Towards a Climate Change Law for Costa Rica: from discourse to action.

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THE PROBLEM
Two false assumptions:

1. There would always be a cheap and permanent source of hydrocarbons and other non-renewable sources.

2. Ecosystems are capable of absorbing waste and emissions from our production and consumption.
Oil price has increased from **US$70,69** (15-12-2009) to **US$90,43** (22-12-2010) [http://www.oil-price.net/index.php?lang=es].
Impacto Económico del Cambio Climático

• Cost of acting **now**: 1-2% World GDP/year, for stabilizing in 500ppm CO$_2$e.

• Cost of **not acting**: 5 % of World GDP/year, up to 20% in worst case scenarios.

Fuente: Informe Stern. Economics of Climate Change
Climate Change in Central America
Scenarios in Central America

Temperature increase 3.6 - 4.7 °C (year 2100)

- 8% reductions in precipitations, high variability in regions and seasons.
- Sea level increase 0.18 - 0.59 m (migration coastal people)
- Increase in 23% gastrointestinal and breathing diseases for 2015. (MOSTLY AFFECTING THE POOREST).
- 50% of crop lands affected (salinization, desertification, coffee rust).

- Less food + social pressure = CRIMINALITY, MIGRATION

- Very vulnerable region

- 70% of GDP
ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY
25% del país en Áreas Protegidas
52% of Forest Cover
Impacts on Costa Rica

- Water shortage projections (60.5% of the country’s population.)
- Coastal impacts affecting tourism: 15% of GDP.
- High frequency of storms, floods, avalanches.
- Temperature increase will affect 30% of endangered species.
Maximum temperature
Baseline 1961-1992 and 2030 scenario

Changes in 76 % of the country
Will decrease in 23%
Will increase in el 43%
Costa Rica Inventory 2005

- **Total emissions**: 12,3 mill ton CO$_2$

- Agriculture: 53,3%, Transport 36%, Industry 15%, Waste management 13,5%

- Capture CO$_2$: 3,5 mill ton forests, Forest Plantations and SAF

- **Net Emissions**: 8,8 mill ton CO$_2$

Fuente: Proyecto NEED, INCAE-MINAET-IMN 2009
Recent political efforts
GOAL: Costa Rica CO₂ Neutral 2021

• Some CC policies in course:
  - Car restriction and carpooling
  - Soft credits and public transport
  - Urban and interurban trains
  - PES
  - WAVES.
  - GLOBE COSTA RICA.

• Will reduce emissions 7.2 million tons CO₂ by 2021, below 2000 levels.

• Intervention costs in interest areas US$ 7.5 billions (25% GDP 2008).
**Objective:** to establish the operational framework to develop climate change mitigation and adaptation public policies.

- This operational framework regulates planning, execution and control of activities for an integral management of CC adaptation and mitigation in Costa Rica’s territory.
• **National Climate Change Commission** chaired by Environment Minister, with responsibility for:
  
  • Climate Change Plan
  • Capacity building projects for the public, government and private sector.
  • Environmental Budget (taxes)
  • Research
  • Risk Management
  • Vulnerability
Incentives to import cars with clean technologies
The path forward...
We follow the footprint