

Experiences moving beyond GDP: Ecosystem accounts in Costa Rica

Johnny Aguilar Madrigal, Banco Central de Costa Rica

Statistical Commission side event
*Beyond GDP: Measuring What Counts for Economic and Social
Performance*

February 17, 2022

What motivated the effort to move beyond GDP?

- Relevant issues in the country:
 - First country to stop and revert deforestation.
 - Significant investments in two decades: US\$300 million for Payments for Environmental Services (PES).
 - Still working on a comprehensive (total) accounting of the natural capital.
 - Pressures: agriculture, urbanization, land degradation.
- Role of Ecosystems for Development:
 - PES and Climate Change mitigation (52.4% forest) vs Forestry (0.07% of GDP).
 - Relevance of Hydro-Power (70% of national electricity supply).
 - Tourism (4% of GDP).

What has been the process for compiling the statistics needed for the effort?



Identify the stakeholders.

Executive meetings to explain ES accounts.

Explain the SEEA methodology.



Bring the new data to the BCCR.

Transform the data as required by SEEA.

Learn new skills in order to account for the information.

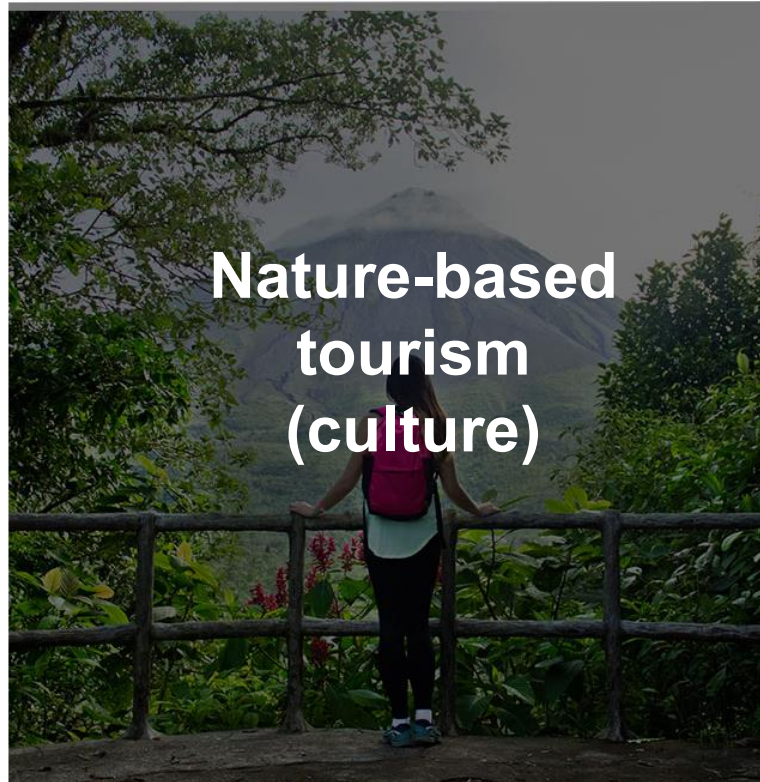


Indexes, tables and analysis in physical and monetary terms.

Maps (physical and monetary terms).

REPEAT

Three ecosystem accounts in development

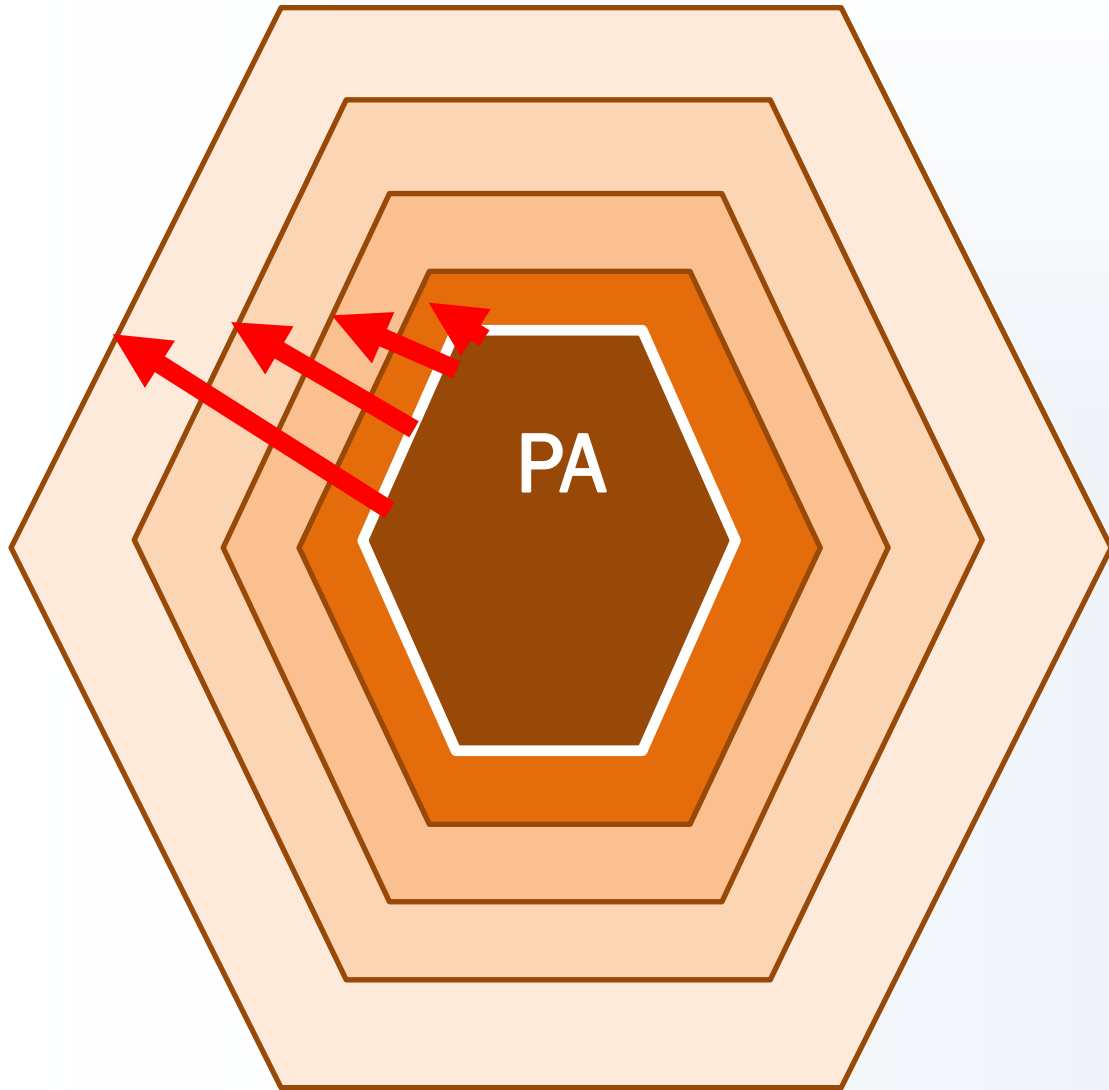




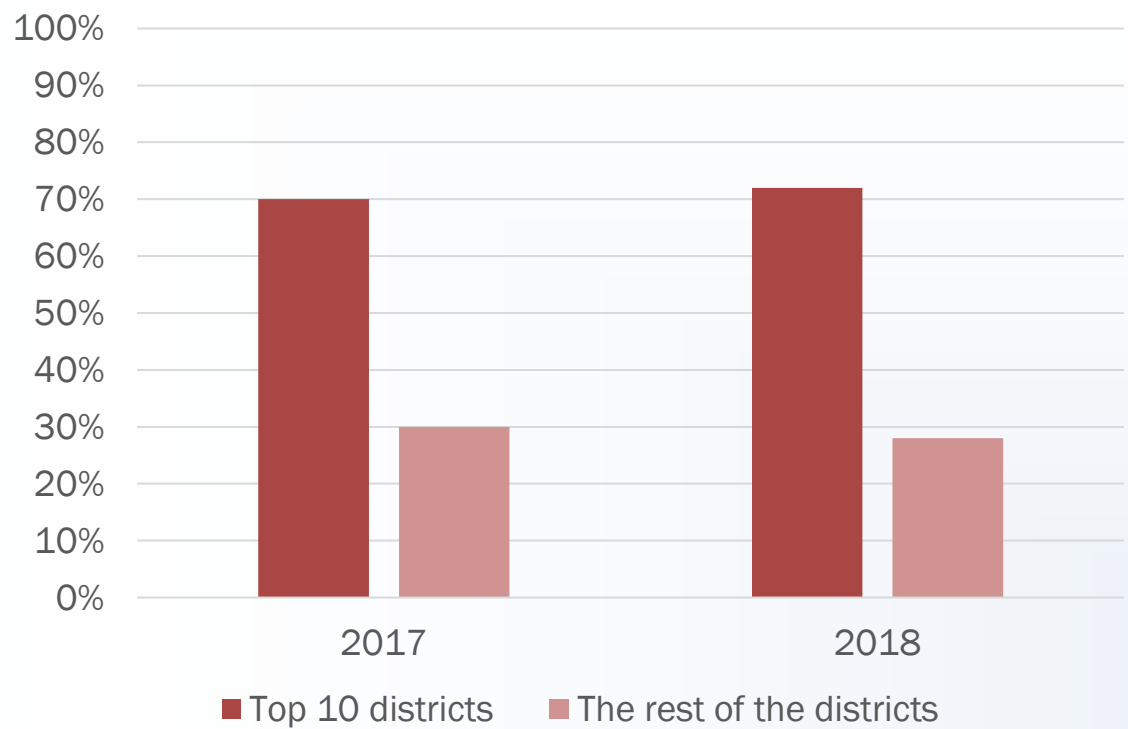
NATURE-BASED TOURISM

SOME PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Methodological aspects

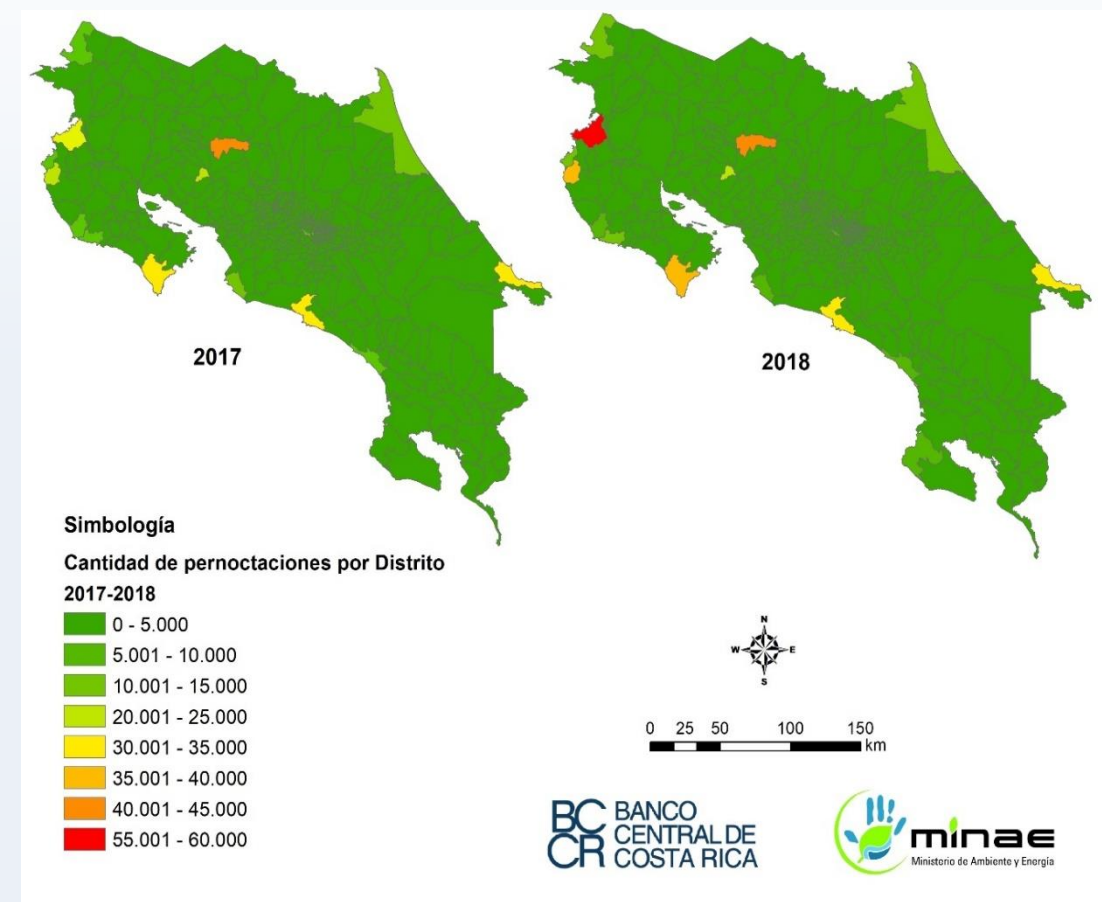


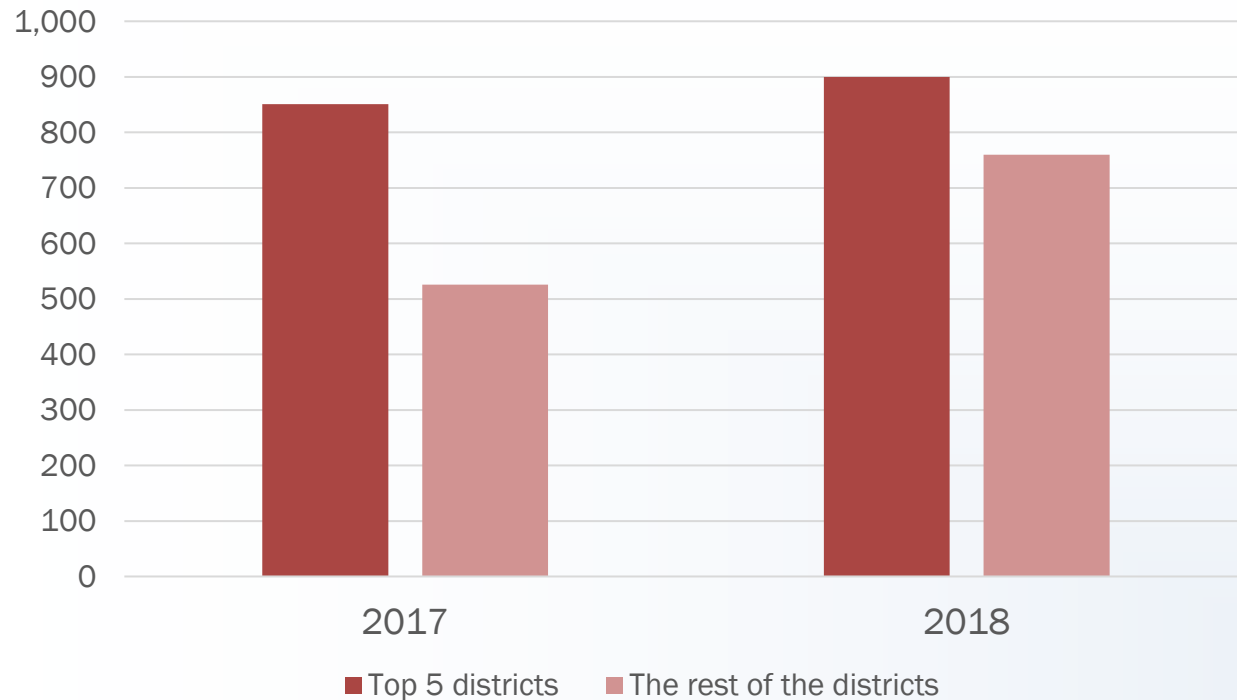
- A physical unit: overnight stays per person.
- A monetary unit: expenditure in US dollars.
- A geographic unit: districts and buffers.
 - Buffer around the perimeter of PAs that are within the district.



- Most districts in the top 10 in 2017 are the same in 2018.
- The proportion of overnights between the top 10 and the rest of the districts remains around 70% and 30%, respectively.

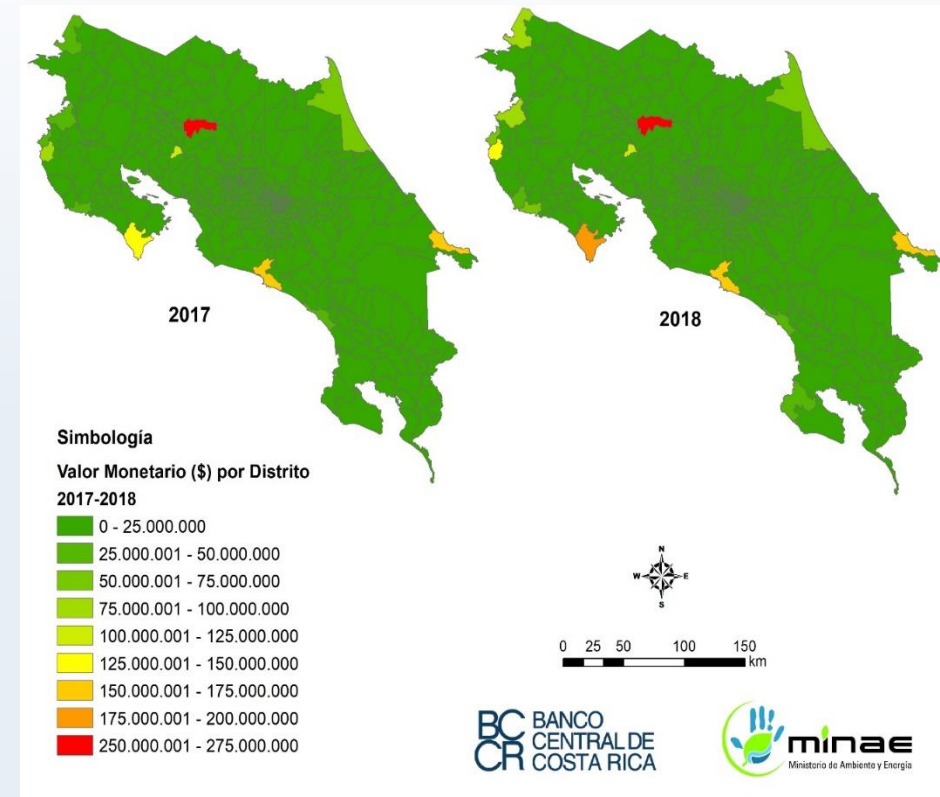
Number of overnight stays by district for Costa Rica, 2017-2018





- Most districts in the top 5 in 2017 are the same in 2018.
- The value of the NBT in 2017 represents 2.28% from GDP and for 2018 it increases to 2.66%.

Valuation of the NBT, 2017 and 2018 (millions of US dollars)



What are the intended policy applications?

- Helps to understand the dynamic between environment and economy.
- Create policies that lead to sustainable development.
- Balance between economic growth (monetary terms) and conservation of the environment.

Experiences moving beyond GDP: Ecosystem accounts in Costa Rica

Johnny Aguilar Madrigal, Banco Central de Costa Rica
aguilarmj@bccr.fi.cr

February 17, 2022