

Capacity building to develop and review climate resilient policies



Development performance

- In 2010 ranked 62nd in the Human Development Index
- Much higher human development than countries at same income levels
- In 2010 ranked 3rd in the Environmental Performance Index
- Ranked 1st in the Happy Planet Index and considered the 'greenest' country in the world



Carbon neutrality

- In 2007, the Costa Rican government announced plans for Costa Rica to become the first carbon-neutral country by 2021



Some facts

- 51,100 km²
- 4,608,426 people (June 2011 estimate)
- \$2.2 billion per year tourist industry
- A pioneer of ecotourism and one of the few countries with true ecotourism



Environmental protection

- A system of payments for environmental services
- A tax on water pollution
- Carbon neutral goal
- By 2010 90% of electricity from renewable sources
- A Forest Law (1996) to provide direct financial incentives to landowners for provision of environmental services
- 25% of the country in protected national parks and protected areas



Costa Rica National Climate Change Strategy (2008)

- Since GHG emissions have a long lead-time effect on the climate, our actions (or inactions) during the next two decades will have a profound impact on the climate during the second half of this century and beyond.
- If we want to have different results, policies should be modified at country and global levels.
- We cannot expect to reverse the current trends with the same policies and mechanisms that created them in the first place.
- We need to devise creative and innovative ways of addressing the problem.
- Business as usual and the status quo are not an alternative.



Key elements

- Decision to act unilaterally in declaring carbon neutral goal
- Development of an integrated climate change strategy
- First step was to put climate change at the top of the government agenda
- A priority in National Development Plan
- Costa Rica aims to be a leader
- Buy-in from private sector, academia, media, civil society
- Strategy based on careful analysis of economic, social and environmental factors and their interaction



Two complimentary agendas



National climate change strategy



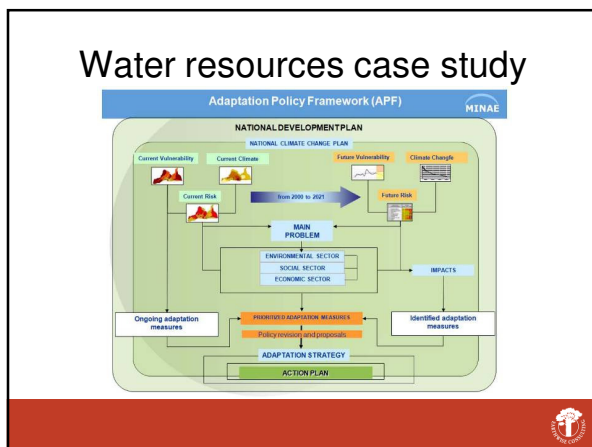
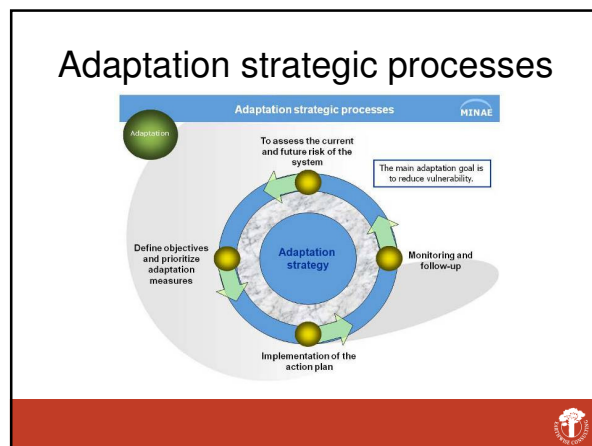
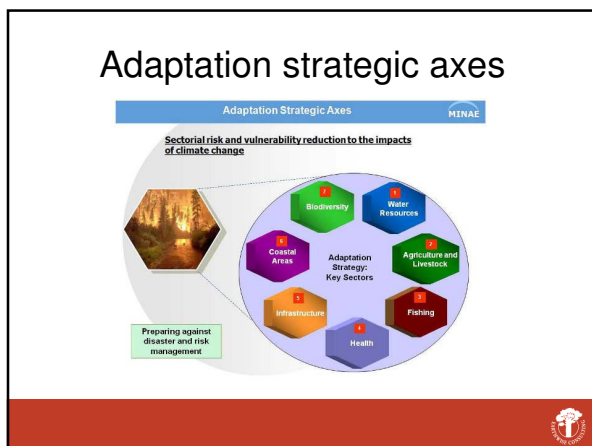
National agenda objectives



The national agenda Adaptation

- The objective is to identify the economic, social and environmental risks of climate change by geographic zone and sector
- Based on the above adaptation measures can be prioritized and an action plan developed
- Action plan includes: research and monitoring; early warning systems; strengthening adaptive capacity





Metrics

- All the components of the strategy need to develop a metrics system that is accurate, reliable and verifiable, with built-in mechanisms for monitoring

Capacity building and technology transfer

- In order to become a nation capable of implementing an integral climate change strategy, it is necessary that we build society-wide capabilities that respond to climate change ...

Education, culture and public awareness

- The country seeks to involve, engage and commit its population to fight climate change, and thus build a social system of decision making for the implementation of its climate change strategy ...
- We want an informed, aware, and knowledgeable population ... enabled to have an active and more effective participation ... and a better capacity to influence decision makers ...

Financing

- Two main focal points
 - Secure resources to finance the strategy
 - Guarantee effective and efficient use of these resources
- Costa Rica has a carbon tax (3.5% of the price of oil derivatives) with the aforementioned objectives ...

