

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

Educating for Sustainable Living with the Earth Charter

Expected date of initiation: 1 September 2002

Expected date of completion: 1 September 2004

Partners Involved:

Governments:

Costa Rica

Honduras

Mexico

Niger

Intergovernmental organizations:

UNESCO

Major groups:

Other:

Association for Sustainable Human Development – Armenia

Consejo Nacional para el Desarrollo Sostenible, CONADES - Honduras

Consejo Consultivo para el Desarrollo Sostenible - Mexico

Global Environmental Action, Japan

Green Cross Romania

Green Cross International

ICLEI International

Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development, Jordan

LEAD International – Leadership for Environment and Development

LIDEMA – Bolivia

My Acre of Africa, South Africa

Paulo Freire Institute – Brazil

RAED – Arab Network for Environment and Development

Secretariat of Education city of Cuiaba, Mato Grosso, Brazil

Soka Gakkai International

Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, Canada

Union of Municipal Educational Leaders of the State of Mato Grosso

Humane Society of United States

Leading Partner:

Name of the contact person/focal point:

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Please provide a brief description:

General goal

“To provide education and training for local leaders and communities regarding the fundamental principles of sustainable development, and how to incorporate these principles into decision making processes. The Earth Charter will be employed as the primary educational instrument in this process. Toward this end the Earth Charter will be integrated into professional training and community development programs as a guiding framework for implementing sustainable development.”

Specific objectives

- **Train community development leaders in utilising the Earth Charter as an educational tool for educational reform towards a more just, sustainable and peaceful world;**
- **Integrate the Earth Charter into the curriculum of selected organizations of global and regional reach;**
- **Develop in partnership with significant international educational organizations new curricular and educational materials that use the Earth Charter as the framework for understanding and promoting sustainable development.**

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

The Earth Charter sets forth a global ethics involving the fundamental values and principles governing sustainable ways of living. It builds upon and extends the ethical vision in the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 and includes the fundamental values and principles articulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

Agenda 21 Chapter 36 focuses on the importance of education for promoting sustainable development. Chapter 36.3 states:

“Education, including formal education, public awareness and training should be recognized as a process by which human beings and societies can reach their fullest potential. Education is critical for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of the people to address environment and development issues... Both formal and non-formal education, are indispensable to changing people's attitudes so that they have the capacity to assess and address their sustainable development concerns. It is also critical for achieving environmental and ethical awareness, values and attitudes, skills and behaviour consistent with sustainable development and for effective public participation in decision-making. To be effective, environment and development education should deal with the dynamics of both the physical/biological and socio-economic environment and human (which may include spiritual) development, should be integrated in all disciplines, and should employ formal and non-formal methods and effective means of communication.”

Education is the key to assisting people in the difficult tasks of re-examining their values,

creating guidelines for encouraging the adoption of more sustainable practices by individuals, organizations and governments, and generating the individual motivation and political will to make the shift to sustainable development occur.

Expected results:

Please provide a brief description:

A significant group of local authorities and communities in the partner countries (Armenia, Romania, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Honduras, Niger, Jordan) will have undertaken a training programme on integrating sustainability principles into the decision-making process; Production and distribution of essential background resources and toolkits for the educational uses of the Earth Charter; Systematic documentation of local authority and community experiences as case studies to inform a future phase activities in other countries.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

Develop Educational Materials by LEAD International (tailored to leaders in the non formal education) and Paulo Freire Institute (to local communities).

In parallel, adapt educational material according to local circumstances, by each local group;

Engage staff of local authorities and community leaders and educators; initiate a training process of educators, local authorities and community leaders in Armenia, Romania, Jordan, Niger, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Honduras.

Paulo Freire Institute - The main outcomes of this project will be further incorporation of the Earth Charter within the IPF curriculum and enhanced multi-lingual documentation of these curricula for communication with an international community of educators.

Specifically, the IPF will:

Elaborate a booklet on the pedagogy of sustainability. The booklet will serve to guide educators in the integration of the Earth Charter into curriculum;

Develop manual for educators aimed at involving youth and local communities in sustainability and a culture of peace by way of the values and principles of the Earth Charter;

Organize workshop and training for community educators engaged in promoting a global citizenship consciousness.

LEAD International - The LEAD/Earth Charter Initiative project will:

- Design an adult-education workshop that aims to build capacity in multi-sectoral groups at the local level for ethical decision-making for sustainability. This workshop will help participants define ethics and values, explore how to use ethics in decision-making to promote sustainable development, use the Earth Charter as a framework to discuss and understand ethical elements of sustainable development, look at different decision-making approaches (e.g. normative versus extrapolative and back-casting versus forecasting), and build skills to engage others in discussions about ethics;

- ❑ Train a group of LEAD trainers to run the workshop and to adapt the materials to their own local cultural contexts; and
- ❑ Test the workshop in different regions and localities and develop a set of case studies that can be shared with other interested educators;
- ❑ The final products will be a tested and adapted continuing professional development workshop on “Ethical Decision-making for Sustainability” based on the Earth Charter; and a trainers’ guide, participant workbook, and workshop materials; and qualified trainers in 14 LEAD Member Program countries and regions.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

Implementation and coordination will be the responsibility of the Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat. The Secretariat is currently based at the campus of the University for Peace, Costa Rica.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

Funding will be obtained from a diversity of sources, in particular:

In-kind contributions from partners organizations;
Participating national governments; and
Philanthropic foundations.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

The central goal of this initiative is aimed at capacity building of human resources through targeted education and training programs.

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

Please provide a brief description

This initiative links with existing education programs and projects of the participating partner organizations. Many of these existing educational activities are of regional and global reach and are aimed at promoting education and training for sustainable development.

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:
(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)

- ❑ **An international committee of education experts has been established to help provide advise on the projects' development and implementation;**
- ❑ **The education projects progress will be reported regularly via the Earth Charter Bulletin which is delivered electronically on the internet;**
- ❑ **A series of regional workshops and a global conference will be conducted to review progress and consolidate outcomes.**
- ❑ **A data base of best practices in education, public awareness and training will be made available through unesco and its partners**

Other relevant information:

Earth Charter Initiative: www.earthcharter.org

Web-site (if available):

Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:

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