been an incentive to keep working hard in developing innovative ways to help in the transition to more transformative education processes towards sustainability. As part of this effort, since 2012 every year we have offered a 3 credit university course on Education for Sustainability for the Master’s Programme on Peace Education at the University for Peace.

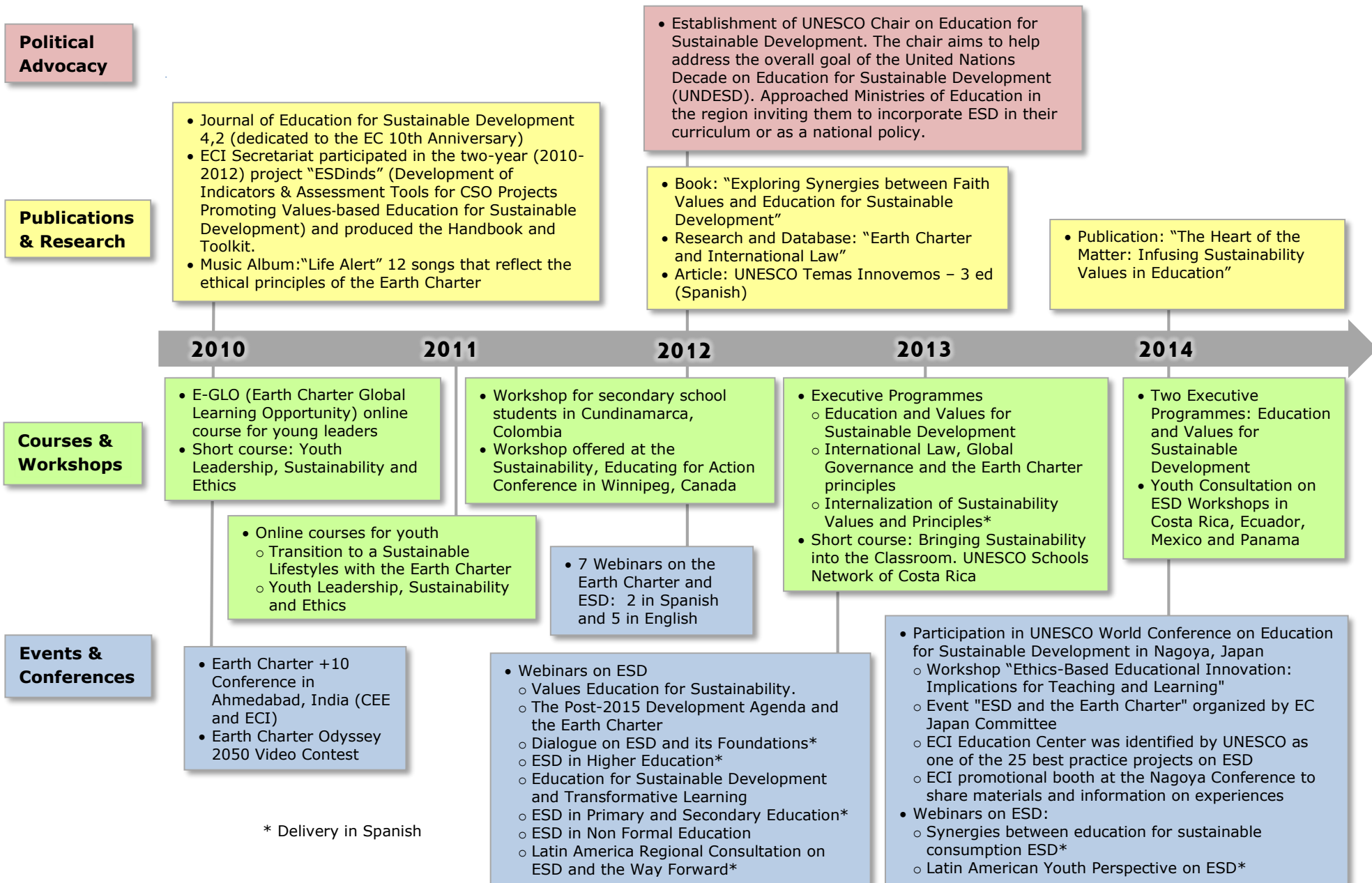
With the end of the DESD, Earth Charter International Education Center commits to continue putting in practice education for sustainable development processes, and offer its support to the Global Action Programme on ESD.

# 2005-2014 TIMELINE

Earth Charter International Contributions  
to the United Nations Decade of Education  
for Sustainable Development







# CONTRIBUTIONS REVIEW

Earth Charter International Contributions  
to the United Nations Decade of Education  
for Sustainable Development



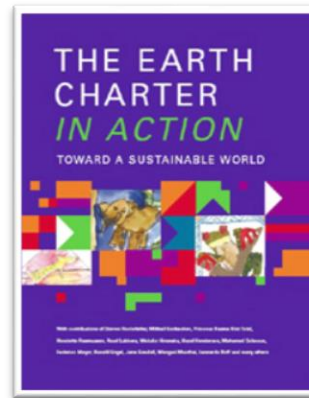




## Response to Decade Framework for the International Implementation Scheme

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The Earth Charter: a key document for advancing the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development Introduction This response offers comments on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development Framework for the International Implementation Scheme and recommends that the UNESCO Secretariat use the Earth Charter as an educational instrument and an ethical framework for the upcoming Decade. This document also highlights the Earth Charter's educational vision and its main planned activities with the goal of exploring how the Decade Implementation Scheme could benefit from a partnership with the Earth Charter Education Programme.



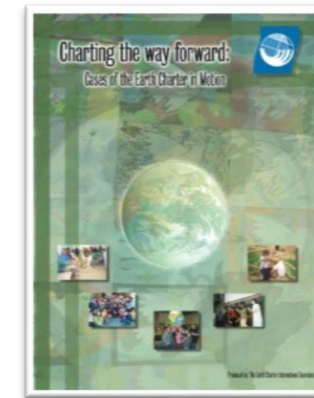
## Book: The Earth Charter in Action: Toward a Sustainable World

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This book demonstrates the rich diversity of uses of the Earth Charter, and points toward its many future possibilities. Thematic essays, stories, narratives, interviews, photographs, and artwork from around the world inspired by the Earth Charter demonstrate its usefulness in diverse cultural contexts.

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A book launch took place during the Earth Charter+5 event held in Amsterdam in November 2005. The book fully available online has Dutch, Spanish and English version.



## Book: Charting the Way Forward: Cases of the Earth Charter in Motion

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The "Cases" referred to in the title are stories about how different groups around the world are using the Earth Charter in schools, universities, other educational organizations, and local community institutions. This book provides very detailed and practical information, useful for groups wanting to duplicate these efforts, or to expand their own efforts.

# 2005

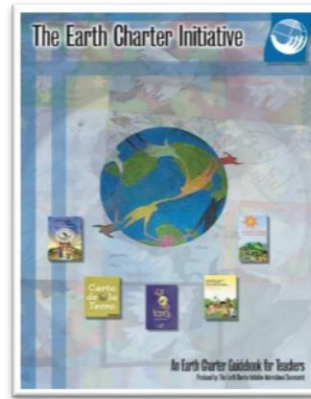
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**Book:  
Let's Learn a Sustainable Lifestyle with the Earth Charter**

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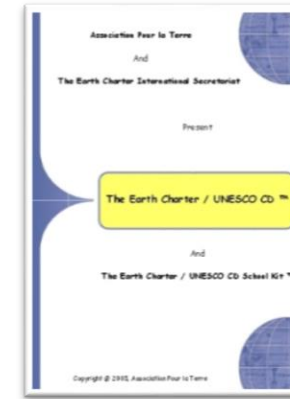
Educational materials for teaching and learning about sustainable development with the Earth Charter were produced and distributed to Costa Rican primary schools. This project involved the production of a Guidebook for Teachers, a Workbook for Students, and a 2005 planner. Over 150,000 copies of the materials were distributed to schools throughout the country, accompanied by teacher training workshops held with the support of the Ministry of Public Education. The intention was to provide material that would facilitate the understanding of the concept of sustainable development and motivate teachers and students to contribute to the common good and reflect on the values of the Earth Charter. This project received financial support from the Japanese Embassy and represented an important contribution to the UN *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*, which began in 2005.



**Book:  
The Earth Charter Guidebook for Teachers™: Bringing Sustainability into the Classroom**

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This Guidebook was written for teachers interested in bringing the concern for building a just and peaceful world into the classroom. It offers guidelines on education for sustainable living, using the Earth Charter as one possible educational tool that can help develop an understanding of the critical choices facing humanity. This guidebook was subsequently translated and published in fourteen languages, Spanish, German, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Portuguese, Tajik, and others. In Portugal and Spain, for instance this publication was broadly disseminated by the respective Ministries of Education.



**Music:  
The Earth Charter /UNESCO CD and School Kit**

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21 songs by international artists promoting the Earth Charter Principles. The CD User Guide includes song lyrics, artist bios, and activities associated with the theme of the songs. Activities include drawing one's values and questioning how students live their values; inviting grandparents to share their knowledge with the class. Students can also compose their own songs to support the Earth Charter.





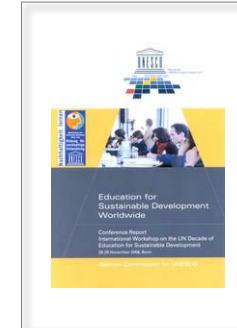
## Costa Rica National Commitment on DESD

Costa Rica has been known for its biodiversity, beautiful nature and peaceful society. The government has a high concern of environment and peace, and a broad vision of sustainable development. On 17 October 2006 the President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias Sánchez and all seventeen Ministers of the Government's Cabinet signed the document "National Commitment on the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development". The process was facilitated by ECI with the support from the Ministry of Education.



## Edutainment Video Resource for Children: Little Earth Charter (LEC)

The LEC is a short curriculum with accompanying animated video for teachers and parents of children aged 4 to 8. The content is focused on ethical and environmental values, with a strong message of hope. It echoes the content of the Earth Charter, but it is adapted for children. This educational resource was created by ECI partners, Little Animation Inc., which is a Canadian company founded by director/producer JC Little, with the support of Canadian artist Rosie Emery. The purpose of the Little Earth Charter is to share the Earth Charter's principles with children at an early age, so that they may become responsible Earth stewards for a sustainable future. The goal of the LEC was to reach as many children as possible, in every region of the planet.



## EC was part of the "International Workshop on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" in Bonn, Germany

Earth Charter International contributed to the "International Workshop on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" in Bonn, Germany. Moacir Gadotti, Earth Charter Initiative Affiliate in Brazil and Director of Paulo Freire Institute, participated and spoke in this event. He called for more education on how to think globally, on learning how to think, and for education about feelings because "in ESD, sensibility is as important as knowledge and information." Some of the activities were facilitated by ECI executive director.

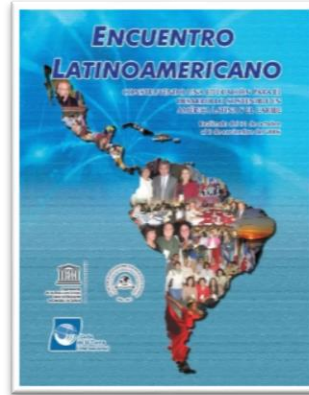
# 2006





### Latin American Regional Meeting with UNESCO

A Latin American meeting entitled “Building the Education for Sustainable Development” was held in San José, Costa Rica from 31 October to 2 November 2006 with the purpose of promoting the implementation of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) in the region. The event was organized by the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE in cooperation with UNESCO. The meeting, which brought together 180 participants from 23 countries, provided a space to share experiences and build alliances. The Earth Charter was central to the agenda and was also part of the outcome strategy and recommendations for implementing the UNDESD in the region.



### Latin America Regional Strategy for the UNDESD

This document “Building Education for Sustainable Development in Latin America Regional Strategy” was developed as a result of the “Building the Education for Sustainable Development” meeting.

The DESD initiative is an opportunity to review, assess and renew educational projects and teaching methods already in use in the region and to promote public policy and sustainability strategies in each country. The document discussed the regional context, their visions, goals, strategies and actions to implement the UNDESD. It also examined the financing issues and the role of different sectors and stakeholders. Over the following years ECI has made a special effort to bring this strategy to the attention of Ministries of Education in the region.



### Mexico: National Commitment

As one result of ECI efforts to raise-awareness of governments in the region on the UNDESD, Mexico’s Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Education signed a formal agreement to collaborate in the implementation of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. They also agreed to incorporate the Earth Charter into all levels and aspects of Mexico’s education system. The ceremony was held during a special national ceremony for Earth Day (22 April 2007), and hosted by the President of the Mexican Republic, Felipe Calderón Hinojosa. ECI Council Co-Chair Steven Rockefeller spoke at the event.

# 2007





### Agreement with the Ministry of Environment of Brazil

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On 30 April 2007 a formal collaborative agreement was signed between the Minister of Environment of Brazil, the Center for the Defense of Human Rights of Petropolis (founded by EC Commissioner Leonardo Boff), and Earth Charter International. During the ceremony, Minister Marina Silva strongly pledged her support for the Earth Charter and reiterated the commitment of the Ministry to use and promote the sustainability vision that Earth Charter articulates, and raise awareness on ESD. The Earth Charter has been widely disseminated by this Ministry in connection with Agenda 21 activities over the previous five years and will continue to be. This agreement further strengthened and formalized cooperation between the Brazilian Government and Earth Charter International.



### Book: Good Practices using the Earth Charter

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As a follow-up to the UNESCO resolution in recognition and support of the Earth Charter, the *Good Practices using the Earth Charter* was published in collaboration with UNESCO, and launched during the Ahmedabad Conference. This publication put together by ECI offers a compilation of twenty-seven experiences of ESD and of incorporating the Earth Charter into non-formal, primary, secondary, and/or higher education practices from different parts of the world.



### Workshop at the Department of Education, University of Costa Rica (UCR)

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ECI staff collaborated with UCR to offer workshops on education for sustainable development to around 60 faculty members and students of the Department of Education. The first workshop for faculty members took place at the end of May; the second one at the end of June. Two other workshops were held for students of the same department. The goal was to engage this part of the university community in the UNDES, in using the Earth Charter as part of their teaching and in re-orienting their curriculum towards ESD.







### **EC workshops for professors of the Department of Education, National University of Costa Rica (UNA)**

The Vice-Dean of the Department of Education at UNA invited ECI to lead two workshops about the Earth Charter, ESD and the UNDES. Around 50 professors of the Department of Education participated. As a result of this activity, a Professor from this Department committed to developing Earth Charter materials for secondary schools and the Earth Charter was formally incorporated as part of the curriculum programme of this department.



### **EC Workshops for kids in collaboration with National Electricity Company of Costa Rica**

The EC Center for ESD offered six workshops for children, ages 8 to 12 years. In total, 202 children participated in a one-hour workshop designed to sensitize participants to the integrated vision of sustainability framed in the Earth Charter, and to raise a sense of commitment and responsibility towards sustainability. These workshops were part of a national environmental education programme led by the Costa Rican National Electricity Company (CNFL). The ECI has been invited to contribute to CNFL efforts in the future.



### **“Earth Charter for Schools” project to integrate the Charter into the school curriculum, Delhi, India**

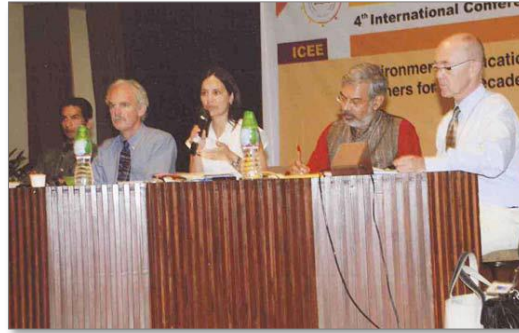
The Honourable Chief Minister of Delhi and CLEAN-India launched the “Earth Charter for Schools” project in April 2007, making Delhi one of the first cities to integrate the Charter into its school curriculum. Teacher’s manuals and textbooks, educational and training packages, were developed by the organization Development Alternative in order to integrate the Charter into Indian schools. This work built on previous efforts Delhi Public School Society (DPSS), which has used the Earth Charter to raise awareness among thousands of children regarding sustainability principles since early 1999. This project also built on the collaboration between ECI and Development Alternatives (DA), that, in 2005, developed a children’s version of the Earth Charter through its CLEAN-India programme and translated it into eight Indian languages.





### First national teacher's training on EC seminar in Germany

On 24 October 2007, the German ECI Affiliate, Ecumenical One World Initiative (EOWI), Soka Gakkai International - Germany and two regional educational institutions organized the first national teacher's training seminar on the Earth Charter in Germany. The training was officially supported by three federal countries in Germany, which hold autonomy of their educational policies according to the federal system of the German government. In preparation of the training, a range of international materials such as the Earth Charter Teachers' Guidebook and the Workshop Toolkit had been translated into German. Together with an Earth Charter version for children and youth, these materials were distributed among the participants. Several co-organizers and participants represented Transfer 21, a programme of the federal government aimed at bringing education for sustainable development into German schools.



### Participation in the "4th International Conference on Environmental Education" in Ahmedabad, India

In November 2007, the Center for Environment Education - CEE (ECI Affiliate) and UNESCO, organized the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education in Ahmedabad. Over 1,500 people participated in this major event. ECI organized several activities to contribute to the conference, including the working session: "Integrating Values of Sustainability into Education: The Promise of the Earth Charter"; the launch of the publication "Good Practices Using the Earth Charter"; and the launch of the Intergenerational Partnership Initiative. Significantly, the final Ahmedabad Declaration and Recommendations explicitly mentions the Earth Charter as a foundation to developing the educational processes needed to help individuals to find solutions to the pressing problems and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



### Earth Charter Brochure distribution in Vietnam

ECI has been approaching various organizations to help translate the Earth Charter and key ESD materials, as a result, the UNESCO Office in Vietnam offered its support to promote the Earth Charter at the National Education for Sustainable Development Advocacy meeting.

The Earth Charter was translated in Vietnamese, and then ECI supported with the funding to print 1,000 Earth Charter brochures and key materials to distribute in meetings and workshops in Vietnam.





## Short-term courses on the Charter and ESD at Daugavpils University, Latvia

In Latvia, at Daugavpils University, Marina Bakhnova, ECI staff member, offered short-term courses about the Earth Charter and ESD. As a result, 11 graduate students of the M.Sc. programme and 2 PhD students chose the Earth Charter as the main theme for their graduation thesis.

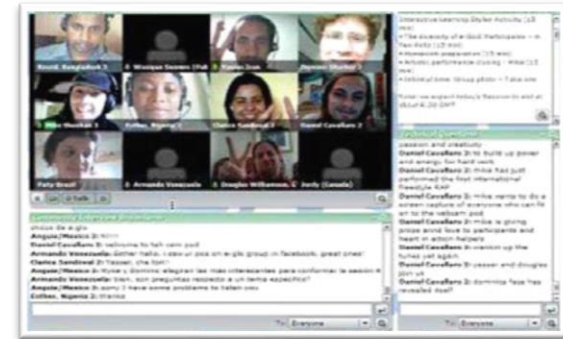
# 2008



## Teachers training project in Costa Rica to implement the DESD into the formal education system, as part of the Presidential Initiative called Peace with Nature

Early in 2008 the ECI Secretariat joined with the Ministry of Education, to spearhead an effort to incorporate values of sustainability into the formal education system. This training process directly responds to the commitment made by the Government of Costa Rica to implement the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

The coordinators decided to use the Earth Charter as the framework for this teacher training process. The ECI Education Center offered the first training session to set the tone offering a holistic perspective of sustainability and its principles. Fifty teachers participated in this pilot process.



## Online course: e-GLO (Earth Charter Global Learning Opportunity)

E-GLO is a semester-long, online digital storytelling and community leadership training for young people inspired by the Earth Charter. It was developed and implemented in collaboration with Beat Board TV, and Heart in Action Enterprises.

e-GLO was offered for the first time in March, to 30 youth, aged 15-30 from 23 countries. Participants met online via webcam and mic in e-GLO's own virtual conference environment. The online sessions covered introductions, workshops, interviews with expert guests, cultural performances, and participant presentations on local projects, intergenerational partnerships, and e-GLO collaborative projects.

e-GLO was delivered 3 times in 2009 and 2010, with 30 participants each time. In total, 90 people participated in e-GLO courses.





### **Presentations at Playa Azul School and the Water Fair of the University of Costa Rica**

The ECI Education Center gave various presentations in Costa Rican schools and Universities. Including, for example, workshops for teachers and students of Playa Azul School and the Water Fair of the University of Costa Rica.



### **Three workshops related to education for sustainable development, the EC Assess, and youth empowerment at the “4th IUCN World Conservation Forum” in Barcelona, Spain.**

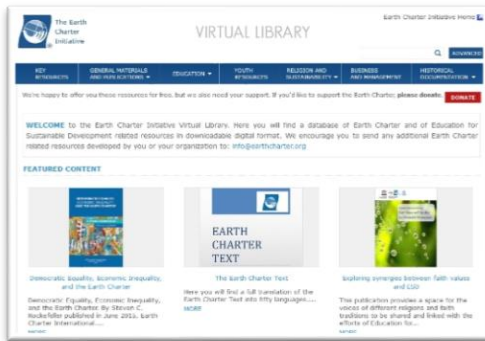
The ECI Secretariat actively participated in the 4th IUCN World Conservation Forum, held from 5-9 October, 2008 in Barcelona, Spain. As the biggest conservation event of 2008, the Secretariat – as well as Earth Charter Initiative members – built upon the IUCN endorsement of the Charter and organized three workshops related to education for sustainable development, the EC Assess, and youth empowerment. This was an occasion to show how members of IUCN can use the Earth Charter and the EC-Assess as an instrument and part of their work, in their spheres of influence and, as such, implement the IUCN endorsement of the Charter.



### **EC Network meeting in Amsterdam, the Netherlands**

In early December, an Earth Charter International Network Meeting was held in Amsterdam, organized by NCDO (National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development), and the ECI Secretariat. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together members of the EC Initiative to share experiences and ideas about the decentralization strategy and to further explore the EC links with the efforts to address Climate Change and Human Rights and also to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This meeting presented an important opportunity to reflect on the meaning of decentralized empowerment, ideas for how to put it into practice, and the role of the task forces in this process. At this occasion, a publication on the linkages between the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the EC was launched.





## ECI Secretariat created a Virtual Library with hundreds of resources on education for sustainable development

An EC Virtual Library was launched as part of the new EC website in which materials related to the Earth Charter and ESD can be downloaded from anywhere. The collection includes educational materials, essays, speeches, books, reports of events, and historical materials, among others. It is expected that this will help disseminate materials and reach out to various interested groups around the world.



## Bonn Declaration referred to the Earth Charter as a key educational instrument, Germany

Throughout the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (31 March – 2 April), in plenary sessions and workshops, participants stressed that Education for Sustainable Development needs to be based on values of justice, equity, tolerance etc.

The Bonn Declaration makes a reference to the Earth Charter in paragraph 8 and a number of participants referred to it as a key educational instrument that offers a clear vision of sustainability and the values and principles necessary to achieve a more just and sustainable world. ECI actively participated and collaborated to this event.

# 2009

## UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

31 March – 2 April 2009  
Bonn, Germany

## Side events at World Conference on ESD in Bonn, Germany

During this Conference an Earth Charter Special Event entitled "Integrating the values and principles of sustainability into education; the promise of the Earth Charter" was held on 2 April 2009.

This special event was built on the overall goal of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development which seeks to integrate the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning.

The session that addressed the importance of Intergenerational partnership counted with a number of young participants and presentations by Peter Blaze Corcoran (Florida Gulf Coast University, USA), Moacir Gadotti (Paulo Freire Institute, Brazil) and Kerstin Veigt (one World Ecumenical Initiative, Germany).

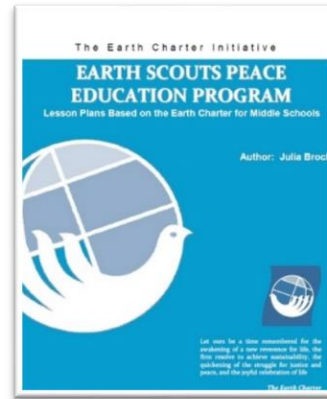




**Book :**  
**A Guide for Using the Earth Charter in Education**

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A Guide for Using the Earth Charter in Education, developed by ECI, was launched during the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in Bonn in 2009. This Guide is intended for all educators who are concerned with the development of educational systems and programmes that prepare young people and adults to live sustainably and become responsible local and global citizens in the 21st century. It provides basic information on how to use the Earth Charter in educational settings. A number of teachers have been using it in an effort to reorient their educational practices towards education for sustainable development.



**Book :**  
**Earth Charter Peace Education Programme. Lessons Plans for Middle Schools**

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This document provides lesson plans on peace education, that can be incorporated into the middle school curriculum. Although the lesson plans are based on Colorado State (USA) standards, they can be applied to other contexts.

The core concept is that peace education does not have to be separated from the regular curriculum. It can and should be incorporated holistically into every subject and aspect of life because peace, life and knowledge are all one. Peace education helps the next generation internalize how and what they can contribute to create a future sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace (Earth Charter Preamble).



**EC workshops at 7th International Conference “Sustainable Development, Culture, Education”, Latvia**

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In Latvia, two EC workshops were organized during the 7th International Conference “Sustainable Development, Culture, Education”, held at Daugavpils University in May,

ECI staff member and youth representatives participated in this event. One of the workshops was about the “Earth Charter as a Framework for Education for Sustainable Development” and the “Earth Charter Youth Initiative and Multicultural Approach to Education for Sustainable Development.”

The second workshop was called “Boundary Crossings: The Interaction of the Earth Charter” and “Quality Criteria for ESD-Schools.” This workshop was co-facilitated by Dmitry Savelau.





### **EC teachers training workshops in Puntarenas and Nicoya, Costa Rica**

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The Costa Rican National Commitment on the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development is being implemented through several actions that “Peace with Nature” Presidential Initiative is undertaking in the field of education. ECI has been collaborating with this effort in close coordination with the Ministry of Education. This initiative has been offering since 2008 a course for in-service teachers on education for sustainable development. In this effort the Earth Charter is considered as an ideal framework for this action-oriented course.

The workshops in Puntarenas (12 May) and Nicoya (2 July) hosted approximately 150 teachers and administrators from four regions (Puntarenas, Aguirre, Nicoya and Liberia) learned about the concept of sustainability, interdependence, systems thinking and the Earth Charter.



### **EC workshop at National Workshop of the Belarusian Academy of the Professional Teacher’s Training, Belarus**

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An Earth Charter and ESD session at the National Workshop of the Belarusian Academy of the Professional Teacher’s Training was held in May in Belarus.

A staff member of the ECI Secretariat presented the Earth Charter educational philosophy and its values-driven approach to education for sustainable development. The facilitator also shared the practical case-studies and materials developed by the ECI Education Center. The session was interactive and successful. Many participants were interested in details and exchanged their ideas.



### **EC workshop at the 5th Annual International Leadership Training Programme**

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The ECI Secretariat delivered a workshop on Youth Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics at the 5th Annual International Leadership Training Programme: A Global Intergenerational Forum, organized by the UNESCO Chair & Institute of Comparative Human Rights held in August.

This workshop was an interactive session / course with meaningful music, photos and videos combined with eye-opening individual and group activities. The goals were to support the participants to realize their role as leaders for a more sustainable future and to help them to learn what the common, global values are that everyone can share.







### EC panel events in the Parliament of the World's Religions Celebrated in Melbourne, Australia

From 3 to 9 December, around 6,000 people from 220 different faiths and all corners of the world participated in the Parliament of the World's Religions 2009 in Melbourne, Australia. The Earth Charter Task Force on Religion, Spirituality, and Ethics participated in the celebrations and organized two panel events on Sustainability and Earth Charter. These panels involved the following speakers such as: Mary Evelyn Tucker (Forum of Religion and Ecology), and A.T. Ariyaratne (Earth Charter Commissioner), who explained how his Buddhist inspired Sarvodaya Movement has translated the Earth Charter into local languages and uses it to educate communities in more than 15,000 villages in Sri Lanka.



### Publication: Journal of Education for Sustainable Development 4,2 (dedicated to the EC 10th Anniversary)

In September 2010, the Journal of Education for Sustainable Development (JESD), published by SAGE Publications and the Centre for Environment Education (CEE India), launched a special issue in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Earth Charter. It contains six very interesting Opinion Essays and nine Descriptive Reports of experiences of using the Earth Charter in education, among other articles. This issue's reference is: Journal of Education for Sustainable Development. Clugston, R and Vilela, M (guest editors). Vol 4. No. 2. September 2010.

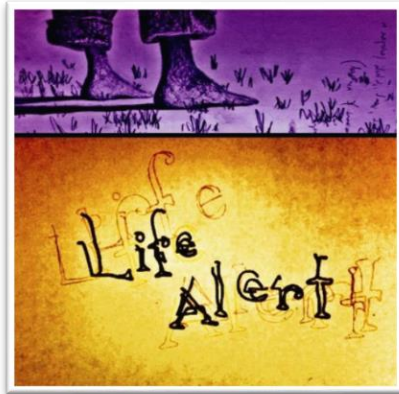
# 2010



### Conference: "Ethical Framework for a Sustainable World" Ahmedabad, India

The [International Conference, "Ethical Framework for A Sustainable World"](#) was held at the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) campus in Ahmedabad from 1 to 3 November 2010. The Conference was organized in partnership with the Earth Charter International and brought together over 500 participants. The Conference objectives were to: Strengthen efforts at making Education for Sustainable Development central to education practice and training; clarify the role the Earth Charter can play in education; share experiences on the use of Earth Charter in education; strengthen partnerships with the Earth Charter; and capture the spirit of the events related to EC+10 and use the ideas to discuss and launch the vision for the Earth Charter Initiative for the next decade (2011-2020)





**Music Album:  
“Life Alert” - 12 songs that reflect the ethical principles of the Earth Charter**

As an effort to develop educational materials that use music and that primary school teaches could use, the ECI Education Center implemented a project to develop a collection of songs that reflect the sustainability values and principles that are articulated in the Earth Charter.

This album contains 12 songs with lyrics in English and Spanish in various rhythms, salsa, samba, pop and etc. The songs are geared to children ages 5-12, although it can be enjoyed by youth of all ages.

The songs and lyrics are available on the Earth Charter Initiative Virtual Library.



**Online course:  
E-GLO (Earth Charter Global Learning Opportunity)**

This is an eight-sessions long, online youth leadership course inspired by the Earth Charter. The course aims to make a positive impact on society by familiarizing local level youth activists with sustainability leadership skills and shared ethics through the use of new technologies that foster interaction, inclusive culture, and the integration of diverse perspectives from youth around the world.

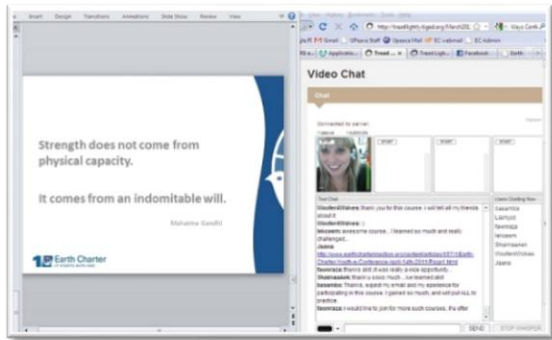
Participants met online via webcam and mic in e-GLO's own virtual conference environment. The online sessions happened every second Saturday for a period of three hours. The sessions included networking, workshops, interviews with expert guests, cultural performances, participant presentations celebrating local projects and e-GLO collaborative projects.



**ECI Secretariat participated in the two-year (2010-2012) project “ESDinds”**

ESDinds (Development of Indicators & Assessment Tools for CSO Projects Promoting Values-based Education for Sustainable Development) is a two-year collaborative research project, supported by The European Commission under its Seventh Framework Programme. The goal of the ESDinds project is for Research Organisations (RTDs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to work together to develop useful indicators to measure values components of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) projects. ECI was an active partner of this effort. A Guidance Notes and Toolkit were produced as part of the project result.

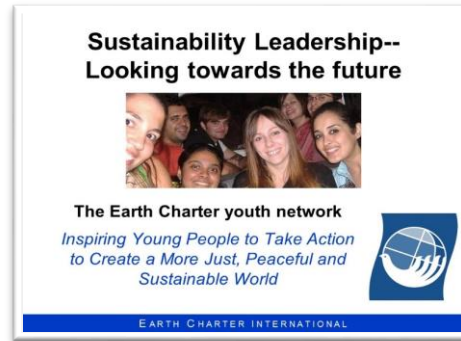
You can find all information about this project in this link: <http://www.wevalue.org/>



### Online courses for youth: Transition to a Sustainable Lifestyles with the Earth Charter

In March 2011, an online course called “Transition to a Sustainable Lifestyles with the Earth Charter!”, was organized together with Tread Lightly (a programme of TakingITGlobal), targeting young leaders. 32 participants from 28 different countries gathered to learn, share, and experience sustainable ways of living.

During this course, the Earth Charter was used as a roadmap for defining sustainability. These young leaders were equipped with the skills to live a more sustainable lifestyle. Participants learned how to implement the principles of sustainability on an individual and organizational level and to realize their role as a leader in this shift.



### Online courses for youth: Youth Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics

“Youth Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics” was a free online short course offered by ECI Secretariat and Youth Action for Change, in August-September 2010. And later on from October to November 2011. Due to the success of the first ECI and YAC short course in 2010, over 350 applications were received and 45 participants were selected.

This course was offered for the third time in 2012, with 30 participants from 17 countries.

As a follow-up, an e-Conference was also organized in the framework of the EC Youth Programme, with 80 participants from 30 countries.



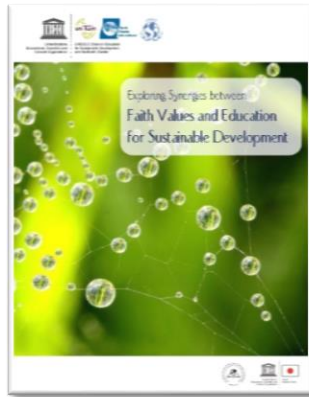
### Video contest: Earth Charter Odyssey 2050

ECI Secretariat organized an international video essay contest for schools based on the principles of the Earth Charter with the purpose to highlight how schools are promoting education for sustainable development. This contest ran from July to November 2011.

Students from Belarus, Costa Rica, Holland, Italy, Mexico, Romania and the United States participated in this contest. ECI Secretariat, in collaboration with the Odyssey 2050 movie project and the British Embassy of Costa Rica, have gone through the selection process. All these videos are featured at the Earth Charter side event in the UN Rio+20 Summit, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

# 2011





**Book:**  
**Exploring Synergies between Faith Values and Education for Sustainable Development**

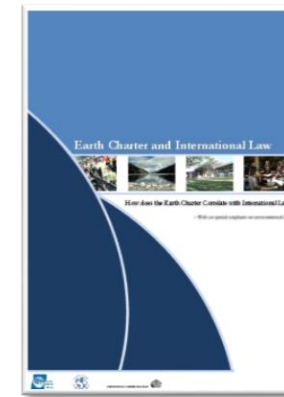
This publication provides a space for the voices of different religions and faith traditions to be shared and linked with the efforts of Education for Sustainable Development. It is the result of a collaborative effort between Earth Charter International, the University for Peace and the UNESCO San Jose office.



**Establishment of UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development**

A new UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development and the Earth Charter was established through the Earth Charter Center on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the University for Peace (UPEACE), and UNESCO for a period of three years. The purpose of the Chair is to promote transformative education experiences that cultivate the fundamental values and ethical vision necessary to move towards a more sustainable world.

The uniqueness of this project is that it will work at the intersection of education, sustainability, and ethics using the Earth Charter as a framework. The courses it will develop also offer an opportunity to further explore the practical implementation of the sustainability paradigm and the Earth Charter principles in management, leadership, and education settings. Every year, since 2012, a 3-credit university course on ESD is offered at the University for Peace by the ECI Education Center.



**Database:**  
**Earth Charter and International Law**

This publication is the result of a collaborative effort between the University for Peace in Costa Rica, Simon Bolivar University in Venezuela and the Earth Charter International Secretariat, under the framework of the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development and the Earth Charter.

The objective of this research project was to: “Establish relationships and coincidences between the Earth Charter principles and the principles contained in different instruments of International Law”. The document offers cross references between 71 international laws documents and the Earth Charter.

The a database can be accessed in:  
[www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/law](http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/law)

**2012**







### **Article: UNESCO Temas Innovemos - 3 ed (Spanish)**

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The third edition of Temas Innovemos, the journal of the Network of Educational Innovations in Latin America and the Caribbean – focused on ESD and good practices.

This edition included an article that describe two online education experiences implemented by ECI. One of the is a leadership course for Latin American youth, developed in collaboration with a Mexican organization called PIDES. The other one is the experience organizing professional online seminars on education.



### **Workshop for secondary school students in Cundinamarca, Colombia**

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ECI Secretariat organized a workshop for secondary school students of the Municipality of Cundinamarca, Colombia. As a result of this workshop, local authorities agreed to adapt the teaching material “Let’s learn a Sustainable Way of Life with the Earth Charter” for primary schools in the area.

Hon. Álvaro Cruz Vargas, Governor of the Department of Cundinamarca, endorsed the Earth Charter in a public ceremony in the community San Juan de Río Seco on June 6th. After the event the “caretakers of the environment” children planted trees with the Governor and the Mayor as part of the World Environmental Day celebrations.



### **Workshop at the Sustainability, Educating for Action Conference in Winnipeg, Canada**

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On November 2012, ECI Secretariat delivered a workshop “Integrating Earth Charter Sustainability Values in Education” at the Sustainability, Educating for Action Conference in Winnipeg, Canada.

This conference for educators was organized by Manitoba’s Ministries of Education, and Children and Youth Opportunities, along with the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents. It brought together around 700 participants and several renowned speakers.

Around 30 people participated in the EC workshop, where they reflected on the pedagogical aspects for transformative education for sustainability and the role of the Earth Charter in that pedagogy.





## Seven Webinars on the Earth Charter and ESD

ECI rolled out seven free webinars in March on education for sustainable development. Two of the webinars were in Spanish and five were in English. The guest speakers included: Elizabeth Ramírez (Costa Rica), Louise Erbacher (Australia), Shana Smith (USA), Mamata Pandya and Rajeswari Namagri (India), Adela J. Gondek and Jairo García (USA), Sally Carless (USA), and Edgar Gonzalez Gaudiano (Mexico)

This series of webinars was an attempt to share knowledge and gather people from different places. The guest speakers related their own experiences of working with the Earth Charter in education for sustainable development, from primary education through to graduate level programmes.

# 2013



## Three Executive Programmes:

The ECI Education Center offered the following three one-week intensive Executive Programmes:

1. ***Education and Values for Sustainable Development*** which deepened the concept of sustainable development and its implications for education, learning, and change.
2. ***International Law, Global Governance and the Earth Charter principles*** with the purpose to empower participants to become leaders for sustainability and enhanced their knowledge at the intersection of international law, global governance, and the Earth Charter.
3. ***Internalization of Sustainability Values and Principle*** (in Spanish) to broaden participants' understanding of the Earth Charter principles for personal transformation, and provided tools to assist the transformation of individuals and institutions towards sustainability.



## Short course: Bringing Sustainability into the Classroom. UNESCO Schools Network of Costa Rica

As part of the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter, ECI Education Center organized a primary and secondary in-service teachers' workshop called "Teaching Sustainability with the Earth Charter" on June 6th and 7th, 2013.

The UNESCO Costa Rica Commission made the call for participation to this workshop, which the Earth Charter Center for ESD at UPEACE hosted. Eighteen teachers from schools that are part of the Costa Rican network of Schools associated with UNESCO participated in this workshop. The aim of the workshop was to put in practice the pedagogical principles of education for sustainable development, which promotes learners' active participation, critical analysis, learning by doing and using our senses to promote learning.

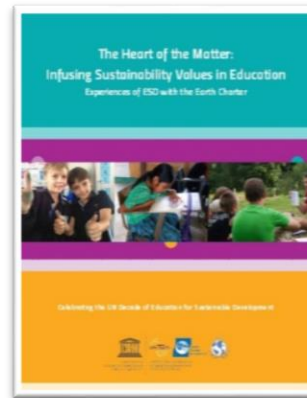




## 10 Webinars on ESD

This year the ECI Secretariat organized ten webinars on ESD, five in English and five in Spanish. There were several large groups, especially classrooms in other countries, that saw some of the webinars. The number of users or participants in total was 685.

1. Values Education for Sustainability
  2. Empowering a new generation of sustainability leaders through education.
  3. Environmental law and global governance
  4. The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Earth Charter
  5. Dialogue on ESD and its Foundations\*
  6. ESD in Higher Education\*
  7. Education for Sustainable Development and Transformative Learning
  8. ESD in Primary and Secondary Education\*
  9. ESD in Non Formal Education\*
  10. Latin America Regional Consultation on ESD and the Way Forward\*
- (\* delivered in Spanish)



## Book: The Heart of the Matter: Infusing Sustainability Values in Education

Over the course of the past decade, ECI has contributed to the efforts of the UNDESD by organizing workshops, courses, teacher trainings, and events. This publication highlights a few of the more recent stories. The collection showcased in this book celebrates the ongoing global effort to bring ethics and values into education at all levels.

The examples all share the common vision that using the Earth Charter as a guide towards reorienting that global value system is a powerful method for achieving a sustainable perspective for present and future generations.

# 2014



## Two Executive Programmes: Education and Values for Sustainable Development

This one-week masterclass was designed for educators in schools, universities, NGOs, or training centers. Under the framework of the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter, this programme offered an opportunity to deepen understanding on the role of education in fostering sustainability.

The programme empowered educators to create practical experiences that give power and significance to the ethical principles and values of the Earth Charter. The programme deepened the concept of sustainable development and its implications for education, learning, and change. It also explored practical methods for introducing sustainability values into educational settings.







## Latin American Youth Consultation on ESD Workshops and webinars

A Latin American consultation on youth opinions towards Education for Sustainable Development was organized by ECI in collaboration with the UNESCO Latin America and the Caribbean office. This involved workshops in Costa Rica (Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica), Ecuador (Salón Máximo del Gobierno Autónomo Descentralizado de la Provincia del Carchi.), Mexico (Universidad de Guanajuato), and Panama (Facultad de Ingeniería Civil, campus Victor Levi Sasso, Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá, Ciudad de Panamá), as well as an online consultation and webinar.

Overall, seven workshops were offered with the participation of more than 330 young people. Most of these workshops were held under the project created with UNESCO called “The Earth Charter and ESD”. Two webinars were also organized (6 August and 24 October), with 71 participants.



## Participation in UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Nagoya, Japan

UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (WCESD), was held in Nagoya, Japan from 10-12 November. This Conference celebrated the end of the UN Decade on ESD and the launch of the new Global Action Programme on ESD (GAP). Members of the ECI Secretariat, Council, Commissioners, and Affiliates participated in this important event. Several EC events were delivered:

1. Workshop “Ethics-Based Educational Innovation: Implications for Teaching and Learning”
2. Event “ESD and the Earth Charter” organized by EC Japan Committee
3. ECI Education Center was identified as one of the 25 best practice projects on ESD
4. ECI promotional booth to share materials and information on experiences



## Webinars on synergies between education for sustainable consumption

Consumers International and the EC Center for ESD joined efforts to develop a series of two webinars on the topic of Education for Sustainable consumption and ESD.

The first webinar took place on 21 August, and the topic was “Understanding and Deciding on Sustainable Consumption”. The topic of the second webinar was “Synergies between ESD and Education for Sustainable Consumption”, it took place on 23 October.

In total, 125 people participated in these webinars.

# Earth Charter International Secretariat and Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE

C/O University for Peace  
P.O Box 138-6100  
San José, Costa Rica  
T. (506) 2205-9060  
[www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org)



• UNESCO Chair on Education  
• for Sustainable Development  
• and the Earth Charter