



Silva, Marina

Instituto Marina Silva

Marina Silva was born in the state of Acre, Brazil, on February 8th, 1958. When she was 26 she graduated in History at the Federal University of Acre. She participated in the Grass-Roots Ecclesiastic Communities of the neighborhood and in the movement of rubber tappers. In 1984 she participated in the founding of the CUT in Acre. Chico Mendes was the first coordinator of the entity and the vicecoordinator was Marina Silva. In 1988, she was a councilor for the PT, the most voted in Rio Branco. In 1994 when she was 36, she was the youngest senator in the history of the Republic and the most voted among the candidates from Acre. Three years later she received the honor for the Environment Program of the United Nations as one of “25 Women Leaders in Action in Preservation of the Environment”; Marina was reelected Senator in 2002. In 2005 she received the title “Doctor Honoris Causa”, offered by the Chinese Academy of Forestry (China, Beijing). In 2007 the UN received the “Champions of the World” by their struggle to protect the Amazon forest. In January 2008 the British newspaper The Guardian put Marina Silva among the “50 people who can save the planet”. In October 2008, she received the award “World Rainforest Award”, awarded by the Rainforest Action Network (RAN), in recognition for her work and her enormous commitment to protect the rainforest (San Francisco, California, USA) and also the Award “The Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal”, President Emeritus of WWF International, for her outstanding leadership in establishing the Program of the Amazon Regional Protected Areas, one of the most ambitious conservation efforts already undertaken and the tireless efforts and commitment by Amazon and its inhabitants (London, England). Corporación Cultural Artists Pro-Ecology - Fundación Pablo Neruda / Isla Negra / Chile. In April 2009, Marina received the Premio Sofia 2009, awarded annually by the Foundation Sofia (Sophie Foundation) to people and organizations that stand out in the areas of environmental and sustainable development (Oslo, Norway). She was Minister of Environment of the Lula government, 2003 to May 2008. Marina had her life told in two biographies, launched in 2002, one in Brazil and another in the United States, “Marina Silva, Faith and Politics” of the collection Publisher Salesiana and “Marina Silva - Defending the Communities of the Tropical Forest in Brazil”, the collection Women Changing the World, editor of The Feminist Press at the University of New York City. Since March 2011, she’s a member of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Advocacy Group, a group dedicated to work alongside the UN’s General Secretary towards making sure that this Goals are met until 2015 in benefit of the poor and vulnerable.