Earth Charter INTERNATIONAL

UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter

unesco Chair

Youth in Action: Stories of Impact with the Earth Charter

November 2026



Earth Charter Youth Programme

Young people are powerful agents of change. ECI inspires and equips them to lead the transition to sustainability, with the Earth Charter as their ethical guide. Through the Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics course, they expand their planetary consciousness and turn values into action: restoring reefs, opening school clubs, founding campus chapters, and leading community dialogues. Alumni continue the journey in the Earth Charter Young Leaders Programme, a global network active across every region.

1.1K *Alumni*



Earth Charter Young Leader

EC Educator

Victor Ayegba Mathew

Nigeria



Victor teaches through storytelling, mentorship, and hands-on projects, and he trusts children and youth to use them well.

As an Earth Charter Young Leader and Certified Earth Charter Educator, he wove the principles of the Earth Charter into his teaching. He founded the Vikipedia Initiative and opened Earthstorytelling Clubs in schools across Nigeria.

Today 4,853 students, nearly half of them girls, create eco-projects rooted in the values of the Earth Charter, from climate action to peacebuilding. For Victor, this is how the Earth Charter stays "a living document."



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Love and responsibility

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Share knowledge

Earth Charter Young Leader

La'eeqa Martin

South Africa



La'eeqa is an advocate for youth and sustainable development. She sees climate change as a systemic, daily reality for many communities, and she trusts young Africans to lead the response.

After taking the Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics course, that conviction found roots in the Earth Charter. She returned as co-facilitator in 2021, served as African Regional Coordinator, then carried those lessons into leadership programmes where young people across Africa built community projects of their own.

Today, at African Climate Alliance, she creates climate justice education, elevates the voices of African youth through storytelling, and plants forests seedling by seedling. In her words, the roots of the Earth Charter "have been allowed to bloom" in her work.



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Prevent ecological harm

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Justice across generations

Earth Charter Young Leader

Brigitta Gunawan

Indonesia



Brigitta is an ocean-climate advocate and scientific scuba diver, trained in ecology and conservation biology.

A scholarship brought her to the Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics course. As founder of 30x30 Indonesia and Diverseas, she works alongside diving communities to restore coral reefs.

Through immersive media, education, and policy advocacy, she has engaged more than 22,000 people with the living ocean. A National Geographic Young Explorer and UNDP Generation17 Young Leader, she serves on the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

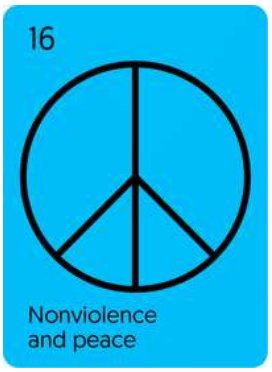












Greshma Pious Raju

Earth Charter Young Leader

India

Greshma is a climate and peace educator from Kerala. An internship with Earth Charter International in Costa Rica reshaped her understanding of sustainability.

After taking the Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics course, she founded Ecopeace Teen Cafe in 2021, amid the isolation of the pandemic. Guided by the four pillars of the Earth Charter, these online dialogues invite teenagers to share fears and hopes, listen with compassion, and care for nature across cultures.

More than 500 young people from four continents have joined. They carry that connection home through nature walks, cleanups, and projects of their own. Working alongside them has deepened her hope in small actions.



Earth Charter Young Leader

Leonardo Amorim

Brazil



Leonardo is a leader from the Northeast of Brazil, working where education, culture, and entrepreneurship meet.

After completing the Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics course in 2023, he moderated panels on Education for Sustainable Development and began connecting the principles of the Earth Charter with the initiatives he leads.

Today he manages innovation projects in health as a PMO and designs educational learning experiences that have reached more than 14,000 students across Brazil, always with racial justice at the core. His conviction: “access and representation can change entire communities.”







Earth Charter Young Leader

Ann Cathrin Nachtwey

Germany

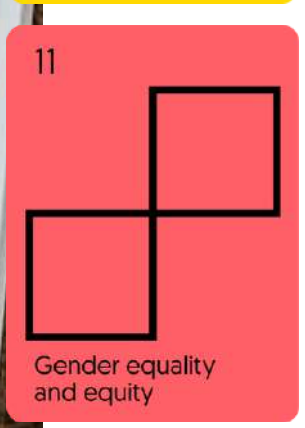


Ann Cathrin first met the Earth Charter as a first-year assignment at Windesheim Honours College. The reading moved her deeply, and she set out to share that compass with her whole college.

She became one of the pioneers of a partnership with Earth Charter International. Today Windesheim holds the Earth Charter as a guiding compass, woven into curriculum, faculty training, and student projects. Lecturers train as Earth Charter educators, and students take the Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics course.



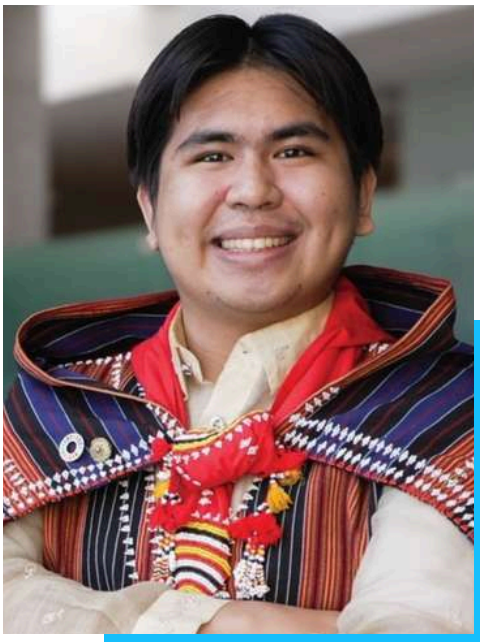




Earth Charter Young Leader

Qjiel Mikhl Mariano

The Philippines

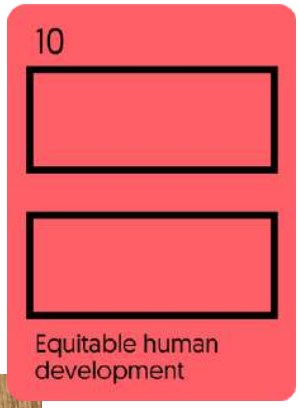


Qjiel is a Bridging Leader who identifies strongly with the Ibanag, the “River People,” and the Gaddang of Cagayan Valley in the Philippines.

After completing the Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics course, he found a calling: bringing Indigenous Knowledge, Systems, and Practices into his local communities. He shared that experience as a speaker at the 14th Global RCE Conference in Okayama, Japan.

Today he mentors youth, translates plastic pollution science for the public, and joins Indigenous perspectives with environmental health policy. Named one of Canada’s 25 Environmentalists Under 25 in 2024, he advocates a rights-based approach to planetary wellness.







Earth Charter Young Leader

Ethan Sacks

United States



Ethan is a Social Entrepreneurship student from Brooklyn, New York, and a board member of ENACTUS at Flagler College. He enjoys creating solutions for community and environmental challenges.

While taking the Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics course, he became a co-creator of the college's first Earth Charter Campus Chapter, alongside fellow student Cameron Groome and Dr. Paula Seymour. Together they studied the four pillars of the Earth Charter and designed the chapter's governance and working groups.

In April 2026, Ethan and Cameron presented the proposal to the Student Government Association, which approved the chapter.



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Sustainable lifestyles

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Integrate values into education

Earth Charter Young Leader

EC Educator

Raquel Sagot

Costa Rica



Raquel is a community climate activist and co-founder of Fundación Orgánica, with a Master's in Sustainable Development from the University of Costa Rica.

As an Earth Charter Young Leader and Educator, she found what she calls "the ethical foundations for community climate action." With them she travels the country, working alongside youth and rural women.

Today Fundación Orgánica brings knowledge to the territories together with rural women, migrants, entrepreneurs, and Indigenous women of all ages. A member of the Escazú Alliance, Raquel now looks toward welcoming more young people across Central America into the Earth Charter Youth network.





