



National Workshop on Use of the Integrated Approach to Environmental Sustainability in Development Planning in Costa Rica

Wednesday and Thursday, March 4-5, 2015
San Jose Radisson Hotel, Zurquí Room

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Background

The complex global environmental crisis faced by the world today is the result of prioritizing economic growth-linked human wellbeing and applying a compartmentalized approach to development priorities. Economic development has thus been achieved at the expense of social inequality and the increasingly deteriorating natural resources. This sectorally fragmented approach makes it impossible to effectively and equitably incorporate social, economic and environmental dimensions.

The Rio+20 conference held in 2012 underlined the importance of promoting *“integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.”*¹

¹ AG 66/288 Resolution of July 27, 2012, paragraph 4.

In addition, the breakthroughs in defining the post-2015 development agenda also demonstrate that an integrated approach will be necessary for its implementation. This agenda takes the Millennium Development Goals a step further by incorporating the key challenges for the twenty-first century. The type of development the international community is committing to this year cannot be attained as ambitiously as proposed without integrating environmental opportunities and risks. The idea is not to add or prioritize but to truly integrate environmental sustainability into national planning and policies as a prerequisite for sustained, irreversible socioeconomic development that eliminates poverty.

The approach integrated into the planning consists, then, of not only incorporating environmental components into social and economic development projects and plans but also promoting planning with a sectoral and intersectoral balance of social development, sustained and inclusive economic growth, and sustainable resource and ecosystem management.

Since the integrated approach to development planning is based on interdisciplinarity, it involves a variety of sectors and requires strong political commitment from decision-makers, civil society and the private sector for its coordination. It also entails the need to strengthen coherence and coordination among institutions, policies and processes in order to reduce duplicate efforts and contribute in an orderly manner to closing gaps in the implementation of sustainable development.

Recognizing this huge challenge, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a new project, “Integrated Approach for Environmental Sustainability in Development Planning”, which is helping several pilot countries build government capacities for integrating environmental sustainability into sectoral and intersectoral planning. The project is collecting case studies and lessons learned in order to promote the integrated approach in other countries with south-south cooperation. Included in the project is the organization of technical workshops in pilot countries and the development of a publication giving best practices on how the integrated approach can strengthen policy planning and lead to more coherent implementation while generating a more collaborative spirit between the different national institutions.

Why Costa Rica?

In the past decade Costa Rica has been implementing policies and tools, initiated by the various stakeholders and sectors, for integrating environmental sustainability into its national development plans at the sectoral and intersectoral levels.

The commitment of Costa Rican authorities to reconcile short-term development needs with a longer-term view to optimize natural resource management and ensure inclusive, equitable and sustainable social and economic growth is reflected in the new national development plan (2015-2018), which gives shape to the search for sustainable human development and social cohesion by setting forth a shared vision of the national future and defining the programs and projects for attaining it.

The national development plan's structure fosters sustainable development in a participative and inclusive manner through inter-institutional articulation for using resources efficiently, generating growth and producing results that can contribute to the wellbeing of the inhabitants, where integrated sustainable development is the most important component.

With coordination and complementarity of national, sectoral and territorial levels in mind, the national development plan defines "strategic sectors" constituted by an array of public institutions responsible for operationalizing the different programs and projects. This sectoral organization, complementing the public resource management and architecture of the traditional Costa Rican state organization, favors institutional articulation and fosters a balance of economic growth and environment, where there can be a socially fair and equitable distribution of the benefits from genetic, cultural and natural assets.

This intersectoral arrangement has permitted the genesis and evolution of responses to the need for sustainable development, defining specific policies and programs that apply a integrated approach to planning. For this reason Costa Rica has been defined as a country that has already made progress on applying this approach and that can, through its experience and lessons learned, help promote it in other countries and regions of the world.

Costa Rica stands out regionally as a country with breakthroughs and commitment for attaining sustainable development. Moreover, it is important for the UNEP office to work on this issue in Costa Rica as a relevant country for the Latin American region, since:

- UNEP and the country's Ministry of the Environment have an excellent working relationship, providing an opportunity to achieve significant participation of a range of stakeholders and work jointly along the lines defined in the workshop.
- Environmental sustainability plays a major role in the political agenda, going beyond the Ministry of the Environment and involving other stakeholders as well.
- Sectoral planning secretariats have been formalized for working on the design and implementation of integrated policies, so progress has already been made to this respect, positioning Costa Rica as a country that can provide concrete experience in south-south cooperation and making it possible to very specifically identify concrete technical requirements needed for moving ahead.
- Costa Rica has started building national capacities for setting baselines and following up on compliance with multilateral environmental agreements and is working to identify existing gaps for their implementation in various sectors. In addition, the Ministry of Environment itself recognizes the need to build national planning and monitoring capacities for the Rio+20 Conference outcomes.

Workshop Objectives

The workshop's overall objective is to gather participants' views and recommendations regarding the provisions needed for guiding the integrated approach for environmental sustainability in development planning. To achieve this, information will be provided on successful cases in Costa Rica based on this principle, which should serve as a basis for feedback on and validation of the approach, collection of lessons learned and best practices in applying it, and definition of the bases for reproducing it in preparing and executing policies, programs and projects.

The workshop also seeks to inform and raise the awareness of key Costa Rican organizations and strategic stakeholders on the integrated approach and its basic principles, especially with regard to the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals to be adopted this year by the international community at the UN General Assembly. The next steps will thus be defined to prepare the country for meeting its commitment to the new international agenda.

Specific Outcomes

1. Identify key optimum conditions for effective use of an integrated approach to generating public policy, based on the three cases to be presented in the workshop.
2. Collect lessons learned in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs with this approach, so that they might help with its replication in either Costa Rica or other countries and regions.
3. Identify bottlenecks, obstacles and challenges faced in the development of the three study cases.
4. Generate discussion on how to establish a culture of integrated approach in development planning in order to make it a regular practice in elaborating and implementing plans, projects and programs.
5. Define the necessary requirements for the effective involvement of different stakeholders, structures and strategic partners in support of the policy action.
6. Facilitate a mapping exercise of the integrated approach in Costa Rica to identify existing points in common and key work lines and stakeholders to be involved in the future for the purpose of making headway in integrating the economic, social and environmental pillars for the country's sustainable development.

Program Summary

Wednesday, March 4	
8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 8:45	Welcoming words (master of ceremonies)
8:45 – 9:15	Opening address, Minister of Environment and Energy, Dr. Edgar E. Gutierrez Espeleta
9:15 – 9:45	Dr. Margarita Astrálaga, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
9:45 – 11:00	<p>Roundtable: The Integration of Sustainable Development in Planning: Successful Costa Rican Cases</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Driving Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAS): NAMA Coffee as a Sectoral Example. Ms. Marianella Feoli, Executive Director, FUNDECOOPERACION 2. Presentation: National Solid Waste Policy. Mr. Eugenio Androvetto, Human Environment Protection Director, Ministry of Health 3. Presentation: Costa Rican National Ocean Policy 2013-2028. Ms. Maria Virginia Cajiao, Secretary, Presidential Environmental Council, Costa Rican Government
11:00 – 11:20	Question and answer period
11:20 – 11:45	Snack
11:45 – 12:45	Work groups
12:45 – 1:00	Plenary: Presentation of group work
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch
2:00 – 2:10	Active learning
2:10 – 3:10	Plenary: Presentations of group work (continued)
3:10 – 3:30	First day summary and wrap-up

Thursday, March 5	
8:00 -8:30	Registration
8:30 – 9:00	Summary of the first day and objectives and agenda for the second day.
9:00- 9:30	Talk by Maryam Niamir-Fuller, special advisor to the UNEP Executive Director for the post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.
9:30 – 9:50	Question and answer period
9:50 – 11:00	Work groups
11:00 – 11:15	Snack
11:15 – 12.30	Plenary: presentations of group work and general feedback
12:30-1:00	Conclusions, next steps, and workshop wrap-up
1:00-2:30	Lunch

Proposed Participants

To be agreed upon by the coordinating group

Presenters:

- 1) Dr. Edgar E. Gutierrez Espeleta. Minister of Environment and Energy. Opening address. Suggested topic: *Sustainable Development in the National Development Plan: Progress to Date*
- 2) Margarita Astrálaga – Director, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. *The Integrated Approach in Sustainable Development: Workshop Vision and Objectives*
- 3) Maryam Niamir-Fuller, special advisor to the UNEP Executive Director for the post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. *The Integrated Approach in Sustainable Development Planning and its Relation to the New Post-2015 Development Agenda: Best Practices and Breakthroughs.*
- 4) Ms. Marianella Feoli, Executive Director, FUNDECOOPERACION. Talk: NAMA Coffee in Costa Rica.
- 5) Mr. Eugenio Androvetto, Human Environment Protection Director, Ministry of Health. Talk: National Solid Waste Policy.
- 6) Ms. Maria Virginia Cajiao, Secretary, Presidential Environmental Council, Costa Rican Government.

Invited Guests (to review and decide)

Invited guests should be public stakeholders with technical and political influence in the topic areas and who are carrying out activities and responsibilities; they should also be recommended by the coordinating team.

Profile: Planning, finance and administrative directors / heads of the following institutions and sectors:

Executive branch, legislative branch, judicial branch.

Ministries

MAG (SEPSA-INTA). MICITT. COMEX. MCJ (National Council for Public Policy on Youth). MEIC (COPROCOM). MEP (CONESUP- PROMECE). Government and Police (DINADECO- Administrative Immigration Court). Finance (Project Coordination Unit: Limón – Ciudad Puerto). MINAE (COMCURE- CONAGEBIO - Regional Environmental Councils - FONAFIFO- Board of Directors of the Playas de Manuel Antonio National Recreational Park – Pacific Marine Park - SETENA-IMN-SINAC-TAA-DC-DCC). MOPT (National Port Council). MIDEPLAN (DC-DEP). Ministry of Foreign Relations and Culture. MSP. MTSS. MIVAH. Office of the President of the Republic (Presidential Councils-CNE-CONAPAM-Technical Secretariat for E-Government).

Inter-institutional Sectoral Task Teams: Secretariats for Sectoral Planning and Institutional Liaisons for the 2015-2018 NDP and Institutional Liaisons for International Cooperation.

Decentralized Institutional Public Sector: BCCR- BCAC-BCR- BNCR- CCSS- CONICIT-CONICYT-AYA-ICE-INCOFER-INCOPESCA-INCOP-ICT-INDER-IFAM-IMAS-INA-INEC-INFOCOOP- INAMU-INVU- INS.

Public and Private Research Organizations: ITCR-UCR-UNED-UNA-UTN-IICA-CATIE-INCAE-EARTH-FLACSO- State of the Nation Program.

Semiautonomous Institutions: CONAI- ICODER- JUDESUR- PIMA.

Non-state Public Institutions: CFIA- CORFOGA- ICAFE- LAICA- PROCOMER.

Decentralized Territorial Public Sector: Mayors and planning heads for the 81 municipalities.

Non-governmental Organizations, Private Enterprises: CEDARENA- - FUNPADEM - Friedrich Ebert Foundation - Conservation International (CI) – MARVIVA – FECON - YISKI- Tropical Science Center (TSC) – OET – Integrated Development Associations in Indigenous Territories – CANTURURAL – CANATUR – ACOPROT –ACTUAR – COOPRENA – FUNDECOR – Council of Indigenous Women – National Indigenous Board – National Peasant Board.

Cooperation: Multilateral Cooperation: (IDB, World Bank, GEF, UNDP, CABEI, European Union); Bilateral Cooperation (Spain, U.S., JICA, GIZ). Large NGOs that channel and sometimes execute funds: UICN, TNC, CI, WWF, Rainforest Alliance, Forever Costa Rica.

Private Stakeholders with Political Influence that Group Together Production Sectors and Represent their Interests:

Costa Rican Chamber of Industries: Executive Director, Administrative and Finance Director.

Costa Rican Union of Chambers and Private Enterprise Associations (UCCAEP): President of the Board of Directors, Executive Director, Department of Economic Studies, Environment Sector.

Costa Rican Chamber of Commerce. Associations such as the Chamber of Agriculture, AED.

Private Stakeholders Who are Recognized Experts on the Topic

Communication Units of Public Institutions

Preliminary Methodology: For Organizers

Time	Topic	Responsible Party/Parties	Objective/s	Outcome/s	Dynamics	Resources
Wednesday, March 4						
8:00 -8:30	Participant registration	Logistics Team (Park Foundation)	Have an exhaustive list of participants and their contact data	Attendance sheets with participants' names, positions, phone numbers and e-mail addresses	Participants register when entering and receive a name tag to wear during the workshop.	Registration desk Registration sheets Name tags
8:30 -8:45	Welcoming words	Master of ceremonies	Generally present the workshop and its goal. Turn the floor over for the opening address.	Official start of the workshop	Plenary presentation	Microphone Podium
8:45 – 9:15	Opening address	Dr. Edgar E. Gutierrez Espeleta. Minister of Environment and Energy	Strategic presentation of the importance for Costa Rica of taking an integrated approach to sustainable development planning	Greater understanding by participants of the integrated approach in Costa Rica and the need to move forward on sustainable development	Keynote address	Microphone Podium PowerPoint presentation (to be confirmed) and computer (to be confirmed)
9:15 – 9:45	Overall view of the integrated approach and the workshop objectives and planning	Margarita Astrálaga, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	Contextualize the workshop in the framework of the UNEP's strategy for promoting the integrated approach in pilot countries through	Participants have the international context for the workshop and a better understanding of its objectives and expected outcomes.	Plenary presentation	Microphone Podium PowerPoint presentation (to be confirmed) and computer (to be confirmed)

			south-south cooperation			
9:45-11:00	<p>Roundtable: The Integration of Sustainable Development in Planning: Successful Cases in Costa Rica:</p> <p>1. Driving Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAS): NAMA Coffee as a Sectoral Example</p> <p>2. Presentation: National Solid Waste Policy</p> <p>3. Presentation: Costa Rican National Ocean Policy 2013-2028</p>	<p>Ms. Marianella Feoli, Executive Director, FUNDECOOPERACION</p> <p>Mr. Eugenio Androvetto, Human Environment Protection Director, Ministry of Health</p> <p>María Virginia Cajiao, Secretary, Presidential Environmental Council, Costa Rican Government</p>	Present three successful Costa Rican cases of integration of sustainable development in planning	Participants know how the three pillars of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic) were included in three concrete examples of planning, and the benefits of having done so.	Roundtable. The master of ceremonies gives the floor to the three speakers. Each will have 20 minutes to make their plenary presentation.	Microphone Podium PowerPoint presentation (to be confirmed) and computer (to be confirmed)
11:00 – 11:20	Question and answer period	Master of ceremonies	Obtain comments and questions from participants on the talks	Clarify some of the planning processes presented.	The floor will be given as requested by the participants. Then the roundtable members will be given the floor so they can	Microphone

					respond to all the questions at one time.	
11:20 – 11:45 Snack						
11:45 – 12:45	Work groups	Master of ceremonies	Obtain information on optimal conditions for taking an integrated approach in public action, lessons learned, participation of key stakeholders, obstacles and challenges.	Matrixes with a systematization of the group's contributions	Each group will decide on a moderator and a spokesperson. The group will work on the following questions based on the successful case that was presented: 1. What conditions make it possible to move forward on an integrated approach in public action? Provide examples from your experience in the sector or institution you represent. 2. What institutional mechanisms are used to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development in policies? 3. What are the main lessons learned, obstacles and challenges of the experience Costa Rica already has? 4. What other examples, such as an institution or sector, could be given to demonstrate where an integrated approach is used in planning? 5. What mechanisms are	Matrixes for systematizing each group's input 1 computer per group 1 flip chart per group

					used to monitor progress and readjust policy implementation if necessary? Give examples of potential impact indicators that might reflect this integrated aspect.	
12:45 - 1:00	Plenary	Master of ceremonies	Share the results of the group work in a plenary session and obtain additional comments to complement the information	Shared vision of the mechanisms, lessons learned and challenges of integrating sustainable development in the planning of three specific examples and how these lessons can be carried over to other topics/countries	The moderator gives the floor to one person in each group who sums up, in 5 minutes, the most important points worked in the group. There will be a final plenary session for complementing the information, if necessary.	Microphone Spokesperson for the plenary
1:00 – 2:00 Lunch						
2:10 - 3:10	Plenary (continued)	Moderator	Share the results of the group work in a plenary session and obtain additional comments to complement the information	Shared vision of the mechanisms, lessons learned and challenges of integrating sustainable development in the planning of three specific examples and how these lessons can be	The moderator gives the floor to one person in each group who sums up, in 5 minutes, the most important points worked in the group. There will be a final plenary session for complementing the information, if necessary.	Microphone Spokesperson for the plenary

				carried over to other topics/countries		
3:10 – 3:30	First day wrap-up	Master of ceremonies; UNEP; MINAE	Give a general summary of the progress made on this first work day and the main lines to be followed on the next day.	Participants have a conclusion for the work day that includes the progress made and points pending work on the next day in order to meet the workshop goals.	Plenary presentation	Microphone Podium
Thursday, March 5						
8:00 – 8:30	Participant registration	Logistics Team (Park Foundation) Translation firm's technical team	1) Have an exhaustive list of participants and their contact data 2) Participants who need it have a team of simultaneous interpreters	Attendance sheets with participants' names, positions, phone numbers and e-mail addresses Participants with simultaneous interpretation equipment	Participants register when entering and receive simultaneous interpretation equipment if they need it.	Registration desk Registration sheets Name tags Simultaneous interpretation equipment
08.30 – 09:00	Summary of the first day and presentation of the agenda for the second day	Master of ceremonies	Review the previous day's achievements Restate the workshop goals for introducing the second day's activities Presentation of the	Recognition of progress made Definition of pending steps	Plenary presentation	Microphone Podium PowerPoint presentation and computer for showing the agenda

			next talk			
09:00 - 09:30	Talk: <i>The Integrated Approach in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. How Costa Rica can Contribute to the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.</i>	Maryam Niamir-Fuller, special advisor to the UNEP Executive Director for the post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals	Strategic presentation of the headway made on the post-2015 agenda, definition of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the implications these processes have on development planning. Give an example of how to apply an integrated approach in sustainable development planning	Greater understanding by the participants of the integrated approach, its importance in the global agenda and the importance of applying it nationally for making headway on sustainable development	Plenary presentation	Microphone Podium PowerPoint presentation and computer
09:30 – 9:50	Question and answer period	Master of ceremonies	Obtain comments and questions from participants on the talk	Clarify some of the processes presented and their relevance for Costa Rica	The floor will be given as requested by the participants. Three questions will be taken each time. Then the floor will be given to the speaker for answering several questions at one time.	Microphone
09:50 – 11:00	Work groups	Moderator	- Map the commonalities that facilitate an integrated approach at the thematic or	Matrixes with a systematization of the group's contributions	Each group will decide on a moderator and a spokesperson. The groups will work on the following questions: 1. How can an institutional culture be established for	Matrixes for systematizing each group's input 1 computer per group 1 flip chart per group

			<p>territorial level</p> <p>- Identify key lines of work and stakeholders to be involved in the future for making headway on integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars for the country's sustainable development</p>		<p>making the integration of sustainable development in planning and implementation a regular practice?</p> <p>2. What public policy work topics are essential for achieving sustainable, equitable and inclusive development?</p> <p>3. How can positive progress be ensured on the three pillars of sustainable development, without making progress on one at the expense of the others?</p> <p>4. How can Costa Rica prepare itself better for fulfilling the post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals?</p> <p>5. What key stakeholders and/or partners have to be involved for this?</p>	
11:00 – 11:15 Break						
11:15-12:30	Plenary	Moderator	Share the results of the group work in a plenary session and obtain additional comments to complement the information	Shared vision of the next steps needed for strengthening the integration of sustainable development in policy planning and implementation and how these lessons can be carried over	The moderator gives the floor to one person in each group who sums up, in 5 minutes, the most important points worked in the group. There will be a final plenary session for complementing the information, if	Microphone Spokesperson for the plenary

				to other topics/countries	necessary.	
12:30 – 1:00	Conclusions and workshop wrap-up	Moderator and/or UNEP	Give a general summary of the workshop achievements and the next steps	Participants have a workshop conclusion that includes the progress made and next steps. The first steps have been taken for setting up a network of experts.	Plenary presentation	Microphone Podium
1:00 – 2:30 Lunch						