Costa Rica — A decision on either side of the forest boundary



Costa Rica AI white paper • 27 November 2026 · Revision 2

Costa Rica’s Caribbean-facing services connect farms, ports, protected areas and Indigenous territories. A shared model can help people notice a change. Authority to enter a territory, disclose a location or move a shipment still depends on the decision, the place and the people responsible.

The decision before local leaders

This paper proposes two starting points for Costa Rica. Before either begins, the service owner should agree on an existing comparison service, a way to challenge an error and the conditions for ending the trial.

Test forest alerts against dated field observations before assigning an inspection.

Proposed lead. Conservation-area coordinator and authorised local reviewers

What to measure. Confirmed changes, false alerts and sites the team could not verify.

Rehearse correcting a perishable-load booking in Limón.

Proposed lead. Dispatch supervisor and participating producers

What to measure. Missed slots after correction and extra trips per shipment.

Local evidence in context

Indicator	Value	Observation	Source
Population	5,152,950	2025	World Bank WDI
GDP per person, current US dollars	19,970	2025	World Bank WDI
Residents aged 65 and over	12.8%	2025	World Bank WDI
People using the internet	87.2%	2024	ITU / World Bank

The year and geographic coverage belong to each observation. These figures describe the jurisdiction as a whole. Collect service-level figures before setting a cost target, staff requirement or digital access threshold.

Economic and social needs

Follow the fruit to the ship

JAPDEVA's regional development diagnosis identifies Limón–Moín as a container gateway for export crops including bananas and pineapples. A missed loading window can matter to a grower even if the terminal meets its daily throughput target. Compare predicted arrival times with actual handovers. Include rejected deliveries and trips rearranged by telephone so that a planning tool cannot improve its score by losing the difficult cases.

Policy response. Ask growers and dispatch staff to agree which event counts as a missed delivery.

JAPDEVA, Caribbean regional development diagnosis

Seek permission within the relevant territory

Costa Rica's Ministry of Public Education lists Talamanca Bribri and Talamanca Cabécar as distinct Indigenous territories. A single meeting in Limón cannot establish permission for recordings or place names collected elsewhere. A service team should ask the relevant community which material it may use, who can review the output and what should remain outside a searchable map, even if a contractor requests it.

Policy response. Make permission for publication a separate decision from permission for a field visit.

Ministry of Public Education, second-language education bulletin, territorial table (2017)

Public institutions and environmental needs

Put ENIA into the project file

The science and technology ministry launched Costa Rica's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for 2024–2027. For a public service, the next decision is narrow enough to inspect: which employee signs off when a tool changes the order of inspections? The project file should connect that decision to the national strategy, name the responsible office and record how somebody affected by the order can reach a reviewer.

Policy response. Require an identified reviewer and a tested correction route before expanding an inspection trial.

MICITT, launch of the 2024–2027 national AI strategy

Keep nest locations out of the visitor map

The Costa Rican Tourism Board identifies Tortuguero National Park as a protected nesting area for green turtles. A monitoring assistant might help rangers sort sightings and detect repeat reports. Publishing its full output could also make a nest easier to find. Give the ranger team precise coordinates for authorised conservation work and a separate public map with less detail. Test whether photographs or timestamps disclose locations omitted from the public layer.

Policy response. Have a ranger review the public export before the visitor map is released.

Costa Rican Tourism Board, Tortuguero National Park

How the policy would change a decision

Trace an accessibility request from a booking message into the proposed list of advertising signals. Check the rules for sensitive information before a supplier receives it. Test whether a visitor can buy the same trip without a marketing profile.

- Match each proposed signal to the purpose the operator explained when collecting the information.
- Give customers a way to inspect the details behind an offer and request a correction. Compare booking availability and price with personalisation turned off.

The bookings manager should retain the original collection notice and both trial bookings. If declining a marketing profile removes an available trip or changes its price unexpectedly, stop using that profile and restore the ordinary booking option.

Source: CAIA jurisdiction guide for Costa Rica. The worked example illustrates the proposal.

Ask who can verify a clearing

Ask park staff and participating communities to mark false alarms on a paper map. Seek permission separately to record places or knowledge they share. Try a cloudy image and a trail the satellite cannot see.

The local pilot connects to Public administration and justice. Review R05 · R03 in the regional risk register.

Implementation and public review

Stage	Evidence or decision	Proposed responsibility
Before the trial	Define a completed case and sample the current process. Include people who use the phone, desk or an offline route.	Conservation-area coordinator and authorised local reviewers
During shadow testing	Confirmed changes, false alerts and sites the team could not verify. Compare the same cases through both routes and record every override.	Conservation-area coordinator and authorised local reviewers
At the local decision	Missed slots after correction and extra trips per shipment. Record whether the result justifies a live trial and identify the person who can stop it.	Dispatch supervisor and participating producers
After six months	Publish results by channel, the correction time, unresolved complaints and the decision to continue, revise or stop.	Local service owner

What partners can share

Agree with Panamanian partners on a common alert format, paid field checks and an expiry date. Exchange broad environmental indicators; withhold sensitive coordinates unless the competent authority and source communities agree.

Record the local approval, correction route and stop authority before exchanging results. Other jurisdictions can reuse the method and run their own tests. Regional recommendation 5.

Where to draw the boundary

An office adopting this proposal would still need to check its own powers, contracts and data permissions. Organisations named as possible reviewers or leads have not been appointed by this publication. Publish any accepted role and its date with the local trial record.

A 90-day plan for the first service

Test forest alerts against dated field observations before assigning an inspection.

Proposed pilot lead. Conservation-area coordinator and authorised local reviewers

A forest alert draws an inspection away from verified change

Failure to test. The system promotes a clearing without dated observations to establish the location or event.

Evidence to retain. Keep the dated observations, model alert and the outcome of independent site checks.

Pause condition. An unresolved alert could displace an inspection of a confirmed change.

When	Proposed action and evidence
Days 1–30	Conservation-area coordinator and authorised local reviewers agrees the eligible cases, existing service measures, staffed alternative and authorised decision owner. Record reviewers and a cost estimate in local currency for staff time, testing, access and recovery. Identify the funding source and who would approve it.

When	Proposed action and evidence
Days 31–60	Run the original and proposed routes on the same sample. Confirmed changes, false alerts and sites the team could not verify. Report counted errors and eligible cases by channel and language where lawful, plus the time from error report to correction.
Days 61–90	Witness the fallback, correction and restart before asking the accountable officer for a decision. Pause on the condition above. Record affected cases, unresolved issues, costs and the date for the next check.
Six months after live launch	Publish a lawful comparison with the baseline, including corrections, open complaints and the decision to continue, change or end the use.

Sponsorship, funding and the proposed lead’s acceptance require a recorded local decision. Share test methods with Caribbean partners using the local data permissions.

Sector guide · Costa Rican Tourism Board, Tortuguero National Park · Local evidence and sources · Regional high-impact use rules · Local risk scenario

Sources and method

The committee used published local evidence to select the four priorities and compared them with the Caribbean AI Framework's requirements for access, data, skills, oversight and adoption. Recommendations and stories are editorial proposals. This edition reports no results from a completed local pilot.

1. JAPDEVA, Caribbean regional development diagnosis
2. Ministry of Public Education, second-language education bulletin, territorial table (2017)
3. MICITT, launch of the 2024–2027 national AI strategy
4. Costa Rican Tourism Board, Tortuguero National Park
5. World Bank WDI — Population
6. World Bank WDI — GDP per person, current US dollars
7. World Bank WDI — Residents aged 65 and over
8. ITU / World Bank — People using the internet
9. Costa Rica jurisdiction guide, Caribbean AI Association
10. Costa Rica pilot note, Caribbean AI Association
11. Caribbean AI Framework, consultation edition, 27 November 2026

Suggested citation: Caribbean AI Association, AI Framework Committee (2026). Costa Rica — A decision on either side of the forest boundary. Country white paper, consultation edition, 27 November 2026. Publication page.