COSTA RICA
Stories from the Field: Results and Accounts

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I. Institutional framework

The INEC is the leading institution of the National Statistical System (NSS), but ....

The NSS has a decentralized structure.

We have different institutions involved in the production of different statistics.

The Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR) is the institution in charge of the National Accounts.
I. Institutional framework

Institutions involved in the production of basic data necessary for the environmental accounts:
I. Institutional framework

Key to the success of the project: ensure political commitment at the highest level.

Waves national Steering Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>REPRESENTATIVE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of the Environment</td>
<td>Minister</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
<td>Vice-Minister</td>
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<td>Ministry of Planning</td>
<td>Vice-Minister</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Statistics Office</td>
<td>General manager</td>
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II. Why these Accounts?

- **NCA for better informed policy decisions:**
  - National Plan for Integrated Management of Water Resources (PNGIRH): water as an *economic good* with value in all its diverse competing uses.
  - **Water Account** to monitor water use across productive sectors. Input for tariff estimation: decoupling economic growth from water use.
  - National Plan for Forest Development (forest land management, competitiveness of forestry industry, conservation, Payment for Environmental Services, mitigation and adaptation to climate change).
  - Need of a solid and innovative policy framework that recognizes the value and importance of forests to society: **Forest Account** to contribute *visibility of relationships and connections* of forests with national development agenda.
III. Uses of the Accounts: Forests/GDP?
III. Uses of the Accounts: Opportunity Cost of Land and Water (C/ha/year)
III. Uses of the Accounts: Protected Areas and PES Contracts
III. Uses of the Accounts

**Forests:**

What is the contribution of forests to national wealth?

Payment for Environmental Services (PES).

Carbon neutrality strategy

**Water:**

Integrated management of water resources.

Long term supply (quantity and quality).

Water productivity (decoupling economic growth from unsustainable use of water)

Water as a human right
IV. Progress on the Accounts:

- Physical flow accounts for water have been compiled: main users and providers of water for the national economy.
- Preliminary asset account for water: based on national water balances.
- Work in progress: monetary flow account for water.
- Two case studies: preliminary account including physical and monetary supply and use tables for urban sector (ESPH); use of water in agriculture in rural areas (DRAT).
- First results from forest accounts that incorporate physical and monetary values.
- Preliminary timber and forest account has been compiled.
- Results of the new national forest inventory and a carbon dynamics study for REDD+ strategy to be integrated.
V. Uses and Reactions

• Several potential users and people interested in the *forthcoming* results.

• In-house workshops and technical meetings with key stakeholders (government, academia and other organizations) to raise awareness on the importance of NCA for policy decision making.

• Expectation from policy makers on accounts results: Ministry of the Environment working on a *policy incidence* strategy.
VI. Problems and Lessons learned

• Data is rarely available the “way it is needed:” learning process that involves not only economic and national accounts knowledge but diverse areas of study.

• Sources of information are scattered in various institutions with limited statistical knowledge.

• Start with “what you have” in terms of information, resources, stakeholder support, and technical knowledge: compilation of accounts is a continuous improvement process.

• Planning and project management is a must. However, room for learning by doing is necessary.
VII. The way forward

• Compile final versions of the accounts.

• Energy and Environmental Expenditure Accounts prospection.

• Policy incidence work to better inform and engage potential users of the accounts.

• Institutionalization: Roadmap for Accounts and National NCA Strategy (2016-2019)

• Staffing and programing at Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR)
Thank you