Costa Rica

Regional training workshop on SEEA
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COSTA RICA BRIEF

- 4.6 million people and 51,000 km²
- High literacy (98%) and electrification rates (97% of households)
- GDP (2011): $41,0 billions.
  - Agriculture 8.9%,
  - Industry 21%
  - Commercial services and tourism 70.1%
- GDP per capita (2011): $8,885
- Forest cover: 53% (protected areas, PES, since 1997 the government applies a tax on fossil fuels to support the country PES program)
- 25% of the national territory in protected areas
- Electricity generation: 90% from renewable sources
Activities during last years

• Participation of Costa Rica delegation in 50:50 Campaign at RIO+20 (June 2012): Support from President Chinchilla to natural capital

• (Incorporation of Costa Rica as a pilot project WAVES country in 2013 (accounting initiatives Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services). Other pilots countries: Colombia, Botswana, Madagascar, Phillipines plus 15 countries as partnership:

• Selected Accounts of natural assets to build (decision validated in an interagency workshop including academia)
  • Water account (contribution to National Plans for watershed and integrated management of water resource)
  • Forest account (contribution to National Plans for forests conservation and ecosystem services valuation)
Activities during last years

• Defined leading institution and their institutional counterparts and respective roles (2014) by Steering Committee

  • **Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MINAE)**
    – Statistics National Institute (INEC)
    – Central Bank
    – Ministry of the Treasury
    – Ministry of planning
Contabilidad del Capital Natural: la Cuenta de Agua como Herramienta de Políticas para Costa Rica
Activities during last years

Alcance de la Cuenta

Cuenta de Agua

Cuadro de Suministro y Uso físico
Cuenta de Activos
Cuenta de Emisiones
Cuadro de Suministro y Uso híbrido
Uso de las Cuentas

- Cuenta de activos
- Cuenta de emisiones
- Cuadro de oferta y utilización físico
- Cuadro de oferta y utilización híbrido

- Oferta de agua (cantidad disponible, potenciales de uso, como el hidroeléctrico)
- Problemática de contaminación
- Presión sobre los recursos hídricos, intensidad de uso y extracción
- Mayores usuarios, intensidad de uso y productividad
- Disponibilidad actual y futura de fuentes agua
- Cobro de tarifas cubre gastos de recuperación de cuencas?
• Identifies the links of economic activity with the depletion and degradation of water resources through an accounting framework.

• Help assess and monitor the pressure of economic agents on water.

• Allows greater disaggregation of data compared to traditional national accounting.
Costa Rica: (Forests) Striptease

1940 Forest Coverage 75%
1950 Forest Coverage 72%
1961 Forest Coverage 53%
1977 Forest Coverage 31%
1983 Forest Coverage 26%
1987 Forest Coverage 21%
1997 Forest Coverage 42%
2000 Forest Coverage 47%
2005 Forest Coverage 51%

Source: Estudios de cobertura forestal de Costa Rica - FONÁFIFO
Corredores biológicos (conectividad)

1.626.972 ha, representa un 31% del territorio nacional
Forest cover in 2010 of Costa Rica territory country reaches 52.38%
Forest coverage, GDP and poverty rate, 1990-2010

Meeting on Forest policy with Heads of Forestry Administrations of the MENA countries
Forest coverage, GDP and female’s participation on working force, 1990-2010

Meeting on Forest policy with Heads of Forestry Administrations of the MENA countries
Forest coverage, GDP and child’s mortality, 1990-2010

Meeting on Forest policy with Heads of Forestry Administrations of the MENA countries
Activities during last years

• Creation of inter-agency working groups on Water and Forest Statistics
  ▪ Defined institutional structure to develop Water Accounting
  ▪ Inventory of water statistics: water balances, time series availability,
  ▪ Statistical validation based on International Recommendations Water Statistics

• Data base integration and standardized guidelines for the implementation of ecosystem accounting

• Forest National Agency (FONAFIFO) updated forest inventory forest (2012-2013)
Although there is experience with the development of the National Statistical System, it is necessary to incorporate internationally accepted and standardized guidelines for implementing ecosystem accounting.

**System of National Accounts:** incorporation of natural capital and ecosystems value national accounts requires leadership and very strong inter-agency coordination.

**Data availability:** important advance with the consolidation of an integrated National Environmental Statistics System, SINIA (statistical standards, IRWS). However:

- More budget and staffing required
- Political support for institutionalization
- Long term strategy for Asset Accounts construction
Perspectives for the future

• This kind of project requires short term funding to support long term initiatives.

• New sources of funding are needed to provide sustainability.

• International cooperation: UNSD, WB and others
Next Steps

• Strengthening of inter-agency working group on Forest Statistics (FONAFIFO, SINAC, ONF, MINAE)

• Capacity building activities on Water and Forest Accounts, and SEEA 2012 in Central Bank

• Institutionalization and strengthening of SINIA working structure

• Consolidation of work plan and project management: staff, consultants
Thank you for your Attention

Muchas Gracias