

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome. Thanks again for joining the Coalition for Rainforest Nations and our great roster of speakers tonight introducing sovereign carbon credits to the world. It has been a long journey—and believe me, is not over yet!

First, let me simply say why I got involved: I always loved animals, and I wanted to be a vet so I could save them! But I had a limit...I am not at all good with blood!

So that definitely couldn't be my career. Since I grew up in a banking family, that's the direction I thought I'd take.

Then, during my MBA in New York I was asked by Ambassador Conrad to help him with due diligence on whether rainforest could correctly be given a higher value when standing than when chopped down! I thought that was perfect: applying my economics and financials skill to save the last rainforests? How could I say no to this?!

It was a chance to go back to my passion: In this way I could save the wildlife habitats and the huge biodiversity living within them!

Fast forward: The CfRN was created! For the first time, rainforest countries who didn't create the climate change problem but are feeling the pain the most, were saying: "We didn't create the problem, but we can take a leadership role in the solution! **Value our work for reversing deforestation and help to keep the climate in balance!**"

Since 2005, the CfRN secretariat has been about ensuring that the VOICES of rainforest countries are HEARD in the UN climate negotiations. The REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC has been created in this spirit -- with the *voice* of rainforest countries, *for* rainforests and the planet! THAT is where its power lies! Together we helped design and implement the REDD+ Mechanism to preserve rainforests at a national scale! This is the power of "sovereign carbon" credits from rainforests!!!

REDD: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degredation
Carbon sinks/capturing

Small % transaction fee

1. Paris Agreement says only this many, and everyone buys in.
2. Oops I made too much carbon last year, but I'm still going to make more b/c I want to keep doing what I am doing.
3. Let me buy credits from a nation who didn't let out their max.
4. Because rainforests trap carbon, we want to keep those trees alive. If we pay countries to not cut their trees down, they will not cut them down for other revenue streams.
5. We've already cut ours down.
6. If I don't want to keep spending money on all these carbon credits, I'll just make less carbon!

Country lets out too much...can buy credits from a country who let out less...

To succeed, the owners of the last rainforests must be empowered to save them. REDD+ is the only mechanism with the potential to reverse global deforestation, and in so doing make sure biodiversity and fragile habitats and all the people who live in them have a chance to survive!

It seems such a simple concept... which is why it's so difficult to comprehend how some still don't get the message?! ... and why some try to get away with projects without having the countries' authorizations?!?!?

CfRN has been supporting countries building their REDD+ capacity to implement the rules agreed by the 197 nations that signed the Paris Agreement, supporting the nations going through the independent review of the UNFCCC of their credits and much more!

Guess what esteemed guests: It's working!!!

Rainforest countries are DELIVERING!

9 gigatonnes of carbon emission reductions have been produced so far by the REDD+ Mechanism under the Paris Agreement!! That is what we call the "speed and scale of sovereign carbon."

Now, it is my great pleasure and my honor to invite to the stage those I call the Heroes of the Environment, Tonight, they will share with you what why they do what they do, the challenges they face, and why they still do it!

Why are they Heroes? It's because they have the bravery to go to their heads of state and say: "Let's embrace a sustainable development plan. Let's save our forest through a modern mechanism, instead of developing unsustainably like 100 years ago. Even through the uncertainty yet on carbon pricing, uncertainty from receiving support from donors and /or private sector. They keep going! they are trailblazers. They push ahead!

Let me thank you for joining the CfRN tonight ! Thank you to our leaders from the countries for taking the time, thank you so much to CfRN donors and supporters: we couldn't do what we do without your support! We hope you will continue this journey with us as we can assure you, the best is yet to come!!