Category: **Obligation to Make Environmental Information Public**

Sub-Category: Annual Domestic Environmental Reports

Name of Good Practice: Costa Rica’s State of the Nation Report

Key Words: Access to Information, Awareness Raising, Internet, Monitoring, Ombudsperson, Technology

Implementing Actors: Academic Institution/Civil Society Organisation: El Consejo Nacional de Rectores/National Council of Rectors; National Ombudsperson: Costa Rican Office of the Ombudsperson

Location: Costa Rica

Description: The State of the Nation Report is an annual report that serves as a performance monitoring system for Costa Rica, through the selection, measurement and evaluation of a wide range of components of sustainable human development. The report was established as part of the *Programa Estado de la Nación*/State of the Nation Program in 1994 as a UN Development Programme project, with support from the National Council of Public University Rectors (CONARE) and the Office of the Ombudsperson in Costa Rica. In 2003, it was restructured as an institutional programme under CONARE, in partnership with the Office of the Ombudsperson and the four public universities of Costa Rica.

The report’s ground-breaking approach goes beyond conventional indicators, by employing innovative research tools such as a statistical compendium with more than 500 references. The report provides in-depth, independent analysis of challenges and successes in four general areas: social, economic, environmental and political. The drafters, who enjoy complete editorial freedom, rely on academic research and dialogues with diverse groups in public and private sectors and communities. The State of the Nation report is a good practice for its independent and regular reporting on developmental and environmental issues, and its dissemination of up-to-date and reliable information to support citizen participation in policymaking.

Further Information: The Programme’s website: <http://www.estadonacion.or.cr/>; Miguel Gutierrez Saxe, *National and Regional performance and accountability: “State of the Nation/Region Program – Costa Rica”*:[www.oecd.org/site/progresskorea/43586578.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/site/progresskorea/43586578.pdf); *see* Report of Independent Expert on his Mission to Costa Rica for an overview of the State of the Nation Report: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/IEEnvironment/Pages/Countryvisits.aspx>.