

COSTA RICA



JURISDICTIONAL REDD+ TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PARTNERSHIP

Environmental Defense Fund - Winrock International -
Wildlife Conservation Society - Climate Law and Policy

REDD+ PROGRAMME FACTSHEET 2026

PROGRAMME SNAPSHOT

KEY INDICATORS

FOREST AREA COVERED

~ 3 M ha

STANDARD

ART-TREES

CREDITING PERIOD

2017 - 2021

EXPECTED ISSUANCE

1.1M TRESS CREDITS

ISSUANCE TIMELINE

Issuance expected in 2026

ART-TREES REGISTRATION DOCUMENT SUBMITTED

CREDIT ISSUANCE UPCOMING WITH ART TREES UNITS
(2017-2019)

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

WHY COSTA RICA



Costa Rica is a globally recognized leader in tropical forest conservation, having reversed deforestation through decades of sustained policy investment. The Costa Rica Emission Reduction Program covers the country's entire continental territory (5.13 million hectares), where forest cover stood at 3.12 million hectares — representing 61% of national land.

REDD+ Strategy: The National REDD+ Strategy rests on five policies: (1) promotion of low-carbon production systems through agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, (2) strengthening prevention and control of land-use change and forest fires in Protected Wild Areas and buffer zones; (3) incentives for conservation and sustainable forest management via pay-for-results Forest Emissions Reduction Contracts (CREF), (4) restoration of degraded landscapes and forest ecosystems and (5) participation of indigenous peoples

Key Drivers Addressed: the territory's main drivers of forest loss are: uncontrolled wildfires, agricultural frontier expansion

The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) through the National Fund for Forest Financing (FONAFIFO) and the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), supported by the REDD+ Executive Secretariat.

SOCIAL INTEGRITY

RIGHTS & COMMUNITIES

RIGHTS, TENURE & ER RIGHTS

- ✓ Costa Rica has a mature and transparent Real Estate Registry system in place for over 150 years
- ✓ Emission Reduction Rights (ERR) framework established – MINAE holds legal authority to receive REDD+ finance.
- ✓ Indigenous Territories (24 territories) are declared inalienable, imprescriptible, and exclusive property of indigenous communities

PARTICIPATION, FPIC & BENEFIT SHARING

- ✓ Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities engaged in programme governance and implementation – 24 indigenous territories participate in the REDD+ program through PES/CREF contracts
- ✓ FPIC & consultations with indigenous territories was conducted across three phases (information, feedback, consultation) for the National REDD+ Strategy design.
- ✓ Benefit-sharing framework linked to ERRs – CREF contracts (Forest Emissions Reduction Agreements) are the primary legal instrument through which landowners cede carbon rights to FONAFIFO in exchange for results-based payments

SAFEGUARDS INSTRUMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY

- ✓ SIS REDD was designed in 2015 using a stepwise approach and operates under the National Environmental Information System (SINIA)
- ✓ GRM Guidelines in place. Publicly disclosed annual audits 2017-2020

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY

MRV & REFERENCE LEVEL

MONITORING SYSTEM

National Forest Information System (FCMS)

MRV STATUS

Issuance expected by July 2026 with vintages 2017, 2018 and 2019.

FREL (2) and BTR submitted to UNFCCC

Emission Reduction and Removals crediting

Article 6.2 transactions- MoU with Singapore

MARKET ENGAGEMENT

TRANSACTION DETAILS

TARGET MARKETS

Voluntary carbon market (VCM); CORSIA-eligible demand; sovereign buyers; bilateral carbon agreements

TRANSACTION WINDOW

Validation and verification audit ended in May 2026. Credit emission to be expected by July 2026 with vintages from 2017, 2018 and 2019.

REDD+ ACTIVITIES

The National REDD Strategy's approach is about handling land-use change, including forest fire, emission reduction and restoration

UNIQUE VALUE

Long-standing Payment for Ecosystems Services (PES) program and a recognized leader in tropical forest conservation.

INDICATIVE USE OF PROCEEDS

Payment for Environmental Services (PES) program long-term sustainability and expansion. TREES units will focus on CREF and PES 2.0 with IT and private owners.

Indigenous territorial governance, land tenure recovery (PLAN-RTI), and community-driven conservation

Agroforestry, silvopastoral, and landscape restoration programs for low-carbon rural development

National Carbon Registry development, safeguards systems (SIS), and institutional MRV capacity

Prevention and control of illegal land-use change and forest fires in Protected Wild Areas and buffer zones

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WE ARE SEEKING

- Engagement with potential buyers of high-integrity national REDD+ credits for the third monitoring period of FCPF CF ERPA (2022-2024) and second crediting period of TREES REDD+ Program (2025-2026)
- Catalytic finance partners to support scaling of CREF uptake and closure of carbon rights documentation
- Transaction structuring and carbon market advisory support
- CORSIA-eligible buyers and compliance market participants
- Article 6 bilateral agreement and sovereign buyer engagement

PROGRAMME PARTNERS

KEY INSTITUTIONS

GOVERNMENT LEAD

National Fund for Forest Financing (FONAFIFO)

JTAP TECHNICAL LEAD

Climate Law & Policy, EDF & Winrock

ABOUT JTAP

The Jurisdictional REDD+ Technical Assistance Partnership (JTAP) supports forest nation governments and their Indigenous Peoples and Local Community partners in meeting high-integrity REDD+ standards and accessing global carbon markets. JTAP is a collaboration of EDF, Winrock International, WCS, and Climate Law & Policy.

