



## Study Tour Proposal

**I. Destination:** Costa Rica

**II. Expected dates of travel:** August 19-23, 2019

**III. Objective and Expectations:**

Costa Rica is known worldwide as the leading country in terms of protection of natural resources, forests and their environmental services. The country has successfully built up its Green Trademark, being a pioneer in implementation of forest and biodiversity conservation policies and legislations, protecting traditional knowledge and indigenous communities... making Costa Rica an ideal country for learning experience.

For that reason, Costa Rica has been chosen as the most appropriate country for Vietnam to learn and exchange experiences, from both its successes and challenges in biodiversity conservation in general and access and benefit sharing management of GRs in particular.

The expectation would be having relevant meetings with involving regulators, public and private sectors, communities; to discuss about the difficulties and challenges encountered during implementation of biodiversity- and ABS- related activities. The topics of discuss would include, but not limited to, PA management, legal and policy framework development, payment for ecosystem services, biodiversity-based eco-tourism, mainstreaming biodiversity into sectors, natural accounting, incentives and sustainable financing mechanism, ABS permitting systems, filing system, establishment of biodiversity registers served as a means for protection of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, facilitation of ABS contract, monitoring and database system....

A study visit is to be organized for a delegation of Vietnamese officers and scientists, consisting of 11 members in March 2019.

**IV. Expected Partners:**

***The key partners are The Ministry of Environment and Energy and its agencies:***

- National System for Protected Areas (SINAC)
- National Commission for Biodiversity Management (CONAGEBIO)
- Payment for Environmental Services authority (FONAFIFO)

***Other partners:***

- National Seeds Office
- The Private sector (Flora Nueva Company that involved in ABS activities)



- University of Costa Rica
- Costa Rican ABS Experts

#### V. List of Delegation (11 participants)

- 01 Director General of Vietnam Environment Administration, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, **Head of the Delegation;**
- 06 representatives of line ministries, including ABS National Competent Authority, and ABS Project pilot project: Lao Cai Provincial People's Committee; Government Office; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;
- 02 representatives of Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency, Vietnam Environment Administration, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;
- 02 representatives of ABS Project Management Unit.

#### VI. Tentative Agenda

Date	Tentative Schedule	Institutions/stakeholders	Issues of interest
Saturday/ 17 aug  Sunday 18 aug		<i>Arrival to San Jose, Costa Rica</i>	
Day 1 Monday 19	1:30 – 2:30 pm	<b>Meeting with Authorities of Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE):</b> -Minister of Environment and Energy -Vice-Minister of Environment -Director of the National System for Protected Areas (SINAC) or her representative - Director of the National Commission for Biodiversity Management	Opening/introductory meeting with Governmental representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) to discuss objectives and planned activities for the visit  Overview presentation on current status of wild biodiversity management in Costa Rica (including information on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Wildlife Management, Biodiversity Inventory,



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		(CONAGEBIO) or her representative	Biodevelopment).
	2:30-3:30 pm.	National Commission for Biodiversity Management/SINAC	ENBSAP / Biodiversity Platform /CHM
	4:00 pm	<i>Departure to Liberia, Guanacaste Province (4 hour drive)</i>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Tentative Schedule</b>	<b>Institutions/stakeholders</b>	<b>Issues of interest</b>
<b>20 aug</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<i>Departure to Area de Conservacion Guanacaste (ACG)</i>	
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>9:00 am – 12:30 pm.</b>	<b>Area de Conservacion Guanacaste, Sector Santa Rosa (SINAC) – mid-morning coffee included</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conservation Areas management (including legal and policy framework), introduction to SINAC</li> <li>- Decentralization concepts</li> <li>- Biological Education</li> <li>- Ecotourism</li> <li>- Incentives for biodiversity conservation, biodevelopment</li> <li>- Public participation/co-management</li> </ul> <p>Alejandro Masis, Róger Blanco, Maria Marta, Janzen, Induni, CMR si disponible?</p>
	12:30 pm- 2:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>	
	2:00 – 6:00 pm.	<b>ABS in Costa Rica</b>	<p>Presentations and discussions of the Costa Rican ABS legal regimen: permits, contracts, protection of TK, lessons learnt/challenges, future steps, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contractual experiences on ABS</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Market and scientific opportunities, obstacles and challenges for ABS</li> <li>- Lessons learnt from the implementation of the ABS legal regimen from different stakeholders</li> <li>- <b>COFFEE BREAK</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Visit BioLep, explain DNA barcoding and BioAlfa biodevelopment project</b></p>
	6:00 p.m	<i>Back to the hotel</i>	
Date	Tentative Schedule	Institutions/stakeholders	Issues of interest
<b>21 AUG</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<i>Departure to Rincón de la Vieja area</i>	
<b>Day 3, 21 AUG</b>	<b>8:00 -10:00 am</b>	<b>ACG-ICE collaboration in a geothermal project on the boundary of a UNESCO World Heritage Site</b>	<b>Biodiversity monitoring (biomonitoring), ABS relation, DNA Barcoding relevance to field work in biodiversity prospecting and biomonitoring</b>
	10:00 am-12:00 pm	<b>Go to Estación Pailas in Sector Pailas of ACG, coffee break</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Practical management of an Area de Conservacion</b></li> <li>- <b>Practical operation of an ecotourism activity</b></li> </ul>
	1:00 pm	<i>Lunch (Liberia)</i>	
	2:30 pm	<i>Go back to San José</i>	
Date	Tentative Schedule	Institutions/stakeholders	Issues of interest
<b>Day 4</b>	8:30 – 10:00am	<b>Meeting with the National Seeds Office/International Treaty –IT-NFP</b>	Challenges and successes in the synergistic implementation of ITPGRFA



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			and the Biodiversity Law: lessons learned for the particular needs and characteristics of the agricultural sector.
	10:30 – 12:00 pm.	<b>Meeting with FONAFIFO (Payment for Environmental Services government agency)</b>	Payment for environmental services in Costa Rica: successful lessons, impacts, challenges and opportunities
		<i>Lunch</i>	
	2:00pm- 3:30pm	<b>Meeting with the Biodiversity Commission of the University of Costa Rica</b>	The different ABS regimen of the University of Costa Rica: lessons and challenges
	4:30 pm	<i>Back to the hotel</i>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Tentative Schedule</b>	<b>Institutions/stakeholders</b>	<b>Issues of interest</b>
<b>Day 5</b>	<b>9:00 – 11:00 a.m</b>	<b>Meeting with private sector companies active on ABS</b>	Flora Nueva or Lisan or INBio
	<b>11:00 am- 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Costa Rican authorities:</b> -Minister of Environment and Energy  -Vice-Minister of Environment  -Director of the National System for Protected Areas (SINAC) or her representative  - Director of the National Commission for Biodiversity Management (CONAGEBIO) or her representative	Future cooperation between Vietnam-Costa Rica
	<b>12:00-1:30 pm</b>	<i>Lunch with Costa Rican delegates</i>	
	<b>1:30 pm</b>	<i>Back to the hotel</i>	This afternoon can be used to allocate other interviews as well as to re-



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			schedule any potential meeting
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