

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN COSTA RICA WATER, CULTURE AND TERRITORY IN CENTRAL AMERICA

From 14 to 18 November 2016 in Costa Rica will be held the International Congress Water, Culture and Territory in Central America organized by the National University (UNA).

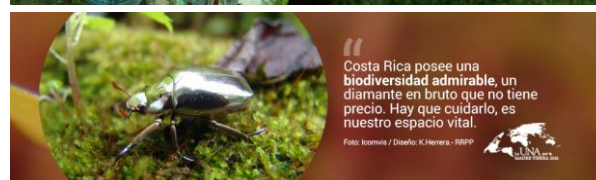
Some of the topics to be discussed at the event are: new technologies for water supply and sanitation, desalination systems and irrigation, water resources management, vulnerability reduction, public policies for water resources, community water management, defense and social struggles for water, indigenous peoples and water resource management, coastal communities, tourism and sustainability.

The Congress is open to academics and researchers of the cultural heritage associated to the management of water and land, water managers, environmental historians, cultural promoters, officials, experts and representatives of organizations and institutions of water administration in charge of territorial management, undergraduate and graduate students with projects underway or who are about for finishing and who are interested with the theme of the congress.

Congress is part of the 2016 celebration of Mother Earth, an initiative of great innovative impact launched by the National University UNA of Costa Rica which joints public universities in the country and in Central America.

The initiative was taken in late 2015 by the National Council of Rectors (CONARE), consisting of the University of Costa Rica, the National University, the State at-distance University, the Costa Rica Institute of Technology and the National Technical University. In November 2015, a proposal by the Dean of the UNA National University of Costa Rica, members of the University Council of Central America and Dominican Republic CSUCA unanimously adopted the Declaration of Mother Earth for the University Year 2016, with effect for all public higher education system.

With this significant statement, public universities in the region have engaged in carry out studies and seek solutions with all stakeholders acting to solve problems that different countries face in conservation and management of natural resources, climate change, risk management and other aspects concerned with the protection of biodiversity and of ecosystems still virgin



and long keeping. The website of this important initiative and its [Facebook page](#) present activities being undertaken within its framework in the course of 2016.

Specifically in Costa Rica, universities manage a set of initiatives focused on the issues of the campaign, including the training of high level professionals, research, knowledge sharing and know-how of the actors of territorial development, and direct support to its activities with measures of technical assistance on the field.

In the [Santa Ana Experimental Farm \(FESA\) of the University](#), for example, trees or native species which are endangered are sold to the public at a cost price. The aim is to support farms and other stakeholders in the rescue of some trees like the black tree, the *nazarene*, *cocobolo* and cedar, which cannot be found in every nursery garden or which are sold at a high price. The FESA Farm also called for people to find seeds of different tree species in danger of extinction, with the extent to bring them to FESA.

The entire university community can refer to FESA when trees are needed to reforest, for both facilities, gardens or farms in the UCR itself, or as grounds for staff, students or teachers. FESA has donated several trees for different reforestation initiatives in different green areas of the UCR and to the Mobile Classroom program that works with rural populations. Also the [tree nursery of the School of Forestry of the Costa Rica Institute of Technology](#) (ITCR) participates in this campaign by providing trees and shrubs for all people interested.

The International Congress on *Water, Culture and Territory in Central America* represents an important initiative within the 2016 Year for Mother Earth, to promote concrete actions on a strategic issue as water management in the framework of sustainable territorial development.

To know more

[Congress website](#)

[Congress in Facebook](#)

[Oficial website of UNA](#)

[UNA por la Madre Tierra in Facebook](#)

[UNA por la Madre Tierra in surcosdigital](#)

