

MONICA ARAYA

LONDON
SPEAKER
BUREAU

- Transport lead at “climate champions” initiative of United Nations
- Co-founder, Costa Rica Limpia
- Co-Founder, Electric Mobility Association



Topics

- Climate Change
- Environment
- Smart Cities
- Sustainability
- Women

Born in Costa Rica, Monica Araya has worked on sustainability issues for over 20 years with a focus on Latin America. She co-founded Costa Rica Limpia, a citizen-strategy group devoted to promote renewables and electric mobility and launched Movilidad electrica organisation, one of the first electric mobility platforms in Latin America devoted to educate consumers about electric vehicles. She is a founding member of the Electric Mobility Association in Costa Rica and is the Vice President of the Board.

Her TED talk about fossil-free Costa Rica that has one million views and has been translated into 30 languages. In 2017 she was mentor to the TED & BMW’s Next Visionaries. In December 2016, she was the first Latin American to join the world’s largest all-female expedition to Antarctica – an annual women leadership initiative by Homeward Bound. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs named her “Personality of the Future” in 2014.

Monica Araya has done extensive work on climate politics with a focus on Latin America. In the road to Paris (COP21) she launched www.nivela.org to promote new voices in support of climate action. She has been Senior Policy Adviser at E3G – in London since 2009 and Senior Associate at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership since 2016. She was a negotiator for Costa Rica in the international climate negotiations. She has been an independent consultant to many organizations including the OECD, WRI, ODI, NREL, ECF, Climate Works, CDKN, INCAE-Business School, Estado de la Nación-Costa Rica and the United Nations.

Recently, Monica Araya joined the Climate Champions team to lead the transport campaigns seeking to accelerate the uptake of zero-emissions mobility–working alongside the High-Level Climate Action Champion for COP26. She has lived and worked in Latin America, Europe and the US, engaging leaders in government, business, philanthropies to advocate and guide decarbonization strategies. This means creating and supporting coalitions of diverse stakeholders guided by a shared vision.

Monica has written 70 publications and engages actively in public speaking. A frequent media commentator on Latin America energy and climate politics, her insights have been mentioned in local, regional and international media including TIME magazine, the Financial Times, National Geographic, El País, Repubblica, and The Guardian.

She was a Steering Committee member of UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2012-2017. She co-chaired the Platform for Low-Emissions Development Strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2019, she was named ‘Crusader of the Year’ for her role advancing electric mobility in Costa Rica. BMW and TED

appointed her as mentor to “Next Visionaries,” an initiative exploring the future of mobility.

Monica Araya has a Ph.D in environmental management from Yale University and prior to that she got her Masters, also at Yale, and a masters in economic policy at UNA in Costa Rica.

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