



WAVES -Costa Rica

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COSTA RICA BRIEF

- 4.6 million people and 51.000 km² of Virginia)
- High literacy rate (98%)
- High electrification (99.11%, 2010% of households)
- GPD (2011): **\$41,0 billions.**
 - Agriculture 8,9%,
 - Industry 21%
 - Commercial services and tourism **70,1%**
- GDP per capita (2011): **\$8,885**
- Tourism and other services have become the main source of income in the country
- Forest cover:
 - 52, 4%, 2010 (protected areas, PES, reforestation)
- Energy matrix:
 - 91% of power Generation comes from renewable sources (2011)
 - 73% hydropower, 13% geothermal, 9% thermal, 4% wind power , 1% biomass.
 - Potential: 25500 MW to develop.
- Carbon emissions: since 1997 the government applies a tax on fossil fuels (income supports the country PES program).



Activities in Previous 7 Months



- Establishment of Dialogue with Leading Agencies:
 - Ministry of the Environment (MINAET)
 - Central Bank (BCCR)
- Other counterparts
 - National Statistics Agency (INEC)
 - Ministry of Planning
 - Ministry of Finance
- Discussions on
 - Policy and technical issues,
 - Potential institutional arrangements,
 - Potential budget,
 - Formalization of steering and technical committees (Abril, 2012)



Activities in Previous 7 Months



- **Scoping report:**
 - Interviews with 50+ experts from academia, government and private organizations.
 - Literature review:
 - Large number of scientific and policy-oriented studies on valuation of ecosystem services
 - Costa Rica developed one of the first studies on “Green GDP” 20 years ago
- **Technical workshop (December 13, 2011):**
 - Formal presentation of WAVES initiative
 - Discussion of preliminary results from Scoping Study
 - Preliminary identification of priority areas (natural asset accounts) to be validated in Workshop of May 2012



What we have learned...



- **System of National Accounts:** Natural capital and ecosystems value not incorporated
 - Opportunity: “Costa Rica CAB Project” to change base year and to update national accounts (2012-2014).
- **Data availability:** Significant advance with the consolidation of an integrated National Environmental Statistics System
 - Statistical standards like IRWS and IRES
- **Existence of National Development Strategies** in different sectors (Energy, Tourism, Water, Forest, Marine resources)
- **Numerous studies on ecosystems valuation** developed by the academia and NGOs
- **Need of Capacity building** activities in MINAET, Central Bank and INEC
- **WAVES would contribute** with current country sustainable development strategies and initiatives

Policy Entry Points for WAVES-Phase 2



Account	Strategy Goal	National Development Strategies
Water Resources:	Contribute to watershed and water resources management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Plan for Integrated Management of Water Resources (PNGIRH –MINAET 2010) ▪ National Energy Expansion Plan 2012- 2024 (ICE) ▪ National Water Agency Strategic Plan 2015 (AYA)
Forest Resources:	Contribute to National Plans for Forests Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Program for Payment for Environmental Services (PES) ▪ GRUAS II-Priority Biodiversity Planning Strategy ▪ REDD + Strategy ▪ Climate Change Strategy (2008-2021) ▪ Protected Areas Network (SINAC) National Plans
Marine Resources:	Contribute to Costal and Marine Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ocean and Marine Initiative 2011 ▪ Costal Land use Planning and Zoning ▪ Management Plans of marine and costal protected areas
Tourism:	Contribute to Sustainable Tourism Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goverment Development Plan 2014 ▪ National Plan for Sustainable Tourism 2010-2016 ▪ Preliminary work on Tourism Account by the Central Bank
Energy Resources:	Contribute in the country renewable energy matrix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Energy Plan 2008-2021 ▪ National Electrical Expansion Plan 2012- 2024 (ICE) ▪ Low Carbon Development Strategy (2021)

Major Challenges



- **Agreements between environmental and economic high-level government authorities** towards common goals of ecosystems valuation and environmental accounting
- **Financial support** offered by WAVES (4 years and Bank executed) and future sustainability of the initiative in the country
- **Inter-institutional coordination:**
 - Endorsement
 - Leadership
 - Resource allocations and sustainability
 - Policy awareness and relevance
 - Capacity development
- **Establishment of permanent agencies** for data collection and analysis



Next Steps



- Technical Workshop on May 2012:
 - Validation of Priority Accounts and Work Plan
 - Formalization of steering and technical committees
 - Validation of Work Plan for WAVES-Phase 2
- Seek opportunities for joint capacity building and formal training or exchanges for environmental accounting
- Meeting with high-level representatives from MINAET, BCCR, INEC:
 - WAVES endorsement
 - Inter-institutional arrangements and coordination
 - Definition of Financial support by WAVES and counterpart resources
- Rio +20: included in the Government agenda of Costa Rica.





*Wealth
Accounting
and Valuation
of Ecosystem
Services*

Thank you for your attention

Muchas gracias

