



# LANDSCALE PILOT

## Costa Rica



### Restoring and Conserving Watersheds



Costa Rica is one of the first tropical forest countries to not only halt, but also reverse its net deforestation rate. Behind this pioneering success are innovative solutions, such as the national Payment for Ecosystem Service (PES) Programme. Despite this progress, rapid urbanization has degraded some key watersheds and strained the country’s water resources.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM in Spanish) of San José. The landscape provides water for hundreds of thousands of residents, as well as for local industries, including the beverage sector, electricity production, and others.

### How Can LandScale Help Track Progress?

To assure the protection and restoration of the watersheds, public and private groups in the area created the Agua Tica water fund. The main goal of the fund is to implement restoration and conservation activities in the watersheds providing water to the GAM. The fund uses rigorous tools to identify high-impact areas for investment and to ensure that Agua Tica’s activities are making positive gains towards watershed protection and restoration. Significant progress has been made with these tools. However, none of them tracks the landscape’s overall sustainability or links Agua Tica’s goals with those of other landscape actors to ensure alignment and coordination.

LandScale will therefore enable Agua Tica to **track progress at the landscape level towards improving socioeconomic and environmental outcomes**, to **communicate their achievements to existing funders**, and to **attract new members or investors**. It also serves as a tool to align Agua Tica’s activities with those of other landscape actors to ensure their diverse efforts are resulting in the positive changes they are all striving for.

#### LEAD PARTNER



#### STRATEGIC PARTNERS



#### REGION

- Greater San José Metropolitan Area

#### KEY RESOURCE OR COMMODITY

- Water, coffee and milk

#### CHALLENGE AND DRIVERS

- Land degradation
- Strained water resources
- Urbanization



The municipalities of the Greater Metropolitan Area that make up the pilot area.

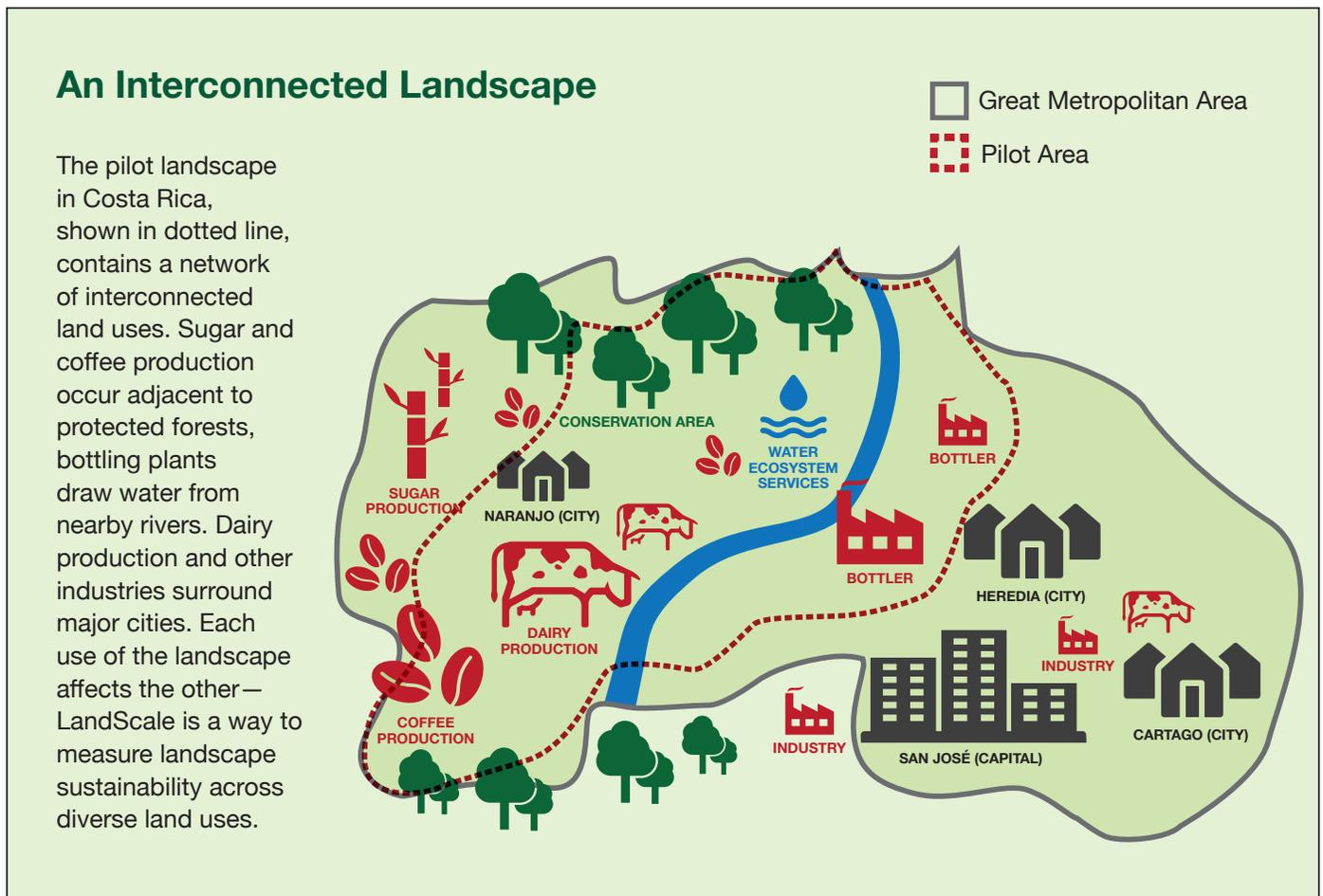
# Pilot Landscape in Costa Rica



The pilot landscape in Costa Rica consists of a portion of the GAM, as shown below. The area has a mix of different land uses, including cloud forest, pastures for milk production, coffee plantations and several minor crops. The LandScale pilot has two main components.

First, IUCN and FUNDECOR are working towards a rigorous, verified assessment of the current status of the landscape’s sustainability at scale to show the broader impact of Agua Tica’s activities, which can then support the identification of areas for further investment.

Second, the LandScale pilot activities will link Agua Tica’s efforts to other public and private initiatives in the landscape. In addition, the government has developed sector-specific Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) plans in the coffee and livestock sectors that include activities in the landscape and the maintenance of the ongoing PES programme; and coffee companies and cooperatives are implementing their own landscape restoration initiatives. Using LandScale as an organizing framework, IUCN and FUNDECOR have engaged with these various initiatives to better align their goals and ensure that their activities translate into progress towards common, large-scale goals.



## LANDSCALE SECRETARIAT



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