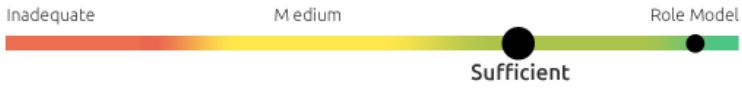
Costa Rica

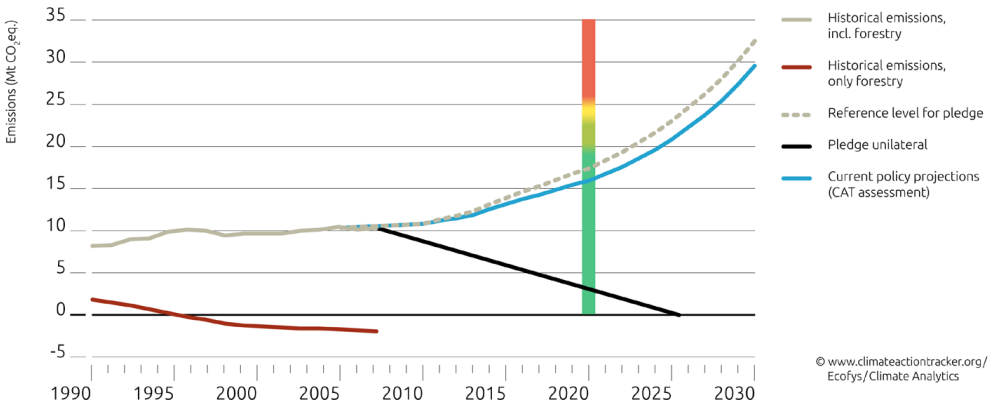
Page last updated: 20th November 2013

Rating



Assessment

Costa Rica has made a commitment to become carbon-neutral by 2021, conditional to external support. With only the policies and measures currently implemented it will not be able to meet its high aspirations. Current trends are projected to achieve reductions below BAU of around 8%, but remain far above zero emissions with steadily increasing emissions up to 31.5 $MtCO_2e$ by 2030.



Pledge description

Costa Rica aims to become carbon-neutral by 2021 but made this target conditional to external support. It intends to reduce its fossil fuel emissions and increase its carbon sinks, so that net emissions are zero. Use of offsets in other countries is not planned. Costa Rica could be rated Role Model if its pledge were unconditional.

Costa Rica communicated to the UNFCCC that it will implement a long-term economy-wide transformational effort to enable carbon neutrality that will help the country to significantly deviate from business as usual GHG emissions projected scenarios from now on up to 2021 and beyond (Republic of Costa Rica, 2010).

Convention	
Copenhagen pledge	Carbon neutral by 2021
Reference for pledge	not needed
Conditions	International financing
Long term goal(s)	not needed

Current trend description

With currently implemented policies and measures, Costa Rica is expected to achieve an emission level of almost 18 $MtCO_2e$ by 2020 and 31.5 $MtCO_2e$ by 2030. This is far removed from their aspirations, although still within the range rated as sufficient based on different effort sharing principles. BAU scenarios project emissions of 19 $MtCO_2e$ in 2020 and 34 $MtCO_2e$ in 2030. Implemented measures thus represent a reduction of 8% below BAU in 2020 and 2030.

Costa Rica has seen a steep increase in GHG emissions since 1990. Until 2009, the last available historic data year, emissions excluding LULUCF doubled from 6 $MtCO_2e$ in 1990 to 12 $MtCO_2e$. Main drivers are the energy sector, especially transport, and agriculture with further substantial emissions from the waste sector. The land use sector moved from being an emissions source with almost 2.5 $MtCO_2e$ in 1990 to being a net sink with -3.5 $MtCO_2e$ in 2009 (MINAET, 2009).

Costa Rica has developed a national climate change strategy (ENCC) in order to achieve a climate neutral economy by 2021 (MINAET, 2009). The ENCC comprises six strategic areas (mitigation, adaptation, measuring, capacity building, awareness raising and public education, funding), with the common objective of aligning policies with climate change as part of a long-term strategy for sustainable development. Only a number of policies have been implemented so far. Only these have been included in the current trend calculations.

Date of pledge: January 2010

Assumptions

Pledge

Historical and reference emissions were taken from Costa Rica's Second National Communication.

Current trend

The current trend projections are based on Costa Rica's National Economic, Environment and Development Study for Climate Change (NEEDS) and its Second National Communication (MINAET, INCAE, FUNDECOR, 2010; MINAET, 2009). Historical data is based on the Emissions Summary submitted to the UNFCCC.

The NEEDS project is an initiative of the Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (MINAET), promoted by the UNFCCC. The project was carried out by the INCAE Business School under a memorandum of understanding between UNFCCC and MINAET. It also benefited from technical support and coordination of the Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Cordillera Volcánica Central (FUNDECOR).

The project quantified a BAU scenario and a wide range of measures, of which only a number have been implemented. We identified the measures that were in fact implemented (MINAET, INCAE, FUNDECOR, 2010) and used the individual mitigation potential identified to estimate the current trend pathway.

Sources

MINAET, INCAE, FUNDECOR (2010). Proyecto NEEDS Opciones de Mitigación de Emisiones de Gases de Efecto Invernadero en Costa Rica: Hacia el Carbono Neutralidad en 2021. Ministerio de Ambiente, Energía y Telecomunicaciones de Costa Rica; INCAE Business School; Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Cordillera Volcánica Central.

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Republic of Costa Rica (2010).Costa Rica's pledge to the Copenhagen Accord. Compiled in: Compilation of information on nationally appropriate mitigation actions to be implemented by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, UNFCCC (2011)

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