

Costa Rica: Emission Reductions Program

OVERVIEW

Costa Rica's tropical rainforests are rich in biodiversity, covering nearly 30% of the country's total surface area. Costa Rica is widely recognized as a global leader for its success in forest conservation, and yet, deforestation rates coupled with land use pressures are threatening the country's forests and biodiversity. The Costa Rica Emission Reductions Program aims to not only promote climate change mitigation and adaptation in forest ecosystems, but improve rural incomes and build economic resilience.







Outcomes of the Program:

- Green and inclusive development
- Reduced ecosystem degradation
- Rehabilitation of rural lands
- Increase agricultural productivity
- Enhanced resilience of rural lands

REDD+ activities (forest protection and enhancement):

- Expand system of protected areas
- Improve capabilities to stop illegal logging
- Reduce forest fires
- Strengthen Payment for Environmental Services (PES) program
- Improve capacity to incorporate public land into state natural heritage
- Acquire land to improve integrity of protected areas and for hydroelectricity

AT A GLANCE

-  **Crediting period:**
January 2018 - December 2024
-  **Annual Forest Emissions Baseline (Reference Level):** 14.7 million tCO₂e
-  **Total estimated reductions under ER Program:** 25.2 million tCO₂e gross
-  **Scope of FCPF ER Payment Agreement:**
12 million tCO₂e
-  **Key impacts:** Stakeholder participation; emission reductions; strengthening governance; incentives for forest conservation
-  **CORSIA Eligible:** Yes

PROGRAM LOCATION



PROGRAM GOALS



Lower rates of deforestation and forest degradation



Sustainable forest management and restoration



Poverty reduction



Strengthening governance of national protected areas



Increased participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities

COUNTRY PROFILE

4.8 POPULATION millions	51 LAND AREA 1,000 square kilometers	54.1 GDP % billions	54 FOREST AREA % land area	-1.0 DEFORESTATION avg. annual %	27.4 TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS % of total land area
--------------------------------------	---	----------------------------------	---	---	--

WORK TO DATE

- **ERs generated to date:** 3.2 million tCO₂e net
- **Estimated emission avoidance:** 79%
- **Estimated emission removals:** 21%
- **Vintage:** 1 January 2018 - 31 December 2024

Safeguards system:

- Ensure the proper implementation of the required environmental assessment policy
- Assure the maximization of protection activities and the broadening of natural habitats as well as the services they provide to the population
- Execute consultation procedure for all projects affecting Indigenous Peoples
- Assist beneficiaries in using forests to integrate them into sustainable economic development

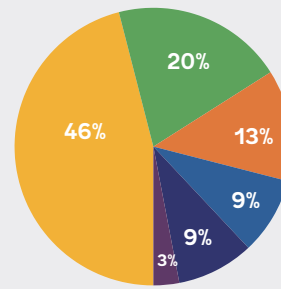
Non-carbon benefits:

- Water protection
- Biodiversity conservation
- Landscape beauty
- Organizational capacity
- Improved participation of forest-dependent communities

Main reversal risks identified and mitigated (additionally, a discount to reported emissions is applied to compensate):

- Lack of broad and sustained stakeholder support, such as land tenure conflicts, carbon rights conflicts, or insufficient stakeholder consultation

BENEFITS SHARING AGREEMENT



- National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) (activities on the ground)
- National Forest Financing Fund (FONAFIFO) (activities on the ground)
- Private forest owners
- Indigenous Peoples
- Management costs
- State Natural Heritage (PNE)

- Limited experience with cross-sectoral cooperation and between government levels
- Limited decoupling of deforestation and degradation from economic activities
- Lack of laws and regulations conducive to REDD+ objectives
- Exposure and vulnerability to natural disturbances, including landslides and forest fires due to lightning

Transaction Registry:

Costa Rica will use the FCPF Transaction Registry until the national registry, part of the National Climate Change Metrics System (SINAMECC), is fully operational. Once operational, the Government of Costa Rica will only recognize authorization and/or corresponding adjustments units that are duly registered in the Costa Rican national registry. Operational compatibility between the Costa Rica national registry and the FCPF Transaction Registry will be ensured.

CASE STUDY: CLOSING THE GENDER GAPS

In Costa Rica, nearly 13,000 women producers own 107,000 hectares of land in different regions of the country, accounting for 15.6% of all the farms and 8.1% of total agricultural land owned by individuals.

However, Costa Rican rural women face gender gaps related to recognition, procedures, and distribution in natural resource management.

The FCPF Gender Action Plan provides a pathway for access to financial resources, technical assistance and support to empower and support rural women.



Photo: FONAFIFO/MINAE

ABOUT THE FCPF

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and Indigenous People's organizations focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, activities commonly referred to as REDD+.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Costa Rica Country Profile](#)
- [Emission Reductions Program Document](#)
- [1st ER Monitoring Report \(ER-MR\)](#)
- [Country Partnership Framework](#)

FOLLOW THE FCPF

- Facebook: [forestcarbonpartnershipfacility](#)
- X/Twitter: [@WBG_Climate](#)

COUNTRY CONTACTS

- Philippe Dardel
pdardel@worldbank.org
- Veronica Jarrin
vjarrin@worldbank.org

STAY IN TOUCH

- [forestcarbonpartnership.org](#)
- fcpfsecretariat@worldbank.org

Learn more about the FCPF Standard:



FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY