

Expo Virtual

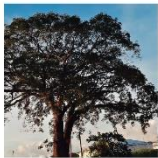


Isla del Coco
Ubicada a 532 km de la
costa pacífica costarricense.



With the collaboration of the Embassy of Costa Rica
in the Kingdom of the Netherlands

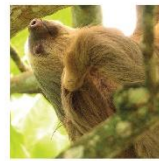
2021



National symbols are conceptualized elements as culturally created images that represent states, nations, and countries.

National symbols:

- Promote the sense of national identity, based on the experience of the most significant values, traditions, beliefs, history, and customs of a country.
- Evoke perception and memory on visual and verbal representations.
- Allow differentiation with other places, therefore they may be recognized by international organizations and by other states of the international community.
- Preserve socially accepted traits.
- Easily understandable and simplicity of the images.
- Constitute a cultural or natural concept of a nation.





The National Flag is made up of the flag and the national emblem, which are independent symbols, since each one has its own history. Between 1800 to 1900 Costa Rica had six different national flags.

After independence, on May 10, 1823, the Provincial Assembly of Costa Rica decided to adopt the first National Flag, which was called the Independent Provincial Flag. It was white with a red six-pointed star in the center. This flag was used until March 4, 1824.

On August 21, 1823, in a session held in Guatemala by the National Constituent Assembly of the United Provinces of Central America, a new decree established the characteristics of a second flag:

"With three horizontal stripes, blue the upper and lower and white the one in the center in which the emblem will be drawn...and in the center stripe written in silver letters: God Union Liberty."

This flag came into effect on March 6, 1824, it lasted over eight months, until its name changed from the flag of the United Provinces of Central America to the Federal Republic of Central America Flag.



National Flag

The Government of Braulio Carrillo (April 1840–April 1842) enacted the use of the flag of the Free State of Costa Rica. It had three horizontal stripes, blue at the top and at the bottom, and white in the center, with the emblem of the Free State of Costa Rica.

The next National Flag remained in use during the second half of the 19th century and became official during the Government of Dr. José María Castro Madriz. It was called the flag of the Republic of Costa Rica and it remained from 1848 to 1906.

The essential structure of this National Flag remains to this day. It has a white and a blue stripe of the same width at the top and at the bottom, and a red strip of double width in the center, where the coat of arms was located within a white ellipse.



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National Emblem

The history of the National Emblem is closely related to the history of the flag. It was decreed on September 29, 1848, during the first administration of José María Castro Madriz (1847-1849), a time in which the Costa Rican State strengthened the organization of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial powers, and in which a homeland symbolism was necessary to formalize diplomatic relations with other countries and peoples of the world.

What for some time was known as the first emblem, was the stamp for the issuance of a coin, which had on one side a star and the inscription "Costa Rica Libre" (Costa Rica Free) and on the reverse a palm in the center crossed by a sword and a rifle, with a bayonet and a barrel underneath.



The National Emblem has had four modifications:

1906: Due to the civil character of the country, the elements of war – war trophies – such as cannons and the horn of plenty were eliminated.

1964: It went from having five stars to seven, representing the seven provinces, since at that time Puntarenas and Limón had already been declared as provinces. The name of the Coat of Arms was changed to the National Emblem.

1998: Smoke was added to the three mountains to represent volcanoes. A differentiation of colours was also created as follows:

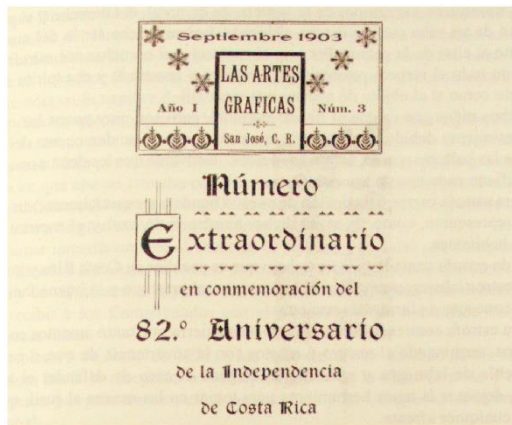
- The valley in light green colour
- Volcanoes in blue green colour
- The rising sun is old gold colour
- Myrtle palms in dark green
- The seven stars in silver
- The ribbon in light blue
- The sea in blue



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En las artes gráficas, Número Extraordinario en conmemoración del 82.º aniversario de la independencia de Costa Rica, Año I, Núm. 3, Septiembre 1903.



Costa Rican National Anthem

Music

Towards the middle of 1852, during the presidency of Juan Rafael Mora Fernández, the Government of Costa Rica was preparing to receive a joint delegation from Great Britain and the United States of America, but the country did not have a National Anthem for the welcoming ceremony. After a public hearing, the Commander, General José Joaquín Mora, commissioned the composition of the music for the National Anthem to Manuel María Gutiérrez, whom just a few months ago had been appointed Director of the National Band. On Wednesday, June 11, 1852, the chords of the National Anthem were heard for the first time.

Lyrics

Costa Rica was one of the first countries that, after its secession from the Central American Union, decided to create a National Anthem; however, little importance was initially given to this hymn. In 1888, Minister of Education, Mauro Fernández, declared as of national interest, the publication of the National Anthems Book, with the aim of teaching the National Anthem at schools.

In 1903, President Ascensión Esquivel launched a contest with a prize of 500 colones, with a participation of 40 compositions, to create the lyrics of the National Anthem. The winning lyrics were written by José María Zeledón Brenes.

Among the aspects that were considered when choosing the winner was the fact that the lyrics easily adjusted to the music previously written by Manuel María Gutiérrez.

This hymn was sung for the first time on September 15, 1903, at the National Park by a choir of more than two thousand children.

It was only until 1949 that these lyrics, by José María Zeledón Brenes, were declared as official lyrics of the National Anthem.

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Purple Orchid “Guaria Morada”

The process to choose the “Guaria Morada” as the national flower started in 1936, when the department of Parks and Gardens of the Municipality of La Plata in Argentina, inquired about the national flower of Costa Rica. The city of La Plata was in the process to design and create the Garden of Peace, in which all countries would be represented by their respective national flower.

Professor José María Orozco, Head of Botanical Section of the National Centre for Agriculture, was commissioned to make a proposal, and finally the “Guaria Morada” was selected through a voting process.

In 1939 the “Guaria Morada” was declared National Flower. Its image was integrated into the design of the 5 “colones” bill to highlight this national symbol of great beauty.

Guaria Morada

Lyric and music Roberto Gutiérrez and Carlos López (Los Talolingas)

Sobre la tapia entejada
sus pétalos suaves agita
la linda GUARIA MORADA
flor de esta tierra bendita.

Se encuentra como un lucero
colgadita en la enredada
cuando en lo oscuro el jilguero
va enredando su tonada.

Por la orilla de los ríos
adornando las quebradas
donde los montes son fríos
y están las aguas heladas.

Florecita linda paje,
florecita nazarena
el luto de tu ropaje)
es el mismo de mi pena.

El jazmín siempre blanquea
y sangran las amapolas,
sólo en Febrero tumba
el amor de tus corolas.

Florecita veranera
de la pampa y de la loma,
como tú soy primavera,
como tú no tengo aroma.

Sobre la tapia entejada,
en la roca y el raudal
luce la GUARIA MORADA,
la linda flor nacional.

Ella es emblema y es gala
que embellece y glorifica,
como un celaje hecho ala
que protege a Costa Rica.

Short description: The song talks about the beauty of these flowers that traditionally grew on the walls of the inner courtyards and the roofs of many old houses, in the gardens or on the lots of houses, especially in the external part, in the walls of adobe, or bahareque, and on clay tiles. The composition offers a poetic depiction of the flower that can be noticed in verses like (free translation of a verse of the song):

“By the riverside
adorning the streams
where the mountains are cold
and the waters icy are”

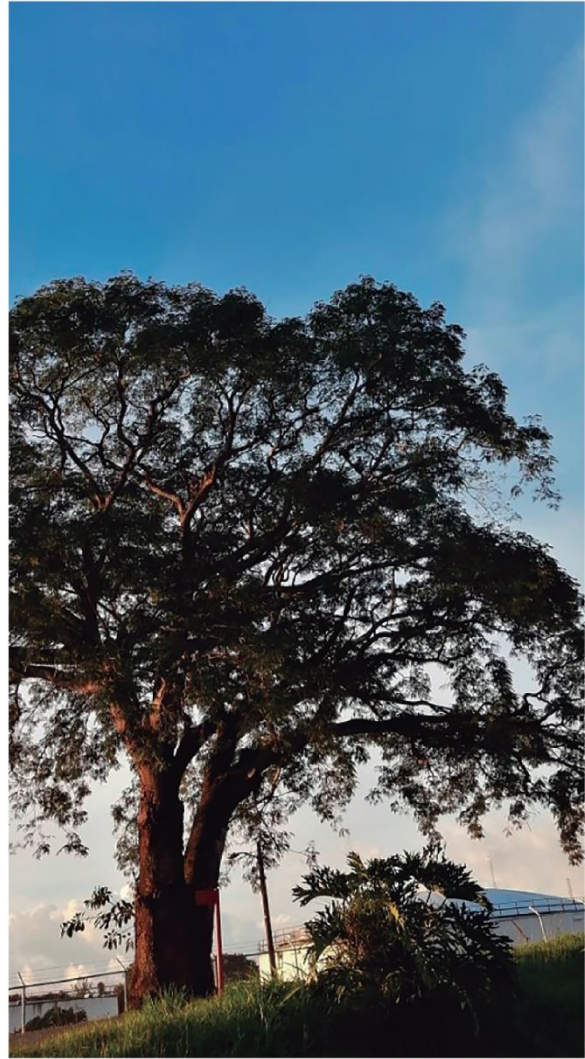


Guanacaste Tree

Its name originates from "Nahuatl", the language of pre-Columbian Mesoamerican cultures. Natives called it "quauh nacatzli" which means ear tree.

The suggestion of declaring this tree as a National Symbol came from journalist José María Pinaud, with the aim of recognizing the people of Guanacaste, due to the incorporation of Nicoya, to Costa Rica in 1824.

The Guanacaste Tree was decreed National Symbol in 1959.



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The “Yigüirro”

The yigüirro was chosen as a National Bird due to its melodious song. Yigüirros sing to mark their territory. The males begin their singing in chorus, at dawn, two weeks before the laying of their eggs.

These choirs are maintained throughout the breeding season, which lasts from two to four months.

There are two varieties, the brown yigüirro and the mountain yigüirro. Their habitat extends from central Mexico to northern Colombia. Adults are brick red colour and the younglings are brown. Their beak is greenish yellow.

Eliseo Gamboa Villalobos from the city of San Ramón, province of Alajuela, was the proponent for the yigüirro to be declared a National Bird. The declaration as a national symbol was issued in 1977.



Fotografía: Anthony Jiménez



Fotografías:
Museo de la Casa del Boyero
(Venecia, San Carlos)

The “Carreta”

The ox cart is the National Symbol of Labour, for its prominent role in history, socioeconomic development, and as an expression of popular art.

The first exported coffee beans were transported with this vehicle. In addition, it was used for construction, for the transportation of the sick, among other things, so it is said that the cart helped to build this homeland.

The representation of the cart has to do with culture, art, and technique. The close relationship of the farmers with their carts, later led Costa Ricans to develop particular styles for its decoration.

Related declarations:

1988: Declaration of the cart as a national symbol

2005: The tradition of the “boyero” and the cart in Costa Rica was declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a **Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity**.

2013: The tradition of the “boyero” and the cart was declared of public interest.

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Pre-Columbian Indigenous Spheres

These stone spheres are a group of more than 500 pre-Columbian petro-spheres, located mainly in the south of Costa Rica, in the alluvial plain of the Diquís river delta (confluence of the Sierpe river and the Grande de Térraba river), in the Osa peninsula and on the Isla del Caño.

The spheres are considered unique in the world for their number, size, and perfection. The sizes of these spheres ranging from 10 centimeters to 2.66 meters in diameter, and their weight reaches more than 16 tons. They were produced and utilized during a period over 1000 years, from 400 BC. to 500 AD.

In 2014, UNESCO declared the "Asentamientos cacicales precolombinos con esferas de piedra del Diquís" (Pre-Columbian chiefdom settlements with Diquís stone spheres) as a World Heritage Site.





Fotografías: pixabay.com (fotos libres)

Manatee

In 2013, Fabiola Salas and Aldeir Cortés, first-grade students at the Limoncito Neighborhood School at Limon province, proposed to declare the manatee as a national symbol of marine fauna.

Alejandra Miranda, Fabiola's mother, supported her in researching this marine mammal. The manatee lives in the Costa Rican Caribbean region, and its concentration occurs in the southern part of Gandoca, Tortuguero and Barra del Colorado. The most important populations of manatees inhabit in the Tortuguero National Park.

In 2014, the manatee was declared symbol of Costa Rica's marine fauna and of the hope and interest of Costa Rican children to protect natural resources in the national territory.

White-tailed Deer

In 1995 it was declared a symbol of the fauna of Costa Rica, with the purpose of combating the natural destruction and extermination of the species. In the late 1960s, hunting and forest devastation in Guanacaste caused the deer to almost disappear.

The habitat of the white-tailed deer is mainly located in the dry Pacific of Guanacaste, especially in the Santa Rosa National Park, and Puntarenas. By raising its white tail, this deer warns other members of the herd about danger.



Fotografía: Anthony Jiménez



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The 'marimba'

Its declaration as a national symbol dates from 1988, when the ethnomusicologist Rodrigo Salazar Salvatierra proposed it, considering that the marimba was being displaced, especially due to the appearance of a large number of electronic instruments.

The marimba is known as the "piano of America". In Costa Rica, the strongest tradition of playing this instrument is in the Province of Guanacaste.

The explanation about its origin indicates that the marimba may have been brought from Africa, and also that it is an autochthonous instrument created by the Maya-Quiché culture. It arrives to Costa Rica from Guatemala, possibly brought by Franciscan fathers.

The marimba is one of the instruments that characterizes popular celebrations and is characteristic of national folklore. Its loudness depends mainly on the keys and the soundboards.

The declaration as a national symbol was issued in 1996.





Torch of the Independence

The torch is a symbol of freedom and peace. The declaration as a national symbol was issued in 2005 thanks to the initiative of Professor Alfredo Cruz Bolaños.

The declaration was inspired by the independence torch tour-race, which has been taking place in Central America since 1964. During his participation at a meeting of Ministers of Public Education in Managua, Nicaragua, in 1964; then Costa Rica Minister of Public Education, Ismael A. Vargas, proposed holding a joint celebration of the Central American people to commemorate independence.

The tour of the torch is carried out with the help of students from the countries of the region and reproduces and commemorates the cry of independence of these nations.

“Los crestones”

-Mountain Peaks of Chirripó National Park-

As an icon of the natural beauty of Costa Rica, it was declared a national symbol in 2011. These formations belong to the La Amistad-Pacifico Conservation Area and are more than 10,000 years old.

These mountain peaks or “Crestones” were originally a volcano that did not form.

The Costa Rican Tourism Institute promotes the mountain peaks as a tourist attraction and as a part of the country brand strategy.



Fotografía: Bernardo Arguedas Yannarella



Fotografía: Bernardo Arguedas Yannarella



Fotografía: Teatro Nacional de Costa Rica



National Theater of Costa Rica

National symbol of architectural historical heritage and cultural freedom from the year 2018. Declared as a “national work” the construction of the TNCR began in 1891.

The city of San José had about 20,000 inhabitants. This building, of historicist architecture, was inaugurated in 1897.

The National Theater is considered one of the most important buildings in national history, and the main architectural jewel of the city of San José. It promotes the production of high-level performing arts, and preservation of important works of art.

Coffee

National symbol of the economic, social, and cultural development of Costa Rica.

The production, elaboration, marketing, quality, and prestige of Costa Rican coffee were declared of public interest.

The declaration was the initiative of students from the San Rafael de Dota School, who by means of drawings and letters requested the Legislative Assembly to approve this national symbol.

"(coffee) can be a very important symbol, because thanks to it many people can work, eat, dress and study".

Lourdes Gallardo Amador, fifth grade student.

"Coffee is very important because it is part of our history, coffee makes us feel Costa Rican."

Nazaret Jiménez González, student.

"(...) For me it is very important to know that the coffee we drink in the morning, we harvest ourselves and that fills us with pride".

Lizzeth Espinoza Pérez, student.

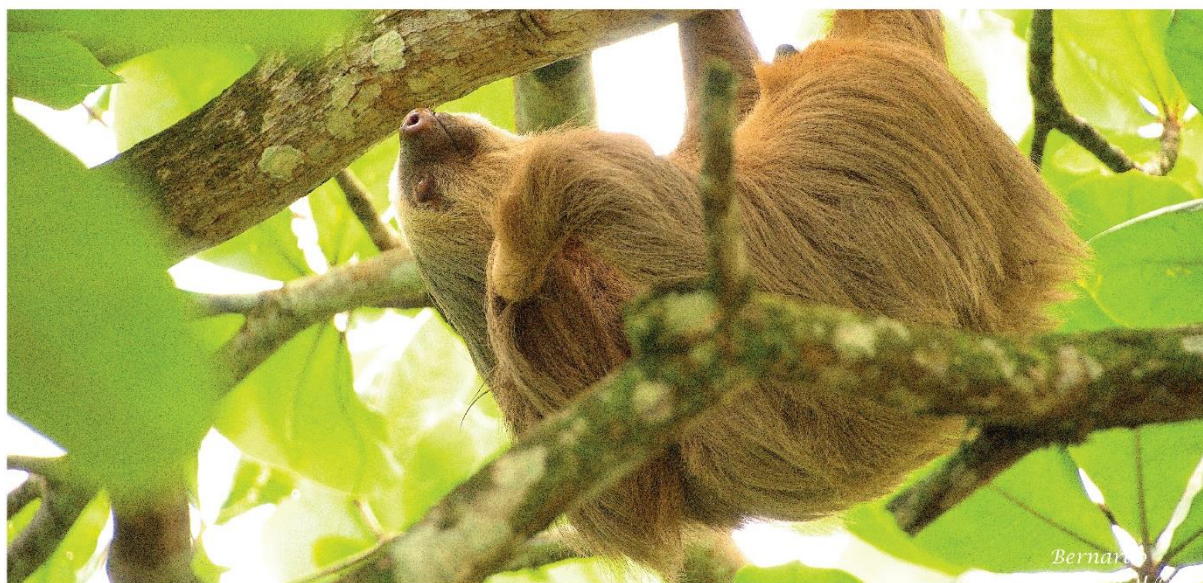


Fotografía Anthony Jiménez

Sloth

National symbol of the Costa Rican fauna that highlights the importance of the species *Choloepus hoffmanni* (two-toed sloth bear) and *Bradypus variegatus* (three-toed sloth bear) in the national wildlife and promotes the protection of their habitats and ensuring their conservation.

The most recent declaration, given on July 14, 2021, allows the Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT) to use the image of this animal in its national and international campaigns as an official symbol of the natural attractions that the country offers to visitors.



Fotografía: Bernardo Anguac Yarnarella



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Photographs

- Bernardo Arguedas Yarannella
- Anthony Jiménez
- Hugo Pineda Villegas
- Museo de la Casa del Boyero, Venecia, San Carlos
- Teatro Nacional de Costa Rica, San José
- Pixabay