

# Republic of Costa Rica



## **Methodologies for REDD: Lessons from Costa Rica**

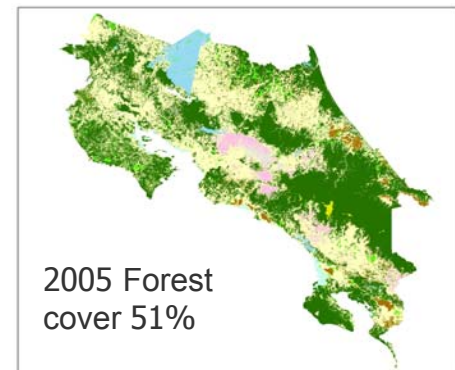
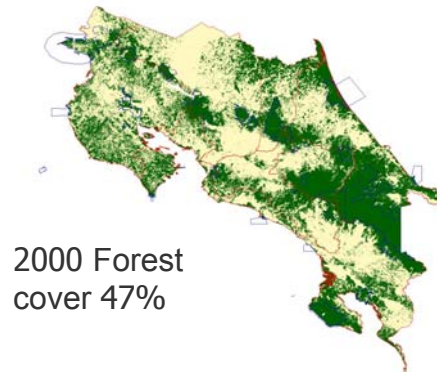
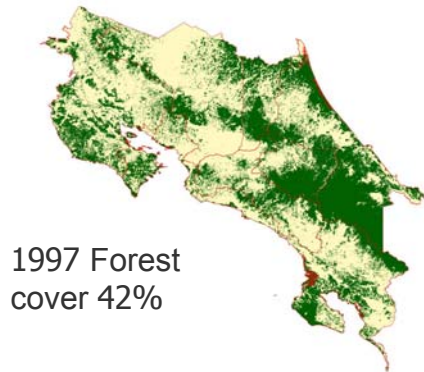
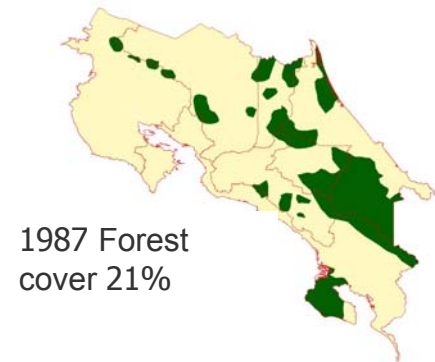
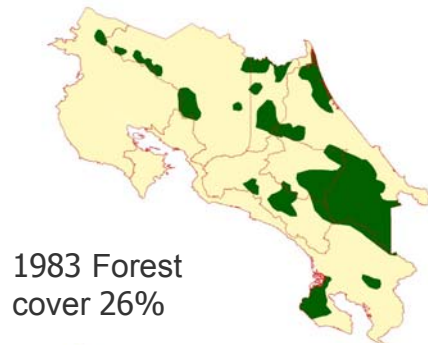
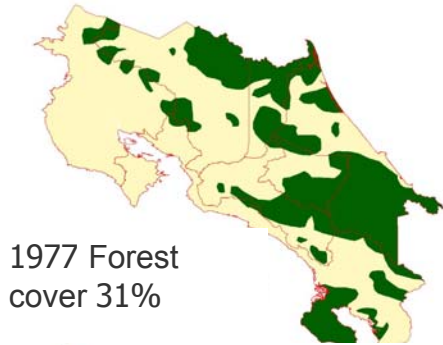
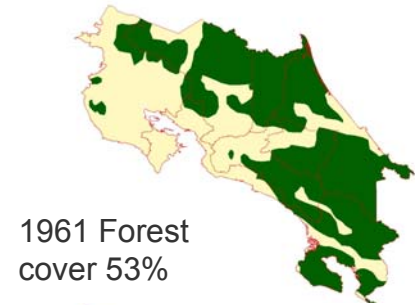
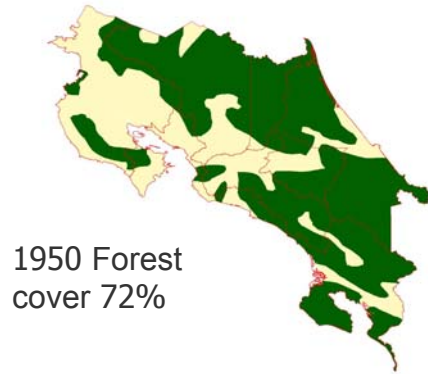
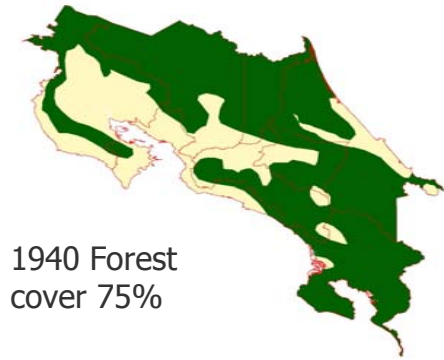
**UNFCCC Workshop on Methodological Issues relating to  
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation  
in Developing Countries**

**25 to 27 June 2008, Tokyo, Japan**

# Content

1. Policy framework for Reducing emissions from deforestation
1. Maintaining forest carbon stocks
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# Forest Cover Loss and Recovery



# **1980's - before Rio de Janeiro 1992**

**Beginning of process to recover forest cover**

**National policies for timber production**

**Strengthening Protected Areas System**

**Decrease of cattle and other primary goods international prices**

**Public policies to promote ecotourism**

# 1994 a milestone

**Forest recognized as a source of environmental goods and services**

**More than a supplier of timber**

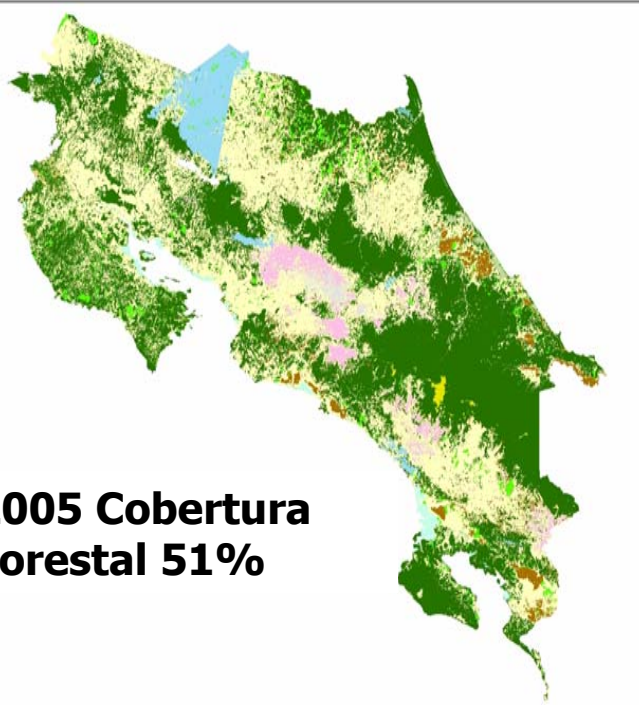
# State Policies at the highest level

- 1. Environment is a common heritage of all inhabitants.**
- 2. Right to a healthy environment for all inhabitants and obligation of the Government to promote its fulfillment are included in the National Constitution.**
- 3. Adoption and implementation of International Conventions such as: Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification among others.**
- 4. Policies beyond forest sector (tourism, energy, wildlife, environment, biodiversity, soil, etc)**
- 5. Financially compensate those who protect forests and implement reforestation and afforestation activities.**
- 6. Creation of more efficient institutional frameworks**

# Policy approach to tackle deforestation

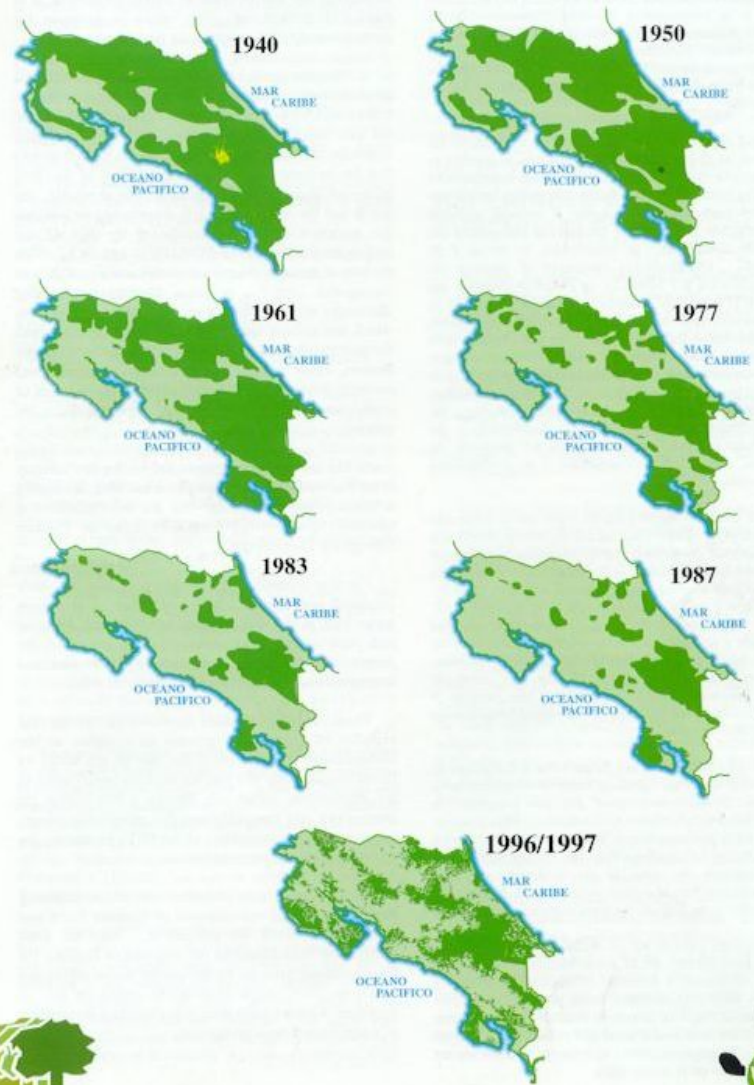
- **Program of Payment for Environmental Services, as a national policy tool to enhance sustainable forest management and forest-cover recovery**
- **Program aiming at contributing to the global efforts to reduce emissions.**
- **Consolidation of a system of protected areas covering 27% of the country (12% of them under the category of National Parks mostly belonging to the State).**
- **Ban on land-use change. It is forbidden to cut down forest to convert into other uses.**
- **Reforestation programs (commercial and noncommercial).**
- **Enhancing ecotourism related industry (Major source of income).**
- **National strategy to combat illegal logging.**
- **All policy actions are based on a national land planning strategy for conservation.**

These strategies have been successful in the recovery of the forest cover



**2005 Cobertura Forestal 51%**

Cobertura Boscosa Densa ( 80-100% de cobertura del suelo) en Costa Rica en los años 1940, 1950, 1961, 1977, 1983, 1987, 1996/1997



Fuente: FONAFIFO





# Maintaining forest carbon stocks

## Facts and challenges

### **Protected Areas System**

- 27% protected areas
- Operational Cost US\$ 9 millions/year

### **Payment for Environmental Services**

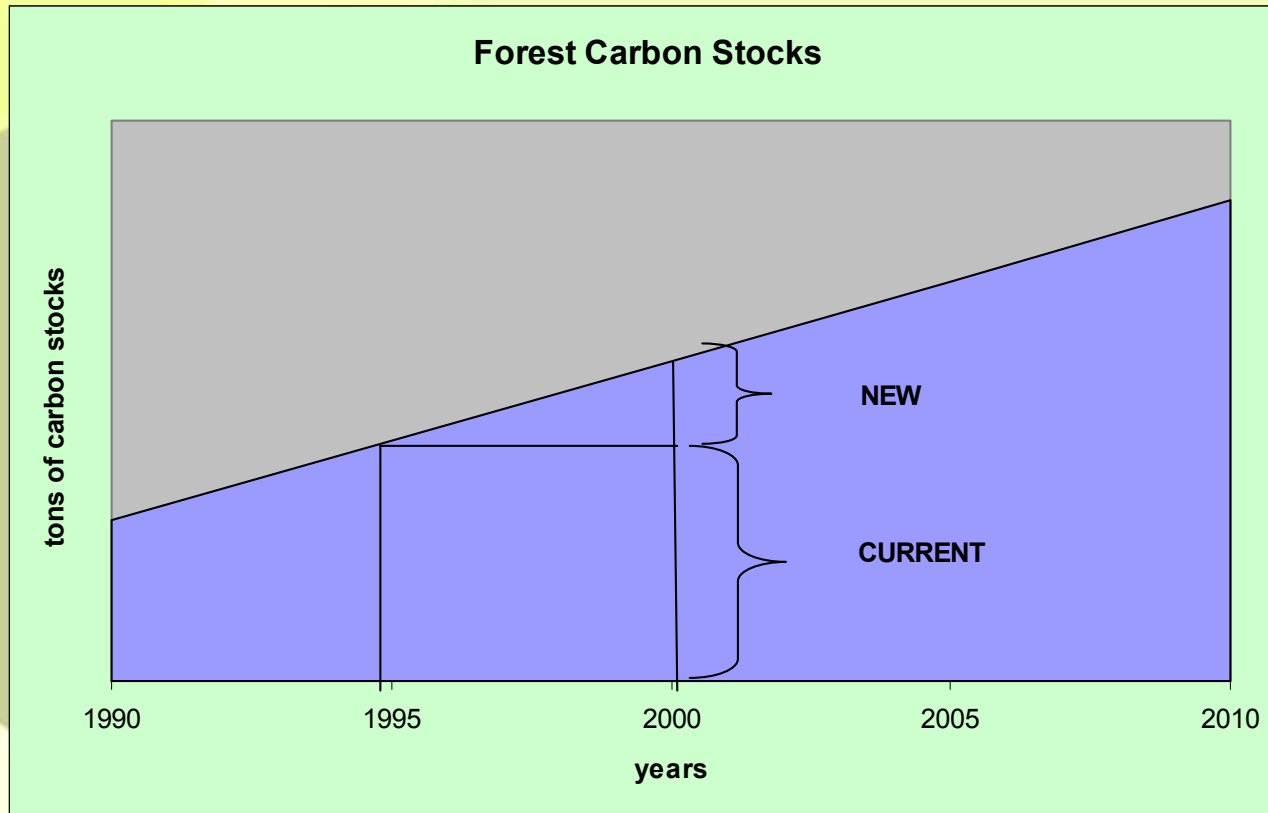
- 300.000 has/year PES (6% of national territory)
- Cost US\$18 millions/year
- Credits from the World Bank and grants from GEF

### **Unsatisfied Demand**

- 900.000 unsatisfied demand (12% of national territory)
- Potential cost of US\$ 45 millions/year at current levels

**Increasing opportunity costs (biofuel, food security, timber demand etc)**

# MAINTENANCE OF FORESTS CARBON STOCKS



# Reference Emission Level

## NATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- National Accounting System
- Based on available and reliable historical data to measure changes in forest cover and carbon stocks.
- Changes in forest cover are currently measured using Landsat images (SPOT, or ASTER)

# Reference Emission Level

## NATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Monitoring is a strong pillar for the program (visits, GIS, regents, cover monitoring, surveys etc.)
- Risks of leakage are strongly reduced by a comprehensive approach (Protected Areas System, clear cutting ban and sustainable forest management

# Reference Emission Level

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FUTURE MECHANISM


- Flexible and adaptative according to national circumstances.
- Baseline must recognize risks and pressures for maintaining carbon stocks
- Methodological procedures to ensure transparency, completeness and consistency of data, should be based on IPCC Guidelines.
- Costs of more accurate data/methodologies should be carefully considered.
- There is still a need to clarify and define specific criteria for measuring forest degradation.

# Lessons learned

- Implementation of REDD programs requires high-level political commitment and nation-wide sustainable development policies.
- This program should be based on a comprehensive approach and fully recognize the overall values of forested lands.
- The national approach must prevail over other sub-national scales although some implementation issues could be addressed at local or regional scales.

# Lessons learned

- A strong institutional and legal framework is required.
- Long term financial sources need to be secured.
- Monitoring and transparency must be an important component of the program.
- Investment priorities should be identified through scientific studies and national strategies.
- An international source of funding is necessary to continue widening the program and to ensure a real contribution to global goals on reducing emissions.
- Financial requirements are for both: maintaining the current level of investments (securing carbon stocks) and include unsatisfied demand



Thank you

Hector Arce

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