

COSTA RICA DAY

Wednesday, September 7th, 2005

I. FIELD TRIPS

Dear Participant,

We are glad to invite you to our field trips planned for Wednesday September 7th, 2005.

We will have 5 different field trips, according to the theme dealt within each Working Group. You will have the opportunity to see Costa Rican SCP experiences on the ground. Please join the field trip determined for your Working Group.

Departure: Lobby, Hotel San José Palacio, 8:00 a.m.

WG:	Theme:	Field trip to:
1	Production Process and Industrial Development	Volcafe: Río Negro
2	Urban Planning and Waste Management	Brasil Hydroelectric Plant
3	Sustainable Consumption and Production Development	Communitary Rural Tourism
4	Strategies for SCP	PLAMA Virilla Program
5	Energy, air pollution, climate change and atmosphere	Río Azul Landfill and Landfill Flue Gas Recovery

Groups will return to the hotel between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 md.

At 12:00md we will have a Presentation: “Costa Rica: Achievements and Challenges in Sustainable Consumption and Production”, by Mr. Sergio Musmanni, National Cleaner Production Center, Costa Rica

Detailed explanation of each field trip

WG1. Volcafe: Río Negro a Sustainable Enterprise

Volcafe is a consortium of coffee plantations and processing units all over the country focused in the international market. Their operations in Río Negro located in San Vito de Coto Brus in the south-east portion of the country is a model operation. They have agricultural practices certified by Rainforest Alliance and Fair-Trade initiatives promoted by MIGROS the largest supermarket chain in Switzerland. The visit will be to the San Diego operation nearby San José in order to have a feeling for the normal coffee wet-processing site and a presentation of a video regarding the experience at Río Negro. The objective of the visit is to show the integration of activities with good agricultural practices, cleaner production, eco-labels, fair-trade and corporate social responsibility.

WG2. Brasil Hydroelectric Plant

Costa Rica's electricity supply is mostly produced by renewable sources like hydro power. One concern in the dams located nearby populated areas is the solid waste disposed off at rivers, which creates not only a water pollution problem but also an operation problem. In recent years thousand's of tons of materials have been recovered from the river with high costs. Programs for preventing the situation have started. The objective of the visit is to highlight the importance of the renewable electricity generation in a country dependant on good environmental management of rivers and basins to be sustainable. Additionally, the company that operates the plant (Compañía Nacional de Fuerza y Luz), participates in the Payment of Environmental Services Programm, which recognizes financially, to the forests' landowners, the services provided by their forests alongside the river in protecting the basin and watersheds. On the way to the plant, you will drive through the city of Escazú, which has had a fast growth in the last 20 years and faces some problems of unplanned urban development which add to the waste disposal problems.

WG3. Communitary Rural Tourism

One of the major activities in the country is tourism, the initiatives are largely based on small eco-tourism operations although there are plenty of big hotels also. A new kind of tourism is looking for an experience on the local culture and rural activities not available in their home countries. The objective of this visit is to show how typical rural activities can become complemented with tourism. Operations of this kind have integrated dairy farms and coffee plantations as well as showcasing the uniqueness of the local way of life.

WG4. Plama Virilla Program

An innovative program to involve the community into the environmental initiatives to lower the impact of solid waste into the riverbed and take care of the basin increasing the water flowing to the river. This program is highly relevant to the sustainability of the water resources of the country and impact of the human activities downstream to the coastal areas on the Pacific Ocean. The objective of this visit is to highlight the importance of involving the people living nearby in the activities from the very design of the project to its implementation and follow-up with awareness raising and training.

WG5. Río Azul Landfill and Landfill Flue Gas Recovery

Landfills are the normal way for solid waste disposal in Costa Rica and just recently some other alternatives like co-processing are available. Recycling is a particular initiative of certain communities or privately promoted programs since there are no country-wide government programs. Río Azul is the oldest landfill in the Great Metropolitan Area or GAM and has been receiving municipal solid waste for the last 30 years. Efforts to recover and use the biogas coming from that source and produce electricity have been started with the National Light and Power Company (CNFL) together with the Saret Group as the developer of the project which will sell Certified Emission Reduction (CER's) for the methane reduction. The objective is to show the importance of municipal solid waste management and its connection with climate change.

II. OFFICIAL DINNER

Departure: Lobby, Hotel San José Palacio, 7:00 p.m.

Venue: Pueblo Antiguo in the National Amusement Park

We are glad to invite you to enjoy a nice Costa Rican dinner in Pueblo Antiguo (“Old Town”), which is one of the main attractions of the National Amusement Park. You will have the opportunity, besides tasting typical dishes, to see the Costa Rica of the beginning of 20th Century, with impersonators taking you back to those days and traditions, and buildings representing what existed back then.

The National Amusement Park belongs to the National Children’s Hospital Foundation. Funds raised are used to support the hospital, and their slogan is: “Healthy children help sick children”.

We are sure you are going to have a great time.

The dinner is sponsored by the Costa Rican Tourist Board.