It Starts With One

©Riccardo Niels Mayer/Adobe Stock

©Rawpixel.com /Adobe Stock

ACT & LEAD

©AlexSava/Getty Images

SEEDS of HOPE & ACTION

Making the SDGs a Reality

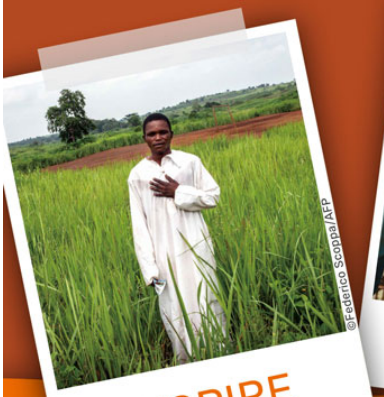
©Savvapanf Photo/Adobe Stock

EMPOWER

> **How wonderful** it is that nobody need wait **a single moment** before starting to improve the world.
>
> ***Anne Frank***

©Paula Bronstein/Getty Images

REFLECT


©Federico Scoppa/AFP

INSPIRE

©lovelyday12/Adobe Stock

LEARN

INSPIRE

This exhibition is a joint initiative of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) and the Earth Charter International.

Interconnection

A **profound awareness of our interconnectedness** with each other, with our fellow inhabitants of Earth and the natural world, **runs through every tradition of human wisdom.**

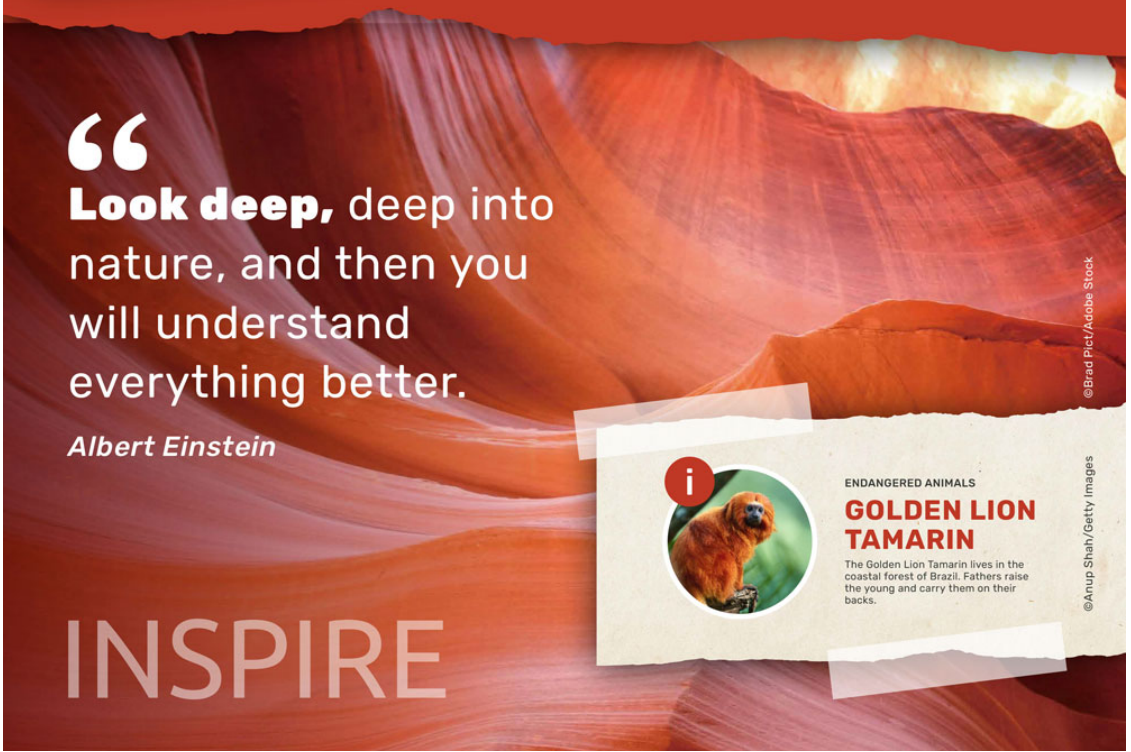
©Todd/Adobe Stock

©Konstantin Yuganov/Adobe Stock

"The **same stream of life** that runs through my veins night and day runs through the world and dances in rhythmic measures.

It is the same life that shoots in **joy** through the dust of the earth in numberless blades of grass and breaks into tumultuous waves of leaves and flowers.

Rabindranath Tagore



"**Look deep,** deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.

Albert Einstein

©Brad Pict/Adobe Stock

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

GOLDEN LION TAMARIN

The Golden Lion Tamarin lives in the coastal forest of Brazil. Fathers raise the young and carry them on their backs.

©Anup Shah/Getty Images

INSPIRE

©Sylvain Cordier/Biosphoto

> **There is no word for nature in my language.** 'Nature' in English seems to refer to that which is separate from human beings. It is a **distinction we don't recognize.**
>
> *Audrey Shenandoah*
> *Clan Mother of the Onondaga Nation*

> **Plants awaken** the aesthetic feeling within us, soften our more violent emotions, inspire us to poetry, and thus **nurture our hearts and minds.**
>
> *Tsunesaburo Makiguchi*

©alexugalek/Adobe Stock

> **Whoever plants a tree** and diligently looks after it until it matures and bears fruit is rewarded.
>
> *Hadith*
> *(sayings of the Prophet Muhammad)*

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

POISON DART FROG

Poison Dart Frogs are native to Central and South America. They are between 1.5cm and 6cm in length. They allow their tadpoles to wriggle onto their backs shortly after they hatch and carry them to water.

©YukiyoM/photo AC

A Global Crisis

What's Going On?

> A true ecological approach ***always*** becomes a social approach… so as to hear ***both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.***
>
> *Laudato Si' by Pope Francis*

Human activities have caused a **rapid deterioration** in the state of the complex systems that support our existence.

25%
of mammals, 41% of amphibians & 33% of reef-forming corals are threatened with extinction

85%
of wetlands have been lost

32 million
hectares of primary or recovering forest in the tropics were lost between 2010 & 2015

In 2018, the world's **richest 1%** owned
45%
of the world's wealth

Global military expenditure in 2018 was estimated at US$1,822 billion, **up**
76% **since 1998**

©Severe/Adobe Stock

Destroyed coral on the seabed

LEARN

Climate Emergency

> The sea, the ice, the snow, **it's all changing.** You can't travel safely anymore.
>
> Derrick Pottle
> Inuit trapper, Canada

Quantities of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have **risen to record levels** not seen in three million years. Temperatures are rising, and **important tipping points, leading to irreversible changes** in major ecosystems and the planetary climate system, may already have been reached or passed.

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and **unprecedented changes** in all aspects of society.

> **Transformational climate action is an opportunity for a societal renaissance** of the proportions never seen before… The only option now is adopting an emergency plan! **Time is not going to be forgiving.**
>
> Sandrine Dixson-Declève
> Co-President of the Club of Rome

i

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

SEA OTTER

The Sea Otter's use of rocks to open shells makes it one of the few mammal species to use tools. It feeds on sea urchin populations which would otherwise damage kelp forest ecosystems.

©mimi/photo AC

LEARN

Climate Justice

Elizabeth Wathuti (center), Kenyan environmentalist and climate activist and Head of Campaigns at Wangari Maathai Foundation

> The climate crisis is **already causing loss and damage** for so many people and while we may all be in the same storm; we are **definitely not all in the same boat**.
>
> Elizabeth Wathuti, Founder, Green Generation Initiative, Kenya

One of the **greatest injustices** of climate change is that those who have done the least to cause it **feel the impacts first and worst** through rising sea levels and extreme weather. It **exacerbates societal and systemic inequalities** that already run deep.

What if **communities and nature** came before **power and greed**?

> **As for the developed countries, they MUST take responsibility and pay for what they got us into, the climate crisis!**
>
> Rose Kobusinge, Uganda

On land threatened by erosion, Bangladesh

© G.M.B. Akash

> Climate justice 'insists on **a shift from a discourse** on greenhouse gases and melting ice caps into a civil rights movement with the **people and communities most vulnerable** to climate impacts at its heart.'
>
> Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

LEARN

The Human Element

“There is a **sufficiency** in the world for man’s **need** but not for man’s **greed.**

Mahatma Gandhi

The global issues we face are interrelated, and at the center lies the core cause: **human selfishness...**

“There are all sorts of **revolutions**, but no matter what one changes, the world will never get any better as long as **people themselves** remain selfish and lacking in **compassion.**

Daisaku Ikeda

“Now there is nothing new about poverty ... What is new at this point though, is that **we now have the resources, we now have the skills, we now have the techniques** to get rid of poverty.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

LEARN

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

RED PANDA

The Red Panda does little more than eat and sleep. If it feels threatened, it stands on its hind legs to make itself appear larger and uses its sharp claws to defend itself.

©niwm/photo AC

Sustainable Development Goals

©tgordievskaya/Adobe Stock

Learn more about the SDGs

Leaving No One Behind

The 17 interconnected United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a concrete vision of how we can work together to tackle global challenges such as **poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice** by the year 2030. No one should be left behind.

“#KindnessMatters for the SDGs.

UNESCO MGIEP global youth campaign

©wavebreak3/Adobe Stock

“While this crisis is imperiling progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, it also makes their achievement all the more urgent and necessary. Moving forward, it is essential that … a truly transformative recovery from COVID-19 is pursued.

António Guterres
UN Secretary-General

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

BONGO ANTELOPE

The color of the endangered nocturnal Bongo Antelope becomes darker with age until old males are almost black. Adults have horns that last throughout their lives.

©RSCF

LEARN

Powerlessness

In the face of **overwhelming problems** and growing complexity, it is tempting to **feel powerless.**

What can **one person** achieve? I feel so **small...** It's too **complicated.** Where do I begin? I'm **too busy...**

"

We all have a choice. We can allow ourselves to be paralyzed by despair over the negative trends or we can **join the many courageous people of goodwill** who are trying to build a better world.

Steven C. Rockefeller

What we need is a change of heart

"

Start from **where you are** and go forward **one step at a time.**

Buddhist monk, Thailand

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

WHITE PEACOCK

The White Peacock is a mutation of the Indian Blue Peacock. Peacocks get their color from light reflection rather than a dye. The feathers have barbs, with rods that control how light reflects and produces color. White Peacocks have a slightly different arrangement of the rods.

©Sacha Peter

REFLECT

Changing Our Hearts

©Stanislav Popov/Adobe Stock

On the deepest level, it could be said that the **desertification** of the planet reflects the desertification of the

human spirit.

The future of life may depend on the largeness of our **embrace.** We can **expand our hearts** to care for:

> “I used to think that the **top global environmental problems** were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address these problems, but **I was wrong.**
>
> The top environmental problems are **selfishness, greed, and apathy**, and to deal with these we need a **spiritual and cultural transformation.**
>
> *James Gustave Speth*
> *Environmental lawyer*

©Bl on Globe/Getty Image

REFLECT

The Earth Charter

> **We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history,** a time when humanity must choose its future. … it is imperative that **we, the peoples of Earth,** declare our responsibility to one another, to the **greater community of life,** and to **future generations.**
>
> *The Earth Charter Preamble*

©Ganchaonan2518/Dreamstime.com

Learn more about the Earth Charter

Turning Conscience Into Action

THE EARTH CHARTER offers a set of values and principles for a just, sustainable and peaceful future.

The drafting of the Earth Charter involved a global process of inclusive and participatory discussion. It was launched on 29 June, 2000, in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The Earth Charter recognizes that the goals of **ecological protection,** the **eradication of poverty,** equitable economic development, respect for **human rights, democracy and peace** are interdependent and indivisible.

> The Earth Charter shifts us from seeing Earth as a commodity to Earth as a **community of life.**
>
> *Mary Evelyn Tucker*

Respect & Care for the Community of Life

Ecological Integrity

Social & Economic Justice

Democracy, Nonviolence & Peace

REFLECT

The Earth Charter is a powerful tool for reflection, dialogue and **education.**

“Integrate into formal education and **life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills** needed for a sustainable way of life.

14 Integrate values into education

Earth Charter Principle 14

©UMAPAZ

UMAPAZ, the Open University of the Environment and Culture of Peace in São Paulo, uses the Earth Charter as an ethical foundation.

BRAZIL

©OEIW Germany

THE ECUMENICAL ONE WORLD INITIATIVE uses the Earth Charter in trainings, theater workshops and school programs.

GERMANY

©Florida Gulf Coast University

At **FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY,** all students take a course using the Earth Charter to introduce sustainability.

USA

©implicate+Spain

THE IMPLICATE+ PROJECT links 40 teachers from 30 schools in Catalonia who have developed teaching materials based on the Earth Charter.

SPAIN

Watch a video about the Earth Charter

REFLECT

The Power of One

“

It starts with **one**.
It starts with **one** universe.
It starts with **one** Earth,
with **one** awakening
with **one** person who cares
with **one** choice, **one** action
with **one** dialogue,
one collaboration, **one**
initiative.
With **one** community
with **one** mind,
with **one** dream.
It starts with **one**.

Earth Charter +10 communications campaign

“

Allow yourself
to abandon apathy
and **be moved**
to action!

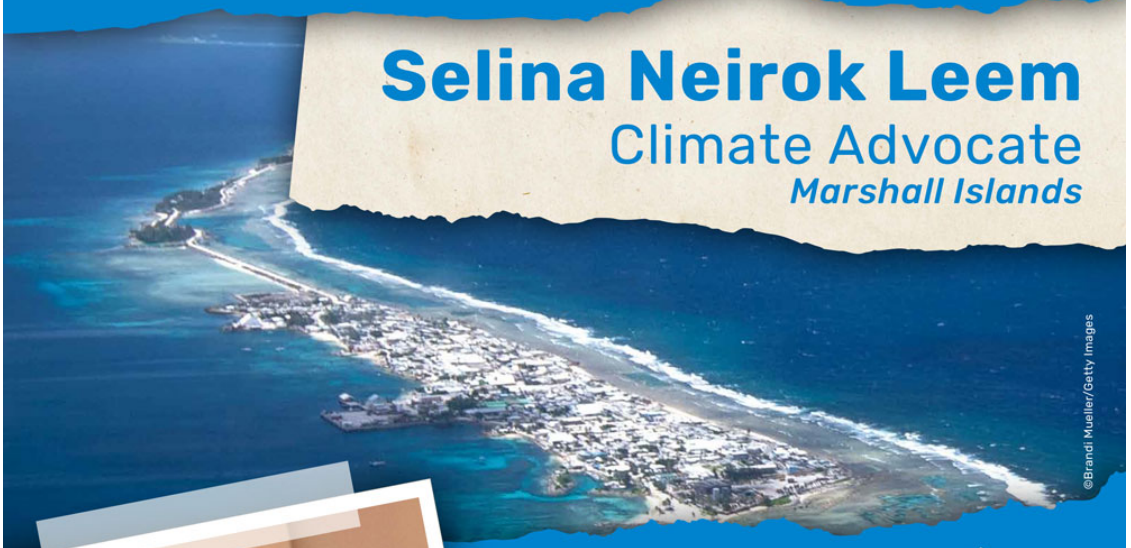
Wangari Maathai

©Dragana Gordic/Adobe Stock

Learn about individuals who
started a process of change
that transformed their world.

EMPOWER

People Taking Action



Selina Neirok Leem

Climate Advocate

Marshall Islands

Watch Selina's video on climate change

> My country's future looks very bleak. **But I cannot give up hope.**

At the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, aged 18, Selina made a **passionate plea** to global leaders for stronger action on climate change.

The Marshall Islands, 34 atolls and over 1,000 small islands and 53,000 people, lie in the Pacific Ocean. The average height of the islands is only **2 meters above sea level,** and the people are threatened due to rising sea levels. Already seasonal flooding and evacuation are becoming **more extreme and frequent.**

Selina is a member of Jo-Jikum, a local youth environmental organization, and helps in science camps organized by the University of the South Pacific where high school students learn about climate change and coral bleaching. She is determined to **channel her anger and sadness** into passionate words that move others to action.

> We're just a very small number, but **we're very spirited** and we want to fight for our country because we believe that it's also **for the survival of the world.**

Damage from storm surges in March 2014, Ejit Elementary School, Marshall Islands

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

EMPOWER

Mateo Castillo Ceja

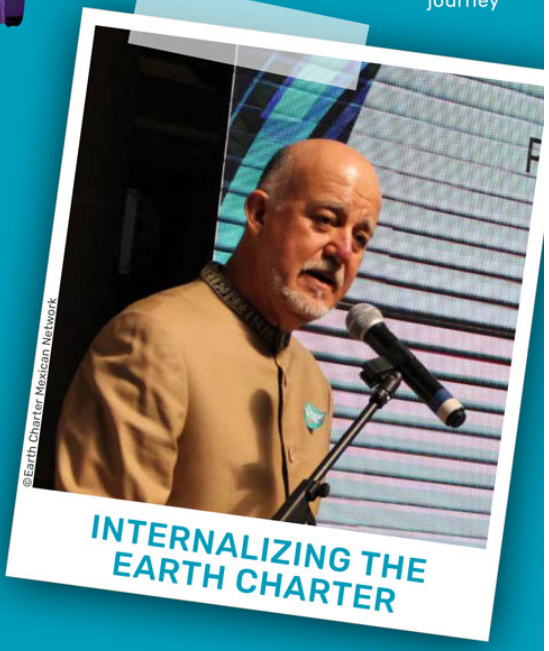
Earth Charter Pioneer

Mexico

©streetflash/Adobe Stock

Find out more about Mateo's journey

> The Earth Charter has helped me to feel that my passage through this planet makes sense, **evolving and maturing** with the **joy** of serving other living beings.


©Earth Charter Mexican Network

INTERNALIZING THE EARTH CHARTER

Since 2001, Mateo has been **cultivating** a network of people and organizations in Mexico committed to putting into practice the sustainability principles and values expressed in the Earth Charter.

Now over 1,000 governmental and nongovernmental organizations throughout the country have endorsed the Earth Charter, holding hundreds of conferences where citizens have learned about sustainability and ethics through the Earth Charter.

The city of Aguascalientes is one example. After an Earth Charter workshop, several concrete actions were launched, such as creating the Green Line Park. This park not only **fostered nature,** but also helped build **social cohesion and peaceful coexistence** in a vulnerable and marginalized area.

©Earth Charter Mexican Network

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

EMPOWER

People Taking Action

Young women wait to see a medical officer. Kier, Jonglei State, South Sudan.

©Frederic Noy/Panos Pictures

Nyuon Susan Sebit William
Human Rights Lawyer
South Sudan

Find out more about Suzy's journey

> I decided to become a lawyer to use my voice to **fight for the rights of women** being attacked due to organized violence and community violence without justice.

Due to the civil war in Sudan in the 1980s and 90s, Nyuon Susan Sebit William, known as Suzy, and her family became internally displaced people (IDPs). Her mother served as a community leader in the IDP camp.

For the first time, Suzy saw that women can be **great leaders** despite the patriarchal norms in her society. However, she **witnessed many atrocities,** including violent crimes against women and girls, that were replicated when South Sudan slid into another civil war.

Suzy was committed to **raising awareness about sexual violence** in South Sudan and ran training workshops for local women on basic legal rights.

Suzy also created the National Alliance of Women Lawyers, which aims to provide women with legal services, fair **access to justice** and respect for the rule of law, and she has now joined the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders.

©Nyuon Susan Sebit William

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Suzy, then holder of a Cora Weiss Fellowship for Young Women Peacebuilders, together with peace activist Cora Weiss

©Nyuon Susan Sebit William

5 GENDER EQUALITY

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

> I haven't lost my **childhood optimism.** I still believe I can be a leader, and **I do not doubt myself.**

EMPOWER

People Taking Action

©taoty/Adobe Stock

Sajid Iqbal

Low-cost Lighting Social Entrepreneur

Bangladesh

©Sajid Iqbal

BRIGHTENING THE WAY

> We have **lighted up** hundreds of families' lives… We are now expanding the project nationwide to reduce 16 GW of electricity misuse, saving US$2.1 million and 7,500 MT of CO2 emissions every year.

Sajid grew up in Sylhet, where candles and kerosene lamps were the only source of lighting for many. He also saw high levels of electricity misuse in low-income areas and factories where electric light was used during the day, leading to deficit of supply and power cuts.

He introduced lights made from **water-filled plastic bottles** and skylights fitted into rooftops to utilize natural light and reduce both unnecessary use of electricity and CO2 emissions.

Sajid founded CHANGE, a **development organization** to develop skylights for poorer housing and factories on the electric grid, and solar lanterns, street lights and micro-solar irrigation pumps for off-grid areas.

Learn more about Sajid's project

©Sajid Iqbal

> **Nothing is impossible** if one is dedicated, passionate and persistent. At first you have to believe in your own ideas and work till they materialize. Challenges would try their best to throw you off, but the key is **not to give up.**

1 NO POVERTY

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

EMPOWER

Mariam Shaar

Refugee Women's Catering Pioneer

Lebanon

SOUFRA: FOOD FROM THE HEART

> "Whenever we feel there is a new opportunity, the team gets really excited. **We feel more alive.**

Mariam has lived all her life in the Bourj el-Barajneh camp on the outskirts of Beirut.

Life is hard for the 50,000 refugees living in a one-square-kilometer area. It is hard to find work, and most women spend **all day at home.**

One day in 2016, Mariam asked her women friends what they wanted to do to help their families. All agreed that **cooking would be best,** so Mariam set up Soufra, where the women cook dishes from their **respective cultures;** Palestinian, Syrian and other regions of the Middle East, and sell the delicious food they create.

The women's dream was to sell outside the camp too, and **be accepted** by the wider society. After long struggles, they succeeded in buying a truck to sell food at lunchtimes in busy areas of Beirut. Mariam's single-minded determination has kept them going.

Find out more about Soufra

> "We are becoming a **symbol of hope** to others.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

EMPOWER

Jomber Chota Inuma

Indigenous Reforestation Expert

Brazil

> After many years, I was able to regenerate about 70% of the trees. This proves that **regeneration is possible** even in other areas where the environment has been destroyed.

REBUILDING THE FOREST

Jomber was born in Peru, in a remote area in the Amazon Basin. He learned the importance of only taking from the forest what was **needed to survive.**

He taught about trees and forest soils at a local college, then moved to Brazil for his PhD.

He encountered Buddhist philosophy with its belief in the power of a single individual to **spark positive change,** and began volunteering at the Soka Institute for Environmental Studies and Research of the Amazon outside Manaus City.

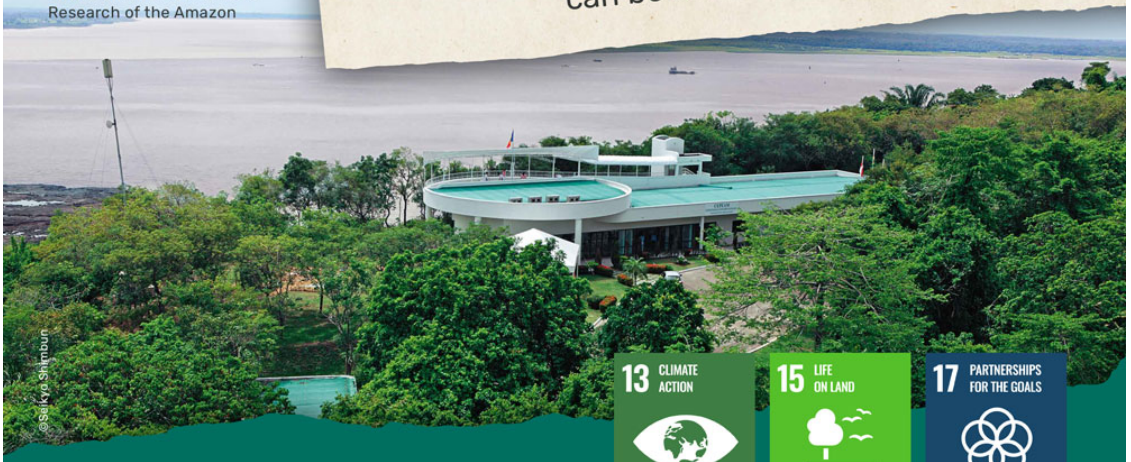
The trees around the center had been cut, so Jomber led the collecting of **native species** from various places in the Amazon, and planted about **20,000 trees** on the site.

Now he leads the Soka Institute's program of seed collection and seedling production, and 4,000 trees have been planted in Manaus. **Each tree contributes to the fight against climate change.**

Find out about the Soka Institute's work

> Without the forest, however deep **indigenous wisdom** may be, there can be no harmony with nature.

The Soka Institute for Environmental Studies and Research of the Amazon



©Sakya Shimbun

13 CLIMATE ACTION

15 LIFE ON LAND

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

EMPOWER

What can we do for each other and our planet?

©New Africa/Adobe Stock

EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT

We each have our **own unique ideas** and solutions that can transform a whole society starting from ourselves, our family and friends.

> You may never know what results come from your action. But if you **do nothing,** there will be no result.
>
> *Mahatma Gandhi*

EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN PATH AND PURPOSE IN LIFE

We can live **true to ourselves** rather than comparing ourselves to others.

EVERYONE IS A LEADER

We all possess **hidden reserves** of wisdom, courage and hope.

We **can** make a difference!
It starts with a dream,
a thought, an idea,
a conversation…

YOUTH ACTION

BOYAN SLAT

YOUNG DUTCH INVENTOR

When Boyan was 16 years old, he went scuba diving in Greece and was surprised to see more plastic than fish.

He founded The Ocean Cleanup with just 300 euros of his savings, and now its innovative techniques aim to clean up 50% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch every five years with a full fleet of systems and intercept 80% of the plastic that now enters the world's oceans from rivers by 2025.

©The Ocean Cleanup

> Why don't **we just clean it up?**
>
> *Boyan Slat*

©The Ocean Cleanup

There are many ways we can begin...

©Tawan/Adobe Stock

CHOOSE WISELY

- Eat locally produced food and more vegetables
- Recycle, repair and reuse more
- Avoid single-use plastics
- Reduce electricity use
- Walk or bicycle more

DAY-TO-DAY INTERACTIONS

- Treasure the person in front of you
- Express gratitude
- Help others and listen to their stories
- Ask younger people what they want
- Heal rifts and conflict

LEARN & GET INVOLVED

- Read up on climate change
- Check out the companies you buy from
- Discover what you feel passionately about
- Get involved locally
- Register to vote

> Humans are very adaptable: **we can still fix this.** But the opportunity to do so will not last for long. We must **start today.** We have no more excuses.
>
> ***Greta Thunberg***

©Cia Pak/UN Photo

YOUTH ACTION

GRETA THUNBERG

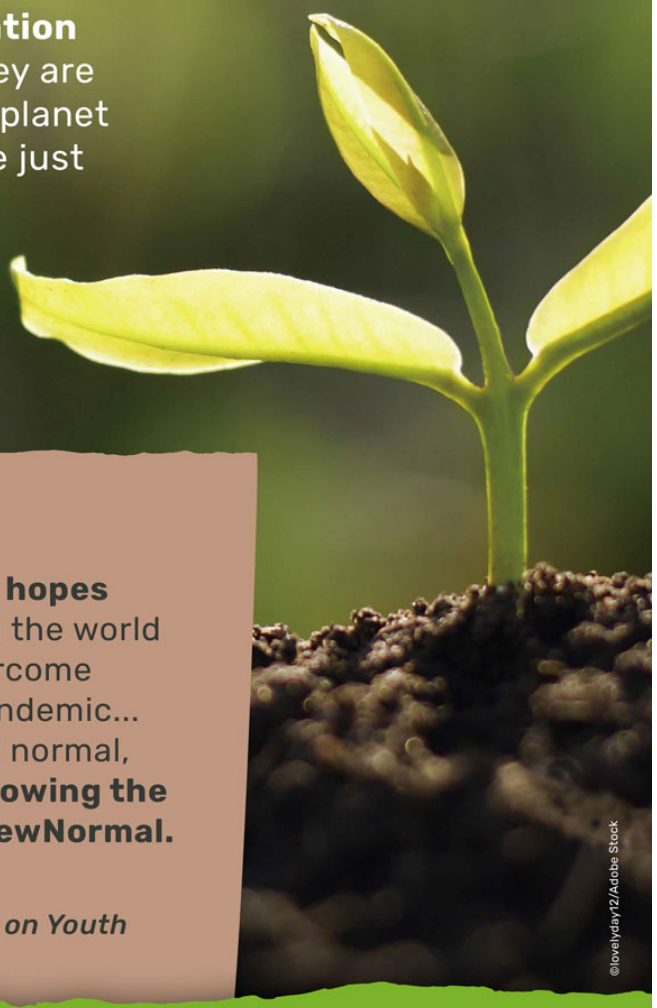
SWEDISH CLIMATE ACTIVIST

In August 2018, aged 15, Greta began a solo school strike for the climate outside the Swedish Parliament. Her activism has inspired millions of people globally and helped raise the profile of the climate emergency. Having Asperger syndrome, Greta "only speaks when necessary" and her passionate words have great power.

©vivalapenter/Adobe Stock

The Role of Youth

Youth can envision a better world and have the **hope, energy** and **determination** needed to create it. They are **connected** across the planet and **demanding** a more just and sustainable future.



©lovelyday12/Adobe Stock

> Young people's **solidarity, hopes and strength** are showing the world how, together, we can overcome anything; even a global pandemic... If this resilience is the new normal, then **young people are showing the world how to #LeadTheNewNormal.**
>
> *Jayathma Wickramanayake*
> *UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth*

> I'm starting a conversation in my community that will affect the rest of the world. **My age does not mean my views on the world are not valid.**
>
> *Yola Mgogwana*

©fgeoffroy/Adobe Stock

YOUTH ACTION

YOLA MGOGWANA

SOUTH AFRICAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

At 13 years old, Yola Mgogwana from Khayelitsha township in Cape Town began speaking out against climate injustice.

Pollution is a pervasive issue, and drought has affected daily life. Yola began to call out for change, and led a march with 2,000 young people to Parliament in Cape Town in March 2019.

©Beautiful News South Africa

Tree of Ideas

Please scan here to share your feedback and ideas for action

I will...

ACT & LEAD

It starts with one, **here and now!**

The SGI and the Earth Charter International have created the Mapting app so young people can "**snap and map**" their individual actions to help implement the SDGs.

Winning photo in 2019 Mapting photo competition on climate change, SDG 13, by Catalina Gómez Vives from Costa Rica. Young people in the Pacuare Reserve engage in conservation efforts for the leatherback sea turtle and study the effects of climate change.

Mapting: **Free app**

for learning about the SDGs and **promoting action** to implement them through photo and video sharing.

Mapting
SNAP & MAP SDG ACTS

#1

Download and sign-in

iOS Android

#2

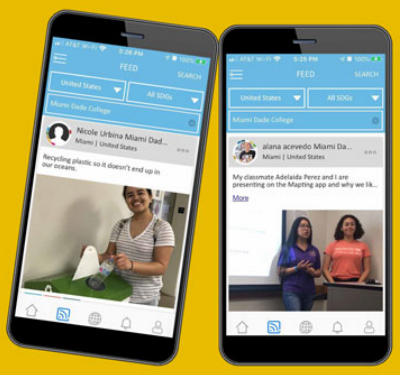
Find **an action** promoting the SDGs around you and choose which SDG it relates to

#3

Click on an SDG logo and **upload** your photo or video

#4

Learn about the **Earth Charter principle** related to that SDG



ACT & LEAD

About This Exhibition

The "Seeds of Hope & Action" exhibition was created by the **Soka Gakkai International** (SGI) in partnership with the **Earth Charter International** (ECI) as a resource **promoting SDG Target 4.7** that covers **education for sustainable development** (ESD), human rights, gender equality, a **culture of peace** and **global citizenship.**

Learn about UNESCO's ESD for 2030 project

Members of SGI Canada engaged in tree planting

©SGI-Canada

The Soka Gakkai International (SGI)

View the Soka Gakkai website here

The Soka Gakkai is a socially engaged Buddhist organization with over 12 million members around the world. Its Buddhist philosophy teaches **interconnectedness** and the inseparability of life and its environment.

The Soka Gakkai and the SGI engage in activities to promote peace, culture and education centered on respect for the dignity of life. The SGI has been accredited as an NGO in consultative status with the UN ECOSOC since 1983.

The "**Learn, Reflect, Empower, Lead**" formula was introduced by SGI President Daisaku Ikeda in his proposals on education for sustainable development.

The concept of **human revolution,** whereby a positive change within the life of a single individual can spark a process of global change, is central to the Soka Gakkai's philosophy.

The Earth Charter International (ECI)

View the Earth Charter website here

The **Earth Charter** is a declaration of values and principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society. It was launched in 2000 and has been **endorsed by UNESCO,** several national and local governments, numerous conservation organizations, educational institutions, faith groups, businesses and individuals.

The ECI is a **diverse, global movement** comprised of organizations and individuals that have embraced the **vision of sustainability** that the Earth Charter articulates.

A course at the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainability at UPEACE, San José, Costa Rica

©Earth Charter International

SGI

Earth Charter INTERNATIONAL

LEARN | REFLECT | EMPOWER | ACT & LEAD