

World Future Council

Future Policy Award

Celebrating the World's Best Biodiversity Policies

Side Event at ICNP-1, Montreal, 9 June 2011



Future Policy Award 2010 on Biodiversity



9 June 2011

Future Policy Award Ceremony



9 June 2011

Seven Principles for Future Just Lawmaking



Seven Principles for Future Just Policy Making



Costa Rica's Biodiversity Law wins Future Policy Award 2010



Costa Rica: Biodiversity Law 1998

- **Objectives:**

the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources as well as the equitable distribution of the benefits and derived costs of the use of its elements.

A participatory process engaging political parties, academic, and private sector experts, environmental organisations, indigenous and peasant sectors

- **Key features:**

- Develops the main International Environmental Law Principles, such as the precautionary principles
- Creates the CONAGEBIO (Biodiversity Management National Commission), with the participation of the indigenous, peasant, academic, government and private sectors.

Biodiversity Law 1998 of Costa Rica

- Gives legal back up to the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), and conceptualizes a participatory system through the creation of regional and local councils in each conservation area, integrated by five elected members of different sectors from that geographical area.
- Creative finance: Expands the program of environmental services to include payments for environmental services for biodiversity conservation, watershed protection and provision for scenic beauty for ecotourism
- Establishes regulations regarding the access to genetic resources and incorporates principles such as cultural denial.

Impacts:

- As of 2010, Costa Rica ranks third in the global Environmental Performance Index and is number one in the Happy Planet Index 2009.
- **Protected areas:** The amount of protected area has risen to approximately 25% of its total territory.
- **Payments for Environmental Services:**
 - Widely considered to be one of the world leaders in terms of its PES Program.
 - Costa Rica is the first developing country to have halted and reversed deforestation.. The whole PSA Programme is estimated to have avoided the emission of 11 million tonnes of carbon in 1999–2005.
- **Access and Benefit Sharing:** Income contributed by the biodiversity prospecting program reaches several million US. Dollars overall and makes important contributions to technology, capacity training, the National System of Conservation Areas, and more importantly, to the creation of national capacities and negotiation capacities.

Exemplary Policy:

Japan: Basis Act on Biodiversity – 2008

- **Objectives:** Promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, realize a society in harmony with nature, clarify responsibilities of business, citizens and private bodies in addition to nation and local governments.
- **Key features:**
 - Each governmental body is expected to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
 - Stipulates national and regional biodiversity strategy.
 - Report each year what has been implemented (Annual Report on State of Biodiversity).
 - Promotion of Environmental Impact Assessment in relation to biodiversity
 - Promotion of biodiversity friendly business activities
 - Prevention of damages from alien species,
 - Prevention of global warming
 - Diversity of wildlife species,
 - Promotion of science and technology, surveys,
 - International coordination and cooperation.

Impacts:



- Development and approval by the cabinet of very ambitious Biodiversity Strategy 2010 with a long term perspective (100 years) and mid and short term targets (2020 and 2050) as well as priority issues to be tackled by around 2010.
- 10 out of 47 local governments have already formulated their regional biodiversity strategies stipulated in Article 13. Five others are currently formulating strategy.
- More companies take into consideration biodiversity aspects.
- Basic act prevails over other laws. Two specific laws have been revised: natural parks law and the national environmental conservation act, both revised in 2009 in order to enhance measure to enhance biodiversity.
- The biodiversity strategy states that currently Green Master Plans are formulated in about seven hundred municipal governments in the country covering eighty percent of the Japanese population.
- Natural parks cover 14.3% of the national land.

Exemplary Policy

Norway's Nature Diversity Act 2010

Objectives: To protect biological, geological and landscape diversity and ecological processes through conservation and sustainable use addressing all sectors of society

Key features:

- Applies to all sectors: fisheries, forestry, oil activity, road construction
- Application of precautionary principle, user pays principle and ecosystems approach: assessed on the basis of the cumulative environmental effects on the ecosystem, now or in the future
- Designation of selected habitat types, priority species and their natural areas
- Protected areas
- Invasive alien species
- Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing
- Decisions shall be based on scientific knowledge

Impacts:

- Any decision affecting biodiversity needs to be guided by management objectives for habitat types and ecosystems and/or the management objectives of the species.
- The Country Governor has power to object to planning projects
- Various projects stopped due to new act
- Funding (2.6 mill Euro) for protection of species and habitats and ecosystems and country wide training programme of most important aspects of act for municipalities and others
- 15.7% is protected areas.