

COSTA RICA

The VNR in a Nutshell – National Strategies for SDGs.

Capital	San José
Population	4,652,459
Area (in sq. km)	51,100
Language(s)	Español
National poverty line	20.5
Human Development Index	0.776 (Rank 66)
Gross national income (GNI) per capita	10,840
International Tourist Arrivals	2,925,000

Sources: UNDP, The World Bank



The recognition of the role of tourism in sustainable development and the emphasis placed in the SDGs on the development of public policies for sustainable tourism is a landmark breakthrough that provides a unique opportunity for all governments to create a sound and favourable policy foundation.

The first two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have shown that countries are making headway in aligning national strategies, adapting institutional frameworks and adjusting policies to realize the SDGs.

The countries' efforts have been reported in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), presented by UN Member States during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017.

Title of VNR: Costa Rica: Construyendo una vision compartida del desarrollo sosentible Reporte Nacional Voluntario de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sosentible Junio 2017

Presenter for VNR: Mario Robles Monge & Maria del Pilar Garrido Gonzalo, Technical SDG Secretariat Coordinators & Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy.

National Thematic Focus:

Priorities: end of poverty, sustainable production and consumption, and infrastructures and sustainable communities. These three aspects can be intertwined to every SDG.

Institutional Arrangement:

Costa Rica's SDG implementation structure was established at four levels, as defined in Plan REMINAE (Executive Decree No. 40203).

High-level Political Coordination: is provided by **the Consejo de Alto Nivel de los ODs**, presided by the President of the Republic, the Minister of Planning, the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Steering and Technical Expertise: The **Technical Secretariat of the SDGs**, led by the Minister of Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN) serves as the primary strategic coordinator. It is assisted by an interdisciplinary team from MIDEPLAN and by a Statistical Advisory Body led by the National Institute of Statistics and Census.

Implementation and Coordination: The **Technical Committee of the SDGs** verifies the implementation of specific 2030 Agenda commitments made by public institutions. It is chaired by the Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat.

SDG Incorporation to National Framework:

The 2015-2018 National Development Plan lays out the implementation framework for the 2030 Agenda, including allocation of resource and assignment of responsibilities for implantation of the SDGs. It focuses on three priorities: combating poverty, achieving sustainable production and consumption, and building resilient infrastructure and sustainable communities. This Plan links 94 programmes with 181 specific SDG targets and 169 associated indicators.

In September 2016, Costa Rica was the first to implement a National Pact for the SDGs (“Pacto Nacional por el Cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible”). This Pact is a commitment by all three branches of government, local authorities, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Tourism Ministry /NTA portfolio:

Tourism ministry of Costa Rica <http://gobierno.cr/tag/ministro-de-turismo/>

Tourism and SDG in Costa Rica:

Opportunities

- **Blue Economy**



1 billion USD per year recorded earnings made through inbound sea tourism in Costa Rica.

- **Finance and investment**



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Costa Rica was a total of US\$ 3.179,6 in 2016, which represents 5,5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), meaning an annual increasing of US\$ 34,7 mil or 1,1% from 2015. This upturn in FDI can be explained by the inversion destined for the **tourism sector**.

- **Biodiversity and Ecosystems protection**
- **Green Economy**



In the effort to achieve SDG 15, funds are dedicated to projects on **Sustainable Rural Tourism**, aimed at protecting biodiversity, environment sustainability and services such as “Tarjeta Servibanca Ecológica”, bank card which gives support to a biodiversity fund.

Resources and Useful Links: [Costa Rica VNR 2017](#)