Source text - English

We have greatly admired Pope Francis’ good works and teachings since his assumption to the papacy in 2013. Our offer to be of service is grounded in our deep admiration for his humility and his tireless efforts on behalf of the poor and the oppressed. His commitment to the wellbeing of planet Earth and interfaith and multicultural dialogue inspires us. We were very touched by the way the two of you reflected Pope Francis’ qualities, including social and organizational astuteness, during our very candid dialogue under the shade of a great banyan tree by the sea.

Our offer to be of service stems from Earth Train Foundation’s quarter century of dedication to youth service and leadership for a healthy world. Founded in 1991 by a group of 100 youth leaders from several countries and native nations and supported by a member of Sweden’s Nobel family and other prominent mentors, Earth Train began as a high visibility youth-calling-youth-to-action campaign, using actual trains –starting with our trans-continental train journey across the US in 1992. We helped achieve breakthroughs in global youth representation with pioneering special youth sessions in the UN General Assembly Hall and parallel youth UN summits, starting with the Youth Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro during the Earth Summit in 1992.

From 2001 to the present, Earth Train –and now our Geoversity alliance- has been focused on establishing a permanent campus for biocultural renewal and leadership and developing a global network of activists and mentors, including Jane Goodall’s Roots & Shoots initiative. Among our modest achievements to-date has been the establishment of the 4,500-hectare Mamoní Valley Preserve protecting the headwaters of a major river and the southern border of the territory of the indigenous Guna people, also a precious biological corridor. Now we look forward to unlocking the potential of our network’s legacy of hope and leadership by the humble, the young and the wise.