



®

# One Earth Community, One Common Destiny

EARTH CHARTER INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT

2015





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## About this report

This Earth Charter International's Annual Report offers an overview of activities within the Secretariat and the wider Earth Charter Initiative globally between 1 January and 31 December 2015. The report contains information regarding Earth Charter International's operations and finances, as well as its impacts worldwide. It also highlights several activities and achievements from affiliates and other groups working with the Earth Charter document around the world.

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

This report has been written and edited by Mirian Vilela, Douglas F. Williamson, Alicia Jimenez, and Gloriana Lara.

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**Cover pictures** by the winners of the Earth Charter+15 photo contest on "One Earth Community, One Common Destiny"

**Springtime in Bangladesh** by Khoka Rahman

**Reflection** by Jophel Botero Ybioso

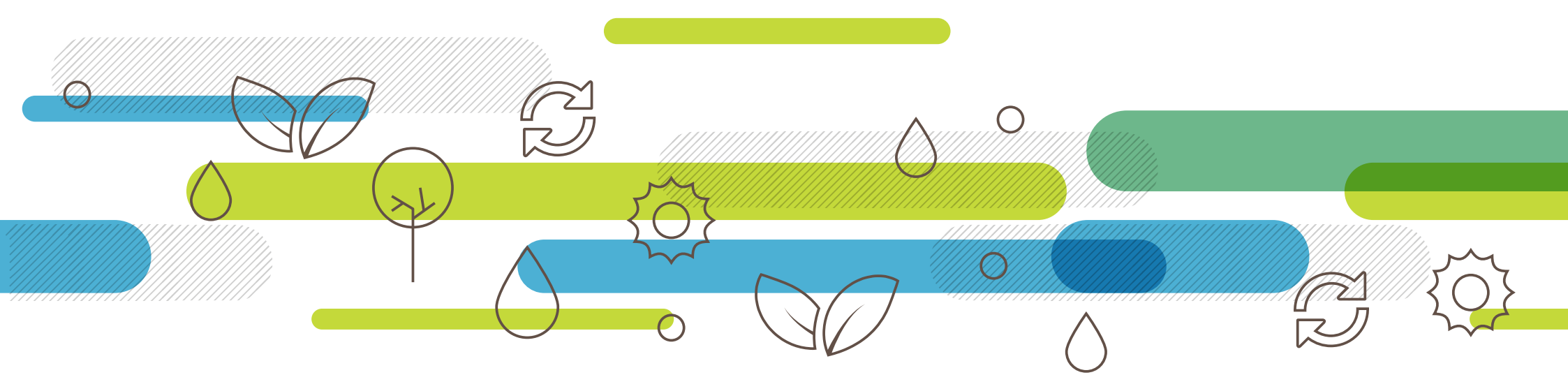
**Ochi chestnut forest** by George Makrakis

**Universal Vision** by Debbie Crowell

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## FOREWORD

The year 2015 was significant in that the nations of the world reached agreement on critical issues concerning sustainability. In September 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations. It was the first time such global goals were directed at the so called developing and developed countries simultaneously. All of these SDGs, and much of the thinking behind them, closely reflects the formulation of the Earth Charter. The agreement officially known as “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” is a testimony to the significant improvement in shared understanding concerning the challenge of environmental sustainability and related issues.

Then, in November-December 2015, an agreement was reached at COP 21 of the UN Convention on Climate Change held in Paris, France to work towards ensuring that the average temperature increase of the planet is kept below 20 C. The preamble to the Paris agreement highlights the necessity for changes

in lifestyle. For that to happen, international collaboration of all actors is essential.


As the world enters into an implementation phase for both the SDGs and the public commitments by countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions announced in Paris and thereafter, the Earth Charter continues to provide a guide for action and a broad ethical foundation for living a sustainable lifestyle. It also offers a framework to deepen understanding of planetary citizenship and what that entails. Through various efforts such as the Earth Reports, webinars or our latest publication on “Democratic Equality, Economic Inequality and the Earth Charter”, the ECI has created a forum to discuss the SDGs in the context of the Earth Charter.

The year 2015 and the first months of 2016 have also been a very disquieting period for humanity. Large scale violence and human migration have reached levels that would have been hardly imaginable just

a few years ago. There are conflicts in many parts of the planet, some of which are related to authoritarian and unethical governments causing massive migration, a worsening of social conditions, and growing inequality. There continue to be enormous shortfalls in the areas of economic and social justice and equality. These persistent problems cause growing ungovernability in many countries and widespread human suffering.

We need to build cultures of peace that can prevent, interrupt, and transform all kinds of violence.

We believe that the Earth Charter Initiative can focus its efforts on eliminating violence and fostering equality of all kinds. Earth Charter International’s evolving strategies need to meet this challenge. Every person and organization that is part of the ECI network is invited to work towards this goal—a goal which aligns and contributes to the UN 2030 agenda.



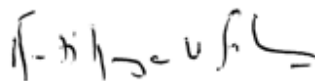
We see education as the main driver for the implementation of the SDGs. Therefore, The Earth Charter Education Centre in Costa Rica will step up its educational efforts in this direction together with the UN mandated University for Peace. Our focus will be on the expansion of our educational programmes to systemically encompass all of the Earth Charter areas, particularly those which have not been sufficiently addressed, with a special emphasis on peace and non-violence. Thus, we have chosen “Sowing a Culture of Peace” as the theme for ECI’s actions in 2016. This is inspired by Principle 16, specifically subprinciple 16 (f), of the Earth Charter: “Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.”



**Oscar Motomura**  
Co-Chair, ECI Council

We invite and encourage all those involved in the Earth Charter Initiative to take increasingly active roles in reducing and ultimately eliminating inequalities and in embedding cultures of peace in every community on Earth. We can all benefit when communities which are dealing effectively with these issues share their practices with places that are more challenged. However, it is equally vital that the Earth Charter Initiative continually adapts to meet the specific needs of every community and country in the world, without assuming that we all have the same problems or that they should be dealt with in the same way.

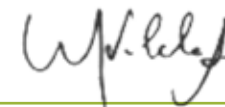
We are now more aware that treating the symptoms is not enough to cure the diseases. Our biggest challenge is to heal the sick systems that are causing these



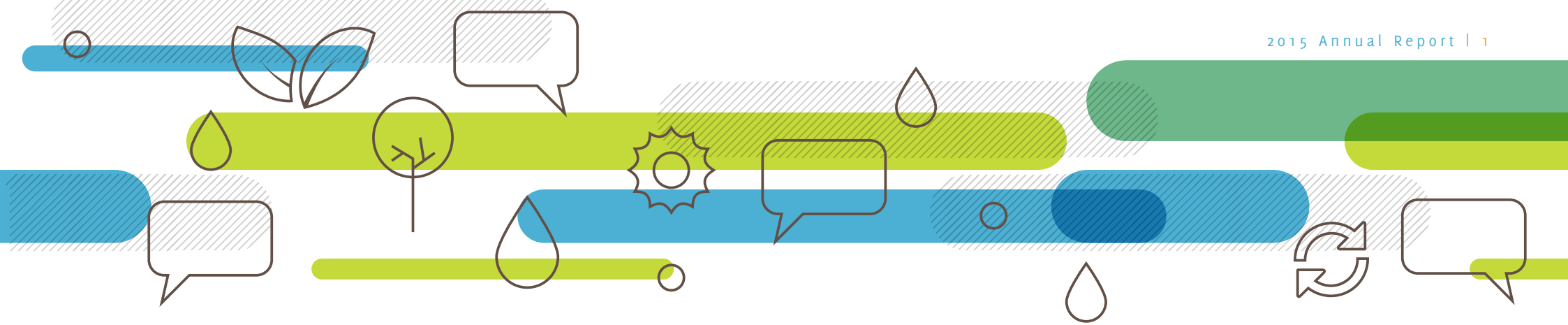
**Kartikeya Sarabhai**  
Co-Chair, ECI Council

symptoms all over the world (injustice, inequality, violence, authoritarianism, etc.). It is critical for the Earth Charter Initiative to help awaken people to the urgent need for drastic improvements in the social, economic, and political systems following a shared vision of humanity and values. It is equally important that ECI drives forward the direct participation of individuals, not merely depending on governments to solve the problems.

This foreword to the ECI 2015 Annual Report opens up the discussion on the focus and work agenda of the Earth Charter Initiative for 2016 and in the years to come. It is also an invitation to those connected to the Initiative to rethink and reevaluate their actions to effectively tackle some of the most pressing issues of our time.



**Mirian Vilela**  
Executive Director



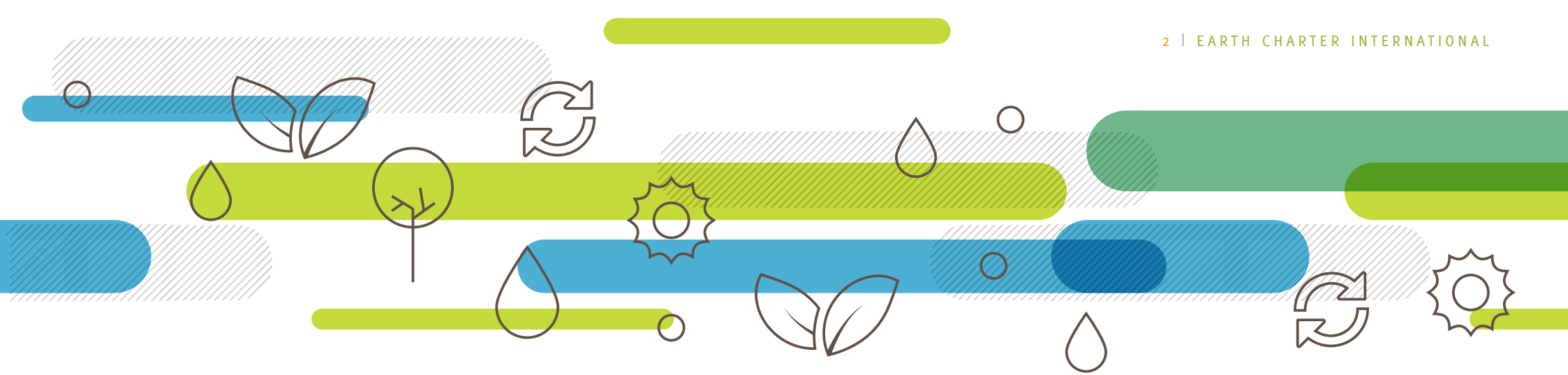
## I. Executive Summary

This Earth Charter International (ECI) Annual Report offers an overview of Earth Charter activities undertaken during 2015.

2015 will be a very special year remembered for the launching of the sustainable development goals as the new global 2030 development agenda, the Paris Agreement at the COP 21 on climate change, and the release of the first Encyclical on environmental issued by a Pope. ECI and the Earth Charter global network at large happily welcomed these efforts as it significantly echoes the ethical vision proposed in the Earth Charter. A special highlight for our Initiative was the explicit recognition given by Pope Francis in the Encyclical *Laudato Si* to the Earth Charter, states:

*"The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, but we have not as yet developed a universal awareness needed to achieve this. Here, I would echo that courageous challenge: "As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life".*

It is the first time that a Pope dedicates a whole Encyclical to environmental issues. The document underscores the ethic of care that is central to the Earth Charter, as well as emphasizes several important Earth Charter principles including universal responsibility, interdependence, the common good, economic and social justice, and the precautionary principle, among others. The ECI Secretariat collected commentaries from several well-known members of the Earth Charter global network, who wrote articles about this important highlight of the year. (these articles are available on line)



### ECI Activities

The focus of ECI Secretariat work continued to be on education, as ECI began to build on its work from the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development. ECI continued to augment the offerings of the EC Education Center, worked more closely with UNESCO and UNEP, and carried on with the process of strengthening relationships with key organizations in the Earth Charter Movement. As usual, a number of 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 2015, the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development offered four one-week intensive Executive Programmes, two on transformative education, one in English and one in Spanish, one on systems thinking and leadership, and one on sustainability communication and storytelling. The Cen-

ter also offered a two-day teacher training course for the UNESCO Schools in Costa Rica. A one-day Conference on “Finding Synergies and Building Bridges: Reorienting Education towards Sustainable Development, Sustainable Consumption and Global Citizenship” was organized, which included speakers from the ECI Council, UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP, and the University for Peace and a three-day regional Latin American and Caribbean meeting on climate change and sustainable development education was organized with UNESCO Headquarters, among others.

On research, the Secretariat collaborated with UNESCO San Jose and the Ministry of Education of Costa Rica on a project to analyze the inclusion of biodiversity topics in schools’ curricula of Costa Rica. Also, ECI continued to produce publications related to ethics, sustainability, and education.

As part of ECI’s collaboration with the University for Peace, ECI offered a course on Education for Sustainable Development and one on Sustainable Development for its Master’s programmes.

ECI continued to coordinate the UNESCO Chair on ESD with the Earth Charter, and got more involved with UNEP’s 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, more specifically on the sustainable lifestyles and education programme.

The ECI Secretariat continued to build its youth programme, solidifying its commitment to the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP), taking a co-chair role in the GAP Partnership Network on Youth ESD, and building its training programme for Earth Charter Youth Leaders.

### Network, Outreach, and Communications

In 2015, the ECI Secretariat networked with old and new partners, affiliates, and endorsers. It continued to follow the decentralization empowerment policy in which much of the outreach work and awareness raising relied on the network itself. The networking, outreach, and communications work was partially guided by the EC+15 campaign, which provided some guidance and suggestions for actions and communi-

cations to the Secretariat and the broader network. The EC+15 campaign was a network-wide effort, guided loosely by the ECI Secretariat in 2015. The campaign consisted of offering a logo and slogan to the network and encouraging action in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Earth Charter. Under the EC+15 slogan “One Earth Community, One Common Destiny”, ECI promoted the organization of activities that would emphasize this central concept that is found in the Earth Charter.

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 embarked in a project to redesign its main website and communication systems while continuing to manage a tri-lingual website where it consistently posts news articles and relevant sustainability information, issued regular newswatches, and managed facebook pages in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese.

The Secretariat continued to manage and update 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 967,937 visits in 2015, and in addition there are approximately 16 national websites in languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Vietnamese, and Arabic among others. Although ECI didn't actively seek endorsements in 2015, about 200 new organizations endorsed the Earth Charter over the year and there are now 7,156 organizational endorsers and over 27,000 individual endorsers.

### **Dialogue**

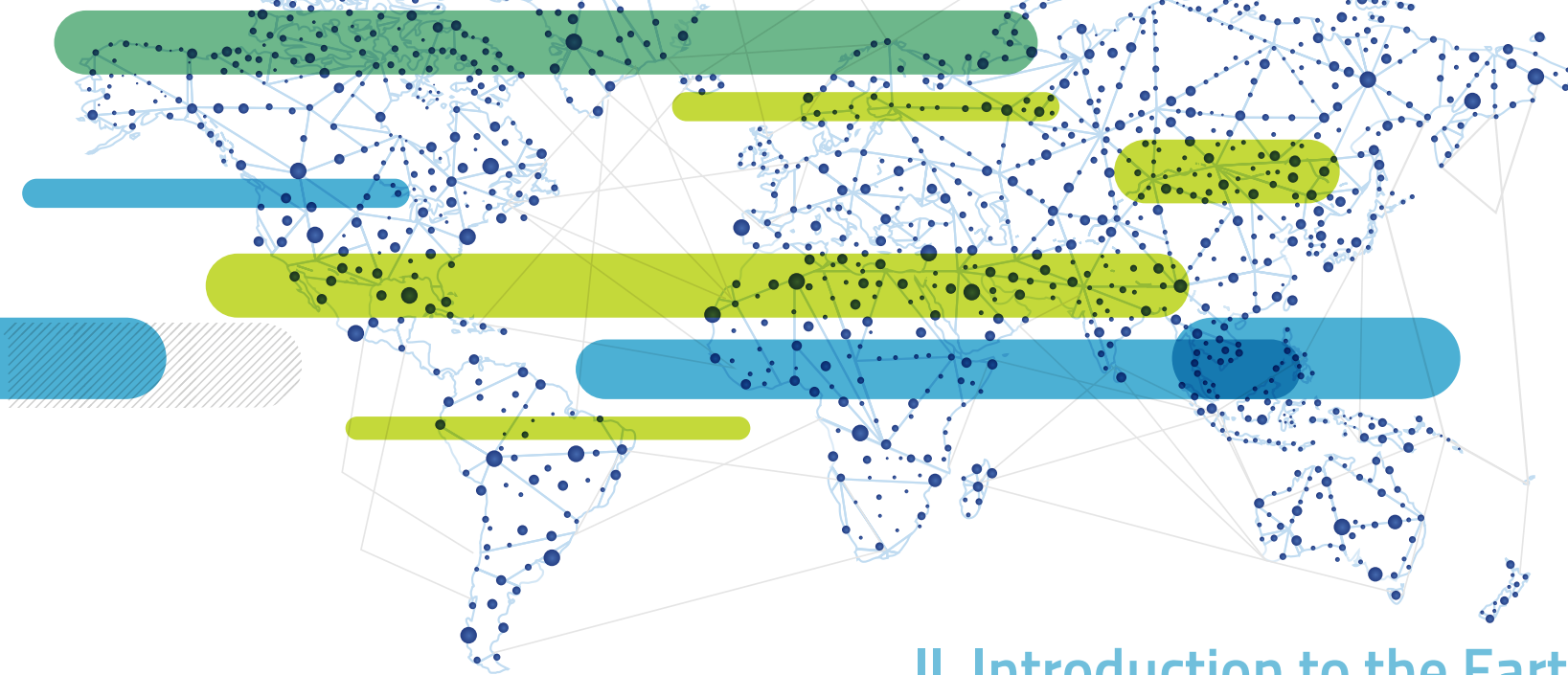
The Secretariat has also continued to engage, as much as possible, with major topics of the international community. One of the main reasons for this is to engage the Earth Charter network on global governance initiatives to contribute to such processes and to expand understanding and awareness of ongoing challenges and issues. In 2015, as part of the EC+15 efforts, ECI organized six webinars on topics relat-



ed to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Pope's Encyclical, sustainability and environmental ethics, and the Climate COP 21, among others.

According to our records, between our education programmes, conference presentations and webinars, over this year we have directly reached nearly 5,000 people, without counting our outreach efforts through social-media, website and publications.





## II. Introduction to the Earth Charter Initiative

The Earth Charter Initiative is a global movement and network of people, organizations, and institutions that have embraced the Earth Charter principles and is implementing its vision. 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) is part of this movement, and it consists of a Council, the Secretariat, and the EC education center. 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 Movement. The ECI Council was created in 2006 as part of a major reorganization and expansion of Earth Charter activities.

Currently, there are Earth Charter projects and activities underway in over 80 countries. Countries that are particularly active include Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain, Brazil, Costa Rica, Germany, The United States, Canada, Kenya, Australia, and India.

The mission of the Earth Charter International is to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society based on a set of values and a shared ethical framework as articulated in the Earth Charter.

### III. Governance structure of Earth Charter International – ECI

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

The present Council has 14 members from 13 different countries composed of eight men and six women. 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, one project assistant and one youth facilitator. In addition, during 2015, 5 interns worked on a full time basis at the Secretariat. Also, one part-time intern from the University for Peace student body collaborated on specific projects.

There were 144 new volunteers who signed up this year, coming from 46 different countries, the majority of them coming from Latin America. The project that attracted the most people was Project 3, which is about making presentations of the Earth Charter.

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 including organizing joint courses, events, and research projects. 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.

The 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.





## IV. Goals and Achievements of the ECI Secretariat

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.

### ECI GOALS:

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 its goals and mission. 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 2015 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 2015, there were 90 ECI Organization Affiliates from 56 countries.

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 organized 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 **IX** and more details can be found in the respective country page on the Earth Charter website.

### **YOUTH**

The ECI Secretariat makes a concerted effort to inspire and engage young people to embrace the sustainability vision that is articulated in the Earth Charter and to incorporate its principles in their daily lives. The work in this area involves engaging and inspiring youth, collaborating with youth partner organizations, and developing and offering online short courses, webinars, and workshops (face-to-face).

For most of 2015, ECI was without a staff member in the youth section and only hired a new staff member in the last quarter of the year. During the search for a new youth coordinator, ECI staff continued to solidify the basis of youth work at ECI, especially in light of the commitment made to the Global Action Programme for ESD in the follow-up to the DESD at the end of 2014. Towards this commitment, ECI joined the UNESCO GAP Partnership Network for ESD for Youth and took on a co-chair position, assisting in the development of collaboration with other ESD Youth partners. With the arrival of the new youth coordinator, the process for launching a new Earth Charter Youth Leaders programme and online course was accelerated towards the end of 2015.

### **ENDORSERS**

The ECI Secretariat also has the task of maintaining an online endorsers' database. The most common method to endorse the Earth Charter is through the website. However, there are instances where en-

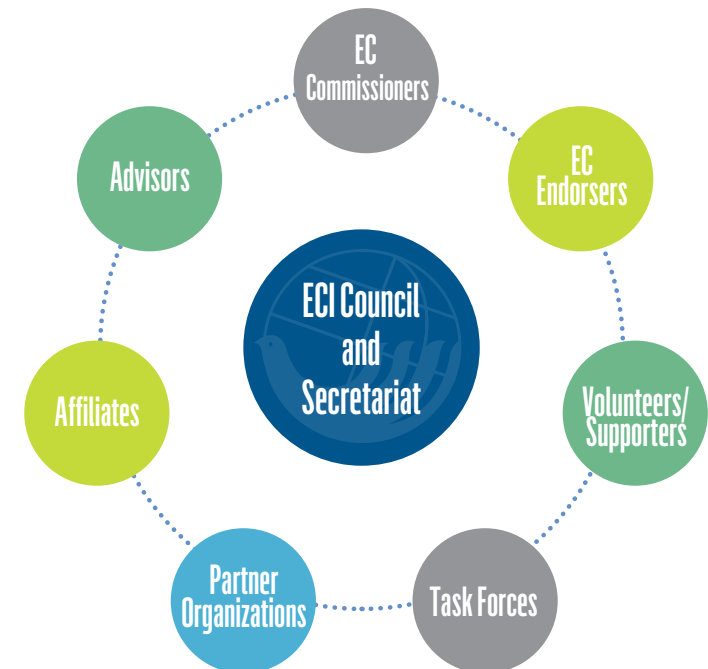
endorsements are done at public events on paper, and there are a few countries that keep their own databases.

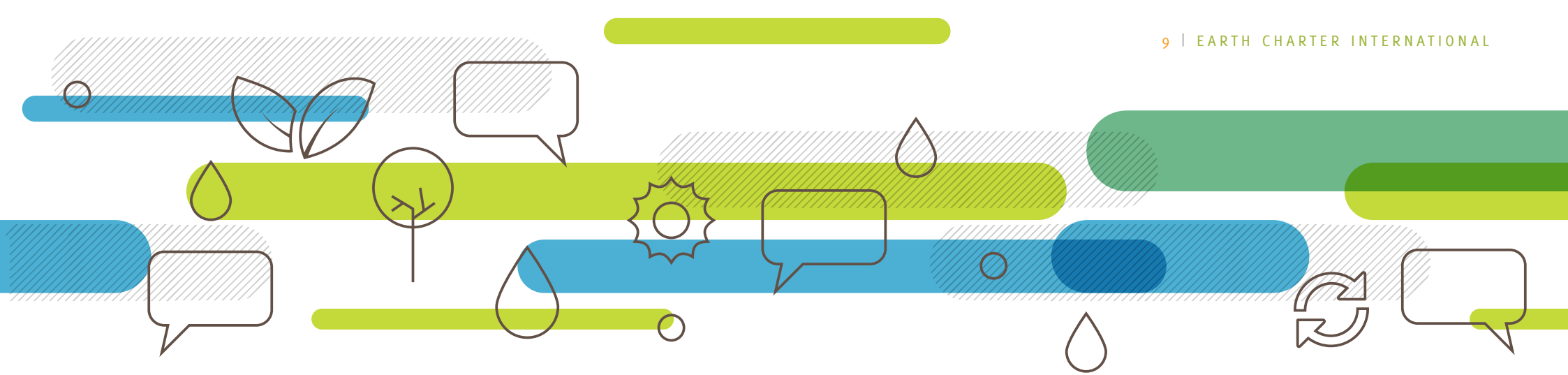
Only organizational endorsements are made public. In Mexico, for instance, the Governors of the States of Coahuila, Nayarit and Durango endorsed the Earth Charter, offering significant political support to the EC Initiative in these States. In Nayarit, 102 institutions, among them municipalities, civil society organizations, private enterprises, and educational institutions, endorsed the Earth Charter in a ceremony where the Governor signed the Earth Charter endorsement. Another important endorsement was from the fourteen Technical Universities of the States of Hidalgo, Coahuila, and Durango. A ceremony to celebrate these endorsements happened in October, with the presence of the Governors of these States.

In Spain, the University of León endorsed the Earth Charter in a ceremony organized by ECI Affiliate Fundación Valores in celebration of the Earth Charter 15th anniversary.

Other recent organizational endorsers are: Civiliti from the USA, the Foundation for Environment Education from Denmark, the American Veterans Committee, and the Autonomous University of Coahuila, Mexico.

As of December 2015, there were 34,398 registered endorsements of the Earth Charter, out of which 7,156 are organizations. The number of endorsers continues to rise steadily and in 2015 more than 150 new organizations endorsed the Earth Charter and it was an average year of individual endorsements.





## COMMUNICATION SERVICES

The ECI Secretariat maintains an international website, available in English, French, and Spanish. The site serves as an information hub offering an overview of activities and organizations involved with the Earth Charter Movement, organized by country and by focus area.

One of the main objectives of the website is to offer basic information about the Earth Charter Movement, to allow for the sharing of experiences and good practices, to showcase the Earth Charter Center for ESD's learning opportunities, and to attract youth to sustainability initiatives. The international website also contains a Virtual Library with over 800 resources available for free, and work to improve them is ongoing.

In 2015, ECI began the process of updating its website and related tools, migrating them from previous

platforms, redesigning the aesthetics and site architecture, and reorganizing and updating a lot of the content. This task was nearing completion at the end of 2015 and the Earth Charter movement will count on a new website managed by ECI starting in 2016.

In 2015, the website continued to showcase Earth Charter work from around the world and effectively served as an information distribution hub for the global movement. The ongoing social media work and Earth Charter's presence and reputation in online platforms, especially facebook, continued to grow steadily.

In 2015, there were 967,937 visits to the main Earth Charter website as compared with 1,013,857 in 2014, 802,548 in 2013, 715,137 in 2012, and 599,351 in 2011. Most visitors came from the United States, Norway, Mexico, China, and Turkey. The Earth Charter Initiative also counts with 17 national websites in various

languages (see list in the Attachment C), some more active than others.

The Wikipedia articles on the Earth Charter are also an important resource. The article in English received 19,515 visits during 2015, down approximately 12% from the previous year's visits. The Spanish article received 138,293 visits in 2015, which represents around a 30% decrease, from 2014.

The ECI Secretariat is also active on social media sites, operates several Facebook pages in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French, has a Google+ account, and is active on YouTube with more than 200 uploads and favorites, 4 videos were uploaded in 2015, almost 750 channel subscribers, and almost 45,000 views in 2015. The Spanish and English facebook pages continued to grow at a moderate rate, increasing by more than 3,000 new followers in 2015.



## 2. Education

For a third consecutive year, the Earth Charter Center for ESD coordinated the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter, and organized several activities in the framework of this Chair: Executive Programmes; Seminars; webinars; and Conferences.

In addition to the efforts in promoting ESD, the Earth Charter Center began to collaborate more closely with the UNEP 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10YFP). This initiative consists of several programmes of action, one of them on sustainable lifestyles and education (SLE), where the EC Center is collaborating the most. Staff members of the EC Center participated in the consultation process for the regional strategy and the Costa Ri-

can national strategy for the 10YFP. The Center has also applied to be a partner of the SLE Programme.

### Executive Programmes

These programmes are one-week intensive courses with a limited number of participants. The purpose of these programmes is to provide transformative experiences for participants using the Earth Charter as an instrument, and focusing on specific areas of knowledge.

In 2015, the EC Center offered four Executive Programmes:

- “Educación para la Sostenibilidad, Aprendizaje Transformador y la Carta de la Tierra”, offered exclusively in Spanish for educators;

- “Leadership in a changing world: Turning the vision for sustainability into a reality with a systemic view of life”; a systems thinking course in English with simultaneous Spanish translation with EC Council member Fritjof Capra;
- “Communicating Powerfully and Effectively on Sustainability: The Earth Charter, Theater Training, and Storytelling”, a sustainability communications course;
- “Masterclass - Education, Ethics, and Values for Sustainability: Transformative Teaching and Learning with the Earth Charter”, the programme with Mirian Vilela and Sam Crowell offered several times over the past years now retitled.

A total of 63 participants from ten countries participated in these intensive programmes.



### Conferences

#### “Finding synergies and building bridges: re-orienting education towards sustainable development, sustainable consumption and global citizenship”

On 20 March, ECI and the University for Peace co-hosted a one-day conference called “Finding Synergies and Building Bridges Reorienting Education towards Sustainable Development, Sustainable Consumption and Global Citizenship” to offer a space for dialogue and sharing about different emerging global education initiatives. This event also served to launch the celebrations of the 15th anniversary.

With 93 participants, the event featured an array of professionals and educators, many from Intergovernmental organizations. The conference showcased presentations and moderation from ECI Council co-chairs Oscar Motomura from Amana-Key (Brazil) and Kartikeya Sarabhai from the Center for Envi-



ronment Education (India), ECI Council member Fritjof Capra from the Center for Ecoliteracy and Alexander Likhotal from Green Cross International, as well as Costa Rica’s Vice-minister for Education Alicia Vargas, Hiro Sakurai from Soka Gakkai International, and others from UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, the University for Peace, and the international education community.



#### “Regional Experts meeting on climate change education held in May”

ECI collaborated with UNESCO Headquarters in hosting the Latin America and Caribbean meeting on climate change education for sustainable development. This expert meeting sought to identify the main challenges that climate change poses to education systems







in the Latin America region and explore the role that education can play in adaptation and mitigation to climate change. It served to promote the important contribution education can make to climate change adaptation and mitigation in the Latin American countries; enhance the exchange of experiences and good practices on climate change education among ministries, teachers, practitioners and young people; and identified opportunities for partnerships between several groups. This meeting took place on 12-14 May, at the EC Center facilities in Costa Rica and brought together over 100 participants from 25 countries.

As a concrete result of this meeting, several recommendations for a plan of action to promote climate change education for sustainability in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean were identified. The meeting report, prepared by ECI staff members, is available on-line.

#### **National Forum on ESD in Costa Rica**

On 26 and 27 November, ECI collaborated with the Costa Rican Network of Sustainable Higher Education Institutions (REDIES) and the Ministry of Education of Costa Rica to organize the first National Forum on Education for Sustainable Development. It was a two-day forum to promote the implementation of ESD. The event was attended by around 200 participants, most of them educators, and a keynote speech was delivered by ECI Director, Mirian Vilela.

#### **Short courses, workshops and lectures**

##### ***Teacher training workshops in Costa Rica***

In August, ECI offered, in collaboration with UNESCO school's association in Costa Rica, three two-day short courses titled "Educating for Sustainability with the Earth Charter". The objective of these short courses was to offer a forum for teachers to deepen and strengthen their knowledge on sustain-

ability and provide them some resources on how to integrate sustainability values into their learning institutions. Over the three sessions, 64 educators from primary and secondary schools received this training.

##### **Earth Charter Facilitators Course in Mexico**

In December, the Earth Charter Mexican Network, in collaboration with the EC Center and under the auspices of the University of Guanajuato, organized a short course to certify Earth Charter facilitators in Mexico. In this country there is a growing demand from different organizations to have Earth Charter workshops, therefore the EC Mexican network identified the lack of trained facilitators to offer these workshops. Thirty-five participants attended the course, coming from different parts of the country. This was the first time this course was offered, and there are plans to deliver it again in 2016.



### **Workshops and lectures**

In 2015, ECI staff offered 20 presentations to more than 2,500 people in Europe, North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Some of the highlights include lectures by ECI Executive Director, Mirian Vilela, to 400 and 450 people at the 8th World Environmental Education Congress held in Sweden and at the III Congresso Internacional de Educacao Ambiental held in Portugal respectively. Ms. Vilela also presented the Earth Charter to 250 participants at the 1ra Academia Latinoamericana de Liderazgo Socio-Ambiental (First Latin American Academy of Socio-ecological Leadership conference) held in Dominican Republic, among others.

ECI staff also offered several workshops during the year including a workshop in Costa Rica for the Ministry of Education on biodiversity as a

cross-cutting theme, and several short workshops at a music festival in Norway on the Earth Charter, storytelling, and systems thinking.

### **Courses at the University for Peace**

As part of the collaborative Agreement between the ECI Secretariat and the University for Peace, the EC Center has been offering courses for UP-EACE's Masters' Programmes. In 2015, it offered an intensive 10-session course on Education for Sustainable Development and another intensive 15-session course on Sustainable Development.

### **Publications**

- *“Democratic Equality, Social Inequality and the Earth Charter”*. During 2015 the ECI Secretariat worked with Steven Rockefeller, the author of this book, in revising and publishing it in English and Spanish. The publication was then dis-

tributed to key partners and affiliates around the world.

- The Spanish version of the publication *“The Heart of the matter: infusing sustainability values in education”* was made available. In Spanish it is called *“Enfocándonos en lo esencial: Infundir valores de sostenibilidad en la educación”*.
- Article on *Pedagogical connections between peace education and education for sustainable development for the Global Campaign for Peace Education* (in English).
- Report *International Forum: Finding Synergies and Building Bridges Reorienting Education towards Sustainable Development, Sustainable Consumption and Global Citizenship*.
- *“Experts Meeting on Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean – Report and Recommendations – May 2015”*.



### Other publications:

Klaus Bosselmann published two books in 2015 that prominently feature the Earth Charter:

- *Earth Governance: Trusteeship of the Global Commons* (Edward Elgar, July 2015); 320 pages.
- *National Strategies for Sustainability* (New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law Monograph Series, Vol. Four, 2015); 185 pages.

Nelly Kostoulas Makrakis wrote a paper in an anthology.

- *The Earth Charter as a Pedagogical Framework to Transform Teaching and Learning towards Sustainability* (in English) in a collective volume (in Greek) entitled “Μελετήματα και ερωτήματα της Παιδαγωγικής Επιστήμης» 2015 Kyriakidis Edition (eds. K.G. Bikos and E. Taratori) pp. 337-346.

### Research

Earth Charter Center participated in a project for the

inclusion of biodiversity in the basic education curriculum of Costa Rica. It was a five-month project, which was coordinated by a committee consisting of representatives from the UNESCO Cluster Office for Central America and Mexico, the Ministry of Education, and EC Center.

This project carried out three macro activities:

1. Curricular mapping and development of methodological proposals:
2. Development of pilot projects, to put in practice actions to incorporate biodiversity topics in the curricula of a number of schools.
3. Development of a proposal for a teacher training guide.

ECCenter implemented activity number 3, and offered support and supervision to the other activities. The

ECI Affiliate from Costa Rica, FUNDECOR, carried out one of the pilot projects in two schools.

In addition, Maria Elisa Febres, PhD student of Simon Bolivar University, Venezuela who worked at ECI office for several years concluded her doctoral thesis: “*The Earth Charter as a Sui Generis Instrument of International Law for Sustainable Development*”.

### Theater Production

An ECI staff member produced a theatre production as part of the international Climate Change Theatre Action, an initiative of the global theatre community to raise awareness and spark action in advance of the UNFCCC COP21 Climate Conference in Paris. The production was organized by Costa Rica’s Little Theatre Group and Earth Charter International was the main partner. More than 100 people attended the performance held in November.



### 3. Facilitating dialogue:

#### Earth Charter +15

In 2015, ECI celebrated its 15th anniversary and focused its attention on supporting and promoting two global initiatives: the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals; and the 21st Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Also, ECI built on the publication of the Pope's Encyclical, which cites and quotes the Earth Charter. The ECI Secretariat encouraged the Earth Charter network to participate in webinars throughout the year on these topics.

#### Webinars

The following is the list of 8 webinars offered during the year. The number of participants refers to the users that logged in the webinar, however, there were several groups that saw some of the webinars using just one user name. This means that the number of people that viewed the webinar is larger than indicated below.

Date	Topic	Speakers	# Participants
<b>22 January</b>	Imagine le Bien Commun – Avec la Charte de la Terre	Violaine Hacker, Andrea Zubialde, Douglas F. Williamson	<b>40</b>
<b>25 February</b>	Thinking about Earth Community - EC+15 Kick-off	Federico Mayor and Alexander Likhotal	<b>40</b>
<b>3 June</b>	EC+15 webinar on Ecological Integrity	Brendan Mackey	<b>26</b>
<b>22 September</b>	EC+15 Webinar on Social and Economic Justice	Ashok Khosla	<b>22</b>
<b>8 October</b>	EC+15 Webinar: Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic to the Earth Charter: Sustainability, Governance and Democracy	Curt Meine, Clare Palmer and Jim Feldman	<b>45</b>
<b>5 November</b>	EC+15 Webinar: From Rio '92 to COP21 Paris: Challenges and Opportunities for Climate Change Politics and Policies	Jan Pronk	<b>60</b>
<b>17 November</b>	EC+15 Webinar: The Way Forward: Earth Community and Global Citizenship	Nigel Dower and Prue Taylor	<b>23</b>
<b>9 December</b>	Latin American Youth and COP21	Sarah Dobson and Adrian Blanco	<b>20</b>
<b>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS</b>			<b>276</b>



### EC+15 Photo Contest

As part of the EC+15 campaign, ECI organized a concurrent youth and adult photo contest to spark thought and discussion about the EC+15 slogan, “One Earth Community, One Common Destiny”. The contest was sponsored by YES! Magazine, The Greenhouse of the Future project, and by the Journey of the Universe educational initiative. There were more than 70 submissions of interesting and beautiful images from around the world. The winner photos displayed on this page, are also on the cover of this 2015 Report.

#### Reflection

by Jophel Botero Ybiosa

#### Springtime in Bangladesh

by Khoka Rahman



#### Ochi chestnut forest

by George Makrakis



#### Universal Vision

by Debbie Crowell



## V. 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 2015, 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 Movement worldwide. Along these lines, a key function of the ECI Secretariat has been to serve the organizations that are affiliated to ECI, by offering guidance, sharing information and materials, processing information about activities and projects and making all of this available through the website, newsflashes, and social media instruments.

The EC Education Center offered four one-week intensive executive programmes, two in education, one in systems thinking, and one in sustainability communication. The strategy behind these courses is to equip participants, experts, professionals, and educators, as multipliers of the Earth Charter vision through their work. The Center also offered numerous workshops and short courses to spread the Earth Charter vision.

The Secretariat continued to foster dialogue and seek ways to expand the Earth Charter Movement through ongoing outreach, free educational webinars online, and engagement in discussions and policy forums in 2015 as part of the strategy to promote the Earth Charter.



## CHALLENGES

The challenges of ECI remained consistent over the course of 2015. It is necessary to continually inspire individuals and organizations to understand the essence of the Earth Charter, use the document, and engage with the Earth Charter mission. Maintaining ongoing communication with the 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. Scaling up the movement continues, but at a continued moderate pace and not with the viral expansion desired.

In addition, the ECI Secretariat focused on the development and marketing of new education programmes to be offered in 2016, still a new approach for the Secretariat's work. Making these courses and the Education Center viable economically continues to be a great challenge.

The Youth Projects Coordinator position was finally filled towards the end of 2015. The reorganization and renewal of the Youth network represents a great challenge for ECI and its new Youth Projects Coordinator moving forward.



UNESCO Global Action Programme on  
Education for Sustainable Development

## VI. Plans for 2016

In 2016, ECI will continue to organize networking, outreach, and educational activities, as well as engaging in and influencing, as much as possible and as appropriate, key international processes such as the Sustainable Development Goals implementation the UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development Global Action Programme, the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme of UNEP's 10YFP on SCP, and following up the possibilities that opened up with the inclusion of the Earth Charter in the Laudato Si Encyclical.

In 2016, ECI and its network will have a special focus on the 16th principle of the Earth Charter on a Culture of Peace. ECI will organize a series of webinars. Also, following the lead of the German Earth Charter network, ECI will promote 29 June as Earth Charter Day and encourage the global network to celebrate the Earth Charter and its 16th principle on that day.

The year will have a focus on scaling up and on networking activities, as well as a continued emphasis on the UNESCO Chair and organizing executive education programmes in English and Spanish, and on-line Certificate programmes (Diplomados) in Spanish and Portuguese.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair on Education  
for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter  
Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development  
University for Peace



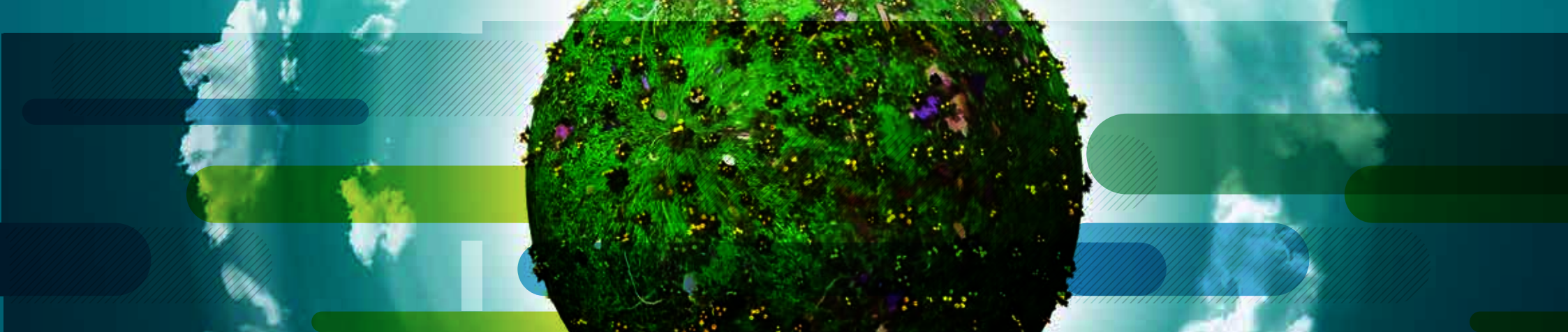




The scaling up activities surrounding the network and broadening the reach and use of the Earth Charter will be a priority, as well as the ongoing work in making the education center become a reference and well-recognized educational institution in the field of sustainability, education, and ethics.

With the arrival of a new youth coordinator towards the end of 2015, ECI expects to launch its youth leadership programme and begin to reinforce the youth network. The youth programme will implement a new youth training programme, under the aegis of the UNESCO Global Action Programme on ESD, that will be offered twice per year in English and twice in Spanish.

ECI will continue the previous year's effort in strengthening the network, engaging youth, and reinforcing the relationships with affiliates, increasing the reciprocity of relationships to benefit both the EC Movement and ECI's work. The communication activities will also continue, including putting together stories of good practices, expanding the efforts in social media, and continuing making the use and responsibilities in social media more horizontal and participatory. The new website and digital tools, which were developed in the second half of 2015, will assist ECI in these efforts starting in 2016.



## VII. Walking the Talk

In 2009 the ECI Secretariat decided to critically assess its own operations and environmental impact, as such, since then it has been compensating its CO2 emissions from travels.

The Secretariat relies fully on hydroelectric power, its offices function with natural light most of the day and do not use any air conditioning system. However, international air transportation remains an area of environmental impact related to the ECI Secretariat's work. Therefore, 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\$7.50, up from \$5 last year, therefore the ECI Secretariat will pay US\$62.97 to FONAFIFO to compensate for the 8.396 CO2 tons emitted during business travels in 2015.

In 2015, Earth Charter International's Education Center in Costa Rica was awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Silver Certificate for green building by the United States Green Building Council.





## VIII. Finances

Earth Charter International

Statement of Fund Balances

As of December, 2015

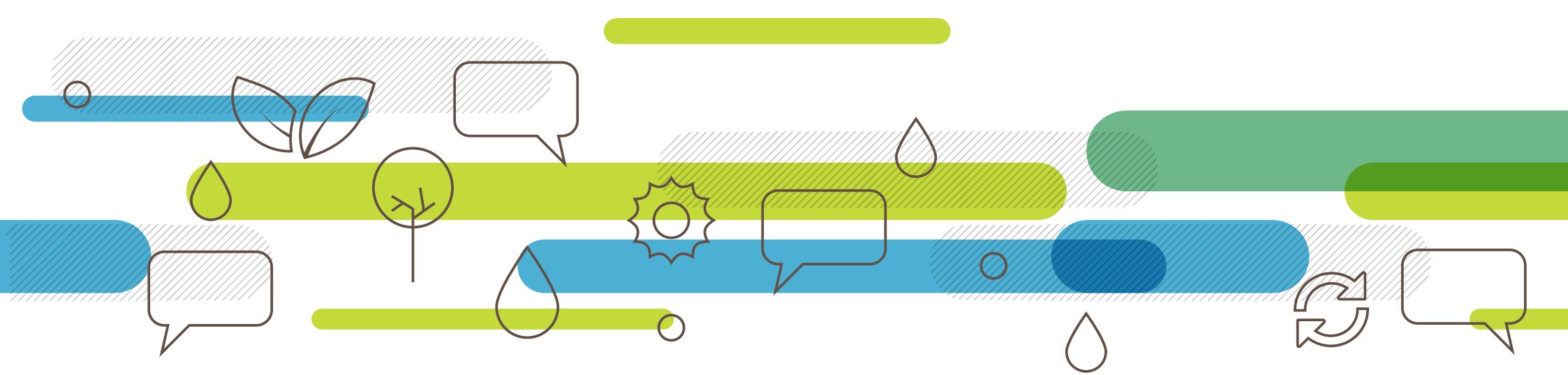
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>USD</b>
RPA / Earth Charter Fund Balance	14,031
UPEACE / Earth Charter Account Balance - General Fund	57,304
UPEACE/Earth Charter Account Balance - Construction Project	(128,205)
Earth Charter Brazil	1,359
<b>NET AVAILABLE ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ (55,511)</b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED &amp; RESTRICTED BALANCES:</b>	
General Fund	72,694
<b>RESTRICTED BALANCES</b>	
Construction Fund	(128,205)
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED &amp; RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ (55,511)</b>

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES - 2015

## Earth Charter International

January 1 - December 31, 2015

<b>Income</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>USD</b>
Major Individual Donors		
Seaward Fund / S. Rockefeller	29,655	57,304
Amana-Key /Oscar Motomura	12,000	41,655
Partners/Affiliates		10,000
Fred Matser Foundation		103,754
International Agencies/ Unesco		72,487
Individual Donors (Less than USD 10,000)		5,130
Interest Income & Other (Includes EC Brazil, CR and NY)		288
Courses & Other Services		40,112
<b>Total Cash Income</b>		<b>273,426</b>
<b>In-Kind Support</b>		
Universities & Foundations		20,000
Corporate / Business Donations		20,000
Affiliates and partners		50,000
<b>Total In-Kind Support</b>		<b>90,000</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>363,426</b>



**Expenses**

USD

USD

Salaries / Professional Services	152,659
Employment Related Insurance	15,012
Travel Staff	10,831
Strategic, Program, and Communications Consulting Support	3,645
Telecommunications & Internet	3,337
Translation Services	1,697
Courses and Workshops	19,816
ECI Council Expenses (Travel and Meeting Costs)	11,301
Events and Meetings	50,620
Office (Equipment, Security, and Expenses)	12,396
Equipment Purchase	0
Publication, Media, & Web Development	10,395
Printing and Postage	11,381
Fin Exp & Currency Devaluation Charges	1,776

Legal Expenses, ECA	4,655
Fund Management Expenses, ECA & RPA	0
Maintenance	2,954
Miscellaneous	3,743
<b>Total Cash Expenses</b>	<b>316,220</b>
<b>In-Kind Services</b>	
Administrative and Facilities Support	20,000
On-Line Course for young leaders in Brazil	20,000
Meetings, travels and events directly involving ECI	50,000
	<b>90,000</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>406,220</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (42,794)</b>



## IX. The Earth Charter Movement:

Earth Charter activists, friends, affiliates and partners from around the world (this is a partial list)



**Argentina** | Alejandro Meitin



**Argentina** | Graciela Satostegui



**Argentina** | Mariano Villares



**Australia** | Brendan Mackey



**Brazil** | Pedro Ivo Batista



**Brazil** | Leonardo Boff and Marcia Miranda



**Brazil** | Nina Almeida Braga



**Brazil** | Nelton Friedriech



**Brazil** | Rosie Marie Inojosa



**Brazil** | Cristina Moreno



**Brazil** | Oscar Motomura



**Canada** | Mallora Rayner





Canada | Josephine Schrott



Canada | Gerben van Straaten



Colombia | Olga Maria Bermudez



Costa Rica | Abelardo Brenes



Costa Rica | Cristina Briceño



Costa Rica | Geannina Herrera



Costa Rica | Rafael Luna



Costa Rica | Olga Ovares



Costa Rica | Cruz Prado



Costa Rica | Elizabeth Ramirez



Dominican Republic | Josefina Espaillat



Greece | Nelly Kostoulas



India | JP Maithani



India | Kartikaya Sarabhai



Japan | Wakako Hironaka



Japan | Mitsuko Horiuchi



Japan



Mexico | Francisco Calderón Cordova



Mexico | Mateo Castillo



Mexico | Adriana Duran



Mexico | Enriqueta Medellín



Mexico | Salvador Morelos and Gina Ventura



Mexico | Norma Mota



Mexico | Leodan Portes



Mexico | Shafia Succar Succar



Netherlands | Alide Roerink



Netherlands | Jan Pronk



Spain | Alfonso Fernández Herrería



Spain | Maria José Carrillo and Maria Pinar



Taiwan | China | Yu-Ping, Nancy Tzu Mei Chen, Chou Li Lin



United Kingdom | Scotland | Enid Trevett



USA | Austria | Fritjof Capra



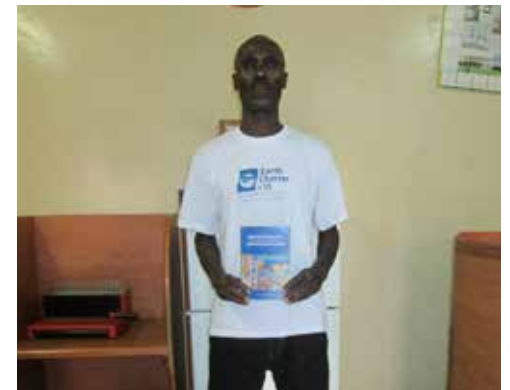
USA | Rick Clugston



USA | Richard Zimmerman



Venezuela | Rosa Maria Chacon and Team



Zambia | Victor Phiri



### Examples of Activities of Affiliates and Partners

#### Africa and the Middle East

In Jordan, ECI Affiliate **JOHUD (Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development)**, conducted an environmental awareness campaign with 480 students from different schools at this organization's Environmental Educational Center. The Earth Charter and the concept of sustainability were introduced in the activities of this campaign. A number of teachers also participated, they were invited to integrate the notions of sustainability and the Earth Charter in the school curricula.

In addition, JOHUD organized a tree planting campaign in Ajloun, an area where five hectares of forests were destroyed in a fire more than a year ago. On March 9th, JOHUD and HRH Princess Basma invited over 500 activists and youth from all over the kingdom to plant trees, in what became a celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Earth Charter.



In the **United Arab Emirates**, the youth group called “Students for the Earth”, organized “My 2015 Environmental Message Competition” as a way to celebrate the Earth Charter 15th anniversary. The competition asked students from grades KG1-Grade 13 to come up with their messages for 2015. Fourteen students participated in this competition. Another youth group in UAE, called SynergyY, also joined the celebrations of the 15th anniversary of the Earth Charter, by taking part of a walk to raise awareness of the need of education for all.

In Kenya, the **Green Belt Movement** (ECI Affiliate) celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Earth Charter with a climate walk. The event took place on September 25th in Kitale city. Hundreds of people marched to raise awareness about climate change, about the Earth Charter and also to com-



memorate the fourth anniversary of Prof. Wangari Maathai passing. More than 300 people endorsed the Earth Charter at the event and 2,000 EC brochures were distributed.

The **Uganda Martyrs University** has been also promoting the Earth Charter. During 2015, professors of this university conducted meetings with members of the nearby communities on how to promote more environmentally friendly and peaceful behavior. As part of the meetings, trees were planted by the community members. They also engaged students in debating on key issues affecting the environment and distributed leaflets to introduce the Earth Charter to University members. One special event was a public forum on the Laudato Si Encyclical where they also explored this document. Around 65 people participated.

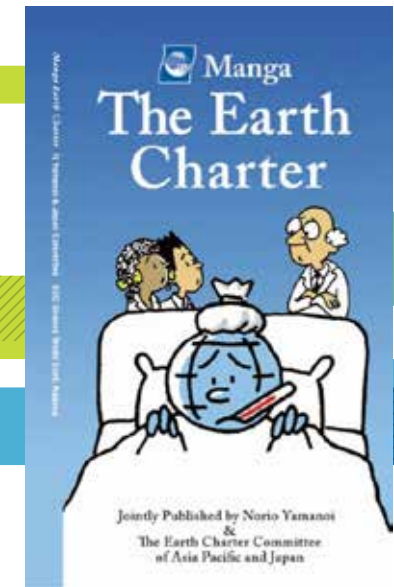
#### **Asia and the Pacific**

The **Earth Charter Asia Pacific Group**, based in **Japan**, actively promoted the Earth Charter in this country in 2015, mainly through the Earth Charter Manga booklet and the musical based on the Earth Charter called “Our Blue Planet”. In January 2015, with the UN University’s cooperation, a library talk was organized on the EC Manga booklet, which was attended by 85 scholars, opinion leaders, NGO leaders, cartoonists, as well as ordinary citizens. In this event, Ms. Hironaka, Mr. Kunugi and Ms. Horiuchi spoke about this publication. As there was much demand for the Manga, copies ran out by mid-2015. A decision was made to postpone the editing of a new version to incorporate the results of the launching of the SDGs in September and the COP21 in December 2015. Nonetheless, a digital version was made available for those interested.

Since 2002, the EC Asia Pacific Committee and DPI-NGO “UN Classic Live Association” have presented the musical “Our Blue Planet” in Europe, North America, and in various parts of Japan. To celebrate EC+15, the musical was performed twice in Europe and three times in Japan, where more than 2,000 people attended, many of whom were high school and college students.

The EC Committee in Japan designed a 2-page flyer for the musical containing information about the SDGs, the COP21, peace and disarmament for enabling a sustainable future, and the complexities of the interlinkages of these issues.

In **China**, a first meeting of people interested in the Earth Charter was held on July 23rd, 2015, as part of efforts to raise awareness of the Earth





Charter in this country. Among the participants were Government representatives, university professors and researchers, members of civil society, the media, and private sector organizations. ECI Council Member, Dr. Wang Hua, chaired the meeting, and Prof. Tian Qing offered a presentation on the rationales and principles of the Earth Charter. Several activities were planned, such as workshops and the creation of virtual platforms for better sharing the message of the Earth Charter. Most of these activities have yet to be implemented.

**The Taiwan Ecological Stewardship Association (TESA)** organizes events to celebrate Earth Day every year. In 2015, and in celebration of the Earth Charter's 15th anniversary, TESA and other organizations hosted a three-day seminar called

“Reconciliation with Nature” from April 16th – 18th. The guest speaker was Dr. Klaus Bosselmann, an Earth Charter Affiliate from New Zealand and professor of environmental law of the University of Auckland. More than 200 people attended this seminar.

In Hong Kong, ECI Affiliate **CEDS Asia**, published a Chinese translation of excerpts from the Earth Charter Manga booklet created by the Japanese committee in the magazine “SD Voice.” This shows the collaboration that has emerged between members of the Earth Charter global network.

In 2015, the **Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA)** became part of the Earth Charter network as an Affiliate. AELA was created in 2012 to promote the understanding and practical implemen-

tation of Earth jurisprudence – Earth centred law, governance, and ethics.

### **Europe and Central Asia**

A translation of the Earth Charter in **Albanian** was completed for the first time through volunteer work done by Kultura & Komuniteti (Culture and Community) from Durrës, Albania. The organization's upcoming activities in 2015 included a meeting with youth, university and high school students, to present the Earth Charter. A group of those participating was selected to collaborate in the creation of a presentation on the Earth Charter principles to be presented in all high schools in the City of Durrës.

A new Belarusian translation of the Earth Charter was submitted by Earth Charter International's af-



affiliate in **Belarus**, Youth International Education Club “Newline”. YIEC “Newline” has been carrying out many educational activities in Belarus and the region on Education for Sustainable Development. In 2015, the organization carried out several workshops, a spring discussion camp, participated in the Youth Media Festival “Youth Voices for Sustainable Development” of Adobe Youth Voices and iEARN, and assisted in the strengthening of a national network of ESD schools. They also launched a Youth Contest called “Think and Act: Sustainable Development Goals”.

In 2015, a new affiliate based in **Belgium** joined Earth Charter International. InSpirit Communications is a communications company with a strong mission to achieve peace and sustainability. An interview with the CEO can be found in the ECI Website.

The Earth Charter International Affiliate in **France**, Common Good Forum, continued to organize activities around the Earth Charter and social contracts. These events included internationally attended webinars and live discussions in Paris. The activities Common Good Forum carried out were under the EC+15 celebrations all year.

In **Germany**, the affiliate One World Ecumenical Initiative was very busy with Earth Charter activities. OEWI carried out its fourth EC Ambassadors training, which trains people from around Germany to present and organize activities around the Earth Charter. At its annual Spring Meeting, OEWI celebrated EC+15 with lectures and discussions about widening the scope of the Earth Charter in Germany. During 2015, many of this organization's activities and discussions centered on

refugees in response to the refugee crisis and influx of refugees into Europe and Germany. OEWI also presented the Earth Charter in schools, published a booklet about EC-related activities and organizations in Marburg, and organized an in-depth seminar on the Earth Charter in the global and local with a focus on Peru. EC Ambassadors made presentations on the EC around the country and OEWI continued to publish its regular reports and articles, as well as maintain its bilingual German-English website.

The representative of the Earth Charter Affiliate in **Greece**, Nelly Koustoulas-Makrakis at the University of Crete, carried out and facilitated several activities in 2015. These activities included presentations and discussion such as “The Earth Charter and Climate Change and People’s Rights”,





“The Earth Charter as an Example of Systemic Approaches to Education for Sustainability”, “Integrating sustainable happiness in pre-service teacher training enabled through the Earth Charter lenses”, and presenting the Earth Charter in Heraklion at a symposium for Primary Schoolteachers. Also, two students at the University of Crete wrote theses on the potential of the Earth Charter to be incorporated in Primary Schools. Finally, Nelly began work on updating the Earth Charter Greece website and she published a paper called “The Earth Charter as a Pedagogical Framework to Transform Teaching and Learning towards Sustainability.”

**In Italy**, the most recent Affiliate, La Terra nel Cuore, carried out several activities over the year including a teacher training with 80 participants, an Earth Day event for schools with more than 300 participants,

and began the development of another school related project for 2016-17. The organization also opened a website and facebook page to support their activities.

**The Netherlands** continued to be very active in using and promoting the Earth Charter in 2015. Affiliate Inner Sense’s Brigitte van Baren produced an Earth Charter Dialogue film with Sufi leader and eminent economist Professor J.H. Witteveen. Inner Sense also tested a new game called Show Your True Colours that has an Earth Charter component, and Brigitte van Baren also published a book with Earth Charter content.

At the end of 2015, the Earth Charter Netherlands network organized a youth event entitled “Journey of the Universe Cinema” to showcase the Journey of the Universe film and guide participants in interactive

workshop exercises and discussion. There were more than 50 participants.

Avans College, NIVOZ, and the Earth Charter Netherlands (EC NL) held a meeting on values-based education at the beginning of the year with 80 participants. At the meeting Avans announced its decision to become an official Earth Charter Endorser.

On June 29th, the Earth Charter community in the Netherlands, including ECNL, Inner Sense, Iona Foundation, World of Walas, and others, organized a large celebration of the 15th anniversary of the launching of the Earth Charter that brought together more than 100 participants from many countries, most European, but also from Africa, Asia, North America, and Latin America. The event featured many ECI Council members and Commissioners





including Steven Rockefeller who launched an essay with ECI called “Democratic Equality, Economic Inequality, and the Earth Charter”. The topics at the event included the Pope’s Encyclical, economic concerns and equality, and the future of the Earth Charter movement, among others.

The Earth Charter **Norway** network continued to promote the Earth Charter through presentations, articles, and a new website and facebook page. The biggest event was a celebration of EC+15 at the Moon Festival in Frederikstad, a three-day music and culture festival that sponsored the Earth Charter celebrations by offering a large free stand and information booth and welcomed two Earth Charter facilitators to give five workshops over two days of the festival. There were several volunteers handing out brochures and posters printed in Norwegian, us-



ing the poster design from the student design contest from 2012.

Action for Change, the Earth Charter Affiliate in **Scotland**, worked with eight families in Kincardine, Fife in 2015 using The Little Earth Charter to explore the message of the Earth Charter over three months. This included environmental workshops, quizzes using the Seeds of Hope Exhibition, and supporting the display of the exhibition at the Kibble Palace for one week in August.

In **Spain**, the rector of the **University of León** (ULE) officially endorsed the Earth Charter on October 16, 2015 on behalf of this University. In the event, held at the Sala Gordon Ordaz of El Albéitar, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, President of the Culture of Peace Foundation, Maria Novo, head of the UNESCO Chair

on Environmental Education and Sustainable Development of UNED, and Pepa Carrillo, **President of Values Foundation** acted as witnesses. The endorsement of this University took place in the framework of the 15th anniversary celebration that Values Foundation organized in León with the Forum “Pale Blue Dot”, which took place on the 16th, 23rd, 24th, and 25th of October.

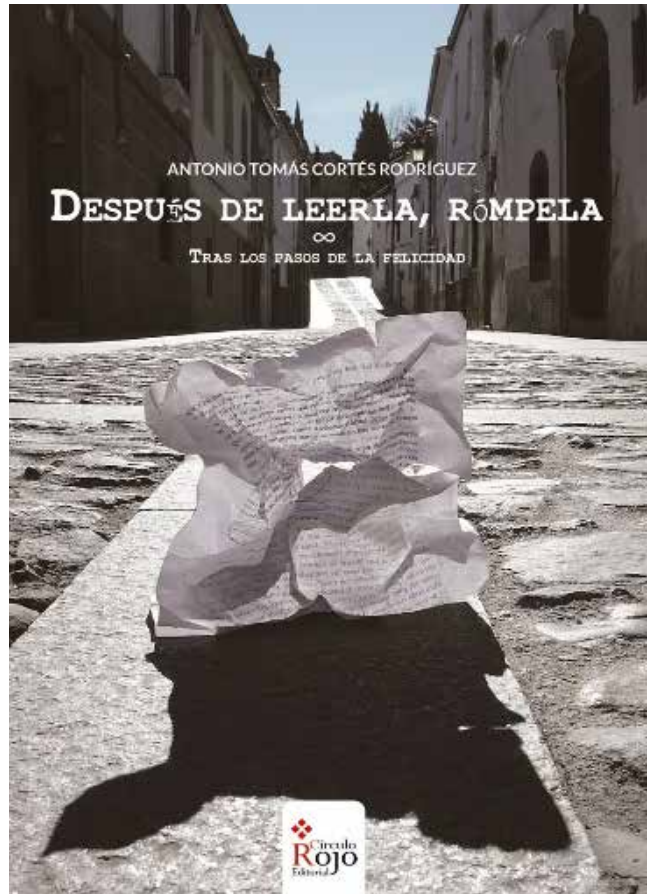
In 2015, Antonio Tomás Cortés Rodríguez, vice-president of Values Foundation, published the novel, “Después de leerla, rómpela. Tras los pasos de la felicidad” (After Reading it, break it. Chasing happiness). A new age novel, the protagonists embark on an unusual journey in search of knowledge, first on the outside and then on the inside. The action takes place in Cáceres in 2008. In the novel there are explicit references to the Earth Charter (on page 110 and on the cover flap).





The **Implicate+ Project**, based in the Spanish region of Valle de Arán (Lleida), translated the Earth Charter into their local language: Aranese. The translation was done by the Director of the Center for Educational Resources of the Educational Service of the Val d'Aran, author of the Implicate+ Project. This project was created by 43 active teachers from Lleida with two objectives: 1) develop teaching materials to work on values, and solidarity and the Earth Charter in classrooms, and; 2) create a network of collaborative schools.

In Dushanbe, **Tajikistan**, the Earth Charter Affiliate “Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives” (FSCI, Dastgiri Center) organized events to celebrate the 45th Earth Day and the 15-year anniversary of the Earth Charter. On April 22nd, the Center for Strategic Studies hosted the workshop “International Earth



Day: a Festival of Clean Water, Land and Air”. Workshop participants included members and staff from the Committee on Environmental Protection of the Tajik Government, the Center for Strategic Studies, the State Agency for Hydrometeorology of Tajikistan, Aini Tajik State Pedagogical University, and Osimi Tajik Technical University as well as public environmental organizations. A week earlier, on April 14th, the members of the Student Environmental Club at the Tajik Technical University (TTU) planted trees (chestnuts and Indian lilac) on the new campus.



### Latin America

In **Brazil**, the **Harmony in Earth Institute** continues to promote the Earth Charter Game. In 2015 they organized 15 workshops in Sao Paulo, with people from different sectors, such as professors, youth and children.

**The Terrazul Alternative Association**, ECI Affiliate, brought the principles of the Earth Charter to an environmental education program and campaign called “Virada do Cerrado”, in Brasilia, Brazil. This is



Vilela, ECI Executive Director, gave a speech at the final seminar in commemoration of the Earth Charter's 15th anniversary, which was attended by presidential candidate, Marina Silva.

an annual activity to motivate Brasilia's population to defend and preserve the environment in Cerrado (an ecosystem close to Savana). The preparation for the "Virada" started in April, with workshops and artistic, cultural, and sports activities. The final event took place from September 11th to 13th where more seminars, workshops, and artistic activities took place. More than 20,000 people attended the events and around 350,000 were reached through social media and other avenues of communication. The Earth Charter principles were present during the preparation of the "Virada", and on September 11th, Mirian

The **Paulo Freire Institute**, ECI Affiliate, continues to use the Earth Charter as a reference in all their training projects as a way to help participants reflect on the need to build a more sustainable society and become more active citizens. The Institute used the Earth Charter in the "Eco Political Pedagogical Project" which aim to offer pedagogical advice to the Participatory Budget Office and teachers of municipal schools of Guarulhos City. The teachers were able to come up with ideas to engage the schools in different socio-environmental education actions of the municipality.

Another opportunity in which the Earth Charter promoted important reflections and encouraged actions in 2015 was in a training of trainers' process with members of the General Workers Union (UGT). The Earth Charter was used to reflect on the global situation and then the local situation, where water scarcity and bad water governance is a big problem. In addition, participants also cultivated the plant *Epipremnum pinnatum*, which they took to their houses to care for. This experience helped them to reflect on the importance for all of us to participate in the process of maintaining life.

In **Colombia**, the **Environmental Education Thematic Network** coordinated by the Institute of Environmental Studies -IDEA of the National University (an ECI Affiliate), has worked since 2006 with universities, educational institutions and NGOs in or-



ganizing environmental forums, which aim at building public environmental awareness, taking into account the principles of the Earth Charter, and involving participants from communities and citizens, in addition to students, teachers, and researchers interested in environmental issues. To date, there have been 45 forums with an average of 200 participants per event, which means they have reached a population of 9,000 participants.

The interdisciplinary and inter-institutional work enabled this Network to achieve better results, uniting dispersed efforts around common objectives, contributing to a cultural change, as pointed out by the Earth Charter “Fundamental changes are needed in our values, institutions, and ways of living” .... “We have the knowledge and technology to provide for all

and to reduce our impacts on the environment.” (The Earth Charter)

In **Costa Rica**, members of the **Earth Charter National University Network** have been using the Charter in different academic activities of this educational institution, one of the largest in the country. Professor Heidi Vega developed a course called “Eco-citizenship in action with the Earth Charter”, which aims at making a major contribution to the humanistic education of the young people (18 years old and above) who start their university life. This course began the first Semester of 2015.

The School of Geography of the National University has also been using the Earth Charter in their activities to celebrate Earth Day, April 22. In 2015, the fol-

lowing activities were carried out:

- Academic Conference: Reflections on the Earth Charter commitments;
- Celebrating Earth Day with stories, art and recycling. UNA Sustainable Campus Programme;
- Cultural activity: “Poetry, songs and stories to Earth.” Organized by the Students’ Association of the School of Geographical Sciences;
- Exhibition of products and projects that promote care of the environment;
- Collection of recyclable materials campaign UNA-RECYCLE;
- Competition of phrases about the Earth Charter.

ECI Affiliate **FUNDECOR (Foundation for the Central Volcanic Range Development)** is using the Earth Charter to strengthen their com-

mitments to be more sustainable. In 2015, they updated the organization's environmental policy to include the Earth Charter principles and organized three EC training workshops for their staff. In addition, they joined the ECI team in the implementation of a research project on the inclusion of biodiversity in Costa Rica's primary school curricula. They developed two pilot projects in schools that consisted of creating gardens that could help to teach and learn about biodiversity and care for the community of life.

In **Mexico**, the **Earth Charter Focal Points** network was very active in the promotion of the Earth Charter. One of the most important highlights of 2015 was the drafting of a National Commitment with the Global Action Programme on



Education for Sustainable Development. This commitment, drafted in a participatory way, has been endorsed by more than 400 institutions, among them **COMPLEXUS** (Mexican Consortium of University Environmental Programmes for Sustainable Development), the **National Technological Institute of Mexico** and their 266 campus around the country, the **Technological Centers for the Sea (CETMAR)**, the **Tech-**

**nological Universities of Hidalgo, Durango, Coahuila and Nayarit** States, and many other public universities.

This commitment was launched and endorsed by the governors of Coahuila, Durango, Hidalgo, and Nayarit. At the end of 2015, the EC Mexican Network worked on the implementation of article 1.1. of the Commitment, which ask to encourage the legislative, executive and judicial branches, to join efforts to implement this Commitment. Therefore, members of the EC Mexican Network, coordinated by Mateo Castillo, ECI Council Member, worked on drafting a point of agreement with the Senate to urge the Ministry of Environment and Education to formulate a National Programme of Education for Sustainable Development in an inclusive manner according to



the GAP promoted by UNESCO, and with reference to the Earth Charter. This point of agreement will be brought to the Senate in January 2016.

The EC Mexican Network has been implementing this National Commitment with the organization of seminars, workshops, courses on sustainability and ethics. In total, the EC focal points organized 155 education activities. One of them was the first Earth Charter Facilitators course held from December 2 to 5 in Guanajuato. The objective was to strengthen the capacity of people who have been organizing Earth Charter workshops, and offer a certification or recognition as Earth Charter Facilitators.

Another important action of the EC Mexican Network was the organization of a major EC+15 celebration. **The Autonomous University of Coahuila** organized this three-day event (April 21 to 23) with more than 500 people.



The **Technical University of Tula-Tepeji** also celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Earth Charter in the framework of their 2nd Forum on Green Markets, which took place from October 15 – 17.

The message of the Earth Charter was shared during the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the **National Technological Institute of Mexico in Tehuacan, Puebla**. Mateo Castillo offered a lecture with more than 3,000 participants.

In September, important activities took place in the state of Nayarit, where the State Government endorsed the Earth Charter. More than 450 guests witnessed the signing of this endorsement.

Promoting Earth Charter endorsements is a priority for the members of the EC Mexican Network. In 2015, 102 new endorsers and 4 ratifications of previous endorsements were signed. One import-

ant endorsement was from the General Directorate of National Technology of Mexico, with its 266 campuses across the country. This is an institution with more than 500,000 students, and is the largest engineering school in the Americas.

The Ministry of Environment (**SEMARNAT**), the organization that coordinates the EC Mexican Network, printed 5,250 Earth Charter flyers adapted to the national context.

In **Venezuela**, the **Urban Life and Environment Research Group of Simon Bolivar University**, based in Caracas, organized a number of activities to promote the Earth Charter among children, youth, teachers, university professors and the public in general. One of the experiences to highlight are the workshops in schools called, “Learning about sustainable development with the Earth Charter”, organized in the framework of environmental education commu-



nity workshops for the sustainable management of hydropower producing watersheds, in collaboration with the electricity company CORPOELEC. This company selected six communities and two workshops were organized per community. The target groups were: teachers and administrative staff of schools, school children and their families, and producers. Forty-five teachers and administrative staff, and 211 children participated in these workshops. The educational material used included the Earth Charter adaptation for kids, and the University’s research group designed additional material, like coloring books and a video that refer to the Earth Charter.

**North America**

There were many activities in **Canada** in 2015. The Inclusive Leadership Co-operative worked with young people throughout the year, organizing

several multi-day learning retreats for youth and adults. Longtime supporter Mitra Doherty set up a scholarship fund for education students to come to Costa Rica to take one of the Earth Charter Center’s courses. Also, the election of Justin Trudeau elicited several reactions from Earth Charter voices in Canada. Finally, 2015 witnessed the passing of Maurice Strong who was a pioneer in sustainable development and one of the guiding lights in creating the Earth Charter.

Some of the activities that took place in the **United States of America** in 2015 are: ECI Director Mirian Vilela gave lectures at Pacifica Graduate Institute in

California to Master and Doctoral students. ECI and the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh teamed up to organize a hybrid live-virtual seminar-webinar with top academics as part of UW Oshkosh’s Earth Charter week and in celebration of EC+15. Also, several Earth Charter voices were heard at an Earth Charter session at the Parliament of the World’s Religions, including Mary Evelyn Tucker and Rick Clugston. ECI also welcomed a new Affiliate from the USA in 2015, the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, who helped co-organize EC+15 celebrations with the other ECI Affiliate in Florida, the Florida Gulf Coast University.

# Attachment A

Earth Charter International Council



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- Mateo Castillo (Mexico)
- Severn Cullis-Suzuki (Canada)
- Ama van Dantzig (Ghana/Netherlands)
- Mitsuko Horiuchi (Japan)
- Hisham Khatib (Jordan)
- Alexander Likhotal, (Russia / Switzerland)
- Wanjira Maathai (Kenya)
- Oscar Motomura (Brazil), co-chair
- Alide Roerink (The Netherlands)
- Kartikeya Sarabhai (India), co-chair
- Mirian Vilela (Brazil)
- Hua Wang (People's Republic of China)
- Richard E. Zimmerman (USA)



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## Attachment C

### List of Earth Charter Websites



<b>Arabic</b>	<a href="http://www.earthcharterarabic.org">http://www.earthcharterarabic.org</a>
<b>China</b>	<a href="http://www.earthcharterchina.org">http://www.earthcharterchina.org</a>
<b>Finland</b>	<a href="http://www.earthchartersuomi.org">http://www.earthchartersuomi.org</a>
<b>Germany</b>	<a href="http://www.erdcharta.de">http://www.erdcharta.de</a>
<b>Greece</b>	<a href="http://earthcharterhellas.edc.uoc.gr/default.html">http://earthcharterhellas.edc.uoc.gr/default.html</a>
<b>India</b>	<a href="http://www.earthcharterindia.org">http://www.earthcharterindia.org</a>
<b>Italy</b>	<a href="http://www.cartadellaterra.it">http://www.cartadellaterra.it</a>
	<a href="http://www.cartadellaterra.org">http://www.cartadellaterra.org</a>
<b>Japan</b>	<a href="http://www.earthcharter.or.jp/">http://www.earthcharter.or.jp/</a>
<b>Latvia</b>	<a href="http://www.earthcharterlatvia.org">http://www.earthcharterlatvia.org</a>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<a href="http://www.earthcharter.nl/">http://www.earthcharter.nl/</a>
<b>Nigeria</b>	<a href="http://www.earthcharternigeria.org/">http://www.earthcharternigeria.org/</a>
<b>Norway</b>	<a href="http://www.earthcharter.no">http://www.earthcharter.no</a>
<b>Portuguese</b>	<a href="http://www.cartadaterrabrasil.com.br">http://www.cartadaterrabrasil.com.br</a>
<b>Russia</b>	<a href="http://www.earthcharter.ru">http://www.earthcharter.ru</a>
<b>Switzerland</b>	<a href="http://www.erdcharta.ch">http://www.erdcharta.ch</a>
<b>Vietnam</b>	<a href="http://www.earthchartervietnam.org">http://www.earthchartervietnam.org</a>



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