

**THE CUBA PROGRAM/INSTITUTE OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES/COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY (CP/CU)  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERS (ACOEL)  
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND (EDF)  
FUNDACIÓN ANTONIO NUÑEZ JIMÉNEZ (FANJ)**

**INVITE YOU TO**

**CUBA-US WORKING TOGETHER AGAIN:  
LESSONS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

The December 17, 2014 announcements by Raúl Castro and Barack Obama of the resumption of formal diplomatic relations stimulated a normalization process that had been preceded by sporadic negotiations between Cuba and the US concerning matters of mutual interest including environmental issues. The co-sponsors of this conference were involved in promoting scientific exchanges and environmental dialogue and cooperation both before and after 2014 and advocated for collaboration on other issues, as well. This conference is aimed at analyzing how past collaborations worked in an effort to identify areas of accord moving forward so that the interested parties are prepared to deal with such issues in an expeditious way. It is intended that the lessons learned can be applied to other areas of mutual interest of the two countries such as cooperation in technology, and the academic, scientific, and cultural realms. This work will be initiated via discussions on February 22, 2021 in two webinars open to experts, academics, students, as well as the general public. The foci of the two are:

1. **HISTORY & CONTEXT: 10 AM-12:30 PM, MODERATOR, DAN WHITTLE, EDF.**  
Prospects for strengthening and deepening environmental dialogue and cooperation between Cuba and the US. including facilitating cooperation among academics, scientists, and other experts, as well as non-governmental organizations.
2. **ACTIONS & STRATEGIES: 1:30-4 PM, MODERATORS, DAVID FARER, ACOEL & YOCIEL MARERRO, FANJ**  
Discussion of opportunities for the sponsoring organizations/institutions/agencies/groups in both countries to work collaboratively on particular issues or projects in furtherance of environmental cooperation and development of ideas for an action agenda for lawyers, environmentalists, scientists, scholars, students, and faculty to provide and obtain project oriented expertise including provision of pro bono services. The concluding discussion will focus on recommendations to be disseminated to relevant interest groups for discussion, elaboration, and action.



## COORDINATORS

**Dr. Margaret E. Crahan & Lic. Gretchen Sanchez Higuera**

## MODERATORS AND PANELISTS

**Hope Bastian Martínez**, is an assistant professor at the University of Havana. Dr. Bastian Martinez holds a PhD in anthropology from American University and is the author of [\*Everyday Adjustments in Havana: Economic Reforms, Mobility and Emerging Inequalities\*](#) (2018). Since 2004 her professional engagement in academic and cultural exchanges between the U.S. and Cuba has included a wide variety of organizations, from grassroots activism around impacts of U.S. foreign policy through Witness for Peace and Havana's *Centro Memorial Martin Luther King*, to public health collaboration, and academic study abroad programs with the Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad (CASA), the University of Havana and *Casa de las Américas*. Her field research and teaching interests focus on using ethnography to explore the impacts of economic reforms on everyday life and inequalities in Cuba and how social movements around birth, breastfeeding, LBGTQ+ rights and gender violence use new technologies for debates in Cuba's emerging virtual public sphere.

**Daimar Cánovas González**, Profesor Titular, Facultad de Derecho, Universidad de La Habana. Doctor en Ciencias Jurídicas, por la Universidad de La Habana (2013), Licenciado en Derecho (2001) y Licenciado en Historia (2005) por esa propia Universidad. Director e Investigador Titular del Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, del Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente (CITMA). Tiene Diplomados en Derecho Ambiental (2009), Gestión del Territorio, el Urbanismo y el Medio Ambiente (2011), y Administración Pública (2015), así como una Programa de Estudios Avanzados en Desarrollo Sustentable y Medio Ambiente (LEAD-Fellow), en el Colegio de México (2014).

**Yordanka Castillo** is a Cuban attorney. She recently completed an LLM from the Pennsylvania State University School of Law. She has worked as a general counsel with the Cuban non-profit environmental organization Fundación Antonio Nuñez Jiménez. She has also advised EDF and is providing assistance for the American College of Environmental Lawyers. She has been working as an attorney for the emerging private sector in Cuba, providing legal and business guidance to form, finance, and manage private businesses as well as counseled small businesses in corporate social responsibility and sustainable development. Her recent publications include "[The Role of the Lawyer in the Development of Entrepreneurship in Cuba](#)". Currently, she is the director and co-founder of LexiCuba, a project focused on the Cuban market of LegalTech, a software that applies technologies to make legal assistance more accessible to private companies.

**Margaret E. Crahan**, Senior Research Scholar and Director of the Cuba Program at the Institute for Latin American Studies at Columbia University. From 1982-1994 she was the Henry R. Luce Professor of Religion, Power and Political Process at Occidental College, from 1994-2008 the Dorothy Epstein Professor of the City University of New York, from 2007-09 she was the Kozmetsky Distinguished Professor and Director of the Kozmetsky Center for Excellence in Global Finance at St. Edward's University. Dr. Crahan serves on the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and is a member of the Boards of St. Edward's University and the Latin American Program of the

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. In 2013 she was recognized by the government of Brazil for her work on human rights. Dr. Crahan has published over one hundred articles and books including **Cuba-US Relations: Normalization and Its Challenges** and **Donald J. Trump y las relaciones Cuba-Estados Unidos en la encrucijada** (with Soraya Castro Marino).

**Lee DeHihns** is formerly a member of Alston & Bird's Environmental & Land Development Group. He concentrated on regulatory matters and defensive litigation matters, including climate issues, corporate audits, compliance program development, debarment, white-collar criminal defense, air quality, hazardous waste, wetlands, and water quantity and quality for industrial and municipal clients. He was a member of the American Bar Association's Board of Governors 2017-2020 and also was chair of the Section of Environment, Energy and Resources (SEER) 2007-2008. He was Chair of the ABA delegation to the UN's Rio+20 Conference in 2012 and was Chair of the ABA Presidential Task Force on Sustainable Development (2013-2015). He is an author of articles on corporate environmental responsibility, sustainable development, and climate change

**David Farer**, Co-Chair, Environmental Department, Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis, LLP.

Mr. Farer has been on the cutting edge of developments in the environmental sector since the 1980s, and is a Past President of the American College of Environmental Lawyers 2015-16. Mr. Farer has written and lectured extensively on environmental issues and among recent presentations were at Oxford University's Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment and at the XI International Convention on Environment and Development in Havana, Cuba. Mr. Farer has extensive experience related to the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties including brownfields, environmental compliance and insurance issues, institutional and engineering controls, assessing and negotiating liability under federal and state Superfund laws, resolution of environmental issues in bankruptcy proceedings, litigation arising from those issues, and the emerging field of sustainable development and green building. He is currently co-chair of ACOEL'S International Pro Bono Committee.

**Margarita Fernandez** is the Executive Director of the Caribbean Agroecology Institute (CAI), a nonprofit that catalyzes knowledge exchange, builds capacity, and supports transitions to agroecological systems that are resilient to climate change in Cuba and the region. She accomplishes this work by raising awareness about Cuba's advances and challenges in agroecology, facilitating partnerships and building capacity through regional learning exchanges, courses, conferences, workshops, collaborative research, and cooperation projects. Dr. Fernandez also coordinates the Cuba-US Agroecology Network (CUSAN), a network founded in 2015 to build alliances between farmers, academics, and NGOs in Cuba and the US who are dedicated to building more ecologically resilient, socially just and economically fair farming and food systems. She holds a PhD in Agroecology from the University of Vermont, a Master's in Environmental Science from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a Bachelor's in Biology from Tufts University.

**Reinaldo Funes Monzote** is Director of the Geo-Historical Research Program at the Antonio Núñez Jiménez Foundation (Cuba) and Professor of History at the University of Havana. Author of *From Rainforest to Cane Field. A Cuban Environmental History since 1492* it won the Elinor Melville Prize of the Conference on Latin American History. He received the Casa de las Americas Award 2019 with: *Nuestro viaje a la luna. La idea de la transformación de la naturaleza en Cuba durante la Guerra Fría*. He was recently a visiting professor at the Council on Latin American & Iberian Studies, MacMillan Center for International & Area Studies at Yale University, 2015-2020. His research focuses mainly on Cuban, Caribbean and Latin America Environmental History, and the History of Science and Technology in Cuba.

**Pamela M. Giblin**, Senior Policy Advisor, Climate Leadership Council, Austin, TX

Dr. Giblin previously worked as a partner at Baker Botts L.L.P., where she led the firm's environmental practice group. She has practiced environmental law since 1970 and has extensive experience in advising clients on a broad array of environmental issues. Her areas of expertise include permitting, acquisitions and enforcement under state and federal laws dealing with air, water, and hazardous waste. She is a Past President of the American College of Environmental Lawyers (2014 – 2015) and serves on the Advisory Council of the University of Texas Institute of Latin American Studies She previously served as a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee. She received her B.A. with honors from the University of Texas and her J.D. from the University Of Texas School Of Law.

**Silvia Patricia González Díaz**. Professor Titular, Centro de Investigaciones Marinas, University of Havana, Cuba. PhD in Biological Sciences (2010). Former Director of Center of Marine Research at the University of Havana (2014-2020). Researcher at the Center of Marine Research at the University of Havana. Member of Marine Ecology group and International Chair for Coastal and Marine Studies in Cuba. Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. Texas A.& M. University of Corpus Christi; Affiliate faculty of the University of Vermont (USA). Research fields include community, population and individual level indicators in ecological research of coral, sponges, gorgonians and sea urchins; natural and anthropogenic impact on coral reefs; conservation and management of coastal ecosystems. Participates in more than 15 research projects; more than 40 articles published in peer review journals and advisor of more than 15 thesis; head of Scientific council of CIM-UH; Member of Postgraduate University Council; Head of Master Program in Marine Biology and Aquaculture; Head of PhD Program in Marine Biology and Aquaculture; Member of IBERMAR network; Member of National Oceanographic Committee.

**Yociel Marrero Baez**, Director of the Economics and Responsible Consumption Program of the Antonio Nuñez Jiménez Foundation for Nature and Humanity. As part of this program, he develops strategies for socio-economic alternatives that contribute to the sustainable development of Cuban society. Mr. Marrero completed his master's degree in Integral Management of Eco-Technologies at Humboldt State University in California. In recognition of his work in creating the system of environmental technologies for sanitation in the Almendares-Vento Basin, he received the Architecture and Engineering Award, given by the Cuban College of Engineers. He has advised projects in the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Argentina and Brazil. He has also organized multiple concerts and has been curator of several exhibitions of arts to promote the protection of natural resources that have become references of open spaces for social communication between different groups and institutions to establish harmonic links between socioeconomic development processes of Cuba. He is an active promoter of new economic models and consumption standards.

**Valerie Miller**, Director of EDF's Cuba Oceans Program. In this position, she cultivates alliances across a multi-national group of government, academic, and civil society partners to help develop and implement fisheries management and marine conservation projects in Cuba that can benefit the wider Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean region. Valerie supported the Cuban government's development of their National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Sharks, the implementation of a community-based sustainable fisheries project, and the creation of a new Sustainable Fisheries Management training course given at the University of Havana. She has a dual-degree—a M.S. in Conservation Leadership from Colorado State University and El Colegio de la Frontera Sur.

**Liliana Núñez Velis** was born in Havana, Cuba. She has a degree in History from the University of Havana. She is the President of the Antonio Núñez Jiménez Foundation for Nature and Humanity (FANJ) and director of the magazine *You Can Live in Ecópolis*, from the same institution. From 1997 to the present, she directed and organized a series of ecological alerts from the foundation. She has participated in historical-geographical expeditions into the Insular Caribbean and Cuba. In 2004, she participated in the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) regional assembly on Women and the Environment in Ixtapan de la Sal, México. She also participated in UNEP's Global Women's Assembly on the Environment, and "Women as the Voice for the Environment", in Wave, Nairobi. She Chaired the FANJ delegation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> UICN World Congresses in Thailand (2004) and Barcelona (2008). Lic. Nuñez participated in the United Nations Conference on sustainable Development "Rio + 20", as well as in various meeting of the Global Environmental Fund (GEF). She chaired the Committee of Small Grants from the GEF Office of UNDP in Havana. She has authored several publications.

**Orlando Rey Santos**, abogado. Por más de 30 años ha trabajado en temas vinculados con las políticas y el derecho ambientales. Entre 1999 y 2014, Director de la Dirección de Medio Ambiente en CITMA. Desde esa fecha, asesor para cambio climático en ese organismo.

**Gretchen Sánchez-Higueras**, Program Assistant for the Cuba Program at Columbia University. Previously she was a journalist for a Havana TV channel covering daily news. Prior to that, she worked at the Havana Film Festival as a producer. Gretchen holds a BA in Journalism from the University of Havana.

**Korey Silverman-Roati**, Climate Law Fellow, Sabin Center, Columbia University Law School. Prior to the Sabin Center. He spent three years as a law fellow with the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD), where he focused on international climate litigation, carbon dioxide removal, and solar radiation management research, and other fast action climate strategies. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 2017, where he spent three years editing the Harvard Environmental Law Review and worked with both the environmental and international human rights clinics. He received a Public Service Venture Fund Fellowship to start work at IGSD and a Chayes International Public Service Fellowship to work at the Center for Public Interest Law in Accra, Ghana. He graduated from Arizona State University with a B.S. in Sustainability.

**Maria Uriarte** is a Professor in the Department for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology at Columbia University. Through an integrated program of empirical and quantitative approaches, research in her lab examines forest ecological dynamics in response to natural disturbance and human land use. Research projects focus on disturbance ecology, forest succession, and community assembly. Field sites span geographic regions where forests have been subject to different forms of anthropogenic disturbance, including fire, hurricanes, fragmentation, and expansion of tree plantations. The methodological thread that unites the diverse research projects housed in the Uriarte lab is the application of spatially-explicit modelling techniques, simulation, and other advanced statistical and modelling tools to understand and forecast the dynamics of tropical forests ecosystems in response to disturbance. Her current projects include studies of the dynamics of deforestation and reforestation in post-agricultural landscapes of Puerto Rico, the effects of fires in agriculture-forest mosaics in the Peruvian Amazon, and seed dispersal processes in fragmented forests in the Brazilian Amazon. Prior to Columbia, Uriarte was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies. Uriarte received an M.S. in Environmental Studies from Yale University, and her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Cornell University.

**Dan Whittle** is an attorney with EDF and the Senior Director of its Caribbean Initiatives. He plays a leading role in EDF's projects in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote sustainable fisheries and the conservation of critical marine and coastal ecosystems. He co-founded EDF's program in Cuba 20 years ago and has been especially active in promoting scientific exchange and environmental cooperation between the United States and Cuba. He also directs EDF's efforts in Puerto Rico to advance community-based clean energy. He has taught environmental law at Wake Forest Law School, served as an environmental advisor in the administration of North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt, and practiced environmental and energy law with Van Ness Feldman in Washington, DC. He is a fellow of the American College of Environmental Lawyers.