



# Costa Rica

Regional training workshop on SEEA  
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# COSTA RICA BRIEF

- 4.6 million people and 51.000 km<sup>2</sup>
- 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





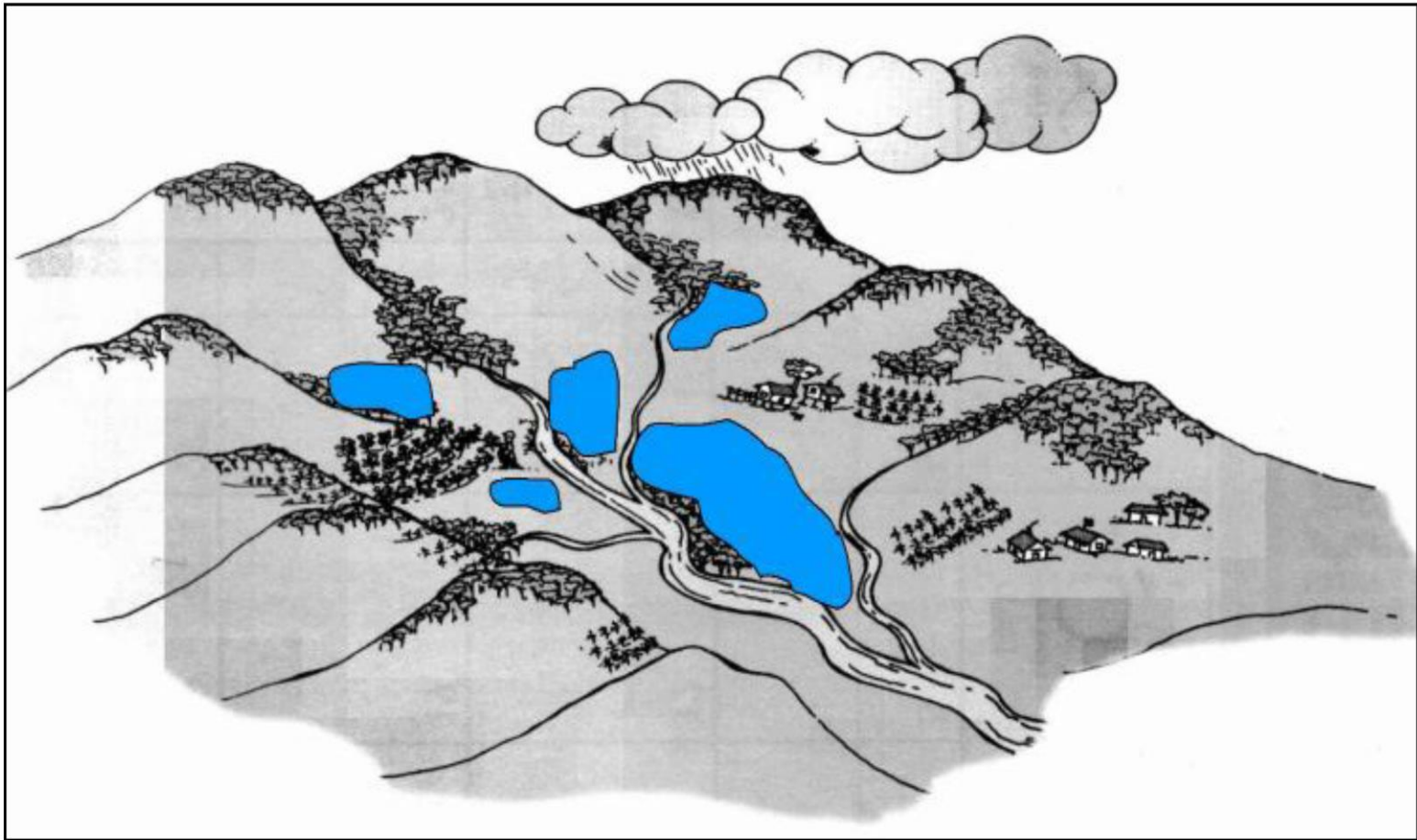
# Activities during last years

- 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



**Figura 11. Ejemplificación de la localización de áreas de recarga hídrica en una cuenca dada de acuerdo al análisis de distintas variables biofísicas. Fuente: Faustino y Benegas (2010: 32)**

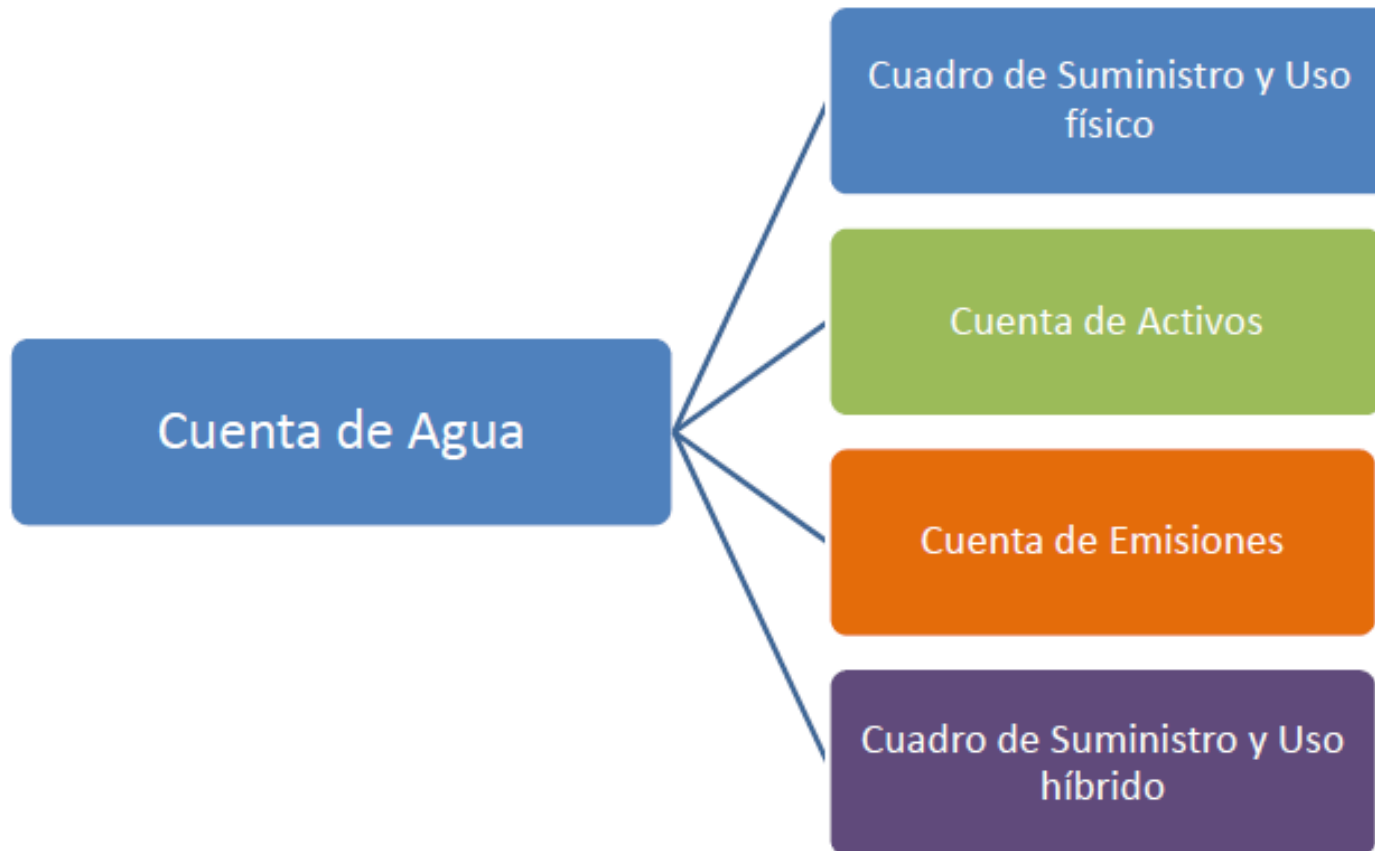


# Activities during last years

Contabilidad del Capital Natural: la  
Cuenta de Agua como Herramienta de  
Políticas para Costa Rica

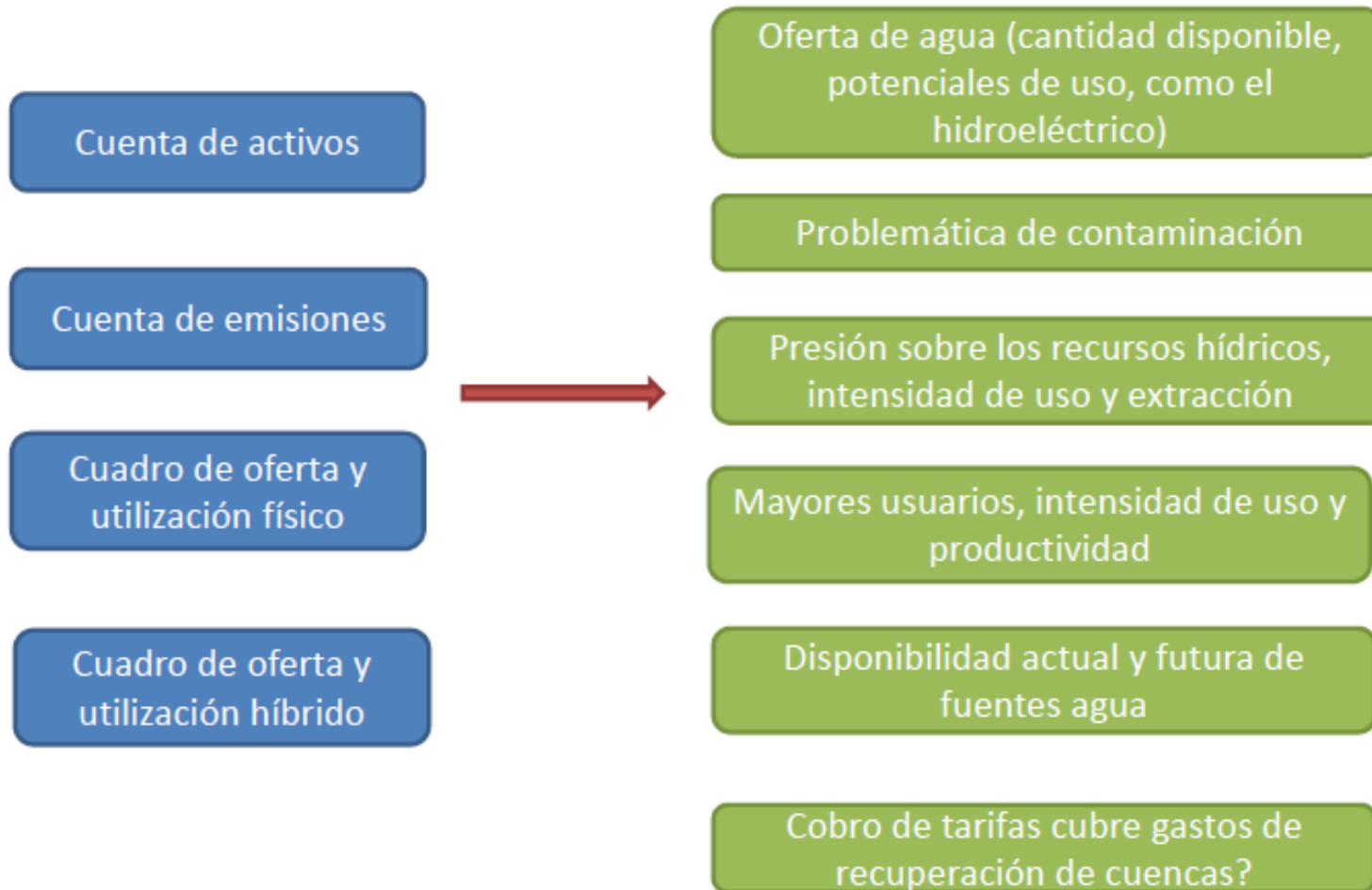
# Activities during last years

## Alcance de la Cuenta



# Activities during last years

## Uso de las Cuentas



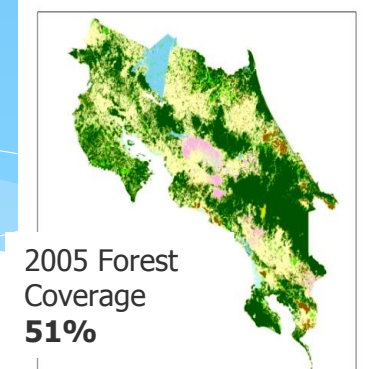
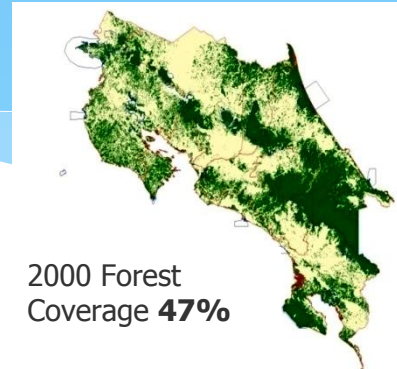
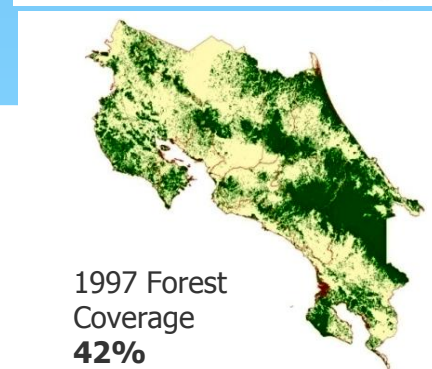
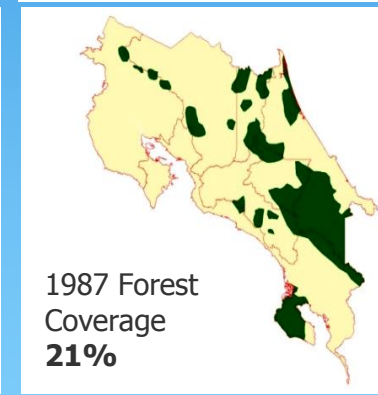
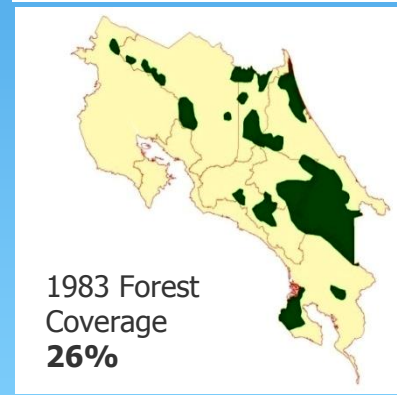
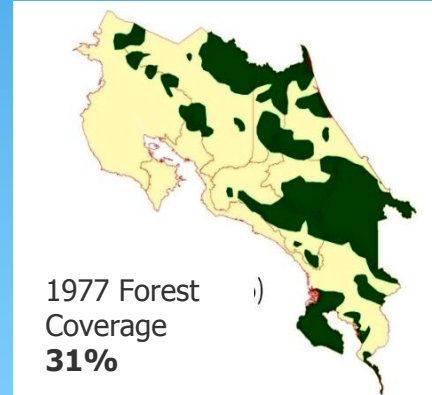
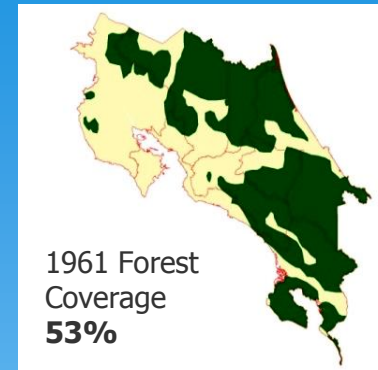
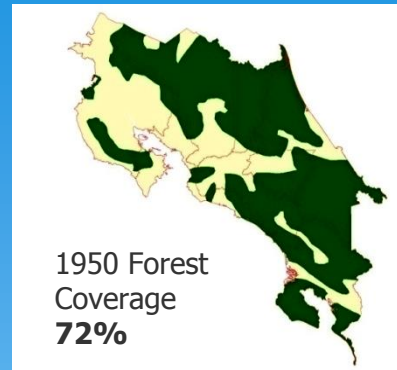
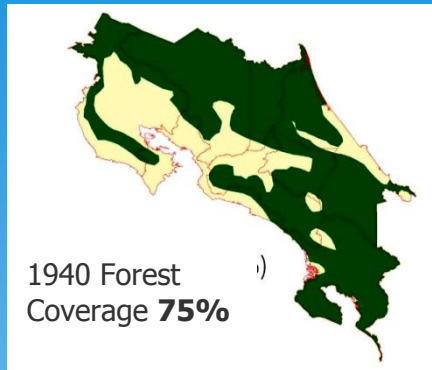




# Activities during last years

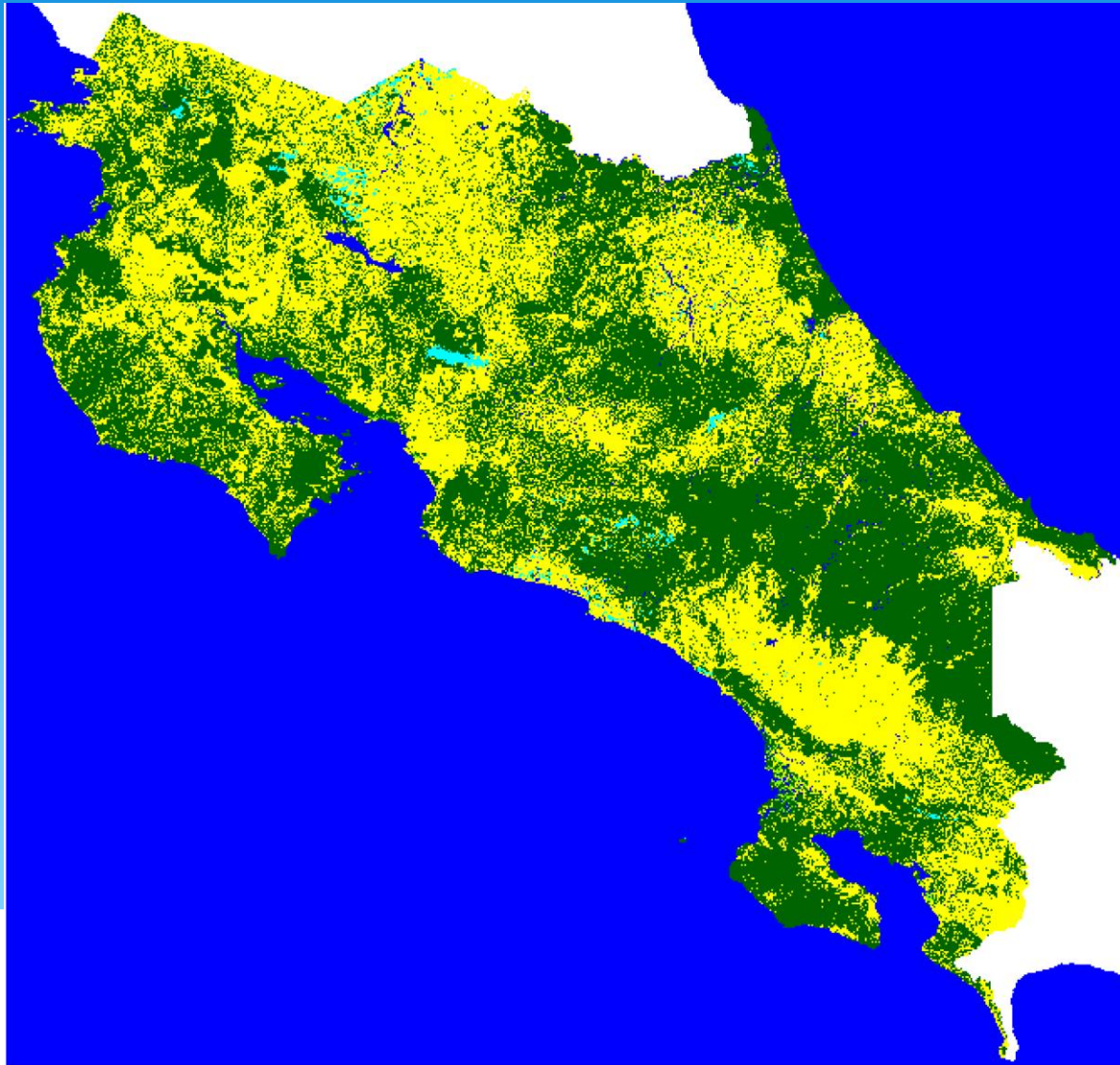
- **Identifies the links of economic activity with the depletion and degradation of water resources through an accounting framework.**
- **Help assess and monitor the pressure of economic agents on water.**
- **Allows greater disaggregation of data compared to traditional national accounting.**

# Costa Rica: (Forests) Striptease



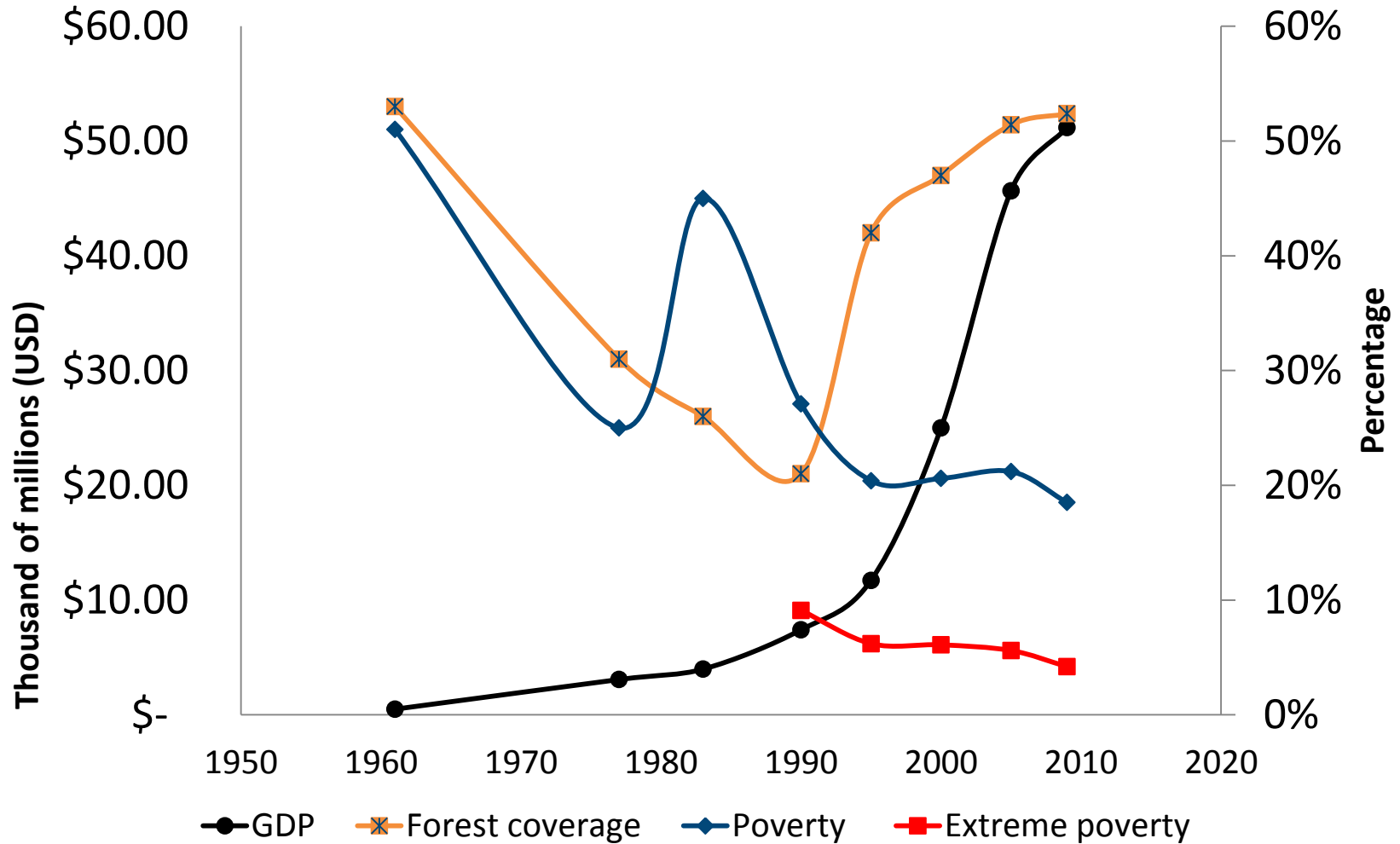


# Forest Cover Map of Costa Rica 2010.

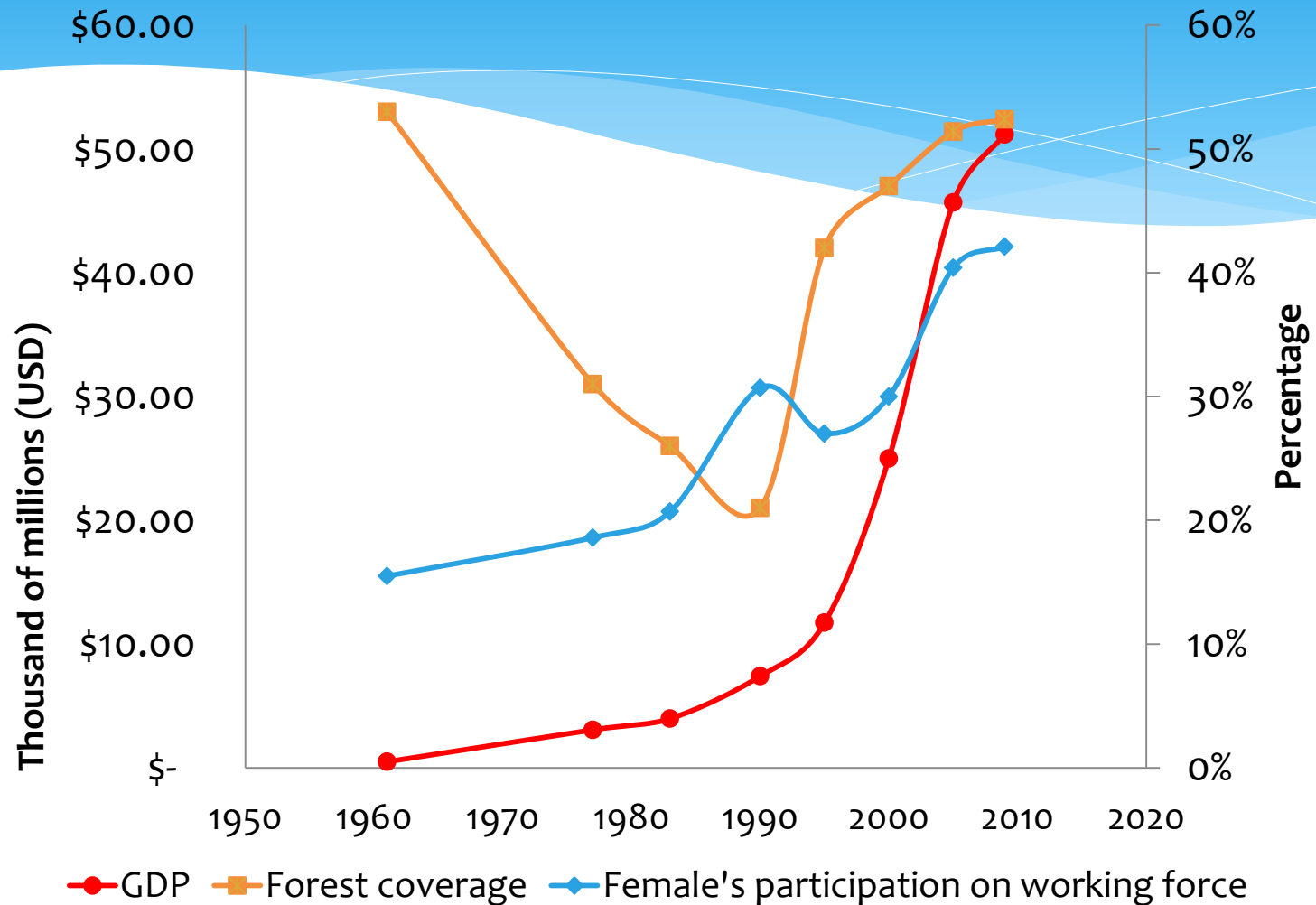


Forest cover in 2010 of Costa Rica territory country reaches 52.38%

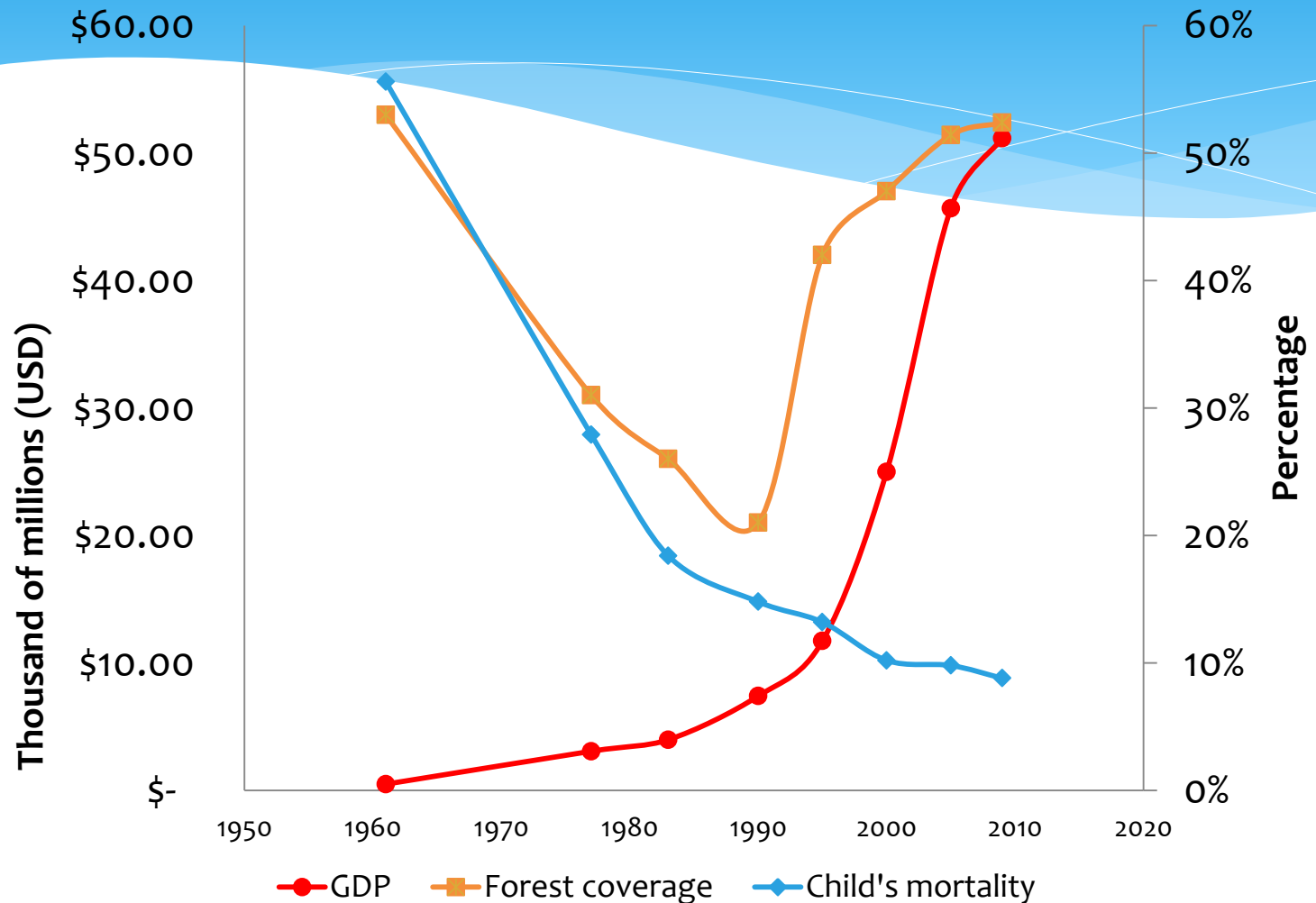
# Forest coverage, GDP and poverty rate, 1990-2010



# Forest coverage, GDP and female's participation on working force, 1990-2010



# Forest coverage, GDP and child's mortality, 1990-2010



# 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)





# Lessons learned

- 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

