



I Canje de Deuda por Naturaleza EE. UU. – C.R.

# I DEBT-FOR-NATURE SWAP UNITED STATES – COSTA RICA

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).

**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.

**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:



I Debt-for-Nature Swap Prioritized Areas

## 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.

Initial year:

2007

Amount:

\$26 million (USD)