

Dr. Mario Boza

"Biodiversity Conservation in Mesoamerica"

Dr. Mario Boza serves as the newly appointed director of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project at the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, and is the founder of the National Park. System of Costa Rica. He graduated from the Universidad de Costa Rica as an Agronomist Engineer in 1964, and received his Master of Science in Forestry in 1969 from the Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas. Dr. Boza received his Doctor of Science from Drexel University, U.S.A. in 1992.

In 1970 Dr. Boza became the first director of the Costa Rican National Park Service . During 1975 and 1976 Dr. Boza was the director of the Environmental Sciences School at the Universidad Nacional in Costa Rica. Dr. Boza served as President of the Costa Rica National Parks Foundation from 1979-1987. In addition, during 1985-1990 he served as Vice President of the Costa Rican Environmental Education Foundation.

In 1979, Dr. Boza was the representative of the Costa Rican Government on the committee for the Study of the Future of the Centro Internacional de Formacion en Ciencias Ambientales (CIFCA) in Madrid, Spain. He served as an organization committee member at the First Environmental Congress of Costa Rica in San Jose in 1985. Dr. Boza also served as the Costa Rican Representative at the Experts' Meeting about the Caribbean Environmental Program, PNUMA, in Kingston, Jamaica in November of 1992.

Dr. Boza was a participant in the World Biodiversity Forum, sponsored by the IUCN in Gland, Switzerland; a member of the Organizer Committee at the 3rd Panamerican Congress of Hotel Sciences and Tourism; and a co-supervisor in the development of "Resource Management and Environmental Ecological Policies: a New Management Area for the Tourism Industry and the Development of Ecotourism in Costa Rica," at Erasmus University in

Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

In 1983, Dr. Boza received the "J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Prize," presented by President Ronald Reagan for the "...founding director of Costa Rica's National Park Service who helped Costa Rica to achieve in conservation the leadership it has in so many other ways . The outstanding educator whose vision has lifted that of his countrymen to recognize that the riches of his nation's natural resources constitute the wealth for which his country is named." The award was presented in the name of the World Wildlife Fund in a White House ceremony.