

Dr. Gary S. Hartshorn

Dr. Hartshorn is President and Chief Executive Officer of the World Forestry Center (WFC) based in Portland, Oregon. Prior to joining the WFC in October 2003, Dr. Hartshorn was for seven years the President and CEO of the Organization for Tropical Studies—a consortium of 65 universities based at Duke University. He continues to be an adjunct professor of the practice of tropical ecology in Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment and holds an adjunct professorship in Oregon State University's College of Forestry. Hartshorn also served as Chief Scientist and a Vice President of the World Wildlife Fund US in Washington DC. He and his family lived in Costa Rica for 20 years.

Hartshorn has worked throughout the tropics in the fields of forest ecology, forest management, biodiversity conservation, and environmental assessment. In recognition of his botanical collections, colleagues have named six new species of trees for Hartshorn. He has given more than 200 invited speeches and served as a professor in over 50 courses; in 1996 he won the best teaching award for the Institute for Shipboard Education's Semester at Sea. He maintains long-term research interests in tropical forest dynamics, tree dominance-diversity patterns, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable forest management. Hartshorn is an author of 250 scientific publications and technical reports. He published important papers on tropical tree demography and the role of gaps in tropical forest dynamics. Using his research findings on gap dynamics and the regeneration of tropical trees, Hartshorn developed the innovative use of strip-cuts as a management model in species-rich tropical forests. He is especially interested in the conservation and sustainable use of forests.

Hartshorn serves on several boards of directors, including the Tropical Forest Foundation (currently honorary; former chairman and member of the executive committee), Institute of Current World Affairs (trustee and former fellow), Hoyt Arboretum, the Ravenholt Fund, Keep Oregon Green, and the World Forestry Center. He serves on several scientific advisory committees (e.g., TechnoServe, University of Missouri St. Louis International Center for Tropical Ecology). He was the U.S. Scientific Liaison Officer (1997-2003) to the Center for International Forestry Research, based in Bogor, Indonesia. He was a three-time White House appointee (1991-2000) on the Joint Commission for the Environment (JCE) and elected chairman for two terms. He was a Forest & Man Fellow of the Institute of Current World Affairs from 1978 to 1982. Hartshorn was elected president of the Association for Tropical Biology (1989) and the American Institute of Biological Sciences (2003). From 1981 to 1985 he served as president of the Tropical Science Center in San José, Costa Rica. He received the 1993 Comenius Award as the outstanding alumnus of Moravian College. Hartshorn holds a B.S. from Moravian College, an M.S. from North Carolina State University and the Ph.D. from the University of Washington.