

MiTransporte

Climate change mitigation in Costa Rica's transport sector

RUTA 425

Mercedes-Benz
Photo: Central
Heredia, Costa Rica



Sustainable Transport, Renewable
Energy and Energy Efficiency

Context

Costa Rica's transport sector is responsible for 54 per cent of the country's net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It is therefore the biggest obstacle to Costa Rica reaching its ambitious goal of becoming the world's first climate-neutral country and contributing its share to the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The main problems are the rapid growth of the country's vehicle fleet (5 per cent per year), and the long vehicle life cycles, which for passenger cars amount to 16 years on average.

In urban areas, particularly the capital city of San José, where nearly half of Costa Rica's residents live, urban sprawl and urbanization have led to a dramatic increase in private and freight transport on the roads.

Fundamental aspects of sustainable transport, such as the existence of an integrated public transport system or a fast commuter train, are completely outdated. This leads to growing inconvenience for residents due to congestion, noise and fume pollution, as well as negative impacts on health and productivity (productive hours lost in traffic).

The country lacks the political strategies, legal framework and targeted investments it needs to develop a climate-friendly transport system and to promote modern technologies. In many cases, conflicts between different stakeholders with special interests hamper uniform sustainable transport planning. Thus, it is necessary to develop a discussion and consensus process aimed at removing the obstacles in the way of reaching a consistent and sustainable national transport system.

Since Costa Rica has a high share of renewable energy resources (almost 100%), the country could play a pioneering role in the region in introducing climate-friendly drive systems, such as those used for electromobility.

Project name	Climate change mitigation in Costa Rica's transport sector
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
On behalf of	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
Duration	2017 - 2021
Country	Costa Rica
Project director	Claus Kruse claus.kruse@giz.de

Approach

On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and within its International Climate Initiative, GIZ advises the Costa Rican government at several levels:

- At a national level the project supports the development and implementation of standards and instruments for GHG mitigation in the transport sector, by coordinating between different ministries and providing advisory services in areas such transport planning and energy efficiency.
- At a municipal level MiTransporte supports pilot measures for improving the urban transport system in the San José metropolitan area.
- The project promotes the electrification of transport by developing a regulatory framework and business model for introducing electric buses in the public transport system.
- MiTransporte actively includes the public and other key players in the development and implementation of sustainable transport solutions.

Implemented by:



On behalf of:



of the Federal Republic of Germany

In cooperation with:



MiTransporte is closely aligned with Costa Rica's national climate strategy and relevant national action plans such as the energy and transport plans, as well as with other projects operating locally. In terms of content, it follows the 'avoid-shift-improve' approach co-developed by GIZ. The more fuel a vehicle burns, the more CO₂ it emits. Thus, there is no choice but to reduce fuel consumption.

As part of its approach to sustainable development, the project promotes climate-friendly transport, including efficient public transport, non-motorized methods of transportation and alternative-drive vehicles. To this end, interinstitutional coordination between public and private actors is supported.

Partner

The official counterpart is the national Ministry for Environment and Energy (MINAE). Additionally, the project cooperates with other partners, such as the Ministry for Public Works and Transport (MOPT) and municipalities.

Objective

The Costa Rican government implements mitigation measures in order to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the transport sector.



Photo: The busy street of General Cañas in San José, Costa Rica



Photo: Bike ride at the Expobici 2019, San José

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