



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

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IOC Circular Letter No 2936
(Available in English and Spanish)

IOC/VR/BA/ah
8 March 2023

To : ICG/CARIBE-EWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNC)
ICG/CARIBE-EWS National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs)
ICG/CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP)

Cc. : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC ICG/CARIBE-EWS
Directors of UNESCO and IOC Regional Offices in the Caribbean Region
Permanent Observers to ICG/CARIBE-EWS
Director Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)
Director, International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)

Subject: Invitation to the Sixteenth session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVI) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Heredia, Costa Rica, 25–28 April 2023

Established in 2005 by the IOC Assembly through Resolution XXIII-13, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE EWS) will hold its 16th session in Heredia, Costa Rica, on 25–28 April 2023.

On behalf of Dr Silvia Chacon Barrantes, Chairperson of ICG/CARIBE-EWS, I am pleased to invite you to designate representatives to ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVI and to register their names, positions and contact details directly on the session website at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/3861> no later than 31 March 2023. If you have questions about registration, please contact Mr Angelos Haidar at a.haidar@unesco.org.

With reference to IOC Resolution XXIII-13, the membership of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS consists of:

- Member States of the IOC from the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
- Observers from other IOC Member States, and
- Invited observers from other organizations (including NGOs), programmes and projects in accordance with the IOC Rules of Procedure.

Chairperson

Mr Ariel Hernan TROISI
Technical Secretary
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Av. Montes de Oca 2124
C1270ABV Buenos Aires
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Executive Secretary

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Vice-Chairpersons

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20180 Casablanca
MOROCCO

The session agenda is technical in nature and delegates should be prepared to participate in the technical discussions. Copies of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable are appended to this invitation as Annexes 1 and 2. The working languages of the session will be English and Spanish.

The deadline for submitting national reports to the ICG Technical Secretary, preferably in writing, is 15 April 2023 at the latest. Information on national plans and efforts towards improving the tsunami warning and mitigation system will contribute to the development of the CARIBE-EWS Implementation Plan. A template for national reports is attached hereafter as Annex 3.

At its forthcoming session, the ICG/CARIBE-EWS will elect its Officers, namely one Chairperson, and three Vice-chairpersons. Elections take place according to the procedure described in Annex 4. Nominations will be accepted until the end of the opening day of the session, i.e. Tuesday 25 April 2023. They can be also addressed in advance to the IOC Secretariat, to Mr Bernardo Aliaga Rossel, b.aliaga@unesco.org, Technical Secretary of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS.

A logistic note including suggested accommodation, airport transfers to the venue of the meeting and local information is attached as Annex 5.

The general documentation and information for the meeting will be posted and updated at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/3861> as they become available. As is customary for intergovernmental meetings, participants are required to secure their own financial support to attend the session.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (4): Annex 1: Provisional Agenda
 Annex 2: Provisional Timetable
 Annex 3: Election Procedures
 Annex 4: Template for national reports
 Annex 5: Logistic Note

Sixteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVI)

Heredia, Costa Rica

25–28 April 2023

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

- 1.1. DR SILVIA CHACON-BARRANTES, ICG/CARIBE-EWS CHAIR
- 1.2. WELCOME BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF UNESCO

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

- 2.1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- 2.2. DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR(S)
- 2.3. CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

3. REPORT ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 3.1. CHAIR'S REPORT
- 3.2. CARIBE-EWS SECRETARIAT REPORT
- 3.3. REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER (CTIC)
- 3.4. REPORTS FROM UN AND NON-UN ORGANISATIONS
 - 3.4.1. **World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD)**
- 3.5. STATUS OF OTHER ICGs
- 3.6. NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS
- 3.7. TSUNAMI SERVICES PROVIDER REPORT (PTWC)
- 3.8. REPORT OF CARIBE WAVE 2023

4. WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORTS

- 4.1. WORKING GROUP 1: MONITORING AND DETECTION SYSTEMS
 - 4.1.1. **SMART Cables: Technological Progress, Global Status, and Applications to Caribbean-Wide Tsunami and Earthquake Early Warning**
- 4.2. WORKING GROUP 2: HAZARD ASSESSMENT
- 4.3. WORKING GROUP 3: TSUNAMI RELATED SERVICES
 - 4.3.1. **Leveraging Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) in Tsunami Early Warning**
- 4.4. WORKING GROUP 4: PREPAREDNESS, READINESS AND RESILIENCE

5. SPECIAL INVITED LECTURES: COMMUNITY BASED TSUNAMI AND OTHER COASTAL HAZARDS WARNING SYSTEM

- 5.1. COSTA RICA PRESENTATION ON TSUNAMI READY COMMUNITIES

6. POLICY MATTERS

- 6.1. EXERCISE CARIBE WAVE 2024
- 6.2. CENTRAL AMERICA TSUNAMI ADVISORY CENTER (CATAC)
- 6.3. REPORT OF THE TASK TEAM ON TSUNAMI READY PROGRAMME
- 6.4. REPORT OF THE TASK TEAM ON TSUNAMI PROCEDURES FOR VOLCANIC CRISES
- 6.5. REPORT OF THE TASK TEAM ON TSUNAMI EVACUATION MAPPING
- 6.6. REPORT OF THE TASK TEAM ON UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2024–2025

8. NEXT SESSIONS

- 8.1. CONFIRMATION OF DATE AND PLACE OF ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVII
- 8.2. TARGET DATE FOR ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVIII

9. ELECTIONS

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. CLOSE OF THE SESSION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION of UNESCO
Sixteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System
for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVI)
 Heredia, Costa Rica, 25–28 April 2023
PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Hour	Tuesday 25 April 2023	Wednesday 26 April 2023	Thursday 27 April 2023	Friday 28 April 2023
8.00 – 9.00	Registration, logistics		INTRASESSIONAL WG	
9.00-10.30	1. WELCOME AND OPENING 1.1. Dr Silvia Chacon-Barrantes, ICG/CARIBE-EWS Chair 1.2. Welcome by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION 2.1. Adoption of the Agenda 2.2. Designation of the Rapporteur(s) 2.3. Conduct of The Session, Timetable and Documentation	4. WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORTS 4.1. Working group 1 4.2. Working group 2 4.3. Working group 3 4.4. Working group 4	INTRASESSIONAL WGs	7. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2024–2025 8. NEXT SESSIONS 8.1. Confirmation of Date and Place of ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVII 8.2. Target Date for ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVIII
10:30-11.00	COFFEE BREAK + Group Photo	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
11.00 12.30	3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES 3.1. Chair's Report 3.2. CARIBE-EWS Secretariat Report 3.3. Report of CTIC 3.4. Reports from UN and non UN organizations (World Tsunami Awareness Day WTAD) 3.5. Status of other ICGs	5. SPECIAL INVITED LECTURES: COMMUNITY BASED TSUNAMI AND OTHER COASTAL HAZARDS WARNING SYSTEM 5.1. Costa Rica Presentation on Community Preparedness 6. POLICY MATTERS 6.1. Exercise Caribe Wave 2024	INTRASESSIONAL WGs	9. ELECTIONS
12.30 - 13.30	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
13.30 15.00	3.6. National Progress Reports	6.2. Central America Tsunami Advisory Center (CATAC) 6.3. Report of the Task Team on Tsunami Ready Programme	6.6. Report of the Task Team on UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development	10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
15:00-15:30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
15.30 -17.00	3.7. Tsunami services Provider Report (PTWC) 3.8. Report of Caribe Wave 2022	6.4. Report of the Task Team on Tsunami Procedures for Volcanic Crisis 6.5. Report of the Task Team on Tsunami Evacuation Mapping	Reports Intersessional WGs	11. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 12. CLOSE OF THE SESSION
18:15	Welcome Dinner			

National Reports will be posted to the ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVI web site without TWFP contact details

NATIONAL REPORT
Submitted by (country name)

BASIC INFORMATION

1. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami National Contact (TNC)

The person designated by a Member State to an Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) to represent his/her country in the coordination of international tsunami warning and mitigation activities. The person is part of the main stakeholders of the national tsunami warning and mitigation system. The person may be the Tsunami Warning Focal Point, from the national disaster management organization, from a technical or scientific institution, or from another agency with tsunami warning and mitigation responsibilities.

Name:
Title:
Organization:
Postal Address:
E-mail Address:
Telephone Number:
Fax Number:
Cellular Telephone Number:

2. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP)

The 7x24 contact person, or other official point of contact or address, is available at the national level for rapidly receiving and issuing tsunami event information (such as warnings). The Tsunami Warning Focal Point either is the emergency authority (civil defense or other designated agency responsible for public safety), or has the responsibility of notifying the emergency authority of the event characteristics (earthquake and/or tsunami), in accordance with national standard operating procedures. The Tsunami Warning Focal Point receives international tsunami warnings from the PTWC, or other regional warning centres.

Name:
Title:
Responsible Organization:
Postal Address:
E-mail Address:
Emergency Telephone Number:
Emergency Fax Number:
Emergency Cellular Telephone Number:

National Tsunami Warning Centre (if different from the above)

Person in Charge:
Title:
Responsible Organization:
Postal Address:

E-mail Address:
Emergency Telephone Number:
Emergency Fax Number:
Emergency Cellular Telephone Number:

3. Tsunami Advisor(s), if applicable

(Person, Committee or Agency managing Tsunami Mitigation in country)

Name:
Title:
Postal Address:
E-mail Address:
Emergency Telephone Number:
Emergency Fax Number:
Emergency Cellular Telephone Number:

4. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Local Tsunami (when a local tsunami threat exists, less than 1 hour travel time)

5. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Regional Tsunami (when a regional tsunami threat exists, 1–3 hour travel time)

6. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Distant Tsunami (when a distant tsunami threat exists, more than 3-hour travel time)

For each situation, please provide the following:

- *What organization identifies and characterizes tsunamigenic events?*
- *What is the threshold or criteria for declaring a potential tsunami emergency?*
- *What organization acts on the information provided by the agency responsible for characterizing the potential tsunami threat?*
- *How is the tsunami information (warning, public safety action, etc) disseminated within country? Who is it disseminated to?*
- *How is the emergency situation terminated?*
- *For Distant Tsunami Procedures:
What actions were taken in response to warnings issued by PTWC and/or US NTWC, during the intersessional period?*

7. National Sea Level Network

Please include a table with position and description of stations/sensors, and a map.

8. Information on Tsunami occurrences/Tsunami Exercises

Please include sea level observations, pictures, wave arrival descriptions, public, media, or other responses to warnings, lessons learned, etc.

9. Web sites (URLs) of national tsunami-related web sites

10. Summary plans of future tsunami warning and mitigation system improvements.

This information will be used to aid the development of the CARIBE-EWS Implementation Plan

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

11. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brief statement of no more than one page addressing all items discussed in the Narrative section of the National Report (below)

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.....
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12. NARRATIVE

Detailed description of innovations or modifications to National tsunami warnings procedures or operations since last National Report, tsunami research projects, tsunami mitigation activities and best practices (especially in preparedness and emergency management), tsunami exercises, as well as public education programmes or other measures taken to heighten awareness of the tsunami hazard and risk.

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Date: Name:

**Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards
Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS)**

Elections of the Officers of the ICG

The Sixteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE EWS), San Jose, Costa Rica, 25–28 April 2023, shall elect the Officers of the ICG, namely, one Chairperson and three Vice-chairpersons, for the term 2023–2025.

All the elected officers of the board have completed more than one period. Due to Covid-19 and the difficulty on having in-person meetings they have not been renewed from 2018.

The current elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons are the following:

Dr Silvia Chacon Barrantes, Chairperson, elected in 2018;

Mr Gérard Métayer, Vice-Chairperson, elected in 2016;

Ms Mary Luz Rengifo, Vice-Chairperson, elected in 2018;

Mr Jasen Penn, Vice-Chairperson, elected in 2018.

The Chairperson shall declare the opening and closing of each session, direct the discussions and ensure observance of the Rules of Procedure, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The Chairperson shall rule on points of order and, subject to these Rules, shall control the proceedings and maintain order and shall strive to work by consensus (Rule 38).

The Vice-chairpersons assist the Chairperson in his/her functions and substitute him/her where necessary.

The Chairperson and the Vice-chairpersons of a Subsidiary Body shall not remain in his/her mandate more than two successive terms (as this is the limit established for an IOC Chairperson, Rule 17.2. The time limit of a mandate is two years according to Article 7.2 of the IOC Statutes).

Nominations

Nominations of individuals to either the post of Chairperson or the posts of Vice-chairpersons shall be submitted by Member States through the officially designated Head of Delegation to the ICG/CARIBE EWS-XIII, or through the IOC Focal Point in the Member State or the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO.

Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary using **Form A** (Chairperson) or **Form B** (Vice-chairperson) and must reach the Executive Secretary or his representative at the latest on the first day of the meeting by close of business.

Each nomination shall contain a declaration from the candidate that he/she is prepared to stand for the post for which he/she has been nominated and is willing to take on the obligations that would devolve upon him/her, should he/she be elected. Each nomination shall also contain a CV with the profile of the candidate (**Form C**).

Each candidate must be seconded by two Member States of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS other than the nominating Member State.

Elections

The IOC general practice is working and deciding by consensus (Rule 38.2).

Should voting be necessary, decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting (Rule 43.2), by secret ballot.

**Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards
Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS)**

Biennial Elections for Chairperson

Form A – Chairperson

Name of Member State:

Name of Nominee:

I declare that I am prepared to stand for election to the post of Chairperson of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS and, if elected, to take an active part in the work of it.

Signature of the Nominee:

Seconder 1

Seconder 2

Member State of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS

Name in capitals

Position

Signature

Date sent to the IOC Secretariat Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat

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**Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards
Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS)**

Biennial Elections for Chairperson

Form B – Vice-chairperson

Name of Member State:

Name of Nominee:

I declare that I am prepared to stand for election to the post of Vice-chairperson of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS and, if elected, to take an active part in the work of it.

Signature of the Nominee:

Seconder 1

Seconder 2

Member State of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS

Name in capitals

Position

Signature

Date sent to the IOC Secretariat Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat

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XVI ICG/CARIBE-EWS Logistic Note

Heredia, Costa Rica, 25 – 28 April 2023

1. Venue

The venue will be Hotel Wyndham Herradura, located in Heredia.

The hotel is located 5 km from the airport and 8 km from the National University.

The hotel has three swimming pools, a fitness center, sauna and jacuzzi.

Across the street there are several restaurants, and a Hard Rock Cafe is within the hotel state.

More information on hotel amenities at <https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham/san-jose-costa-rica/wyndham-san-jose-herradura-hotel-convention-center/services-amenities>

1.1 Hotel prices

The event rate for a single room is USD\$95 (+13% taxes) and for a double room is USD\$105 (+13% taxes).

These rates are also valid for 3 days before and 3 days after the meeting.

The rates include:

- *Breakfast buffet from 6 to 10 am*
- *High speed internet*
- *Coffee maker with Britt coffee in the room*

1.2 Reservations and information

The hotel will provide a link to make the reservations very soon. This link will ensure you the meeting rate.

The special rate for the ICG session is only available through the link. No rate changes can be done if you book by any other means. Then, please, only book the hotel through the link we will provide soon.

Availability of the rooms cannot be assured after April 3rd.

1.3 Other hotels

No transportation will be provided between the venue and nearby hotels.

However, walking distance hotels are

- *City Express San José <https://www.cityexpress.com/es-cr/express/hoteles-costa-rica/costa-rica/ulloa/san-jose>*

- Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Cariari <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/sjodtdt-doubletree-cariari-san-jose-costa-rica/>

2. Airport

Costa Rica's main airport is Juan Santamaría Airport, located at San Jose, code **SJO**.

3. Transportation between the airport and the venue

The venue hotel offers free airport shuttles that must be booked in advance with the following schedule:

Departing from the hotel	Departing from the airport
5am	5:30am
6am	6:30am
7am	7:30am
8am	8:30am
9am	9:30am
10am	10:45am
11am	12pm
12:30pm	1:30pm
2pm	2:30pm
3pm	3:30pm
4pm	4:30pm
5pm	5:45pm
7pm	7:30pm
8pm	8:30pm
9pm	9:45pm

These are fixed hours, if you miss your shuttle, you must call the hotel and make a new transport request.

The hotel offers private airport transportation for USD\$25 (taxes included) up to 3 persons per way.

Also, you can use the official airport taxis (orange cabs). You do not need to make a reservation for your arrival, as there is a counter just before exiting the airport and the drivers are properly identified. However, for your returning trip you should make a reservation. They have taximeters, speak English, and accept credit and debit cards. For more information visit <https://taxiaeropuerto.com>

4. Entry

To enter Costa Rica your passport must have an expiration date of at least three months after the date of entrance to the country.

It is advisable to make a photocopy or take a picture of your passport with the entry stamp to always carry during your stay.

In some cases, the Immigration official may request you show economic solvency for your stay in the country.

All non-resident travelers must possess a return ticket or a ticket as proof of when they intend to exit the country, commonly referred to as an outbound exit or onward ticket. The immigration officer will ask for it upon your arrival. An onward ticket is required of non-residents who are:

- *Traveling on a one-way ticket*
- *Entering the country with a return ticket dated more than 90 days after arrival.*
- *Flying into Costa Rica and flying out of another country*

By law, an onward ticket includes any of the following on approved, commercial transport:

- *A pre-purchased bus ticket out of the country*
- *A pre-purchased flight out of the country*
- *Proof of passage on a cruise ship*

Costa Rica requires an entry visa for some nationalities. Some examples are:

- *Colombia,*
- *Cuba,*
- *Dominican Republic,*
- *Haiti,*
- *Jamaica,*
- *Nicaragua,*
- *Venezuela.*

Some of these nationalities have visa exemptions. For further information please check

<http://www.costarica-embassy.org/index.php?q=node/51>

Costa Rican authorities demand that travelers have a yellow fever vaccination certificate if coming from the following Caribbean countries:

- *Brazil,*
- *Colombia,*
- *Republic of Guyana,*
- *Venezuela.*

The vaccine must have been applied at least ten days before the trip.

More info at <https://www.visitcostarica.com/en/costa-rica/planning-your-trip/entry-requirements>

5. Field trip

We are offering a complimentary field trip on Monday April 24th to Poás Volcano National Park and tentatively to SINAMOT and OVSICORI (Costa Rica Vulcanological and Seismologic Observatory) facilities, both at National University. A volcanologist will join us to provide information on Poás Volcano.

Poas Volcano has one of the largest craters in the world and it is active. It's located within 70 min from the hotel at an altitude of about 2700 m. From the parking lot to the crater, you will have to walk about 900 m

over a pavement road. You can also visit Botos lagoon, an old crater, located at about 400 m from the crater. From there you can take the longer trail to the parking lot over about 2.2 km in the forest. No special gear is required for the trails, but comfortable and waterproof shoes are recommended.

The field trip will include transportation and entrance fee to the National Park. It will not include lunch, although we will make a stop at a restaurant.

Details still need to be finalized but the field trip will depart early in the morning from the hotel and will return in the afternoon.

Temperatures in the volcano are around 13°C and light rain might be expected, so please bring appropriate clothing. Sun protection is also recommended.

Previous reservation is required for this field trip before April 1st. Please write an email to Silvia Chacón silviach@una.ac.cr or Anthony Murillo amurillo@una.ac.cr to reserve a seat providing your full name.

6. Costa Rica overview

Costa Rica is a country located in Central America that has unlimited tourist potential and is ranked as one of the most visited international destinations. One of Costa Rica's main sources of income is tourism. Costa Rica is a democratic and peaceful country, and it has not had an army since December 1949.

Although the country is small and it covers only 0.03 % of the surface of the globe, it proudly shelters a 5% of the existing biodiversity in the entire world. 25.58 % of the country is composed of conservation and natural protected territory.

Costa Rica is also an attractive country for investment and offers great potential for the establishment of important multinational companies, thanks to the outstanding academic level of its population, as well as the high standard of modern services and social and political stability.

Costa Rica is divided into seven provinces, these are: San José, Alajuela, Heredia, Cartago, Puntarenas, Guanacaste, and Limon. Each province is subdivided into "cantones" (municipalities) and these are subdivided into districts.

The country has as a marine territory known as Coco's Island. It is a world-renowned natural reserve, located 548 kilometers from Cabo Blanco in the Pacific Ocean comprised of 2,400 hectares of land and 73,100 hectares of sea.

Source: <https://www.visitcostarica.com/en/costa-rica/general-information>

6.1 Capital

Costa Rica capital city is San José, lying in the Central Valley at about 1,000 meters over mean sea level. At the Central Valley are located also three main cities: Alajuela, Heredia and Cartago.

6.2 Currency

Local currency is Colon. 1 dollar equals approximately ₡558 (Costa Rican Colones).

6.3 Language

Spanish is the official language. However, many people speak English.

6.4 Climate

Average temperatures at the Central Valley are between 17°C and 27°C.

7. Touristic recommendations

As the weekend right after the meeting is a long weekend almost worldwide (Monday is May 1st), we recommend you stay over the weekend and enjoy the beautiful places Costa Rica has to offer.

Over the weekend you can travel to beaches at the Pacific or Caribbean coasts, to Monteverde rainforest, Arenal volcano or stay at the same hotel and take one-day tours to nearby volcanoes (Poás and Irazú) and other destinations.

For further information visit <https://www.visitcostarica.com/en>

The venue hotel has a touristic agency that offers one day or multiple days tours. For more information visit <https://willytour.com/travel/index.php>

8. Contact

For more information, please contact Silvia Chacón silviach@una.ac.cr or Anthony Murillo amurillo@una.ac.cr

9. Local organizers

