

Carlos Manuel Rodríguez

Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Conservation International's Regional Vice-President and Conservation Biodiversity Center Regional Director for Mexico and Central America. He recently served as Minister of the Environment of Costa Rica, where he built on Costa Rica's strong conservation history by bolstering the country's mechanisms for terrestrial conservation and expanding into the realm of marine conservation. In June, 2006, he received the Blue Moon Fund's first annual Conservation Leadership Award for his work in advancing terrestrial and marine conservation.

Minister Rodríguez created the first ever Marine and Coastal Program within the Ministry of Environment and Energy and facilitated the signing of the "San Jose Declaration" by his government, Colombia, Panama and Ecuador that set up multinational management and conservation in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape (ETPS). In recognition of his contributions to marine conservation, the Minister was honored as the first ever recipient of the Global Ocean Conservation Award in 2005.

Minister Rodríguez also worked towards managed the challenges of terrestrial conservation by securing future funding and through the introduction of a system of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES). Minister Rodríguez collaborated with the Minister of Agriculture so that the PES system could be used for successful management of forested areas and watershed conservation.

Minister Rodríguez has represented Costa Rica in a number of international forums on environmental issues, including the Conference of the Parts of Biodiversity Convention, Jakarta, Indonesia, 1996, the Conference of the Parts of Biodiversity Convention, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1997, the Conference of Climate Change, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1998 and the Central American Environmental Commission in 1998 and 1999. In addition, has worked as a consultant for institutions such as the Interamerican Development Agency, Interamerican Development Bank, World Resources Institute, Greenpeace, Oregon University, Environmental Law Institute, Wild Life Foundation (Argentina), Cordavi (Ecuador), National Parks Foundation (Costa Rica) and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development.

In addition to these public positions, Minister Rodríguez has held several positions in private legal practice. He is Licenciante in Law from the University of Costa Rica, 1986, and obtained a Masters in Environmental Law from South Methodist University, in 1988.