

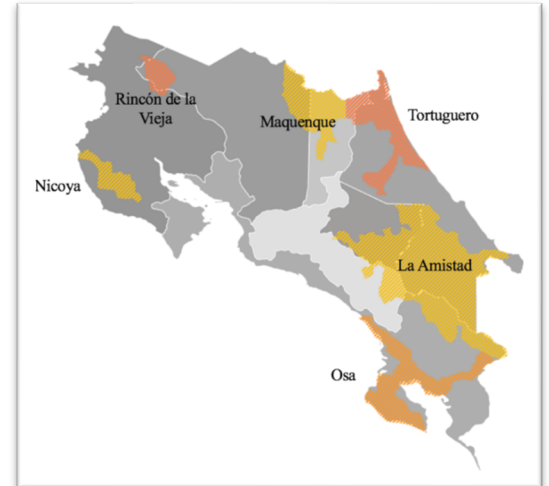
I Debt-for-Nature Swap United States – Costa Rica

About the Debt-for-Nature Swap U.S. – C.R.

The Governments of the United States of America and Costa Rica, the Central Bank of Costa Rica, Conservation International (CI) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), concluded agreements to reduce Costa Rica's debt payments to the United States by \$26 million over a period of 16 years beginning in 2007. The debt for nature program was made possible through contributions of over \$12.6 million by the U.S. Government and a combined donation of over \$2.5 million from CI and TNC, based on the provisions of the U.S. Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA). In return, the Central Bank of Costa Rica has committed to pay the \$26 million to support grants to non-governmental organizations and other groups to protect and restore the country's important tropical forest resources.

Forever Costa Rica has been the administrator of the I Debt for Nature Swap since 2017.

Prioritized Geographies: The funds support the conservation of six important tropical forest areas in Costa Rica that are exceptional for their tropical forest ecology and biodiversity, as well as for the benefits that their natural resources provide to the communities that inhabit the areas. The six tropical forest areas eligible for grants are: Osa, La Amistad, Tortuguero, Maquenque, Rincón de la Vieja and Nicoya (see map).



I Debt-for-Nature Swap Prioritized Areas

Thematic priorities: The Fund mainly promotes ecological connectivity by strengthening and consolidating existing forest biological corridors, developing, and supporting livelihoods consistent with the conservation of forests, and through land purchases when appropriate.

Initial year: 2007

Amount: \$26 million (USD)

Objective: The main objective of the I U.S.-CR Debt-for-Nature Swap (ICD) is to facilitate the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of Costa Rica's tropical forests outside protected areas.

Oversight Committee:



Some achievements to date:

- Over **95 projects** have been financed in **13 calls for proposals** with an investment of **\$8.5 million USD**.
- **90 rural tourism ventures** have been supported.
- **15 forest brigades** have been created to prevent and combat forest fires.
- **Over 200 thousand trees** have been planted for forest connectivity between productive landscapes.
- Two donations of **land acquisitions** were completed with an investment of \$2 million USD.
- **15 Biological Corridors strengthened** on technical, financial, and administrative aspects.
- More than **200 rural communities involved** in projects.
- More than **300 small-scale farmers have received training** in topics such as best practices in agriculture, agroforestry systems, green business, and environmental education.