

30 March, 2012

To: UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Land for Life Award
Re: Letter of Recommendation in support of Earth Child Institute's application

Dear colleagues,

UNICEF's Education Section is pleased to support the candidacy of Earth Child Institute (ECI) for the Land for Life Award. As an international NGO committed to combating climate change and deforestation through a focus on hands-on environmental and educational projects with and for children, we believe that ECI's work helps to ensure that the rights, needs and capacities of children are recognized as key stakeholders to environmental governance, whether it be at community level through their programmes in Nepal, Ghana or Nigeria or internationally.

ECI is a collaborative partner with us on the development of participatory life skills-based educational materials and we've worked with them to organize events and activities associated with UNFCCC's COP16 and 17, UN Forum on Forests and the High Level Session on Youth. Their initiatives related to sustainable land management encourage children to become active and engaged in climate change issues related to desertification, deforestation and land degradation through the Power of One Child + One Tree = A Sustainable Future for All campaign.

We are especially pleased to recommend ECI for this opportunity because it will provide an additional opportunity for field testing thematic education modules, most notably on soil, rural energy and adaptation, for which we welcome UNCCD's involvement. This NGO is creating new and participatory solutions for community-based sustainable development that will reduce risk and increase resilience to the changing global environment. ECI's campaigns yield meaningful and verifiable results.

We hope you will give careful consideration to ECI's application for the Land for Life Award. Should you require any additional information, please feel free to contact us at shodge@unicef.org

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hodge

Programme Specialist, Education Section
UNICEF NYHQ

