



**Environment at the crossroads.
Aiming for a sustainable future.**
Gulbenkian Conference 2009
27 and 28 October



George Polk is currently leading the Soros Climate Fund Management, a new \$1 billion private equity fund focused on accelerating the development and diffusion of climate change technologies and business models. The fund is fully capitalized and will be launched in the autumn, 2009.

Prior to establishing the private equity fund, George was Senior Advisor on Climate Change to McKinsey & Company. McKinsey has emerged as the global thought leader on the commercial response to climate change through its analysis of the costs of climate abatement and opportunities for its clients. George worked on policy initiatives and with the Cleantech practice advising exciting technology businesses on how to growing their businesses more rapidly.

George Polk was also the Chairman of the European Climate Foundation, the largest funder of initiatives to change European policy on climate. George founded the ECF in 2007 with \$75m from 7 major philanthropists. It is now the European sister organization to the U.S. Energy Foundation and the China Sustainable Energy Program, giving it a global reach.

George was also Senior Advisor to the ClimateWorks Foundation, globally the largest philanthropic funder of work on climate, and the founder The Catalyst Project, which works with a small group of very high net worth individuals to design and implement major philanthropic strategies related to climate.

Prior to working on climate change, George had a successful career as a technology entrepreneur, most recently CEO of The Cloud, the leading broadband wireless network operator in Europe. George was recognized as Global Technology Pioneer by the World Economic Forum, a Pioneer of the City of London, and has been ranked several times in the top 25 global technology agenda setters by Silicon.com.



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George started his career at Merrill Lynch, where he specialized in Mergers and Acquisitions before becoming Assistant to Michael von Clemm, the Chairman of Merrill Lynch Capital Markets (which included all investment banking, proprietary investing, and sales and trading) where he monitored major client engagements and worked on strategic plans for the company. After that he co-founded Wave Systems, a data security company, where he was head of business development and raised the initial funding for the business. In 1990, he founded EP Systems, a provider of electronic monitoring services to the criminal justice system in the US, which he sold in 1993. Following that, he joined Geotek Communications, the developer of a new digital radio technology, where he ran first business development and then a built up a portfolio of international networks in Europe, Latin America and Asia. He sold these businesses for Geotek in \$105m in 1998. Following that he became President of Global Wireless Holdings Latin America, a holding company for wireless data companies, and was then entrepreneur in residence at iGabriel. He started the Cloud in 2002.

He is a graduate of Harvard University and is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.