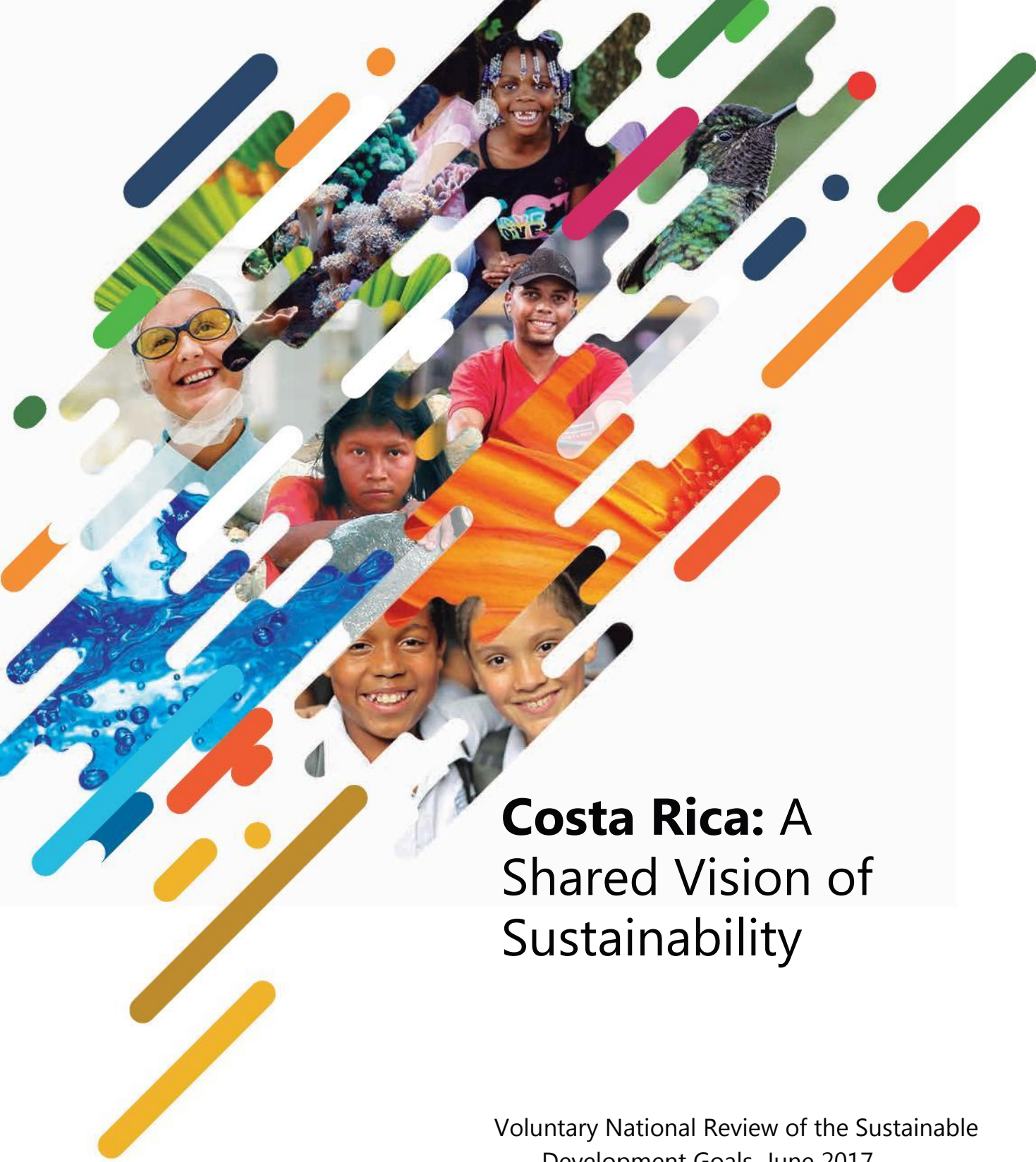




Costa Rica: A Shared Vision of Sustainability

Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable
Development Goals. June 2017

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Development Goals. June 2017

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Abbreviations

	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHCR	Costa Rican Demographic Association
ADC	Business Association for Development
AED	Associations for Community Water and Sewage System Administration
ASADAS	in Costa Rica
AYA	Water and Sewage Works
BCCR	Central Bank of Costa Rica
BNCR	Banco Nacional de Costa Rica
CAI	Child Friendly Canton Program
CAN	National Agriculture and Farming Council
CANAPEP	National Chamber of Pineapple Producers and Exporters
CBA	Basic Food Basket
CCPR	UN Committee of Human Rights
CCSS	Costa Rican Social Security System CCSS
CECIS	Smart Community Centers
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEI	Center for International Studies
CENCINAI	Education and Nutrition Centers and Holistic Child Care Centers
CENU	United Nations Statistics Division
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CGR	Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic
CLAI	Local Committees for Immediate Attention
CNE	National Emergency Commission
CNP	National Production Council
CONAC	National Council of 4-S Clubs
CONAGEBIO	National Commission for Biodiversity Management
CONAMAJ	National Commission for Improvement of Administration of Justice
CONAMAR	National Commission of the Sea
CONAPAM	National Council for Senior Citizens
CONAPDIS	National Council for People with Disabilities
CONARE	National Council of Rectors
CONASIDA	National Council for Comprehensive Care of HIV and AIDS
CPJ	Council of Young People
CPS	Social Presidential Council
CTDR	Territorial Councils for Rural Development
CTIM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
CTP	Technical Vocational Schools
DCC	Climate Change Directorate
ENAH	National Household Survey
ENN	National Nutrition Survey
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLACSO	Latin American School of Social Sciences
FONAFIFO	Costa Rica Forestry Financing Fund
FOMUJERES	Fund for the Promotion of Women's Productive Activities and Organization
GAM	Greater Metropolitan Area
GG	Greenhouse Gases

UNDG	United Nations Development Group
HsH	Men who have sex with men
IDH	Human Development Index
IED	Foreign Direct Investment
IFAM	Institute of Municipal Development and Advisory
IFED	Institute of Democratic Studies and Education
ILANUD	United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
IMAS	Joint Institute of Social Aid
IMC	Body Mass Index
INA INAMU	National Learning Institute
INCOPESCA	National Women's Institute
INDER	Costa Rican Institute of Fishing and Aquaculture
INEC	Institute for Rural Development
INTA	National Institute of Statistics and Census
	National Institute of Technological and Agricultural Innovation and Transfer
API	Annual Parasitic Index
CPI	Consumer Price Index
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
IVM	Disability, old age and death
LGTBIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Transsexual, Bisexual, Intersexual and Queer
LP	Poverty line
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MCCA	Common Central American Market
MICITT	Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications
MCJ	Ministry of Culture and Youth
MEIC	Ministry of Economy, Industry, and Trade
MEP	Ministry of Public Education
MIDEPLAN	Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy
MINAE	Ministry of Environment and Energy
MOPT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
MREC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MTSS	Ministry of Labor and Social Security
SME	Small and medium enterprise
NBI	Unmet Basic Needs
NNA	Children and adolescents
FBO	Faith-Based Organizations
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WHO	World Health Organization
ONS UN	National Seed Office
UN WOMEN	Organization of the United Nations
	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
PAI	Institutional Supply Program
PANI	National Children's Board
EAP	Economically Active Population
PEC	Program Student Convention, Strategic Institutional Plan
PEI	
PEN	State of the Nation Program

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
PIAAG	Comprehensive Water Supply Program for Guanacaste
PIEG PIMA	National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity
PLANES	Comprehensive Agricultural Marketing Program
PND	National Plan for State Higher Education
UNDP	National Development Plan
PONADIS	United Nations Development Programme
PSA	National Policy on Disabilities
PPSA SME	Payment for Environmental Services
REDCAF	Program of Payment for Environmental Services
RIA	Small and Medium Enterprises
SAN	Costa Rican Family Farming Network
SEM	Rapid Integrated Assessment
SEN	Food and Nutritional Security
SENARA	Health, Illness and Death
SENASA	National Statistics System
SEPAN	National Groundwater, Irrigation and Drainage Service
SEPSA SFE	National Animal Health Service
SIGECI	Secretariat of the National Policy on Food and Nutrition
SINAC	Executive Secretariat of Agricultural Sectoral Planning
SINIRUBE	State Plant Protection Service
SINSAN	International Cooperation Project Management System
SIREFOR	National System of Conservation Areas
SNU	National Information System and Single Beneficiary Register
SPA SUTEL	National Information System on Food and Nutrition Security
ICTs	Information System on Forestry Resources
TSE	United Nations System
UAI	Agricultural Public sector
UCCAEP	Superintendence of Telecommunications
	Information and Communication Technologies
	Supreme Electoral Tribunal
	Comprehensive Care Units
	Costa Rican Union of Chambers and Associations of the Private Business Sector
EU UNEP	European Union
FI UNFPA	United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative
UNGL	United Nations Population Fund
UNESCO	National Union of Local Governments
UNICEF	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UPR	United Nations Children's Fund
HIV	Universal Periodic Review
EEZ	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
	Exclusive Economic Zone



Presentation by the Government of the Republic of

The 2030 Agenda has offered an opportunity to reaffirm Costa Rica's unequivocal commitment and historical trajectory to achieve sustainable development. Since 1949, article 50 of the Political Constitution set the foundations for our Second Republic on the basis of economic growth with distribution of wealth and protection of the environment.

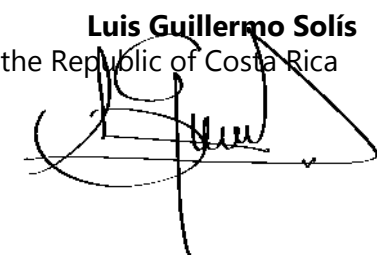
This shared aspiration to move towards a sustainable, inclusive and fair future has led to an amalgam of common wills -without denying the heterogeneity of stakeholders involved- in diverse spaces, through dialogue and in-depth reflection on achievements and pending challenges. It has helped us understand that the only possible way to face the challenges of poverty reduction and eradication, gender equality, employment with rights and decarbonization of the economy is together: All branches of government, academia, local governments, the civil society and the private sector.

Developing the 2030 Agenda based on our own history, with our own urgencies, customs and colors, has led us to rethink public governance and what is necessary for sustainable development. Consequently, we have innovated how we manage public affairs, strengthening the steering mechanisms, intersectoral coordination, sub-national (regional and local) and multi-stakeholder coordination, as well as accountability mechanisms.

It has also helped guide our determined and strenuous institutional efforts in the spirit of the principles of the 2030 Agenda: universality, integrity and leaving no one behind. We have promoted favorable settings for cross-pollination, rethinking public policies, ensuring their coherence to maximize their effects on vulnerable populations, fighting harsh exclusions beyond the income variable and closing human rights gaps.

Let this first national report on compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals be a powerful demonstration of the solidarity and integration, as well as the ambition, seriousness and enthusiasm with which Costa Rica faces the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Luis Guillermo Solís
President of the Republic of Costa Rica





Introduction

In September 2015, the member countries of the United Nations (UN) adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to respond to diverse contexts and existing dynamics, such as poverty, inequalities, the promotion of socio-economic prosperity and environmental protection.

The 2030 Agenda establishes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): i) no poverty; ii) zero hunger; iii) good health and well-being; iv) quality education; v) gender equality; vi) clean water and sanitation; vii) affordable and clean energy; viii) decent work and economic growth; ix) industry, innovation and infrastructure; x) reduced inequalities; xi) sustainable cities and communities; xii) responsible consumption and production; xiii) climate action; xiv) life below water; xv) life on land; xvi) peace, justice and strong institutions; and xvii) partnerships for the goals.

To comply with the SDGs, the High-Level Political Forum promotes periodic reviews of its member states to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, promote cooperation alliances among countries and participating entities, and share lessons learned. Thus, in 2017, Costa Rica joins 43 other countries to present their first Voluntary National Review.

Costa Rica became the first country in the world to reaffirm a high-level collective commitment to achieve the SDGs on September 9, 2016, after signing a National Pact¹ in which the three powers of the Republic (Executive, Legislative and Judicial), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), public universities, local governments and the private sector -along with witnesses of honor such as the Ombudsperson's Office and the United Nations System (UNS)- undertook to make long-term structural changes for inclusive, environmentally sustainable development to 'Leave no one behind.' This laid the foundations to build an inclusive, diverse and multi-stakeholder governance structure to implement the 2030 Agenda in the country.

Likewise, to ensure achieving the expected results of the 2030 Agenda, the country's strategy has been to implement a multidimensional approach and work around critical structural gaps in the country. The multidimensional approach emphasizes the holistic and intrinsic relationship of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in terms of formulating, implementing and evaluating initiatives to ensure compliance with the SDGs at the national and local levels.

¹ You can access the National Pact following this link: http://ods.cr/sites/default/files/documentos/pacto_nacional_por_los_ods_final_firmado_0.pdf

Taking into account country challenges, as well as national capacities and levels of development, the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the recommendations that Human Rights bodies have made to Costa Rica², following a multidimensional approach, the government established three priority entry points for public policies to be considered from an integrated and multisectoral perspective. Specifically, the three points of entry are: i) fighting poverty; ii) sustainable production and consumption; and iii) resilient infrastructure and sustainable communities. The aim is to transform the sectoral vision to an integrated vision, joining efforts by all the national actors³.

This document represents Costa Rica's First National Report on the SDGs for the period 2015-2017. The first section of the document describes the country's social, economic, political and environmental context. The second section presents the methodological design and preparatory process of the report. The third section describes the governance structure for the SDGs, while the fourth section, illustrates the mechanisms of articulation and appropriation by signatories of the National Pact for the advancement of the SDGs. The fifth section determines the process of implementing the SDGs selected by the High Level Political Forum for the year 2017, specifically SDG 1 No poverty; SDG 2 Zero hunger; SDG 3 Good health and wellbeing; SDG 5 Gender equality; SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure; and SDG 4 Life below water. The fifth section determines the implementation means needed to make the 2030 Agenda viable in the country. Finally, the last section synthesizes the Costa Rican process and points out the country's next steps to continue with sustainable development efforts with a view to 2030.



2 Universal Periodic Review (UPR); Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and UN Human Rights Committee (CCPR)
3 UN (2017). "High-level Political Forum 2017" . Retrieved on 10 May, 2017 at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>



I. Context

Costa Rica is considered by the United Nations a country with a high Human Development Index (HDI) and medium-high income. Worldwide, it is recognized as one of the oldest and most 'robust' democracies in Latin America, having abolished its army in 1949 and given its vocation to protect the environment.

The Republic of Costa Rica is located in the Central American region. It borders the Republic of Nicaragua to the north and the Republic of Panama to the southeast.⁴ The total area of the territory is 51,100 km², with the Caribbean Sea to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The territory is divided administratively into seven provinces: San José (capital), Alajuela, Cartago, Heredia, Guanacaste, Puntarenas and Limón. There are 82 cantons and 421 districts. The official language is Spanish, and there are approximately 4,832,227 inhabitants (2015)⁵ of which 2,392,903 are women and 2,439,324 are men.

Internationally, Costa Rica has been recognized as one of the most consolidated democracies in Latin America and the world. It gained independence on September 15, 1821, became a Republic in 1848 and institutionalized universal suffrage in 1889⁶.

In 1949, a new Political Constitution was created, which led to the Second Republic of Costa Rica. The Political Constitution (currently in force) sets the foundation for human development in the country, abolishing the army and giving priority to financing free and compulsory education, universal health and access to

4 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2017). "Costa Rica en breve" . Retrieved on 27 April 2017 at: <http://www.cr.undp.org/content/costarica/es/home/countryinfo/>

5 INEC (2015). "Estimación de población (hipótesis probabilística) al 30 de junio de cada año" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at: <http://www.inec.go.cr/estadisticas>

6 UNDP (2017). "Costa Rica en breve" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at:

Chart 1. Evolution of public social spending as a percentage of GDP

SECTOR	2006	2010	2015
Healthcare	4.9	6.5	6.7
Education	5.0	7.2	7.7
Social Protection	5.2	6.5	7.1
Housing	1.7	2.1	2.3
Recreational, cultural and religious services	0.1	0.2	0.2

Source: Compiled by authors based on the State of the Nation Program (PEN) (2016). 22nd Report on the State of the Nation in Sustainable Development. San José: PEN

drinking water and electricity services for the majority of the Costa Rican population⁷. In addition, it introduced an independent electoral body, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), established women's right to vote and provided wide-ranging social, economic, political and civil rights to the population.

Elections in the country are held every four years. Today, the political party system includes multiple parties: 16 at national level, 12 at provincial level and 58 at cantonal level, for a total of 86 political parties registered with TSE⁸. Regarding the political participation of women in decision-making positions, despite a reform to the Electoral Code (Law No.7653) in 1996, which ensured the participation of women in 40% of party structures⁹, their participation has not reached the expected threshold on ballots for publicly-elected positions and in the delegations of district, cantonal and provincial assemblies. To date, the percentage of women in parliamentary decision-making positions is only 33.3%.

Costa Rica is considered an upper middle-income country. Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is \$11,206 US dollars at market prices and GDP growth per person is 2.5%. Since 2000, the gap between imports and exports has been growing significantly, which has meant a negative trade balance for the country. For the year 2015, commercial flow was \$25,154, of which imports represented \$15,504 and exports \$9,650 (millions of US dollars)¹⁰.

The main imports are raw materials, consumer goods and capital goods and they come from North America, Asia and the European Union. Most of the country's exports are medical instruments and agricultural goods, and the main destinations for exports are North America, the Central American Common Market (CACM) and the European Union.¹¹ Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for 2015 was 5.3% as a percentage of GDP, and the main regions of origin of FDI are: North America, European Union and Central America¹².

For the year 2016, Costa Rica had an HDI of 0.776, placing itself in position 66 worldwide and 9 in Latin America and the Caribbean¹³. Costa Rica is considered a country with high human development due to annual social investment by government in the areas of health, education, social protection, housing and other services (Chart 1). For the period between 2006 and 2015, public spending that increased most was in education, growing by approximately 2.7% of GDP in a decade, followed by health and social protection, which grew by 1.8% and 1.9% in the same period, respectively.

The country's population is undergoing a gradual aging process, due to the decrease in the fertility rate, lower than the population replacement rate, and the high life expectancy. The average life expectancy in Costa Rica is 80.0 years of age: 77.5 years for men and 82.6 years for women¹⁴. For 2015, the total fertility rate was 1.8 children per woman, lower than the population replacement rate, and the population under 25 years old represents 27.7% of the total population. On the other hand, maternal mortality has a ratio of 2.65 maternal deaths per thousand births and infant mortality is 7.8 deaths of minors per thousand births¹⁵.

Average schooling of the employed population in the country, in years, is of 8.9 in men and 10.3 in women¹⁶. In percentage terms, the population that regularly attends

educational systems is: between 5 and 6 years at preschool level, 89.9%; between 7 and 12 years in primary education, 99.6%; between 13 and 17 years old in secondary education, 87.7%; and between 18 and 24 years of age in university or higher education, 41.7%¹⁷.

The total workforce in the country represents 2,269,666 people, of which 59.8% are men and 40.2% are women¹⁸. The employment rate is 69.4% in men and 41.7% in women, for a total of 55.1% of the population (approximately 2,077,348 people). The majority of the employed population works in the services sector, followed by the industrial sector and the agricultural sector, with percentages of 70.1%, 18.3% and 11.5% respectively. Moreover, the percentage of people in informal jobs corresponds to 44.4%¹⁹.

The open unemployment rate is 8.5%, affecting a greater proportion of women (10.5%) with respect to unemployment in men (7.1%)²⁰. Further, gender gaps are present in the time allocated to paid and unpaid work for the population over 15 years of age.

Women spend an average of 20.1 weekly hours doing paid work, while men spend 38.6 hours²¹ and in the case of unpaid work, women spend 51.7 weekly hours while men spend 21.3 weekly hours in unpaid work. This significant difference shows that gender equality in access to employment and the equitable distribution of co-responsibilities in the home and in the care of "dependents"

7 Ibid.

8 TSE (2017). "Partidos Políticos inscritos" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at: http://www.tse.go.cr/partidos_inscritos.htm

9 Bolaños Barquero, Annette (2006). "Las cuotas de participación política de la mujer en Costa Rica, 1996-2005" . Electoral Law Journal no. 1 (First semester): 1-17.

10 COMEX (2017). "Estadísticas" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at: https://www.comex.go.cr/estadisticas/intercambio_comercial.aspx

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.

13 UNDP (2017). Human Development Report 2016. New York: UNDP.

14 INEC (2016). "Esperanza de vida al nacer por sexo" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at: <http://www.inec.go.cr/buscador?buscar=esperanza+de+vida>

15 INEC (2015). "Fecundidad mantiene tendencia al descenso" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at: <http://www.inec.go.cr/noticia/fecundidadmantiene-tendencia-al-descenso>

16 PEN (2016). 22nd Report on the State of the Nation in Sustainable Development. San José: PEN

17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.

19 Ibid.

20 Ibid.

21 ECLAC (2017). "Tiempo total de trabajo. Retrieved on 2 May, 2017 at: <http://oig.cepal.org/es>

are still a country challenge, in order to achieve full and productive employment for women and their economic empowerment.

The total percentage of insured population²² is 84.9%²³. Of the total direct contributors to pension insurance, 54.31% are men and 45.68% are women²⁴. Non-contributory pensions have a coverage of 2.5% and insurance by the State covers 6.9% of the total country population²⁵. Finally, the number of people in the Economically Active Population (EAP) who have occupational risk insurance is 84%²⁶.

The total number of households living in poverty by income is 307,270, which represents 20.5% of households²⁷. Of the total households, 37.3% have female heads of household. Of these, 42.9% are poor households in terms of the Poverty Line (LP) and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)²⁸. Inequality in the country has shown a tendency to increase in recent years, going from a Gini coefficient per person of 0.507 in 2010 to 0.521 in 2016²⁹.

As for access to basic services, the percentage of homes with access to electricity is 99.48%; access to water services, 93.96%;

and access to internet is 64.84%³⁰. Subscriptions to mobile telephone services cover 7,536 thousand people, which represents mobile penetration in the country of 156%³¹.

In recent decades, Costa Rica has stood out worldwide because of its reforestation of forests, environmental conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. During the decades from 1940 to 1980, the country's forest cover decreased greatly, going from 75% in 1940 to 21% in 1987 due to the expansion of livestock and agriculture in the territory. Faced with the need to stop the deforestation process and make better use of the land, the country established a series of land-use and environmental-protection laws, such as Forestry Law No.7575 in 1996 and the 'Payment for Environmental Services Program' (PPSA) in 1997. These regulations fostered significant change, from 21% forest coverage in the national territory in 1987 to 52.4% coverage in 2014, the last year with updated data³².

In 2015, the protected wildlife areas occupied 1,354,488 hectares and the marine protected areas constituted 1,501,485 hectares. In 2016, the country managed to run 250 days on electricity from renewable energies (hydro-power, geothermal, wind and

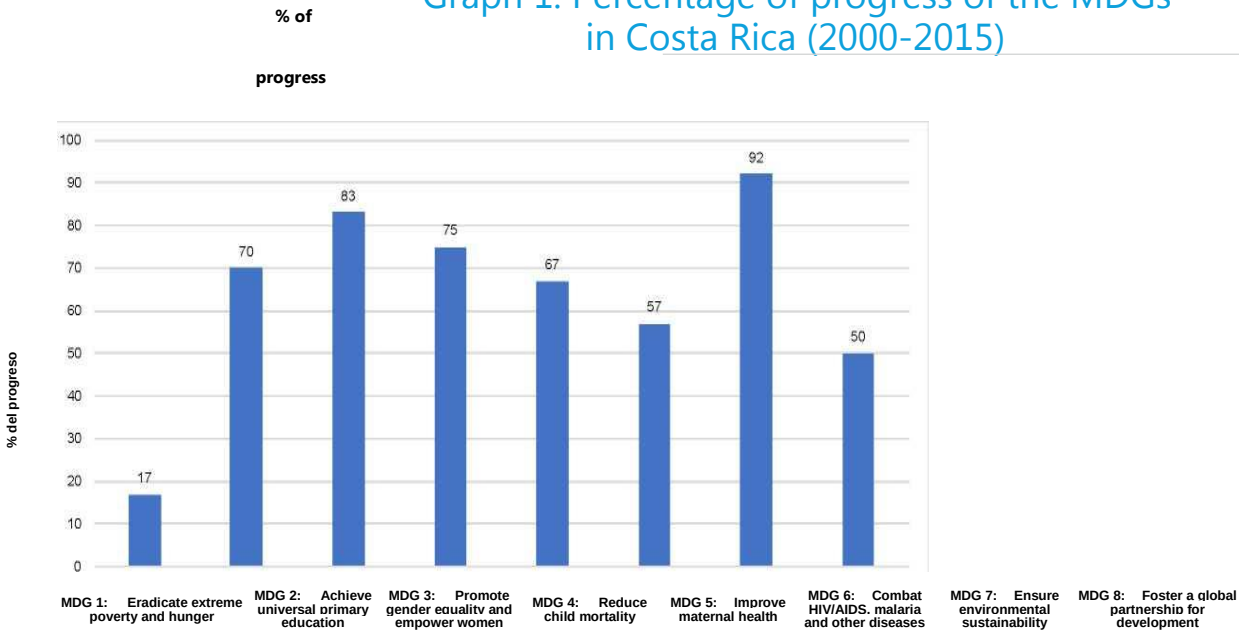
solar energy), not requiring the use of fossil fuels³³. Likewise, the country has also established itself as the first country in the world to set the goal of carbon neutrality by 2021.

define an effective and comprehensive method to achieve global priorities. This is how the Millennium Declaration was created, which set eight MDGs: i) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; ii) achieve universal primary education; iii) promote gender equality and empower women; iv) reduce child mortality of under five-year-olds; v) improve maternal health; vi) combat HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases; vii) ensure environmental sustainability; viii) foster a global partnership for development³⁴. By the end of the MDG period, as illustrated in Graph 1, Costa Rica showed variable behavior towards the fulfillment of the goals and targets. Of the total of 36 targets, the country met eighteen; partially fulfilled, nine; and did not

1.1. Follow-up of Costa Rica's Progress regarding the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000-2015)

In the year 2000, the UN demonstrated the need to

Graph 1. Percentage of progress of the MDGs in Costa Rica (2000-2015)



Source: Source: Compiled by authors based on MIDEPLAN (2015). Millennium Development Goals: III Country Report. San José: MIDEPLAN and United Nations System.

22 Since 1941, the country has a universal and solidary social security system. The system is administered by the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), an institution that includes both sickness and maternity insurance (SEM) as well as pensions for disability, old age and death (IVM).

23 INEC (2016). "National Household Survey (ENAH) 2016" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at: <http://sistemas.inec.cr:8080/bincri/RpWebEngine.exe/Portal?BASE=ENAH2016&lang=esp>

24 CCSS (2015). "Sistema Integrado de Pensiones: Área de Estadística, Dirección Actuarial y Económica" . Retrieved on 2 May, 2017 at: http://www.ccss.sa.cr/est_anuarios

25 INEC (2016). "National Household Survey (ENAH) 2016" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at: <http://sistemas.inec.cr:8080/bincri/RpWebEngine.exe/Portal?BASE=ENAH2016&lang=esp>

26 PEN (2016). 22nd Report on the State of the Nation in Sustainable Development. San José: PEN

27 INEC (2016). "National Household Survey (ENAH) 2016" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at: <http://sistemas.inec.cr:8080/bincri/RpWebEngine.exe/Portal?BASE=ENAH2016&lang=esp>

28 Ibid.

29 INEC (2016). "Costa Rica: Coeficiente de Gini por región de planificación según año, julio 2010 – 2016" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at: <http://www.inec.go.cr/buscadord?buscar=gini>

30 Ibid.

31 Superintendence of Telecommunications (SUTEL) (2015). "Estadísticas del Sector de Telecomunicaciones Costa Rica" . Retrieved on 27 April at: https://sutel.go.cr/sites/default/files/estadisticas_del_sector_telecomunicaciones_costa_rica_2015.pdf

32 Costa Rica Forestry Financing Fund (FONAFIFO) (2010). Forest coverage study of Costa Rica 2009-2010. San José: FONAFIFO; and Forest Resource Information System (SIREFOR) (2014). "Inventario Nacional Forestal" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at: <http://www.sirefor.go.cr/?p=1170>

33 BBC (2017). "Cómo hizo Costa Rica para pasar 250 días sin utilizar combustibles fósiles para su electricidad" . Retrieved on 27 April, 2017 at: <http://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-38508608>

34 UN. (s.f). Millennium Development Goals. Retrieved on 26 April, 2017 at: <http://www.un.org/es/millenniumgoals/>

fulfill seven. For two targets, there was not enough information to evaluate³⁵.

The objectives with the greatest progress reported were MDG 7, guaranteeing environmental sustainability; MDG 3, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment; and MDG 2, achieving universal primary education. On the other hand, the objective with the greatest delay was MDG 1: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. This constitutes one of the great challenges for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The final stage of the MDGs and the evaluation of Costa Rica's progress allowed to learn many lessons and improve coordination, implementation and follow-up processes for the 2030 Agenda.

1.1.1. National Consultation Post-2015

In 2013, the UNS along with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN) implemented a national consultation with broad participation from all sectors in society in order to receive feedback to define the vision for development during the completion period for MDGs and the construction of a post-2015 agenda in Costa Rica.

This consultation process was divided into four stages. In the first stage, workshops were held with excluded or vulnerable populations, such as: people living in poverty, indigenous people, people of African descent, Lesbian, Gay, Transsexual, Bisexual, and Intersex and Queer groups (LGTBIQ), migrants and refugees, etc.³⁶. The second stage included participation of the

business sector, trade unions and the public sector, with proposals to boost the country's development. In the third stage, thematic workshops were held with specialists on issues such as education, health, poverty and inequality, security, employment, etc. Finally, the last stage consisted of conducting a survey to the national population to identify characteristics, proposals and priority solutions for the country's development.

As a result of these processes, seven major priorities were identified at country level, as well as 39 measures to achieve these priorities: i) equality, equity and access to opportunities; ii) universal access to high-quality services; iii) education for human development; iv) productive development and job creation; v) security, coexistence and access to justice; vi) environmental sustainability and risk management; and vii) democratic governance.

Thus, the Post-2015 National Consultation held in the country brought together a diversity of social and political stakeholders who were interested in joining efforts to achieve sustainable development, so that at the end of the implementation period of the MDGs, the country already had an intersectoral roadmap on priority topics, which complemented the lessons learned from the implementation process of the Millennium Agenda as a preparatory process for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



FUENTE: Presidential Palace of

35 MIDEPLAN (2015). Millennium Development Goals: III Country Report. San José: MIDEPLAN and United Nations System.

36 UNDP (2015). Building a development agenda for Costa Rica. San José: UNDP.



II. Design of the Voluntary National Review

The voluntary review determines the strategies, initiatives, programs or policies deployed by state, non-state and international stakeholders in order to verify progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 related goals, between 2015 and 2017.

This section describes the design of the voluntary report based on the multidimensional approach to addressing the SDGs, the analysis method of the report, the process of preparing it and its scope and limitations.

2.1. Multidimensional Approach

The multidimensional approach consists of a holistic and intersectoral analysis at different levels of human development. It constitutes a new architecture to comprehensively address social welfare throughout people's life cycle, based on a greater horizontal (intersectoral) and vertical (interterritorial) articulation of public policy³⁷ (Figure 1).

For an optimal fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda, the multidimensional approach "helps to conceive the sequence of actions that will lead to the construction of universality through the attainment of minimum income and assets and the establishment of systems of care and social protection that guarantee the full exercise of social, economic and environmental rights"³⁸.

As such, the approach analyzes the different levels of human well-being, recognizing that not all obstacles are below certain shortage thresholds, as many exclusions and discriminations occur both above and below these thresholds"³⁹.



37 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2016). Multidimensional Progress: Well-Being Beyond Income. Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean. New York: UNDP.
38 Ibid. P. 27
39 Ibid. P. 123

Figure 1. Multidimensional Approach in the 2030 Agenda



Source: Compiled by authors

2.2. Method of Analysis and Report Preparation Process

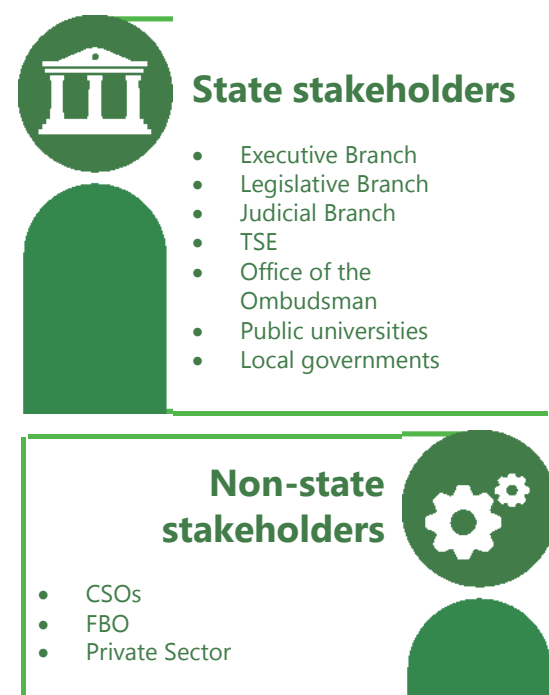
Having a wide range of information subjects, this national review was based on three techniques: document analysis, semi-structured interviews and group surveys.

The first technique, document analysis, was based on the review and systematization of forms, documents and reports related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the period 2015-2017. The second technique consisted of semi-structured interviews with senior government officials, based on a guide of topics or questions to elicit details about the process of implementing the SDGs at different institutions. Finally, in order to triangulate the information, consultations were held with some of the most excluded groups in Costa Rica (people of African descent, senior citizens, people with disabilities and LGBTIQ).

2.2.1. Information Gathering

The information subjects for the preparation of the report are people representing various entities that reaffirmed their commitment

Figure 2. Information Subject(s) regarding SDGs



International stakeholders

- Agencies of the United Nations System (UNS) in Costa Rica

Source: Compiled by authors

to achieve the SDGs by signing the National Pact (Figure 2).

2.2.2. Preparation Process

The voluntary report was prepared through an open, inclusive and participatory process in which all existing platforms were used by signatories of the National Pact to request and collect information. In addition, consultation workshops and surveys were held with excluded groups and/or groups in vulnerable conditions, so they could validate the voluntary review and express their opinions, ideas and appropriate paths, based on their experiences, for the implementation of initiatives, policies or strategies at country level.

The elaboration process consisted of two stages, with participation of all the sectors and national stakeholders involved in implementing the SDGs in the country. Specifically, the stages were: i) design of forms on SDG monitoring and means of implementation; and ii) collection of documentary information, interviews and consultations.

2.2.3. Design of Forms on Progress of the SDGs

In order to achieve efficient and systematic information collection, we designed two forms considering the "Proposal of

Voluntary Guidelines for the Submission of Common Reports for the National Voluntary Examinations in the High Level Political Forum" and the "Guidelines to Support the Country Reporting Process on SDGs"

On the one hand, a form collected data on progress and achievements in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Costa Rica, as well as helping to identify the lessons learned, challenges and next steps to advance towards achievement of the SDGs in the country. The second form focused on information regarding program budgets for achieving the SDGs, data on international cooperation and on determining operational difficulties for compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

2.2.4. Document Collection, Interviews and Consultations

The document collection stage was carried out in order to compile official documents including budget information, execution of policies and programs, and initiatives linked to the SDGs so far. Interviews were carried out with institutional authorities to complement the information contained in the documents and to evidence initiatives carried out in the sectors. Finally, we organized consultations with excluded and/or vulnerable groups in Costa Rica, to help them learn about the process of the 2030 Agenda and get feedback for the national report based on their experiences, knowledge and contexts.

2.3. Scope of the Voluntary Review

The particular focus of this Review is to verify Costa Rica's progress in two years of implementing the 2030 Agenda. As such, no attempt is made to evaluate the policies, programs or initiatives carried out during the implementation of the SDGs in the country, but only to capture the process carried out by Costa Rica during the period 2015 to 2017.

This is based on the guidelines and contents set forth in paragraph No. 8, Resolution 67/290 of July 9, 2013 of the UN General Assembly; paragraphs No. 84 and 74 f) of the 2030 Agenda; and the Support Guide for the SDG Reports of the United Nations Development Group (GDNU).



FUENTE: Presidential Palace of



III. Governance Structure for SDGs

On September 9, 2016, Costa Rica became the first country in the world to achieve a high-level political commitment, based on national dialogue, in order to jointly implement common and comprehensive policies and actions to comply with the 17 SDGs proposed in the 2030 Agenda.

The 'National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs' was historically signed by the three powers of the Republic of Costa Rica (Executive, Legislative and Judicial), the TSE, civil society, OBFs, public universities, local governments and the private sector. In turn, the United Nations System and the Office of the Ombudsperson were witnesses of honor of the signing of the commitment. Through the pact, these institutions undertook to⁴⁰:

- Contribute to the fulfillment of the sustainable development goals and targets established in the 2030 Agenda, promoting joint work that helps to improve the quality of life of the population.
- Foster the mobilization of available resources to achieve the sustainable development goals and targets.
- Incorporate the sustainable development goals and targets into the planning and budgeting instruments of institutions and organizations.
- Strengthen institutional capacities to develop policies, plans, programs and projects in the context of implementing and monitoring sustainable development goals.
- Promote a vision for the future of Costa Rica, using as input and foundation the sustainable development goals and targets.
- Participate actively in the implementation of the national strategy for monitoring the SDGs, in order to reflect the contribution made by the State, local governments, civil society and the private sector.
- Be accountable to citizens regarding progress and gaps in the implementation of the targets related to the SDGs.

40 Costa Rica (2016). "Pacto Nacional por el avance de los ODS en el marco de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible en Costa Rica"

By assuming joint responsibilities and duties, the Pact ensures a long-term national vision and agenda capable of achieving real and effective changes in the economic, social, political and environmental development of the country.

In accordance with the 2030 Agenda and the National Pact, on February 15, 2017, the Presidency of the Republic, MIDEPLAN, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (MREC) and the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) signed Executive Decree No. 40203 (PLAN RE-MINAE), whose objective is to establish an organizational structure to plan, implement and monitor the SDGs and their related targets⁴¹.

In this way, the governance structure established for the implementation of the SDGs includes broad participation by different bodies, and establishes four functional levels: Political Coordination; Direction and Technical Advice; Coordination and Implementation; and Consultation and Accountability (Figure 3).

3.1. Method of Analysis and Report Preparation Process

Political coordination and decision-making at the national level will be carried out by a 'High-Level Council of SDGs' chaired by the President of the Republic, the Minister of Planning, the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This Committee is the maximum body to coordinate actions aimed at compliance with the 2030 Agenda. It has three main functions:

- Defining a national policy to plan, implement and monitor the SDGs with a prospective approach, integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions in accordance with human rights standards and National and International Law.
- Establishing the necessary measures to allocate financial resources for the implementation of the SDGs.
- Others derived from the exercise of their competence.

3.2. Direction and Technical Advice

Technical advice shall be provided by a 'Technical Secretariat of SDGs,' led by the Minister of MIDEPLAN and coordinated by Vice-Minister Ms. María del Pilar Garrido Gonzalo and the Director of Development Analysis, Mr. Mario Robles Monge. Both have the support of an interdisciplinary work team that belongs to that institution. This level will also be supported by a 'Statistical Advisory Body', led by the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), the technical governing body of the 'National Statistics System' (SEN).

3.2.1. Technical Secretariat of SDGs

This Secretariat is comprised of the Minister of MIDEPLAN and an interdisciplinary team from MIDEPLAN. The Secretariat may summon other public-sector officials for consultation and collaboration with the SDGs. Additionally, it has the power to create technical working groups for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to call upon, as necessary,

representatives of different organizations and relevant sectors who are experts in matters related to the SDGs. The Technical Secretariat has the following competencies⁴²:

- Proposing guidelines for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, which must be approved by the Council.
- Organizing the meetings of the Council and preparing the corresponding minutes.
- Promoting the incorporation of the SDG targets adopted by Costa Rica in different planning instruments, such as policies, program plans, projects, as well as in the national, institutional, sectoral and regional budgets.
- Encouraging participation of representatives from different sectors and institutions (both public and private) in related issues to fulfill the SDGs.
- Facilitating public-private partnerships aimed at achieving the SDGs.
- Establishing accountability mechanisms to learn about progress made and gaps in the implementation of the targets related to the SDGs.
- Preparing reports on the SDGs that Costa Rica must submit to the UN and other international and national organizations.
- Organizing communication strategies to inform about the SDGs and disseminate progress made.
- Once a year, summoning representatives of the different Branches of Government, public institutions, civil society, the private sector, international organizations and local governments to participate in the National Forum of the SDGs.
- Following up on agreements by the Council.
- Performing other duties derived from the exercise of its competence.

3.2.2. Statistical Advisory Body

An adequate implementation of the 2030 Agenda implies having disaggregated, reliable, up-to-date and accurate data in order to carry out evaluations of the initiatives and review progress towards the SDGs at country level.

In this way, the Technical Secretariat, through Executive Decree No. 40203, receives the advice of the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), which is the technical governing body of the National Statistics System (SEN) for the preparation of indicators on compliance and monitoring of the SDGs.

In this sense, INEC shall have the specific role of⁴³:

- Managing the creating of a computer platform for the SDG Indicator System.
- Incorporating the necessary actions into the National Statistical Plan for SEN institutions to generate and apply indicators related to the SDGs in Costa Rica.
- Providing technical advice to the institutions of the SEN in obtaining indicators for the SDGs, establishing guidelines for their creating and updating.
- Agreeing the definition of indicators to monitor the SDG targets with the Technical Secretariat.
- Coordinating with SEN institutions for timely verification of the indicators defined for the SDGs.
- Applying the appropriate corrective and disciplinary measures in case of non-compliance and delays by SEN institutions in presenting and verifying reports on SDG indicators.

41 See Executive Decree No. 40203 (PLAN RE-MINAE): http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=83609&

nValor3=107552&strTipM=TC
42 Ibid.

3.3. Coordination and Implementation

This level shall be comprised of a 'Technical Committee of the SDGs,' chaired by the coordinator of the Technical Secretariat, with the aim of verifying specific commitments undertaken by public organizations for compliance with the SDGs.

3.3.1. Technical Committee of SDGs

The Technical Committee of the SDGs is chaired by the coordinator of the Technical Secretariat, with the aim of verifying specific commitments undertaken by public organizations for compliance with the SDGs. The Committee is composed of the delegates of all the Ministries of the country, and it has the power to call representatives of decentralized entities to help in their work.⁴⁴.

3.4. Consultation and Accountability

The High Level Executive Committee, through the President of the Republic, shall summon a 'High Level Consultative Council,' created as a forum for consultation and dialogue to advise the Council in the implementation of the SDGs in the country. The Committee is summoned and led by the Presidency of the Republic and comprised of the representatives or appointed representatives of each of the institutions and organizations that signed their commitment in the National Pact. Moreover,

a public accountability space is established to respond to the actions carried out by the various entities that make up the governance structure for compliance with the SDGs, called 'National SDG Forum'

3.4.1. Advisory Committee of the High-Level Council of the SDGs

The Consultative Council of the High-Level Council of the SDGs was created as a forum for consultation and dialogue to advise the Council in the implementation of the SDGs in the country. It is summoned and led by the Presidency of the Republic and comprised of the representatives or appointed representatives of each of the institutions and organizations that signed their commitment in the National SDG Pact.

3.4.2. National SDG Forum

The National SDG Forum is created as a public accountability space, to respond to the actions carried out by the various entities that make up the governance structure for compliance with the SDGs⁴⁵.

The structure formalizes broad participatory processes and mutual responsibilities in which the country's progress does not depend solely on the central government of Costa Rica, but also on civil society, FBOs, private companies, academic sectors and international organizations. They are all participants in the processes of coordination, articulation and establishment of areas of action to develop the 2030 Agenda and advance Human Rights,

inclusive growth and environmental protection in Costa Rica.

to demand compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

3.5. Considerations on the Governance Structure for SDGs

The governance structure formed by Costa Rica has been vitally important to coordinate and articulate strategies to implement the SDGs following a multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder approach, with broad participation of various sectors and national entities, to promote joint initiatives at country level and to establish accountability mechanisms

Since the signing of the National Pact, signatory entities have initiated a process of ownership of the SDGs, according to their capacities and resources, identifying commitments, possibilities for national articulation and advocacy spaces. As of April of this year, the High Level Consultative Council is officially constituted, with the participation of all the signatories of the National SDG Pact. In its last session in the month of May, the Council approved a multisectoral work plan aimed at laying the foundations to consolidate a revitalized national alliance that is sustainable over the next 15 years. Annex 1 shows the ownership process of each one of the signatories in greater detail.

Figure 3. Levels of coordination and articulation for the governance and implementation of SDGs



44 Ibid.
45 Ibid.

Source: Taken from the Technical Secretariat of SDGs (2017). Connecting the National Development Plan "Alberto Cañas Escalante" 2015-2018 and the Sustainable Development Goals. San José: MIDEPLAN and UNDP.



IV. Adaptation of National Frameworks

The 2030 Agenda encourages countries to establish cooperation and collaboration processes between the different government agencies and ministries. The structuring of the SDGs at country level in national frameworks of policies, plans and programs has fostered the articulation and coordination of various national stakeholders following a multi-dimensional approach, with the inclusion of diverse groups and the establishment of strategic alliances⁴⁶.

4.1. Incorporation of SDGs in the National Development Plan (NDP) 2015-2018

With the development and implementation of the National Development Plan (PND) 'Alberto Cañas Escalante' 2015-2018, Costa Rica sought to transcend the short-term vision that has traditionally prevailed in the country when implementing public policies. It established three central pillars as a starting point: i) boosting economic growth and creating quality jobs; ii) fighting poverty and reducing inequality; and iii) being an open, transparent and efficient government fighting corruption⁴⁷. These three pillars permeated the sectors, since these define goals and objectives corresponding to the operation of each sector, so institutions can execute programs and projects that guarantee expected results.

Following a multi-dimensional approach, Costa Rica carried out a first phase of alignment between the PND and the 2030 Agenda, which included analyzing programs related to the SDGs. It identified 94 programs and projects that are executed in the country and are linked to 181 indicators and 169 targets of the 17 goals contemplated in the SDGs. The goals with a larger number of programs

⁴⁶ See Annex 1 for mechanisms regarding ownership and coordination of SDGs for each of the stakeholders in the National Pact for compliance with the SDGs.

⁴⁷ Technical Secretariat of SDGs. (2017). National Development Plan "Alberto Cañas Escalante" 2015-2018 and its connection to the Sustainable Development Goals. San José: Technical Secretariat SDGs-MIDEPLAN. P. 4

are: SDG 4 Quality education; SDG 3 Good health and well-being; SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG 15 Life on land. In addition, the SDGs that include fewer programs linked to the NDP are: Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (1 program) and Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all (1 program) (Table 1).

Table 1. NDP programs, indicators and goals linked to the SDGs

Sustianable Development Goals	Programs	Indicators	Targets
SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	5	8	8
SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	5	9	9
SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	8	24	24
SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning	15	23	23
SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	1	2	2
SDG 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all	5	8	8
SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	5	13	13
SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all	1	1	1
SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	6	15	15
SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among	5	11	11
SDG 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	6	11	11
SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	3	7	7
SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	4	5	5
SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources	2	2	2
SDG 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss	6	12	12
SDG 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective,	7	12	12
SDG 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	10	18	18

Source: Taken from the Technical Secretariat of SDGs. (2017). National Development Plan "Alberto Cañas Escalante" 2015-2018 and its connection to the Sustainable Development Goals. San José: Technical Secretariat SDGs-MIDEPLAN.

4.2. System of SDG Indicators

INEC is the technical institution at the head of the SEN, charged with developing compliance and monitoring indicators for each of the goals. The SEN was founded in June 2016, after an assessment process of the national statistical capabilities for the production of monitoring indicators for the SDGs⁴⁸. This phase was carried out in different stages⁴⁹:

- Methodology development: creating an instrument to collect information on SDG indicators, based on the "National Statistics Capacity Questionnaire for the Production of SDG Indicators of the Global Monitoring Framework" of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
- Information source mapping: drafting a list of institutions that can be sources of information.
- Evaluation of SDG indicators with methodological sheets: indicators proposed by the United Nations were related.
- Survey to institutions: we sent 67 questions to 48 institutions. Also, we checked the availability of information for the calculation of the indicators and their potential sources.
- Response reception: reviewing and validating the answers and asking other questions to information sources and opinions of other experts. Of the 67 questions we asked the 48 institutions, 53 were answered, 2 were answered partially and 12 were not answered.
- Updating the list of indicators: in Statistical Commission, session No.48.

According to the assessment, of a total of 243 indicators proposed by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSEC), we identified 80 indicators that have enough necessary information to guarantee their viability. Although 73 indicators are not produced, they can be created with the existing information in the country. There are 33 indicators that cannot be produced from the information sources existing in the country. Finally, 57 indicators developed by the CENU do not apply to Costa Rica⁵⁰. Specifically, progress of national capacities in producing indicators for each of the SDGs is shown in chart 2.

4.3. Considerations on the Adaptation of National Frameworks

The analysis of linking PND programs with the SDGs allowed the country to identify the national programmatic strengths to accelerate the fulfillment of some objectives (4, 6, 15 and 16). At the same time, it also allowed to demonstrate where it may necessary double our efforts to achieve them, such as gender equality and full and productive employment.

At the same time, it helped evidence the need for programmatic and budgetary efforts to reinforce the multi-dimensional approach of the 2030 Agenda, in order to respond to the country's challenges in a comprehensive and holistic manner, and not sectorally or thematically. For example, by addressing poverty through a multi-dimensional approach or implementing National Voluntary Commitments signed at national level for the recently held Global Ocean Conference in June.

48 INEC (2017). "Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles en Costa Rica" . Presentation made by INEC management, San José, April 4.
49 Ibid.

50 Ibid.

Similarly, although the diagnosis of national statistical capabilities can determine the strengths of the national indicator systems in areas such as health, poverty, gender equality, decent work and education can also help identify the challenges faced by the SEN to generate the data required to build indicators on issues such as climate change, life below water, water and sanitation, sustainable communities and sustainable production and consumption. Actions to be carried out to address such challenges include creating new instruments to gather the information necessary to build our own national indicators according to sectoral requirements and national goals and to build inclusive indicators, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability, among others⁵¹.

Chart 2. National capacities in the production of indicators for the SDGs

SDG /Production of indicators	Indicator has necessary information required	Indicator is not produced, though it can be	Indicator cannot be produced	Indicator does not apply
SDG 1: No poverty	8	3	2	1
SDG 2: Zero hunger	0	7	4	2
SDG 3: Good health and well-being	23	3	0	1
SDG 4: Quality education	4	5	1	1
SDG 5: Gender equality	8	2	0	4
SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation	2	6	2	1
SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy	4	1	0	1
SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth	8	8	0	1
SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	5	6	0	1
SDG 10: Reduced inequalities	4	1	2	4
SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities	2	5	6	2
SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production	2	3	5	3
SDG 13: Climate action	0	2	0	6
SDG 14: Life below water	0	3	3	4
SDG 15: Life on land	3	3	3	4
SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	4	12	2	5
SDG 17: Partnerships for the goal	3	3	3	16
TOTAL	80	73	33	57

Source: Compiled by authors based on INEC (2017). “Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles en Costa Rica, Presentation made by INEC management, San José, April 4.

51 INEC (2017). “Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles en Costa Rica” . Presentation made by INEC management, San José, April 4.



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V. A Shared Vision of Sustainable Development

This section describes Costa Rica's Progress between 2015 and 2017 in implementing the SDGs. First of all, it describes the points of entry established by government for a holistic approach to the goals, with special attention to initiatives to reduce poverty and promote prosperity in the country. Secondly, it defines the specific actions taken to progress towards the SDGs, particularly those established as priorities for analysis in the United Nations High Level Political Forum for the year 2017.

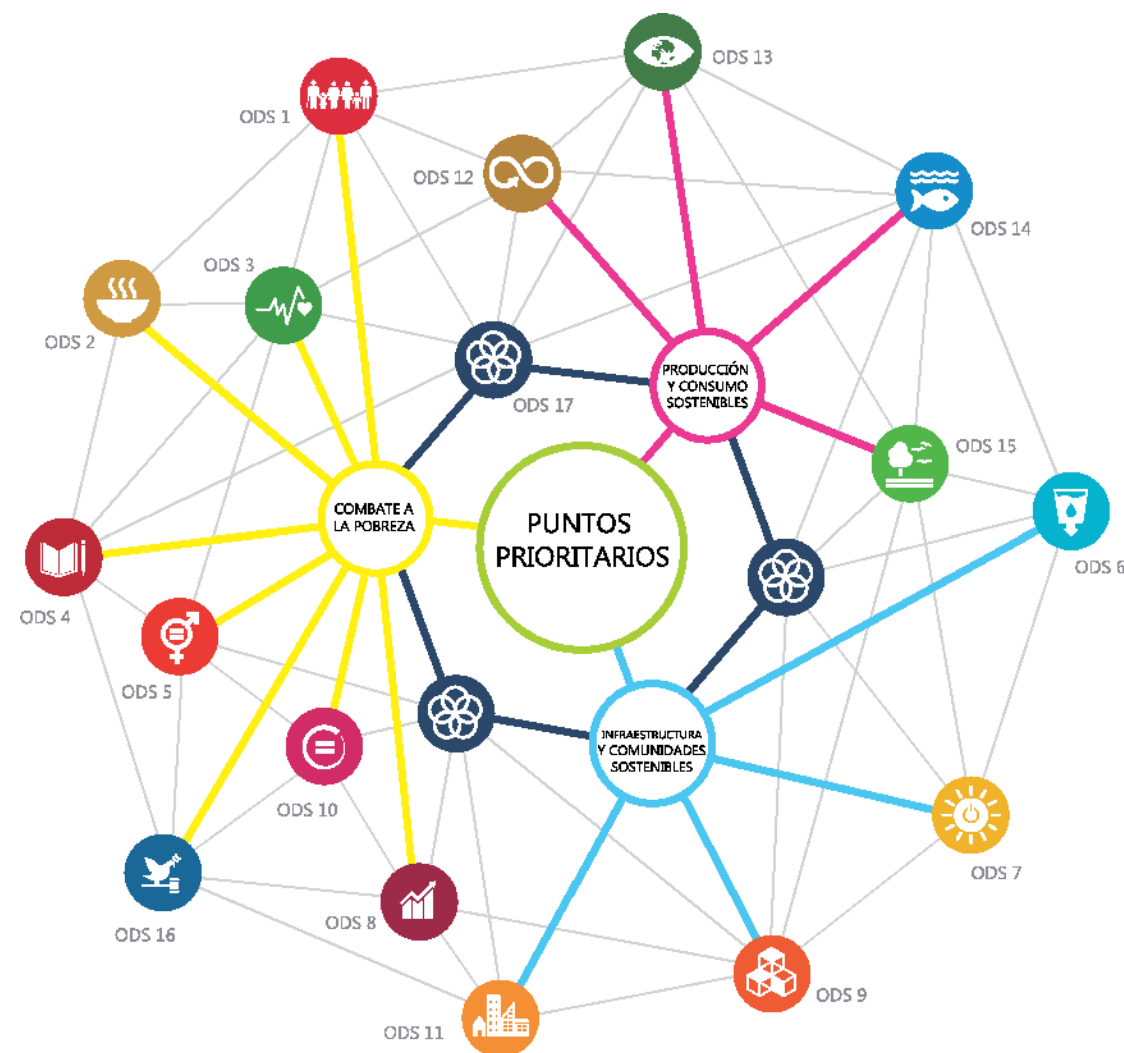
5.1. National Priority Points for the Implementation of the SDGs

Taking into account the realities, capacities and levels of development in Costa Rica, as well as its national policies and priorities, the government established priority points of entry in order to translate the SDGs into concrete national actions guided by the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the High-Level Council established three priority points for Costa Rica: i) fighting poverty; ii) sustainable production and consumption; and sustainable infrastructure and communities (Figure 4).

These priority points are closely related to each other and to all link back to the SDGs. They are also interconnected with the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental. Additionally, the priority points establish multi-dimensional lines of work to address the SDGs in a joint and multi-stakeholder manner, with the participation of the signatories of the National Pact.

The theme for the High-Level Forum of 2017 was 'Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World.' The Forum reviews the implementation of six specific SDGs⁵²: SDG 1 No poverty; SDG 2 Zero hunger; SDG 3 Good health and well-being; SDG 5 Gender equality; SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure and SDG 14 Life below water.

Figure 4. Priority points defined by the Technical Secretariat of SDGs



5.2. SDG 1: No poverty

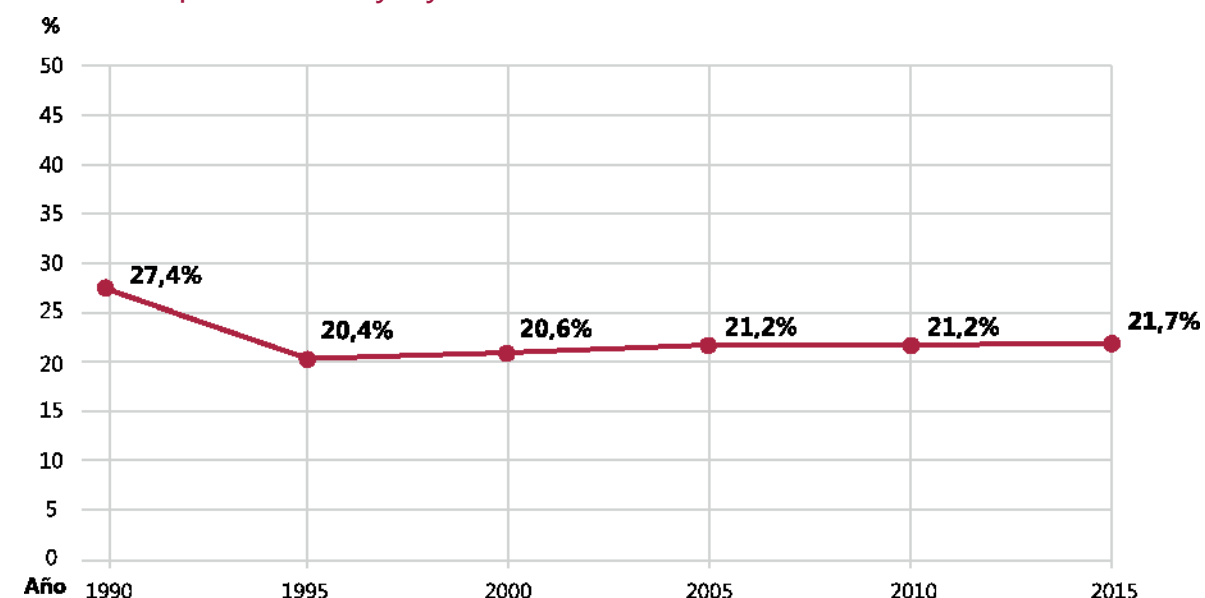
Latin America managed to reduce poverty from 48% in the 1990s to 28% by 2015, and extreme poverty gradually decreased from 19.2% in 2000 to 10.9% by 2015.

Quite different from regional behavior, in the last 20 years Costa Rica has maintained an average of poverty by income at approximately 20% of total households (Graph 2). At the beginning of the 1990s, Costa Rica began to experience positive economic growth as a result of the expansion of the

service and industry sectors, the incorporation of women into the labor market, the increase in FDI, the increase in the enrollment of the population in higher education, and others. This allowed GDP per capita to increase from \$4,712 in 1990 to \$15,377 in the year 2015⁵³.

However, this economic growth left many people behind, due to income disparity between population segments, educational lagging of people in different regions of the country, an absence of inclusive policies adapted to international human rights frameworks and to the needs of excluded population groups and/or to people living in conditions of vulnerability, the increase in unemployment and informality, etc.

Graph 2. Poverty by income in Costa Rica (1990-2015)



Source: Made according with Home Survey for Multiple Purposes data for 2006 – 2009 and Homes National Survey 2010-2016. INEC.

Note 1. Data since 2010 are not necessarily comparable with previous years according with methodological adjustments made by INEC.

53 World Bank (2016). "PIB per cápita, PPA (\$ a precios internacionales actuales)". Retrieved on May 1, 2017 at: <http://datos.bancomundial.org/indicadores/NY.SRVS.VS.CD?locations=LA>



bancomundial.org/indicador/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD?end=2015&locations=CR&start=1990&view=chart



Figure 5. Multidimensional initiatives of SDG 1 and its connection with other SDGs



Source: Compiled by authors

By 2015, 317,660 households and 1,137,881 people were living in poverty, while households living in extreme poverty by income were 104,712 and 374,185 people⁵⁴. Parallel to the stagnation in poverty reduction, inequality has gradually increased in recent years, moving from a GINI coefficient of 0.413 in 2000 to 0.515 in 2016⁵⁵.

According to an analysis carried out by ECLAC, the MREC and MIDEPLAN (2016), extreme poverty in the country has three determining factors: i) an adverse environment at home and in surroundings; ii) an insufficient scope in social programs; and iii) an exclusionary labor market.

The reduction of poverty is not seen as a unitary objective for Costa Rica, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, but as a country challenge that must be addressed in a multi-dimensional manner (Figure 5). Some specific efforts

that the country has developed to accelerate progress towards that goal in the period between 2015 and 2017 include: the 'Bridge to Development Strategy,' the incorporation of the MPI in national indicators and the facilitation of Collective Dialogues or round tables to define a national agenda to fight poverty.

5.2.1. Bridge to Development Strategy

The Bridge to Development Strategy⁵⁶ started in 2015 and seeks to address poverty in families through a multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral approach (Figure 6). The program proposes a family intervention, which includes developing a family plan, follow-up with a co-manager and providing money transfers, so that families have access to social services at three levels: first, social protection to guarantee the family's well-being;

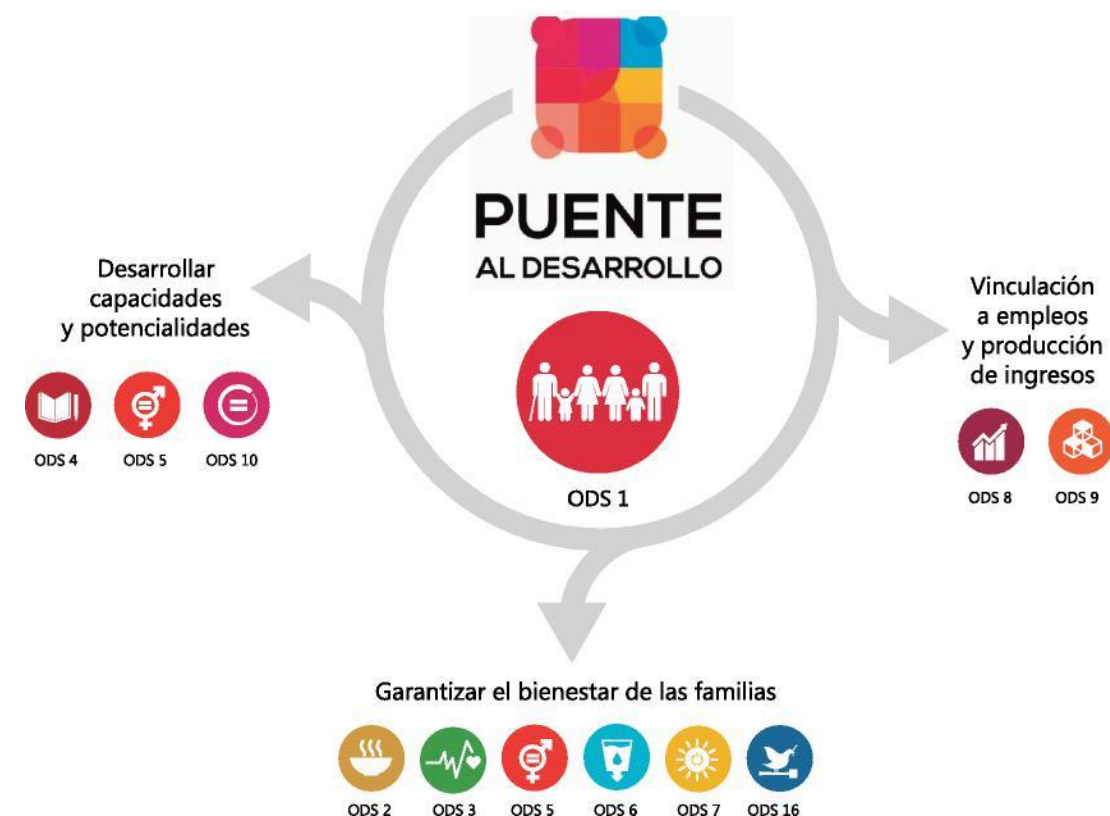
second, capacity-building services to increase their capabilities; and third, services linked to employment and the production of income for their homes.

The program has innovative aspects adapted to institutional and national contexts, aimed at a gradual reduction of poverty. In this sense, it focuses on four different elements. The first is effective institutional structuring of institutional commitments to reduce poverty, with follow-up provided by the Social Presidential Council (PSC). The second includes enhancing the National Information System and the Single Registry of Beneficiaries (SINIRUBE) in order to provide effective and updated monitoring of the beneficiaries of the

social programs and services. The third element is the implementation of the MPI as a tool to complement the income poverty approach, incorporating other dimensions of the phenomenon of poverty. Finally, the program uses social maps in order to locate the population in poverty in the country, with social co-managers who visit them in their homes to provide access to services and programs.

The objective set for the period between 2015 and 2018 is to reduce extreme poverty in 75 priority districts, which concentrate 65% of the total families in extreme poverty, in order to guarantee the population's access to the program and inter-institutional services.

Figure 6. Linking the Bridge to Development Strategy to the SDGs



Source: Compiled by authors

54 Technical Secretariat of SDGs (2016). Inventario de Políticas Públicas según los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). San José: Technical Secretariat SDGs-MIDEPLAN.

55 INEC (2016). "Costa Rica: Coeficiente de Gini por región de planificación según año, julio 2010 – 2016". Retrieved on 27 April 2017 at: <http://www.inec.go.cr/buscador?buscar=gini>

56 Government of Costa Rica (2015). Bridge to Development: National Strategy for Poverty Reduction. San José: Government of Costa Rica e IMAS.



Box 1. Results of the Bridge to Development Strategy (2015 - 2016)

One year into the implementation of the strategy, Costa Rica managed to lift 30,800 people out of poverty, from 22.3% of households living in poverty in 2014 to 20.5% in 2016. In the case of rural poverty, it went from 30.3% in 2014 to 25.7% in 2016, and urban poverty fell from 19.5% to 18.6% in the same period.

Source: INEC (2016). National Household Survey 2016. San José: INEC

5.2.2. Incorporating the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

As a complement to the traditional measurement by Poverty Line (PL), Costa Rica incorporated the MPI in October 2015, for institutions to use as input to identify aspects for effective poverty reduction, implementing innovative initiatives to evaluate the effectiveness of policies, programs and projects and improve the quality of life of the population, with special attention to traditionally excluded population segments, such as people with disabilities, indigenous people, women, migrants, among others.

Thus, INEC implements five dimensions of human development which have indicators that measure the threshold of deprivation indicated by the

Table 2. MPI dimensions and indicators

Dimension	Indicator
Education	Lack of attendance to formal education.
	Educational gap
	Not graduating high school
	Low human capital development
Housing	Roof or floor in bad condition
	Exterior walls in bad condition
	Overcrowding
	No internet use
Healthcare	No health insurance
	No water services
	No waste disposal
	No garbage disposal
Labor	Long-term unemployment or discouraged people
	Non-compliance with minimum wage
	Non-compliance of other working rights
	Independent, informal employment
Social Protection	Early childhood without care
	Senior citizens without a pension
	People with disabilities without transfers
	Outside the work force given family obligations

Source: Taken from INEC (2015). Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): Methodology. San José: INEC.

socio-economic levels of households in education, housing, health, work and social protection (Table 2).

5.2.3. Collective Dialogues for the Construction of a National Agenda

In order to build a national agenda for the eradication of poverty in Costa Rica, the government of Costa Rica -along with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)- have led an inclusive and participatory process together with public institutions, CSOs, FBOs, the private sector, unions, academia and UN agencies.

The process of building a national agenda has contemplated three stages over a period of nine months: the first stage (September 2016) and the second stage (October 2016 to February 2017).

a) First stage: "Leaving no one behind" Seminar: Building a national agenda for inclusion

The Government of the Republic, MIDEPLAN, IMAS, UNDP and UNICEF organized a seminar on the 22nd and 23rd of September 2016 to promote a dialogue on the strengths and challenges of public policies for poverty reduction in Costa Rica.

The seminar was attended by public institutions, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, unions and UN agencies. It sought to initiate a process of developing a national agenda to eliminate poverty and foster social inclusion, as well as to identify challenges and public policy recommendations in a participatory and evidence-based manner.

The seminar covered the following seven topics:

1. Conceptualization and measurement of poverty and targeted poverty selection criteria
2. Progress and challenges to coordinate social programs
3. Differentiated assistance to excluded groups living in poverty
4. Presentation of public-private partnerships to promote poverty reduction
5. Capacity-building programs and job opportunities
6. Qualitative analysis and subjective dimensions of poverty and well-being
7. Discussion about next steps: Collective Dialogues.

b) Second stage: Collective dialogues for the construction of a national agenda to eradicate poverty (October 2016 – February 2017)

For the second stage, the organizing team joined the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO) in order to combine efforts and carry out collective discussions during September, October and November 2016.

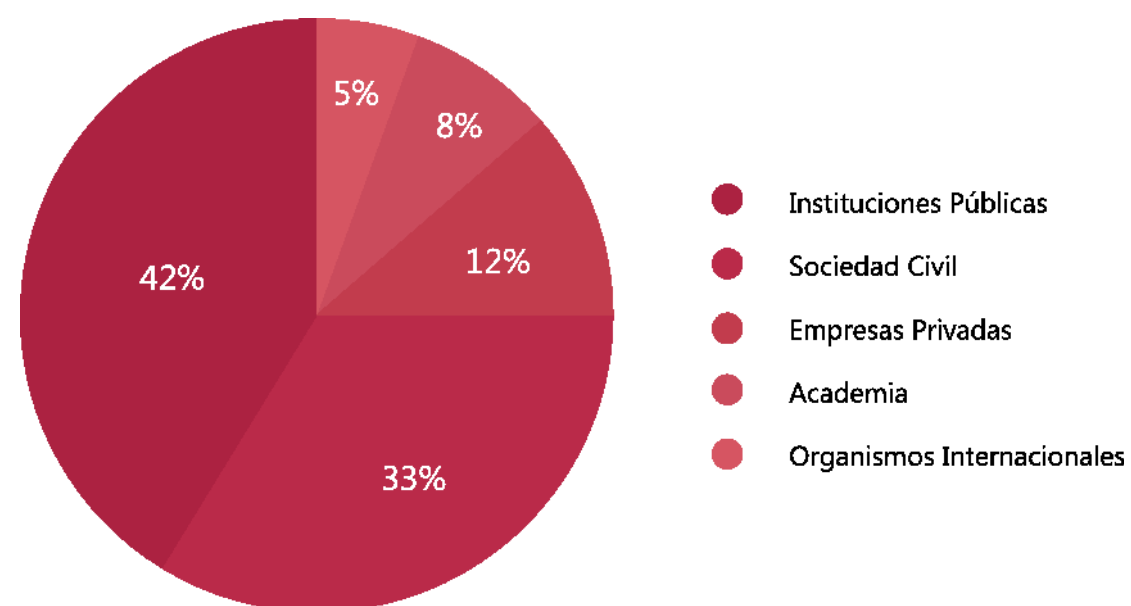
The Collective Dialogues had the purpose of developing recommendations in a participatory and evidence-based manner, establishing a national, inclusive agenda, and influencing public policies and medium-term planning.

The collective discussions were carried out for six weeks, with approximately 160 people, representing 81 organizations of civil society, institutions, private entities and international organizations. In the dialogues, different participants exchanged ideas, interests and visions aimed at building a national agenda with the potential to transform the poverty situation of households (Graph 3).





Graph 3. Participation by entities in collective dialogues of SDG1



Source: Compiled by authors

Each week, topics pertaining to each of the targets of SDG 1 were discussed, adapted to the case of Costa Rica; specifically:

1. Dialogue with people who benefit from social programs and services
2. Conceptualizing and measuring poverty
3. Coordinating social programs and services
4. Universalizing social protection
5. Building capacities and creating job opportunities
6. Developing resilience and reducing vulnerability

As a result of the process, topics identified as priorities were agreed by all the participating stakeholders, resulting in a positive scenario for the country in order to implement measures to fight poverty with consensus and without potential vetoes by sectors. Sixteen

priority lines of action were identified for 2030, as follows:

1. Conceptualizing and measuring poverty:

- Using a unified basic concept of poverty that is adaptable according to institutional actions and criteria.
- Implementing SINIRUBE with support, advice and training processes for institutions to correctly execute the permanent record and to achieve appropriate ownership.

2. Coordinating social programs and services:

- Strengthening, expanding and seeking sustainability of the Bridge to Development Strategy.
- Promoting the practice of having the target population evaluate services and programs.

- Consolidating and strengthening the role of a governing body to coordinate inter-institutional actions, adapting the supply and demand of social programs in correct alignment to the vision of the country's development.
- Promoting the creation of a regulatory framework to facilitate public-private partnerships

3. Universalizing social protection:

- Strengthening daycare services for children and older adults so that caregivers of dependents (usually women) can work, have greater access to social security and complete their studies.
- Incorporating different worldviews, cultures, languages, a gender equality approach, respect for sexual orientation and gender identity and all the diversity of the population to programs in the education system.
- Adapting healthcare and education services to the characteristics and particular needs of population groups and territories.
- Expanding coverage to social security through financing and job creation.

4. Building capacities and creating job opportunities:

- Capacity building adapted to the labor demand and inserting people in high-demand, high-productivity jobs in the country.
- Designing and implementing differentiated insurance schemes according to specific populations.
- Having disaggregated data describing the people involved in the labor market, current labor demand, and projected demand in the future to facilitate the creation of employment policies and the design of training programs.

5. Developing resilience and reducing vulnerability:

- Engaging and empowering local governments to periodically work on topics related with emergencies and risks with the National Emergency Commission (CNE) and people in communities.
- Revising and restructuring land-use plans and adapting housing programs to each region's conditions, contexts and needs.
- Including in all public policies, laws, programs and projects, as well as in the strategic planning of institutions, the criteria of environmental sustainability and risk analysis in accordance with international frameworks.
- The results of these processes were presented in the first months of 2017 to high-level institutional leaders in order to inform them about strategic lines of action identified by various participants in the country and, at the same time, determining the next steps to address SDG 1.

c) Third stage: Identifying specific actions by national stakeholders (May 2017 – present)

The third stage of the national poverty eradication agenda is currently underway. During the month of May 2017, a strategic worksheet was designed based on the lines of action identified as priorities by participants of the Collective Dialogues in order to collect information on the actions carried out or currently in progress towards poverty reduction. For the coming weeks, we plan to carry out intersectoral workshops on goals, indicators and commitments; proposals to develop action plans; follow-up of proposals with participants; and disseminate results with political parties so that, in the face of the national elections of 2018, these groups connect their programmatic proposals to the 2030 Agenda.





5.2.4. National Challenges Identified in the Implementation of SDG 1

The following challenges have been identified in achieving this SDG⁵⁷:

- In the ENAHO survey, implementing the measurement of other welfare variables such as dignity, autonomy, happiness, empowerment, discrimination, quality of employment, and others, in order to complement the MPI.
- Achieving the articulation of social policies and economic policies in terms of social investment in line with the universalization of secondary and higher education, other basic social services and employability.
- Debugging social information databases and reviewing selective programs according to the profiles of people living in poverty and vulnerability in order to improve their quality of life.
- Integrating immediate affirmative actions adjusted to the characteristics of different social groups in different regions in order to create decent employment, opportunities for entrepreneurship and self-employment and increase coverage of various education facilities.
- Reviewing and adjusting the payment of minimum wages for non-skilled groups and salary adjustments according to the employment policy. In addition, integrating regional programs and projects to make an impact on development of territories according to their potential and limitations to influence regional gaps.
 - Executing priority actions of the 'Bridge to Development Strategy' by involving public institutions with specific goals linked to the Strategy and achieving greater participation of different actors in the design and execution of social policies.

5.2.5. National Challenges Identified by Women, Senior Citizens, People of African Descent, People with Disabilities and Indigenous Peoples

In a Collective Dialogue carried out in the context of addressing SDG 1, with women in socio-economic vulnerability and beneficiaries of social programs and services, the following challenges were identified at country level:

- Lack of information about different programs and services of the State, as well as the benefits that a person could expect to receive. This lack of information represents a large obstacle, and hinders the personal motivation of women to improve their socioeconomic status.
- Difficulties in processing educational scholarships for the children of migrant women in an "irregular" migratory situation in the country, even though their children were born in Costa Rica. This difficulty entails negative impacts at the psychological level of the mothers of these children, who are usually heads of household and the "emotional engine" of their family.
- Implementation of protocols to raise awareness of civil servants and officials of the institutions, so that they may improve the way they treat people who request services
 - information on the programs
- Continuity of existing social programs and services, so that these women may have effective, long-term support and are not subject to the changes of government administrations.
- Developing more training programs for entrepreneurship
 - labor insertion so they can generate income for their homes

and empowering the beneficiaries socially, economically and psychologically.

- Implementation of programs to reduce environmental vulnerability and increase the resilience of women who are heads of household and their families, particularly those who experience risks in their homes due to the adverse climatic effects that the country experiences.

Furthermore, a workshop conducted by the Technical Secretariat of SDGs with senior citizens also identified a series of specific multidimensional challenges for this population, which need to be addressed in order to generate social welfare and reduce poverty and inequalities. These challenges are:

- Preparing a state proposal for senior citizens that live above the Poverty Line or Multi-Dimensional Poverty, but who do not fully meet all their needs. In this way, senior adults suggest that the 'Bridge to Development Strategy' expand the target population to senior citizens living in vulnerable socioeconomic conditions.
- Strengthening aid programs for homeless people, with an emphasis on the elderly population, since there is currently not enough capacity to assist them.
- Ensuring full compliance with existing decent job centers. Some of these job centers were found not to be working properly. It is also considered necessary to publicly recognize good practices in job creating for the elderly population, such as the one implemented in the 'Parque de Diversiones' amusement park.
- Creating a training offering for senior adults to develop skills that allow them to enter the labor market or generate entrepreneurial skills. Likewise,

improving communication channels of existing offers by the National Learning Institute (INA) so that seniors can participate in services of this type.

- Implementing differentiated aid mechanisms and social welfare programs for the elderly population located in the country's prison facilities.

In another consultation with representatives of Costa Rica's Afro-descendant population in view of this voluntary report, specific needs were identified that this traditionally-excluded population in the country faces. Such needs include:

- Implementing affirmative actions to create jobs for people of African descent, considering territorial actions where there is an absence of businesses and job opportunities for people; for example, in the Atlantic coast.
- Developing mechanisms and measures to reduce the educational opportunities gap, especially in higher education in areas outside the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM), so that young people can continue their studies.
- Designing specific strategies to raise international and/or national cooperation funds to finance productive activities and initiatives for the benefit of the Afro-descendant population, considering that Costa Rica is classified as an upper middle income country. From the perspective of the participants in this consultation, it is necessary to differentiate the groups of people that benefit from the upper middle income from those who are being excluded by this economic growth. In areas such as the Caribbean, where a large part of the Afro-descendant population generally resides, there is a large socio-economic gap.





The potential reduction of international cooperation flows in terms of technical and financial assistance to reduce poverty could lead to greater vulnerability, if no specific measures are taken to avoid "leaving them behind."

In a survey to people with disabilities, the following challenges were identified to address SDG 1 were highlighted:

- Promoting quality employment opportunities in order for these populations to generate their own income, especially in the public sector, as this is where major gaps are identified for hiring people with a disability. Moreover, it is necessary to create projects that encourage entrepreneurship in these populations.
- Implementing measures focused on addressing poverty in women with disabilities, especially if they are mothers, since it is a population that tends to

be excluded from target populations of social programs. Likewise, it is considered relevant to address the needs of mothers of children with disabilities.

Finally, in November 2016, a National Indigenous Meeting was held in which representatives of the 8 indigenous peoples of the country participated, where the UNS developed a Vision 2030 with these populations. In this regard, the following challenges were identified to address SDG 1:

- Addressing poverty in a multidimensional, intercultural and human rights approach, respecting their worldviews and their concept of 'Good Living' development
- Adjusting state poverty reduction programs to their specific needs, because the methodological design of such programs does not contemplate interventions suited to the demands of these populations and the geographical and socio-cultural realities of their territories.



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5.3. SDG 2: Zero hunger

Since the 1990s, Costa Rica has maintained a clear trend towards the adoption of the sustainable development model and, as part of this, towards a climate-smart agriculture that seeks to use food-production systems that contribute to maintaining ecosystems, building capacities to adapt to climate change, manage risk and improve the quality and access to land, soil and water⁵⁸.

National nutrition surveys of 1996 and 2008-2009 determined that chronic malnutrition in children between the ages of 1 and 4 years, as measured by the Height/Age indicator, went from 7.3% to 5.6%. Likewise, in terms of malnutrition according to the Weight/Age indicator, it was 2.1% in 1996 and was reduced to 1.1% in

2008-2009. In the Weight/Height indicator, it remained at 7.3%.

On the other hand, the prevalence of overweight and obesity according to the Body Mass Index (BMI) in the population between 5 and 12 years increased from 14.9% in 1996 to 21.4% in 2008-2009. For the same age range, the First National Weight and Height Census of 2016 showed that the school population presents an average of 34.9% and 31.4% of overweight among urban and rural children, respectively. Additionally, the census concluded that 118,078 students were overweight or obese in 2016 and that the districts with the lowest HDI are the ones with the highest prevalence of obesity.

Along the same lines, the National Nutrition Survey of 2008-2009 estimated a prevalence of 14.7% of excess weight and 6.1% of obesity. In relation to the adult population, the behavior of overweight and obesity reached a rate of 64.5%. 66% of Costa Rican women between the ages of 20 and 45 are obese or

Figure 7. Multidimensional initiatives of SDG 2 and its connection with other SDGs



Source: Compiled by authors





overweight; between 45 and 64 years, this figure rises to 77.3%. In the case of men, 39.8% between 20 and 44 years of age are overweight and 19.1% are obese. In the group between 45 and 64 years, the proportion is 49.2% overweight and 18.7% with obesity. These results determine that there is an obesogenic environment, which affects Costa Rican families in a growing number.

Agricultural production in the country is found in rural areas, where there is a large socioeconomic gap compared to urban areas. Due to this, there is a strong link between the agricultural sector and rural poverty by income, which represents approximately 25.7% of households in those areas. The largest percentage of the population living in poverty is in the Brunca Region, in the South of the country.

Some specific actions that the country has implemented between 2015 and 2017 to achieve SDG 2 under a multidimensional approach, linking other objectives (1,4,5,8,9, 10, 12 and 13) (Figure 7) are the following: initiatives to promote family farming and rural poverty reduction; initiatives to improve the productivity of small and medium-sized producers; initiatives for sustainable and resilient agriculture; and initiatives for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women.

5.3.1. Initiatives to Promote Family Farming and Reduce Rural Poverty

The Public Agricultural Sector (SPA) is made up of twelve institutions⁵⁹ under

the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG). These institutions have implemented a series of actions to promote family farming by supporting farming families in rural areas.

At present, there are approximately 3,150 agro-productive systems that are beneficiaries of family farming with a focus on sustainable production. These have established modules of agricultural and livestock production, delivery of inputs, improvement of production systems, materials, equipment and micro-projects to benefit 4,047 families.

On the other hand, there have been projects executed to acquire land for 121 families for agricultural management, rural regularization and infrastructure, rural credit, food security and other projects for 35,578 families in rural areas. At the same time, school feeding projects have been developed with the support of family farming suppliers, which simultaneously benefit 10,800 school-children and 160 producing families.

The 'Costa Rican Family Farming Network' (REDCAF) is being strengthened in order to promote the articulation, coordination and national dialogue for advocacy, development, implementation and monitoring of differentiated public policies on family farming. In addition, a pilot test for the registration of family farming was implemented with the aim of establishing a National Registry of Family Farmers.

With regard to youth in rural areas, a strategy for the inclusion of young people in rural territories was developed by integrating them

into Territorial Councils of Rural Development (CTDR) and by developing productive projects (family and community orchards and farms) under an agreement between the MAG and the Ministry of Public Education (MEP) to establish a Food and Nutritional Security Plan for Technical-Professional Schools (CTP) geared at agricultural production.

5.3.2. Initiatives in Productivity

In order to double agricultural productivity and the income of small-scale food producers, activities aimed at innovation and technology transfer have been carried out for 3,126 producers, of whom 31% were women.

In addition, credits and other sources of economic resources have been created for small and medium-sized producers, such as the 'Coffee Renewal Program,' the 'Development Banking System,' the 'Conditional Cash Transfer Program' and 'Rural Credit.' The capacity of irrigation and drainage for small producers has also been improved.

In terms of marketing and markets, the 'Institutional Supply Program' (PAI) has been implemented, which increased agricultural demand from 23% in 2015 to 27.6% in 2016, generating 35,902 direct jobs and 106,620 indirect jobs. Further, the 'Chorotega Regional Market Project' is being implemented, which seeks to boost the regional economy and establish a center for the management of agricultural food supply and demand.

5.3.3. Initiatives for Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture and Livestock

During the period of 2015-2017, the country

has implemented the 'Sectoral Agro-Environmental Articulation and Climate Change Strategy' approved in 2016 by the National Agricultural Council (CAN), which jointly deals with the sectors of environment, energy, seas and land use. Along these same lines, the 'National Strategy of Low-Carbon Livestock Farming and its Action Plan' NAMA Livestock, is geared at the livestock sector contributions to fight the negative effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gases. The 'NAMA Coffee' strategy seeks mitigation and adaptation of climate change in the coffee sector by promoting low carbon emissions in production.

Additionally, the 'Agro-Environmental Agenda' carried out in 2016 by the MAG and MINAE has been implemented. With it, intersectoral forces are promoted to mitigate and adapt to climate change and reduce the risks associated with extreme climatic and meteorological phenomena, with an emphasis on rural areas. The Agenda includes the following themes: handling and management of productive and inclusive landscapes; use of water resources; comprehensive management of marine-coastal territories; financing schemes; mechanisms of sectoral and intersectoral coordination; and applied agro-environmental research.

5.3.4. Initiatives for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Rural Women

The Sectoral Gender Network coordinates the implementation of the Gender Sectoral Plan 2015 - 2018, which facilitates access to the Fund for the Promotion of Women's Productive Activities and Organization (FOMUJERES), aimed at environmental projects, organic agriculture, traditional agriculture, livestock farming, fisheries and aquaculture. During 2016, 290 projects led by women benefited from this fund.

⁵⁹ These institutions are: MAG, National Institute of Technological and Agricultural Innovation and Transfer (INTA), National Animal Health Service (SENASA), State Plant Protection Service (SFE), National Seed Office (ONS), Executive Secretariat of Agricultural Sectoral Planning (SEPSA) and National Council of 4-S Clubs (CONAC) (all of them under MAG). Additionally, these decentralized sectoral institutions: Institute for Rural Development (INDER), National Production Council (CNP), National Groundwater, Irrigation and Drainage Service (SENARA), Comprehensive Agricultural Marketing Program (PIMA), and Costa Rican Institute of Fishing and Aquaculture (INCOPESCA).





5.3.5. National Challenges Identified in the Implementation of SDG 2

There are sectoral and institutional challenges to achieve this SDG, as well as challenges in Food and Nutrition Security (SAN), sustainable and resilient agriculture, and finally, gender equality and empowerment of rural women.

These are the challenges in sectoral and institutional aspects:

- Improving coordination of sectoral and intersectoral institutions. This should be established through a country strategy aiming to develop better and more effective conditions based on mandate affinities and policy priorities reflected in programmatic and budgetary components and accountability.
- Improving budget execution by working with multi-year budgets to improve the quality of planning at institutions.
- Enhancing public-private partnerships as a means to improve governance.

Challenges to promote Food and Nutrition Security (SAN) are:

- Reducing poverty and inequality, especially in coastal and border areas and among the population of indigenous groups, by improving aid and making State support more equitable to rural producers, prioritizing the cantons where the concentration of employment in agriculture is related to the proportion of households with Unmet Basic Needs (NBI).
- Defining and implementing intersectoral public policies to stop the increase of adult and child excess weight and obesity by coordinating actions of all

social stakeholders with the participation of civil society, recognizing that this problem transcends the health and education sectors.

- Increasing productivity by emphasizing organic or agro-ecological agriculture and the concept of family- and small-scale agriculture; improving land distribution and ownership; encouraging the use of technology and high-quality seeds and efficient irrigation; and developing a program to support organic producers and their access to local markets.
- Improving road infrastructure, rural roads, storage works, irrigation and drainage considering the climatic variability and the future effects of climate change.
- Improving the integration of value chains to reduce the unequal conditions that affect or prevent the insertion of small and medium producers.
- Formalizing the Comprehensive Water Supply Program for Guanacaste (PIAAG).
- Modernizing the National Information System on Food and Nutrition Security (SINSAN) and making it more accessible for users.
- Having a national registry of Family Farming to facilitate the implementation of differentiated public policies according to their typologies.
- Establishing a program of good agricultural practices and public certification of production safety

Challenges in sustainable and resilient agriculture and livestock farming to build capacities in sustainable production, adaptation to climate change and disaster risk management, include the following:

- Fostering sustainable livestock farming with a climate approach by promoting the scaling of its components in 1,800 livestock farms and the commercial differentiation of eco-friendly livestock products.

- Creating a tool similar to the 'Payment for Environmental Services' (PSA) for coffee plantations and livestock farms.
- Reducing food loss and waste by creating public policies and management structures that allow this challenge to be accepted as a commitment by
- Applying the 'Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions' (NAMAs the State, seeking to turn these actions into a means of reducing rural poverty and improving the SAN.) to other activities in the sector, which are considered highly polluting and with the potential to mitigate Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG).
- Complying with the 'Agro-environmental Sectoral and Climate Change Joint Strategy and the Agro-environmental Agenda'
- Improving the sector's capacities in risk management and adaptation to climate change.
- Promoting a better structuring of activities in the fishing and aquaculture sector and strengthening small-scale fishing communities.
- Strengthening capacities in Science and Technology by establishing information and knowledge-sharing centers, run by the Institute of Rural Development (INDER), based on intersectoral information at territorial level, and aimed at serving producers.
- Finally, challenges regarding gender equality and empowerment of rural women are:
- Promoting the incorporation of the gender approach in all policy instruments of the sector.
- Creating differentiated statistics for men and women in order to implement specific initiatives for women.



FUENTE: UNDP Costa



5.4. SDG 3: Good health and well-being

Since the 1970s, Costa Rica established health as an asset of public interest, which has led to an acceleration in the improvement of health indicators and a process of epidemiological transition. With this, Costa Rica has managed to be listed among countries with the best health indices, along with Cuba, Chile and Uruguay.

The 'National Health System' is the set of public and private entities, both national and international, whose main purposes are the protection and improvement of the population's health status.

The National System has a clear segregation of duties, in which the Ministry of Health exercises surveillance and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) is responsible for providing healthcare services.

Costa Rica shows stable overall health

indices. With a solidary public healthcare system that covers 97% of the population and access to water suitable for human consumption exceeding 96%. Costa Rica also shows a sustained decrease in the infant mortality rate. The birth rate is decreasing, and life expectancy is increasing, so the country is experiencing population aging. In addition to the above, the country shows an increase in diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity.

Regarding communicable diseases, the main causes of outpatient visits are acute respiratory infections and diarrhea. Furthermore, being a tropical country, Costa Rica has a significant presence of diseases transmitted by vectors, such as dengue (since 1993), chikungunya (since 2014) and Zika (since 2016), which have meant a burden for the country's healthcare system in the past three decades.

Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, between 2015-2017, SDG 3 is addressed by initiatives for sexual and reproductive health; promotion of mental health; prevention of HIV cases; promotion of healthy lifestyles; reduction of accident-

related deaths and injuries; water sanitation and pollution reduction (Figure 8).

5.4.1. Initiatives for Sexual and Reproductive Health

At the national level, the contraceptive offer is limited and has a lag of approximately 20 years. This prevents the population from knowing about new methods and avoids updating the institutional offer with modern methods.

The Mesoamérica Initiative began in 2013. It aims to reduce teenage pregnancy, provide early maternity and paternity care, guarantee the protection of health rights and offer timely and effective inter-institutional actions to promote, prevent and care by the Ministry of Health, MEP, CCSS, the National Children's Board (PANI) and the National Directorate of Education and Nutrition Centers and Holistic Child Care Centers (CENCINAI).

This initiative is implemented in the regions of Brunca and Huetar Caribe, as these are the areas of the country with lowest schooling among the population. There are also more cases of sexual abuse and high rates of teenage pregnancies.

The UN System, through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), implements an initiative similar to Mesoamérica in the area of La Cruz, Guanacaste. It seeks to empower teenage girls to take ownership of their bodies, gain knowledge of contraceptive methods and prevent early pregnancies.

UNFPA has also implemented campaigns on sex education, sexual violence and HIV prevention for the country's hearing-impaired population. Additionally, they have supported the MEP in publishing material to train parents and teachers with

hearing-impaired children in terms of teaching sexual and reproductive health.

Since 2013, Costa Rica has implemented a 'National Strategy for Access to the Male and Female Condom,' which aims to "help institutions and organizations directly involved in providing services related to sexual and reproductive health guarantee timely and effective access to condoms, thus contributing to the promotion of practices, knowledge and attitudes that bring the population closer to living a safe, informed, pleasant and co-responsible sexuality"⁶⁰.

In turn, "specialized units with a human rights focus have been installed, in order to provide dignified assistance to LGBTIQ people and help them prevent and combat sexually transmitted diseases in a specialized manner"⁶¹.

5.4.2. Initiatives to Promote Mental Health

The Ministry of Health, since 2012, executes the 'National Mental Health Policy' (2012-2021), which defines the principles, approaches, guidelines and action plan to prevent disease and improve the care and treatment of people with mental disorders in the community, with an emphasis on human rights.

The objective of this policy is "to promote personal and collective well-being and performance, characterized by self-

Figure 8. Multidimensional initiatives of SDG 3 and its connection with other SDGs



Source: Compiled by authors.

60 UNFPA and Ministry of Health (2013). "Estrategia Nacional de Acceso al Condón Masculino y Femenino". Retrieved on 13 June 2017 at: <https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/biblioteca-de-archivos/sobre-el-ministerio/politicas-y-planos-en-salud/estrategias/2305-estrategia-de-acceso-universal-a-condones-y-femeninos/file>

61 MREC (2015). "Buenas practicas de Costa Rica con la población LGBTIQ en el marco de la sesión del Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas". Retrieved on June 13, 2017 at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Discrimination/LGBT/Res_27_32/Costa%20Rica.pdf





fulfillment, self-esteem, independence, the ability to respond to the demands of life in different contexts (family, community, academic life, workplace), and to enjoy life in harmony with the environment"⁶².

5.4.3. Initiatives to Prevent Cases of HIV

In 2016, the country implemented the National HIV Strategic Plan (2016-2021), which responds to the intersectoral framework of public and private institutions and CSOs to coordinate the work among all partners, under the guidance of the

'National Council for Comprehensive Care of HIV and AIDS' (CONASIDA).

This Plan is aimed at featuring HIV as a public health threat by the year 2030, in order to eliminate the stigma and discrimination related to the disease. This supports the commitment undertaken by the country, so 90% of the people who live with HIV know their serological status; 90% of the people know their serological status receive appropriate, quality treatment; and 90% of the people who already receive this treatment suppress the viral load⁶³.

In addition, there is a country project called 'Costa Rica: A Sustainable Model of Combined Prevention and Care for the Population of Men who have Sex with Men (HsH) and Trans Fémima,' which was approved by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the period (2015-2018).

The main objective of this project

is to contain the HIV epidemic in these populations, by ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, assistance and care; to improve the legal, social and political environment for the full exercise of the human rights of these populations; and to provide the country with strategic information on HIV, necessary for key populations and for better and appropriate decision-making at political and institutional levels⁶⁴.

5.4.4. Initiatives to Promote Healthy Lifestyles

In order to reduce the problem of obesity in children, teenagers and adults, Costa Rica has developed the 'National Strategy to Comprehensively Address Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases and Obesity' (2013 – 2021) and the 'National Physical Activity and Health Plan' (2011-2021). It is also in the process of formulating the Comprehensive Approach to Overweight and Obesity in Children and Adolescents (2017-2021).

These strategies and plans are aimed at reducing premature mortality by the following groups of diseases: cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, chronic respiratory diseases, chronic renal diseases, diabetes, hypertension and cancer. They also seek to reduce the harmful consumption of alcohol; promote physical activity and reduce sedentary lifestyles in the population, as well as tobacco use and others.

Along those same lines, Costa Rica has clinics to help quit smoking and prevent drug addiction, with an emphasis on

prevention from childhood and adolescence. There are also regulations to discourage the use of tobacco, mainly in public places.

5.4.5. Initiatives to Reduce Accident-Related Deaths and Injuries

Due to Costa Rica's lag in terms of road infrastructure⁶⁵ and in order to reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by traffic accidents, in March 2017 the Comprehensive Plan for Appeasement on Public Roads' was launched. Its purpose is to provide "-in the short, medium and long term-: legal reforms, educational programs, police control, health promotion and awareness programs, as well as to enhance infrastructure and an accident-related healthcare system in the country"⁶⁶.

5.4.6. Initiatives for Water Sanitation and Pollution Reduction

In order to supply the population with drinking water and achieve sustainable management, the country implements the 'National Wastewater Sanitation Policy' (2016-2045). This, in turn, becomes the first reference to define what the sector expects in relation to the SDGs in order to ensure that waste water does not affect the environment and the health of the country's population⁶⁷. In addition, control actions have been carried out regarding the use of pesticides in agriculture, with an emphasis on pineapple plantations.

5.4.7. National challenges Identified in the Implementation of SDG 3

- Training and sensitizing healthcare personnel following a human rights approach to adequate and quality care for children, young people, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ population (considering the needs and characteristics of each segment of this population) and improving care protocols for inmates and people deprived of their liberty.
- Promoting and modernizing contraceptive methods offered by the State and implementing Emergency Oral Contraception in all the country.
- Improving the quality of Maternal Mortality and Infant Mortality records.
- Reducing neonatal mortality and strengthening newborn care in pediatric services and neonatal intensive care units.
- Promoting an adequate and timely implementation of the Interinstitutional Protocol of Comprehensive Care to Victims of Sexual Violation.
- Preventing HIV from childhood and adolescence.
- Intensifying joint and sustained actions in an intersectoral manner (municipalities, workplaces, community) in the areas of high concentration of Anopheles)
- Incorporating the dengue vaccine by 2030.
- Improving mechanisms to control the quality of water in the Associations for Community Water and Sewage

62 Ministry of Health (2012). "Plan Nacional de Salud Mental 2012-2021" . Retrieved on June 10, 2016 at: <http://www.bvs.sa.cr/saludmental/politicasaludmental.pdf>

63 Ministry of Health (2016). "Plan Estratégico Nacional del VIH (2016-2021)" . Retrieved on 13 June 2017 at: <https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/biblioteca-de-archivos/963-plan-estrategico-nacional-pen-vih-sida/file>

64 CONASIDA (2016). "Costa Rica, Modelo Sostenible de Prevención Combinada y Atención a la Población de Hombres que tienen Sexo con Hombres (HsH) y Trans Fémima" . Retrieved on 13 June 2017 at: <http://www.conasida.go.cr/index.php/mcp-proyectos/106-resumen-sobre->



65 See the section on SDG 9 in this report.

66 Government of Costa Rica (2017). “Plan para pacificar vías se basa en 7 pilares para poner un alto a la violencia en las carretera” . Retrieved on June 12, 2017 at: <http://gobierno.cr/plan-para-pacificar-vias-se-basa-en-7-pilares-para-poner-un-alto-a-la-violencia-en-las-carretera/#more-23901>

67 AYA, MINAE and Ministry of Health (2016). “Política Nacional de Saneamiento de Aguas Residuales 2016-2045” . Retrieved on June 12, 2016 at: <https://www.aya.go.cr/Noticias/Documents/Politica%20Nacional%20de%20Saneamiento%20en%20Aguas%20Residuales%20marzo%202017.pdf>



System Administration in Costa Rica (ASADAS) and other administrators of rural aqueduct services. Moreover, ensuring the continuous availability of drinking water and increasing the number of aqueducts with water quality monitoring.

- Improving road-safety education in school programs in order to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries. In addition, renewing and developing adequate urban and highway planning to achieve greater human well-being and improving air quality monitoring in the metropolitan area.
- Regulating the terrestrial application of pesticides, by spray boom-transport system.
- Controlling the high prices of vaccines acquired by the country. Furthermore, strengthening the installed capacity to assess the quality and safety of vaccines and strengthening control and surveillance of medications and vaccines.

5.4.8. National Challenges Identified by Senior Citizens, People with Disabilities, LGBTIQ Population, and Indigenous Peoples

- In the workshop carried out with senior adults, the following health and well-being challenges were identified:
- Improving prompt healthcare services and the reduction of waiting lists for this population, as well as rectifying infrastructure deficiencies that hinder access to healthcare.
- Establishing measures for the promotion of active aging due to its effects on health.

In a consultation held with representatives of the population with disabilities,

the following challenges were identified to address SDG 3:

- Developing differentiated statistics on health issues in order to avoid generalizing the specific types of support required by people with disabilities, both in rural and urban areas. This is because the assistance required by people with disabilities is diverse, and cannot be generalized based on visual, auditory, cognitive, physical and/or psychosocial deficiencies, as they are very specific.
- Providing training, awareness and qualification for staff at all levels of healthcare so this population may access quality and timely services.

In a consultation held with representatives of the LGBTIQ population, the following healthcare and well-being challenges were identified:

- Providing differentiated services for the particular needs of each group that makes up the LGBTIQ population.
- Ensuring access to the right to health by the groups that make up the LGBTIQ population. This is usually hampered because, despite the existence of institutional protocols to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and identity, healthcare staff are not trained to provide these modalities of care.
- The challenges in health and well-being identified by indigenous peoples in the context of the National Meeting are the following:
- Improving access to healthcare services with socio-cultural relevance for indigenous populations.
- Guaranteeing the recognition and respect of traditional medicine practices by medical personnel.

5.5. SDG 5: Gender equality

Achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, recognizing different identities and respecting sexual diversity is a great challenge for Costa Rica in terms of economic, social, political and cultural development.

In the context of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ratified through Law No. 6968 of October 2, 1984, we have proof of the efforts made in the country to advance in the equality of women and the elimination of discrimination⁶⁸.

During the period between 2011 and 2014, we can highlight the modification of the term 'equity' by the term 'equality' by the Judicial Branch in its institutional policy, thus expanding the range of possibilities to address the different policies and actions defined by the State to guarantee access to justice for women. In this sense, efforts have been made from this body to train Public Defenders and Judicial Police Officers, so they may know and enforce the principles and agreements of the Convention related to the gender perspective, human rights and the elimination of discrimination. Moreover, the National Women's Institute (INAMU) has developed training processes on the human rights of women and the principle of equality and non-discrimination aimed at people from public entities, women's groups and the civil society in general.

Regarding the protection of women, another major advance has been the modification of the 'Law against Domestic Violence'

No.7586, by means of which the Mixed Jurisdiction or Contraventions Courts may establish protective measures in those places where there are no Specialized Courts and by Criminal Courts or in the case of courts being unable to grant them.

Likewise, the protection of victims of intra-family sexual abuse was extended. In this matter, another great advance has been the establishment of the 'Local Committees for the Immediate Attention of High-Risk Cases of Violence against Women' (CLAI) in some territories of the country, which have representatives of the Judicial Branch (Public Prosecutors and competent Court to grant Protective Measures), Ministry of Public Security (Public Police) and INAMU.

The importance of this strategy is the coordinated efforts to achieve a timely intervention aimed at effectively preventing femicide and attempted femicide, and to help reduce impunity in situations of violence against women. On the issue of intra-family violence, the State has also defined measures for women who have been victims of this crime and are in a situation of poverty, to be prioritized by economic subsidy programs.

In the same line of support for the economic development of women, the 'National Development Plan for the Agricultural and Rural Sector' (2015-2018) is also highlighted, which has prioritized agricultural production projects aimed at rural young men and women in a differentiated way, with the objective of improving their food security conditions, with special emphasis on households headed by women, which are considered vulnerable from the point of view of poverty and food and nutritional security.

⁶⁸ CEDAW (2015). Seventh periodic review by Costa Rica.





Despite the multiple advances made by the country in the context of the implementation of the CEDAW, the greatest challenges to timely address SDG 5 are presented in the social and employment gaps.

The dynamics of the labor market tend to exclude women, although women recently have more years of studies in primary, secondary and university education as compared to men⁶⁹. In general, women in Costa Rica have a smaller participation in the labor force, and when they manage to insert themselves, they do so in unequal conditions. There is a marked difference in the income they receive compared to men, and they experience a shorter, involuntary working day⁷⁰. In addition, unemployment and underemployment affect them more than men. In this sense, poverty and inequality are intimately linked to gender gaps in the labor market, especially in those households headed by women.

Along those same lines, the country has historically excluded the LGBTIQ population, which presents an intersection in structural and political inequalities due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. For example, in terms of access to a decent job, there is evidence of persistent prejudices and moral criteria that hinder the labor insertion, having repercussions on their holistic well-being.

The predominant cultural values of the country also affect both men and women on a daily basis. Gender-based violence is a factor that impedes the social well-being of people in terms of street sexual harassment, homicide, domestic violence and/or suicide

suffered by women. For example, "in the period between 2001-2014, the annual average of homicides was 44.1%. During that time, homicides presented an annual growth rate of 89.9% and in 2012, the incidence rate of domestic violence was 341.2 per 100,000 inhabitants"⁷¹.

As for the LGBTIQ population, there are no national statistical data on the different forms of cultural violence they experience, and the country has not followed up on or investigated hate crimes committed against this population. However, many cases of complaints against the police have been documented for unjustified or unsubstantiated detention of transgender people. They also experience situations of intra-family violence.

A study conducted by the Center for International Studies (CEI) in 2012, found that LGBTIQ people indicated having lived 34.56% of psychological violence, 5.33% physical violence, 4.97% hereditary violence and 2.49% sexual violence. However, the study also found that, initially, trans people have experienced all types of violence within their families, which is not the case of Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals⁷².

SDG 5 in the country needs to be addressed in multiple dimensions, because gender equality implies the elimination of all kinds of inequalities, the reduction of poverty and the creation of decent employment. In this sense, the initiatives carried out so far by the country are: initiatives for social co-responsibility of care; initiatives for the labor insertion of women; human education initiatives and initiatives to eliminate

discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. (Figure 9)

5.5.1. Initiatives for Social Co-Responsibility of Care

Costa Rica recognizes the social co-responsibility of care as a strategic axis of poverty reduction policies, the creation of decent employment and the elimination of the negative consequences of hegemonic masculinities through cultural change.

INAMU includes care as social co-responsibility in the strategic pillars of the National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity (PIEG) and its action plans. Under this axis and with the implementation of the MPI in the country, the institution was able to diagnose that women in poverty are prevented from generating income

because they are dedicated to the care of their children and dependents (relatives with disabilities or older adults).

In Costa Rica, the national CENCINAI program was formalized during the 1970s in order to contribute daily to the nutritional condition and holistic development of children in socioeconomic vulnerability. However, it was not until 2010, when the 'National Network of Child Daycare and Development' was created under a universal approach aimed at integrating all forms of care in the country, in addition to creating a new modality of municipal care called 'Child Daycare and Development Centers' (CECUDI)⁷³.

Currently, efforts are being made to strengthen and adjust the 'Daycare Network' to encourage participation of the middle class and the needs of mothers who traditionally care for

Figure 9. Multidimensional initiatives of SDG 5 and its connection with other SDGs



authors

Source: Compiled by

69 See the first section of this report for statistical data.

70 ECLAC, MREC y MIDEPLAN (2016). El enfoque de brechas estructurales: análisis del caso de Costa Rica. Santiago, Chile: CEPAL.

71 Ibid. P. 21.

72 Chacón Alvarado, Emma; Alberto Sánchez Mora; Paola Brenes Hernández (2012). "Sondeo de percepción de los Derechos Humanos de las poblaciones LGBT en Costa Rica en el año 2012: Diversidad sexual en Centroamérica promoviendo los derechos humanos y previniendo





"dependents" by innovating in terms of opening hours. Pilot plans have been implemented at 41 centers to extend evening hours, so women can conclude or complete their primary or secondary education. By the end of 2016, REDCUDI had coverage of approximately 51,297 children, or 41% coverage⁷⁴.

In partnership with the UNS, local governments and the central government, centers called

'Casas de Alegría' (Houses of Joy) were implemented. These are aimed at caring for indigenous children of the Ngäbe and Buglé communities when their parents work in the coffee harvest.

Additionally, the 'National Daycare System' is being developed to ensure Costa Rica has a comprehensive, long-term public policy that includes care activities for children, seniors and people with disabilities.

5.5.2. Initiative for Labor Integration of Women

To contribute to progress made by SDG 5 related to SDG 1, the INAMU has FOMUJERES (created in 2013), managed with budget funds provided by the institution to encourage productive activities and for women to organize.

In addition, the "Emprende Project" has been encouraged by using an innovative inter-institutional model that brings together the INAMU, MAG, Ministry of the Economy, Industry, and Commerce, (MEIC), MIDEPLAN, and the Chancery with aid from the European Union

(EU). The purpose is to strengthen women's business skills in rural and marginal urban areas in the Central Pacific, Chorotega, and Huetar Caribe regions. The main results include strengthening the business capacity of 900 women, implementation of an easily accessed regional service platform focused on gender that articulates local business and financial development services to create a setting that encourages business women and female entrepreneurs, as well as information services and support studies to promote Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) in the territory.

An affirmative action pilot plan was implemented in a strategic alliance with INDER and INAMU so the MAG is able to allocated budgeting to provide access to land holding for women in rural areas. Likewise, support has been provided to women in the oceans by issuing licenses to regulate artisanal fisheries businesses and to use fishing vessels for transfers so they are able to provide income for their homes.⁷⁵

To reduce inequalities and to provide an incentive for women to join the high-demand work force, the INAMU and the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Telecommunications (MICITT based on its acronym in Spanish) are providing training courses to empower adolescent women in the last years of their secondary education to explain the advantages of advanced education in the academic disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) all the while respecting their personal preferences.

In addition, the INAMU and the UNS have implemented the "Equity Seal Program,

which seeks to establish a gender equality model in the companies and public institutions to boost competitiveness and promote public and private actions and policies to remove gender gaps and raise participation and equitable job opportunities between men and women."⁷⁶

5.5.3. Initiatives for Human Education

Initiatives for Human Education were identified as training sessions provided by INAMU with women registered in the "Bridge to Development Strategy." These women endure poverty and extreme poverty conditions. The training sessions held address gender, birth-control methods, body autonomy and the effects of a patriarchy on society. To date, approximately 10,000 women have been trained.

5.5.4. Initiative to Eliminate Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Decree 38.999 and Guideline number 025-P were signed in 2015. They establish parameters to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. They target both users and employees of the ministries and the executive presidencies.

Institutional commissions were created to devise institutional plans and make regulatory changes in the institutions to be able to effect the provisions in the Decree and Guideline. The institutional plans include training programs and action plans pertaining to how they operate and their nature

to even convert the organizational climate and services.

Affirmative actions have been created as a protocol for entering the Presidential House for transgender people as part of the progress underway in acknowledging and respecting equality. These actions have been implemented in the form of "Also Known As" in situations such as the MEP, INA, and the Water and Sewer System (AYA based on its acronym in Spanish).

Changes in the regulations on how transgender people are treated such as: comprehensive care standards for the MSM and transgender women population, as Decree Number 34729-PlanS-MEP for coordination and execution of the Gender Equality and Equity Plan (PIEG based on its acronym in Spanish) in public institutions that are part of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS based on its acronym in Spanish); CCSS guidelines on services free from sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination; provision for an intra-hospital visit free from all forms of discrimination at the CCSS, the flyer on the "Right to a Private Visit between Same Sex People in the Costa Rican Penitentiary System" ; the bylaws of the Civil Registry to use a photograph in line with the person's own image and gender identity, etc.

Despite the fact that progress has been made in the last several years in relation to regulations, guidelines, bylaws, etc., the LGBTIQ population has pinpointed huge obstacles to an appropriate, real implementation of these standards by the institutional apparatus.

5.5.5. National Challenges Identified in the Implementation of SDG 5

To meet this SDG, the following challenges have been identified nationwide:⁷⁷

- Promote closure of socio economic and labor gaps in terms of

⁷⁴ Government of Costa Rica (2017). "During the Solís Rivera Administration: Care Network Increased Coverage by 41%." Retrieved on June 7 2016, at: <http://presidencia.go.cr/comunicados/2017/04/durante-administracion-solis-rivera-red-de-cuido-aumento-cobertura-en-un-71/>

⁷⁵ These initiatives with women dedicated to artisanal fishery are in the SDG 14 section called "Submarine Life" at: <http://www.inamu.go.cr/sello-de-equidad>

⁷⁶ INAMU (2017). "Companies and Institutions in Costa Rica that Pledge to Improve Conditions." Retrieved on June 7, 2016





- salary, occupation, job opportunities, social security, homes with a single mother head of household and labor market segmentation.
 - Promote the reduction of violence against women in the family, on the job, and in society.
 - Ensure the right to sexual and reproductive health.
 - Promote real political participation by women and effective application of Law Number 8765.
 - Formulate a Science and Technology policy by placing the gender focal point as the cross cutting axis to provide an incentive to women in these fields.
 - Implement mechanisms so women are able to access political positions to make high-ranking decisions and not just because of the legal requirement to comply with parity.
 - Strengthen the institutional strengths at the country level to have top-level gender offices.
 - Necessity to address the subject of climate change and its relationship to rural women.
 - Foster the appropriation of social co-responsibility for care in all sectors of society.
 - Expand the Care Network for children so senior citizens do not feel forced to take on the role of caregiver(s).
- In the group dialog with women who are beneficiaries of the social programs and services, the following country-level challenge was identified:
- Most beneficiaries are female heads of households and single mothers. In addition, they have their own business in their homes to reconcile the work hours and the time spent caring for their children and dependents; however, this situation does not allow them to bring in fixed income and gain real access to the social protection system (social security and pensions). These women expressed the importance of quality care services that they can trust due to the adverse settings in which they live.
- In a consultation by representatives of the disabled population, the following challenges were identified to address gender equality:
- Evidence the cases of disabled women who are victims of direct or indirect intra-family violence by their families or communities in the country's institutions since they are erased in the statistics and the care programs.

5.5.6. National Challenges Identified by the Senior Citizens, Women, People with Disabilities, LGBTIQ Population, and Indigenous People

The workshop held with the senior citizen population spotted challenges in complying with SDG 5;

- Strengthen the care networks to provide quality, timely services to senior citizens.

broken out statistics, or some *sort of evidence about the sets of problems or the diverse types of violence that the LGBTIQ population faces.

- Create a skills structure for public servants so they are able to attend to and determine any special needs in the population when they turn to institutions for help.
- Establish policies so housing bonds are issued to women with same sex partners since this is not possible yet and represents an aggravating factor since these women may have families.
- The country shows institutional weaknesses because it does not recognize same-sex marriage and formation of a family of people who have married abroad and come to reside in Costa Rica, which is an affront to the social wellbeing of each of the people who make up the family core.
- Make transgender men visible because they are generally excluded from the standards, decrees, or incidence spaces because they are mostly

actions that are concentrated on transgender women.

- Evidence and work to reduce inequalities for migrant and refugee LGBTIQ people because some people suffered violent situations or are blocked from accessing institutional services and care.

In the National Encounter, representatives of indigenous people found the following challenges when addressing SDG 5:

- Despite the fact that both indigenous groups and indigenous women point out that they need to address sexual labor division in the homes because women are responsible for doing domestic chores, caring for the children, and participating in organizational processes and spaces for community decision making



SOURCE: Presidential House Costa



RDG9

5.6. SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

SDG 9, "Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure," which implies an appropriate investment in transportation, irrigation, energy, information technology, and communications to achieve sustainable development, empower communities to be able to prepare themselves, to be more resistant to climate change and push for economic growth and social stability.⁷⁸

This SDG not only is defined as a starting point for the government but is also the goal, along with eradication of poverty that faces the largest challenge for the country. Costa Rica has a major "lag of approximately 35 years in developing infrastructure and allocates a budget that is less than one-third of what the country needs."⁷⁹

The infrastructure gap not only has an adverse effect on the country's competitiveness internationally, but also affects people's quality of life whether in terms of job generation, loss of resources by companies and industries, greater use of time by people due to roadway backlogs, deficiency in quality public transportation services that are available to everyone, or the environmental impact produced by an increase in fuel expenses.

In relation to productivity, there are major gaps between highly productive, competitive sectors at the world level located in the central part of the country (75% of all the small and

medium enterprises (SMEs)) and other lagging sectors with high levels of informality located in areas outside the GMA (7% of all the companies in the country).⁸⁰

There are productivity gaps in innovation in the country due to the low investment in research and development (R&D) that amount to approximately 0.57% of the GDP, which locates the country below the median in Latin America and the Caribbean of around 0.78%. In addition, information about initiatives, statistics, and scientific, technological, and innovation research is generally out of date or insufficient.⁸¹

The inadequate infrastructure brings with it a lack of access to markets, job positions, and attraction of new foreign investment; on the contrary, a quality infrastructure is related positively to achieving social, economic, and political goals. Initiatives linked to the SDG are identified below in the milieu of infrastructure, innovation, transportation, and productivity that have been implemented in the 2015-2017 period by the different institutions in Costa Rica (Figure 10).

5.6.1. Initiatives in Infrastructure

The Vice Minister of Public Works of the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (MOPT based on its acronym in Spanish) faces huge challenges due to the country's lagging infrastructure. Related to the 2030 Agenda, actions seeking sustainability in the use of construction materials, waste control and means of environmental compensation are implemented in an attempt to generate jobs and income by means of a pilot plan so

people in the rural areas provide maintenance to the Canton Roadway System.

Recently, MIDEPLAN, the Ministry of Finance, and the Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR) have been in the update process for the "General Methodological Guide for Identifying, Formulating, and Evaluating Public Investment Projects" to add the risk management variable and adaption to climate change throughout the public investment cycle so all the works meet the sustainability and resiliency criteria.

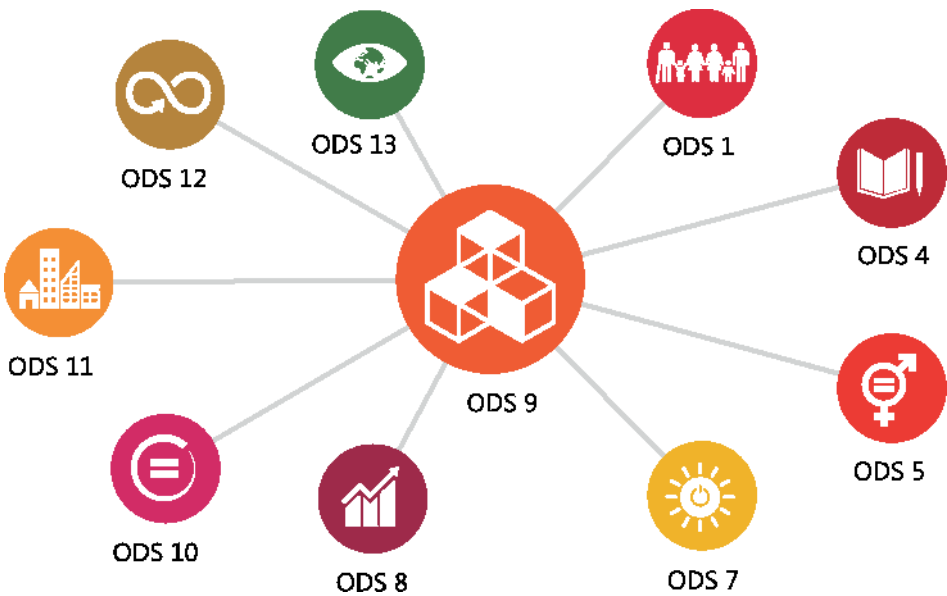
5.6.2. Initiatives in Innovation

The MICITT has made efforts to align itself with the 2030 Agenda. For example, it recently published the "National Policy on a Knowledge-Based Society and the Economy," which is aligned with the SDG and means to encourage, strengthen, and broadcast knowledge and scientific and technological development to the benefit of the Costa Rican population.

In addition, action pivot points are implemented that are oriented toward the country's young people so they are able to access and implement technological knowledge projects to be able to insert themselves into the innovation processes. The "SME Footprint" is another initiative that provides an incentive to companies to join the processes; it means to move companies closer to the innovation axes to improve productivity and competitiveness. Along this same line, actions are being taken to integrate companies, entrepreneurs, and universities so they are able to dialog and share knowledge about innovation processes.

In addition, actions are being taken to promote incorporating women into the fields of Science and Technology and to remove the "glass ceiling" using four axes: i) promote permanence and professional development in scientific vocations; ii) join the job market; iii) provide women with evidence of the benefits of women leading research processes; and iv) eliminate the digital gap and the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

Figure10. Multi-dimensional Initiatives of SDG 9 and its connection with Other SDGs



Source: Proprietary

78 United Nations (2017) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Retrieved on May 15, 2017 from <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/objetivos-de-desarrollo-sostenible/>

79 CEPAL, Ministry of Foreign Relations and Culture (MREC) and MIDEPLAN (2016). Focus on structural gaps, Costa Rica case analysis. Santiago, Chile: CEPAL. P. 23.

80 Ibid. P. 22.

81 PEN (2015). Twenty-First State of the National Report on Sustainable Development San José: PEN



To eliminate the technological gap in the vulnerable populations, the following is being implemented: the “Intelligent Community Center Program” (CECIS based on the acronym in Spanish) where senior citizens, young people, and disabled people are provided with digital and technological education and training.

5.6.3. Initiatives in Transportation

Currently, the Vice Minister of Transportation at the MOPT is attempting to transform the urban center mobility dynamics to move from a model focused on vehicular transit mobility to a model focused on people as the main axis for development oriented toward transportation to create sustainable cities, resource efficiency, and the appropriate infrastructure.

In that regard, in 2017, the Executive Branch approved Decree Number 40186-MOPT to consolidate and execute policies and strategies to modernize and sectorize bus-based public transportation in the metropolitan area of San José and the neighboring areas. This decree intends to: “implement trunk routes, prioritize movement by buses, improve and demark public transportation, and establish integration nodes or transfer points between the bus and train.”⁸²

The Vice Minister is in the formulation and design stage for a project called “Rapid Passenger Train” as a raised viaduct between the province with a high density of passengers who commute each day to the Metropolitan Area and that will allow the country to reduce urban fragmentation.

In addition, campaigns are being implemented to provide an incentive to people to use different transportation modes to reduce the use of automobiles.

Projects will be implemented to reduce congestion in the transit lanes and also integrate urban groups to promote democratization of how public space is used.

5.6.4. Initiatives in Productivity

For its part, the MEIC is implementing strategic lines to link to the SDG. The first line is sustainable use to provide an incentive for education and information for responsible consumption.

The second line is the creation of the “Social Business Responsibility (SBR) Policy” to be published in July 2017. It is in line with the 2030 Agenda so companies that implement socially responsible practices will follow the SDG.

Finally, work is being done on formulating a “Productive Integration Strategy between Entrepreneurs, Enterprise, and Production Chains” so women will participate in entrepreneurial projects to generate wealth; to provide an incentive to companies to become certified as carbon neutral; and to provide an incentive so industrial parks will engage in sustainable practices.

In turn, the MEIC is implementing actions to reduce informality, boost employment and social protection for people through the “Program to Formalize”, which contains three components. The first component simplifies the SME formalization processes by working with local governments and by counseling entities. The second component is to reduce mandatory social burdens, specifically for the

micro-enterprise for a period of four years (this component is being negotiated in the Legislative assembly and the CCSS). The third component is advisory and training services.

5.6.5. National Challenges Identified in the Implementation of SDG 9

To meet this SDG, the following challenges related to infrastructure have been identified:

- Technical training and instruction to manage public investment in infrastructure for the Ministry’s employees.
- Create infrastructure to meet the standards defined by the country in managing the risk of disaster and adaption to climate change.
- Strengthen institutional skills to evaluate public works during the investment cycle.
- The following are the challenges related to innovation:
- Make efforts to close the digital and technological gap found in the indigenous populations.
- Regionalize the services provided by the MICITT.
- Have funds and incentives available for the production sector and develop the disciplines where Costa Rica has potential such as bio-technology and nano-technology but does not have the resources to develop them fully.

The challenges related to transportation are:

- Incorporate zoning measures to improve mobilization of people in the GMA and specifically in the San Jose metropolitan area.⁸³
- Lack of technical training and instruction to progress on

modernizing public transportation, the rapid passenger train, modernization of ports and maritime transportation, active mobility, bicycle paths, urban planning oriented toward transportation, etc.

- Modernize public transportation as an incentive to change the “car-centric” culture.
- Strengthen communication of the sectorization plans for communities to create social credibility.
- Generate statistics and information about transportation and urban mobility

The following are the challenges related to production:

- Improve work with disabled people to provide them with an incentive to engage in entrepreneurial projects.
- Continue the SME formalization efforts and approve projects to reduce social charges for micro-enterprises.
- Alignment between the sector-based and the territory-based vision to address territories outside the GMA that are falling behind the country and have major socio-economic gaps to provide them with an incentive to install companies and SMEs.

5.6.6. National Challenges Identified by the Disabled Afro-Descendent Population and the LGBTIQ Population

The workshop held in the disabled population established the following as challenges related to infrastructure:

- The infrastructure is adverse to this population’s social wellbeing by being totally oblivious to even





address public space, e.g., signage, access to information, difficulties with mobility, and real access to transportation all have an impact on access to decent employment, quality education, recreation, etc.

In a consultation with the representatives of the Afro-descendent population in Costa Rica, the needs that this population faces were identified to address SDG 9:

- Investment in infrastructure and urban development in areas with a

High concentration of the Afro-descendent population to contribute to tourism, business, and social development by the State.

- This would avoid uprooting and urban migration by young professional in these areas.
- In a consultation WITH representatives of the LGBTIQ population, the following challengers were identified to address SDG 9:
- Create and encourage spaces for the LGBTIQ population that are free from discrimination with an eye to the spaces being used and enjoyed equally by everybody.



SOURCE: Marca País. Esencial Costa Rica.

82 Government of Costa Rica (2017). "Last Stage to Integrate Information that Fires Up Sectorization Finished" Retried on June 13, 2017 at: <http://gobierno.cr/culmino-ultima-etapa-de-integrar-informacion-para-arranque-de-sectorizacion/>

5.7. SDG 14: Life Below Water

Costa Rica has been recognized internationally for its environmental achievement, e.g., innovation related to the payment for environmental services, the expanse of its protected areas, and 98.1% of energy generation from renewable sources.

Costa Rica has a marine territory of 589,682.99 km², which is ten times more than the land surface (51,100 km²) and has three "eco-regions." Two are located on/in the Pacific Ocean (Cocos Island and Nicoya) and one in the Caribbean Sea (the Southwest Caribbean). This marine area houses around 90,000 species, which consist of approximately 4.5% of global diversity. Currently, 3.55% of the total Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)⁸⁴ is being managed by MINAE.

In turn, the Costa Rican Fishing and Agriculture Institute (INCOPECA based on its acronym in Spanish) manages, along with the coastal communities, the "Responsible Fishing Marine Areas," which include major biological, fishing and socio-cultural traits. Fishing is regulated individually to ensure that fishing resources will endure in the long term. These Responsible Fishing Marine Areas amount to 888 square kilometers.

Both along the coastlines and inside the EEZ, the Costa Rican marine area contains enormous eco-system diversity and harvesting capacity that enriches the local and national economies' quality of life. Some 5% of the national population

resides in the marine-coastal area and depends directly or indirectly on its eco-system services. Income from incoming marine tourism is calculated at US one billion dollars; for sports fishing it is around \$100,000,000 and for cetacean watching it is \$1,000,000.

It is estimated that 70,000 people are dedicated to harvesting, processing, distributing, and exporting marine products. This activity is mostly in areas of the country such as the Caribbean and the Northern, Central, and Southern Pacific Ocean, where the IDH is low. Of those people, 10,000 men and women, including fishers, assemblers and their families depend directly on fishing for large pelagic fish such as tuna, mahi mahi, swordfish, and other commercially viable species. The per capita fish consumption in Costa Rica is 12.3 kilograms in comparison to the world median of 20 kilograms annually. In turn, Costa Rica exports fish products to 19 countries in North America, Latin America, the Antilles, Europe, and Asia, with the United States being the main destination.

For the 2015-2017 period, initiatives on the path to progress related to SDG 14 also simultaneously address other SDGs such as 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15 (Figure 12). Some initiatives carried out to date include: the National Oceanic Consultation and the national pledges subscribed to within the framework of the Global Oceanic Conference, National Platform of Sustainable Large Pelagic Fisheries" the construction of an agenda for female fishers and sustainable initiatives to generate employment for women. Each of them is presented below.

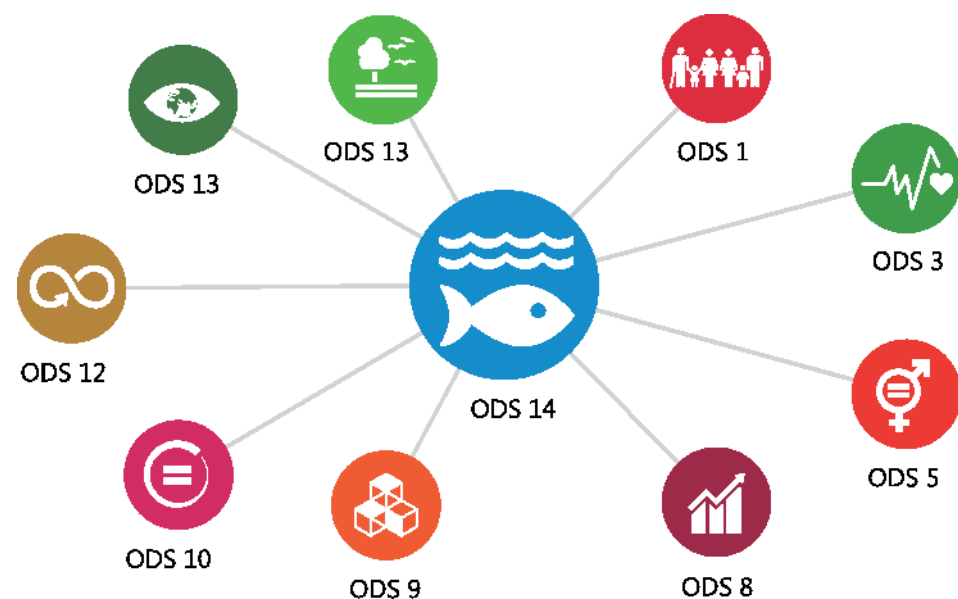
84 Is an area located beyond the adjacent territorial sea that extends for 2010 marine miles from the base lines used to measure the territorial ocean width.

83 Currently, urban space is characterized by being distant, spread out, and disconnected.





Figure 11. Multi-dimensional Initiatives for SDG 14 and Its Connection with Other SDGs



Source: Proprietary Development

5.7.1. National Oceanic Consultation and Commitments Undertaken

To comprehensively address SDG 14 and in recognition of the importance of the oceans, seas, and maritime resources, within the framework of the Conference “Our Oceans, Our Future: In Association with the Implementation of SDG 14” carried out in June at the UN at the end of May 2017, the country held, through multi-sector dialogs, a National Oceanic Consultation. The consultation was performed primarily to pinpoint the voluntary national pledges about the oceans and life below water to implement the 2030 Agenda in Costa Rica.

The National Ocean Consultation made it possible to identify 18 Voluntary National Pledges: 17 come from State initiatives and one from civil society; however, they all include a multi-sector effort with representation of the different sectors and partners that include the agendas of civil society organizations and

non-governmental organizations, academia, and the private sector. Likewise, it bears mentioning that, although these initiatives target and accelerate specific goals in this Goal, they also include compliance with other goals such as SDG 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15 (Appendix 3)

By identifying the Voluntary National Pledges, the country’s priorities related to SDG 14, Life Below Water, were made evident. They translate into the four goals in this Sustainable Development Goal where the country will particularly focus its efforts. What is extracted from this national consultation includes pledges voluntarily to do the following:

- Manage and protect the marine and coastal ecosystems in a sustainable fashion to avoid major harmful effects (Goal 14.2).
- Effectively govern fishing usage (Goal 14.4).
- Significantly reduce marine contamination of all types, in particular contamination produced by activities carried out on *terra firme* (Goal 14.1).

- Conserve at least 10% of the coastal and marine zones (Goal 14.5).

All the above has a strong overarching relationship with the three means of implementation that support this goal:

- 14.a: Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology.
- 14.b: Facilitate access by small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.
- 14.c: Improve conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by applying international law reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The voluntary national pledges are described below that are associated with each of the goals upon which the country will especially focus its efforts.

a) Manage and protect the marine and coastal ecosystems in a sustainable fashion to avoid major harmful effects:

This process and sustainable protection is carried out using the National Wetlands Inventory: preparation of or updates to the local management plans and valuation of wetland eco-system services of international importance. In addition, a pledge was made to implement the Lionfish Control Strategy, which is currently shared with various countries in the Caribbean Basin, and to ecologically restore the coral populations on the country’s Pacific Coast. These pledges are meant to benefit employment generation and economic growth for the neighboring fishing communities, recreational diving and snorkeling operators, and tourism companies.

To generate sustainable resources to care for the sea, the country has pledged to create a “National Fund to Provide an Incentive for Conservation of the Sea’s Eco-system Services and Marine and Coastal Resources.”

The idea is to grant incentives to projects through conservation, sustainable use, research, recovery, and skills generation actions, especially for fishers and indigenous peoples on both of the country’s coasts.

b) Effectively govern fishing usage:

A commitment is sought to regulate fishing usage by implementing the “National Platform of Sustainable Large Pelagic Fisheries.” This Platform will be presented in the next section.

c) Reduction of all sorts of marine contamination:

The country pledges to address the subject of contamination produced by activities on *terra firme* by implementing the “National Strategy to Replace Single-Use Plastic With Renewables and Compostables.”

In addition, from the noise pollution point of view, Costa Rica has pledged to regulate ocean noise produced by human activities such as the platforms to exploit the marine soil by generating practical guidelines and tools to measure and mitigate the effects of oceanic noise, including guidelines to monitor the habitat’s acoustic quality.

d) Conservation of at least 10% of the coastal and marine zones:

Finally, the last strategic pivot point pledges to conserve at least 10% of the coastal and marine zones by expanding and consolidating the protected marine areas and strengthening the governance processes in Responsible Fishing Marine Areas, which is meant to consolidate eleven Responsible Fishing Marine Areas in 2020.





5.7.2. National Platform of Sustainable Large Pelagic Fisheries

In joint work led by the MAG, MINAE, and the UNDP, in December 2016, the establishment of a "National Platform of Sustainable Large Pelagic Fisheries" was boosted. It has the participation of public institutions and the CSO that make up the long-liner fisheries chain.

The long-liner fisheries sectors at the national level are made up of around 400 vessels. Each vessel can carry between 5 and 8 people, which constitutes of population of around 2,000 to 3,200 people who work directly in the sector. Added to the above, it is estimated that between 10,000 to 16,000 families depend on this business, in addition to some thousands of other indirect jobs that the fishing business secures, such as transportation, fishing supplies, food, mechanical jobs, etc.

Due to the socio-economic importance of the coastal zones and the pledge made by the country to resource and environmental sustainability, the platform is meant to agree on actions to improve the fishing and commercialization processes and to supply the domestic and international markets with fishing products coming from sustainable, environmentally friendly practices.

A total of 60 representatives of civil society organizations, government institutions, the private sector, academia, and international aid organizations participate. They engage in experiences through projects to improve large pelagic fisheries for species such as tuna, swordfish, and dorado.

They reach a consensus on actions related to responsible fishing through dialog. To date, the first full demonstration of the platform has been held. It identified some pledges for the stakeholders and a work group will start up for subjects of interest to the sector

5.7.3. Construction of an Agenda for Female Fishers

Public institutions such as INCOPECA, CSO, and "CoopeSoliDar R.L." have been opening paths so female fishers can take a path to actions and challenges for the sector within the framework of the Responsible Fishing Marine Area Network.⁸⁵

In that regard, during 2016, visits were paid to coastal marine communities and marine and continental areas for responsible fishing to identify the needs of female fishers, their contributions to the sustainable use of the fishing resources, and to draw a baseline for their situation and how they view themselves for the 2016-2020 period. Next, a "National Forum on Women and Sustainable Artisanal Fishing in Costa Rica" was held, where guidelines were identified for the "Female Fishers' Agenda."

There are six strategic guidelines identified by the female fishers that are to take effect in 2020: i) gain greater participation in the decision-making process and the standards related to the sector or local development; ii) expansion of the care networks to relieve the burden and responsibilities borne by female fishers; iii) formation of strategic alliances between female farmers and female fishers and generation of educational and training opportunities; iv) strengthen the health of

female fishers in particular; v) inter-institutional coordination, access to licenses and access to credit and to other resources; and vi) strengthening of capacities, management of and access to information technology and communications.

5.7.4. Sustainable Initiatives to Generate Employment for Women

In April 2017, through coordination by the MINAE, the MTSS, INCOPECA, INAMU, the National Conservation Area System (SINAC), and diverse CSO, the mollusk business in the country was recognized when Cooperativa CoopeMolus-Chomes R.L, made up mostly of female artisanal fishers, received corporate leave to regularize their work to be able to obtain social security, access to credit, and full exercise of their rights. Likewise, this initiative maintains a commitment to engage in sustainable activities for reforestation of wetlands, alternatives to let these ecosystems rest, beach clean-up, the community blue carbon program, responsible fishing activities, etc.

Due to this positive experience, the sector CSO have issued a call to carefully address the recognition and regularization of fishing and aquaculture activities for certain population groups, particularly women, so the income in some homes that are mostly excluded and/or are vulnerable who depend on this business financially that do not have a license to operate is not reduced. Therefore, this initiative is a good practice that could be replicated so, through inter-institutional work, other groups of women in the sector could receive advice for obtaining their licenses and have greater opportunities for engaging in

fishing enterprises in a financially and environmentally sustainable fashion.

5.7.5. National Challenges Identified in the Implementation of SDG 14

With sights on 2030, the following challenges were submitted to achieve SDG 14:

- Create and strengthen an information system that enables calculation of national indicators for monitoring SDG 14.
- Establish more effective mitigation and recovery mechanisms to contribute to the conservation and reasonable use of the marine-coastal eco-systems.
- Improve articulation with marine governance and strengthening of institutional capacities in the ocean, marine eco-systems, waterbed management, and execution of sustainable use and harvesting policies.
- Recognize, strengthen, and regularize activities carried out around artisanal fishing and mollusk harvesting within a framework of human rights, generation of decent employment, and inclusive economic growth.
- Reduce the impact by solid land-based wastes and the waste found in the oceans on marine life.
- Reduce the impact of dumps, increase the treatment and sanitation of water, and improve the quality of the bodies of water that finally flow into the ocean.
- Achieve environmentally sustainable sea usage, guaranteeing the health of the ocean, plus be able to conserve at least 10% of the EEZ exclusively in Costa Rica.
- Mitigate the effects of climate change to prevent acidification of the pH in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, and to prevent an increase in the water temperature.

85 S.f (2016). "Agenda of Female Fishers in Coastal Communities and Marine and Continental Responsible Artisanal Fishing Areas Our Ongoing Work Agenda" . San José:





VI. Means of Implementation

This section speaks to the Costa Rican economic dynamics and the challenges in implementing the SDG. Likewise, the budget allocated to the NDP programs and project is presented, including the official aid cash flow to the development reported in the MIDEPLAN International Aid Management System (SIGECI based on its acronym in Spanish) and the challenges that Costa Rica faces to reach it that is to be considered by a medium-high income country.

6.1. The Costa Rican Economic Dynamics

According to the Central Bank of Costa Rica, national production showed an economic increase of 4.17% for 2015 and 4.3% for 2016. The country experienced low inflation and moderate growth higher than the median rate for the country's main business partners of 2.6%. This result was determined for the most part by internal demand, in particular by the private consumption expense.⁸⁶

The country's economic dynamics are described briefly below, taking into account the performance by inflation, the Basic Food Basket (CBA based on its acronym in Spanish), public finances, trade in goods and services, and foreign direct investment in the last two

6.1.1. Performance of inflation

According to the goal established by the Central Bank of Costa Rica, as of the 2016 close, inflation was lower (0.8%) than expected ($3 \pm 1\%$). This drop in the inflation endured until the first quarter in 2017, when the monthly variance was 0.2% and an inter-annual increase of 1.6% (0.7\$ more than in April 2016, when inflation closed at -0.9%), when the the fifth highest inflationary rate occurred

⁸⁶ Economic performance for 2016 was led by activities related to financial brokerage and insurance services with a 13.8% growth rate due to a greater response to the demand for personal credit (11.6%), housing (7.8%), and services (12.6%) and fees and currency change.

under the new consumer price index (CPI) calculation as of June 2015.

At the end of 2016, the underlying inflation⁸⁷ was below 1%, which is far below the range for the Central Bank goal. This evidences that the results of the inflation goal is due to co-junctural factors and not to currency pressures. The inflation results for 2016 are due to the stability of international raw material prices, a controlled exchange rate that did not undergo any abrupt changes, and to the fact that the international price of petroleum remained stable in small increases, but the inflation results were not compromised.

For 2017, annual inflation is projected to fall within the range of 2.3% to 3.6%. This result would be a little higher than the 2016 result due to a possible increase in the cost of fuel and an increase in the international price of raw materials, which may exert pressure on internal and consumption market production.

According to projections by the Central Bank of Costa Rica, in an optimistic scenario, the approximate value of inflation at this year's close will be 2.3%, considering the stability in the behavior of prices and a growth in the economy of close to 4%. On the contrary, in the opposite scenario, inflation would be projected at 3.6%, which would mostly affect higher income homes. This is motivated by a possible increase in the exchange rate at the 2017 close, which could put pressure on inflation, as well as an increase in the price of fuels, mostly gasoline, the electricity rate, vehicle acquisition, and education.

6.1.2. Behavior of the Basic Food Basket (BFB)

The BFB is a group of foods (52 for the urban area and 44 for the rural areas), that contain the minimum quantities required to satisfy the monthly caloric needs for the average person in the country.

In 2016, the BFB closed with a negative inter-annual variance of 1.7%. This is less than what was shown in December 2015, when the variance was zero. This has mostly benefited the poorer homes since they use most of their income to consume first-need items. These variances were present in both the urban area and the rural areas, which closed at -1.8% and -1.4%, respectively, for 2016.

The national BFB cost as of December 2016 per person reached US \$82.00.⁸⁸ This means that a family of 3.42 people needed an approximate amount of US \$280.68⁸⁹ to take care of their basic needs.

The prognosis for the 2017 close indicates that the BFB cost will have a more dynamic increase than the preceding year with a slight drop at the end of the year. This will depend, to a large degree, on the economy increasing so the inflation stays within the expected range and that the exchange rate does not undergo any major fluctuations.

6.1.3. Behavior of Public Finances

The result of Costa Rican public finances, after the world economic crisis in 2009, showed a fiscal gap that was difficult to handle during the 2010-2015 period, due to the inability to grow income and reduce expenses. This generated a fiscal deficit as a percentage of the GDP for the central government of 5.7% in 2015. This situation compromises the accrual of public debt, which is needed to face expenses and to comprehensively address the SDG.

This fiscal deficit is the product of the imbalance in the income to public expense ratio, which was shown as the difference between income and expenses in 2016 (Costa Rican ₡1,634,425,600). For this year, the difference between income and expenses was 7.0% higher than the 2015 result (Costa Rican ₡1,526,998,100). Nevertheless, during the first four months of 2017, the fiscal gap has increased due to the unchanging behavior of income and the dizzying pace of expenses.

The central government's budget financing proceeds at 54.1% of the current income and 45.9% in securities placement. For 2017, 71.4% of the budget is concentrated on 3 budget entries, debt services at 32.8% (₡2,929,855,000), the Public Education Ministry at 28.7% (₡2,564,941,000), and Special Pension Regimens at 9.9% of the total (₡886,410,000). The remaining 28.6% of the resources for 2017 is split between 23 budget entries.

In 2017, the budget entries with the greatest increases were debt service (44.4%), the Public Education Ministry (23.0%), the MOPT (11.6%), the MTSS (6.9%), and the Special Pension

Regimens (5.0%).

The public expense's inflexibility in line items such as debt service, pensions, and wages and salaries make it difficult for the government to allocate more resources to priority areas for social development such as social programs, infrastructure, safety, the environment, etc.

As for national income, a real reduction was evidenced of 1.0% between 2015 and 2016, especially due to the behavior of the customs tariff drop (-7.4%) and other income (8.0%). Even so, income tax (7.3%) and sales tax (5.6%) stand out because they are the only areas with real growth during the same period due to a higher level of economic activity and due to the administrative measures adopted by the Ministry of Finance in its search for tax collection.

In relation to expenses, between 2015 and 2016, a real increase of 6.6% was seen, particularly due to an increase in the remuneration growth rate (15.2%) and interest payment (19.2%), especially interest on external debt (64.7%). This situation makes it difficult for public finances in the medium term to stabilize.

Currently, the legislative pipeline contains some projects meant to improve the country's fiscal situation through initiatives that make expense control (fiscal rule) more effective and efficient and improvements in fiscal collections (VAT and income tax) as part of the progressive fiscal reform.

6.1.4. Behavior of Trade in Goods and Services

Exports of goods reached the amount of US \$3,434.4 during the first

87 The underlying inflation excludes the prices of goods and services, which are the most volatile in the economy.

88 The exchange rate as of December 15, 2016, as Costa Rican ₡557.62 for each US dollar.

89 Ibid.

quarter of 2017, which meant an annual increase of 4.8% in relation to the same period in 2016.

The dynamics shown by the way goods were exploited this year is due to the obvious evolution of the precision and medical equipment, electrical and electronic, metal-mechanical production, rubber, chemical, livestock and fishing, etc., sectors. The activities that showed lower growth rates for activities compared to the previous year include the agricultural and food sectors due to the consequences of climate phenomena. Exports of goods are estimated to grow between 6% and 8% by the end of 2017, maintaining a variance close to that of 2016, when there was a 7.8% growth rate.

It bears indicating that the main types of business in Costa Rica that generate currencies are exports of services, representing 45% of the total goods and services exported in 2016. These exports came to US \$8,288,100,000 in 2016, showing an 11.2% increase. The main services exported that showed increases in 2016 are travel, telecommunications, information technology and information, and other business support services.

Imports of goods came to US \$5,013,400,000 in the first quarter of 2017 with a 0.5% increase that reversed the drops occurring in the same period two years previously, i.e., 7.1% in 2015 and 0.5% in 2016, respectively.

The increase this year is explained by the purchases related to agricultural, food, rubber, electrical and electronic, furniture and lighting appliance, and mineral, metal, and chemical products.

In particular, the growth in the cost of the oil bill due both to the increase in hydrocarbon bids and to the imported volume has included an increase in imports.

As of December 2017, the growth projections for imports of goods are located between 6.5% and 8.2%, in comparison to the 1.3% increase shown in 2016. This increase foreseen in imports is consistent with the growth in internal economic activity and with the effects of the increase in international bids on hydrocarbon.

As for the commercial deficit, as of April 2017, exports and imports of goods evolved to generate a trade deficit of US \$1,579,000,000 with a 0.7% increase in relation to the balance as of April 2016. This is contrary to what was experienced in the first quarters of 2015 and 2016, when the trade deficit experienced drops of 19% and 13%, respectively. For this year, the estimate is that the trade balance for goods will continue to experience a deficit located between US \$5,690,000,000 and US \$6,195,000,000 and between 9.5% and 10.6% in relation to the GDP (it was 9.4% the previous year).

6.1.5. Behavior of Foreign Direct Investment

The foreign direct investment attracted to Costa Rica came to US \$3,179,600,000 in 2016. That amount represents 5.5% of the GDP and meant an annual increase of US \$34,700,000, the equivalent of a 1.1% increase in relation to 2015.

The growth in foreign direct investment is explained by the investment in the tourism sections, which grew by US \$61,400,000 and companies in the Free Trade Zone Program, with an increase of US \$906,000,000. Nevertheless, decreases were recorded in investments in regular

companies in the real estate sector, financial systems and the companies in the Inward Processing Program.

6.2. Investment for the Implementation of the SDGs according to the NDP

An analysis performed by the Technical Secretary of the SDG based on the annual goal monitoring and compliance report for 2016 by the NDP established that the budget goals faced huge challenges at the country level to reduce poverty,

reduce inequalities, and provide an incentive for inclusive economic growth, which are precisely what need the largest budget allocation for the 2015-2018 period.

The SDG with the highest scheduled budget in the NDP are related to fighting poverty, reducing inequalities and gender equality, and empowering women and children. This translates into a pledge made by the country to address the largest challenge it faces, the elimination of poverty and the reduction of inequalities. Other SDG that are allocated the most budget are SDG 9 and SDG 8 (Chart 3).

Chart 3 Approximate investment per SDG according to the 2015-2018 NDP

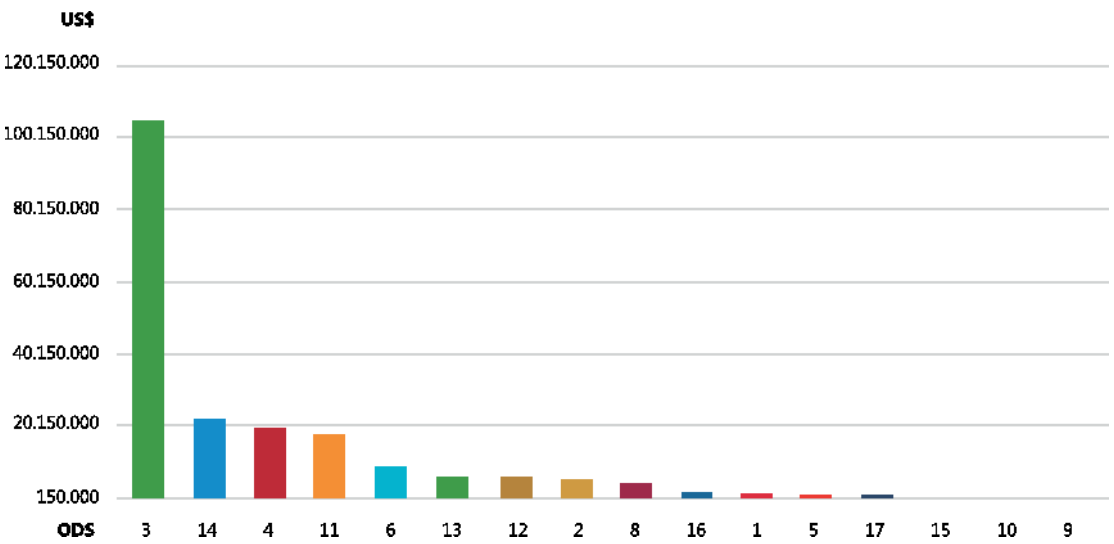
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)	2016 Budget (millions of colones)	
	Scheduled Budget	Executed Budget
SDG 1: No Poverty SDG 5: Gender Equality. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.	733,061.89	744,112.61
SDG 2: Zero Hunger.	37,089.3	29,882.6
SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing.	90,132.55	82,483.23
SDG 4: Quality Education.	174,018.48	198,315.01
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. SDG 13: Climate Change. SDG 14: Life Below Water. SDG 15: Life on Land.	314,611.3	205,321.14
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.	300,550.01	234,003.14
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.	462,847.84	305,162.06
SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	102,534.04	65,240.85
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.	14,676.03	13,633.90

Source: prepared by the SDG Technical Secretary based on the annual goal follow-up and compliance report for 2106 NDP 2015-2018 The amounts are approximate since there are no unit costs in the programs making up the National Development Plan.

6.3. International Cooperation to Meet the SDGs

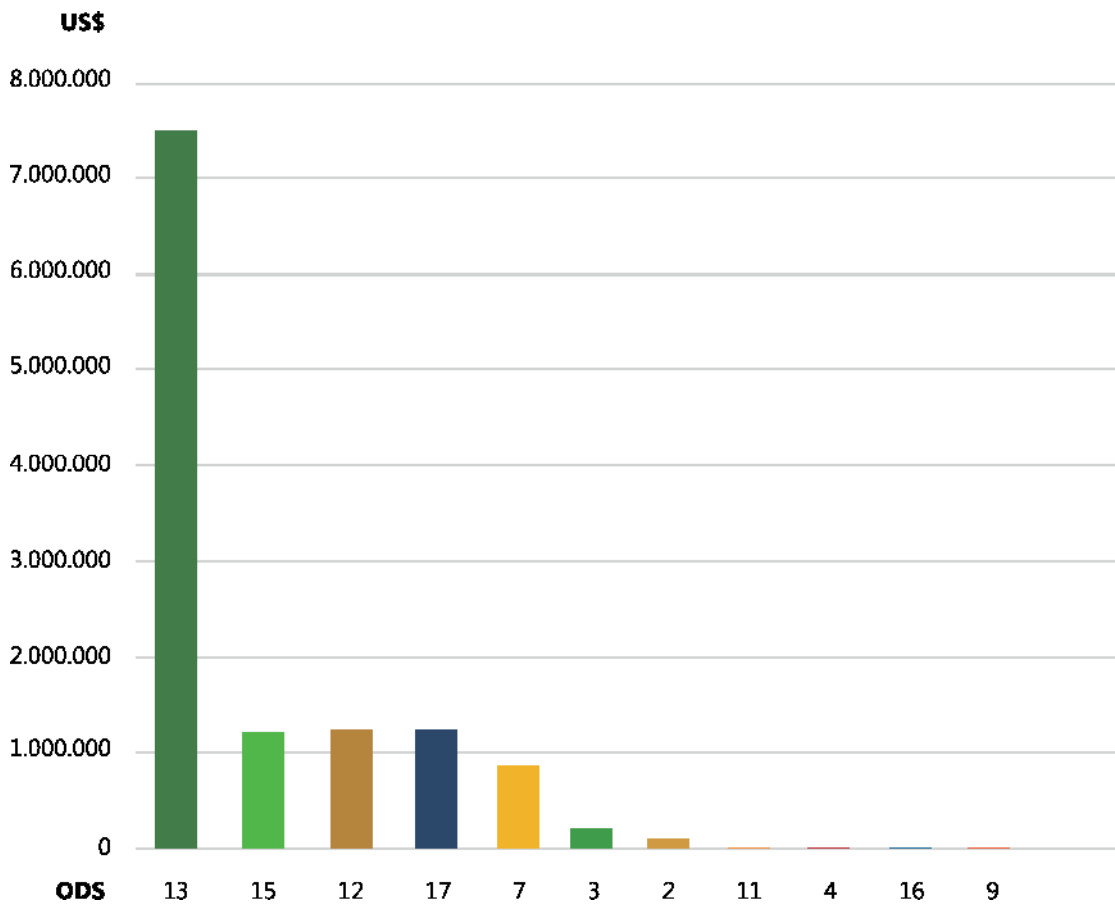
Costa Rica has a dual condition as offeror and donor for international aid. The flow of international aid for development to Costa Rica has been guided by the following SDG: Good Health and Wellbeing (SDG 3), Life Below Water (SDG 14), Quality Education (SDG 4), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), and Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) (Graph 4).

Graph 4. Cooperation demand by SDG (US \$)



Source: MIDEPLAN 2017 with SIGECI data.
Note: despite the flow of official aid for development linked to SDG 7, public institutions do not report any projects of this type to MIDEPLAN. It bears pointing out that the energy grid in Costa Rica is made up of approximately 99% renewable types of energy.

Graph 5. Cooperation supply by SDG (US\$)



Source: MIDEPLAN 2017 with SIGECI data.
Note: No applications for aid have been submitted for goals 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, and 14 or no applications have been finalized.

In addition, the country has provided aid to other countries, primarily due to Climate Change (SDG 13), Life on Land (SDG 15), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDA 2), and Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Graph 5).



VII. Final Considerations

During the 2015- 2017 period, solid steps have been taken to articulate the SDG nationally. Proof may be found in the fact that a National Pact was signed to move forward with the SDG and to create a functional, multi-party governance structure that broadly represents public institutions and stakeholders in civil society as a whole. This is one of the most important advances since it makes it possible to appropriately articulate and coordinate decision making and design initiatives and to implement strategies at the country level.

In addition, the country has been able to analyze its programmatic and budget strengths and challenges to achieve the 2030 Agenda. It has established three entry points to guide actions to accelerate the SDG and its associated goals in an integrated fashion: poverty, responsible consumption, production and resilient infrastructure, and sustainable cities.

Although Costa Rica is classified as a medium-high income country, the 2030 Agenda shows the following challenges:

- Build a new wellbeing architecture based on greater horizontal (inter-sector) and vertical (multi-level) articulation for public policy and throughout people' s lives where citizen participation plays a transcendental role as the glue for that architecture.
- Rethink the public policy cycle based on the difficult exclusions that run through the valuations for income - discrimination toward indigenous and Afro-descendant people, identity and sexual orientation, women who are victims of intimate violence perpetrated by men, and exclusion due to disability, age, and immigration status.
- Protect the national achievements that were reached up to this point to avoid backtracking in the social protection system, expansion of the care system, gender equality, environmental protection, and clean water.

The lessons learned in this period are shown below, along with the upcoming measures that each country will be taking to move forward with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

7.1. Lessons Learned

For the 2015-2017 period, the lessons learned in implementing the SDG and the 2030 Agenda were identified as:

The importance of a governance structure for the SDG: the governance structure put in place by Costa Rica has been vitally important for coordination and multi-sector articulation of SDG implementation strategies to encourage support and assistance for sectors in designing initiatives and to be held responsible for the progress of diverse entities that are part of the structure.

Multi-dimensional SDG approach: one of the big lessons learned in implementing the SDG was the importance of maintaining an integral / holistic approach to the goals and objectives. Taking into consideration that the SDG subjects were inter-connected in societies' social, economic, political, and environmental life, the national stakeholders maintain a multi-dimensional approach to implementing initiatives, strategies, and programs related to the 2030 Agenda.

Broad social and political participation: based on the experience in implementing the SDG, Costa Rica learned that, in order to achieve actual changes currently, state institutions may not act alone. Counting on broad participation by the private sector, civil society, FBO, and international organizations is vital to conjoin synergies, include populations, build a consensus-based culture, and formulate strategies with innovative approaches that each sector may contribute.

Inter-institutional articulation: one of the huge challenges that Costa Rica has historically seen has been to implement an appropriate institutional articulation that effectively and efficiently improves institutions, the programming supply

and services. Implementation of the SDG and the 2030 Agenda has begun to progressively change operating structures for how to work within the heart of institutions. Costa Rica still has a long road to travel in this regard, however, the country has begun to take the first steps.

7.2. Next Measures

The next priority measures that the country is proposing to take in the near term to continue with the efforts made so far in implementing the 2030 Agenda are:

- Establish national goals (SDG)
- Promote strengthening of the work groups at three entry points to meet the SDG: poverty, responsible consumption and production and resilient infrastructure, and sustainable communities.
- Develop a national action plan that articulates the settings for action by institutions, private companies, CSO, faith based organizations, and the United Nations System and assign responsibilities for developing the 2030 Agenda.
- Continue with training and information efforts about the SDG processes and provide consulting services to offices and entities that make up the High Level Consultation Council.
- Advance in all the dimensions of human rights, in inclusive economic growth, and in environmental protection by formulating and implementing programs, projects, and initiatives in multi-sector alliances.
- Continue with the multi-sector, participatory dialog initiatives to build agendas for addressing specific SDG and to achieve greater commitments in the population.
- Consolidate the SDG's High Level Consultation Committee as a key office for the sustainability of the 2030 Agenda implementation process in Costa Rica.



SOURCE: Marca País. Esencial Costa Rica.



VIII. Annexes

Annex 1. Appropriation mechanisms for stakeholders that sign the National Pact

This section describes the SDG appropriation process for each of the stakeholders that sign the National Pact.

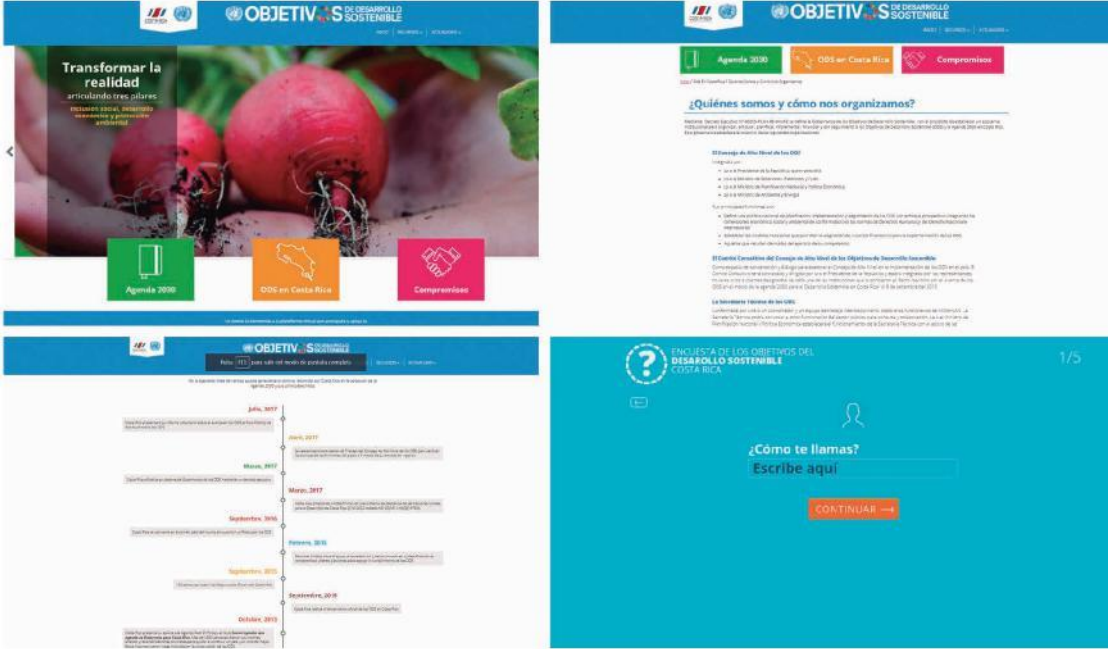
A) MIDEPLAN: Technical Secretary of the SDG.

In relation to one of the strategic axes for the NDP as it relates to being an open, transparent, and efficient government in a fight against corruption, and faced with the need to achieve broad participation by all the country's entities (public, private, and in civil society), the Technical Secretary of the SDG, along with the United Nations System, prepared a virtual platform for the SDG that was presented on April 20, 2017, when the first meeting of the SDG High Level Consultation Council was held.

The virtual platform's main purpose is to provide a space in line with the SDG implementation process. Likewise, it is an attempt to encourage participation by people and provide updated official, immediate information about the implementation process for each of the goals to support the accountability mechanisms for all the sectors involved.⁹⁰

The web site (<http://SDG.cr/>) has different easily accessed, updated resources such as statistical skills diagnoses, public policy inventory depending on the SDG situation in the country in relation to the goals, the National Pact to Advance the SDG, etc. (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Virtual platform for SDGs in Costa Rica



Source: taken from <http://SDG.cr/>

In addition, other central government initiatives have been oriented toward generating knowledge, awareness raising, and creation of strategic alliances to achieve the SDG with different sectors in the country. So far workshops have been held:⁹¹

- In the environmental, energy, and land zoning sector.
- Seven awareness raising activities about the SDG with the following institutions:
 - National Council on Disabled People (CONAPDIS based on its acronym in Spanish) - 16 sector-based secretaries.
 - Institutional links with approximately 100 public institutions.
 - Local governments.
 - Economic and social council
 - National Agriculture/Livestock Council (CAN based on its acronym in Spanish)

- Meetings with representatives of civil society and the private sector
- Multiple work meetings to form

strategic alliances, manage indicators for addressing the SDG, evaluate progress by the different work teams, and define of national goals.

- Creation and publication of work documents and text and progress reports.
- Meetings with the SDG High-Level Council with the participation of the President of the Republic and two sessions with the SDG's High Level Consultation Council, one of which was presided over by the Vice President of the Republic.

B) Legislative Branch

Within the Legislative Assembly, the initiatives underway to meet the goals are related to SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13, Climate Change; and SDG 16, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

In relation to SDG 12 and SDG 13, the Legislative Assembly is implementing a plan related to environmental

management, social responsibility, and voluntary management standards for sustainability. The objective is to take on the commitments in the 2030 Agenda by appropriately using resources, improving the electrical grid to gain greater energy savings and carrying out training courses on managing solid waste and recycling.⁹²

In addition, the Legislative Council approved the "Protocol for Information Access" used to define the procedure to execute the Open Parliament, which is an initiative fostered by organizations in civil society, academia, and journalists. The Open Parliament is a strategy whose objective is to gain greater access to information by the citizenry, encourage legislative transparency and accountability, in relation to the goals for SDG 16.

The next steps for the Legislative Assembly in relation to the SDG consist of:

- Promote the use of evaluation tools and monitor and control political decision making to strengthen institutional transparency and accountability.
- Establish methodologies to improve budget programming and measure effectiveness and efficiency when using public resources.

C) Legal Branch

The Legal Branch has encouraged processes to harmonize and appropriate the 2030 Agenda and its objectives associated with intuitional action plans. Considering the need to secure effective participation of the institution to implement the objectives, it has designated an Aid and International

Relations Office for the Judicial Branch Likewise, it has developed plans, work groups, and materials to broadcast the 2030 Agenda and has also identified the international aid needs within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) to finalize future support and advisory actions by the United Nations System.

The specific actions carried out by the Judicial Branch during the SDG implementation period are focused on SDG 5, Gender Equality; SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13, Climate Change; and SDG 16, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

In relation to SDG 5, the "Institutional Policy Against Sexual Harassment in the Judicial Branch" and the "Rapid Response Team Program for Rape Victims" (2016) were approved in 2015 and 2016 to deal with multiple problems related to sexual harassment inside and outside the institution.

According to the goals for SDG 12 and SDG 13, the Environmental Commission of the Judicial Branch developed an Environmental Management Action Plan and Policy that includes the reduction of the use of energy, water, electricity, and reduction of contaminants. It also promotes recycling and paper consumption savings campaigns through the "Zero Paper Policy" in the institutional purchasing processes.

In addition, in 2015, the institution approved a policy on citizen participation pushed by the National Council for the Improvement of Justice Administration (CONAMAJ based on its acronym in Spanish). It is an attempt to transform the link between justice administration and users, broaden the citizen participation

91 Secretaría Técnica ODS (2017). ¿Qué estamos haciendo? Recuperado el 8 de mayo 2017 en: <http://ods.cr/ods-en-costa-rica/que-estamos-haciendo#>
92 Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR) (2017). "Asamblea Legislativa obtiene galardón Bandera Azul Ecológica con el apoyo de la UCR" . Recuperado el 5 de mayo 2017 en: <https://www.ucr.ac.cr/noticias/2017/04/26/asamblea-legislativa-obtiene-galardon-bandera-azul-ecologica-con-el-apoyo-de-la-ucr.html>

channel in defining the institutional direction and improve the administration of justice in contribution to SDG 16. Along that same line, to be accountable and encourage institutional transparency, a Policy for Open Justice has been encouraged as a technological instrument to produce more efficient, responsible and strong institutions to consolidate democratic institutionality in the country.

The Judicial Branch is planning to take the following steps to continue with its efforts to progress with the SDG in the country:

- Run an analysis to link the SDG indicators with the Institutional Operating Plan indicators.
- Establish work sessions with the Judicial Branch Statistical Section to establish work instruments to provide data in line with the processes that the SNE carries out.
- Evaluate the processes carried out in the institution related to the SDG.
- Hold work sessions articulated within the Judicial Branch at the national level about the 2030 Agenda.
- Obtain support and aid from the United Nations System, taking into account the Judicial Branch' s needs.
- Continue spreading the SDG campaign through diverse media.

D) Supreme Electoral Tribunal (SET)

The SET has incorporated specific guidelines into its Strategic Institutional Plan to ensure respect for human rights in the citizenry, especially in populations with more exclusionary and/or vulnerability conditions.

In specific terms the initiatives with the SET during the 2015-2017 period within the framework of the Agenda.2030 are oriented toward compliance with SDG 5, Gender Equality.; SDG 10, Inequality Reduction; and SDG 16, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

In relation to SDG 5 and SDG 10, the SET points out that ruling No. 3603-E8-2016 was applied. It established that the political parties must define their internal bylaws and appropriate alternate parity program compliance mechanisms for 50% of each gender. Thus, through the Institute for the Formation and Study of Democracy (IFED based on its acronym in Spanish), ongoing training processes were developed to match the parity standards and to strengthen participation by women in politics. In addition, along with the INAMU, an equality diagnostic mechanism process has begun within the parties to deal with specific needs of women in political parties.

Likewise, the Gender Unit organized awareness raising and training programs in 2016 to promote equality and non-discrimination in terms of sexual orientation and gender identity, paternities and masculinities, political participation by women, maternity, and social care co-responsibility, etc.

In terms of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, the SET approved a policy on mandatory compliance for all the institutional offices related to staff awareness and training, creating protocols, measure review, and boosting affirmative actions in 2016. Monitoring this policy is the responsibility of a Commission created in May 2016 coordinated by the Gender Unit. In relation to SDG 10 and SDG 16, the SET worked with the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),

which is a project for identity establishment, it is targeting the population in the border area of Costa Rica. Its purpose is to analyze the registration status of Nögbé Buglé indigenous children so their status as a determined nationality is safeguarded and the risk of expatriation is eliminated.

During this 2015- 2017 SDG implementation period, the SET has learned the importance of articulating synergies (human and economic resources, and identification of the target population) from among the different institutions to achieve common goals.

The challenges pinpointed by the SET lie in the restrictions on access to economic resources along with containing the expense. In addition, institutional efforts should focus on work to offset deep-seated cultural patterns that tend toward discrimination.

To continue with the SDG implementation efforts, the SET has suggested the following steps:

- Promote the establishment of more strategic alliances to move forward with the 2030 Agenda.
- Develop a clear strategy to monitor the National Pact with particular attention to how work is carried out between institutions.
- Periodically check the path to follow to comply with the 2030 Agenda under the coordination of the SDG Technical Secretary.

E) The National Council of Rectors (CONARE based on its acronym in Spanish) / State Universities

In Costa Rica, state universities

formulate a National State Upper University Education Plan (PLANES based on its acronym in Spanish) every five years. Currently the PLANES 2016 - 2020 are underway and the council is beginning to plan matching the 2030 Agenda and the SDG in PLANES 2021-2026.

The specific initiatives by the public universities are related to SDG 4, Quality Education; SDG 10, Reducing Inequalities; SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production; and SDG 13, Climate Change.

The current strategic plan includes proposals related to equal, equitable access by people to superior education. This way, the PLANES goal is to achieve an environment that favors academic access, permanence and success considering the country' s geographic feature and offering diversity in academic locales in the territory so the population is able to access quality higher education.

In relation to the above, the CONARE is implementing a set of strategies and actions that contribute to integral student access, permanence and comprehensive training with special attention paid to those populations that are excluded and/or that are in a vulnerable situation so they are able to develop all their capacities and skills.⁹³ For example, programs have been implemented to include students with special educational needs to increase enrollment and so they are able to access a quality education. Gradual inclusion is projected for these students, going from 1,848 students in 2016 to 2,278 students in 2020.⁹⁴

In addition, work is being done with the MEP to implement the 'Formation and

CONARE 93 Program (2015). National State University Higher Education Plan 2016-2020. San José: CONARE. Retrieved on May 10, 2017, at: <http://siesue.conare.ac.cr/plan-nacional-de-educacion-superior-universitaria-estatal-planes/planes-2016-2020.html>Retrieved 94 Ibid.

Training Program for Primary and Secondary School Teachers for Indigenous Groups within the country to guarantee an inclusive, quality education.⁹⁵

In addition, in relation to SDG 12 and SDG 13, the Vice Rectors of Education in coordination with the Planning Office of the state universities are implementing environmental management plans oriented toward building planned academic campuses guided by environmental, affordable and sustainable conservation.⁹⁶

During the period when the PLANES are implemented along with the SDG, the state universities recognize the need to make an institutional pledge to achieve appropriate access to information, standardization of concepts and forms for information collection for the 2030 Agenda to be implemented appropriately.

The following are the steps that are being submitted by the state universities for appropriate SDG implementation:

- Monitor execution of strategic guidelines for the PLANES 2016-2020 and their ties to the 2030 Agenda.
- Incorporate the 2030 Agenda into the upcoming PLANES 2021-2025.

F) National Union of Local Governments (UNGL based on its acronym in Spanish)

Local governments are currently in the approval stage for the 2030 Agenda and have pledged to determine the size of the subject with the local authorities and municipal employees throughout the country so they are able to implement the goals in each of the action areas.

One of the main challenges that the

UNGL is facing is a general lack of awareness of the SDG in the sector so, prior to making a final decision within the sector, there is a need to begin a 2030 Agenda training process.

The UNGL has proposed the following steps:

- Link the SDG with the strategic goals in the Strategic Institutional Plan (2017-2022).
- Approve a budget line item to raise the awareness of the local government authorities and employees for 2018 related to this subject.
- Link the SDG with the bank of projects to be able to identify any progress made by the institution toward meeting the goals, considering the current initiatives.
- Prepare an SDG technical appropriation process using the Municipal Planner Network.
- Prepare a competence-based study to determine which SDG may be able to be implemented in the local governments.
- Work with the UNDP to prepare a guide to the SDG for local governments.

G) Civil Society Organizations (CSO)

During 2016, in recognition of the importance of the CSO being involved in the national debate, the United Nations System facilitated processes for organizations with experience to be found in the realms of gender, children, youth, disabled people, indigenous people, Afro-descendants, the LGTBIQ population, senior citizens, cooperative members, environmental subjects, immigration, agriculture, fishers, and other populations. These spaces were meant to build and agenda of commitment and political

influence brought together to move the SDG forward and to become part of the sector-based and national social pact to be implemented.

Under the “initiative to build an agenda of commitment and political influence brought together to move the SDG implementation forward,” the CSO established priorities to articulate dialogs, provide appropriate follow-up to the 2030 Agenda implementation, strengthen the work by the CSO and empower joint influence-bearing actions between the State, the United Nations System, the private sectors, the academic sector, and local governments.

Through nine work meetings, the “CSO Platform for Compliance with the SDG” was consolidated. Thirty organizations participated in the meetings. During the 2016 - 2017 period, actions such as the following have been taken: incorporation of the SDG into the strategic plans based on each area of action and population being worked with, communication campaigns about the 2030 Agenda, displays about the importance of SDG implementation in the country’s different communities and organizations to begin appropriation processes; and participation in influence-bearing spaces such as the SDG High Level Consultation Council. Likewise, during 2017, with the support of the United Nations System, the state platform ran an Annual Training Plan to strengthen the CSO’s technical capacities in the appropriation process for the 2030 Agenda.

The steps being suggested by the CSO are:

- Create alliances with the representatives of private companies in the Consultation Council to form agreements for financial support for the CSO through their Social Business Responsibility (RSE based on its acronym in Spanish) programs.
- Create alliances with the academic sector to exchange knowledge and transfer technologies.

- Create alliances with the local governments to execute joint projects.
- Continue the joint training processes with the United Nations System, especially in rural, coastal, and border areas.
- Open spaces to exchange good practices and lessons learned for the CSO in other countries in the region and in the world related to implementing the SDG so Costa Rica is able to implement successful actions.
- Exert influence and make detailed proposals about specific subjects with an eye to upholding the formulation of national and local public policies.

H) Faith Based Organizations (FBOs)

FBO are a network made up of faith communities and foundations and associations with a social focus that promotes human dignity, quality of life, and sustainable use of human resources. The FBO network is a space for dialog, propositions, group construction and interlocution to promote actions that contribute to achieving the SDG.

The FBO Network has made major efforts during 2016 and 2017 to incorporate the 2030 Agenda and the NDP into its strategic lines about solidary economic policy, environmental sustainability and political and social influence for equity and exclusivity. In 2016, the FBO held the “National Seminar on Faith Communities and Social Programs” to align development programs with strategic plans and to also implement communication mechanisms to raise the population’s awareness about the SDG.

To prepare SDG 1, SDG 5, and SDG 10, programs to combat poverty, and gender equality have been reactivated for

for children, women, young people, and indigenous people, the transgender population, migrants, Afro-descendants, senior citizens and the disable population. To support compliance with SDG 2 and SDG 3, the FBO created community programs and fairs to work on subjects related to sports, health, nutrition, training in home economics, and solidarity. Likewise, to support achieving SDG 4, SDG 3, and SDG 5, some FBO have carried out educational strategies to prevent crime by children and adolescents so they stay in the educational system and have implemented training courses in gender equality and about HIV.

Finally, the contributions to move forward with SDG 6, SDG 12, and SDG 13 have been to establish alliances to “purify” potable water in communities on the islands in the country’ s Pacific, develop productive skills in underdeveloped communities, support the development of a national policy on sustainable consumption, execute initiatives to preserve the environment, and protect economic and social development projects in rural communities that work on producing food, artisanal fishing and care for the environment.

According to the FBO, the following are the next steps to be taken:

- Prepare and implement progress consolidation action plans, add new activities to the implementation and continuity to the activities and actions that have been carried out.
- Open new spaces for influence, generate alliances, and mobilize and add other organizations to the SDG platforms.
- Align the processes developed by the CSO and the FBO with goals and

indicators to be defined by the government.

- Implement and reinforce strategies for communication with the population so they get to know about the SDG and the implementation processes.

I) Private Sector: Local Global Pact Network in Costa Rica

The Global Pact is a “voluntary corporate citizenship initiative where companies use an action framework to align their strategies and operations in four subject areas: human rights, labor standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.” ⁹⁷

Within the Entrepreneurial Sector, the Local Global Pact Network has led the SDG announcement and execution process by engaging in activities such as the following:

- Work desk to provide companies with training on the SDG.
- Participation in different national and sector-based chambers in work sessions with the MIDEPLAN.
- Session to transfer knowledge to different chambers about the SDG so they are able to replicate the knowledge among their associates. Some business chambers and organizations that are participating in this process include: the Entrepreneurial Development Association (AED based on its acronym in Spanish), the Costa Rican Union of Private Business Sector Chambers and Associations (UCCAEP based on its acronym in Spanish); Chamber of Industries; the Construction Chamber; the Competitiveness Promotion Council; and the National Chamber of Pineapple Producers and Exporters (CANAPEP based on its acronym in Spanish).

The following steps set forth by the Local Network to achieve the SDG and address the gaps and challenges identified in the country are:

- Hold knowledge transfer desks about the SDG at the national chambers so they train their associates.
- Preparation of sector-based impact matrices to have a vision of the national types of impact on the sector and to be able to better link them to the national priorities.
- Continue announcing the SDG throughout the business sector.
- Increase the number of companies committed to the SDG within the framework of the National Pact.

J) United Nations System (UNS)

The UNS promotes the application of core principles in the 2030 Agenda nationally, such as: “Do not leave anybody behind” ; “universality” ; and SDG “comprehensiveness and indivisibility.”

During the 2015 - 2017 period, the UNS in Costa Rica has worked closely with governmental institutions, the private sector, organizations in civil society, academia, the Public Ombudsman and populations that are excluded and/or are in a vulnerable situation through the technical assessment processes and by facilitating spaces for dialog, specific initiatives to address the SDG; and population information processes, along with the Framework for the United Nations Development Program (2013-2017). The main initiatives developed by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) for Costa Rica are shown below.

i) Technical assessment and facilitation of dialog spaces:

To structure the 2030 Agenda nationally, the United Nations System Resident Coordinator Office in the country incorporated 2030 Agenda monitoring and follow-up into the Program Management Team work plan so it addresses the United Nations Country Team at a country level in an articulated fashion in conjunction with the UNDAF.

Led by the Resident Coordinator Office, along with the UNDP, the United Nations System has provided support to the SDG Technical Secretary throughout the 2030 Agenda implementation process to prepare an inventory of the policies and programs associated with the SDG. Likewise, technical support has been provided to INEC and MIDEPLAN to analyze global indicators. The analysis found that data exist nationally to calculate 44% of the indicators and to determine the need to make additional efforts to create information that makes it possible to report on the remaining indicators.

Discussion spaces have also been provided for the SDG with CSO, faith based organizations, the private sector, local governments and academia to identify commitments, roles, and actions for each player, to build sector-based work platforms, and to structure multi-player and multi-level coordination mechanisms. This way, along with the SDG Technical Secretary, three discussion platforms have been created for the 2030 Agenda in the country: i) the CSO Platform; ii) the FBO platform; and iii) the private sector work desk led by the Local Global Pact Network. It has the participation of the Entrepreneurial Development Association (AED); business chambers such as the Costa Rican Union of Chambers and Entrepreneurial Sector Associations.

97 Global Pact Network Costa Rica (2017). “Global Pact Work Desk.” Retrieved on May 13, 2017, at: <http://www.pactoglobalcostarica.org/>

Private (UCCAEP based on its acronym in Spanish), the Chamber of Commerce; the Construction Chamber; the Competitiveness Promotion Council; and the National Chamber of Pineapple Producers and Exporters (CANAPEP).

In 2016, the United Nations System facilitated the process for the SDG to finalize the “National Pact” which provides a basis for the country to work together between sectors using a multi-dimensional approach to mobilize resources, planning instruments, long-term vision, and accountability for the signatory players to implement the SDG. In turn, within the framework of the National Pact signing, the United Nations System provided technical assessment for the strategic design and educational mediation to build a national virtual platform to provide information about how to implement the 2030 Agenda in the country.

ii) Specific initiatives to address the SDG:

To address SDG 1, the UNS, UNDP, and UNICEF offices, in alliance with the Office of the Vice President of the Republic, the CPS, IMAS, MIDEPLAN, and FLACSO organized group dialog processes to reduce poverty to affect how institutionalized the articulated, integral model is and to work with public institutions, CSO, faith based organizations, academia, and local governments to build a national agenda to eradicate poverty in Costa Rica by 2030. Along that same line of thought, the UNICEF along with the INEC, has developed “Childhood and Adolescent Poverty Maps” to be able to have a geographic information system to be able to plan and focus actions targeting the minor age population.

To address SDG 2, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in coordination with SEPSA, prepared a route sheet with actions, challenges, and progress for the company related to food safety.

improved nutrition, promotion of sustainable, resilient agriculture, and its links to rural poverty and gender. To contribute to compliance with SDG 3, UNFPA has implemented sexual and reproductive health programs to prevent teenage pregnancy and to empower adolescent women. It has also implemented sexual health campaigns targeting non-hearing people so they have access to affordable, accurate information.

In addition, to support the country in generating statistical data and information about maternal-baby health, early development and care for illnesses, the UNICEF provided technical aid to the MEP. For its part, the Pan-American Health Organization (PHO) has provided technical and/or financial aid related to institutional processes, primarily in preparing the “National Health Plan,” the strategy to focus on public health to prevent and control psychoactive substances, in the “National Waste Water Sanitation Policy,” and in the “Project to Strengthen the Provision of Health Services by the CCSS.” Likewise, it has worked with the Ministry of Health to build a General Consultation Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples; it has provided technical aid in preparing health plans for indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples and has prepared a country report about the health service access situation related to the LGTBIQ population.

In addition, the PHO, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, held inter-institutional participatory workshops where a route sheet was designed for the sector to identify the progress and challenges for each of the SDG 3 goals.

To comply with SDG 4, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has held a methodological workshop whose subject is education and respect for all people

Targeting Employees of the Public Ombudsman’s Office and the MEP. Likewise, UNICEF has provided technical support to programs that mitigate student exclusion in the “National Early Childhood Policy” and the strategy related to “Early Childhood” ; and the “National Agenda for Children and Adolescence 2015-2021.” Likewise, they have participated in evaluation programs along with the IMAS, MEP, and UNDP in secondary education, student exclusion and programs for early education and child care.

SDG 5 has been addressed by the UNDP and UNESCO agencies. On the one hand, the UNDP, in close relationship with the INAMU, has implemented the “Equality Seal” ⁹⁸ program and, on the other hand, the UNESCO has promoted, through inter-institutional coordination, the development of activities related to gender equality, and empowerment of women and girls.

In relation to addressing SDG 8, UNESCO has promoted a cultural setting by running artistic and cultural projects to support entrepreneurship and by encouraging job opportunities in the districts that are considered to be “marginalized.”

To move SDG 10 forward, UNESCO has encourage respect for diversity by providing technical assistance to the LGTBIQ community in the recognition of human rights. While UNICEF has performed studies with research centers about violence and the rights applicable to children and adolescents, it has supported strengthened monitoring for initiatives that target children and adolescents along with the MEP, IMAS, and PANI. It has also implemented informational campaigns about awareness raising, empowerment and positioning of subjects related to the inclusion of excluded populations and/or vulnerable populations.

Likewise, UNICEF has boosted construction and operation of

“Joy Houses” to protect the rights of indigenous children during the coffee harvest along with the local governments, IMAS, and private companies. Along a similar line, the agency implemented the “Child Friendly Canton Program” (CAI based on the acronym in Spanish in 32 municipalities to build local policies focused on children and human rights in alliance with the Municipal Stimulus and Advisory Institute (IFAM based on the acronym in Spanish), PANI, and World Vision.

To contribute to SDG 13, the UNDP provided technical assistance to the Costa Rican government to develop the “National Initiative for Sustainable Pineapple.” The goal was to prepare an official action plan to provide a response to the environmental impact by one of the country’s largest industries using certification system measures, by regularizing the use of chemical products, water quality control mechanisms in neighboring zones, and by helping small producers enhance their agricultural and competitive practices. In addition, along with the Ministry of Health and the MINAE, they began a process to formulate the “National Plan to Discourage Single-Use Plastics” in November 2016. The purpose was to eliminate the consumption of plastic through adjustments to the municipal standards and by applying concepts and recommendations related to the “National Recycling Strategy.”

In relation to initiatives focused on SDG 16, the Latin American Institute of the United Nations for the Prevention of Crime and Offender Rehabilitation (ILANUD based on the acronym in Spanish) has incorporated the goals associated with this objective into its national and regional programs to promote equality in access to justice and to strengthening national institutions. For example,

98 See section SDG 5

work on the Integral Care Unit Management Model (UAI based on the acronym in Spanish), which trains and provide inclusive education to male and female prisoners to deal with the job market in their social rehabilitation process to generate their own income for themselves and their families.

Along the same line of thought, the UNICEF has supported processes, made proposals, and encouraged: national plans to prevent violence against children and adolescents; protection systems; the promotion of restorative juvenile justice; training models on local policies and municipalities related to children's and adolescents' rights; protocols on violence in education centers; and construction and strengthening of strategies on commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, the agency has supported a prison center for women in the field of materials, talks and workshops for female convicts; and has engaged in campaigns broadcasting promotion of equality, the right to a life free of violence, and empowerment for women and girls.

In addition, UNESCO has established diploma degrees to prevent violence through training for the Community Police in the Province of Limón related to preventive actions in vulnerable populations that are affected by the diverse forms of violence within the framework of this goal.

iii) Information and awareness raising actions for the 2030 Agenda for the citizenry

Within the framework for the 2018 electoral process in Costa Rica, the United Nations System, through the UNDP, published the "Guide to guidelines for political organizations and the citizenry"⁹⁹ to represent a "tool so political groups that participate in national elections are able to guide how to build articulated government programs for the 2030 Agenda. It is also meant to represent an instrument so the citizenry is able to examine government programs for political groups and to ensure that political groups comply with their responsibilities

accepted by the country in the National Pact to move the SDG forward."¹⁰⁰

In addition, SDG reporting strategies have been implemented for the citizenry by creating communications products such as information videos with committed public personalities, to gain the citizens' attention, and to raise awareness about the importance of participation through key messages such as: "Every Action Counts" and "Leave No One Behind." Along this same line of thought, material has also been developed with information about the SDG and different presentations have been made about the 2030 Agenda to different population groups in the country (Figure13).

K) Other Initiatives for Compliance with the SDG

Other initiatives by national entities that have incorporated the SDG in their operating and strategic plans that need to be pointed out are the National Bank of Costa Rica (BNCR based on its acronym in Spanish) and the General Comptroller of the Republic (CGR based on its acronym in Spanish).

i) National Bank of Costa Rica (BNCR)

The BNCR becomes the first financial entity in the country to welcome the 2030 Agenda into its strategic management. The bank's sustainability model adopted the definition of "Stakeholders' proposed by the United Nations Financial Incentive Program (UNEP-FI based on its acronym in Spanish) which indicate that they are the "groups that may affect or be affected by the development of the company's activities."

The BNCR established strategic action lines to design specific actions oriented toward working with a vulnerable public such as: financial inclusion, financial education, financial entrenchment,

entrepreneurial undertakings, chaining and environmental management. These lines are defined for poor women, youths, indigenous populations, and the disabled population.

The bank's sustainability model is founded on the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth; the generation of wealth with equity and social wellbeing, and an appropriate use of environmental resources. Using this formula, the bank works based on performance indicators as a function of the profits and losses to the benefit of BNCR and its stakeholders.

In SDG 1 specifically, the BNCR has products and services that help impoverished people to gain an equal right to economic and financial services. It promotes the generation of employment for entrepreneurial undertakings, boosts formal status for companies that are bank customers, and promotes financial inclusion. In relation to SDG 2, the BNCR implements the use of financial and non-financial products that have a positive impact on the management exercised by small and medium producers related to sustainable productivity. In turn, SDG 4 is implemented using mechanisms so youths and young adults achieve technical and professional skills to access employment, decent work, and entrepreneurial status.

SDG 6 is addressed by financing projects related to the aquifer mantles in communities through commercial relationships with local governments. Likewise, in relation to SDG 7, financing has risen for projects related to clean energy sources, electrical generation projects, the use of solar panels, and loans for ecology-based technologies.

In relation to SDG 8, the bank is seeking to boost financing for technological modernization, innovation and diversification to improve the country's

Figure13. "Leave No One Behind" Campaign



Source: taken from the UNDP (September 8, 2016). "Leave No One Behind" Campaign. Retrieved on May 5, 2017, at: <https://www.facebook.com/pnudcr/photos/a.170338306325900.48389.127144167311981/1457204417639276/?type=3&theater>

⁹⁹ See guide: <http://responsabilidadsocial.cr/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Guia-de-Orientacion-PP-y-Ciudadania-elecciones-2018.pdf>

¹⁰⁰ UNDP (2017). Guide to guidelines for political organizations and the citizenry articulated in government programs with

economic productivity. To address SDG 9, financial and trust services for the development of public works in the country are implemented by promoting enhancements to production, efficient consumption, economic growth, and a decrease in environmental degradation.

To address SDG 12, the BNCR is encouraging companies to align their value chains so they adopt sustainable practices through programs such as “Corporate Volunteer Work” and the “BN Green SME,” to promote the adoption of good practices to measure the types of impact caused by management and to boost responsible consumption and production. In addition, campaigns have been implemented to foster the concept of citizens and responsible citizens in communities with their finances and the environment.

In relation to climate change, SDG 13 has brought the adoption of measured types of environmental impact for the BNCR and impact compensation programs for the ecological footprint in the agriculture and livestock segments. SDG 14 is being addressed through the “Bio-Science” project, which teaches scientific research and fauna protection techniques in the high schools in the Atlantic zone. Finally, SDG 15 is being addressed through financing and support for projects related to “Rural Sustainable Tourism” to protect biodiversity, environmental sustainability and services such as the “Servibanca Ecological Card,” which provides support to the “Sustainable Biodiversity Fund.”

The next steps in the pipeline are the definition of priority subjects for the entity and for the interested public defined to establish actions that may be moved forward to maintain

alignment with the SDG business strategy.

ii) General Comptroller of the Republic (CGR based on the acronym in Spanish)

Considering the commitments made in the 22nd International Conference on Top Oversight Entities in 2016 in relation to significant contributions to audits for the 2013 Agenda, the Institutional Strategic Plan (PEI based on the acronym in Spanish) 2013-2020 was reformulated to link the SDG to its operations. This way, the “PEI aims its actions at overseeing to have a positive impact on the efficiency of critical public services due to priority oversight including the tie to the SDG in this revision.”¹⁰¹ At the end of 2016, the CGR adjusted the number of services to oversee and to tie to the 17 SDG by defining 20 priority public services at the country level.

Annex 2. National policies, programs, and plans for addressing the SDG

This section provides a listing of the national policies, programs, ad plans in effect now that are intrinsically tied to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 9, and SDG 14.

A) SDG 1: No Poverty

To reduce inequalities in the more vulnerable sections of the population, ensure full compliance with their human rights and to create social, economic and personal development opportunities, seven policies were identified that were implemented by diverse institutions and carried out in conjunction with entities in the civil society and United Nations System agencies.

Table 3 Policies to reduce inequalities for vulnerable groups

Guarantee the full exercise of all the NNA rights throughout the national territory.

Population	Policy o Program	Institutions or Organizations	Goal
Children and adolescents (NNA based on its acronym in Spanish)	National Policy Heritage NNA (2009-2021)	on the National of Infante (PANIP)	Guarantee the conditions needed for maximum wellbeing and integral development, social inclusion, and institutional skills positioning.
	National Agenda for NNA (2015-2021)	PANI and the United Nations Children’ s Fund (UNICEF)	Establish a framework to effectively promote, respect, and guarantee the rights of disabled people to close on: institutionality, health, education, decent employment, and an inclusive environment.
Disabled People	National Disability Policy (PONADIS based on the acronym in Spanish) and its	National Council of People with Disability (CONAPDIS)	Create opportunities and conditions to guarantee the exercise of rights and citizenship for young people and to develop their potential and contribution to national development.
Young people	Public Policy on Young People and Its Action Plan (2014-2019)	The Ministry of Culture and Youth (MCJ based on the acronym in Spanish) and the Council for Young People (CP)	Engender governmental and non-governmental actions that are articulated, timely, systematic and sustainable to prevent, attend to, and protect people living in the street and people at risk or who are homeless.
Homeless People	The National Policy on Integral Care for Homeless People Living in the Street (2016-2026)	Presidency of the Republic and the Mixed Institute for Social Assistance (IMAS based on the acronym in Spanish)	

101 CGR (2016). “Institutional Strategic Plan 2013 - 2020 (Reformulated” .” San José, October. Retrieved on May 18, 2017, at: <https://cgrfiles.cgr.go.cr/publico/jaguar/Documentos/cgr/estrategia/documentos/pei-2013-2020-reformulado.pdf>

Population	Policy or Program	Institutions or Organizations	Goal
Senior Citizens	National Policy on Senior Citizens (2011-2021)	National Senior Citizen Council (CONAPAM based on the acronym in Spanish)	Foster full development of senior citizens, boost care by public and private entities, ensure that programs and services operate properly, ensure that pension and retirement funds and systems maintain their purchasing power, etc.
Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, Immigrants, Refugees	National Policy for a Society Free From Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Xenophobia (2014 - 2025)	MREC	Adopt measures to foster the generation of inter-generational social practices that are inclusive and respectful of diversity to guarantee full, effective exercise of human rights and that eradicate all forms of discrimination, racism, and xenophobia.

Source: proprietary preparation based on the SDG Technical Secretary. (2016). Inventory of Public Policies according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). San José: Technical Secretary SDG-MIDEPLAN.

B) SDG 2: Zero Hunger

To address SDG 2 as of 2013, there are six national long-term policies, programs and plan that are related to the SDG. These policies are closely related to the subjects of good health and wellbeing, sustainable production and consumption patterns, and climate change.¹⁰²

Table 4. Policies and programs related to SDG 2

Policy or Program	Institutions or Organizations	Goal
Costa Rican territorial rural development Policy (2015 – 2030)	Institute of Development Rural (INDER)	The purpose is to foster actions to help with environmentally friendly production, adaptation, mitigation and climate risk management oriented toward comprehensive, sustainable use of natural resources.
State Policy for the Agricultural-Food Sector and Development in Rural Costa Rica (2010- 2021)	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG)	Promote inter-sector efforts to prevent, mitigate, and adapt to the climate change process and to achieve excellent agro-environmental management to favor sustainability in production processes to gain greater differentiation in the exportable domestic supply on the world markets.
National Plan for Food and Nutritional Safety (2011-2015)	Ministry of Health	The plan contains setting-based policies: access to food; food consumption; biological usage; and inter-institutional strengthening.

Policy or Program	Institutions or Organizations	Goal
National Policy Safety Food and Nutrition (2011-2021) (SEPAN based on the acronym in Spanish)	Ministry of Health and Secretary of Politics	The policy includes an agricultural/livestock mitigation and recovery program; research into new technologies to improve food production and quality; performance of impact studies; increased productivity and competitiveness, etc.
National Health Policy (2016 - 2020)	Ministry of Health	Contribute to sustainable development of the human habitat by protecting, restoring, improving, and using the environment to promote an adequate quality of life.
RTCR Bylaws 484:2016	The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MINAIE), and the Ministry of Health	Regulate the registration of synthetic formulated pesticides, a technical grade active ingredient, aids and similar substances for agricultural use for State phytosanitary service.

Source: proprietary preparation based on the SDG Technical Secretary. (2016). Inventory of Public Policies according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). San José: Technical Secretary SDG-MIDEPLAN.

C) SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

To address SDG 3, there are seven national policies, programs and plans that specifically target the wellbeing of integral health, including mental, sexual, and physical health, in addition for public sanitation. These initiatives that are implemented with a long-term goal are implemented by different institutions.

Table 5. Policies and programs related to SDG 3

Policy or Program	Institutions or Organizations	Objective
National Health Policy (2016 - 2020)	Ministry of Health	There are the following pivot points: intra- and inter-sector articulation and citizen participation, equity, and universal actions related to health; healthy practices; comprehensive risk management, and adaptation to climate change
National Mental Health Policy (2012 - 2021)	Ministry of Health	Strengthen mental health, prevent early disability associated with mental health disorders through a timely approach, with quality and warmth, to those factors or situations in the community where people’ s mental health and lives are at risk.
National Policy on Sexuality (2010-2021)	Ministry of Health	Contributes to everybody having a right to a type of sexuality that leads to fair, affectionate, pleasing, equitable, etc., relationships without discrimination.
National Physical Activity and Health Plan (2011-2021)	Ministry of Health	Fosters healthier lifestyles by delving into and including the whole population in physical activities for health and recreation-sports.
Law 9028: The General Law to Control Tobacco and Its Harmful Effects on Health (in place since 2012)	Ministry of Health	The Law’ s goal is to reduce the consumption of products prepared using tobacco, people’ s exposure to the harmful effects of tobacco smoke, and reduce the health, social and environmental damage caused by tobacco addiction, etc.

Policy or Program	Institutions or Organizations	Goal
National Plan for the Prevention and Control of Cancer	Ministry of Health and the CCSS	Action axis: individual and collective care culture; human habitat; health services; oversight and information systems; technological research and development; etc.
National Waste Water Sanitation Policy (2016 - 2045)	The Ministry of Health, Aqueducts and Sewers (AyA), and MINAE	Goals also include preparation of control, management and prevention mechanisms for widespread contamination that affects water quality, development of awareness of the need for appropriate sanitation management, encourage cleaner product programs and good production practices, etc.

Source: proprietary preparation based on the SDG Technical Secretary. (2016). Inventory of Public Policies according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). San José: Technical Secretary SDG-MIDEPLAN.

D) SDG 5: Gender Equality

With an eye to achieving equality between the genders and to empower all women and girls in the country, other national policies, strategies and plans linked to SDG 5 are executed by a large part of the institutions that are part of the country’ s social sector.

Table 6. Policies and programs related to SDG 5

Policy or Program	Institutions or Organizations	Goal
Policy on Equality and Gender Equity (PIEG) 2007-2017 and Its Action Plans	The National Institute of Women (INAMU	There are 6 strategic axes: i) care as a social responsibility; ii) paid quality work and income generation; iii) pro-equality education and health; iv) protection of rights when faced with violence; v) political participation by women and democratic parity, and vi) strengthening of the INAMU’ s governing role.
National Plan for Attention to and Prevention of Domestic Violence (PLANOVI) (new plan taking	INAMU	Provide timely, comprehensive and quality care to women in violent family and couple relationships and for cases of sexual harassment and rape. In addition, develop substantive sustained actions related to promoting human rights and gender equity.
Equality and Gender Equity Policy (2009 – 2019)	Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS	The MTSS reviews internal processes (the internal component of the policy) and proposes changes to action procedures and strategies to be able to significantly impact the living conditions of working women (external component).
Gender Equality Policy (2013 - current)	National Institute of Learning (INA	Strengthen the INA’ s role in national development and as an agent of culture change by fostering egalitarian participation of women and men in the institution’ s daily life, preparation for work and exercising labor, especially in technical and technological areas.

Source: proprietary preparation based on the SDG Technical Secretary. (2016). Inventory of Public Policies according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). San José: Technical Secretary SDG-MIDEPLAN.

E) SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.

To address SDG 9, the country has three national policies, programs, and plans in place that are executed by a large number of institutions. These initiatives specifically target being able to build resilient types of infrastructure, to promote inclusive, sustainable industrialization, and to foster innovation.

Table 7. Policies and programs related to SDG 9

Policy or Program	Institutions or Organizations	Objective
National Plan To Develop Telecommunications (PNDT) (2015 - 2021)	Ministry of Science, Technology, and Telecommunications (MICITT)	Boost broad band, social inclusion, empowerment of the inhabitants, and electronic government that is open, close, and transparent.
National Program for Science and Technology Fairs (PRONAFECYT)	MICITT	Stimulate interest in science and technology, development of critical, creative thinking through pre-school, primary school, and secondary school experiences that promote acquisition of attitudes, skills, values, and intellectual processes that allow students to open up and explore scientific-technological vocations.
Practical Training Program for Market-Oriented Innovation	MICITT	Endow the country with resources to insert innovation as a tool to improve innovation and productivity
Intelligent Community Centers (CECI based on the acronym in Spanish)	MICITT	An agreement was reached to use a laboratory equipped with the latest computer technology to be able to offer diverse services to the community and to promote socio-economic development by making the users computer literate.
PROPYME Fund		Finance actions and activities targeting promoting and improving small and medium Costa Rican companies’ management and competitive capacity by developing technology and innovation as an instrument to contribute to the country’ s economic and social development.
Policy to Advance Entrepreneurialism in Costa Rica (2014 – 2018)	Ministry of the Economy, Industry, and Commerce (MEIC)	Rational use of the medium and development of activities that are friendly to be able to achieve sustainability, contribute to the target country becoming a C-Neutral Nation in 2021 and encourage entrepreneurial people to make this commitment
National Transportation Plan for Costa Rica (PNT) (2011-2035)	Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (MOPT)	Openly bet on planning for the transportation system in the near, medium, and long term. Endowing an instrument to ensure the modernization and preparation of all the transportation networks for the country’ s needs.
National Risk Management Policy (2016-2030)	CNE	Promote appropriate planning and efficient, speedy use of resources during rehabilitation and reconstruction processes with a watchword to reduce the risk factors and not reconstruct vulnerability with a preventive vision about long-term recovery.

Source: proprietary preparation based on the SDG Technical Secretary. (2016). Inventory of Public Policies according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). San José: Technical Secretary SDG-MIDEPLAN.

F) SDG 14: Life Below Water

There are fourteen national policies, strategies and plans in effect and identified by the government to address SDG 14 and that have been implemented with articulation of a large variety of institutions with a long-term agenda.

Table 8. Policies and programs related to SDG 14

Policy or Program	Institutions or Organizations	Objective
National Plan for Food and Nutritional Safety (2011-2015)	Ministry of Health and SEPAN	Sustainable agro-food systems, sustainable production, education and sustainable lifestyles are areas of influence.
Water Agenda for Costa Rica (2013-2030)	AYA, MINAE and National Subterranean Water, Irrigation and Drainage Service (SENARA)	Areas of influence in sustainable products, conservation, and climate change for 2030.
National Sustainable Tourism Plan (2017 - 2021)	The Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT based on its acronym in Spanish)	Implement programs to promote sustainability; develop actions for climate change; establish training programs for local governments, schools, and tourism chambers about the sustainable use of resources, etc.
National Waste Water Sanitation Policy (2016 - 2045)	AYA, the Ministry of Health, and MINAE	Goals also include preparation of control, management and prevention mechanism for diffuse contamination that affects water quality, development of awareness of the need for appropriate sanitation management, encourage cleaner product programs and good production practices, etc.
National Climate Change Strategy (2015 - active)	MINAE and Climate Change Directorate (DCC based on its acronym in Spanish).	Contribute to reducing GE (Greenhouse Effect) gases at the source in prioritized sectors; energy, transportation, agriculture and livestock.
Policy on Protected Wildlife Areas (ASP based on the acronym in Spanish)	MINAE and the National Conservation Area System (SINAC based on the acronym in Spanish)	Its areas of influence are sustainable tourism, conservation and protection
National Sea Policy (2013-2028)	National Sea Commission (CONAMAR based on the acronym in Spanish)	Promotes balance between usage, sustainability, conservation of marine- coastal resources and development and production of wealth, as well as solidary sustainment of long-term wellbeing.
National Biodiversity Policy (2015 - 2030)	MINAE and the National Commission on Biodiversity Management (CONAGEBIO based on the acronym in Spanish)	Its areas of influence are protection, conservation, production, and sustainable consumption.

Source: proprietary preparation based on the SDG Technical Secretary. (2016). Inventory of Public Policies according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). San José: Technical Secretary SDG-MIDEPLAN.

Annex 3. Voluntary National Commitments Acquired by the Assessment of SDG 14 and It Relationship to the other SDG

Voluntary Acquired National Commitment	Responsible	Relation with the SDG 14 goals	Relation with other SDG
Maritime Oversight Control Program: Program 1.6 of the National Development Plan	Vice Minister of Water, Seas, Coasts, and Wetlands and the National Coast Guard Service	14.2 14.a 14.5	SDG 16
Creation of an Environmental Fund to Provide an Incentive for Conservation of Eco-system Services for the Sea, and Marine and Coastal Resources (FONASEMAR based on the acronym in Spanish)	Vice Minister of Water, Seas, Coasts and Wetlands	14.1 14.2 14.a	SDG 10 SDG 11 SDG 13
Maximum authority for integrated articulation and management of the Costa Rican marine institutionality (CONAMAR based on its acronym in Spanish)	The Ministry of the Presidency	14.2 14.b 14.a 14.c	SDG 2 SDG 11 SDG 12
National Platform of Sustainable Large Pelagic Fisheries"	The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG based on its acronym in Spanish), the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MINAE based on its acronym in Spanish), the Costa Rican Fishing and Agriculture Institute (INCOPECA)	14.2 14.a 14.4 14.c	SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 8 SDG 10 SDG 12 SDG 13
National Strategy to Replace Single-Use Plastic With Renewables and Compostables	Ministry of the Environment and Energy of Costa Rica and the Ministry of Health	14.1 14.a	SDG 6 SDG 11 SDG 12 SDG 13 SDG 15
Conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and maintenance of the international major protected wetland ecosystems "Wetland Projects"	National Conservation Area System (SINAC)	14.2	SDG 6 SDG 12 SDG 13 SDG 15
Lionfish control strategy	National Conservation Area System (SINAC)	14.2 14.c	SDG 2 SDG 12
Increase in coral reef coverage	Vice Ministry of Water, Seas, Coasts and Wetlands	14.2	SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 12 SDG 13
Sustainable use of mollusks as part of the State Natural Heritage	SINAC-MINAE / INCOPECA	14.2 14.a 14.4 14.b 14.5	SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 5 SDG 8 SDG 10 SDG 12 SDG 13 SDG 15
Strengthening of the governance processes for Responsible Marine Fishing Areas	INCOPECA/ Responsible Marine Fishing Area Network	14.2 14.4 14.5 14.b	SDG 8 SDG 11 SDG 12 SDG 13

Voluntary Acquired National Commitment	Responsible party	Relation with the SDG 14 goals	Relation with other SDG
Strategy to Conserve Sea Turtles in Costa Rica	Vice Minister of Water, Seas, Coasts and Wetlands	14.1 14.2 14.a	SDG 12 SDG 13 SDG 15
Reduction of the negative impact on ecosystems for a more sustainable long-liner shrimp fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) by applying an ecosystem fishing approach	INCOPESCA	14.4 14.b	SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 12
Implementation of Voluntary Guidelines to Achieve Sustainability in Small Scale Fishing (SSF)	INCOPESCA/ Responsible Marine Fishing Area Network	14.2 14.a	SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 8 SDG
Scholarships for FECOP-GFTR research (scholarships for research by the Costa Rican Federation of Fishing Tourism and Gray Fish Tag Research) for Costa Rican Students	Costa Rican Federation of Fishing Tourism (FECOP)	14.a	SDG 4 SDG 12
Analysis of Alternative Technologies for Pelagic Fish and Their Viability for the Medium-Scale and Advanced Commercial Fleet	INCOPESCA	14.4 14.a	SDG 12
Marine biodiversity monitoring	National Conservation Area System	14.2 14.a 14.c	SDG 12 SDG 13 SDG 15
Regulation of Ocean Noise Produced by Human Activities such as Marine Soil Exploitation Platforms	National Conservation Area System	14.1 14.b 14.2 14.c 14.a	SDG 12 SDG 15
Expansion and consolidation of protected marine areas (this pledge was not included on the web page because there was information waiting to be checked and validated by the authorities)	Ministry of the Environment and Energy	14.2 14.5 14.3 14.b	SDG 8 SDG 11 SDG 12



SOURCE: Presidential House Costa

