



## Accessible America IV: ICTs for ALL

San Jose, Costa Rica, November 21, 22 and 23, 2017

### 1. INFORMATION ON THE HOST COUNTRY

#### About Costa Rica — General information



As an essence, the **Republic of Costa Rica** is a concentrated country and filled with a unique and select value, generated mainly by its *people*.

The great riches of our land is concentrated in our essence: home of natural beauties recognized worldwide, and of tasty and colorful fruits of the highest quality. A land which, despite representing only 0.03% of the global territory, is home to around 5% of the biodiversity and, with a population of 4.8 million people, produces and exports more than 4,500 products to 146 countries.

*People* also constitutes our essence: hard-worker “ticos”, talented and trained, ready to take highly specialized work. Authentic, in solidarity, entrepreneurs, “empunchados” (dedicated), innovative, pure life...

The *ticos* are a nation proud of their legacy and ready to make history in the world. **¡Esencial Costa Rica!** In addition, consider their country the happiest State, eco-friendly, green and sustainable across the globe, according to the 2016 [Happy Planet Index](#).

#### Important indicators of the country:

With an area of 51,100 Km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 4.872.543 inhabitants, Costa Rica is one of the most consolidated democracies of the world. Its capital, political and economic center is San Jose, and its official language is the Spanish. Costa Rica won world-wide recognition when, in 1948, decided to abolish its Army and is recognized as a sovereign and democratic country. It has a 0,776 human development index and occupies the 66th position in the world ranking, which is considered a high level of human development. It has a GDP of USD 78.756 billion and a per capita GDP of USD 16,072 (2016 data). The Literacy Index of the population is 97.8% (data of 2015).

Costa Rica has a good penetration of mobile and fixed telecommunications services and in 2015 stood out as the country that registered the best index of information and communication technology (ICT) development, IDI, in all access to ICTs (penetration of more than 100% in subscription of mobile and mobile broadband and increase in the percentage

of households with Internet access), with the exception of the fixed telephony subscriptions, which is a global trend. Source: ITU (<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/mis2015.aspx>)

## Turism

The Costa Rican Institute of Tourism is the governing body of tourism in Costa Rica. You can find here (<http://www.ict.go.cr/es/>), more information related to our beautiful country.

Costa Rica also has Certifications and Tourism Social Responsibility (CST) and leads programs such as: (i) ecological blue flag, beaches category, and (ii) the conduct code program, on the issue of climate change and environmental management.

Aware of this, in Costa Rica there is a nationwide network of certified tourism businesses. If you in addition to attending the Conference, wish to extend your visit, we recommend you to look for companies with the seal of sustainability. More information on the website: [www.turismo-sostenible.co.cr](http://www.turismo-sostenible.co.cr), where you can find everything related to the Certification for Sustainability in Tourism (CST).

## Sustainability

In Costa Rica five sources of energy are exploited in order of importance: water (hydro), thermal, geothermal, wind and solar. In Latin America, Costa Rica stands out as a leader in renewable energy production, due mainly to the production of hydroelectric power, according to the report, *Leaders in Clean Energy* of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

## 2. VENUE OF THE EVENT

- [Hotel Barcelo San Jose Palacio](#) (15km from international airport)  
La Uruca, San Jose, Costa Rica



Category	Single (USD)	Double (USD)	Shuttle Service
★★★★★	92.00	97.00	Yes

### 3. SUGGESTED HOTELS IN THE VICINITY

Hotel*	Category	Single (USD)	Double (USD)	Shuttle Service	Distance from Airport
<a href="#">City Express San José</a>	★★★★	92.00	100.00	Yes	6 km
<a href="#">Crowne Plaza Corobicí</a>	★★★★★	113.00	113.00	No	15 km
<a href="#">Best Western Irazú</a>	★★★★	99.00	106.00	Yes	18 km
<a href="#">Tryp Sabana</a>	★★★★	97.00	108.00	Yes	16 km

(\*) The links to the website of the hotels are the names of the hotels in the table above.  
Prices were informed by each hotel in the month of June.

The bookings to the hotel of your choice will be directly managed by the company hired by SUTEL through the following link: [http://www.ergos.com.uy/america\\_accesible/](http://www.ergos.com.uy/america_accesible/)

You may also use the following electronic address: [AAIV@costarica-meetings.com](mailto:AAIV@costarica-meetings.com)

### 4. TRANSFER AND TRANSPORT

The International Airport Juan Santamaría (SJO) is the main airport of Costa Rica. It is located on the Pan-American Highway, near the city of Alajuela, 18 km from the city of San Jose. The Airport bears the name of Juan Santamaría, national hero of Costa Rica.

It is recommended to arrive three hours before departure of the flight and keep in mind that you must pay the departure tax to leave Costa Rican territory - this applies to all passengers, whether national or foreign, regardless of age - in May 2017 the tax was USD 29.00.

No será ofrecido traslado del aeropuerto a los hoteles. Los participantes deben usar los servicios de taxi disponibles en el aeropuerto o el servicio de transfer del hotel de su elección.

Transfer from the airport to the hotels will not be offered by hosts. Participants must use the taxi services available at the airport or use the shuttle service from the hotel of your choice.

For more information about airports in Costa Rica, see the web site of the SJO: [SJO](#)

### 5. VACCINE

The need of Yellow fever vaccine applies to people arriving from geographical areas considered of risk, as well as people who live in the country and travel to risky countries before returning to Costa Rica.

Those who arrive from any of these countries, should be immunized 10 days before entering the national territory, while those who leave the country must take the vaccine 10 days before the trip. Be sure to present a document issued by the health center or pharmacy that administered your vaccine to check this procedure.

To learn about countries considered risky you should consult <http://fly2sanjose.com/en/antes-de-viajar/preguntas-frecuentes/>

## 6. ENTRY VISA

There is a policy in Costa Rica called Guidelines of Entry Visas, which sets, depending on the country, i.e. nationality, the type of visa that applies to each person. So before you choose a visa it is important to consult the Guideline. We recommend the revision of the specific requirements on the website of the [Migration and Aliens Division of Costa Rica](#).

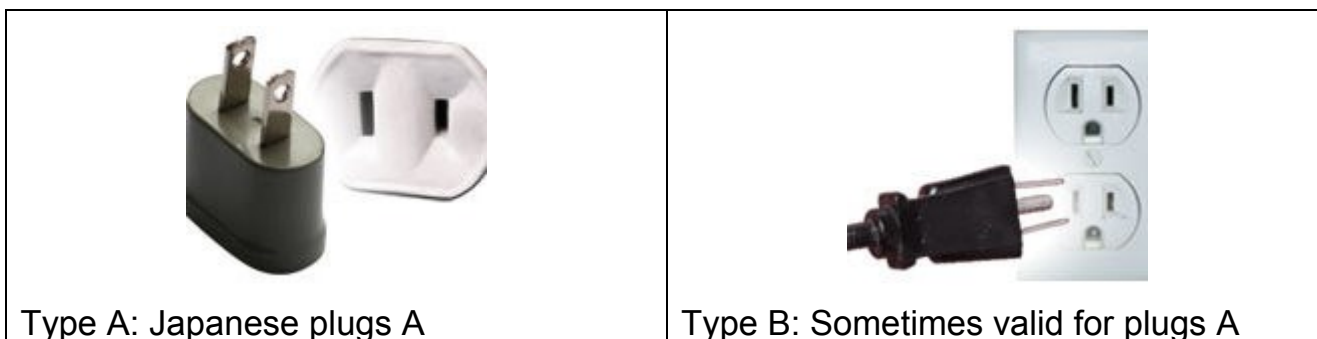
## 7. CLIMATE

Costa Rica has a diverse and varied tropical climate due to its proximity to the equator, which is divided into climate zones. In Costa Rica the sun shines all year round, usually the sun rises at 5:30 a.m. and sets regularly at 5:50 p.m. In the winter rains slightly drop temperatures, average temperature is between 21 and 27 degrees Celsius, the coldest months are from November to January. The warmer from March to May. Please be sure to protect yourself from the Sun at all times.

The Capital San José is located in the central valley, with temperatures ranging over the average of 22 degrees, warm breeze. At the mountains and hills the temperature average descends slightly to the 12 degrees Celsius. The temperature in the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, oscillates at the level of the sea, between 27 and 32 degrees Celsius.

## 8. ELECTRICITY

In Costa Rica the common voltage is 120 V. The frequency is 60 Hz. The plugs and sockets are type A / B. In the images below you can see the types of plugs (plugs and Sockets)



## 9. CURRENCY

The currency in Costa Rica is the Costa Rican Colon (₡, CRC)

The current Costa Rican banknotes (bills) recognize the work of six national heroes, as well as the wealth of six of the ecosystems that are part of Costa Rican biodiversity.

They are much more than just means of payment; they are works of art that are worth enjoy and learn, both for the characters being honored and for highlighting the ecological richness that puts Costa Rica on the world map as a country with beautiful landscapes, and one which nature is an essential part of their identity.

Exchange rate in relation to the US dollar - in May 29, 2017:

<b>Buying: 574,06</b>	<b>Selling: 587,25</b>
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## 10. TIME IN COSTA RICA

Time zone: UTC-6

## 11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOST COUNTRY OF THE EVENT AND IN RESPECT TO TARGET POPULATIONS:

Costa Rica has historically exercised affirmative actions for human rights and peace. Residents with disabilities benefit from State protection through the law 7600: "Law of Equality of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities". According to the 2011 population census, there are 452.849 people with disabilities in the country. The governing entity of this population is the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (CONAPDIS). In 2016 Law 9379 was created for the Promotion of the Personal Autonomy of the Persons with Disabilities.

The elderly in Costa Rica are a very important population, as from the age of 60, we call them the "golden citizens". According to the latest demographics data in the country, the population segment of older adults will be the segment that will increase more. The size of this population will triple in the next 40 years, from 316 thousand people in 2012 to more than 1 million by 2050. The governing entity of this population is the National Council for Older Adults (CONAPAM).

Indigenous native populations account for approximately 104,000 Native American inhabitants or originating in the national territory. They are divided into 8 ethnic groups and each one has a reserved territory. The National Commission of Indigenous Affairs (CONAI) was created on



July 9, 1973, through Law 5251. It is an institution under public law, with legal personality and owned patrimony, it means that it belongs to the decentralized public administration.

It aims to represent the diverse interests of this population, serving as facilitator and resources coordinator providing quality services to promote in general, the development of the various indigenous communities and in particular, of indigenous peoples. The indigenous communities are represented by the Associations of Integral Development and act as Local Government (Decree No. 13568-G).

In the field of human rights, concerning the membership of seven agencies of the International Bill of Human Rights, including the Committee of Human Rights (HRC), Costa Rica has signed or ratified the following international treaties:

?	Tratados internacionales																
	CESCR <sup>148</sup>		CCPR <sup>149</sup>			CERD <sup>150</sup>	CED <sup>151</sup>	CEDAW <sup>152</sup>		CAT <sup>153</sup>		CRC <sup>154</sup>			MWC <sup>155</sup>	CRPD <sup>156</sup>	
	CESCR	<a href="#">CESCR-OP</a>	CCPR	CCPR-OP1	CCPR-OP2-DP			CEDAW	CEDAW-OP	CAT	CAT-OP	CRC	CRC-OP-AC	CRC-OP-SC		CRPD	CRPD-OP
Pertenencia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ Firmado y ratificado, ✓ firmado pero no ratificado, ✗ ni firmado ni ratificado, ⓘ sin información, ⚠ ha accedido a firmar y ratificar el órgano en cuestión, pero también reconoce la competencia de recibir y procesar comunicaciones individuales por parte de los órganos competentes.																	

Source: enciclopedia digital Wikipedia.com, May 2017