



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Climate Change Expert Maria-Paz Gutierrez to Visit Paraguay on Behalf of ECPA Senior Fellows

**Washington, D.C., 18 May 2012** – Professor Maria-Paz Gutierrez, a Senior Fellow in the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), will be traveling to Paraguay from May 22-24 to speak with university and municipal officials from the capital city, Asuncion, and to discuss efficient land use in the Chaco region.

The Senior ECPA Fellows program is a network of high-level technical experts in the fields of climate change and energy who travel between countries in the Western Hemisphere to consult with governments or other institutions that request them. The Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemispheric Affairs and administered by Partners of the Americas. There are currently 22 Senior ECPA Fellows who participate in these five-day exchanges in their field. The main areas of focus for the program are: Energy Efficiency; Renewable Energy; Energy Infrastructure; Energy Poverty and Access; Sustainable Forestry and Land Use; and Climate Change Adaptation. (For more information, see below.)

An assistant professor at University of California, Berkeley, Gutierrez is an architect and researcher focused on establishing radically new sustainable building technologies and urban infrastructures. She has participated in international forums on greywater recycling in regions of extreme water scarcity; emergency sustainable housing in tropical flood risk zones; and future sustainable cities. She is currently researching new emergency housing for flood risk/seismic regions in Southern Chile and its potential contribution for new sustainable policies. Her blog can be found at: [www.bioms.info](http://www.bioms.info).

Paraguay is home to an economy poised for record-setting growth in the coming years and as such, it must be ready to meet the demands for massive infrastructure modernization. It also boasts abundant natural resources, which will be in critical position as the country balances growth and environmental sustainability. With this backdrop Professor Gutierrez is particularly well positioned to offer expert opinion and technical knowledge as it relates to urban infrastructure and land development. Important meetings during her visit will include the Ministries of Public works in Asuncion and the Chaco. While in Paraguay, she will be available to news outlets for interviews.

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**Partners of the Americas** is an international network that promotes social and economic development in the Americas through leadership, voluntary service, and development programs. Its mission is to connect individuals, volunteers, institutions, businesses, and communities to serve and to change lives through lasting partnerships. Partners envisions an interconnected hemisphere that maximizes the social and economic potential, and leverages the full diversity, of the Americas. For more information, visit [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net).

The **Energy and Climate Partnership of the America (ECPA) Senior Fellows Program** is a capacity building program that was launched in 2010 to share best practices with our partners throughout the Americas. ECPA Senior Fellows are experts from the academic, non-profit, and private sector that carry out speaking engagements and act as consultants in the Western Hemisphere. Embassies are encouraged to select ECPA Senior Fellows whose expertise matches the needs of host country governments, the private sector, and civil society and non-profits. Posts are requested to work with Partners of the Americas to coordinate travel and logistics. <http://www.ecpamericas.org/>