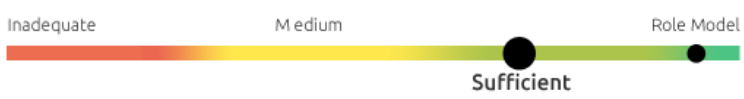
# CLIMATE ACTION TRACKER

## Costa Rica

History: 2017 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2011

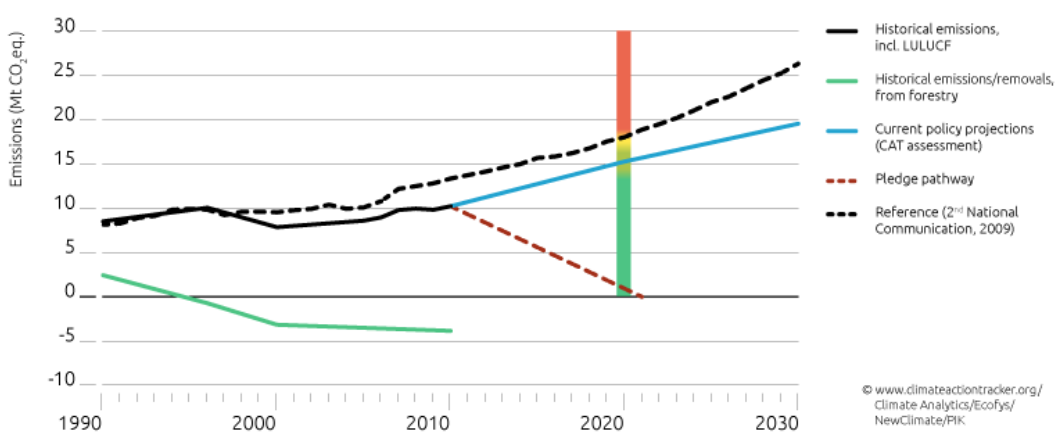
Page last updated: 6th December 2014

### Rating




### Assessment

Costa Rica has made a commitment to become carbon-neutral by 2021, conditional on getting external support. In the absence of additional policies, Costa Rica will not be able to meet its high aspirations. In fact, under current policy projections GHG emissions are projected to double by 2030. However, currently policy projections are significantly lower compared to projections from Costa Rica's Second National Communication (2009).




## Pledge

Costa Rica aims to become carbon-neutral by 2021, but made this target conditional on external support. It intends to reduce its fossil fuel emissions and increase its carbon sinks, to reach net zero total emissions. Use of offsets in other countries is not planned. We would rate Costa Rica a 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 projections from now until 2021 and beyond (Republic of Costa Rica, 2010).

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

## Current policy projections

With currently implemented policies, Costa Rica is expected to achieve an emissions level of 15 $MtCO_2e$ by 2020 and 20 $MtCO_2e$ by 2030, including LULUCF. This is far removed from their aspirations and a steep increase compared to historic emissions, although still within the range rated as sufficient for a 2?C pathway based on different effort sharing principles. The business-as-usual scenario presented in Costa Rica's second national communication (MINEAT, 2009a) and shown as a reference in the figure, projects an increase in GHG emissions up to 18 $MtCO_2e$ in 2020 and 26 $MtCO_2e$ in 2030, as shown in the figure. Implemented measures thus represent a reduction of 15% in 2020 and 26% in 2030 below this reference. Due to differences in the LULUCF emissions, the reference scenario deviates from the historic emissions from the UNFCCC inventory. Emissions from other sources are in line with the historic emissions reported by UNFCCC.

In Costa Rica total emissions including LULUCF, have remained fairly stable between 1990 and 2010 at 8 to 10 $MtCO_2e$. However, Costa Rica has seen a steep increase in GHG emissions excluding LULUCF since 1990. Until 2010, the last available historic data year, emissions excluding LULUCF more than doubled from 6 $MtCO_2e$ in 1990 to 14 $MtCO_2e$ in 2010.

The main drivers are the energy sector, especially transport, and agriculture, with further substantial emissions from the waste sector. Under the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme, the land use sector moved from being an emissions source of 2.4 $MtCO_2e$ in 1990 to being a net sink with -3.9 $MtCO_2e$ in 2010. Due to this increasing sink, the total emissions including LULUCF, have remained quite stable. Under PES scheme, introduced in 1996, landowners can receive financial compensation for the environmental services provided by forests and forest plantations. The PES program is mainly funded through public fund from a fossil fuel tax (MINAET, INCAE, FUNDECOR, 2010).

Costa Rica has developed a national climate change strategy (ENCC) in order to achieve a carbon neutral economy by 2021 (MINAET, 2009b). 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. Recent legislation in the energy sector includes the creation of a voluntary carbon market and the 2013 Biofuels Law.

In 2011, a NAMA[1] (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action) support project was implemented in the Costa Rican coffee sector, aiming at the implementation of low-carbon technologies in the coffee production and processing sector, including the use of smart fertilizers and energy saving technologies in coffee processing (NAMA Database, 2014).

**Date of pledge:** January 2010

## Assumptions

**Pledge**

Historical emissions for the years 1990, 1996, 2000 and 2005 were taken from the latest UNFCCC inventory (UNFCCC, 2014). We interpolated for the years in between. The historic dataset was extended to 2010 using growth rates for $CO_2$ from fuel combustion from IEA (2013), growth rates for other $CO_2$ emissions from JRC/PBL (2012) and growth rates for non-$CO_2$ emissions from USEPA (2012).

Reference emissions were taken from Costa Rica's Second National Communication (MINAET, 2009a). Note that the pledge is not related to the reference scenario shown here.

**Current policy projections**

The current trend projections are based on the 'escenario tendencial' from CEPAL (2011), harmonised to the historic data. No additional measures to this scenario have been quantified. Projections for LULUCF emissions 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), harmonised to match the historic data.

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[1] Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) are voluntary measures undertaken by developing countries to contribute to greenhouse gas emission mitigation. The concept was introduced in 2007 at the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Bali, Indonesia.




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