

Stanley Heckadon- Moreno

Born into a family of farmers and rural teachers, in Chiriquí, Panamá 1943. BA in anthropology (1970), Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá. MA (1973) and PhD (1983) University of Essex, UK.

In 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 region's environmental pioneers. Helping to created Panama's national parks system and the "Comarcas" or Indian territories. From 1972-86 he worked for the Ministry of Economic Policy and Planning. In the wake of the great drought 1982-83 he led the Task Force on the Panama Canal Watershed, that analyzed the state of Panama Canal Watershed. Its main recommendation, protect the surviving 200,000 acres of the tropical forests in the headwaters of the Chagres, Pequeni and

Boqueron rivers. In 1985 President Erick A. Delvalle signed the executive decree prepared by Heckadon and his task force creating Chagres National Park. On that day Panama bought the insurance policy on the Panama Canal

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. 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. He helped to bring back the US Peace Corps, expelled twenty years earlier. He led both the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, that in 1991 gathered 50 million dollars from abroad to funnel into Panama's natural resources. He converted a 20-million-dollar grant from the USAID to Panama for watershed management into a nonrefundable grant. Founding member of the Central American Commission for the Environment and Development (CCAD), 1991. Member of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) Bogor, Indonesia. From 2004-2008, member of Panama's National Council on Education.

Since 1983, research associate at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI). From 1996-2000, led the Panama Canal Watershed Natural Resources Monitoring Project. As a representative of the scientific community, he played a key role in the Coronado Meetings leading to the creation of the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) and in the public debates prior to the national referendum on the upgrading of the Panama Canal. Since 2000, responsible for the Galeta Point Marine Laboratory, Colón. He has published many books. Including *“Alexander Wetmore y las Aves de Panama (2020), El hombre que hablaba con las piedras. Robert Steward y la geología de Panama (2021). His most recent “A Creole from Bocas del Toro: the Story of Carlos Reid (2011).*

He has published over 500 articles in local and foreign publications. In 1995, he began a monthly series of articles on the history of natural history in Panama for the cultural and historical supplement EPOCAS. He has given over 600 conferences on the environmental challenges facing Panama and Central America and appeared in radio and television programs for local and international media. In 2014 he received the keys to Panama City from the Municipal Council and the mayor of the city, Jose

Blandon, for his long-standing contributions to environmental policy and public awareness.

Married to Sonia Martinelli Tono, officer of the United Nations. They have two sons, Diego and Mónica.