



Research Team

for the CREST project:

“The Impact of Tourism Related Development along Costa Rica’s Pacific Coast”

The project will be directed by CREST Co-Directors Martha Honey and William H. Durham and managed in Costa Rica by Erick Vargas. Each of the following researchers produced one or more individual reports for the project and participated in several workshops discussing the project’s research topics, policy recommendations, and dissemination of findings.

Costa Rican-based Research Team:

Erick Vargas is an environmental consultant and professional speaker on biodiversity conservation, ecotourism, good environmental practices, product design and sustainable development. He holds a M.Sc. in Ecological Tourism at San José-based Latin American University for Science and Technology, ULACIT. From 1997-2005, he worked at Costa Rica’s National Biodiversity Institute, INBIO, as the Training and Consulting Unit Coordinator, organizing courses, workshops, seminars, field trips, and in-service training in subjects including biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, protected areas, ecotourism, guiding and interpretation, environmental services, bioprospecting, and intellectual property rights. Between 2004 and 2009 he was on the Board of Directors of the National Ecotourism Chamber of Costa Rica (CANAECO). In 2006, he was appointed by President Arias as a member of the National Biodiversity Committee of Costa Rica, which is an Ad Honorem position.

Jorge Cabrera is an environmental lawyer. He graduated with honors of the University of Costa Rica and has a postgraduate studies on environmental and agricultural law, commercial law and economic law. Professor of environmental law at the University of Costa Rica. Currently he is the legal adviser of the National Biodiversity Institute (INBio) and international consultant in the area of Intellectual property and biodiversity, biotechnology and bio-safety, access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. Lead Counsel of International Sustainable Biodiversity Law of the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law based in Montreal, Canada. Jorge has several books and articles published in the area of IPR, ABS, Biosafety, Trade and Environment in different countries.

Marcos Montero is a geographer with experience in land use planning, tourism, urban development, local public administration, demography and others. Former Director of the Tourism School at Latin American University for Science and Technology, ULACIT, in San José, professor at Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, UNA, in environmental management. Founder and Director of TT Argos, a consultancy enterprise in environmental and social technologies (ISO, etc) and tourism.

Luis A. Morales has acted as an advisor for the Ministry of Science and Technology and worked as an external consultant for the International Labor Office (ILO), the Latin American Center for Competitiveness and Sustainable Development (CLACDS) at INCAE Business School, and the Sustainable Markets Intelligence Center (CIMS), among other research institutes, NGOs and various firms in the private sector. Morales' research interests include development economics, applied research and strategic consulting. His work spans qualitative, empirical and policy analysis, bridging academic analysis and practical policy-making by adapting methodologies to promote sustainable development and economic growth. He attended Haverford College, Pennsylvania, and the London School of Economics, graduating with a BA degree in Economics with high honors and an MSc. on Development and Environment.

Lawrence Pratt is the Director of the Latin American Center for Competitiveness and Sustainable Development (CLACDS) at the INCAE Business School (www.incae.edu), based in Costa Rica. He teaches Environmental Strategy and Environmental Policy in INCAE's Masters and Executive Masters programs. He works as a consultant to multilateral organizations and companies in the US, Latin America and Europe. He is author of numerous articles and a frequent lecturer on sustainable business strategy. He holds a Masters of Public and Private Management degree from Yale University.

Marcela Román is Coordinator Researcher at the "Estado de la Nación" Initiative. She co-edited "Estado de la Nación" reports 1-12 and "Estado de la Región" 1 and 2 and was general coordinator for the "XI Estado de la Nación" report. She holds a Masters Degree in Economics from Universidad de Costa Rica and candidate for Masters Degree in Economics of Health and Social Policy at the same University. She has taken specialization courses in human development, international cooperation, gender, project evaluation, and land market.

Alberto Salas is an architect and tourism consultant with more than 27 years' experience in Central America and Mexico. With an advanced degree from the National Institute of Public Administration in Spain, and university training in Mexico and Costa Rica, Mr. Salas has a distinguished career in the corporate, public and academic sectors. He has applied his vast technical knowledge in the design and construction of hotels, resorts and family homes, at the policy and land-use planning level with municipal and national governments, and in the academic realm as a university professor and professional researcher. He has led the Costa Rican Tourism Institute's training and development unit and helped guide their highly-respected certification program. He has recently consulted on a GTZ-funded project on the regulation of tourism in coastal zones in Nicaragua, and served as a trainer for an IDB-funded course on land-use zoning for the 11 municipal governments of Guanacaste Province in Costa Rica. Relevant research includes (among many) his recent contribution to studies on the impacts of tourism and real estate development on Costa Rica's Pacific coast for the Costa Rican Chamber of Hotels.

Shirley Sánchez is environmental lawyer, university professor, and international consultant on environmental issues. Shirley Sanchez is a University professor at Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR). There she has served as Costa Rica coordinator of the UF/UCR Joint Program in

Environmental Law. Has directed the Costa Rica Environmental Law Clinic, a joint effort between the Levin College of Law and UCR.

George Soriano is an independent consultant. He came to Costa Rica in 1996, as a volunteer with the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center where he helped develop an English Language program (ESL) for rural communities. Later, he became a news writer and features editor with Central America's leading English-language newspaper, *The Tico Times*. During his four years with the paper, George traveled extensively throughout Costa Rica writing travel related articles for magazines and guidebooks that included Fodor's Gold Guide to Costa Rica (2000-2002). His strong journalism background and knowledge of the tourism product in these countries led him to work with Horizontes Nature Tours as Marketing Director. He currently works as an independent consultant.

Martha Vega holds a BA degree in Ecotourism from the Latin American University of Science and Technology and attended University of Costa Rica for a Master Degree in Ecotourism and Environmental Management. She has worked in the Tourism Sector for 19 years and her experience includes marketing strategies, product development and business sustainability management. Founding partner of Evolución Empresarial, a consultancy enterprise focused on business sustainability management and strategies and corporate social responsibility.

Other people involved are Cornelia Miller and Mauricio Zamora, from the CENAT-PRIAS Initiative and Christopher Nieto, from TT Argos, who worked on the land use analysis for the 1980-2005 period, and José Luis Mendoza Sánchez, from Sostenible por Naturaleza, who provided logistical and secretarial support.

CREST Staff and Other U.S.-based Researchers:

Martha Honey: Ph.D., is CREST Co-Founder and Director of the Washington, DC office. She has worked in dozens of countries and has written and lectured widely. Her books include *Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: Who Owns Paradise?* (Island Press, 2008 and 1999) and *Ecotourism and Certification: Setting Standards in Practice* (Island Press, 2002). She also worked for 20 years as a journalist based in Tanzania, East Africa and in Costa Rica, from which she covered the Central America conflicts of the 1980s. She wrote extensively about this period, including *Hostile Acts: Impacts of U.S. Policy in Costa Rica in the 1980s* (University Presses of Florida, 1995). She holds a Ph.D. in African history. Honey was also Executive Director of The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) from 2003 to 2006.

William H. Durham: Ph.D., is CREST Co-Founder and Director of the Stanford University office where he is a Bing Professor in Human Biology in the Department of Anthropology and the Woods Institute for the Environment. He specializes in Latin America and has a particular interest in ecotourism as a means to address conservation and development issues. Winner of the prestigious MacArthur 'genius' award, he has authored or edited at least one book a year for the last 18 years. He has been active in Stanford's travel programs – including 20 trips to the Galapagos Islands.

Angelica Almeyda is a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology at Stanford University. She is also a graduate student researcher in Gregory Asner's lab in the Department of Global Ecology. Angelica graduated as a Forest Engineer from La Molina University in Lima, Peru and obtained her MA in Latin American Studies from University of Florida. Her doctoral interests are in comparing the impacts of development policies across the Amazonian tri-national frontier of Bolivia, Brazil and Peru. She has conducted research on social-economic and environmental consequences of eco-tourism in Costa Rica.

Leyland Baxter-Neal worked as a reporter for the Tico Times covering many of the environmental and coastal tourism development issues. He also worked as a free lance reporter throughout Central America. He is currently living in the United States.

Eben Broadbent is a Ph.D. student at Stanford University. He is also a graduate research staff member in the Asner Lab, Department of Global Ecology, Carnegie Institution of Washington. His research interests combine remote sensing and field ecology to understand the impacts of anthropogenic disturbances and climatic change on tropical ecosystems. His research experiences include the Amazon, Bolivia, and Costa Rica.

Millay Kogan spent three years in Costa Rica working to develop the sustainability program for Cayuga Sustainable Hospitality, a hotel management firm based in Costa Rica that manages and develops hotels that incorporate sustainable tourism policies into their operations. She is a graduate of Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration and currently resides in California.

Other CREST staff – Laura Driscoll, David Krantz, Rosalyn Salters, and Whitney Cooper provided research, copying editing, translation, and other support for this project. In addition, a number of CREST interns and Stanford student research assistants helped with the U.S.-based research.