Mini biography – Marina Silva

Marina Silva received a bachelor’s degree in History from Federal University of Acre in 1984 and earned postgraduate degrees in Educational Psychology and Psychoanalytic Theory. In almost 30 years of public life, Marina Silva has received worldwide recognition for her defense of political principles and values, the Amazon rainforest and sustainable development. She served as councillor, Assembly member and two terms as senator, and was always elected with a record number of votes. She was the Minister of Environment from 2003 to 2009. She ran for the presidential election in 2010 and 2014. She has received over 50 national and international awards including: Doctor Honoris Causa offered by the Chinese Academy of Forestry in 2005: the 2007 Champions of the Earth Award, the UN’s flagship environmental award; the WWF’s Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal in 2007 for her outstanding leadership in creating the Amazon Regional Protected Areas programme; the 2009 Sophie Prize for her battle to conserve the Amazon forest; and the 2009 Prince Albert II of Monaco’s Climate Change and Energy Award for her exemplary action in support of environment and sustainable development. She has been a member of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Advocacy Group since 2011 which supports the UN’s Secretary-General in building political will and mobilizing global action in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In 2012 she was invited to participate as one of the eight flag-bearers to carry the Olympic flag at the opening of the London Summer Games and also received the title of Honorary Member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), at the World Conservation Congress in Korea. Marina Silva was presented with the Distinguished Service in the Hemisphere award at the 2013 Bravo Business Awards for her ongoing commitment to environmental causes. The Financial Times magazine presented her the "Woman of 2014" title.