

**IUCN**  
**WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS**  
**5–14 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain**

## **Election of IUCN President**

**Action Requested:** The World Conservation Congress is requested:

- (a) to NOTE that Council has nominated Dr Ashok Khosla, India, and Mr Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Echandi, Costa Rica, as candidates for election as the next President of IUCN;
- (b) to NOTE that in accordance with Article 27 of the IUCN Statutes and paragraph 32 of the IUCN Regulations, Dr Maria Purificació Canals Ventin, Spain, has been nominated as a candidate for the Presidency of IUCN.
- (c) to ELECT one of these three candidates to the Presidency of IUCN.

### **Background**

1. Article 27 of the IUCN Statutes provides that “The President, the Treasurer and the Chairs of the Commissions shall be elected by the World Conservation Congress on the nomination of the Council. Nominations for the President may also be made by forty members eligible to vote from at least three Regions, within the period prescribed in the Regulations.”
2. Regulation 32 further specifies “not more than two nominations for President and for Treasurer shall be made by the Council after considering the proposals made by members in Categories A and B. Nominations for President may also be made directly by members as provided for in the Statutes, provided that such nomination is received by the Director General not less than sixty days prior to the opening of the session of the World Congress.”
3. In May 2007, the Council appointed a Nominations Committee to assist in the selection process for the President, Treasurer and Commission Chairs, under the leadership of IUCN Regional Councillor, Mr Alistair Gammell. Detailed terms of reference for the position of President, as revised and updated by the Council Nominations Committee, were circulated to members in September 2007.
4. In accordance with the procedures set out in the Regulations to the IUCN Statutes, the Director General wrote to members of IUCN in Categories A and B on 7 September 2007 inviting their suggestions for persons the Council might nominate to the World Conservation Congress for the position of President of IUCN. In her letter, the Director General indicated that the current President, Mr Valli Moosa, although eligible under the Statutes to stand for re-election, had informed the Council of his decision not to seek a second term as President.
5. The Council at its 69<sup>th</sup> meeting on 10–12 March 2008, approved the following recommendations of the Council Nominations Committee for the position of IUCN President:
  - Dr Ashok Khosla, India
  - Mr Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Echandi, Costa Rica

Each candidate has declared his willingness to serve if elected.

6. In accordance with Article 27 of the Statutes and paragraph 32 of the Regulations an additional candidate for the Presidency of IUCN was presented. The candidacy met all the statutory requirements:
  - (a) Nomination made by 40 members eligible to vote
  - (b) Nominations came from at least three Regions
  - (c) Nominations were received not less than 60 days prior to the opening of the CongressThe candidate has declared her willingness to serve if elected.
7. The new candidate is Dr Maria Purificació Canals Ventín from Spain.
8. Biographical information on the three candidates is attached for consideration by the World Conservation Congress.

## CURRICULUM VITAE PURIFICACIÓ CANALS

### Personal

- Name: Maria Purificació Canals Ventín
- Nationality: Spanish
- Place and date of birth: Tarragona, 24 July 1962

### Languages

- Catalan and Spanish (mother tongues)
- French and English (working languages)
- Italian (elementary)

### Education

- Degree in Biological Science from the University of Barcelona (1986)
- PhD in Biochemistry and Physiology from the University of Barcelona (1996)

Since completing her Biology degree in 1986, Puri Canals has permanently combined her professional activity in different fields of biological science with her voluntary social commitments in environmental matters and especially in nature conservation.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES
<p><b>CURRENT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Projects Manager of Taller de Ingeniería Ambiental S.L., a company specialising in environmental consulting and engineering, Barcelona, since 2005.</li> <li>• Associate Professor of Physiology at the Faculty of Medicine of Rovira i Virgili University, Tarragona, since 1996.</li> </ul> <p><b>PREVIOUS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Professor of Aeronautical Medicine, Environment and Aviation at the High School of Aviation (CESDA, Rovira i Virgili University), from 2001 to 2005.</li> <li>• Director of the EU LIFE Project "Sustainable Management of Punta de la Móra. Tarragona" 1998-2002, a natural terrestrial and marine area of the Natura 2000 Network and the Plan of Spaces of Natural Interest (PEIN) of Catalonia.</li> <li>• Coordinator of the study on the coastal areas of Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and Andalusia, developed within the framework of the LIFE project, "<i>Étude Préparatoire au Renforcement et l'Harmonisation de Politiques de Protection Offensives du Littoral</i>"</li> </ul>	<p><b>CURRENT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair of the Preparatory Committee of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conservation Congress to be held in Barcelona in October 2008 and organised by the IUCN with the support of the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, the Department of Environment of the Catalan Government, the Provincial Government of Barcelona and Barcelona City Council. <i>Until the beginning of the campaign for IUCN's Presidency in July 2008</i></li> <li>• Member of the EUROSITE Council since 2008 representing DEPANA.</li> <li>• Member of the Advisory Council on Sustainable Development of the Catalan Government since 2007.</li> <li>• Member of the advisory panel of the Tarragona Chemical Industry Association (AEQT) since 2006.</li> <li>• Vice-President of IUCN since 2005.</li> <li>• Member of the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) since 2005.</li> <li>• Member of the Scientific Council of the <i>Conservatoire de l'Espace Littoral et des Rivages Lacustres</i> (Coastal Protection Agency), France, since 2005.</li> </ul>

<p><i>Méditerranéen, par l'Outil Foncier Notamment, dans les Pays Riverains de l'Union Européenne</i>" of the "Conservatoire du Littoral" (Coastal Protection Agency), France, 2000-2001.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 1993 and 1997 she taught Physiology at the Biology Faculty of Barcelona University, where she published different research studies on fish biochemistry and physiology in international journals and completed her PhD.</li> <li>• Substitute Technical Manager of the Fish Breeding Centres of Bagà and El Pont de Suert, Directorate General of Environment, Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Catalan Government, 1994.</li> <li>• Management of the educational project at the Oianguren Environmental School: activities, publications, audiovisuals and training of environmental educators. Ordizia (Guipúzcoa) 1994.</li> <li>• Director of the training course for nature route monitors, Formigal (Huesca) 1994. Preparation and publication of routes, audiovisuals and a teaching guide.</li> <li>• Teacher on the Environmental Technicians Training Course at the European Worker Training Studies Centre, Barcelona, 1993.</li> <li>• Teacher at the Cel Rogent Nature School, Reus, 1992-1993.</li> <li>• Teacher at the Nature School of Corredor, Llinars del Vallès (Barcelona) 1989-1991</li> <li>• Director of the International Work Camp of the Aigüestortes i Estany de St. Maurici National Park. INJUVE, Ministry of Social Affairs, 1991 and 1992.</li> <li>• Monitor at the International Work Camp of the Aigüestortes i Estany de St. Maurici National Park, INJUVE, Ministry of Social Affairs, 1989 and 1990.</li> <li>• Design and preparation of nature routes and activities for schools at the Roca i Galès Foundation, Barcelona, 1988-1991.</li> <li>• Rhythmic gymnastics trainer at different sports and educational centres, Tarragona and Barcelona, 1980-1988.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Special Advisor" to the IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) since 2004.</li> <li>• IUCN Regional Councillor for Western Europe (second mandate) since 2004.</li> <li>• Vice-President of the Environment and Sustainability Council of Barcelona City Council since 1998.</li> <li>• President of the CIDN (Iberian Council for the Defence of Nature) since 1998.</li> <li>• Member of the IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication since 1994.</li> <li>• President of the League for the Defence of Natural Heritage (DEPANA) since 1994.</li> </ul> <p><b>PREVIOUS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IUCN Regional Councillor for Western Europe (first mandate) from 2000 to 2004.</li> <li>• Member of the Steering Committee of the IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication from 2000 to 2004.</li> <li>• Member of the Board of the Centre for Environmental Information Studies (CEIA), Catalan Institute for Technology (ICT), Barcelona, between 1996 and 2002.</li> <li>• Vice-President of the Spanish National Committee of IUCN from 1996 to 2000.</li> <li>• Member of the Environment and Sustainability Working Group of the Catalan Government, 1997-1998.</li> <li>• Vice-President of the CIDN (Iberian Council for the Defence of Nature) 1994-1998.</li> <li>• Vice-President of the League for the Defence of Natural Heritage (DEPANA), 1992-1993.</li> <li>• President of the Tarragona Countryside Ecosystem Study and Protection Group (GEPEC), 1992.</li> <li>• Voluntary member of DEPANA since 1988.</li> <li>• Member and founder of the L'Aglà Nature Group of the Tarragona Hiking Centre, from 1986 until 1991.</li> </ul>
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## Brief Overview

Since she began collaborating with IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication in 1994, Puri Canals has gradually broadened her commitment, dedicating more and more time and effort to the Union. She has in-depth knowledge of all IUCN's structures, starting at member level as President of two member organizations, as Vice-President of the Spanish Committee, and also as a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Council.

She participated actively in Montreal and Amman congresses promoting motions to support the creation of an IUCN office in the Mediterranean, an objective she achieved during her mandate as Regional Councillor. In this post, she played an active role in IUCN's activities in Europe and in global actions, mainly to promote cultural diversity within the Union. She was a member of the Task Force on Governance, the Council's Committees on Human Resources and Programme and Policy, and also the Resolutions Committee at the Bangkok Congress. Since her appointment by Council as Vice-President, she acquired even more in-depth knowledge of IUCN and its components; represented the Union abroad on many occasions and also had to deal with some of the most difficult moments in the IUCN's recent history.

Puri believes that direct contact with IUCN members was essential for her to fulfil her responsibilities as Regional Councillor, Vice-President and Chair of the Congress Preparatory Committee. Attending events organised by members in different regions has therefore always been a priority for her to share as much information as possible with members and promote as broad and representative presence as possible of the diversity of the Union.

After holding different professional and voluntary responsibilities, Puri has acquired extensive experience at work and in international negotiations with governments, NGOs, academic institutions and private sector. Her job in *Taller de Ingeniería Ambiental S.L.* has given her the opportunity to work with multilateral organisations and manage environmental projects financed by IFC of the World Bank and UNDP in Egypt and Pakistan. Since participating in the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and becoming interested in international activities, she has participated actively in many events, including:

- UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002.
- 5<sup>th</sup> World Parks Congress, Durban 2003, and preparatory meetings for the Mediterranean.
- UN Climate Change Conference (COP 11), Montreal, 2005.
- Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006.
- UN Climate Change Conference (COP 12), Nairobi, 2006.
- UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, Geneva 2007.
- Latin American Congress on Protected Areas, Bariloche, 2007.
- UN Climate Change Conference (COP 13), Bali, 2007.
- COP15 Barcelona Convention, Almería, 2008.
- State visit of the President of France to Monaco. Round table about Environment in the Mediterranean, with Prince Albert II and President Sarkozy. Monaco, 2008.
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 9), Bonn, 2008.

One of Puri's key working principles is to ensure that matters discussed internationally by IUCN are related to what is happening in different local realities. This requires guaranteeing fluid relations among all institutions and people in the IUCN network. Strengthening the capacities and active participation of members in relation to IUCN's programme and activities -from small associations to donor governments, including National and Regional Committees- is a pending challenge as much as the Union's excessively centralised structure that also hinders the adoption of different perspectives in line with the different circumstances in each region.

The value of diversity within IUCN should not be restricted to species and habitats. Human cultural diversity and diversity in terms of the different levels and structures through which we can act must play a key role. If we want to be effective in all contexts and influence all societies, we must strive to substantially improve our internal operation and also the external communication of our capacities and achievements during those sixty years. IUCN is the organisation best positioned to achieve these objectives globally and to foster the changes necessary to achieve a Diverse and Sustainable World.

### **Honours and awards**

- Tarragona Youth Excellence Prize for Scientific, Technical or Medical Merit.  
Youth Chamber of Commerce of Tarragona, November 2000.

### **Additional activities**

Hiking, photography, skiing, scuba diving, yoga, Malkovsky's free dance

She is a member of the following societies:

- Tarragona Hiking Centre, since 1984
- Catalan Natural History Institution, since 1987
- Biology Faculty Diving Club, since 1990
- Spanish Association of Nature Photographers, since 1996
- Sotavent Scuba Diving Club, since 2000

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## ASHOK KHOSLA

### Personal

Name: Ashok Khosla  
Nationality: Indian  
Date of Birth: 31 March 1940

### Education

- BA (Hons) in Natural Sciences, Cambridge University, UK (1962)
- PhD in Experimental Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass, USA (1971)

### Professional Status and Experience

- Chairman, Development Alternatives, New Delhi (1983 to present)
- Chairman and CEO, various social enterprises in India (1985 to present)
- Director, Infoterra, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi (1976–82)
- Director, Office of Environmental Planning, Government of India, New Delhi (1972–76)
- Manager, various businesses in the US (1965–70)
- Faculty, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass (1963–70)

### Brief Overview

Ashok Khosla founded the Development Alternatives Group in 1983 and now chairs its Board. Headquartered in New Delhi, the Development Alternatives Group ([www.devalt.org](http://www.devalt.org)) was among the first civil society organizations set up to address the issues of sustainable development as a whole. At the same time, it pioneered the concept of social enterprise, creating business-like approaches for eradicating poverty and conserving the natural resource base. The Group, currently with a project portfolio of close to \$20 million, is now widely recognized as a premier innovator of environment-friendly technologies to create sustainable livelihoods and of institutions to enable local enterprises to meet the basic needs of communities and households in the rural areas of the Third World. It has numerous field projects to implement its conservation and development programmes. And it maintains strong networking linkages with national and local governments, businesses and civil society to promote sustainable use of resources.

Since the work of the Development Alternatives Group ranges from research to action on the ground as well as to the formulation and advocacy of policy, Ashok has been fortunate in having very strong organizational support that enables him to provide not only the time but also the analytical, experience-tested inputs to policy makers at the national and international level. This has permitted him to be an active member of high-level government bodies of India such as the National Security Advisory Board, National Environment Board and the Science Advisory Council to the Cabinet. With the Confederation of Indian Industries, he co-hosts the annual Sustainability Summit, bringing together leaders from business, government and NGOs. And he has served on the Boards of numerous national level NGOs, including WWF-India, LEAD-India and Common Cause.

At the international level, Ashok has undertaken several official assignments, such as Special Advisor to the Brundtland Commission (WCED), member of evaluation teams for the GEF pilot phase, the World Bank's 25 Years of Environmental Programmes, and the Secretary General's Task Force to Restructure the Environmental Activities of the United Nations. He was Chair of the '92 NGO Forum at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and has served on the Boards of a wide range of environment and conservation organizations, including IUCN, WWF, Centre for Our Common Future, IISD, Stockholm Environment Institute, ZERI, the Alliance for a New Humanity, EnergyGlobe, EXPO 2000, Toyota Environmental Awards and Planet2025.

IUCN stands out among all these as the prime focus of Ashok's professional interest and time commitment internationally. He has been closely associated with the Union, and almost without interruption, since 1972. He was first elected a Councillor in 1975 at the Kinshasa General Assembly, where he represented the Government of India. In 1978, having joined UNEP, he became the UNEP

representative at the Council, in which capacity he served through the General Assemblies in Ashkhabad and Christchurch. He then participated in the Council as Deputy Chair and later as Chair of CEESP (which was then simply CEP and later CESP). In 1988 at San Jose, Ashok was again elected Regional Councillor and once again in 1990 at Perth.

During his seventeen years on the Council, and subsequently as head of an active member organization, Ashok has taken a prominent part in the policies and activities of the Union. He was one of the main contributors to the World Conservation Strategy and he strongly and consistently advocated the need for the Union to maintain its focus on its heartland of concerns – conserving living natural resources – within the broader context provided by the rubric of sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods. He has helped strengthen the organizational management systems, providing hands-on guidance at particular times of crisis or change in the life of the Union. And he helped build and maintain the links of the Union with UNEP and WWF. He continues to contribute to the strategic processes of the Union. He has made special presentations on behalf of UNEP and IUCN on Ecosystem Services and Conservation issues to the Environment Ministers attending the Bangkok GA and subsequently at several international conferences.

If elected, Ashok intends to work closely with the members and Commissions to integrate the recommendations of the Council's Task Force on Governance into the governance and management structures of the Union. He would also support effective mechanisms to manage the change called for by the external evaluation and initiated by the present Council to enable IUCN to deliver on its promise of being a highly efficient network organization with an integral 'One Programme' which can secure the fullest participation of members, the Commissions, the Secretariat and other partners.

#### **National and International Positions**

- President, Club of Rome (2006–)
- Member, International Advisory Council, Criteria CaixaCorp, Barcelona (2008–)
- Chair, ICSU/SCOPE Programme on Environmental Information (1984–87)
- Member of the UNEP Governing Council (1972–76)

#### **Awards and Honours**

- Schwab Foundation Award for Outstanding Social Entrepreneur, 2004
- The United Nations Sasakawa Environment Prize, 2002
- The Stockholm Challenge Award, 2001
- The Order of the Golden Ark of The Netherlands, 1999

#### **Additional Activities**

- As Teaching Fellow with Professor Roger Revelle, designed and taught Nat Sci 118, "Population, Resources and the Environment" at Harvard in 1965, the first university course on the environment – the course that sparked Al Gore's interest in the field
- Set up and headed the first governmental agency for the Environment in the Third World – and the first few in the world – establishing early policies for India on environmental and conservation issues
- Set up the original international information system on the environment, Infoterra at UNEP
- Spoken, written and published extensively on environmental issues; copies on request from the Development Alternatives Information Centre (<http://www.devalt.org/ashok.htm>)



# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

## **CARLOS MANUEL RODRÍGUEZ ECHANDI**

### **Personal**

Name: Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Echandi  
Nationality: Costa Rican  
Date of Birth: 16 April 1960 in San José, Costa Rica  
Languages: Spanish and English

### **Education**

- Lawyer from the Law School of the University of Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica, 1986; Graduation thesis "A New Wildlife Law for Costa Rica"
- Master's Degree in Environmental Law and Policy from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, United States of America, 1988; Graduation thesis "Forest Conservation and Economic Growth"

### **Professional Status and Experience**

1982–1998 Associate of Lara, Lopez, Matamoros, Rodríguez and Tinoco Law Firm, San José, Costa Rica; Specialist in Environmental Law

1987–1988 Legal assistant of the Legal Department of E.P.A. (Environmental Protection Agency), Dallas, Texas, USA

1989–1994 Adviser to the Costa Rican Congress on new environmental legislation and political control

1989–1998 Legal adviser of the University of Agriculture of the Humid Tropics (EARTH), Guácimo, Costa Rica

1990–1994 Adviser on policy for the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica

Expert participant for conservation projects in Costa Rica supported by:

- US Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- World Bank
- Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS)
- Greenpeace International
- University of Oregon Law School
- Environmental Law Institute (ELI)
- WWF
- The Nature Conservancy
- Conservation International
- GTZ (Germany)
- Dutch Government
- Sida (Sweden)
- CIDA (Canada)
- FINNIDA (Finland)
- NORAD (Norway)

1988–1998 Professor-coordinator of the Environmental Policy Training Course (Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS))

1989 Founding member and Vice President of the Federation of Conservation Organizations of Costa Rica (FECON)

1992–1993 Environmental Assistant to the President of the Congress of Costa Rica, Miguel Angel Rodriguez, San José, Costa Rica

1990–1994 Adviser to the Special Commission of Environment of the Congress of Costa Rica

1990–1994 Legal counsel of:

Tropical Science Centre (CCT)  
National Institute of Biodiversity (INBIO)  
Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS)  
National Parks Foundation (FPN)

1992 Member of the Congress of Young Leaders, World Summit, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

1994–1998 Director of the National Park Service, Government of Costa Rica

1997–1998 Special Adviser to the Minister of Environment and Energy, Government of Costa Rica

1998–2000 Vice-Minister of Environment and Energy, Mines and Water, Government of Costa Rica

- Head of Delegation of Costa Rica, Biodiversity Convention, 1996–2000, 2002–2006
- Head of Delegation of Costa Rica, Conference of Climate Change, 1998–2000, 2002–2006
- Head of Delegation to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) of the United Nations

1998–2002 Special Adviser to the President of Costa Rica, Miguel Angel Rodriguez

2000–2002 Sub-director of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Turrialba, Costa Rica

2002–2006 Minister of Environment and Energy, Mines and Water, Government of Costa Rica

2004–2005 President of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development

2005 Founder of the Coalition of Rainforest Nations to Avoid Deforestation (better known as the Papua New Guinea-Costa Rica initiative)

2006–today Adviser to the Costa Rican Congress on new environmental legislation; Regional Vice-President, Conservation International (CI)

### **Brief Overview**

Lawyer by formation, politician by decision, but conservationist by heart, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez completed two years ago his mandate as Minister of Environment and Energy, Mines and Water of Costa Rica as a culmination of a long road of work within that Ministry in several fields but concentrated in improving the holistic approach towards natural resource management. He has received international recognition for his achievements on identifying, valuing and implementing Payment for Environmental Services (PES), systems for standing forest and water provision within protected areas, private forests and Indian reserves. He has great knowledge on the legal, political and institutional conditions required for successful implementation of PES systems that benefit both biodiversity and local communities. He led the first national process of consultation on the future of Environmental Services in 1998. He was Minister of Environment when Costa Rica managed to curb the trends of logging and deforestation to a national net growth of forested areas through natural regeneration and reforestation and after implementing a clear strategy against illegal logging across the country. He has impressive experience related to the necessary policy and governance background required for successful implementation of payment for environmental services systems, which, given concerns about climate change and associated water availability impacts, is extremely valuable expertise. This experience helped to create the Costa Rica-Papua New Guinea initiative that brought attention from the international community on the need to address the loss of tropical forests due to deforestation and its contribution to climate change. By presenting the concept of avoided

deforestation this initiative became a global movement by tropical countries through the coalition of rainforest countries that concluded in the currently well known concept of REDD (Reducing Emission from Deforestation and forest Degradation) that has the potential of becoming an international instrument to mobilize financial resources for forest conservation within the Climate Change Convention. It was agreed last December in Bali to continue considering this issue as part of the global long-term solution required to deal with climate change stabilization.

He was active in the Ministry of Environment and Energy from 1994 to 2006, where he held various political positions as Director of the National Parks Service and Vice Minister of Environment and Minister. He is also founder and Board member of many environmental NGOs in Costa Rica as well as of tropical research institutes and a collaborator in many high level training initiatives.

During his mandate in the Ministry of the Environment, he has 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. Another important achievement was the development of a wide consultation process to build the "National Environmental Strategy" in an attempt to link policy design in the environmental field with the overall national development strategies and moving forward political dialogue on it through the National Environmental Council, involving many other State Ministers and relevant sectors and actors of civil society. He also promoted the establishment of the National Conservation Areas Council as a mechanism to enhance civil society participation in decision making at the regional and national levels.

As President of the Council of Ministers of Environment of the Central American Integration System (SICA) he led the process of designing a "Business Plan for the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor" which also called attention to the linkages between conserving the natural capital of the region and the sustainable development and improvement of livelihood goals. He also led the development of a cross-sectoral agenda in the region by promoting the first joint effort between the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Environment, as a first step towards the development of concerted approaches to solving environment-related problems from a broader development perspective.

During his mandate as Minister of Environment he was often invited by international organizations to provide speeches on issues related to his field of expertise, such as in the case of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, World Bank, etc.

Due to his passion and hard work, marine conservation is now being fully addressed for the first time in Costa Rica. His primary goal of this effort is to protect up to 25% – or 12.5 million hectares – of Costa Rica's Exclusive Economic Zone. In recognition of his contributions to marine conservation, he was honoured as the first ever recipient of the Global Ocean Conservation Award in 2005. In a broader scope, he developed a dynamic process to involve Panama, Colombia and Ecuador – jointly with Costa Rica – to launch the "Cocos, Malpelo, Coiba, Galapagos" marine corridor to promote the protection of marine resources.

By blending passion and innovation Mr Rodríguez has succeeded in one of the greatest challenges that conservationists face – the creation of mechanisms for long-term conservation. He has helped to put in place a system that will allow Costa Rica's environment to reap the benefits of his work far into the future and has firmly established his country as a leader in international conservation.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- 2005 Recipient of the Global Ocean Conservation Award in 2005, by Conservation International
- 2005 Recognized as the best Minister of Environment in 2005 by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America
- 2006 Recipient of the Award for Conservation Leadership by the Blue Moon Foundation, USA

**Publications, co-author**

- Principles of Conservation Biology
- Global Genetic Resources: Access, Ownership and Intellectual Property Rights
- Agriculture and Biodiversity
- National Forest Fund: Ten Years of the Program for the Payment of Environmental Services

**Other interests**

Surfing, diving, white water kayaking, bird watching and football