

## Maria Dolores Rodriguez

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### **Summary**

A Mediator and Program Associate at Meridian Institute who works with other professionals to design, convene, and facilitate multi-party problem-solving interactions to resolve public policy issues. Areas of expertise include the analysis of protracted and deeprooted conflicts, international development and politics, natural resources and the environment, and culture and race. Previously, worked as Program Coordinator at the Environmental Leadership Program. In this role, facilitated meetings and trainings and conducted community outreach, program management, and relationship building with individuals and organizations working on environmental and social change. Holds an M.S. from the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University (GMU) and a B.S. in Government and International Politics, also from GMU. Fluent in Spanish.

### **Meridian Experience**

Meridian Institute 2010–Present

Meridian Institute designs and facilitates collaborative processes that help diverse parties identify critical issues, build relationships and trust, construct innovative solutions, and implement durable decisions. These collaborative processes address challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels, and involve leaders from government agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. Meridian also assists organizations in conducting strategy development and planning.

## Mediator and Program Associate

Manages and facilitates policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development projects involving teams of facilitators. Conducts convening assessments, designs collaborative processes, plans and facilitates meetings, helps participants develop consensus documents, and conducts implementation activities. Selected highlights are summarized below:

- Serves on the facilitation team that leads AGree, a collaborative initiative of diverse stakeholders across the food and agricultural system. AGree is designed to tackle long-term agricultural, food, and rural development policy issues by breaking down traditional structures and working across issue areas.
- Serves on the team that coordinates the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund Assessment (GRIF), an assignment aimed at facilitating the progress of six GRIF projects.
- Works with other facilitators on the Readiness Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership

Facility (FCPF) project, which focuses on gathering and synthesizing lessons learned during the development of the Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners for the Readiness Fund of the FCPF.

- Serves on the Community Resilience System Initiative facilitation team. This project
  is working to develop a Community Resilience System that is comprehensive and
  usable by communities across the United States.
- Please see <a href="http://merid.org/staff/mdrodriguez">http://merid.org/staff/mdrodriguez</a> for a full list of projects.

### **Previous Experience**

## Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Arlington, Virginia 2005–2006 & 2009

Research Assistant

Researched and analyzed the issue of mountaintop-removal mining in West Virginia. Selected appropriate information and built a case study for use in graduate-and undergraduate-level classes.

#### Researcher

Conceptualized and developed a research project focusing on Kichwa communities in the Ecuadorian rainforest. Conducted research on environmental conflicts, indigenous peoples in Latin America, and natural resources. Developed interview questions as well as relationships with local leaders and experts. Collected data and interview responses, transcribed and analyzed data, and wrote an M.S. thesis.

Graduate Research Assistant
Reviewed and analyzed legal case files for a book entitled Dilemmas of Modernity:
Bolivian Encounters with Law and Liberalism.
Selected appropriate cases to be used as chapter markers and translated and summarized the case information.

# Environmental Leadership Program (ELP)

Washington, DC

2007-2009

Program Coordinator

Supported program activities. Liaised between program participants and ELP management. Planned, organized, and represented the ELP at networking events. Successfully developed and nurtured relationships and partnerships with other nonprofit organizations and stakeholders. Researched environmental issues across disciplines. Planned, organized, and facilitated regional retreats, trainings, and networking. Managed communication and marketing efforts for the New England program. Managed the database and home page for the regional network as well as the program's credit card. Developed and implemented a yearly work plan for the regional network.

## Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care

Washington, DC

2006-2007

Programs Assistant

Managed and coordinated tutoring programs for children ages 6–9. Administered a database, data collection, and data quality control, and created a user and variable manual. Trained social services staff in conflict resolution and wrote grant reports.

## **Education**

## George Mason University, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

M.S., Conflict Analysis and Resolution

2006

B.S., Government and International Politics

2002