

4. World Water Forum

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE WATER CRISIS AND THE CHALLENGES TO FACE

(Mexico D.C., 17 March 2006)

PANEL: GUIAS Y SCOUTS DE COSTA RICA-DESARROLLANDO UNA NUEVA CULTURA EN EL USO DEL AGUA

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C.R.: Local socio-econ context

- **Population:** 4 Million - Area: 51,100 sq km
- **Economy based on:** tourism, agriculture and electronics exports
- **GINI index** - distribution of family income: **46,5%** (2000)
- Population **below poverty** line: **18%** (2004 estimated)
- **Unemployment** rate: 6,6%
- **Inflation rate:** 13,8 % (2005 est)

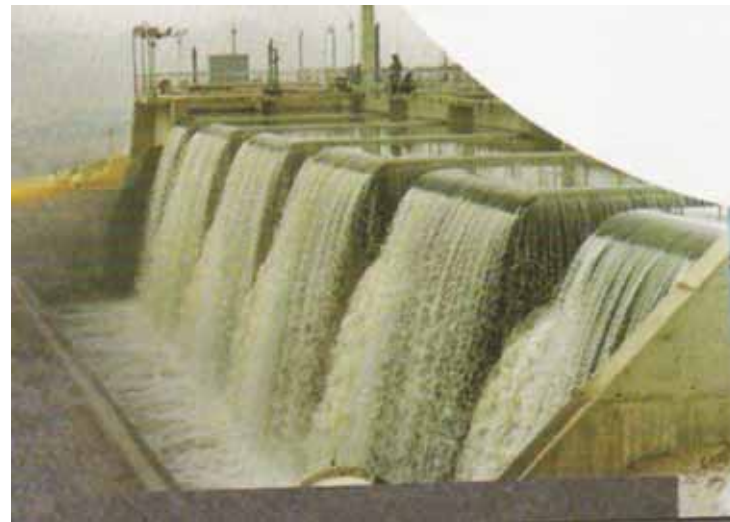
(source: CIA – The World Factbook 2006)

C.R.: WATER OVERALL... BUT ... NOT ENOUGH TO DRINK!?

- Hazards: Frequent **flooding** of lowlands at onset of rainy season
- Rainy season: May to November, **tropical climate**
- **1290 coast** line (Pacific ocean and Caribbean Sea)
- **31000 m³/per capita – day**: but **losses** of water because of people behaviors
- F.E.N.: Niño Phenomenon= **strong rainy** vs. strong dry seasons
- Quality of **drink water threatened** urban, industrial activities and agriculture

Why do preserve water in C.R?

- **preservation of biodiversity**
- **drink water & sanitation**
- **hydroelectricity**
- **irrigations**
- **tourism industry**
- **recreation**
- **technology**



How could the project be sustainable?

- To integral problems....
- integral solutions,
- integral participation of actors



Building Sustainability

- Starting with **existing social and economical structures**: organized youth groups and associations, involved in environmental projects
- Improving **local synergies** of the youth to promote participation and environmental awareness
- Local and central government **promoting youth initiatives** and supporting actions
- From technological (climate, computer) to **integral knowledge and actions** (agriculture, industry, technological development)

Building Sustainability

- Improving **instruments to make youth aware** of their role and aware of preservation of water resources
- **Permanent evaluation** of concrete results
- **Be aware that only external supports (i.e. UNESCO) not always sustainable**

OMBUDSMAN
(claims office,
mediation)


CENTRAL AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS:
regulatory authority/promoter

allowance &
supervision
Institutions
EIAs,PAMAs

norm
Institution
(environment)
Environm. standars

FINANCIAL/
SUPPORTING
INSTITUTIONS:
IDB/ LOCAL
BANKS credits

Interaction
participation
decisions
sustainability



PROFESIONALS
training
accompaning
processes,
mediation,
consulting,
research

INVESTORS,
CONSTRUCTORS,
INTERMEDIATE
ENTERPRISES
Investments
constructions

GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS
THE YOUTH
initiatives, creativity, motivation,
ACTIONS ===== CHANGE

NGOs:active
and passive
cooperation to
actors

TOWARDS A GLOBAL MISSION OF A PROJECT: CHALLENGES TO FACE

- **EQUITY:** MACRO ECONOMY MUST GROW (GDP) PROMOTING CREATIVE WAYS TO **REDUCE % POVERTY**, TO DECREASE INEQUALITY (GINI INDEX), BUT ALSO TO **REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF ECONOMICAL ACTIVITIES.**
- **SOCIAL INCLUSION:** URBAN GROWTH MUST BE SUSTAINABLE TO IMPROVE **BETTER LIFE CONDITIONS**, BUILDING ADEQUATE PROVISIONS, INTEGRATING POOR PEOPLE FROM **MARGINAL AREAS TO THE CITY.**
- **GOOD GOVERNANCE:** CAPACITIES MUST BE IMPROVE TO INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS TO ACHIEVE GOOD GOVERNANCE **INTEGRATING ACTIONS** AT **NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL.**
- **DEMOCRACY AND TRANSPARENCY:** LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MUST IMPROVE PARTICIPATION, GOOD ORGANIZATION, MORE IDENTITY, PROMOTE CREATIVITY AND SENSIBILIZATION OF LOCAL ACTORS – THE YOUTH -TO BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

LEARNING CYCLE

