It starts with one

Seeds of Hope

Visions of sustainability, steps toward change

© ROSA GAUDITANO/UNEP/SPECIALIST STOCK

Yanomami boy and humming bird

JAANA LAITINEN

Earth Charter workshop, Costa Rica

"See the world as your body, **Love the world** as your own self, And you can be trusted to care for all things."

Lao-tzu

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

SIAU ISLAND TARSIER

The Siau Island Tarsier is a newly discovered species that faces an imminent threat of extinction. It is found only on one volcanic island in Sulawesi, Indonesia. It was discovered by Dr. Myron

PHOTO: ©GEOFF DEEHAN

In support of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

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

COLIN ANDERSON/GETTY IMAGES

INSPIRE

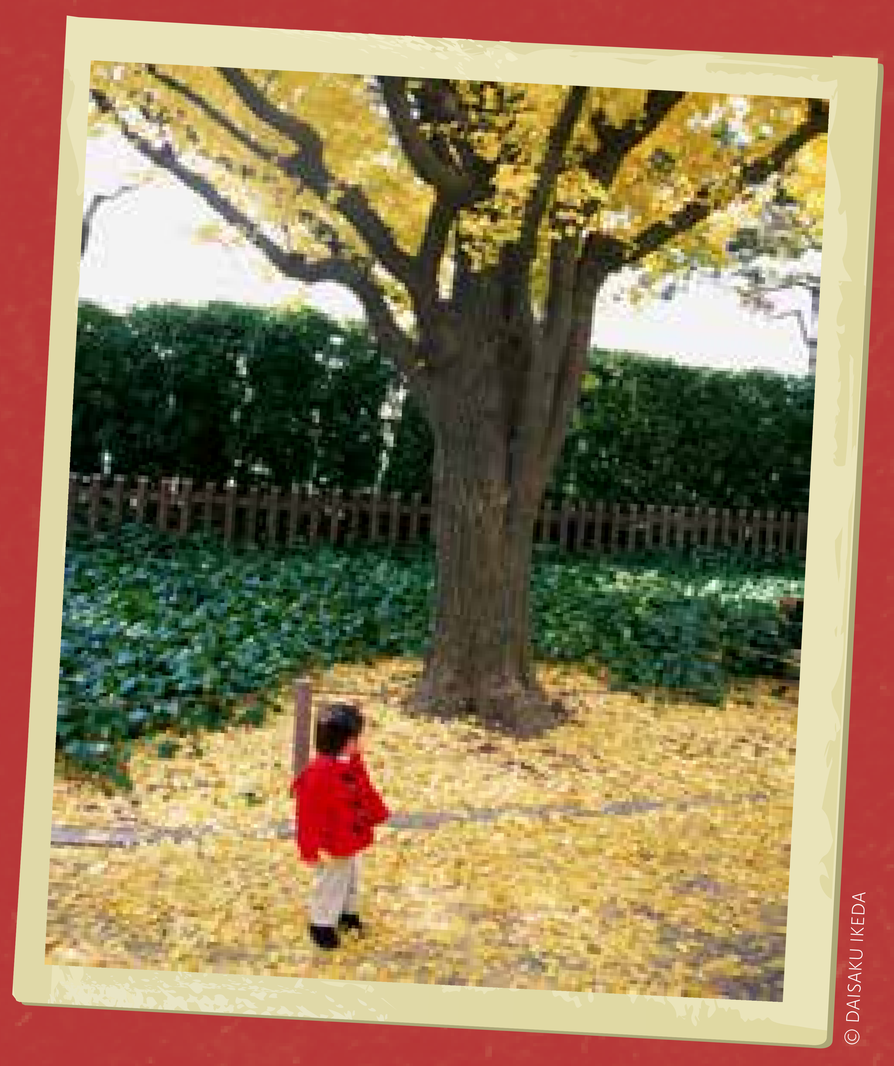
A **profound** awareness of our **interconnectedness** with each other, with our fellow inhabitants of Earth and the natural world, is found in every tradition of human wisdom.

Endangered green sea turtle being cleaned by fish

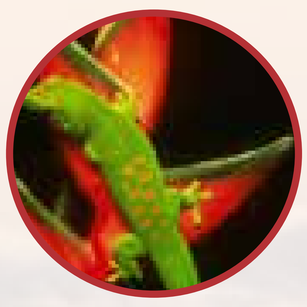
© SPECIALIST STOCK

"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 is found in the dust of the earth in numberless blades of grass and breaks into tumultuous waves of leaves and flowers."

Rabindranath Tagore



© DAISAKU IKEDA



UNUSUAL ANIMALS

DAY GECKO

Day Geckos have flattened toe pads covered with scales whose surface is made up of long hair-like structures called setae. Because of these, day geckos can climb up glass walls and across ceilings, making them great escape artists.

PHOTO: © WILDLIFE/GIUSTINA/SPECIALIST STOCK

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

Albert Einstein

© MICHAEL J. DOOLITTLE/PETER ARNOLD/SPECIALIST STOCK

Interlinked Issues

"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...**

© PETER CADE/GETTY IMAGES

"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

"On the one hand I must attempt to **change the soul** of individuals so that their societies may be changed. On the other I must attempt to **change the societies** so that the individual soul will have a change."

Martin Luther King Jr.

© CHRISTIAN ALS/BERLINGSKE/PANOS

Migrant workers beside a construction site for luxury homes. Mumbai, India

UNUSUAL ANIMALS

BLACK SWALLOWER

The Black Swallower is a deep-sea fish which has a huge stomach and can capture and swallow fish that are bigger than itself.

PHOTO: MAR-ECO/RICHARD YOUNG

L E A R N

Powerlessness

In the face of overwhelming problems and growing

complexity

it is tempting to feel powerless. It seems that decisions are made somewhere beyond our reach.

"The problem is – I already feel **overwhelmed**. I feel completely and utterly powerless..."

Joe Litobarski, blogger, Italy

JOEL SARTORE/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/GETTY IMAGES

DIMITRI VERVITSIOTIS/GETTY IMAGES

What can **one person** achieve?

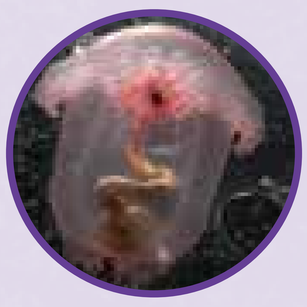
I feel so **small**... It's too **complicated.** Where do I begin? I'm **too busy**...

"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

© MUNEM WASIF/SPECIALIST STOCK

A woman bewails the destruction of her slum home, Dhaka, Bangladesh



UNUSUAL ANIMALS

SEA CUCUMBER

The Enypniastes deep-sea sea cucumber swims gracefully at about 2cm per minute while sweeping detritus-rich sediment into its mouth.

PHOTO: LARRY MADIN, WHOI

What we need is a change of heart.

"I think we are challenged as mankind has never been challenged before to **prove our maturity** and our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves."

Rachel Carson

R E F L E C T

Changing Our Hearts

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

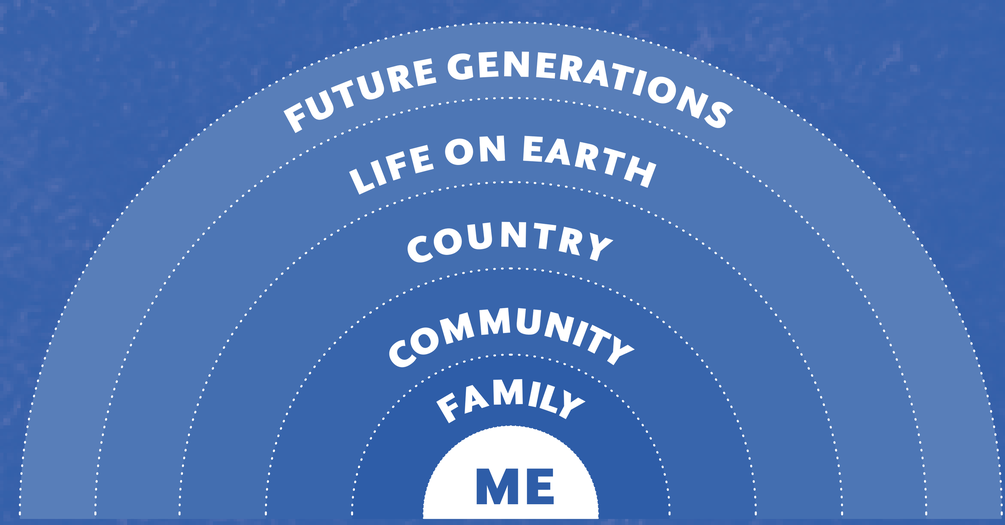
desertification of the human spirit.

We can make a difference by reining in our desires, and developing the empathy to feel the pain of others as our own.

Sossusvlei, Namibia

© BIOSPHOTO/COURTEAU CHRISTOPHE/SPECIALIST STOCK

We can open our hearts and expand our circles of compassion to care and take action for the sake of:



> “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the **present** without compromising the ability of **future generations** to meet their own needs.”
>
> **Brundtland Commission report**
> ***Our Common Future*, 1987**

The future of life may depend on the **largeness of our**

embrace

Abu Minqar, Egypt’s Western Desert

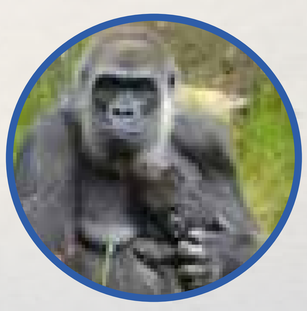
JASON LARKIN/PANOS PICTURES

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

WESTERN LOWLAND GORILLA

The Western Lowland Gorilla of central Africa stands 1.8m tall and weighs about 200kg. It eats bamboo and insects, is quiet and shy but very strong.

PHOTO: © LINKE/BLICKWINKEL/SPECIALIST STOCK



REFLECT

The Earth Charter

“We must realize that when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about **being more, not having more.**”

The Earth Charter

OJO IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

The Earth Charter offers a set of values and principles for a just, sustainable and peaceful future. It provides a blueprint for a sustainable world.

At the end of the 20th century, a movement began to create a new **vision of interconnectedness,** an “Earth Charter,” which was created through a decade-long process of dialogue involving people in all regions of the globe. It was launched in 2000.

Building on the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Earth Charter broadens the context to consider our responsibility toward the whole community of life and future generations.

It recognizes that sustainability involves developing all aspects of our lives and human society – the social, economic, cultural, ecological, spiritual and political.

“The Earth Charter shifts us from viewing nature simply as a resource for human use to nature as **a source of life;** from seeing Earth as a commodity to Earth as a community of life.”

Mary Evelyn Tucker

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

LEAFY SEA DRAGON

The Leafy Sea Dragon is a kind of seahorse found only in Australia. It is around 20cm long and eats plankton. It uses the fins around its head to move.

PHOTO: © BIOSPHOTO/BRANDON/SPECIALIST STOCK

R E F L E C T

The Power of One

“It starts with **one**

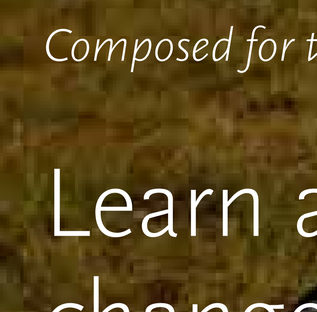
JUSTIN JIN/PANOS PICTURES

Rupert Isaacson with his autistic son, Rowan, visiting Mongolia to see if contact with horses and shamanistic healing could help his development

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.**”

Composed for the 10th anniversary of the Earth Charter in 2010.

Learn about individuals who started a process of change that transformed their world, and discover the relevant principles of the Earth Charter.



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.

PHOTO: © WILDLIFE/USHER/SPECIALIST STOCK

“There are enormously thought-provoking words in this document... Allow yourself to abandon apathy and **be moved to action!**”

Wangari Maathai

R E F L E C T

Listening to Mother Earth

DANNY SZE

Nick Illauq, deputy mayor of Clyde River, Baffin Island, Canada

"We've been warning people since 1953. **Nobody heard us.** My grandmother said that was the last year she could have an igloo which stayed solid all winter long."

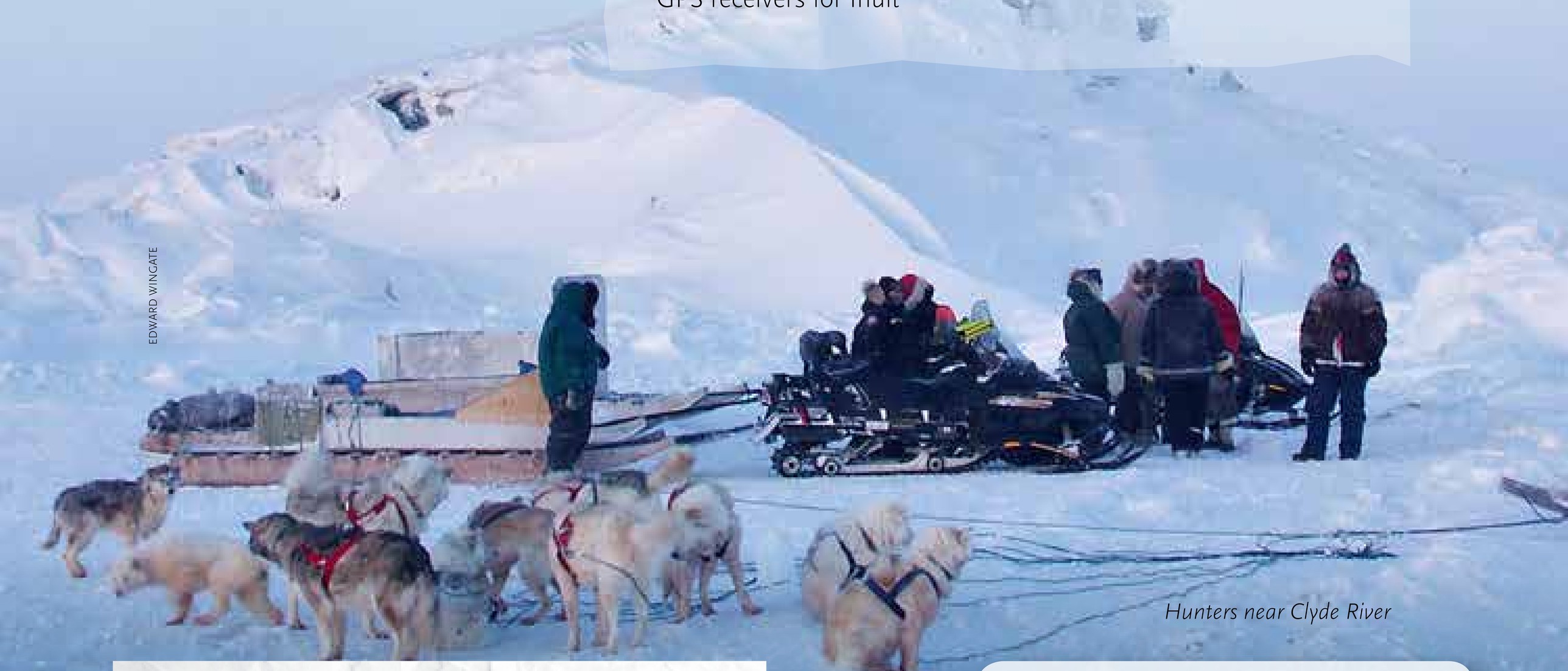
Climate change is having a serious impact on Inuit communities like ours here in the Arctic. In some places it is no longer safe to hunt because of cracks in the ice.

We have to listen to the land in order to adapt and survive. Our elders know more than anyone. Now we are **bringing together our traditional knowledge and science** to track the effects of climate change, working with universities to do coastal erosion mapping, to look at resiliency.

One project uses handheld GPS receivers for Inuit hunters. While out on the ice, they can input and share information in our language about the location of thin ice, cracks, seals, polar bears and so on. The units also record temperature, humidity and pressure.

Here in the Arctic, the animals are coming north in the summer earlier and leaving later, and sometimes it's too cold and they don't make it. Everybody's confused, the land is confused, the wildlife is confused.

It's a good time to start listening to Mother Earth.



EDWARD WINGATE

Hunters near Clyde River

Affirm the right of indigenous peoples to their spirituality, knowledge, lands and resources...

Earth Charter Principle 12b

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

NARWHAL

Narwhals are the unicorns of the sea, found only in the Arctic. They have two teeth. In males, the more prominent tooth grows into a sword-like spiral tusk up to 2.7m long.

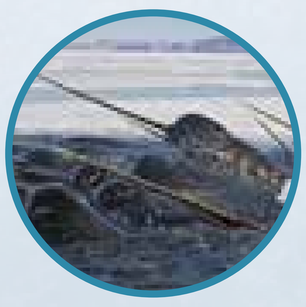


PHOTO: PAUL NICKLEN/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/ GETTY IMAGES

The **Power** of **Persistence**

Hazel Henderson, futurist, evolutionary economist

> “**Don’t give up** no matter what difficulties you face. If you consistently assert something and it is **right,** the times are **sure** to come around...”

Hazel meets US President Lyndon B. Johnson at the signing of the Clean Air Act in 1967

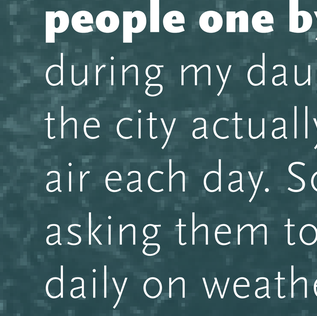
“It was New York, the 1960s. My daughter would come home with black soot on her skin, and smoke from thousands of garbage incinerators made the air smell bad. I decided that I had to act. But I was only an ordinary housewife. What could I do? I began asking other mothers if they didn’t think the air was bad.

“I was nervous at first. But **I talked to people one by one** and began writing letters during my daughter’s afternoon naps. I found the city actually measured soot particles in the air each day. So I wrote to the TV networks, asking them to broadcast air-pollution data daily on weather forecasts.

“In a few weeks, I was stunned to receive a call from an ABC-TV News vice president. One month later the New York Air Pollution Index was on the air. As we persevered, our small group, Citizens for Clean Air, helped pass several pollution control laws.”

> Guarantee the right to potable water, clean air, food security, uncontaminated soil, shelter, and safe sanitation...
>
> Earth Charter Principle 9a

SHINICHI HAKOZAKI



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.

PHOTO: © PATRICK FRISCHKNECHT/SPECIALIST STOCK

Seeds of Peace

Wangari Maathai, Earth Charter Commissioner and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

> Promote the recovery of endangered species and ecosystems.
>
> Earth Charter Principle 5c

By the mid-1970s less than 2% of Kenya's original forests were left. Biologist Wangari Maathai was concerned. Poverty and high population growth were placing severe strain on the natural environment, as poor people cut down trees for fuel and cleared forests to plant crops.

In 1977, Wangari began encouraging **rural women to plant trees** so they could improve the land through water retention and reducing soil erosion, and earn a small income for their families.

As of 2010, the Green Belt Movement which she founded had planted more than 45 million trees and helped change attitudes in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa. Women have become empowered.

What began as a small nursery in Wangari Maathai's backyard has now spread around the globe.

MARTIN ROWE

"It's very, very important for us to **take action at the local level.** Because sometimes when we think of global problems, we get disempowered. But when we take action at the local level, we are empowered."

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

EAST AFRICAN BONGO ANTELOPE

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

PHOTO: RSCF WWW.RARESPECIES.ORG

EMPOWER

Challenging **Discrimination**

Hiroki Takeda, peer educator, Tokyo

© SEIKYO SHIMBUN

> Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health and spiritual well-being...
>
> Earth Charter Principle 12

Japan is an advanced economy with one of the highest levels of education in the world. Yet the vulnerable are often subject to social exclusion.

A few years ago, Hiroki Takeda's uncle died of AIDS at the age of 34. "When I heard he had died, I shuddered. I was angry at how cold people were to him. I'm sure the stress of this discrimination shortened his life."

Hiroki was himself suffering from hemophilia, HIV and hepatitis C and came close to death. But **his friends constantly encouraged him,** and this gave him the courage to fight his illness. When new treatment became available, he made a dramatic recovery.

Now Hiroki devotes himself to supporting individuals with chronic and incurable diseases including HIV/ AIDS. He travels throughout Japan to introduce peer counseling, whereby, meeting in groups, such people can finally talk openly and relieve their isolation. Every presentation Hiroki makes is a battle to convince others of the value of this kind of human contact and communication.

> "Discrimination can cause **more pain** than the illness itself."

JIJI PRESS

Protesting the Japanese government's failure to screen blood products for HIV, which resulted in widespread infection, 1995

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

KALINGA ORNATA

The Kalinga Ornata sea slug is found in the Indian and West Pacific Oceans and lives on the muddy sea bottom. It can grow as big as 13cm in length and glows when stimulated.

PHOTO: THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN

Building a Community

Joanne Wilkes, UK

LOUISE READ

JOANNE WILKES

> “I finally feel connected to my neighbors and community—**that this is my home.**”

“I bought a house in Manchester’s Moss Side, which worried my family and friends. It has a reputation for crime and gang culture. But I believe that ‘a place is what you make it,’ and I wanted to connect to the community and change people’s image of Moss Side. So I got involved.

“I realized it wasn’t just me who felt disconnected. People are scared of, or don’t know their neighbors. I planned a street party called **‘The Good Side of Moss Side**: **Know Your Neighbors Day.’** I found out there were many children living on the street, most of whom I’d never seen.

“On the day, the children chalked messages on the road saying: ‘Friendship—say no to crime.’ There was food, music, live performances, bouncy castles, coloring competitions, craft stalls, raffles and demonstrations of Capoeira. One hundred hanging flower baskets were donated by the council, and we had support from local police, businesses and NGOs.

“The day was a great success. Around 200 people came. Everyone had fun, with no trouble. Neighbors are now talking, socializing, and the children are playing together.”

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

A street in Moss Side slated for redevelopment

> Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion and love.
>
> Earth Charter Principle 2

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

SCARLET MALACHITE BEETLE

The Scarlet Malachite Beetle is one of Britain’s rarest insects, known to inhabit only eight locations. Its flight season lasts one month, from mid-May to mid-June.

PHOTO: © ROGER KEY

Empowering Youth

with the Earth Charter

Reto Juvenil, Costa Rica

Many young people in rural areas in Costa Rica lack opportunities for learning and hope for the future. Reto Juvenil Internacional encourages youth from around the world to spend time in remote communities, exchanging skills and promoting sustainable ways of living.

As Natalie Salas of Reto Juvenil explains, "We work with the Earth Charter youth network because **we support the same values** of protecting the planet, communities and sustainable ways of living."

PO-YI LIU

> "The **beauty of the Earth Charter** is that it gives us and the Juanilamans the space to empower and **learn from each other.**"

PO-YI LIU

Po-Yi Liu from Canada got a lot from her time in Juanilama in central Costa Rica: "We did many things together: bridge construction, cleaning an ecological reserve, youth development, and, most importantly, introduced the Earth Charter. From dialogues and workshops on Earth Charter values, we learned about the economic, environmental, gender and sociocultural struggles that the Juanilaman people are currently facing."

> Honor and support the young people of our communities, enabling them to fulfill their essential role in creating sustainable societies.
>
> Earth Charter Principle 12c

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.

PHOTO: © BIOSPHOTO/MONTFORD/SPECIALIST STOCK

NITIN UPADHYE

Water Harvesting

Rajendra Singh, "rain catcher"

Villages in the drought-afflicted state of Rajasthan in India were dying. Wells were dry and crops failed repeatedly. Able-bodied villagers migrated to urban centers to look for work.

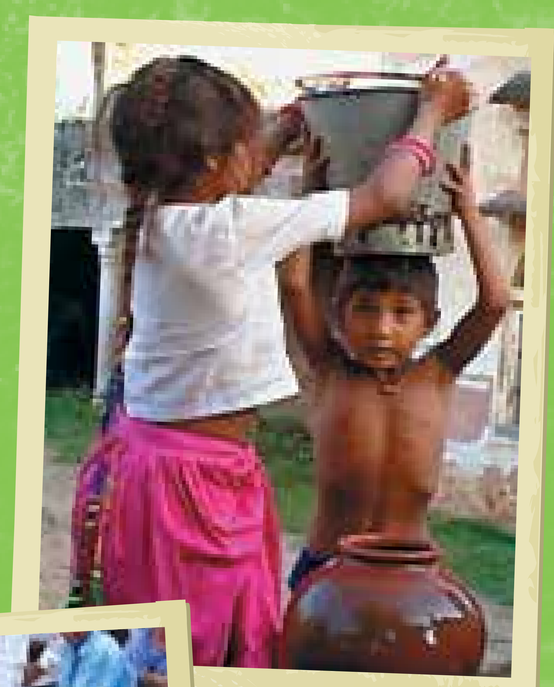
Rajendra Singh, an NGO worker, came to Rajasthan wanting to help. One day an elderly villager told him, "We don't necessarily want what you want to give us. What we need is water. Stop your talk and build *johads!*"

> **"Stop your talk** and build johads!"

Johads are **small earthen dams,** part of a traditional store of wisdom on resource conservation that had been all but lost. These dams capture rainwater runoff, allowing it to percolate into the ground and replenish the water table.

Rajendra toiled with a shovel for six months to build a johad near the village. After the monsoon rains, wells that had been dry for years now had water in them. Word spread quickly and soon people in nearby villages were organizing themselves to choose sites for new johads.

The once barren landscape is **green with vegetation,** even during droughts. School attendance has increased dramatically and many young migrants have begun returning to their villages.



> Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.
>
> Earth Charter Principle 5

A johad keeps rainwater in the village and replenishes aquifers

NITIN UPADHYE

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.

PHOTO: SACHA PETER

Sowing **reconciliation**

AFSC SARAJEVO

Community Gardens in Bosnia-Herzegovina

AFSC SARAJEVO

Davorin Brdanovic

Davorin Brdanovic is director of the Community Gardens Association in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There he plants the **seeds of cooperation** that help people come together to heal the wounds of the Bosnian War which devastated and divided the region in the early 1990s.

During the siege of Sarajevo from 1992 to 1996, the city ran out of virtually everything. Davorin learned how to scrounge food from the earth and began to appreciate gardening. The NGO American Friends Service Committee provided support to start the first community gardens.

"In 1999, we decided to establish a garden in the regions where there was the biggest confrontation between ethnicities. Here, in this neighborhood, was the front line of the confrontation between Serbs and Muslims in Sarajevo.

"If you give people something concrete to do—like produce food—they will come. If you say, come and be reconciled, they won't come. Here, they harvest vegetables, and **they also harvest friendship."**

"When these people come to the garden for the first time, they say proudly, 'I'm a Serb' or 'I am a Croat' or 'I am a Muslim,' and they stay in their separate groups. **But after 8-10 days, they become gardeners.**"

ATSUKO OTSUKA

A Muslim man shares his cucumbers with Serbian fellow gardeners

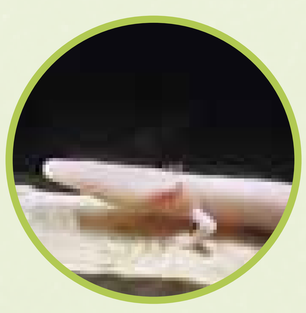
Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence and peace.
Earth Charter Principle 16

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

OLM

The Olm is a blind amphibian endemic to the subterranean waters of caves in southern Europe. Its senses of smell and hearing are acutely developed. It lacks any pigmentation in its skin. It eats, sleeps, and breeds underwater.

PHOTO: © BIOSPHOTO/HEUCLIN DANIEL/SPECIALIST STOCK



About this exhibition

Soka Gakkai International

SGM

SGI members in Malaysia engage in a clean-up activity

Soka Gakkai International (SGI) is a socially engaged Buddhist network which promotes peace, culture and education, with over 12 million members around the world.

The "Seeds of Hope" exhibition was created by SGI in partnership with the Earth Charter International as a resource for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-14). The **"Learn, Reflect, Empower"** formula used in this exhibition was introduced by SGI President Daisaku Ikeda in a proposal on education for sustainable development for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

SGI's activities in the field of sustainability are underpinned by its Buddhist philosophy which stresses interconnectedness and the inseparability of life and its environment.

SGI-Brazil's **Amazon Ecological Conservation Center** is engaged in reforestation, environmental education, protection of endangered species and creating a seed bank for Amazonian trees.

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 SGI's philosophy of empowerment and social contribution.

www.sgi.org

Learning about reforestation at the Amazon Ecological Conservation Center

"A great human revolution in just a single individual will help achieve a change in the destiny of a nation and, further, will enable a change in the destiny of all **humankind.**"

© SEIKYO SHIMBUN

Daisaku Ikeda
SGI President

The Earth Charter International

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 now been endorsed by UNESCO, several national and local governments, numerous conservation organizations, faith groups, businesses and individuals.

The Earth Charter Initiative is a network of individuals and groups actively promoting the Earth Charter in more than 70 countries.

www.earthcharterinaction.org

ROB HENDRY

At an Earth Charter Community Summit, Washington DC

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. Tamarin young are usually twins.

PHOTO: ANUP SHAH/GETTY IMAGES

Design by www.paradigm.co.jp