COSTA RICA ACTION PLAN
GLASGOW DECLARATION

INTRODUCTION

Costa Rica views decarbonization and resilience as means to transform its development model to one based on social inclusion, citizen well-being, the circular economy, the bioeconomy, the creative and cultural economy, and green growth (NDC, 2020). In line with this, most of the mechanisms that respond to the country's commitment to contribute to global conservation and sustainable development goals are directly and indirectly related to the tourism sector.

As indicated in Costa Rica's National Development Plan, the various climate threats lead to the need to strengthen the country's environmental strategy. Therefore, it is essential to adopt measures for environmental recovery, starting with addressing issues such as: energy sources, reducing the use of fossil fuels, improving infrastructure and urban planning, and promoting circular economy environmental strategies.

Our country is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. It has also developed a legal and institutional framework for climate action that includes instruments such as the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the National Decarbonization Plan, the National Adaptation Plan and Policy, among others.

We have focused on promoting green and inclusive development through local action, strengthening conservation programs, and expanding the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) Program to include ecosystem-based adaptation.

In addition, our Costa Rica National Tourism Plan 2022-2027 establishes the path forward based on a tourism development model founded on three pillars: innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity, which work toward the well-being of people, improving the quality of life, and the development of our communities.

At the Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT), we are committed to environmentally sustainable development, the decarbonization of the economy, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and conserving the biodiversity that underpins our tourism model.

For this reason, the ICT is proud to be a signatory to the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism, committed to implementing a Climate Action Plan aligned with policies and plans, emissions measurement, decarbonization, regeneration, and collaboration, as well as to continually updating our strategies, implementing practices that align with global goals toward net zero, and promoting this initiative of great importance to the sector and the planet.

We urge you to continue this collaborative path by contributing to adaptation, emissions reduction, and regeneration, thus helping to continue building a more climate-resilient tourism sector that protects businesses, communities, destinations, regions, and ecosystems for the future.

PRESENTATION

Climate change is a threat to human well-being and the health of the planet. Human activities, primarily through greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, have unequivocally caused global warming, and with each increase in warming, regional shifts in average and extreme climates become more widespread and pronounced (IPCC, 2023). Furthermore, “the tourism sector is highly vulnerable to climate change and, at the same time, contributes to GHG emissions.

Accelerating climate action in tourism is therefore extremely important to ensure the sector's resilience. Climate action refers to efforts to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen adaptive capacity to climate-induced impacts.” (UN Tourism)

The Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism unites the travel and tourism sector around a common set of pathways for climate action, aligning the sector with global commitments and catalyzing collaborative solutions to the numerous challenges facing businesses and destinations worldwide.

Since 2021, it has operated as a participatory initiative where signatories exchange knowledge and support each other in implementing their voluntary commitments. In November 2023, the Glasgow Declaration was recognized as a Global Climate Action Initiative by the UNFCCC; in November 2024, for the first time, tourism was officially included in the UN COP29 Climate Change Action Agenda, with the collective efforts of the Glasgow Declaration signatories being fundamental to this achievement.

Furthermore, as a result of the inclusion of tourism in the COP29 Action Agenda, the framework for climate action in tourism was further strengthened, with the launch of the COP29 Declaration on Enhanced Climate Action in Tourism (endorsed by 62 governments), thus consolidating an unprecedented high-level political commitment to promote climate action in tourism.

This Action Plan summarizes the actions established in line with the Glasgow Declaration and aims to strengthen partnerships with various stakeholders to ensure its effective implementation.

OBJECTIVE: Promote and support integration and alignment of tourism and climate action strategies in national policies and plans

ACTIONS

KEY AREAS **POLICY AND PLANS**

ACTIONS	DATES	INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLES	STAKEHOLDERS
• Active participation in the developing process of national public policies integrating climate actions into tourism.	2025-2030	Narional Determined Contribution National Adaptation Policy National Descarbonization Plan Sustainable Consumption and Production Policy National Tourism Plan	Costa Rica Tourism Board Ministers Office Department of Sustainable Tourism	*Directorate of Climate Change (DCC/MINAE) *Directorate of Environmental Quality Management (DIGECA/MINAE)
• Follow participatory processes when developing tourism plans adressing climate action with local communities and visitors to leverage their feedback and knowledge.	2024-2030	Integrated destination Management Plans Including climate acton strategies	Costa Rica Tourism Board Tourist Planning and Development Direction	
• Incorporate an specific goal and actions to decarbonize tourism into the new national tourism plan (2026-2030),	2026-2030	Implemented National Tourism Plan	ICT	Communities, local organizations, touristic companies
• Maintain the Carbon Neutral recognition of the Costa Rica Tourism Board.	2024-2030	Annual Certification Base on the verified GHE management system Blue Flag Climate Change Recognition	Costa Rica Tourism Board Department of Sustainable Tourism	*Directorate of Climate Change (DCC/MINAE)

OBJECTIVE: Contribute to the formation on climate action

ACTIONS

KEY AREAS	ACTIONS	DATES	INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLES	STAKEHOLDERS
EDUCATE	• Increase awareness and communication among tourists and visitors on environmental impacts of the sector to help individuals choose sustainable, low-impact travel options and tourism activities.	2024-2030	Amount of publications made in different platforms (articles)	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Strategic Touristic Direction - Marketing Direction	*Department of Sustainable Tourism
			Number of specialized talks per year for the companies with CST	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism *Futurismo	Communities, local organizations, touristic companies
	• Provide tourism stakeholders with access to tools and resources required to upskill and address knowledge gaps	2024-2030	Number of climate change courses in the Climate Classroom promoted to the sector		Professionals in the areas that we address)
			Number of users in Futurismo platform		

OBJECTIVE: Encourage, enable, and support all businesses and destinations to measure and disclose emissions

ACTIONS

KEY AREAS — MEASURE	DATES	INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLES	STAKEHOLDERS
• Encourage to measure the overall greenhouse gas emissions footprint throught the CST program	2026-2030	GHG internal emissions calculated and shared, as well as the footprint measured by the certified tourism companies	Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism	CST Companies
• Promote the Carbon Offset Calculator among tourism companies and tourists, launched in conjunction with the National Forestry Financing Fund (Fonafifo).	2024-2030	Calculator promoted among the tourism companies and tourists	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism- Marketing Direction	FONAFIFO
• Report data of certified companies green house gas emissions, contributing to measure the impact and progress of the CST program.	2026-2030	Emissions data of certified companies, impact and progress analized	Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism	CST Companies

OBJECTIVE: Promote collaboration between the different actors related to climate action

ACTIONS

KEY AREAS: COLLABORATE

	DATES	INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLES	STAKEHOLDERS
• Collaborate with organizations to generate awareness about innovative business models to promote circularity in the tourism value chain	2024-2030	Number of activities coordinated per year (minimum 2)	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism	Costa Rican University (UCR) School of Economics
• Identify alliances to place financial mechanisms to encourage implementation of circular business models, adoption of energy efficient technologies, electric vehicles, and improved waste management infrastructure and technology, among others.	2025	Active alliances to promote financial mechanisms to implement adaptation and mitigation actions in the tourism sector	Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism	*SBD - CLIMATE RESILIENT TOURISM FINANCING SUBPROGRAM*BAC
• Collaborate and foster interdisciplinary, multi-level partnerships to address knowledge on climate risks management impacts and actions for adaptation and mitigation.	2024-2025	A tool (Futurismo) that focuses on adaptation and mitigation created with GIZ and other stakeholders to promote it in the tourism sector	*Futurismo team: ensurance sector, GIZ, ICT, SUGESE	GRMA DCC
• Facilitate, through promotional actions the offsetting greenhouse gas emissions from air flights and land travel, contributing to the recovery of forest coverage.	2020-2030	Specific cooperation agreement with the National Forest Financing Fund for the recovery of forest cover through the payment for Environmetnal Services Mechanism	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Marketing Direction- Department of Sustainable Tourism	FONAFIFO

OBJECTIVE: Build resilience to climate impacts through focused adaptation measures.

ACTIONS

KEY AREAS: ADAPTATION

ACTIONS	DATES	INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLES	STAKEHOLDERS
• Promote diversified tourist attractions and products as alternatives to increase dispersion of tourists across the country and reduce the impact in vulnerable destinations and attractions.	2024-2027	Product index, balance sheet index and new development centers.Advertising of non-traditional attractions	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Strategic Touristic Direction - Marketing Direction	
• Promote climate resilience and protection of ecosystems in the tourism sector by using sustainable building design for all new constructions and refurbishments	2024-2030	1. Stablished criteria in the Certification for Sustainable Tourism2. Amount of new hotels using sustainable building designs	Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism- Department of Connectivity and Investment Attraction	
• Encourage adaptation measures to ensure business continuity in cooperation with relevant stakeholders (e.g. related to physical climate risks) throught sustainability programs	2026-2030	Tool promoted to all the certified tourism companies so they apply adaptation actions to protect tourism destinations from climate hazards	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism- Tourism Development Department. *Futurismo team	Costa Rica Tourism Board Marketing department, local stakeholders
• Assess and identify business climate risks and map out the avoided losses, economic benefits, and social and environmental benefits of adaptation measures taken in areas prone to high climate change impacts (within own operations and along the value chain)	2020-2030	Analysis of the data based on the implemented tool (futurismo)	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism *Futurismo team	GIZ, GRMA
• Advocate for and introduce risk reduction and risk transfer mechanisms for climate-induced disasters affecting tourism. Such as: a) Strengthen early warning systems and capacity building in most vulnerable tourism destinations b) Encourage coastal rehabilitation and protection measures in critical areasc) Ensure the coastal tourism zone planning covering all vulnerable coastal areas in cooperation with affected stakeholders and local governments.	2026	a. Early warning systems implementedb. Rehabilitation and protection measures and programs in coastal areas implemented.c. Developed planification of coastal areas taking into account vulnerabilities and cooperating with affected stakeholders	a. National Emergency Commission, National Meteorological Institute and ICT. Regional Centers. b and c. Public Infraestructure Unit, Conectivity and Investmenta Attraction Unit, Regional Centers and Tourism Planning Department.	FuturismoZMTLocal governments

OBJECTIVE: Accelerate decarbonization through mitigation and compensation measures

ACTIONS

KEY AREAS: DESCARBONIZE

ACTIONS	DATES	INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLES	STAKEHOLDERS
• Promote sustainable local procurement model supporting sustainable agropecuary farmers and encouraging demand for these products.	2024-2030	Amount of tourist companies and agricultural producers that are part of Tu-MoDeLo	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) – Department of Sustainable Tourism -Tourism Development Department -Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) -Fundecooperación	Local comittees and organizations
• Support sustainable transport and acommodation infrastructure to encourage greener travel choices (e.g. public EV charging points, cycle lanes, pedestrianised city centres, sustainable construction, etc.)	2024-2030	Encouraged actions to mitigate the generation of GHG and damage to the environment	-Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism - Department of Tourism Management and Business Registration	Rutas electricas CR, Asomove, other iniciatves
• Promote reduction of energy and water consumption and the improvement of its efficiency.	2024-2030	Standard CST promoted in the tourism sector.Analysis of the data based on the information that cetified companies generate.	Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism	Stakeholders stablished in the plan
• Tackle plastic pollution through a circular approach based on the Action Plan for Plastics in Tourism.	2024-2030	Plan for Plastics in Tourism implemented		
• Ensure a special carbon credits rate to encourage compensation of tourist companies through Fonafifo agreement.	2024	Special compensation rate established for the certified tourism companies	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism	FONAFIFO

OBJECTIVE: Ensure the implementation of regenerative measures in the tourism that actively contribute to climate emergency mitigation

ACTIONS

KEY AREAS REGENERATE

ACTIONS	DATES	INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLES	STAKEHOLDERS
• Promote the implementation and scaling up of nature-based solutions which sustainably manage, protect and restore ecosystems.	2024-2030	Stantard CST encourages nature based solutions, ecosystem-based adaptation methods and other adaptation actions	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism	Organizations that are involved in the examples listed
• Contribute to the recovery and protection of the country's forest cover to achieve the goal of 60%	2024-2030	Number of hectares of forest recovered through revenue generated from the sale of carbon credits by the tourism sector. Number of trees planted on farms with low social development	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Marketing Direction - Department of Sustainable Tourism	Private Sector FONAFIFO ICT

OBJECTIVE: Attempt to ensure resources and capacity to meet objectives to implement the climate plan

ACTIONS

KEY AREAS: FINANCE

ACTIONS	DATES	INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLES	STAKEHOLDERS
• Promote access to financial mechanisms to encourage green investments among tourist companies.	2026-2030	Amount of placed bank credits Amount of benefited companies	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism	SBD - CLIMATE RESILIENT TOURISM FINANCING SUBPROGRAM *BAC *BAC Fiscal incentives, finance mecanisms
• Contribute to public policy tools designed to guide and regulate the flow of capital toward economic activities aligned with sustainable objectives.	2024	Taxonomía finanzas sostenibles.	*MINAE, the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR) and the superintendencies, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative	Public sector, private sector, NGOs and academia
• Advocate climate inclusive insurance schemes for risk management in tourism.	2026-2030	Insurance schemes created with specialists based on results of the tool	*Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) - Department of Sustainable Tourism *Futurismo team	Insurance sector