

Executive summary

Costa Rica was recently denominated as the 3rd most ecological country of the world. It is a country located in the Central America that decided to protect 22.6% of its territory, including 14% in national parks and biological reserves that embrace near 5% of the biodiversity of the planet. Approximately ninety five percent of the electricity consumed in the country comes from renewable sources, including hydroelectricity (70%), geothermal (16%), wind (8%), and biomass (1%). It is also recognized at global level as a country that could halt the deforestation trend, partially due to a modern forestry law, and to a well developed market oriented system of Payments of Environmental Services.

The Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica (ITCR) is one of the four public universities which helped to reach these achievements. It is a university specialized in technological issues by teaching, doing research and transferring the knowledge to the productive sector. In order to response to private and public sector needs, the ITCR has created three important units: the Academic and Corporate Relation Centre, the Business Incubation Center, and a Technological Foundation (FUNDATEC). Due to the present development of the ITCR, it will be able to provide to the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) office space promptly, and the necessary administrative support for its effective functioning in short time. After reviewing the CFP 2012-S1 specifications and analyzing several technical and management structures for the CTCN, the ITCR proposes to host the CTCN in its main Campus in Costa Rica, as a Centre under the guidance of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, but responsible to the ITCR governance and structure.

In addition to the Mission, roles and functions established in the CFP-2012-S1, the ITCR is proposing to define eleven guiding principles for the CTCN. These guiding principles must be approved by the Advisory Board appointed by the COP, and they will help to both prioritize the Party requests, and also define norms about how to address Party requests to meet the main objectives of the UNFCCC.

Given the extensive list of functions and activities defined for the CTCN, it is prudent to begin with experimentation on a limited number of relevant activities and geographic regions, gain experience, and make sure the lessons from early activities are presented to the Advisory Board. After selection and ratification of the ITCR as host of the CTCN, the ITCR will designate a project officer of its own staff that will help to set up the initial conditions of the centre before the Executive Director is hired. The Executive Director (ED) will be appointed before the third month after the designation of the ITCR as CTCN host, and he/she will prepare a general strategic plan for the CTCN according with the technical approach of this proposal and with the assistance of the project officer designated by the ITCR, including a work plan for the corresponding fiscal year, and the recruitment plan of the additional personnel.

According with this proposal the CTCN will focus its work during the first two years in three major areas: renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and water conservation and management. It also proposes that the CTCN headquarters in the ITCR will focus its effort in the Mesoamerican and South American Regions during the first two years, identifying at the same time, regional focal points in Africa and Asia-Pacific Regions to keep track of the needs of the Parties of these regions. The services of the CTCN will be expanded to the Africa and the Asia-Pacific Regions at the end of the second year.