Costa Rica: Towards a National Blue Agenda

BELIZE

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Towards a National Agenda

- 10% Protected Wildlife Areas
- 90% Marine Areas of Multiple uses

National Agenda

Articulation of competencies and Coordination
A Blue Agenda

Integration of Public Policy

Control and Surveillance
Conservation Preservation Protection
Sustainable Production
Research and information sharing
Education and Training
Critical external factors: Protected Areas and Marine Areas of Multiple Use

- Overexploitation of resources
- Growing coastal-marine tourism
- Insufficient Legal Framework
- Size of our Territorial Sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone
- Institutional Disarticulation
- Sustainable use and Control and Surveillance of our Oceans
Costa Rica turns its eyes to the sea: Creation of a Vice ministry of Water and Oceans

- Unify competencies in a single institution
- Make efficient use of economic resources and human capital available
- Strengthen the institution towards meeting legal obligations and international commitments
- Articulate competencies and resources towards a national agenda
Coral Reefs in Costa Rica: 970 km²

Fishery
Protection
Tourism
Research
No Use

Total Economic Value
Services + Replacement Cost

Estimated annual total economic value for Costa Rica:
US$582 millions
93% of the Costa Rican coral reef is at risk due to human activity

Specific Threats
- Fertilization of agricultural fields
- Sedimentation
- Irresponsible Tourism

Global Threats
- Overfishing
- Climate change
- Oceans acidity
Protecting Our Coral Reefs

• The Constitution
• International Conventions
• Local Laws
International Conventions signed and ratified by Costa Rica

- CITES (1974)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1991)
- UNCLOS
- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- Agenda 21
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Cartagena Convention
- Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, UNESCO
Local Law

- Creation of National Parks Services Law (1977)
- Conservation of Biodiversity Law (1998)
- Need for Specific Legislation: The Coral Reefs Executive Decree
Costa Rica and the ICRI

ICRI Objectives:
• Adoption of best practices in sustainable management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems
• Build Capacity
• Raise Awareness

Costa Rica Objectives:
• Sustainable management of our marine eco-systems
• Strengthen our institutions through strategic alliances
• Gain and share knowledge, take action
MUCHAS Gracias