

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX 2008

Costa Rica is the American country more respectful of the environment

Measurement evaluated 25 indicators and environmental policies of 149 countries

Costa Rica also holds the fifth place in the global list

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Costa Rica is the American country more respectful of the environment, according to the latest edition of the Environmental Performance Index (ADI).

The index evaluated 149 countries on six categories: environmental health, air pollution, water resources, biodiversity and habitat, productive natural resources and climate change.

Data provided by the international agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Organization of the United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO).

Once the information obtained, experts from American universities Yale and Columbia gave a score of 1 to 100 in all countries.

The higher the note, the country makes greater efforts to protect nature.

At the global level, Switzerland was the country that won first place with a 95.5.

The list continues Sweden (93.1), Norway (93.1), Finland (91.4) and Costa Rica (90.5).

The next American country on the list, Colombia, took the ninth place with a note of 88.3.

The last country on the list, Niger, earned a 39.1 rating.

Priority. Scientists ADI were not surprised by the inclusion of Costa Rica at the top of the list.

"Costa Rica is probably the country in the world that has turned the environment into its highest priority, and has pledged to be neutral as a nation in emissions of greenhouse gases" that is, to plant forests to offset their emissions, said Dan Esty, director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy.

According to a press release from the IDA, the countries best placed in the index "have invested in pollution control of water and air and other environmental infrastructure."

Furthermore, "have adopted public policy measures to mitigate damage to economic activity caused," said the same text.

He also noted the importance of rich countries to get more involved with protecting the environment.

For example, the United States ranked 39, far behind other industrialized countries such as Germany (13), UK (14) and Japan (21).

According to the analysis, although the United States gets good ratings in some indicators, its poor performance in terms of air pollution and emissions of greenhouse gases to descend carry many positions.

"Measurements on Climate Change Index, which put EE. UU. Along with India and China, near the bottom of the global list, are a disgrace (...)", said Gus Speth, dean of the School of Environmental Studies at Yale.

Points blacks. Analysis of the information collected on Costa Rica also pointed out black spots of the national environmental policy.

The most notable is the rating of six on the issue of marine protected areas. The low rating is because the amount of square kilometres protected marine equivalent to less than 10% of water intended for commercial purposes.

In "effective conservation" the Costa Rican note was 15.9. Here is measured the percentage of protected areas that are intact and in a legal situation that does not endanger their future.

"Each country has something to learn from the IDA 2008. Even countries best placed are areas in which its performance is not optimal," he pointed Esty.

LETTER FROM THE FIRST TEN

The closer to 100 is classified as such, the country has a better position.

1

SWITZERLAND

95.6

2

SWEDEN

93.1

3

NORWAY

93.1

4

FINLAND

91.4

5

COSTA RICA

90.5

6

AUSTRIA

89.4

7

NEW ZEALAND

88.9

8

LATVIA

88.8

9

COLOMBIA

88.3

SOURCE: ADI 2008

What is the NDA?

Second report. Environmental Performance Index (IDA) is relatively new since its first measurement can be traced back to 2006. The numbers presented yesterday relate to the second measurement.

Advance Airgun. In 2006 Costa Rica appeared at the scene 15, which means that won a dozen seats in two years.

The note. Marks obtained by our country in 2006 was 81.6, ie gained nearly nine points between the two measurements.

Experts. Both measurements of the report of 2006 as the current report were conducted by environmental experts from Yale and Columbia universities in the United States. They also backed the World Economic Forum.

OFFICIAL POSITION

"The future will be or will not be green"

The president, Oscar Arias, said in a press his satisfaction with the post won by Costa Rica at the 2008 IDA.

"We are one of the few developing countries that have recovered woodland in the last 20 years to make more than half of our territory is forest. We promote sustainable tourism and the production ecoamigable. We have tried to encourage our companies to be socially and environmentally responsible," he said.

"(...) The future of the world will be green or it will not. Costa Rica has announced an initiative called Peace with Nature, in which we commit ourselves to be carbon neutral for the year 2021 and increase our biological corridors and our protected areas. The initiative includes also several actions that we want to promote and lead at the international level, among them forming a block of neutral countries in carbon (...)", added the ruler.