

Costa Rica Case Study

Analysis of National Strategies for Sustainable Development

This document is one of 19 country case studies that form the knowledge base for a synthesis report entitled “National Strategies for Sustainable Development: Challenges, Approaches, and Innovations Based on a 19-country Analysis.” The synthesis report and country case studies are available electronically at:

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Notice to Reader

Information in the country case studies was obtained primarily from publicly available sources (e.g., Internet and literature sources) and, where possible, was supplemented through interviews with government officials. The information was up-to-date as of May 2004. Every effort was made to ensure that official national sustainable development focal point contacts had the opportunity to provide feedback on the research, but such contacts were not successful in all cases. **This case study is in an unedited, working paper format.**

These case studies are made publicly available to add to the national sustainable development strategy knowledge base. The project’s research partners accept responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions. The views expressed in this working paper do not necessarily represent the views of the funding partners.

The research partners welcome your comments on this country case study. Please e-mail comments to Darren Swanson at dswanson@iisd.ca.

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1 Introduction: Costa Rica Description

Costa Rica is a Central American country of 3.9 million people. It is bordered by Nicaragua and Panama in the north and south, respectively, and by the Caribbean and Pacific Oceans on the east and west. Costa Rica gained independence from Spain in 1821. It has a strong civilian tradition and is a peace-seeking nation with no army (Umaña 2001).

Economy

Costa Rica's economy can be broadly characterized as services – 61%, industry – 30%, and agriculture – 9% (2002 estimates, CIA 2003). Tourism and electronic exports are notable aspects of the services and industry sectors. Per capita GDP is approximately \$8,300 USD (purchasing power parity) with total GDP upwards of \$32 billion USD. Poverty has been “substantially reduced” in the last 15 years (Human Poverty Index now 4.4%, ranked 4th; UNDP 2003a) and a strong social safety net has been established (CIA 2003). Political stability and an educated and skilled workforce make Costa Rica an attractive place for foreign investment. Low coffee and banana prices however, have hurt the agriculture sector. The GINI index for Costa Rica is 45.9, placing it among the top 26 countries in the world for unequal income distribution.

Society

Costa Rica is a democratic republic with seven provinces. President Abel Pacheco has served since 2002 where he received 58% of the popular vote and acts as both chief of state and head of government. There are three prominent political parties, namely the Social Christian Unity Party, the National Liberation Party, and the Citizen Action Party. This presidential democracy consists of a Legislative Assembly (congress) and a unicameral legislature with 57 members. Elections are held every 4 years (DFAIT 2004). Members of the Legislative Assembly are elected by direct, popular in four-year terms.

Overall, Costa Rica's development progress places it among the top 42 countries in the world to live (human development index of 0.832; UNDP 2003b). Its social welfare system built on access to health and education in the 1940s has stood the test of time amidst a plethora of structural adjustment policies; however, these systems are “under considerable pressure by a rapidly growing population (Umaña 2001).” Roman Catholic is the predominant religion representing three-quarters of the population. Spanish is the official language (CIA 2003).

Environment

Costa Rica is home to a spectacular natural environment with approximately 1,300 km of coastline. Coastal plains are separated by rugged mountains, and among them, several major volcanoes. The terrain and climate allows Costa Rica to obtain over 80% of its power from hydro-electricity.

In the wake of defaulting on commercial debt interest payments in the early 1980s, Costa Rica pioneered the use of “debt-for-nature” and restructured its commercial debt. But Costa Rica is best known for its national parks and protected areas and for demonstrating

how nature conservation can become an “engine for eco-tourism and sustainable development (Umaña 2001).” However, Costa Rica is not immune to the pressures of deforestation and land use change, largely a result of the clearing of land for cattle ranching and agriculture (CIA 2003). Additionally it deals with environmental issues including soil erosion, coastal marine pollution, fisheries protection; solid waste management; air pollution, and currently is in the midst of a legal dispute over navigational rights of Rio San Juan on border with Nicaragua (CIA 2003). The Environmental Sustainability Index ranking for Costa Rica in 2002 was 9th (value of 63.2; Yale University & Columbia University 2002).

Costa Rica’s Profile by Selected Indicators

Indicator	Value
Human Development Index (and ranking) – 2001	0.832 (42 nd)
Human Poverty Index (and ranking) – 2001	4.4% (4 th)
Environmental Sustainability Index (and ranking) – 2002	63.2 (9 th)
GHG Emissions -1998	1.31 tonnes CO ₂ per capita
GDP and GDP per capita - 2002	\$32 billion and \$8,300

Note to Readers

This report is based largely on information obtained from the 2001 Earth Council report on national councils for sustainable development and through evaluation reports for the UNDP’s Capacity 21 program. The Costa Rica section of the 2001 Earth Council report was written by the 2001 President of the Costa Rican National Council for Sustainable Development and Director for the Civil Society Office in the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

2 Content of the National Sustainable Development Strategy

Costa Rica has been a pioneer in incorporating sustainable development into decision making at the national level. In 1988 the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mines (MIRENEM) championed the first participatory sustainable development strategy – ECODES, the Foundation for Ecology and Development – as a “long-term exercise to look at Costa Rica’s development in a systemic and integrative fashion (Umaña 2001).”

In 1994, President Figueres made sustainable development one of the central themes of his administration, and a major effort was set in motion to look at the country’s sustainable growth potential in an integrated way. This push embodied four objectives: economic efficiency, social equity, political participation and environmental sustainability (Umaña 2001).

The 1988 ECODES sustainable development strategy does not appear to be the guiding document for Costa Rica’s national activities at the present time. Current activities appear to be more decentralized in the form of several strategies that relate to sustainable development such as: the Biodiversity Strategy, Biological Corridor, Law 7779 on Use and Management of Soil Conservation, National Plan of Environmental Policy, the

National Plan to Reduce Poverty, the Plan for Equal Opportunities between Men and Women, the Program for Basic Equipment of for Integral Health Care (EBAIS), and the Program for Basic Agricultural Service Centers (Guzman and Birch 2002).

Guzman and Birch (2002) describe that in addition to these strategies, “there exist other sectoral efforts toward sustainable development that are not coordinated under a common integral strategy.” Included in their list is the Costa Rican Conservation Strategy for Sustainable Development (ECODES), the Agenda 21 of the Osa Conservation Area, a project called “The Municipalities in the Way to Sustainable Development” of the San Jose Municipality, the Regional Councils for Sustainable Development promoted by the National Council of Non Governmental Organizations (CONAO), and the Sustainable Development Projects financed by the Foundation of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (FUNDECOOPERACIÓN) since 1995.

Strategy Content

Since 1999 Costa Rica’s strategic efforts related to sustainable development through the Ministry of the Environment and Energy appear to be focused on implementing Agenda 21 at the local level as a tool to “generate multi-stakeholder participation planning for constructing sustainable development (Earth Council 2001).” For this strategic approach a demonstration project has been initiated within the Osa Conservation Area (ACOSA). The ACOSA covers an area of approximately 426 hectares or 8.6 percent of the national territory and is home to one of Costa Rica’s most important national parks. The area is rich in biodiversity, but as described by the Earth Council (2001), “in recent decades, development of ACOSA areas have been imperiled by the complex scheme of socioeconomic inequalities, intensive mono-cultural development (oil, palm, bananas, rice, among others), overexploitation of soils leading to high levels of erosion, high unemployment rates, increased poverty, squatting on agricultural land, and unsustainable exploitation of woodland resources.”

The Costa Rica approach is to eventually “replicate this [local Agenda 21] experience in other regions of the country in order to pave the way for preparing and implementing a *National Sustainable Human Development Plan*, and, through this process, to create an operational *National Council on Sustainable Development* with the responsibility of developing a national Agenda 21 (Earth Council 2001).” There is no single strategy document articulating this process; therefore, this report articulates the various development, participation, monitoring, and implementation aspects of the local Agenda 21 process that is currently being tested in the ACOSA.

The local Agenda 21 effort is not a formal strategy document; rather, it is a strategic approach. At a conceptual level, the local Agenda 21 process is defined as “a participative planning tool in which sectors in the government and civil society concertedly determine the course to be taken by their communities, regions, or countries in pursuit of sustainable human development (Earth Council 2001).” Through this, Costa Rica endeavors to demonstrate the potential of a multi-stakeholder, multi-actor, multi-sectored operation in the implementation of Agenda 21 within the National Conservation Areas System (SINAC), and specifically the ACOSA (Earth Council 2001).

Coordination and Linkages with Other Strategies or Planning Processes

As described previously, many different policy or strategy documents have been developed in Costa Rica that incorporates many of the principles of sustainable development. However, the direct linkages between these documents, the sustainable development strategy (from the late 1980s) and the local Agenda 21 process are unclear.

Integration of Sustainable Development Principles

The local Agenda 21 process is structured on four thematic areas including environment, production, social problems and infrastructure. These themes represent the structure of “Tables” of participation for the local Agenda 21 process (Costa Rica 2000). Its foundation in Agenda 21 implies that the local Agenda 21 is guided by the principle of *meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*.

3 Institutional and Procedural Aspects of the National Sustainable Development Strategy

3.1 Development and Institutional Aspects

The Agenda 21 strategic process was initiated for the most part in 1999 through the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Costa Rica’s Agenda 21 program was put forth as an “integrative multi-sectoral strategy for coordinating initiatives that environmentally facilitate the concentration of interests, the furtherance of self-management and joint management capacities of the participating entities (Earth Council 2001).”

The ACOSA Agenda 21 process was initiated largely in response to a natural resource crisis – specifically the removal of woodland resources from the ACOSA. In response, the Office of the President ordered by presidential directive, the creation of the Inter-institutional High Commission for the Osa Peninsula. The Commission represented a commitment to prepare a comprehensive regional Plan for Sustainable Human Development Plan, “adhering to the Presidential mandate to eradicate prevailing conditions of poverty, unemployment, and deforestation (Earth Council 2001).”

UNDP’s Capacity 21 program provided assistance to Costa Rica’s sustainable development efforts through the later half of the 1990s (Box 1). One of the documented lessons learned through this assistance was that “Sustainable development efforts should be rooted at the local level (Umaña 2001).” The Capacity 21 efforts found that most people were concerned about “factors that affect their daily lives and neighbourhoods,

Box 1. Assistance of UNDP’s Capacity 21 Program

Capacity 21 support was requested for three main tasks: to transform the decision-making process, to increase public awareness and empower communities toward sustainable development, and to support the Rio conventions and articulate specific actions towards their implementation. At the planning level, Capacity 21 sought to complement the National Development Plan with sustainability criteria and the framework of Agenda 21. A National Environmental Policy Plan (ECO-2005) was developed in 1996, and a National System for Sustainable Development was adopted by decree to include stakeholder participation and an Agenda 21 focus in national development planning.

Source: Umaña (2001).

such as: lack of adequate garbage disposal and sanitation, air pollution in cities, and health-related impacts of pollution and chemicals.”

Further evidence of this local approach can be seen in the Ministry of Environment and Energy’s efforts to decentralize environmental management to the municipal level during the period 1995-98. In these efforts capacity building at the local level was considered critical for success. By 1998, a new municipal code had been approved and environmental commissions had been established for each municipality.

The local Agenda 21 process in ACOSA is meant to coordinate efforts made nationally and regionally “with the needs, proposals, and initiatives of the local players (community organizations, private businesses, and local governments) taken into account for the sustainable human development of the locality.”

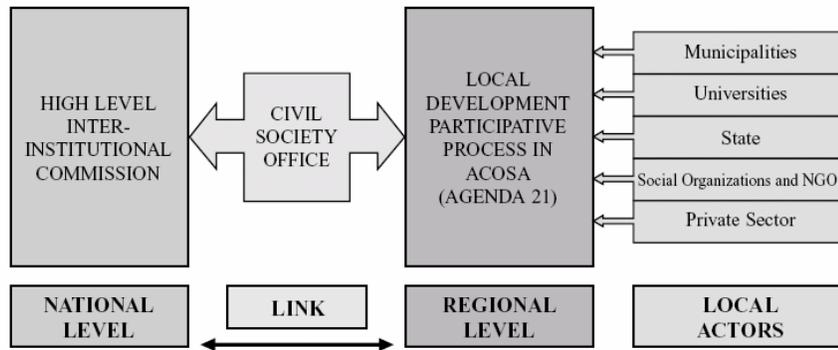


Figure 1 Stakeholder group interaction for the local Agenda 21 process (from Earth Council 2001).

3.2 Participation Aspects

Participatory mechanisms are well developed in Costa Rica and there are currently several consultative mechanisms in operation. These include the National Council for Sustainable Development (CONADES – Box 2), the Inter-institutional High Commission for the Osa Peninsula, and the local Agenda 21 consultative processes.

The CONEDES was established in 1998 via the Executive Ordinance Number 26814 and modified later in the Executive Ordinance Number 27908 in 1999. This body established itself as an instrument to promote dialogue and consent between diverse sectors in the field of environmental management and sustainable development (Earth Council 2001). However, it has been acknowledged that this council has not been able to create collective dialogues, discussion or decisions (Earth Council 2001).

Box 2. Costa Rica's National Council for Sustainable Development (CONADES)

At the present time the Council enjoys the participation of two representatives from Executive Powers (Minister of the Presidency and Minister of the Environment and Energy plus its representatives), a representative from the Municipalities (designated by the Union of Local Governments), two representatives of the academic and scientific community, (one designated by the National Council of Rectors and the other one by the National Council of Superior Education). Also, a representative of the Business Sector (designated by the Costa Rican Union of Chambers), one of the Cooperative Sector (designated by the National Council of Cooperative), a representative of the non government organizations (NGO), a representative of the Organized Labor Movement (designated by the Assembly of Workers of the Popular Bank), a representative of the rural groups and of small producers (designated by the National Farmers Table) and a representative of the indigenous villages (designated by the National Indigenous Table)

Furthermore, the CONADES has a Directive Committee, constituted by the Directive Meeting of Fundecooperación for Sustainable Development and a representative of the of the Civil Society Office from the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

Source: Earth Council (2001)

The Inter-Institutional High Commission of the OSA is comprised of leaders of the following government agencies:

- Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MINAE),
- Ministry of Public Safety, Ministry of the Interior and Police,
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG),
- Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements (MIVAH),
- Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (MOPT),
- Ministry of Health, Institute for
- Agricultural Development (IDA),
- National Institute for Housing and Urban Planning (INVU),
- Joint Institute for Social Assistance (IMAS),
- Costa Rican Social Security Administration (CCSS),
- National Child Protection Council (PANI),
- Costa Rican Fishing and Aquaculture Institute (INCOPECA), and
- the Costa Rican Institute for Pacific Ports (INCOP).

The local Agenda 21 process also established a local consultative mechanism through Agenda 21 Tables. The Tables provide a collective level of permanent work for the themes and problems particular to each sector. In the complete structure of each committee, representation of indigenous peoples and women varies individually from 11% to 31%, whereas the combined participation at all tables of these two groups according to this system ranges between 32 % and 44 % (Earth Council 2001). The development of these Tables received assistance from a collaborative GEF-UNDP-Earth Council project entitled *Harnessing Multi-stakeholders Mechanisms to Global Promote Environment Priorities at the National Level (Earth Council 2001)*.

One of the lessons learned through UNDP's Capacity 21 program efforts in Costa Rica was that local environmental management requires sustained support (Umaña 2001). It was further noted that the experiences in decentralization of environmental management elucidated the difficulties in implementing sustainable development at the local level where little capacity exists. Some feel that if a focus on local Agenda 21 processes is not counterbalanced with adequate capacity building in community building and negotiation skills, the efforts could be divisive as some localities are well endowed and others are not (Quesada 2004).

3.3 *Monitoring Aspects*

For the local Agenda 21 demonstration projects, the Director of the Civil Society Office has responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the agreements of the Inter-Institutional High Commission.

While several monitoring processes have been developed at the national level (discussed below), process of indicator development and monitoring has not to the best of our knowledge been articulated for the local Agenda 21 process. Monitoring at this level was accomplished via the regular meetings of the various Agenda 21 Tables (Earth Council 2001). It is noted that all the reports from this process "from the local process up to the Presidency of the Republic, have the same format for incorporating the information of the efforts for the Presidential Commission. Each one of the institutional achievements is verified through the meetings of Agenda 21 (Earth Council 2001)."

At a national level, Costa Rica publishes an annual State of the Nation Report for Sustainable Human Development (Estadonacion 2004a). The report is sponsored by a consortium of national and international institutions including UNDP, the European Union, Defensoría de los Habitantes (the Costa Rican ombudsman), and CONARE (Council of State Universities). A steering committee was established with representatives from the government and different sectors of the civil society to: "oversee the design and implementation of the system for measuring and monitoring sustainable human development" and to define topics to be included in each report (Estadonacion 2004b).

3.4 *Implementation Aspects and Specific Initiatives*

The Civil Society Office is responsible for the implementation of the local Agenda 21 process. In the first year of implementation, financing was provided by the Canadian government through the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) through the *Support For The Enforcement Of The Central American Alliance For Sustainable Development*, PROJECT No. 910-19257/CCAD/CANADA (Earth Council 2001).

Since November 2000, monthly meetings have been held to coordinate and to supervise work agreements assumed by each of the committees and by Agenda 21 overall. The thematic areas discussed, and resolved through the specifically measures that were

indicated, established, and monitored later on in the Agenda 21 process, are extremely broad.

The operation of the Inter-Institutional High Commission and the Agenda 21 Tables raised government compliance with obligations in the ACOSA. The spectrum of activities the process believed to have influence on include the construction of eleven aqueducts, development of two first aid teams/units, 25% completion of the Cortés City Hospital, the connection of thirteen communities to phone service and a reinforcement of the phone capacity for the whole region (Earth Council 2001). Additionally, by 2001: “six new population centers were in the process of putting together a national electrification net-work; a 45% advance was made in the modernization of the pier in Golfito; all of the resources necessary to establish an alternate access route to the city of Golfito were awarded; and 85% of the roadway infrastructure reconstruction taking place in the region had been completed (Earth Council 2001).”

In terms of communication, the Commission linked eleven public institutions that had no prior formal ties, thus “creating a framework for action and initiatives among each institution, as well as a mechanism to reach agreements among the institutions (Earth Council 2001).” The Commission’s *First Narrative Report* was generated from the Commission to the President of the Republic. This report was then broadly distributed to the communities of the region during the first visit that the President made from the Republic to the Region.

It was noted that this initial process “clearly and efficiently paved the way for creating the institutional commitment required to deal with some of the chief problems identified by the communities (Earth Council 2001).” Local leaders were informed about the problem situations affecting the region, and as well a permanent space was created at the highest political level for “exchange of information and analyses of the region’s problems and possible solutions to them (Earth Council 2001).”

Table 1 lists three interesting sustainable development initiatives in Costa Rica, namely the National Institute of Biodiversity, payment for ecological services, and the National system of Sustainable Development. Box 4 elaborates further on the payment for ecological services initiatives which provide an innovative example of how the economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development have been integrated in Costa Rica.

Table 1: Selected Sustainable Development Initiatives

Initiative	Outline
National Institute of Biodiversity	In the area of biodiversity, the National Institute of Biodiversity was awarded the prestigious Asturias Prize by Spain in 1995 in recognition of the inventory the country has undertaken to catalogue its 500,000 plant and animal species. Agreements have been reached with the private sector to study uses of various species for pharmaceutical and agricultural uses.

	Source: UNDP Capacity 21 Program
Payment for Environmental Services	<p>A system for payment of environmental services was created and led by Ministry of Environment and Energy. This system was a logical outgrowth of the work on climate change and joint implementation, but it also included water in addition to carbon storage.</p> <p>Source: Umaña (2001)</p>
SINADES	<p>The Figueres administration and Capacity 21 were highly conscious of the need to provide for the future: to establish national institutions that would continue to uphold the priorities of sustainable development regardless of the political agendas of elected officials. One such institution is SINADES, the National System of Sustainable Development in which government institutions, the private sector and representatives of civil society such as NGOs work together to promote sustainable development as a national priority.</p> <p>In addition, some 1,500 civil servants have been trained to form "units" of sustainable development -- small groups whose mission is to ensure that the government institution where they work approaches all development issues from the standpoint of sustainability. Institutional commissions have also been formed to provide ongoing capacity building to prepare government officials to confront new issues of sustainability as they may arise.</p> <p>Source: Earth Council (1997)</p>

Box 3. Integrating the environment and the economy: Payment for Ecological Services – Integrating the economy and the environment in Costa Rica

Source: from (Umaña 2001).

“One of the most significant contributions of the Capacity 21 programme was the support it provided for the creation of a system for payment of environmental services, led by MINAE. This system was a logical outgrowth of the work on climate change and joint implementation, but it also included water in addition to carbon storage. During the first stages of joint implementation, a number of individual projects had been developed and OCIC had started to organize them in different groupings or “portfolios”, according to the type of project (reforestation, forest management or conservation).

FUNDECOR, a foundation for management of the Central Volcanic Mountain Range, established with AID funding in 1989, developed a generic programme CAR-FIX, whereby farmers and peasants were pre-paid for their carbon- and water-storage services. Based on this system, in 1996 Costa Rica was able to negotiate a purchase of 200,000 tons of carbon from Norway at a nominal price of US\$10/ton. The carbon actually came from the forests of over 350 peasants under FUNDECOR’s programme and became the first international transaction for carbon sequestration. This pioneering effort served as a blueprint for a national system under the forestry fund (FONAFIFO), which took the pilot programme to a national scale.

A final critical component of the system was the adoption, by decree, of a 5 per cent tax on fuels that was supposed to finance the local component of environmental services. This tax, in essence a carbon tax, generated revenues to pre-pay environmental services that could later be commercialized by the government to meet international demand. Thus, Costa Rica became one of the first developing countries to close the loop by adopting a tax whose revenue was to be utilized for carbon sequestration.

One of the unique characteristics of the Costa Rica Capacity 21 programme was that it truly attempted to integrate environmental and economic sectors, and through the fuel tax provided a way to pay for environmental services and to commercialize the carbon internationally.

At the same time, Costa Rica moved aggressively on the certification front and obtained funds from the World Bank to hire an international certification organization, SGS, to certify a national programme with an initial total of 16 million tons of carbon. By commercializing only a fraction of the total, the country was also able to establish a self-insurance scheme.

Under the leadership of President Figueres and MINAE, and with strong technical support from FUNDECOR and OCIC, Costa Rica was able to complete an integrated system of internal and external commercialization of environmental services. Unfortunately, lack of international demand for carbon emission credits has slowed the effort significantly.

Costa Rica attempted to commercialize its certified carbon and signed an option for 4 million tons at a nominal price of US\$10/ton. The carbon was supposed to be commercialized at the Chicago Board of Trade, where sulphur dioxide emission credits are traded. However, when the option expired there had been no trades.

The Finance Ministry never fully disbursed the tax because of fiscal conditions, but it provided the funds for the ongoing programme of payment for environmental services. This tension between environment and finance eventually led to a World Bank loan/GEF grant, which was supported by the Finance Ministry and provides for payment of environmental services until the year 2005.”

3.5 *Summary of National SD Strategy*

The table below summarizes Costa Rica’s sustainable development strategic initiatives.

Table 2: Summary of Costa Rica’s National Sustainable Development Strategy Processes

- Aspects	- Summary
<p><i>Content of SDS</i></p> <p>- Typology</p>	<p>- Multi-dimensional national sustainable development strategy produced in the late 1980s. Current focus on demonstrating viability of local Agenda 21 process to produce local sustainable human development plans.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Content - Linkages with other strategies and planning processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Agenda 21 process is participative planning tool in which government and civil society concertedly determine sustainable human development activities - Linkage to National Council for Sustainable Development (CONADES) and the first national strategy for sustainable development are tenuous
<i>Development Aspects</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal basis, state of process - Institutions, responsible agencies - External Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Agenda 21 process part of government effort to decentralize environmental management; the Office of the President, by Presidential Directive, ordered the formation of the Inter-institutional High Commission for the Osa Peninsula. The Civil Society Office is responsible for the implementation of the local Agenda 21 process. - Via the Agenda 21 Tables established to look at thematic issues - UNDP Capacity 21 program assisted in many of Costa Rica's sustainable development activities. First year of local Agenda 21 process funded by the Canadian government through the Central American Commission for Environment and Development
<i>Participation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination - Inter-governmental actors - Civil society, NGOs actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Via the Civil Society Office and the Inter-institutional High Commission - Via the Commission including 12 government ministries, institutes and councils - Via the Agenda 21 Tables, including local governments, private companies, and representatives of the organizations of women, representatives of the indigenous organizations and representatives of the communities.)
<i>Monitoring, Reporting and Adaptation Aspects</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsibilities & Mechanisms - Compliance mechanisms - Learning and Adaptation - Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director of the Civil Society Office has responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the agreements of the Inter-Institutional High Commission. - No compliance mechanisms or implications for failure to comply - Meetings among the Commission, Civil Society Office and the Agenda 21 Tables review progress related to the local activities. - No information on SEA.
<i>Implementation of SDS</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsibility and Coordination - Financing and capacity - Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Civil Society Office is responsible for the implementation of the local Agenda 21 process. - First year of process funded by was provided by the Canadian government via the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and the project – Support For The Enforcement Of The Central American Alliance For Sustainable Development - Via Agenda 21 Tables. Additionally, narrative reports are prepared by the Commission to the President which is then broadly distributed to the communities. - National Institute of Biodiversity - Payment for ecological services - SINADES – National System for Sustainable Development

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