

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

As a unitary country, the Republic of Costa Rica is divided into provinces, municipalities and administrative districts, among which only the 82 municipalities are self-governed.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Costa Rica defined three entry points for the implementation of the SDGs: Combating Poverty, Sustainable Production and Consumption, and Sustainable Infrastructure and Communities. They were integrated into the national goals and objectives of the strategic areas of the **National Development and Public Investment Plan 2019-2022 (PNDIP)**, led by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Coordination is ensured by the **Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy**, which created the **Technical Secretariat for the SDGs**. In 2016, a **National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs** including all levels of government, private sector and civil society was signed. Based on the Pact, a **High-Level Council** was created. It is chaired by the President and brings together different ministries, as well as a **Consultative Committee**.

However, the answer of the National Union of Local Governments (UNGL) to the GTF survey in 2021 underlined that the Consultative Committee and the High Level Council were not active in the last year.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Technical Secretariat for the SDGs** was the entity in charge of coordinating the information gathering process for the 2020 VNR. In a multisectoral and multiactor implementation effort, a series of consultations were carried out with the signatory actors of the National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs represented in the **Consultative Committee**. The Technical Secretariat also carried out a process for providing the VNR for review in a draft version with key stakeholders.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Institutional Technical Commission of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC)** was created in 2018 to monitor SDG indicators. There is also an **inter-institutional group** for statistical monitoring of the SDGs made up of the INEC, the United Nations and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy. The evaluation of the SDGs is carried out through the National Evaluation Agenda included in the PNDIP 2019-2022. The 2020 VNR highlights that the strengthening of national statistical capacities have allowed the country to have national indicators for all 17 SDGs and disaggregations by sex, territory, activity status, age and disability status. In 2018, the **Survey for the Advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals** aimed at the different signatories of the National Pact, was launched to collect information on the progress made and identify good practices and challenges.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15846Costa_Rica.pdf (2017); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26323VNR_2020_CostaRica_Report_Spanish.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

88% of the country's municipalities confirm to know the SDGs. 15 municipalities stand out as having an explicit commitment from their authorities in favor of the implementation of the SDGs. 44% of the municipalities have aligned some instrument of planning with the 2030 Agenda. Besides, local governments **participate in the Consultative Committee and in working groups of the High-Level Council through their associations: the National Union of Local Governments (UNGL) and the National Association of Mayors' Offices and Municipalities (ANAI).**

The UNGL was involved in the 2020 VNR through a survey, and regularly participated (as an equal partner) in its development. It also brought its own contribution to it.³ The VNR also takes into account the VSR presented in 2020.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

In the 2020 VNR, as part of the presentation of the multiple stakeholders taking part in the National Pact, there is a subsection on local governments, based on the results of the VSR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Given that its territory has important natural resources, especially water and forestry, the municipality of **San Rafael** in the province of Heredia chose the environmental axis of sustainable development as an entry point to achieve development and has 4 institutional policies in favor of the environment. San Rafael was also the first municipality in Costa Rica to sign the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCom), with the municipality of San José. San Rafael is also a member of the Board of Directors of ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) in its Secretariat for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

In 2020, the **UNGL** coordinated the development of a VSR.⁴ A municipal mapping was carried out with 50 Costa Rican cantons, within the framework of their efforts to strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The report also offers a tour of the political framework and institutional context of the municipalities in Costa Rica, as well as an identification at the national level of the efforts made by each municipality. **Atenas, Belén, Escazú, Goicoechea, Puriscal, and Sarchi** have published VLRs in 2022.⁵

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2020 VNR mentions the National Public Investment System in Costa Rica and the Trust Fund for the SDGs, which approved two programs proposed by Costa Rica: one to break the cycle of poverty at the local level with a gender and environmental perspective, and the other to strengthen financing for the SDGs.

3. UCLG, 2020, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Informe%20HLPF-FINAL.pdf>

4. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/vsr_costa_rica_2020.pdf

5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/atenas_costa_rica_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/belen_costa_rica_2022.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/escazu_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/goicoechea_2022.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/puriscal_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/sarchi_2022.pdf

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Among the recommendations of the multi-actor survey conducted in 2018 and aimed at the actors that are part of the National Pact, it is recommended to dedicate more efforts to strengthen the scope of actions beyond the Greater Metropolitan Area and have a focus on communication towards the populations most vulnerable, taking into account **communities and local development** as a fundamental basis for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Some of the national public policies to leave no one behind are aimed directly at women. To carry them out, the National Women's Institute (INAMU) works in collaboration with the entire state apparatus, United Nations agencies and academia, but also with local governments. The participation of women in local political life is briefly mentioned in the VNR: from 12 women elected mayors in previous elections, their number dropped to 9 (out of 82 municipalities) in the 2020 elections.

3.2 COVID 19

The COVID-19 pandemic has led Costa Rica to rethink the goals of its 2020 VNR, with the aim of making it an opportunity to support the process to recover from the impact of the health crisis. The challenges faced by the national government and the measures taken are detailed in the report, but there is no mention of initiatives from local governments.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		45.5 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	80 (2020)
	Rural	81 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	29 (2020)
	Rural	37 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		3.9 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		73 (2002, San Jose)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		18.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

6. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/cr>