

Costa Rica

Natural Capital Accounting and Development Policy Challenges

May 14, 2014



Policy Questions

- **Forest Account:** Contribution of Forests to national wealth
 - Investments on Payments for Environmental Services (PES)
 - REDD+ Strategy
 - National Forests Policy and National Climate Change Strategy (2021 carbon neutrality goal)
- **Water Account:** Water Resources integrated management
 - Water supply in the long term (quantity and quality)
 - Water productivity (decoupling of economic growth from unsustainable use)
 - Water as a “human right” and the need to “value it properly” (new Water Law under discussion at Congress)

What have we learned? (1)

- Political support from economic authorities is a necessary condition (for demand creation)
 - A “pull” approach: why should NCA be relevant for your policy area (Finance, Planning, Environment)?
- Besides the institutional and policy making dimensions, the “how to” component is critical:
 - Establish an (inter-agency) *core group* on environmental-economic accounting
 - Strengthen national statistical capacity in priority areas

What have we learned? (2)

- NCA implementation requires a one-by-one “selling” strategy
 - Different expectations from stakeholders and potential users (from primary data producers to Ministries)
- NCA as a “public good:” innovative approaches in gathering, producing and using data
 - Policy decision makers
 - Private sector
 - Civil society

Critical Factors

(Challenges for Implementation)

- Enhanced national capacity for **water** and **forests** statistics production
- High-level political support (institutionalization and long-term work)
- Interaction with national partners and NCA “competitive” positioning in the development agenda
- Scope and Scale: balanced approach for practical results



Thank You