



We Mercies

Care for Creation

As you take the next step, remember the traditional custodians of the land

*Have you read
the Earth
Charter?*

*Some snippets
on this page.*

*For full text
www.earthcharterinaction*

*For our age to
have become
conscious of
evolution means
...we have
become alive
to a new
dimension.*

*Teilhard de
Chardin*

November
2012

Originally proposed by the Secretary General of the United Nations, and developed by the Earth Charter Commission set up by Canadian Maurice Strong and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the charter reflects a global consensus on values and principles for a sustainable future.

PREAMBLE

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, 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.

PRINCIPLES

1. Respect and Care for the Community of Life
2. Ecological Integrity
3. Social and Economic Justice
4. Democracy, Nonviolence, and Peace.

THE WAY FORWARD

As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning. Such renewal is the promise of these Earth Charter principles. To fulfill this promise, we must commit ourselves to adopt and promote the values and objectives of the Charter.

This requires a change of mind and heart. It requires a new sense of global interdependence and universal responsibility. We must imaginatively develop and apply the vision of a sustainable way of life locally, nationally, regionally, and globally. Our cultural diversity is a precious heritage and different cultures will find their own distinctive ways to realize the vision. We must deepen and expand the global dialogue that generated the Earth Charter, for we have much to learn from the ongoing collaborative search for truth and wisdom.

The Jesuit magazine *Human Development* Volume 33: Number One: Spring 2012 has as its focus **Earth Consciousness**. It covers topics relating to Eco-Christology, Ecopsychology, and Interconnections. To whet your curiosity, here are some bits and pieces from various articles.

- ❖ By 2050 the Arctic Ocean could be ice free in summer and one million species worldwide could be driven to extinction.
- ❖ The human person is integrally part of evolution in that we rise from the process, but in reflecting on the process we stand apart from it.
- ❖ The patterns of control, denial and projection that sabotage healthy human relationships are the same patterns that endanger the world.
- ❖ Imagination plus creativity plus modelling equal the power to create revolutionary movements needed for making ecological progress.
- ❖ Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.
- ❖ The human drama, centred upon the death and resurrection of Jesus, affects and is profoundly affected by its physical component and all its palpable surroundings. Francis of Assisi recognized this instinctively.
- ❖ Raising animals for food generates more greenhouse gases than all the cars and the trucks in the world *combined*.



It's not easy being green!

Kermit the Frog

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