Costa Rica: National Initiatives and the SEEA

International Conference
“Global Implementation Programme for the SEEA”
New York, 17-19 June 2013
Previous Experience with Environmental Accounts

• “Accounts Overdue: Natural Resource Depreciation in Costa Rica” (Solórzano et al, 1991), World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Tropical Science Center (CCT)

• “Gastos Ambientales en Costa Rica, 1991-1995” (Barrantes, 1997), Tropical Science Center (CCT), National University (UNA), Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR).
GDP and Natural Resources Depreciation (1970-1989)

Source: Solórzano et al (1991)
WAVES and Natural Asset Accounts

• Costa Rica is one of the WAVES partners from the developing world
• The work of WAVES-Costa Rica will be based on the development of two natural capital accounts: i) Water Account; ii) Forest Account
• Contribution to
  – National Plan for Integrated Management of Water Resources
  – REDD+ Strategy and the National Plan for Forest Development
Institutional Structure and Coordination

• Steering Committee (SC) for WAVES-Costa Rica: Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MINAE), the Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR) and the National Statistics Office (INEC)

• Two Technical Committees (TCs): Water Technical Committee (WTC), Forests Technical Committee (FTC)
Water Technical Committee (WTC)
Forests Technical Committee (FTC)
The Role of Central Bank

• Currently with the CAB 2012 project (2012-2015):
  – New base year for National Accounts (“moving base” method)
  – SNA 2008 implementation
  – Wider scope of NA (new supply/use tables, broader activities classification (ISIC 146) with improved data on exports)
  – Input-Output table
  – Social Accounting Matrix (CGE modeling)

• ENV ACCOUNTS must “adapt” to this process
Central Points: Strategy

• Consolidation of national institutional framework
• Data quality: statistical operations, standardization, data base integration within the NSS
• Capacity building: long term production of environmental-economic statistics and ENV ACCOUNTS
• Work with international organizations (best practices and knowledge sharing)
Plans for moving forward

• Work on an *implementation strategy* with Central Bank, MINAET and INEC

• Closer work with FONAFIFO and SINAC (forest inventory, biodiversity and ecosystems services mapping)

• Coordination with FUNDECOR (Water Fund developed with TNA technical support)

• Discussions with AyA authorities: interest on Water Funds for key catchment areas and work integration with FONAFIFO (“broader” PSA incorporating water tariffs)
Thank You