



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Earth Charter International Secretariat and Center for Education for Sustainable Development at the University for Peace



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.

The Earth Charter



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FOREWORD

A macro-level examination of global events in 2016 reveals paradoxes and inconsistencies, evoking concern and insecurity for many regarding the world stage in the years to come. Uncertainties are noticeably increasing, as are contradictions, in every area of human activity. These contradictions represent opposing forces that are increasingly clashing with each other, pushing us apart rather than balancing out through in-depth and constructive dialogues. This is mirrored in our own environments, where the external world is duplicated in personal circles. The conflicting forces escalating around us are replicated among families, friends and colleagues, and within different segments of society, organizations, institutions, political parties, and governments.

Let's examine some of the paradoxes and contradictions that are emblematic of the current times:

- 1.** We are witnessing outstanding technological advancements (increasing interconnection through the Internet, the ever-growing presence of smartphones, adoption of robots and artificial intelligence for services) that are amplifying human capabilities to a degree that was virtually unimaginable a few years ago. The paradox here is that while these technological developments have in some ways been constructively applied to improve the quality of life for many, we can also see how they have been used in the creation of destructive products that are instrumental in the escalation of violence, terrorism, crime, and wars- real and powerful threats to the sustainability of life on the planet.
- 2.** Social networks are quickly increasing their enormous influence around the world, giving rise to another paradox: though they provide a nurturing environment for global dialogue, they also intensify the polarization of opinions, including political positions frequently prompted by deliberate fact distortion and public opinion manipulation. The trend of easier and more effective communication has produced greater integration and connection on a global scale, yet at the same time more separation and fragmentation that can spur conflict.
- 3.** Today there is irrefutable evidence of the significant evolution in global consciousness. This reinforces the importance of broader cooperation among countries capable of curtailing the economic, social, and environmental distortions that seem to be driving our current realities. Paradoxically, as we witness actions aimed at greater solidarity, cooperation, and the balanced evolution of the whole, there is also an inclination to stronger isolationism nurtured by various

strands of nationalism and by “collective selfishness”. A flagrant example is the recent wave of economic withdrawal by many industrialized countries (causing smaller countries to act similarly in a domino effect) trying to maximize internal benefits rather than share and work for the optimization of the global well-being.

4. As never before, the peoples of the world are realizing that armed conflicts do not benefit anyone except the organizations that profit directly from warfare. There has been an incontrovertible push on a global scale for real peace, which more than ever is perceived as a crucial prerequisite for true sustainable evolution. Here the paradox is that while there are efforts underway to seek greater understanding and constructive agreements among countries, one can also witness a visible build-up of the specter of wars, armed conflicts, and the continuing threat from weapons of mass destruction, nowadays ostensibly driven by hidden economic and political agendas. On one hand, we have real efforts towards world peace. On the other, we have systematic and continuous actions that lead to the escalation of violence.
5. At this point in the evolution of human consciousness, the importance of ethics in all types of relationships – among human beings, among organizations, among countries- has become self-evident. We also know that ethics are vital for optimizing the economy, actualizing the common good, and respecting and caring for the community of life. Paradoxically, while today one can witness outstanding examples of individual ethical behavior in politics, economics and business, as well as flourishing actions towards the acknowledgement of virtuous countries (i.e., “good countries” that benefit the planet and humanity), there is also abundant corruption that seems to have reached endemic proportions in many parts of the world and is a clear manifestation of the extreme selfishness and deterioration of core human values.
6. We live in the age of superabundant capital. Financial flows are fast and effective in a way never seen before. The paradox lies in the fact that although there are growing investments in projects that contribute to the greater good and are guided by principles of conscious capitalism, it is also noticeable that the exponential growth of investments is often motivated exclusively by self-interest, unbounded by any concern for ethics and human values (a characteristic of predatory capitalism that creates and sells goods harmful to the people and to the environment). So, on the one hand, growth in initiatives that add to the common good, and on the other, significant growth in actions that are destructive to the evolution of the whole.

How should the Earth Charter Initiative position itself in this context of mounting contradictions, paradoxes, and uncertainties? This is an even harder question if we see these contradictions and significant world challenges as ethical problems. Who or what can support the Initiative in its effort to actualize with increasing speed, strength, and sustainability the vision embedded in the Earth Charter? It is important to empower civil society and broaden the institutions that uphold the values embedded in the Earth Charter and not rely solely on governments, many of which are unstable or elected through distorted systems

For the first time in human history, we have access to all the resources necessary to leverage every global citizen's power. This is at the core of the idea of "global citizenship" proposed by the United Nations and translated into specific goals by the UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, which is at the core of the new 2030 Development Agenda.

The Earth Charter Initiative has enormous potential to work closely with the UN Agenda providing an ethical compass for working towards the sustainable development goals. Working with the SDGs will provide feedback to the Earth Charter Movement, further supporting it in dismantling the obstacles created by dysfunctional institutions that are at the very root of the paradoxes, contradictions and uncertainties we have faced all over the world in the last few years.

As the concept of global citizenship emerges around the globe, more and more people seek the conceptual foundation for such thinking. The UN Sustainable Development Goals spell out the enormous task ahead and become a strong argument for such thinking. However, the Earth Charter beautifully enunciates the ethical principles that need to become shared values and form the basis for global citizenship. We hold that for the SDGs to succeed, an understanding and sharing of these values embedded in the Earth Charter need to be widely shared and understood. We believe this should be the cornerstone for the Earth Charter's strategies in the coming years. The current ECI efforts focus on education, delivered in-person in Costa Rica, through distance education platforms and in various parts of the world through Earth Charter International partners and the wider Earth Charter community. These efforts need to be strengthened and broadened in the near future, bringing in more partners and engaging more deeply with the larger Earth Charter community, to reach the global scale required for the vision of true global citizenship to become a reality.

Oscar Motomura and Kartikeya Sarabhai
Co-chairs, ECI Council

Mirian Vilela
Executive Director



I. INTRODUCTION

The Earth Charter Initiative is a global movement and network of people, organizations, and institutions that have embraced the Earth Charter principles and are 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 from all over the world.

Earth Charter International (ECI) functions as the international hub 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.

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, Canada, Kenya, Australia, and India.

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

The following diagram illustrates the various kinds of groups involved in the Initiative.



II. 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 EC Movement 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 meetings as an ex-officio member.

The ECI Secretariat staff is composed of the Executive Director, a Programme Director, one Project Assistant and one Youth Coordinator. In addition, during 2016 8 interns worked on a full-time basis at the Secretariat for a period of 4 months each, including students from the University for Peace as well as other universities.

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 Master's 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 trademark registration of the EC logo. ECA is registered in The United States as a charitable (501c3) organization.



III. GOALS, AREAS OF WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The ECI Secretariat aims to raise awareness globally about the Earth Charter and its vision of sustainability and to 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 promote the use of the Earth Charter as an ethical guide and the implementation of its principles by civil society, business, and government.
- 3.** To encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter in schools, universities, religious communities, local communities, and many other settings.
- 4.** To seek recognition and endorsement of the Earth Charter by individuals, organizations, and the United Nations.
- 5.** To promote recognition and use of the Earth Charter as a soft law document.



ECI Secretariat Staff

AREAS OF WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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 to new groups that would embrace the Earth Charter vision and incorporate it as part of their work. It also offers a platform to share good practice stories in the use of the Earth Charter in many spheres of action. In this context, during 2016 the ECI Secretariat worked with the following groups:

AFFILIATES

Over the year, ECI Secretariat engaged in multiple exchange with ECI Affiliates. ECI Affiliates are organizations that share the Earth Charter vision and are committed to promoting the Earth Charter and in helping implement ECI strategies in their countries. By the end of 2016, there were 87 ECI Organization Affiliates from 54 countries.

Some examples of ECI Affiliates work can be found in the respective country page on the Earth Charter website.

YOUTH

ECI aims to engage, guide and empower young people in contributing to the building of a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. Within this context, it seeks to help young people strengthen their leadership potential, social capital, and collective power as well as nurture interactions through the EC Youth Network. ECI works toward these aims through online trainings, the Earth Charter Young Leaders Programme, workshops, and projects with partner organizations.

Online Trainings

During this year, ECI, in partnership with Amana-Key, offered an online youth training in Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics. This ten-week programme ran once in English and once in Spanish with

49 participants from 22 different countries. The training programme included online classroom sessions as well as practical exercises implemented in participants' communities. At the culmination of the training, participants developed and implemented a workshop related to the Earth Charter and training themes in their communities.

Earth Charter Young Leaders Programme

In 2016, ECI launched a new programme, called the Earth Charter Young Leaders (ECYL) Programme. This one-year programme offers a voluntary leadership role to top "Leadership, Sustainability, and Ethics" training alumni. Participants in this programme served as an advisory team to the ECI Youth Projects' Coordinator as well as acting as focal points for strengthening and expanding the Youth Network.

The first generation (active August 2016 – July 2017) included 9 young leaders from 8 countries. By the end of 2016, they had written 5 articles for the youth news and conducted 10 Earth Charter workshops reaching an estimated 582 participants. These Young Leaders were paired with mentors from ECI partners and affiliates to strengthen intergenerational bonds within the network and to provide guidance on Earth Charter inspired projects.

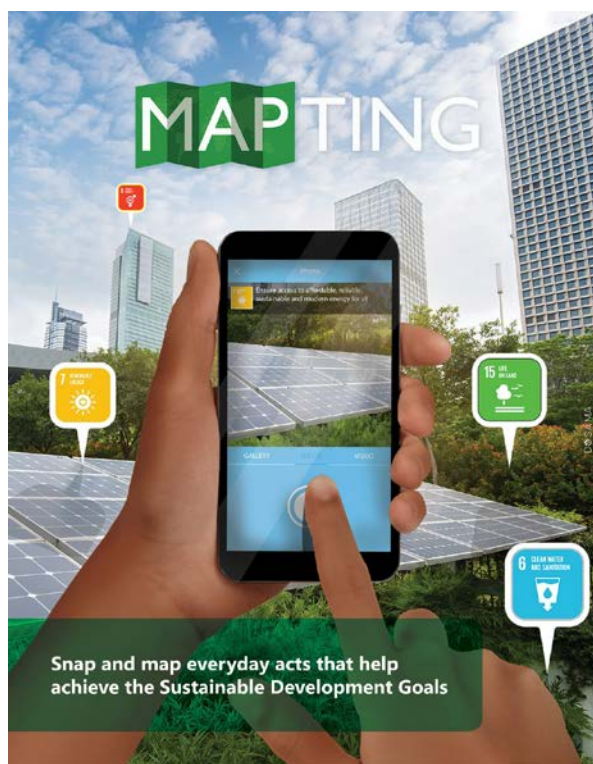
Workshops

ECI continued to offer workshops on themes related to sustainability, leadership and ethics to young people and student groups. In 2016, ECI offered 8 workshops to 220 young people, and continued to build relationships with public and private schools and universities as well as study abroad programmes in Costa Rica.

Partnership Projects

A) Maping - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Earth Charter App:

ECI collaborated with Soka Gakkai International to develop and launch an application for youth to engage with the SDGs, take steps towards achieving them, and visualize the links with the Earth Charter. In November, the app Maping had its formal launch at a United Nations Side



www.maping.org



Event in New York sponsored by the Sri Lankan Mission. This free and accessible tool can reach large numbers of young people across the globe and serves to motivate and educate young people on the SDGs and Earth Charter. Plans are underway to raise-awareness and widely promote Maptioning during 2017.

B) "Inner Dimensions of Climate Change" Retreats:

ECI partnered with the Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association (DDMBA) and the Global Peace Initiative of Women (GPIW) to organize a series of retreats for young people and spiritual mentors to come together to dialogue and gain a deeper understanding of the climate situation and our role and base for climate action. In November 2016, the African youth retreat took place in Morocco with 20 young people from 14 African nations along with spiritual mentors. Similar retreats will take place in each major region over the next 2 years.

C) Education for Sustainable Development Leadership Training - GAP PN4 Flagship Project:

UNESCO contracted ECI to develop an ESD Leadership Training curriculum for young leaders. The training is the Flagship project of the UNESCO Global Action Programme for Priority Action Area 4: Mobilizing and Engaging Youth on ESD. The ECI Youth Projects Coordinator serves as a co-chair for this GAP Partner Network 4. In 2017, GAP key partners will be implementing the curriculum in various regions around the world.



ENDORSERS

The ECI Secretariat also has the task of maintaining an online endorsers' database and following up as much as possible with organization endorsers. The most common method to endorse the Earth Charter is through the website. However, there are instances where endorsements are done at public events and not registered through the online system, and there are a few countries that keep their own databases, which makes it difficult to keep such information in the current ECI database.

As of December 2016, there were 34,971 registered endorsements of the Earth Charter, out of which 7,270 are organizations. In 2016 there were 573 new endorsers, and 114 of them are organizations.



Examples of endorsements in 2016:

The National University of Distance Education (UNED), the largest educational institution in Spain, with 250,000 students, endorsed the Earth Charter in September of 2016. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/uned-spain-endorses-earth-charter/>

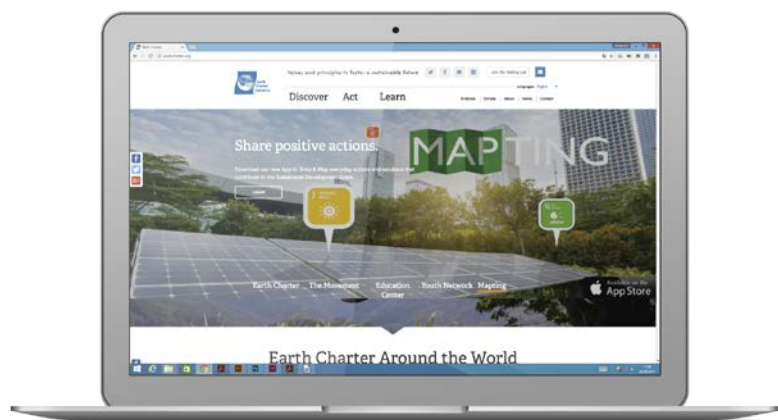
The National University of Costa Rica and the National Technical University of Costa Rica endorsed the Earth Charter this year, with ceremonies held in April and in June.

On 11 September, The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) adopted The Hawai'i Commitments, an innovative document that sets out the possibilities of meeting the key conservation challenges identified during the World Conservation Congress, which IUCN organizes every 4 years. In its preamble, it states that these commitments are based on existing international documents and agreements, including the Earth Charter. The Hawai'i Commitments were drafted from the discussions and deliberations during the Congress and were presented for comments to around 10,000 participants who attended the event. The document addresses issues such as global food supplies, oceans, wildlife trafficking, dialogue with the private sector, and the building of resilience to climate change. This was a kind of reiteration of the IUCN endorsement of the Earth Charter in 2004. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/hawaii-declaration-references-earth-charter/>

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

In 2016, ECI launched a new website, available in English, French, and Spanish. It took the majority of 2015 and the first semester of 2016 to have ECI sites ready. 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.

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





The Earth Charter Initiative can also be accessed on 15 national websites, some more active than others. Annex I shows the list of all available EC websites.

Social media work and Earth Charter's presence in online platforms, especially Facebook, continued to grow steadily. The Facebook pages (in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French) are continually updated with new content every day. In total there are 40,029 followers on Facebook, and the number of followers continues to grow steadily every month. The English Facebook page went from 16,933 likes at the beginning of the period to 20,000 at the end of the period and the Spanish page from 5,888 to 14,728 likes. This growth is a good indicator of our continued work in this area. There are 2,500 followers in the EC Twitter accounts in English.

Communication slogan: Sowing a Culture of Peace

The ECI communication efforts of 2016 put special emphasis on Principle 16 of the Earth Charter, which is "Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace," and its powerful final principle 16f: "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."

In that context, the slogan "sowing a culture of peace" was put together to reflect the actions the Earth Charter Initiative is spearheading to foster a culture that lives up to the Earth Charter principle 16f's definition of peace. ECI encouraged its network to use this slogan and image during the year especially for the events some Affiliates organized on 29 June, Earth Charter Day.

2. EDUCATION AND THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE UPEACE

In 2016, the Earth Charter Center for ESD renewed the agreement to continue the coordination of the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter for another 4-year period. In addition, the EC Education Center signed a partnership agreement with the 10YFP on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme.





Under the framework of the UNESCO Chair, the Center developed and offered:

- 4 intensive 1-week Executive Programmes (two in English and two in Spanish)
- Two 6-months Online Diplomas/Certificate Programmes in Spanish and Portuguese (which entailed 10 courses of 5 sessions each)
- Two 10-week online training programmes for young leaders in Spanish and English
- 28 Workshops and presentations to various groups
- One 15-session university course on Education for Sustainable Development

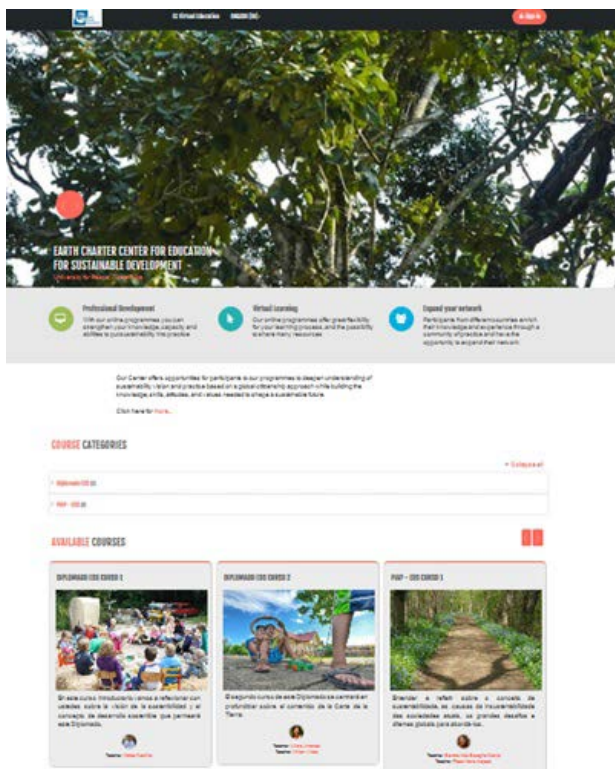
Details:

Executive Programmes

These programmes are 3 to 5 days of in-person intensive courses that take place at the EC Center facilities at the University for Peace. In 2016, the following 4 executive programmes were organized with 58 participants from 8 different countries.

Programme	Dates	Facilitators
Educación para la Sostenibilidad, Aprendizaje Transformador y la Carta de la Tierra	1 – 5 February	Mark Hathaway and Mirian Vilela
Education, Ethics and Values for Sustainability,	18-22 July	Sam Crowell and Mirian Vilela
Sustainability, Leadership, and Decision Making: Learning from Failures and Successes	14-16 November	Herman Mulder and Mirian Vilela
Innovaciones en Liderazgo: Sostenibilidad, Ética y Toma de Decisiones	28-30 November	Rafael Luna, Mirian Vilela and Alicia Jiménez





Online Certificate Programmes

2 on-line certificate programmes (in Spanish and Portuguese) were organized and offered in 2016. These 6-month programmes, involving 5 courses with 5 sessions each, ran from 1 June to 28 November. As a result, 53 participants from 12 countries (Latin America, and Portuguese African countries) received a diploma from the University for Peace and the EC Education Center for this 140-hour programme. The course listing under each of these programmes are as follow:

Programme in Spanish

Courses

Comprendiendo la insostenibilidad y la sostenibilidad del planeta	Mateo Castillo
Valores y principios de la sostenibilidad: La Carta de la Tierra	Mirian Vilela and Alicia Jiménez
Nuevos paradigmas educativos y la Educación para el Desarrollo Sostenible	Mirian Vilela and Alicia Jiménez
La educación transformadora y la Educación para el Desarrollo Sostenible	Mark Hathaway
Habilidades para aplicar en la educación para el desarrollo sostenible	María Vilchez

Facilitator(s)

Programme in Portuguese

Courses

A Situação Global: Compreendendo a Insustentabilidade e a Sustentabilidade do Planeta	Rose Marie Inojosa and Sandra Inês Baraglio Granja
A Carta da Terra: Valores e Princípios Éticos da Sustentabilidade	Cristina Moreno
A Educação para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável no Âmbito das Políticas Internacionais	Daniela Carvalho and Mirian Vilela
Pedagogias para a Educação Transformadora	Daniela Carvalho and Rose Marie Inojosa
Competências do Educador para realizar a Educação para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável	Mirian Vilela and Fátima Matos Almeida

Facilitator(s)



The English Online Programme was developed and launched during the second semester of 2016, and is being implemented from 17 January to 20 June 2017.

Youth Education Programmes

ECI designed and ran 2 on-line training programmes (in English and Spanish) for young sustainability leaders with support from Amana-Key. Those who completed the 10-week programme received a certificate from Earth Charter International Education Center and an invitation to join a year-long Earth Charter Young Leaders Programme. The trainings had 49 participants.

Courses

Dates

Leadership, Sustainability, and Ethics

17 April to 27 June

Liderazgo, Sostenibilidad y Ética

20 August to 30 October



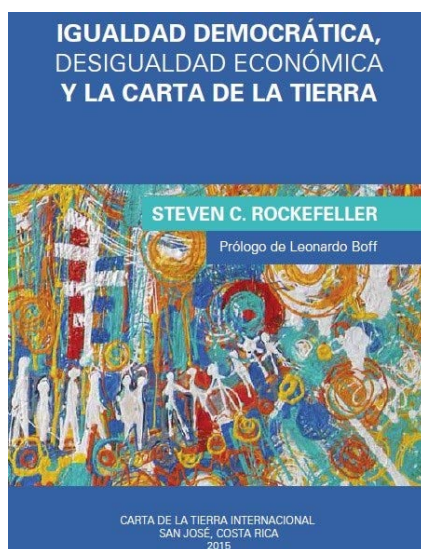
In total **159** people participated in the education programmes that the EC Center for ESD organized in 2016. At the end of the on-line programmes for educators and young leaders, participants are expected to undertake a final project through the implementation of local workshops, which means the number of people reached and sensitized through these programmes are much bigger than the participants.

Workshops and Presentations

EC Education Center staff delivered 29 workshops and talks in 8 different countries, reaching out to **1,921** people

The following are some of the organizations or events where ECI delivered workshops:

- Corporate Social Responsibility Institute of Argentina (IARSE)
- Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) (South Korea)
- Metropolitan University (Puerto Rico) and Granada University (Spain)



- The Center for Environment Education - India
- The United National Environment Programme - UNEP Latin America
- Pedagogical Training Center of the Technical National University of Costa Rica
- Rivas University, Nicaragua
- The Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living (PERL – Norway) and the International Environment Forum (Switzerland)

Courses at the University for Peace

As part of the collaborative agreement between the ECI Secretariat and the University for Peace, the EC Center for ESD has been offering several courses for UPEACE's Master's Programmes. In 2016, it offered 1 intensive 15-session course on Education for Sustainable Development.

Publications

- Translation and publication into Spanish of Steven Rockefeller book: Igualdad democrática, desigualdad económica y la Carta de la Tierra
- Interview of Steven Rockefeller. Edited transcript and recording
- Article published in Ambientico Journal
<http://earthcharter.org/news-post/earth-charter-article-published-ambientico-magazine/>
- Report of activities during the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
<http://earthcharter.org/news-post/report-activities-un-decade-education-sustainable-development/>



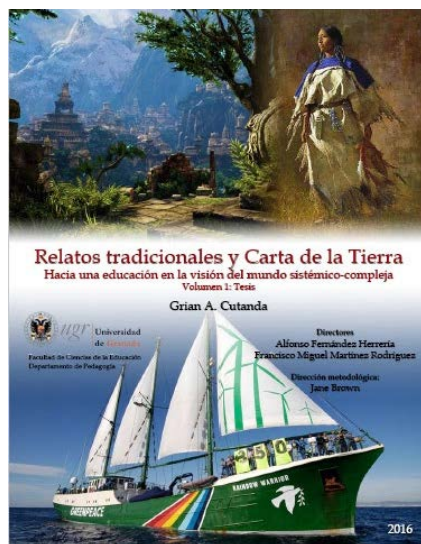
Videos developed:

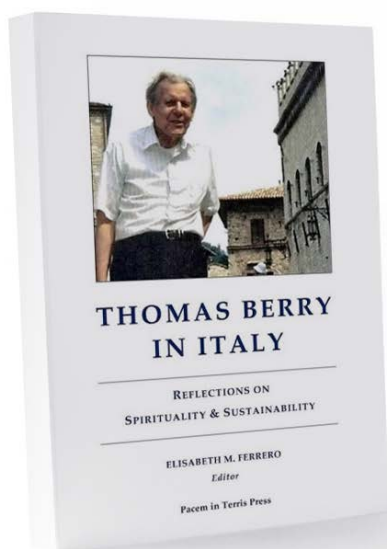
- Story of CEUNA School in Costa Rica (developed in Spanish and then translated into English and Portuguese) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q3NTcGt7n8>
- Interview with Alvaro Umaña, Former Ministry of Environment of Costa Rica <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRONPyUZKtg>
- Interview with András Szöllősi-Nagy was elected for a 2-year term as President of the UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvujFHkg6OA>

In addition, more than 58 news articles were written (in English and Spanish) and published on the EC website throughout the year to share information about the Earth Charter movement around the world.

Other publications based on the Earth Charter:

- Cutanda, Grian A. 2016. "Relatos tradicionales y la Carta de la Tierra. Hacia una educación en la visión del mundo sistémico-complejo". Doctoral Thesis. University of Granada, Spain. (Traditional stories and the Earth Charter. Towards a systemic view of Education).
- Fernandez-Herrera, Alfonso; Martinez-Rodriguez, Miguel. 2016. "Deconstructing the neoliberal "Entrepreneurial Self": A critical perspective derived from a global "biophilic consciousness". Policy Futures in Education 2016, Vol. 14(3) 314–326
- Chapter in book: Fernández Herrería, Alfonso. La ética de la tierra. Una consideración desde la "comunidad de la vida" In: Vargas, H. y González, E. (Coord.s) (2016). "Educación Ambiental Transversal y Transdisciplinaria. Una visión Decrecentista desde la Ética, la Cultura de Paz y el Diálogo de Saberes, para una calidad de vida no-violenta". México D.F., Ed. Torres Asociados, pp. 15-40.
- Bermúdez Guerrero, Olga M. 2016. "Educación ambiental, valores y prácticas sustentables. Una guía para educadores del siglo XXI". Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá.





- Chacón, Rosa María; Giraud, Lorraine; Guzmán, José. 2016. "Guía de Gestión Ambiental Urbana". Academia Nacional de Ingeniería y Hábitat (ANIH); Grupo Orinoco; Fundación Konrad Adenauer; Universidad Simón Bolívar. Venezuela
<http://earthcharter.org/news-post/new-publication-environmental-urban-management-guide/>
- Elisabeth M. Ferrero (ed). 2016. "Thomas Berry in Italy: Reflections on Spirituality and Sustainability". Pacem in Terra Press. Italy. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/new-book-thomas-berry-italy-reflections-spirituality-sustainability-addresses-earth-charter/>

Examples of various education resources developed by affiliates, volunteers or partners:

- Photo gallery with the EC Principles
<https://sites.google.com/site/eltalleralalluna/la-carta-de-la-terra>
- Games based on the Earth Charter (parchís, tres en raya, dómimo, juego de memoria, dado y juego de la oca) <http://www.xtec.cat/~mlluelle/implicat/infantil/divulgacio/jocs/index.htm>
- Compilation of experiences using the EC in schools
<http://centresimplicats.blogspot.com.es/2016/03/implicat-amb-el-tastet-dexperiencies.html>
- Earth Charter translation into Braille in Catalan and Spanish
<http://centresimplicats.blogspot.com.es/2016/05/la-carta-de-la-terra-transcrita-braille.html>
- Pictograms and sign language representations of the Earth Charter
<http://www.xtec.cat/~mlluelle/implicat/diversitat/index.html>

3. DIALOGUE

ECI Staff were involved in the organization of several events in Costa Rica and some outside Costa Rica.

Events in Costa Rica:

Seminar with Leonardo Boff at ECI facilities, with 90 attendees plus 30 people participating online
<http://earthcharter.org/news-post/theologian-leonardo-boff-speaks-earth-charter-center/>



- Tribute to Mother Earth: Art Exhibition that used the Earth Charter as inspiration. Organized with the Children's Museum and other partners. 400 people attended the opening ceremony, where the EC was featured and more than 50,000 people attended this exhibition, which ran from 16 June to 31 July. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/homage-earth-exhibition-inspired-earth-charter/>
- Earth Day celebration and EC endorsement of National University of Costa Rica, where more than 100 people attended this ceremony.
- Endorsement ceremony of National Technical University of Costa Rica, where more than 60 people attended.

Events outside Costa Rica

- Side event organized with UNEP in Habitat III, Ecuador
- Side event at UN General Assembly in New York organized with SGI
- Side events at UN COP 22 on Climate Change in Marrakesh with Green Cross International and the Center for Environment Education
- Side event at UN COP 13 of Biodiversity Convention with Brahma Kumaris
- Workshop in Puerto Rico <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/international-conference-values-face-worlds-challenges-puerto-rico/>



IV. Finances

Earth Charter International

Statement of Fund Balances

As of December 31, 2016

ASSETS	USD
RPA / Earth Charter Fund Balance	\$ 13,277
UPEACE / Earth Charter Account Balance - General Fund	46,862
UPEACE/Earth Charter Account Balance - Construction Project	(128,205)
Earth Charter Brazil	740
NET AVAILABLE ASSETS	\$ (67,326)
UNRESTRICTED & RESTRICTED BALANCES:	
General Fund	60,879
RESTRICTED BALANCES	
Construction Fund	(128,205)
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED & RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES	\$ (67,326)

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES - 2016

Earth Charter International - All Activity Centers

January 1 - December 31, 2016

Income	USD	USD
Major Individual Donors		
Seaward Fund / S. Rockefeller	47,915	
Tommy Short	40,000	
Amana-Key /Oscar Motomura	50,000	137,915
Individual Donors (Less than USD 10,000)		5,295
Interest Income & Other (Includes EC Brazil, CR and NY)		734
Courses & Other Services		57,689
Total Cash Income		201,633
In-Kind Support		
Universities & Foundations		12,000
Affiliates and partners		56,400
Individual Donors		38,000
Total In-Kind Support		106,400
Total Income		308,033

Expenses	USD	USD
Salaries / Professional Services		141,358
Employment Related Insurance		15,248
Strategic, Program, and Communications Consulting Support		1,400
Travel Staff		1,670
Telecommunications & Internet		2,772
Translation Services		0
Courses and Workshops		13,148
ECI Council Expenses (Travel and Meeting Costs)		1,644
Events and Meetings		0
Office (Equipment, Security, and Expenses)		14,051
Equipment Purchase		0
Publication, Media, & Web Development		9,208
Printing and Postage		498
Fin Exp & Currency Devaluation Charges		714
Legal Expenses, ECA		9,048
Fund Management Expenses, ECA & RPA		963
Maintenance		558
Miscellaneous		1,167
Total Cash Expenses		213,448

In-Kind Services

Administrative and Facilities Support	12,000
On-Line Course for young leaders in Brazil	10,000
Editing Video Interview - Resource Material	3,000
Website Support (Website in different languages and new website in Portuguese)	10,000
Meeting Host	2,000
Social Media Support	16,000
Mapping App on SDG and EC Development	22,900
Research and project assistance	20,000
Travel	10,500
Total In-Kind Services	106,400
Total Expenses	319,848
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	11,815

Note: Over the year, ECI has received a number of direct support reflected on this financial report as In-Kind Services. These are among others:

- Administrative and Facilities Support in various areas received from the University for Peace Human Resources and Financial Department.
- On-line course for young leaders, editing of a video interview and website support received from Amana-Key
- Social Media support received through a special donation from Isidro Con Wong.
- The development of an App through a contribution from Soka Gakkai International.
- The contribution of the work offered by eight young professionals doing their internship at the ECI Secretariat and various travel costs covered by partner organizations.

V. THE EARTH CHARTER MOVEMENT: EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES OF AFFILIATES, PARTNERS, AND YOUTH

Africa and the Middle East

In **Uganda**, ECI Affiliate Uganda Martyrs University organized 3 main activities during 2016:

1. Sensitization workshops in three primary schools, reaching out to 143 pupils
2. Seminars with 56 university students on the topic of care for the community of life
3. Seminars and meetings with 45 students on how to practice a culture of peace

In addition, this university organized a series of tree planting campaigns which involved 430 students.

Kamugisha Marsiale is the Earth Charter coordinator in Uganda Martyrs University; he shared with us his feelings about being part of the EC global network: "the EC activities are extremely good and beneficial. They have given us a way to follow and organize our thinking in order to work for a sustainable future. Working together with a clear vision, mission and one heart will make it possible to reach our goal."

In **Kenya**, the Green Belt Movement shares the principles that are espoused by the Earth Charter in protection and restoration of the integrity of Earth's ecological systems. Within the Great Lakes of East Africa, GBM is seeking to support the following objectives of the Earth Charter:





1. To encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter in schools, universities, religious communities, local communities, and many other settings.
2. To promote recognition and use of the Earth Charter as a soft law document.
3. To undertake training programmes to facilitate the uptake and application of the Earth Charter.
 - Commemoration event for Garissa University terror attack victims on 26 May 2016, at Wangari Maathai Institute of Peace and Environmental studies, University of Nairobi. More than 148 students were killed by a terrorist attack and scores of others injured on 1 April 2015. The memorial event was attended by more than 500 community members from various parts of the country, university students including some survivors of the terror attack, lecturers from Garissa University and government representatives.
 - Peace soccer tournament activities in Nakuru where Earth Charter sensitization materials were disseminated. Over 300 people, the majority being youths, were reached.
 - Training workshop for 50 Peace Committee Members on “Peace, Early Warning and Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms” in Baringo County from 1-5 March 2016.
 - Empowerment workshop for over 60 women as agents of change in conflict management and peace building in Nakuru in June 2016.

Approximately 1,500 people participated in these activities that GBM organized with the Earth Charter.

In **Saudi Arabia**, Earth Charter Young Leader Mohammed Ba-Aoum, who studied engineering, noticed that conventional engineering education curriculum lacked a critical emphasis in sustainability ethics and practices. He conducted and presented research at the Engineering Education at Global Humanitarian Technology Conference held by IEEE in Seattle and International Conference for Modern Education Studies in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on using the Earth Charter as a guide for preparing future engineers as facilitators for sustainable development.



Asia and the Pacific

The Earth Charter **Australian** Committee is now working under the umbrella of the United Nations Australian Association of Queensland. This Association, with the members of the EC Committee, started a Global Citizenship Programme in 2015 and in 2016 they offered it again. The programme trains young people to be leaders and to advocate for the UN Global Goals and the values of the Earth Charter. All the details of the programme are available via this website: <http://unaaqglobalcitizens.weebly.com/>

Also in Australia, the Edmund Rice Center continues to use the Earth Charter as a foundation for their work on eco-justice. They continue to organize The Pacific Calling Partnership (PCP), an initiative established in recognition of the impact of climate change on the peoples of Kiribati, Tuvalu, the islands of the Pacific and the planet as a whole. PCP facilitates links between concerned people in Australia and the Pacific Islands most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The Earth Charter, the UN Human Rights Charter, Catholic Social Teaching and The Edmund Rice ethos underpin the PCP approach. PCP seeks out and provides opportunities for Pacific Islanders to tell their stories to promote understanding of the impacts of climate change on Pacific Island homelands.

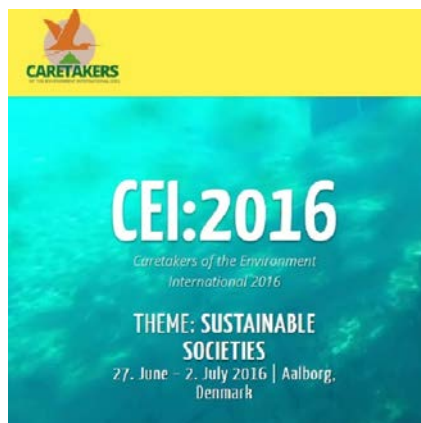
ECI Affiliate in **Hong Kong**, CEDS Asia, translated the Earth Charter Manga publication into Chinese, making this important publication created in Japan available to a wider audience in China.

<http://earthcharter.org/news-post/earth-charter-manga-publication-in-chinese/>

ECI Affiliate Alaknanda Ghaati Shilpi AAGAS Federation in **India**, organized a walking tour around the Himalayas to promote responsible ecotourism in the area, with the aim to boost employment opportunities for unemployed youth of the region. The trek started in 26 June and finished on 3 July 2016.

During the trek they talked and shared about the Earth Charter principles. Another objective of this trek was to generate a report about regional flora and fauna, the people living in the area and the negative effects of forest fire. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/walking-around-himalayas-earth-charter/>





ECI Affiliate in **Taiwan** - TESA (Taiwan Ecological Stewardship Association) actively participated in the 2016 Caretakers for the Environment Conference, in Denmark. They had a delegation of 31 teachers and students. TESA uses the Earth Charter to prepare students to participate in this Conference.

TESA's student assistant made this video that gives a glimpse into the CEI 2016 Conference. https://youtu.be/2Bosi_ggNTU

Earth Charter Asia-Pacific **Japan** Committee has been finding ways to bring the Earth Charter to the public. To further this goal, they have created and promoted a musical, a manga book, and in 2016 they had several strategic planning meetings to bring the Earth Charter and the SDGs together to the general audience. They have developed a project idea to create a public online global challenge for school students around a syllabus related to the SDGs and the Earth Charter.

Another idea that the EC Japan Committee had during their meetings in 2016 is to start involvement with the Club of Rome. A conversation around this is still taking place.

SGL Japan created, with the support of ECI Secretariat, the Seeds of Hope Exhibition around 4 years ago. Since then activities around this exhibition have been implemented, reaching out to hundreds of people. This year was no exception, with sixteen main activities in eleven countries organized and communicated to SGL Japan. Many others may have been organized. Read this link for details of these activities: <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/14902-2/>

Europe and Central Asia

In **Germany**, Earth Charter Affiliate Ecumenical One World Initiative celebrated 40 years of existence, and organized a weekend of learning, celebrating, and looking to the future while reflecting on their role as ECI Affiliate. EOWI held this celebration in Burg Bodenstein (Bodenstein Castle) in the region of Thuringen, with about 100 participants.

In spring the fifth Earth Charter Ambassador training took place during two weekends. 13 participants of all ages and from all over Germany got to know the Earth Charter, learned and tried out EC methods for educational work and had a lot of fun together as a group. The participants from this training are very engaged and keep up with EC activities.





On 29 June, the first international Earth Charter Day was celebrated in Germany. It took place in different locations and settings. Some celebrated with their pupils at school or with their colleagues at work, others celebrated having a picnic or party. Some watched the movie "Tomorrow" and talked about the content and the Earth Charter afterwards. Here you can find an overview of some of the activities.

In September, the Earth Charter in depth-seminar took place on the topic "Earth Charter in Schools". The 15 participants got a deeper insight on how the EC is used at schools (methods and material). Agnes Drude, teacher at the Earth Charter School (Sekundarschule) in Warburg/Germany and Claudia Güthoff, headmaster of the school, introduced the three fields in which they work with the EC at their school (a. project days in which pupils choose a topic to work on, b. subject Earth Charter, where 8th grade pupils, for instance, can choose the subject Earth Charter and deal with it and related topics for one school year, and c. the EC is ideological orientation frame in the school curricula). Then Ulrike Berghahn, EC ambassador, who is engaged in schools, offered her insight knowledge on "what works at schools and with pupils". Participants shared knowledge, experience and lessons learnt from their work in schools.

In October a regional conference on Sustainable Development was organized by the local Earth Charter group Marburg with Nico Peach (subsistence economy) and Annete Jensen (happiness economics) as key speakers. Many workshops took place. The town Marburg endorsed the Earth Charter.

This year the Earth Charter Time (ECHT) workshop was set in the second semester under the topic of local engagement and how to live without being overly stressed, burnt-out and in personal conflict with others. The workshop took place in the town Rothenburg, where an Earth Charter group is active in local development and is linked with other groups. Participants dialogued and analysed various issues related to the main topic and examples of local engagement.

Several activities took place in schools where the Earth Charter was introduced to pupils, and on project days some electives were linked to the Earth Charter. Since autumn 2016 the first Earth Charter school subject has gone into its first round of implementation.



In **Italy**, the Cogeme Onlus Foundation, in collaboration with Provincial Association of Italian Christian Workers (ACLI) and with the valuable contribution of Acque Ovest Bresciano Due (AOB2), organized the second Earth Charter Festival along with 16 local communities of Franciacorta and Oglio West. The festival took place from 21 September to 25 November.

The programme includes several initiatives, including some with focus on the issues of a circular economy and "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/second-edition-earth-charter-festival-will-held-italy/>

In the **Netherlands**, friends and colleagues gathered and dialogued together to celebrate International Earth Charter Day on 29 June at the SBI Estate Zonheuvel in Holland. This day marks the 16th anniversary of the day the Earth Charter was historically launched at The Hague in 2000.

In addition to bringing people together to celebrate Earth Charter Day, the event aimed to stimulate dialogue and raise awareness of the Earth Charter principles and how they relate to the Sustainable Development Goals through the Global Goals Accelerator initiative. Conversations were built upon the fundamental question: How do we want to treat our Earth and each other, and how can we achieve that? Specific topics of conversation included inclusive economic growth and employment, sustainable consumption and production of food, and the strength of Africa.

<http://earthcharter.org/news-post/earth-charter-day-dinner-sowing-culture-peace-building-relationships/>

Global Goals Accelerator is an initiative to speed up consciousness and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Netherlands and beyond. The initiative was co-created by Sustainability Dialogue (Veronique Swinkels) and Earth Charter Netherlands (Alide Roerink) and carried out from 7 June-5 July, 2016 with the support of various partners.

The collaborators organized a series of events, bringing together 30-40 diverse actors from different fields to focus in on a couple select SDGs per meeting. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/global-goals-accelerator-meetings-achieving-sdgs-netherlands/>



During the Summer of 2016, the Earth Charter Cities team partnered with Summerlabb, a traveling festival bringing together art, music, research institutes, polytechnic universities and sustainability companies. The festival explored our use of energy, water, light, architecture and food, and showcased inspiring innovations and solutions for communities driven to become more sustainable. Hundreds of children, adults, business professionals and music lovers from all over Holland gathered together to celebrate and learn. Surrounded by music, culture and art, participants explored sustainable innovations and their stories in Rotterdam, Groningen and several other cities in the Netherlands. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/summerlabb-bringing-together-art-music-sustainable-cities-netherlands/>

In **Spain**, the Earth Charter continues to be an important education tool for the academic work of the Faculty of Education of the University of Granada in Spain. As an example, Professor Alfonso Fernández Herrería teaches two courses with the Earth Charter: Peace Education and Sustainability, and Democratic and Citizenship Education. Professor Fernández with Prof. Miguel Martínez Rodríguez published in 2016 an article and a book chapter based on the Earth Charter:

"Deconstructing the neoliberal "Entrepreneurial Self": A critical perspective derived from a global "biophilic consciousness" <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/article-university-granada-spain-references-earth-charter/>

Book Chapter: *La ética de la tierra. Una consideración desde la "comunidad de la vida"*

In Catalunya, Spain, the group Implicate+ <http://www.xtec.cat/~mlluelle/implicat/>, joined the Earth Charter global network as an Affiliated Organization of ECI. This is a group of 55 teachers, representing 41 schools, who use the Earth Charter in their classrooms. They all work in this group as volunteers. Their main objective is to work on values education with the Earth Charter in schools (primary and secondary).





Education resources created by Implicate+ in 2016

Number of persons
reached with resources

Photo gallery with the EC Principles

<https://sites.google.com/site/eltalleralluna/la-carta-de-la-terra>

Games based on the Earth Charter (parchís, tres en raya, dómimo, juego de memoria, dado y juego de la oca)

<http://www.xtec.cat/~mlluelle/implicat/infantil/divulgacio/jocs/index.htm>

Compilation of experiences using the EC in schools

<http://centresimplicats.blogspot.com.es/2016/03/implicat-amb-el-tastet-dexperiencies.html>

Earth Charter translation into Braille in Catalan and Spanish

<http://centresimplicats.blogspot.com.es/2016/05/la-carta-de-la-terra-transcrita-braille.html>

Pictograms and sign language representations of the Earth Charter

<http://www.xtec.cat/~mlluelle/implicat/diversitat/index.html>

Printing and delivering of the Earth Charter brochure to all schools in Lleida, Spain.

<http://centresimplicats.blogspot.com.es/2016/06/implicat-amb-el-dia-internacional-de-la.html>

All their resources can be found in this link:

<http://www.xtec.cat/~mlluelle/implicat/>

More than
32,600 visits
to the web page
where these
resources
are shared.

Because of the impact and high quality of their work, they won two prizes in 2016:

- Fundación Impulso Prize <http://fundacioimpuls.org/lliurament-del-vii-premi-impuls-dins-del-marc-duna-jornada-dinnovacio-i-educacio/>
- Federico Mayor Zaragoza Education Prize <http://www.unescotortosa.cat/index.php/premisfmz/ix-premi-fmz/treballs-premiats>



They plan to work with the Education Department of Catalunya to include the Earth Charter in the curricula of this region's schools.

Another ECI Affiliate in Spain, Fundación Valores, who has for many years worked with the Earth Charter and promoted it through public events, organized the Conference on Common Good, Ethics, and Values, on 23 and 24 April in Vitoria, Spain, in collaboration with Asociación Plan BIKO and the City Hall of Vitoria-Gasteiz.

The Conference is part of the project 'Utopias for a Better World', and its common thread was the Earth Charter, which was highlighted in the speech of María José Carrillo, Fundación Valores President. The text of the Charter was also present in the conference room on a large banner. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/conference-common-good-ethics-values-took-place-spain/>

Fatima Almeida, Director of ASPEA an ECI Affiliate from Portugal, was one of the organizers of Caretakers for the Environment International (CEI) 2016 Conference, which took place in Denmark on 27 June to 2 July. On this occasion, she led an Earth Charter workshop for 250 participants. It included a short talk about the Earth Charter, a group game and then participants drew their thoughts of a peaceful earth on a long piece of paper. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/caretakers-environment-international-conference/>

In the **United Kingdom**, the Bournemouth's Avonwood Primary School became UK's first ever Earth Charter school. Avonwood Primary opened its doors in September 2014 as Bournemouth's newest primary school and the first to adopt the charter as the moral compass for all it does. From their early years' curriculum, right down to the school mascot, the principles of the Earth Charter seep through everything Avonwood does.

Avonwood is part of the Avonbourne Multi-Academy Trust, which has endorsed the Charter's ethos since 2008, when Bournemouth Borough Council became the first Earth Charter local authority.

Debbie Godfrey-Phaure, CEO, says 'At Avonbourne Trust we have embraced the Earth Charter principles for several years now. Avonwood Primary School has achieved Earth Charter status. It is part of our personal development lessons and it influences our curriculum throughout all subjects





taught at Avonbourne College for girls, Harewood College for boys and our mixed Avonbourne Sixth Form. English lessons may include a debate about the Syrian refugee crisis and in science our students learn about climate change and its impact on the planet. When we planned to open a primary school to join our family of schools it seemed the perfect opportunity to instill the Earth Charter's principles from the outset of a child's education.

When Avonwood children enter their purpose-built new school building, one of their first sights is the Earth Charter poem which has been painted on the main wall in reception. Underpinning everything they do are the following core values: treat all living beings with care; promote cultural tolerance and peace; learn about different people and religions and build democratic societies. All of this is carried out in an age appropriate way.

"Our school logo 'it starts with one' is taken from the Earth Charter," said Annie Dowling, Head of Avonwood. "The children are learning that to make the world a better place it must all start with them. We begin by making them responsible for the tidiness of their own classroom, and then we broaden that to the whole school and eventually get them thinking about what they can do to make things better for their street, their town, their country and even the globe."

Latin America

In **Argentina**, and under the framework of the "National Biodiversity Strategy and Taruca Project", a number of teacher training workshops were held on 22-23 September in La Rioja Capital and Chilecito, with the aim of establishing a multiplying project on biodiversity education. These teacher training processes used the Earth Charter as a foundation. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/training-argentina-environmental-education-uses-earth-charter/>

In **Bolivia**, the 20th Annual Conference of IEF (International Environment Forum) took place and focused on the SDGs implementation. Earth Charter International participated in this Conference, whose topic was: "Implementing Sustainable Development Goals as communities and individuals", where the focus was the situation in Latin America related to the implementation of SDG 4, SDG 11 and SDG 12.





In **Brazil**, the Open University for Environment and Culture of Peace (UMAPAZ), which is part of the City of Sao Paulo Government, celebrated 10 years of using the Earth Charter. UMAPAZ created the Earth Charter in Action Programme – Training Urban Socio-Environment Agents- with the goal of “creating a network of citizens that are prepared to act in order to transform urban environments into a sustainable and educational city”. These “agents” go through a process of continuous and integrated learning. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/umapaz-brazil-celebrates-10-years-working-earth-charter/>

In **Costa Rica**, all public universities declared 2016 as the “Year for Mother Earth”. This initiative brought an increased interest and enthusiasm inside the universities and in other public institutions in Costa Rica to learn more about the Earth Charter.

In the framework of this Declaration, the National University of Costa Rica endorsed the Earth Charter in a ceremony on Earth Day (22 April). The President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solís, the Vice Ministers of the Environment, and the Rector of the University attended this ceremony. The endorsement expressed the commitment of this academic institution in the following terms: “We commit to using the Earth Charter as an ethical framework and guide for action and decision making, for inclusive development, and the implementation of policies, plans, strategies, and methodologies, as well as an educational instrument that prompts the sustainable development of Costa Rica and Central America, under the vision and goals to seek a more just, sustainable, inclusive, diverse, peaceful, and united world.” <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/celebrating-earth-day/>



The National Technical University of Costa Rica also endorsed the Earth Charter this year, in a ceremony attended by the Rector of this University, faculty members and students on 17 July. The school is currently developing ways to incorporate the Earth Charter in its programmes.

As mentioned previously, the Children’s Museum and National Gallery organized an interesting and beautiful exhibition “Homage to Earth”, with ECI collaboration. In the framework of this exhibition, the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development organized two workshops. The first workshop was held on 28 June 2016, organized jointly with the Commission on Environmental





Education of the National Council of Rectors of Costa Rica (CONARE). Around 35 teachers and curriculum advisors participated, from 4 public universities in Costa Rica. The second workshop was conducted on 29 June, with young people between ages 13 to 16 from the Yurusti College in Costa Rica. We offered an interactive talk about the Earth Charter and, as we did with the adult group the day before, they explored the exhibit "Homage to Earth" using the Earth Charter. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/workshops-exhibit-homage-earth/>

The Green Building Council Costa Rica (GBC-CR), the World Resources Forum (WRF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) collaborated to organize an international event for Latin America and the Caribbean region: The World Resources Forum Latin America and the Caribbean, International Sustainable Building Congress 2016 & III GREEN EXPO. ECI participated in this Congress, as technical advisors, with a talk and as general sponsors. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/world-resources-forum-sustainable-building-conference-costa-rica/>

Earth Charter Young Leader, Julián Arias Varela, created and gave a multitude of workshops in Costa Rica, inspired by his participation in an Earth Charter International online youth training. Fusing the topics of climate change, the Earth Charter and the Sustainable Development Goals, he facilitated workshops for over 700 people in schools, communities, and other spaces.

In **Colombia**, the Institute of Environmental Studies (IDEA) of the National University of Colombia (ECI Affiliate) organized 6 Environmental Forums in collaboration with RCE Bogotá, where 400 students and professors attended. The objectives of these forums were to help build a culture of environmental citizenship where the Earth Charter has an important role.

The forum's topics and dates were:

1. Sustainable lifestyles (25 February)
2. The role of universities in sustainability- considering our responsibility for society and nature (19 September)
3. Peace and Environment Pedagogy (28 September)
4. Governance and water, an institutional approach (13 October)
5. Youth leadership in education and environmental management experiences (4 November)
6. Cultural practices to live together in Latin America (23 November)

Olga María Bermúdez, IDEA's Director, published a book this year, titled: "Environmental Education, Sustainable Values and Practice". Published by the National University of Colombia editorial house.

In **Mexico**, interesting efforts are being led by civil society; for example, the Mexican Earth Charter Network is asking the Chamber of Senators, Federal Legislators, and Congresses to sign agreements where they adopt and commit to the principles and values of the Earth Charter as an ethical framework for sustainable development. During 2016, the states of Durango, Michoacán, Guanajuato, Tlaxcala and Tamaulipas have signed this agreement and endorsement. The states of Oaxaca and Aguascalientes are in the process to sign in 2017.

As an example, the text of the Agreement adopted by the Congress of the state of Michoacán can be found in this link.

In addition to adopting the principles of the Earth Charter, the Agreement also calls upon "the holders of the Executive Power, the Judicial Branch of the State, and the constitutionally autonomous organs of the State to consider the Earth Charter as an instrument guiding decisions to be more aligned with sustainability as well as promoting its content."

This is a way to use the Earth Charter in the legislative sphere, to influence the legislative policies of a country and of a state, to act in accordance with the ethical principles contained in the Earth





Charter and in international human rights conventions.

<http://earthcharter.org/news-post/can-government-use-earth-charter/>

On 15 April, the *Technological Institute of Patzcuaro*, Mexico, endorsed the Earth Charter and organized the Conference on Education for Sustainable Development. This conference is a response to the Mexican government's commitment to the UNESCO Global Action Programme on ESD. 300 educators of higher education and secondary education attended the conference, along with government authorities from the Ministry of Environment, Education and the local government.

In Sinaloa, 13 companies endorsed the Earth Charter in a ceremony held on 1 October. The activity was organized by the Environmental Educators Network of Sinaloa. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/companies-endorse-earth-charter-sinaloa-mexico/>

In Nuevo León, the main coordinator, Lorena Herrera, organized 3 talks and a course of 4 sessions throughout 2016, reaching out to 530 people. In addition, she coordinated the endorsement of University Lux, based in Sinaloa.

In Mexico City, the Earth Charter Mexican network focal point – Environmental and Land Use Planning Procurement (PAOT)– is promoting the dissemination and internalization of the Earth Charter principles using the topics that citizens are most concerned about, and through activities such as creating urban green areas, animal welfare and protection of natural areas.

They created an education programme called "With Feet on the Ground", to link the Earth Charter with environmental-urban rights and responsibilities and the protection of animals. This education programme organized 5 workshops in different parks and public areas, reaching 889 people.





On 23 May, PAOT organized on behalf of the Earth Charter Mexican Network a Conference called “The spiritual dimension of the Earth Charter to promote a culture of peace”, with Leonardo Boff as keynote speaker. Around 100 people participated in this event, and it concluded with the endorsement of the following organizations:

- Organización Ecológica Club de Patos al Rescate del Canal Nacional, A.C.
- Asociación de Scouts de México A.C.
- Asociación Civil de los Colonos de Tlalpuente, A.C.
- Miss Earth Ciudad de México, Bellezas por una Causa
- Organización de Educación Ambiental, A.C.
- Legado Sustentable, A.C.

The radio programme “Environmental Land,” produced by PAOT and the Mexican Radio Institute, has broadcasted several episodes about the Earth Charter, having as guests Rose Marie Inojosa from UMAPAZ Brazil, Alicia Jiménez-Elizondo from ECI Secretariat and Mateo Alfredo Castillo Ceja, an ECI Council member.

In Colima, the EC Mexican network coordinator Francisco Javier Muñoz organized the first Environmental Facilitators Fair, where 130 educators from 130 primary schools participated in a training to give them tools and skills to help them develop environmental projects in their schools. Participants needed to commit to develop a project, which will be evaluated for participation in the Sustainable School Prize offered by the Education Department of Colima and the State Environmental Institute.

A delegation of 12 young leaders in Mexico participated in an intensive training to become Earth Charter advocates to effectively impart the Earth Charter to others in a 45-day intensive programme called the Ship for World Youth Leaders. Consulting with the Earth Charter Network in Mexico and ECI, the delegates designed a specially tailored workshop for their international peers. The objective was to promote the knowledge and use of the Earth Charter as an ethical framework for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century and to inspire in the participants





a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations. During the months of January and February 2016, more than 240 young people from 12 countries sailed from Japan to India and Sri Lanka on board the Nippon Maru; the Ship for World Youth Leaders (SWYL). This is a project of the Government of Japan with the aim to foster social and environmental projects and contribute to the creation of a culture of cooperation among countries.

North America

On June 29th, Earth Charter **Canada** and the Vancouver-based Walas family celebrated Earth Charter Anniversary at Dudoc Vancouver. (Dudoc is the Dutch Urban Design Centre, based in Vancouver). Around 100 people attended to celebrate, share their stories, and learn more about the Earth Charter.

The evening brought together local businesses, artists, and change makers who share the values and principles of the Earth Charter. Celebrations included live music, art, crafts and a mini-fair. Attendees made wishes for the Earth, and found many common themes to discuss.

Dudoc Vancouver is a business model for sustainable design based on Earth Charter ethics, with Earth Charter Principle 7c at the core of its business model. Since opening its doors in October 2014, Dudoc Vancouver has been promoting the development, adoption and equitable transfer of environmentally sound technologies. Specifically, the center showcases Dutch and other European companies' environmentally sustainable products and services to the North American market. Dudoc Vancouver also serves as a forum for exchanging ideas among designers, urban planners, developers and architects across disciplines and continents. Through this combination of international business development, education and co-operation, Dudoc Vancouver strives to encourage sustainability in the built and social environment and aims to be a successful example of the Earth Charter in action. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/dudoc-vancouver-business-model-sustainable-design-based-earth-charter-ethics/>





In the **United States of America**, Mary Evelyn Tucker, a long-time Earth Charter supporter who was part of the International Drafting Committee in the 90s, and John Grim, both Senior Lecturers and Research Scholars at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies offered four 6-week online courses in September 2016. The courses were opened to the public on Coursera to any country in the world. It included 2 courses on the “Journey of the Universe” and a course on the “Worldview of Thomas Berry”. <http://earthcharter.org/news-post/new-online-classes-yale-journey-universe-multi-media-project-related-earth-charter-preamble/>

The Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice has promoted Earth Charter principles and educational programmes in many ways during 2016.

- Developed Sowing a Culture of Peace as a programme for the Florida Earth Charter Initiative:
 - Weekly Climate Conversation webchat with educators and community activists, exploring interface of University of Florida and the general public
 - Initiated Blogtalkradio series of panel discussions with call-in Q&A. Speakers in one 90-minute show on blogtalkradio.com included
- Each month, Sue Blythe’s newsletter article develops a theme of the Earth Charter
- January - April, Sue Blythe met with Earth Charter Club
- Earth Charter Game at the Florida Museum of Natural History Earth Day
- Developed the Sustainable Living Library based on Principle 16-f



Annex I

Earth Charter National Websites

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

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