A Good Practice of Public Access to Information

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Background.

- Costa Rica's climate policy is guided by two core documents: the National Decarbonization Plan, our national Long-Term Strategy, as mandated by the Paris Agreement; and the National Adaptation Policy
- Both guiding documents consider access to climate information as a key component

Public Access to Information in Costa Rica

In the National Adaptation Policy, the first of three axes is devoted to *Knowledge management about climate impacts, climate services and local capacity building.* In the National Decarbonization Plan has two relevant strategies (out of 8): *Transparency, metric and open data;* and *Education and culture*

- Key development: **SINAMECC**, the National Climate Change Metrics System, has been developed as part of Costa Rica's transparency efforts and to provide easy access to climate-related data to citizens.

Still ongoing:
- The government is committed to the ratification of the **Acuerdo de Escazú** in Congress, pending a constitutional review and consultation with legislative blocs
- The creation of a **National ACE Strategy** by 2021, which will include a more comprehensive approach.
- In the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for adaptation is creating transparents mechanisms to monitor the implementation of adaptation policies on regional and national level

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A key lessons from the creation of our decarbonization and adaptation guiding documents:
- Access to information (and generally Climate Empowerment) must be built-in in "general" climate policy documents

Political buy-in from key decision-makers is crucial.
- In the case of Costa Rica, for instance, our previous Climate Change Director privileged communication and citizen participation in deciding how to use funding supporting NDCs. Our current director followed that trend.

SINAMECC is an open-source platform and our technical leads are already working with several countries in the region on capacity building and coding.

If we manage to complete and implement our National ACE Strategy, more lessons will come!