



Name: Maria Donoso

Organization: Institute of Environment, Florida International University

Title: Founding Chairholder, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Security

Short Biography:

Dr. Maria Donoso's research and professional interests are in integrated water resources management, air-sea-land interaction processes, and in climate change and variability impacts on the natural environment (with main interest in water resources) and society. She has ample experience in research and academia. She was Professor of Water Sciences at the National University of Panama (1979-1980), Associate Researcher at the Technological University, Panama (1980-1981), Director of the Center for Hydraulic and Hydro-technical Research of the Technological University of Panama (1981-1983, 1985-1989), and Invited Professor of Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences at the Naval Academy of Colombia (1989, 1990 and 1992).

Dr. Donoso's previous employment was as Director of the Global Water for Sustainability Program (GLOWS) for the period February 1, 2010 to December 31, 2016. From April 2003 through January 2010, she was the UNESCO's Regional Hydrologist for Latin America and the Caribbean. Previously, she was Director of the Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC), a Latin American and Caribbean regional center with headquarters in the Republic of Panama. Throughout her professional career, Dr. Donoso has acted as director of various projects and studies on water sciences. Similarly, she has served as Technical Adviser to national and regional organizations, and to private engineering consulting firms. In this context, she served as the Coordinator of the Regional Consultation of the Caribbean and Central America Vision on Water, Life and the Environment for the 21st Century (1999 - 2000), member of the Central America Technical Advisory Committee of the Global Water Partnership (2000 - 2003). Furthermore, Dr. Donoso was a member of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Overall Performance Study International Team of Experts (2001) and of the UNEP Scientific Advisory Group on Water (2011), as well as the Coordinator of the Task Force of Experts in charge of the development of the VIII Phase of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO (2009-2012). Dr. Donoso has served as a Member of the Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN) Executive Council and at the World Water Council (WWC) Board of Directors. She has been an active member of various professional associations, such as the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) and the International Association of Scientific Hydrology (IAHS), among others. Presently, she is a Fellow of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA). Dr. Donoso has been a lecturer at scientific

and professional conferences and has numerous publications. Dr. Donoso is member of the Editorial Board of the journals AquaLAC and the Hydrological Research Letters, the latter published by the Japan Society of Hydrology and Water Resources. She is fluent in Spanish, English, French, Portuguese and Russian.