



## Press release

# Costa Rica includes biodiversity in its development model

**Heredia, May 22, 2020.** Costa Rica is embarking on an ambitious path to consolidate biodiversity as one of the fundamental pillars of its economic and social development model with the launch of Costa Rica + Natura.

The Project, launched this Friday on a virtual platform by the Presidential House as part of the activities of the International Day of Biodiversity, was attended by representatives of the private sector and citizens, international delegates and officials responsible for this issue in Costa Rican institutions.

At the national level, Costa Rica + Natura seeks to strengthen the role of flora and fauna conservation and sustainable management of natural resources as central pillars of the national development agenda. This integration is of utmost importance to consolidate current national biodiversity achievements and to define the country position with ambitious targets for the post 2020 process of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This consolidates our country's global leadership in biodiversity, while shaping the National Policy on Nature-based Solutions, the first of its kind in the world.

At the international level, Costa Rica + Natura is inserted within the post 2020 framework of the CBD and is totally coherent with the High Ambition Coalition. This last initiative, led by Costa Rica and France, seeks an international agreement by 2030 that will encourage 30% of global marine and terrestrial ecosystems to be under some form of conservation.

President Carlos Alvarado launched Costa Rica+ Natura "...whose objective is to identify and develop nature-based solutions as a starting point for strategic planning in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. With this, we seek to ensure that, over the next 30 years, it will be possible to guarantee more sources of employment, better quality of life, more health, water, more nutritious, abundant and accessible food, more renewable energy, more efficient agricultural production, more inclusion, more well-being and more democratization of our natural capital.

Environment Minister Carlos Manuel Rodríguez stressed that the environmental degradation caused by climate change and biodiversity loss also generates exclusion and inequity. "Today's challenges demand global leadership that appeals to the multilateralism of international bodies. The purpose of Costa Rica + Natura is to seek a new international cooperation among the nations



THIS PROJECT  
IS FUNDED BY THE  
EUROPEAN UNION





of the world that will allow us to be effective in prospering within the natural limits of the planet, and at the same time be effective in regenerating hundreds of millions of hectares of degraded ecosystems”.

For her part, Pamela Castillo, Vice-Minister of Environment, stressed that “Costa Rica + Natura will promote the establishment of a national policy of nature-based solutions and will strengthen our position towards the world in the CBD negotiations. “Our ambition is that, by the end of this decade, all efforts in public and private spending, in trade and investment attraction, in talent attraction and academic exchanges, in public policy design and environmental conservation, will have as a goal the search for nature-based solutions”.

Antonia Calvo Puerta, Ambassador of the European Union stressed the importance of joint work in the conservation of biodiversity “We congratulate CR with the launch of the “Costa Rica + Natura” process, which marks CR's ambitious vision in the next 30 years for the sustainable use of biodiversity. We are very pleased to collaborate with CR as a likeminded partner for the full incorporation of biodiversity objectives in various economic sectors. Together we will formulate an ambitious global biodiversity framework at COP15.”

In practice, Costa Rica Más Natura includes processes of consultation and work with partners and representatives of the government, private enterprise, indigenous peoples and civil society sectors, which will culminate in the First National Biodiversity Congress and, then, in a solid national proposal for the definition of the post-2020 framework of the CBD.

*Costa Rica + Natura has the financial backing of [“The Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework – EU support”](#), a project funded by the European Union and implemented by Expertise France.*



THIS PROJECT  
IS FUNDED BY THE  
EUROPEAN UNION

