

Stanley Heckadon-Moreno

Born into a family of farmers and rural teachers, in Chiriquí, western Panamá. In 1970, he received his BA in anthropology, Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá. At the University of Essex, UK, he obtained his MA (1973) and PhD (1983) in sociology.

During the 1970's and 1980's he worked in community development and land tenure projects with peasant and indigenous communities in Panamá and Central America. He was one of the environmental pioneers in our region. Helped to set the foundations of the national parks and the "Comarcas" or Indian territories of Panama.

From 1987 to 1990, he was senior social scientist at (CATIE), the Tropical Agronomic Center for Research and Teaching, in Costa Rica, with forestry projects in Central America and the Caribbean. In the wake of the US invasion to Panama and the collapse of the military dictatorship he became Director General, 1990-1991, of the National Institute of Natural Renewable Resources, Panamá's EPA. He helped to bring back the US Peace Corps, expelled twenty years earlier. A founder of the Central American Commission for the Environment and Development (CCAD), in 1991, and of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Bogor, Indonesia, 1992-1996. From 2004 to 2008, he was a member of Panamá's National Council for Education.

In 1983, he became a research associate at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI). From 1996 to 2000, he led the Panama Canal Watershed Natural Resources Monitoring Project, STRI's most complex applied research project, prior to the turnover of the canal by the United States to Panama. As a representative of the scientific community, he played a crucial role in the public debates prior to the national referendum on the upgrading of the Panama Canal. Since 2000, he is responsible for the Galeta Point Marine Laboratory, in Colón. Dr. Heckadon has published many books. Including "*Naturalists on the Isthmus of Panama: A hundred years of natural history on the biological bridge of the Americas*"(2004). His most recent "*A Creole from Bocas del Toro: the Story of Carlos Reid* " was presented at Panamá's International Book Fair in August, 2011.

He has published over 300 articles in local and foreign publications. In 1995, he began his monthly series of articles, in the cultural and historical supplement EPOCAS, on the history of natural history in Panamá. He has given over 600 conferences on the environmental challenges facing Panamá and Central America and appeared in many radio and television programs for local and international media.

Stanley is a member of the Rotary Club. He is married to Sonia Martinelli Tono, an officer of the United Nations. They have two sons, Diego and Mónica, students at NYU.

