

20.01.2015

ÖBf to work with the Costa Rican National Bank on environmental investments

On December 16, ÖBf signed a contract with the Costa Rican National Bank (BNCR) for the provision of technical assistance during the design and implementation of a credit line for environmentally friendly investments. Having received a loan of EUR 30 million from the German Development Bank (KfW), BNCR will be using these funds to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Costa Rica aiming to improve their performance by reducing environmental contamination and contributing to a more efficient use of natural resources. Costa Rica has long been considered a leader in the international environment arena. The present programme is expected to make an important contribution towards Costa Rica's ambitious goal to become carbon-neutral by 2021. In addition, it is expected to improve the overall sustainability of the participating enterprises. A wide range of investments ranging from those in green technologies in the transportation sector to improved energy efficiency in the agro-industry and afforestation of degraded land will be eligible for financing under the programme. It will be task of ÖBf and its partners (adelphi consult, Germany; green development, Guatemala and Lexincorp, Costa Rica) to identify the most promising fields of investment, develop and apply a tailor-made tool for environmental impact assessments and strengthening capacities within BNCR and the participating companies with regard to the identification of specific environmental-related concerns and their potential solutions. The program will start in February 2015 and is expected to last for three years. ÖBf, as the lead company for the provision of technical assistance, will be involved for the first two years. For this assignment, ÖBf can built on its previous working experience with the private sector in Costa Rica, which the company has gained in the frame of a recently concluded World Bank project on private sector involvement in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).



Juan Carlos Corrales Salas, Assistant Director of BNCR, and Dirk Gaul, Senior Consultant of ÖBf, signing contracts

Source: BNRC/Amalia Palancino Castillo



Juan Carlos Corrales Salas, Assistant Director of BNCR, and Dirk Gaul, Senior Consultant of ÖBf, signing contracts

Source: BNRC/Amalia Palancino Castillo



Juan Carlos Corrales Salas, Assistant Director of BNCR, and Dirk Gaul, Senior Consultant of ÖBf, shaking hands

Source: BNRC/Amalia Palancino Castillo

Further Information:

Österreichische Bundesforste AG

Dirk Gaul, Senior Consultant

phone: +43 (0)2231/600 - 5580

E-Mail: dirk.gaul@bundesforste.at