

COSTA RICA AND UNESCO KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

I. COUNTRY PROFILE

Political system

- The country is a Presidential Republic. The President is both Head of State and Head of Government; Cabinet appointed by the President;
- President of the Republic: Mr Carlos Andrés ALVARADO QUESADA (since 8 May 2018);
- Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr Rodolfo SOLANA QUIRÓS (since 3 February 2020);
- Elections: The President directly elected on the same ballot by modified majority popular vote (40% threshold) for a 4-year term (eligible for non-consecutive terms); election last held on 4 February 2018 with a runoff on 1 April 2018; Next election to be held in February 2022.

Statistical figures (source: UNDP Human Development Report 2020)

- Total population (million): 5.5
- Human Development Index: 0.810 / 62e rank
- Life expectancy at birth (years): 80.3
- Gross national income (GNI) per capita (2017 PPP\$): 18,486
- Internet users (% of population): 74.1%
- Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (tones): 1.6

Education (source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics)

- Expected years of schooling (years): 15.4
- Compulsory education (years): 13 (from age 4 to 16)
- Net enrolment ratio in primary education (%): 99.3%
- Government expenditure on education (% of GDP in 2019): 7.1%

II. COOPERATION WITH UNESCO

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** 19 May 1950

2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** No (Last mandate 1994-1997)

3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions:** None

4. **DG's visits to the country:** None

5. **Former Director-General's visits to the country:** 1 in 2013

6. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**

- Ambassador Sonia Marta MORA ESCALANTE, which is also the bilateral Ambassador of Costa Rica to France (since September 2018)
- Mr Olger Adonai Arias Sánchez, Deputy Permanent Delegate

7. **UNESCO Office:**

- Yes (since 1981)
- Cluster Office headed by Ms Esther Kuisch Laroche (Netherlands) since October 2018

8. Costa Rica National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (Comisión Costarricense de Cooperación con la UNESCO)

- Establishment: 1959
- President/Chairperson (since May 2018): Ms Guiselle Cruz Maduro, Minister of Education
- Secretary-General: Ms Adriana Sequeira

9. Personalities linked to the UNESCO activities: None

10. UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks : 4 Chairs and no Network

- 2012: UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development, The Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development and the University of Peace;
- 2011: UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, De La Salle University;
- 2016: UNESCO Chair on Biosphere Reserves and Natural and Mixed World Heritage Sites, University for International Cooperation, San José.
- 2019: UNESCO Chair on Science, Technology and Society, Costa Rica Institute of Technology, Cartago

11. Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) : 127

- Pre-primary (7); Pre-primary to Secondary (1); Primary (95); Primary/Secondary (10); Secondary (9); Teacher Training Institution (2); Vocational and Technical Institution (2); Other (1)

12. Category 2 Institutes and Centres: None

13. Biosphere Reserves: 4

- 2017: Savegre
- 2007: Agua y Paz
- 1988: Cordillera Volcánica Central (extended in 2010)
- 1982: La Amistad

14. UNESCO Global Geopark Network: None

15. World Heritage

Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List: 4

- 2014: Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís (Cultural)
- 1999: Area de Conservación Guanacaste (Natural) (extension in 2004)
- 1997: Cocos Island National Park (Natural) (extension in 2002)
- 1983: Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Transboundary property with Panama) (Natural)

Tentative List: 1

- 2003: Corcovado National Park and Isla del Caño Biological Reserve

16. Intangible Heritage Lists

Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: 1

- 2008: Oxherding and oxcart traditions in Costa Rica

17. Memory of the World Register: 2

- 2017: Abolition of the Army in Costa Rica
- 2017: Central American Court of Justice

Memory of the World Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (MOWLAC): 3

- 2009: Colección Preguntas y Respuestas del Instituto Centroamericano de Extensión de la Cultura (Costa Rica) (ICECU);
- 2018: Documentos sobre la Independencia de Costa Rica y Centroamérica de la Corona Española (1821-1822)
- 2017: Corte de Justicia Centroamericano

18. Creative Cities Network: 1

- 2019: San José – City of Design

19. UNESCO's standard-setting instruments

Ratified conventions:

Universal Copyright Convention, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI. Geneva, 6 September 1952.	07/12/1954	Accession
Protocol 1 annexed to the Universal Copyright Convention concerning the application of that Convention to the works of stateless persons and refugees. Geneva, 6 September 1952.	07/12/1954	Accession
Protocol 2 annexed to the Universal Copyright Convention concerning the application of that Convention to the works of certain international organizations. Geneva, 6 September 1952.	07/12/1954	Accession
Protocol 3 annexed to the Universal Copyright Convention concerning the effective date of instruments of ratification or acceptance of or accession to that Convention. Geneva, 6 September 1952.	07/12/1954	Accession
Convention against Discrimination in Education. Paris, 14 December 1960.	10/09/1963	Ratification
Protocol Instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be Responsible for Seeking the Settlement of any Disputes which may Arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education. Paris, 10 December 1962.	11/12/1969	Ratification
Agreement for Facilitating the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural character with Protocol of Signature and model form of certificate provided for in Article IV of the above-mentioned Agreement. Beirut, 10 December 1948.	09/06/1971	Accession
International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations. Rome, 26 October 1961.	09/06/1971	Accession
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Paris, 16 November 1972.	23/08/1977	Ratification
Universal Copyright Convention as revised on 24 July 1971, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI. Paris, 24 July 1971.	07/12/1979	Ratification
Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms. Geneva, 29 October 1971.	01/03/1982	Accession
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Ramsar, 2 February 1971.	27/12/1991	Ratification
Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Paris, 14 November 1970.	06/03/1996	Ratification
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention. The Hague, 14 May 1954.	03/06/1998	Accession
Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, 14 May 1954.	03/06/1998	Accession
Convention relating to the Distribution of Programme-Carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite. Brussels, 21 May 1974.	25/03/1999	Accession
Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, 26 March 1999.	09/12/2003	Accession
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Paris, 17 October 2003.	23/02/2007	Ratification
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Paris, 20 October 2005	15/03/2011	Ratification
International Convention against Doping in Sport. Paris, 19 October 2005	27/02/2012	Ratification
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Paris, 2 November 2001.	27/04/2018	Ratification

20. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2020-2021: None

21. Participation Programme:

- 2020-2021: As of today, one national request and the regional request are approved by the DG for a total amount of US\$58,000
- 2018-2019: 4 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 71,740.
- 2016-2017: 4 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 74,500.

22. UNESCO Fellowships Programme: Since 2010, 14 fellowships have been awarded for a total amount of US\$ 393,908.

23. Non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO: 1

- Servicio Paz y Justicia en América Latina (SERPAJ-AL), in consultative status

24. Payment of assessed membership fees:

- Assessment rate for 2021: 0.080 %

25. Representation within the Secretariat (as at 10/01/2021): Under-represented (Max. 4; Min. 2) with 1 Professional staff in geographical post.

26. Map of Costa Rica

