

Christiana Figueres

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Global climate change analyst. Negotiator of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol since 1995, and designer of key climate regime instruments. Prime promoter of Latin America's active participation in the Climate Change Convention. Spearheaded the creation and development of programmatic CDM, the most innovative option in the international carbon market. Widely published author and frequent public speaker on policies and financial instruments to promote clean energy and increase energy conservation. Senior level advisor to government officials and business leaders on sustainable energy strategies. Native of Costa Rica. Fluent in Spanish, English and German.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2009-present Senior Adviser to C-Quest Capital, a carbon finance company focusing on programmatic CDM investments
- 2008-present Principal Climate Change Advisor to ENDESA Latinoamérica, largest private utility in Latin America
- 2008-2009 Vice President of the Bureau of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 2008-present Vice Chair of the Rating Committee of the Carbon Rating Agency, first entity to apply credit rating expertise to carbon assets
- 2007 Representative of Latin America and the Caribbean on the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism, UNFCCC
- 2004- present Independent climate change specialist
- 1995 - 2003 Founder and Executive Director, Center for Sustainable Development in the Americas (CSDA)
- 1994-96 Director of the Technical Secretariat, Renewable Energy in the Americas (REIA), US Export Council for Renewable Energy, Washington DC
- 1993-94 Corporate strategic communications, The Hawthorn Group, Washington DC
- 1988-90 Chief of Staff to the Minister of Agriculture, Costa Rica
- 1987-88 Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning, Costa Rica
- 1982-85 Minister Counselor, Embassy of Costa Rica, Bonn, Germany

EDUCATION

- 1993 Certificate in Organization and Systems Design, Gestalt Institute of Cleveland
- 1991 Certification in Organization Development, Georgetown University
- 1981 M. Sc. In Social Anthropology, London School of Economics
- 1979 B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology, Swarthmore College

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Senior level policy advisor

- Senior Advisor to El Calafate Southern Lights Dialogue that brought together 25 Ministers of the Environment from around the world to explore possibilities of common ground in the climate negotiations. El Calafate, Patagonia, Argentina, September 2008.
- Chair of the Roundtable on Mitigation Actions, Annex I Experts Group, OECD, Paris, May 2008

- Testimony before the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, U.S. House of Representatives, on the results of the Bali climate negotiations on behalf of developing countries, December 2007.
- Preparation of “*Two Roads to Bali, One Way to Success*”, briefing paper prepared for Ex President Lagos of Chile in his role as UN Special Envoy for Climate Change, and all current Latin American Heads of State attending the Climate Change Summit convened by the Secretary-General of the UN in New York, September 2007
- Author of “*The Bali Batik*”, an analysis of the various elements to be included in a post 2012 climate change regime, used as input of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to the Gleneagles Process. August 2007
- Member of the High Level Task Force supporting the Global Leadership for Climate Action group of the United Nations Foundation and the Club of Madrid. Co-author of “*Evolution of the CDM: Toward 2012 and Beyond*”, analytical paper assessing the impact of the current CDM and proposing parameters for future market mechanisms. Washington DC 2007
- Member of the High Level Expert Group designing the climate change strategy for UNEP, as requested by the Executive Director of UNEP. Paris 2007
- Designed and implemented the bi-annual technical and strategic preparation for the Latin American negotiators of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, prior to the twice yearly international negotiations on climate change. Under contract to the Corporación Andina de Fomento, as convener of the Latin American negotiating group. 2002-2007
- Leader of the Climate Change Working Group, Expert Group on Environment, Global Governance Initiative, World Economic Forum, 2003. Lead author of “*Assessing the World’s Efforts on Climate Change*”, for the World Economic Forum, Geneva, July, 2004
- Developed an improved environmental performance strategy for Perez Companc, at the time, the largest privately owned utility in Latin America. 2002.

Vision and innovation

- For the Carbon Rating Agency, lead the development of the methodology to assess risk in programmatic CDM projects. 2009
- Lead the effort to conceive and integrate broad based mitigation “programs” into the CDM with four ground breaking publications that have marked global thinking on programmatic CDM. As Member of the CDM Board, achieved consensus on the rules and procedures for the submission of programs in the CDM, in order to enhance the sustainable development impact of the CDM. 2007-08
- Based on own published analysis of the link between programmatic CDM and the potential to extend the benefits of the CDM to households and small and medium enterprises, initiated the process to promote energy efficiency and distributed renewable energy in the CDM. 2007
- Conceived and established the first ever carbon finance program in the developing world: the Latin American Carbon Program (PLAC) within the Andean Development Corporation (CAF). 1999
- Successfully negotiated the first emission reduction purchase agreement between an industrialized country and a regional development bank. The agreement assigns the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) 45 million EUROS to purchase emission reductions in Latin America on behalf of the Government of the Netherlands. 2001
- Envisioned and supervised the creation of the first electronic climate change information system specializing on the Clean Development Mechanism. 2001
- Conceived and lead the preparation of FOCADES, an innovative fund for the promotion of biodiversity and clean energy projects in Central America, with a total capitalization of \$15 million. 1995

Multilateral environmental negotiations

- Co-Chair of the Contact Group on Guidance to the CDM Executive Board, Nairobi 2006, Poznan 2008, Copenhagen 2009.

- Co-Chair of the Contact Group on flexibility mechanisms for the post 2012 regime, Bonn in June 2008, Accra, Ghana in August 2008, and Poznan in December 2008.
- Member of the Friends of the Chair Group that negotiated the Bali Action Plan for long term cooperative action of all nations, Bali, Indonesia, December 2007.
- Successfully negotiated the decision to include “programs of activities” in the CDM, garnering support first from the G77 and China Group and then taking the lead on the negotiation with Annex I Parties. COP/MOP 1 in Montreal, Canada, 2005
- On behalf of the Government of Costa Rica, official negotiator of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change. Provided critical international strategy for achieving developing country support and approval of the Kyoto Protocol and the Clean Development Mechanism. 1995- 2007
- Negotiated and achieved US-Costa Rica Bilateral Agreement on Emission Reductions, signed by Vice President Gore and President Figueres, two years prior to the CDM. 1996

Management

- In the face of lengthy and unpredictable regulatory decisions in the CDM, contributed to the process of strengthening the technical secretariat to the Executive Board, thereby increasing institutional efficiency, augmenting impartial substantive analysis and improving regulatory consistency. 2007
- Directed the operations of CSDA for eight years. Developed and led the four programs of the Center: capacity building, policy reform, project preparation and carbon finance. Created and executed strategic vision for effective hemispheric engagement on climate change issues. Hero for the Planet Award by the National Geographic Magazine and the Ford Motor Company, 2001, in recognition of international leadership in sustainable energy and climate change. 1995-2003
- At the US Export Council for Renewable Energy, promoted hemispheric policy measures to advance the use of renewable energy technologies in Latin America. Developed coordination mechanisms among various US and Latin American agencies active in the field. Close working relationship with the governments and private sectors of Chile, Peru, Argentina, Mexico and Central America. 1994-96
- Directed the Bureau of the Minister of Agriculture, Costa Rica. Supervised the execution of 22 national programs involving training, credit and marketing (credit portfolio US \$200 million). Reorganized the Bureau for greater teamwork and productivity. Designed coordination strategies among three major public institutions, eliminating duplications of services and contradictions in policy. 1988-90
- In the Ministry of Planning of Costa Rica, designed and directed the negotiation of 46 projects with eight European countries (total investment US \$90 million). Supervised the evaluation of all national technical and financial assistance requests. Collaboratively restructured the International Cooperation Department and designed a supporting computerized system for project monitoring. 1987-88
- Directed the work of all departments of the Costa Rican Embassy in Germany. Re-negotiated terms of technical assistance, development finance and cooperation between both countries. Great Cross for the Honor of Merit bestowed by the German government for outstanding performance. 1982-85

Institutional development and capacity building

- On-camera expert for "Environmental Science for Students," an educational series for Advanced Placement high school students produced by Schlessinger Media, Philadelphia, PA. 2007
- Envisioned and helped to establish national climate change programs in Guatemala, Panama, Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. 1998-2007
- Designed and performed capacity building activities for over five hundred professionals in Latin America of the public and private sectors, as well as from civil society. 1995-2003
- Evaluated the Climate Change Initiative of the Japan Policy and Human Resource Development Fund at the World Bank, and provided recommendations for increasing the impact of the Fund. Under contract to Universal Management Group, Canada. 2006
- *“Institutional Capacity to Integrate Economic Development and Climate Change Considerations”*, an in depth assessment of the Designated National Authorities of the CDM in twenty-one countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, for the Inter American Development Bank. August 2004

- Author of *Establishing National Authorities for the CDM: A Guide for Developing Countries*, the only existing manual for the creation of Designated National Authorities. Being used around the world for the institutionalization of national emission reduction programs. Published by the International Institute of Sustainable Development, Canada, 2002
- Preparation of African negotiators for the international climate change negotiations. Dakar, Senegal. 2002

Lectures

- Frequent lecturer at academic institutions including Yale University, University of Chicago, Georgetown University, College of William and Mary, Johns Hopkins University.
- Numerous public speaking engagements for the World Bank, Inter American Development Bank, Corporación Andina de Fomento, OECD, Carbon Expo, International Energy Agency, LAC Carbon Forum, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, AVINA Foundation, Point Carbon, Environmental Finance, International Emissions Trading Association, etc.
- Trained and authorized by Al Gore to deliver his presentation *The Inconvenient Truth*.

LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

Vice President of the Bureau of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2008-09.

Member of the Scientific Advisory Panel of the UNEP Risoe Centre, Denmark.

Member of the Carbon Finance Working Group of Project Catalyst, initiated by Climateworks, a new foundation endowed by the Packard, Hewlett and McKnight Foundations, and supported by McKinsey & Co. 2008

Board of Directors of the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS), 2008.

Energy Program Advisory Committee of Green Cross International, founded by Pres. Gorbachev, 2008

Representative of Latin America and the Caribbean to the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2007.

International Member of the Academy of Sciences, Dominican Republic. 2007.

Board of Directors and Trustee, Winrock International, a mission-driven international NGO with a budget of \$50 million and an endowment of \$60 million. 2005-present. Chair of the Governance Committee and Member of the Executive Committee, 2007- present.

Advisory Senate of the ICE Organization Limited, first credit card to neutralize carbon emissions of user's purchases. 2007- present

Board of Trustees of the Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Cordillera Volcánica Central (FUNDECOR), Costa Rican organization with an endowment of \$15 million and which received the 2001 King Bauldwin Award. 1999-present

Board of Directors, International Institute for Energy Conservation, 2006-2008

Member of the Development Dividend Task Force, International Institute of Sustainable Development, Canada. 2005-2008

Invited member of the Clinton Global Initiative, 2005-2006

Member of the Global Roundtable on Climate Change, led by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs at Columbia University. 2005-07

Selection panel for the Yale World Fellows Program, 2003 - 2006.

Hero for the Planet Award by the National Geographic Magazine and the Ford Motor Company, March 2001, in recognition of international leadership in sustainable energy.

Technical Advisory Board of the Prototype Carbon Fund of the World Bank, 1999-01

Board of Directors of the Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC), 1999-2003

Advisory Board of the Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS), Duke University 1998-2000

Vice President, Foundation for Central American Management Education (INCAE), in association with Harvard University. 1998-2001

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

A Post-2012 Vision for the Clean Development Mechanism”, Chapter 26 co-authored with Charlotte Streck in the book Legal Aspects of Carbon Trading: Kyoto, Copenhagen and Beyond, Oxford University Press, 2009.

“The Evolution of the CDM in a post-2012 Climate Agreement” co-authored with Charlotte Streck, Journal of Environment and Development, Vol 18, Number 3, September 2009

“Enhanced Financial Mechanisms for Post 2012 Mitigation”, co-authored with Charlotte Streck, Policy Research Working Paper, WPS 5008, for World Development Report 2009, World Bank.

“LAC’s Potential Contribution to Global Mitigation Efforts“, co-authored with Pablo Fajnzylber, chapter 4 in the book Low Carbon, High Growth, Latin American Responses to Climate Change”, World Bank, 2009.

“Moving Beyond the First Generation of Emission Reductions”, background paper for the World Bank’s Latin American Flagship Report on Climate Change. 2008.

“Study on the potential use of micro financing in support of CDM projects in LDC countries”, co authored for DANIDA. 2009.

“No Bastan los Esfuerzos del Sector Energia” Revista Ambientico, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Febrero 2008

“Tuning the Instrument” prepared for UNEP’s Governing Council meeting. Published in UNEP’s *Our Planet* magazine, February 2008.

“The Bali Batik: Design Options for the post 2012 Climate Regime”, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL), Santiago de Chile, 2007.

“Scaling Up Demand -Side Energy Efficiency Improvement Through Programmatic CDM”, with Michael Phillips, for the Sustainable Development Network of the World Bank. ESMAP Technical Paper 120/07 December 2007.

“*Potential and Barriers for End-Use Energy Efficiency through Programmatic CDM*”, co-authored with Miriam Hinojosa, Chia-Chin Cheng, Xianli Zhu, Jorgen Fenhann, and Francisco Avendano, CD4CDM Working Paper Series, Working Paper No. 4, UNEP Risø Centre, Denmark, September 2007.

“*From Tons to Trends*”, chapter in Global Environmental Governance, Perspectives on the Current Debate, Lydia Swart and Estelle Perry eds., Center for UN Reform Education, New York, May 2007.

“*Achieving GHG Emission Reductions in Developing Countries Through Efficient Lighting Projects in the CDM*”, co-authored with Martina Bosi, an analysis of the methodological issues of structuring efficient lighting efforts as programmatic CDM projects, for the Carbon Finance Unit of the World Bank. November 2006.

“*Policies and Programs in the CDM*”, co-authored with Erik Haites, analysis of the potential of the COP decision on CDM programs, for the International Institute of Sustainable Development, Canada. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Canada, 2006.

“*El Cambio Climático y el Mecanismo de Desarrollo Limpio: Retos y Oportunidades para la República Dominicana*”. *Revista GLOBAL* Vol. 4, No. 14, Enero/Febrero 2007.

“*Programmatic CDM Project Activities: Eligibility, Methodological Requirements and Implementation*”, with Margaree Consultants and Econergy International. Study for the Carbon Finance Business Unit of the World Bank, November 2005.

“*Sectoral CDM: Opening the CDM to the yet Unrealized Goal of Sustainable Development*”, *International Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy*, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. December 2005

Navigating the COP/MOP. Co-authored with Helena Olivas and Frederic Gagnon-Lebrun. Eco Resources International and the Helios Centre. Montreal, Canada. December 2005

Mettre en Place une Autorité Nationale Désignée pour le MDP: Pourquoi et comment? Co-authored with Helena Olivas. A practical guide for the establishment of DNAs in francophone developing countries. Institut de l’Energie et de l’Environnement de la Francophonie. Quebec, Canada 2005

“Institutional Capacity to Integrate Economic Development and Climate Change Considerations: An Assessment of DNAs in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Inter American Development Bank. 2004.

“Capacity Challenges and Future Commitments under the Climate Convention”, co-authored with Kevin Baumert and Stephane Willems. Chapter 8 in Climate Policy for the 21st. Century. Johns Hopkins University. 2003

“Evolving to a Sector-Based Clean Development Mechanism”. Chapter 4 of the book Building on the Kyoto Protocol: Options for Protecting the Climate, co-authored with Jose Luis Samaniego. Published by the World Resources Institute, Washington DC, 2002.

“Climate Change: National Interests or a Global Regime?” Chapter X of the book Global Environmental Governance: Options and Opportunities, co-authored with Maria Ivanova. Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy. 2002.

La Zona Fronteriza Perú-Ecuador: Su Potencial para Participar en el Mercado Internacional de Reducción de Emisiones. Study prepared for the Inter American Development Bank, August, 2002.

The Ethics of Global Climate Change. Lecture by invitation of the Ethical Society, Washington DC, April, 2000.

Decarbonization of the Economy: A visible trend. Published in Our Planet Magazine, Volume II, Number I, 2000.

Latino América frente a las negociaciones de la Convención de Cambio Climático. www.csdanet.org. February, 2000.

LAC Region Participation in the International Carbon Market. www.csdanet.org. January, 2000.

Seeking a Competitive Advantage for Central America in Selling and Marketing Greenhouse Gas Reductions: Recommendations based on a survey of potential investors. www.csdanet.org. May, 1999

The Clean Development Mechanism, Draft Working Papers. Published by World Resources Institute, Washington DC. October, 1998

Meaningful Action. A proposal for Reducing Greenhouse Emissions & Spurring Energy Modernization in Developing Nations. www.csdanet.org. October, 1998.

The CDM: An innovative Financial Mechanism which promotes Sustainable Development. www.csdanet.org. September, 1998.