



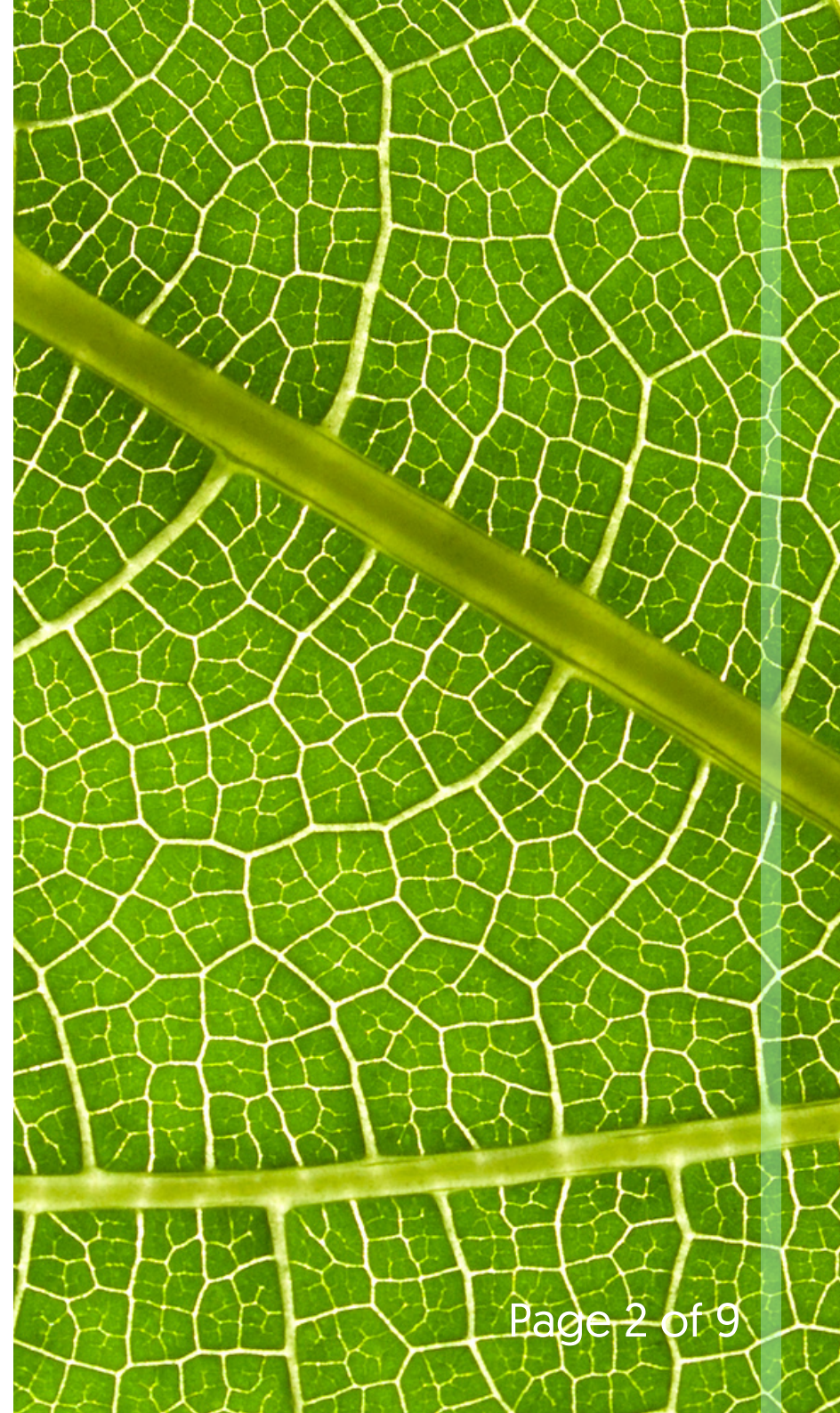
Earth
Charter®
INTERNATIONAL

INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMS THINKING

Online course

Why should you participate in this course?

Making sustainability happen and turning conscience into action is an act of systems leadership. It requires not only habits that bring out the leadership in each one of us, but the ability to see the whole, as well as the discipline of systems to align the purposes of those who come together to participate in systems. It requires abilities to recognize places to intervene in the system. It requires abilities to shape and design new systems to be sustainable and resilient.





Short Description

The Introduction to Systems Thinking course brings together people who are motivated to influence or lead systems, not just organizations. It equips participants with the ability to recognize the systems that they are a part of, its constituents, the purpose that binds them together, and the places to intervene in the system.

The course will:

- build individual and organizational capacity to address the systemic problems and challenges in their contexts;
- provide participants an opportunity to develop habits to see the whole, not just the parts; and
- enhance participants' capacities to become systems leaders able to help their organizations to discover meaningful missions that will contribute to planetary well-being.

This course has live sessions every Tuesday that are recorded for those who might not be able to attend.

Participants Profile

If you are in a leadership position in government, NGO or business and you feel the need to expand your sphere of influence to make a meaningful impact, you will want to be part of our course on Systems Thinking.

If you are interested in learning what is systems thinking and how it can help you better understand and implement sustainability in your context, this course is a good opportunity.

If you influence boards of organizations and want to ensure the sustainability of your organization and the audiences it serves, and have not practiced systems leadership, this may be the retreat to rediscover your purpose and revitalize your commitment.

Course Format / Methodology

Introduction to Systems Thinking is an online, facilitated course of five-weeks involving 20 hours.

Participants will be introduced to the concepts through content and facilitation that include videos, articles, live conversations, a project, and discussion forums. In each session, participants are expected to actively participate in conversations, focused inquiry, and complete the project.

At the end of the course, participants will submit a 5-minute video summary of their project along with a report on the system they investigated during the course. This course will encourage interaction between participants, expect them to build connections, and collaborate with each other.

Schedule & Session Topics

Week 1

Reacting our world: The problem of addressing a world of problems

1. Solutions of yesterday
2. Problems that do not go away before becoming worse
3. The symptom is not the problem
4. Alternative thinking on reacting to addressing the world of problems

Week 2

Systems: The idea of a unit of change, the “whole”

1. History of the idea of Systems
2. Actors in a system: the parts that make up the whole
3. The purposes of actors: the driver of interactions, the basis of relationships
4. Exploitative and symbiotic systems: the patterns and processes that emerge from interactions

Week 3

Governing Systems: Principles for enduring change

1. Skin in the game
2. The role of technology
3. The role of markets
4. The role of politics

Schedule & Session Topics

Week 4

Systems and sustainability: Principles for a sustainable world

1. The Limits to Growth
2. The WCED insights
3. The climate crisis
4. The post-covid world

Week 5

Places to intervene in a system: Leverage for enduring impact

1. Choosing the information to recognize events in a system
2. Determining the roles in a system
3. Clarifying the purposes for participation
4. Choosing to reorganize participation in a system

Live sessions take place every Tuesday at 8AM [GMT-6].

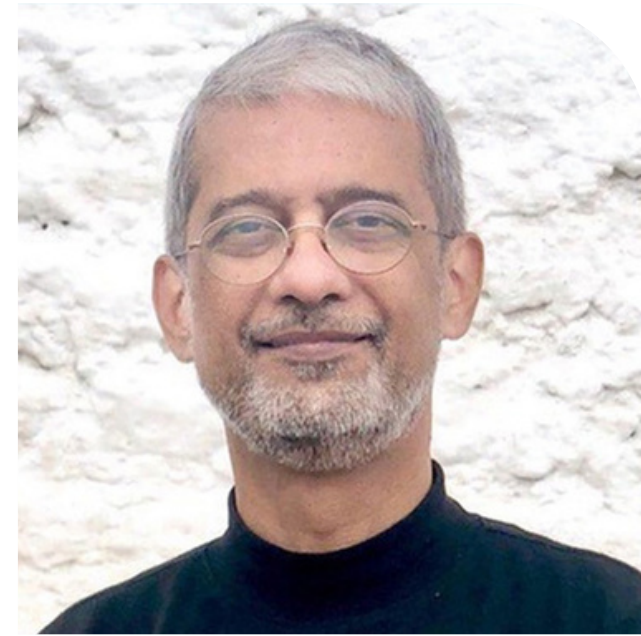
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Course Facilitator

Systems thinker, Future Designer, and scientist, Anupam Saraph established the actor-based understanding of systems laying the foundation of the practice of change research and future design, as a means to create symbiotic, sustainable, anti-fragile, and resilient systems.

His research for the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, in 1993-94, gave rise to actor based modelling that models the interaction of individual actors in a system, allowing them to recognize the consequences of their actions and search for interventions that accomplish the common purposes of their systems. He has been applying actor-based understanding of systems and the principles of governance of complex systems to design legislation, policy, strategy, and business models.

He works with leaders, and mentors' teams, to help them identify their systems, recognize the common purposes of its actors, and accomplish their toughest shared challenge – their mission. He also serves on the boards of Public and Private Sector companies and NGOs and as a Professor of Sustainability and Governance of Complex Systems at universities in Asia, Europe and the United States.



Anupam Saraph

PhD. on Designing and exploring sustainable systems,
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands
M.Sc. in Molecular Biology, Pune University

Institution



UNESCO Chair

This course was developed under the framework of the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter, coordinated by the Earth Charter Center for Education. The Chair is a collaborative effort between UNESCO, Earth Charter International, and the University for Peace to develop educational programmes and research activities related to education, sustainability, and ethics using the Earth Charter as a fundamental reference.



Earth Charter Center for
Education for Sustainable
Development

The Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development, established by Earth Charter International, offers a variety of executive and educational programmes in leadership for sustainable development, for policy makers, education professionals, youth, and the general public. Research projects are specially developed in partnerships with institutions of national and global relevance.

For more information, please visit <https://earthcharter.org/>