



Declaration of principle

Every nation that aspires to exercise its right to development in a sustainable way must first secure the well-being of the most valuable human resource: children and youth. Guaranteeing their rights and satisfying their needs become essential prerequisites for reaching this ideal.

Yet, for complex social, political, economic, and cultural reasons that are shared with many other nations, non-military forms of violence that limit children and adolescents right to development have been concealed and often legitimated in Costa Rica. They hinder the development of our nation. Such violence ranges from family violence to sexual exploitation, from child labor to institutional abuse, from discrimination to lack of real opportunities for their social integration.

The PANIAMOR Foundation works to stop this violence.

Children and adolescents, parents, community and religious leaders, professionals holding strategic places within key sectors, researchers, politicians and legislators, they all play a unique role within the Foundation's proposal for social mobilization.



We are

A Costa Rican private, non-profit, non-partisan organization, created in 1987, and declared to be of public interest to the aims of the State since 1989. In 2005, the Foundation was designated as a best-practice institution by the ministry of foreign affairs, for the purposes of country to country cooperation.

Our Mission is

To attain compliance of the rights of persons under the age of 18 in Costa Rica, through the implementation of social mobilization programs directed to strengthening children and adolescents in their capacity to exercise their rights and responsibilities; prevent violence against, amongst and by them; and to foster the development of public policies and institutional practices that will advance such compliance.



POWERED BY:
THE CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN COSTA RICA



THE STRACHAN FOUNDATION



AFFILIATED TO:





Creating the conditions to confront **CSEC-TT**: advances and challenges



COSTA RICA

4.8 Million inhabitants

1.400 Million tourist per year





THE CONTEXT

The commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is a recognized problem in Costa Rica.

Two ways of expression of SCEC are of particular concern to the country:

- SCEC linked to travel and tourism (CSEC-TT)
- The Trafficking of Children and Adolescents for Sexual Purposes.

Both Expressions nurture each other



Main Characteristics of CSEC-TT in Costa Rica...

- There is a prevalence of female victims
- The average age of initiation is 13.
- Age difference between the victims and the exploiters is approximatedly of 25-40 years.



- The victims share life stories marked by a continuum of violence and violation of rights within their families, communities of origin and institutions of reference.
- Poverty and Exclusion --where present-- underly the victim, her family and community's perception of SCEC and Trafficking as a survival strategy.
- The high mobility presented by the population becomes a risk factor to the children involved.



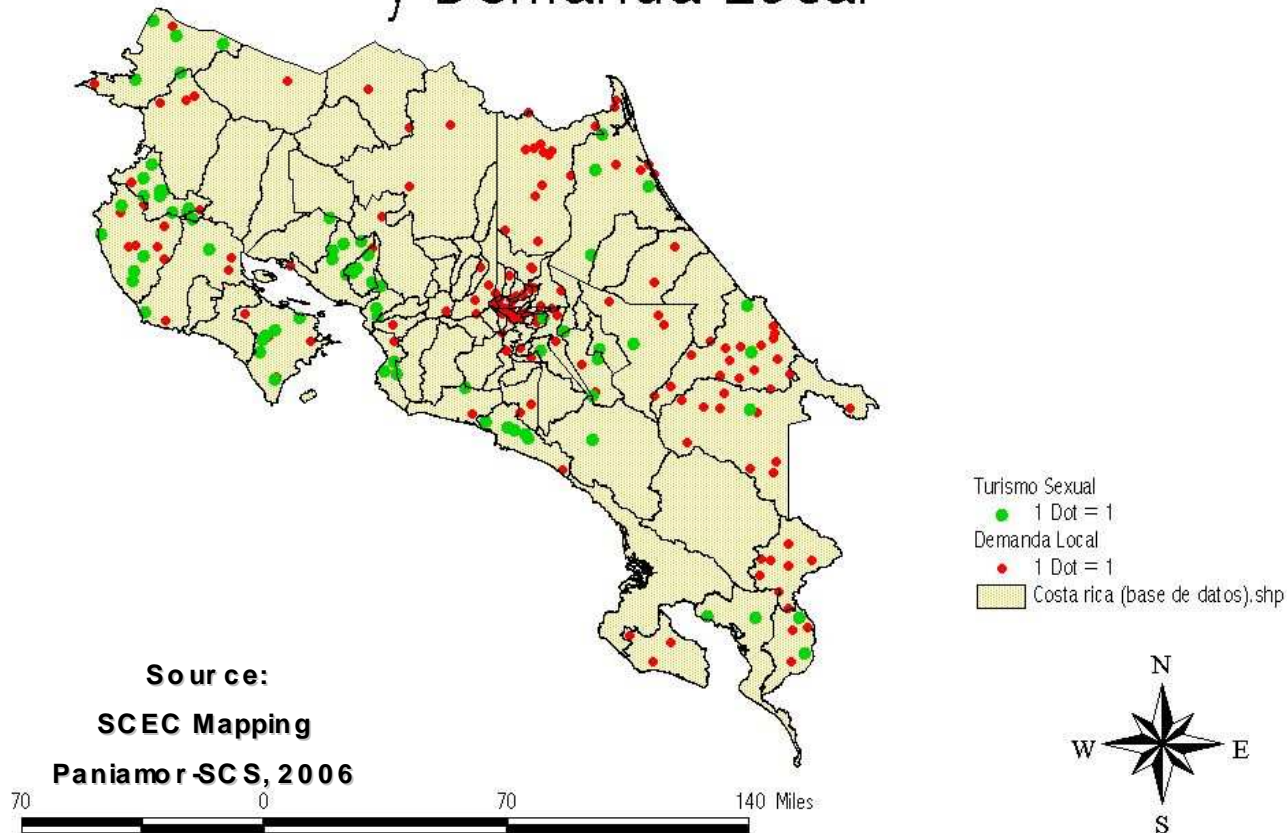
- The criminal pursue of CSEC- TT produces the displacement of its occurrence to private sites, turning its investigation process even more complex
- Main triggering factors: family and social violence, organized crime, migration, vulnerable borders.

Main countries of origin of CSEC- TT to Costa Rica: USA, CANADA, SPAIN, ITALY, GERMANY...

***Major representation: male situational offenders.
(U.S. Global Report 2004; Paniamor/SCS Mapping Project
2005-2007)***



Zonas de Mayor Incidencia de Turismo Sexual y Demanda Local





Structural Factors Increasing the Country's Risk to CSEC-TT ...

- 1) Our status as a developing Country
a structural condition fostering vulnerability, to be dealt by the State through social and economical policies (National Plan of Developmento 2006-2010)
- 2) A non sufficiently differentiated marketing of the country as destination
DEALT WITH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INDUSTRY (CC)



3) International tourism representing the country's major source of foreign income.

ADDRESSED BY INTEGRATING THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD APPROACH WITH THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND THE CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PARADIGMS: AN ETHICAL ISSUE, A NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUE, AN ADDED VALUE ISSUE (CC)

4) An implicit social tolerance resulting from denial, lack of knowledge and/or stereotyping surrounding the issue.

BEING WORKED AT INTENSIVELY AS A STRATEGIC GOAL UNDER THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION AGAINST CSEC (CC and other initiatives)



- 5) Legal gaps and high indexes of impunity as it regards the impementation of the law against CSEC and its reforms

LAW REFORM AND CONTINUOUS WORK IN CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (various initiatives)

- 6) Some gaps in extraterritorial legislation that limit the country's capacity to pursue some crimes beyond borders

BI-NATIONAL OR REGIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS (Various initiatives)

- 7) Significant drug trafficking and consumption.
ANOTHER STATE PRIORITY (Various initiatives)



Main legal reforms:

- a) Legal protection to 18 years of age ...
- b) All parties but the victim, criminalized:
the client, the various intermediaries and
promoters, the facilitators
- c) Higher jail penalties
- d) Prescription of Criminal action operates 10 years
after the victim becomes of age
- e) Possession of child pornography penalized
- f) Internal trafficking in persons criminalized
- g) Victims and witness protection law



AND...

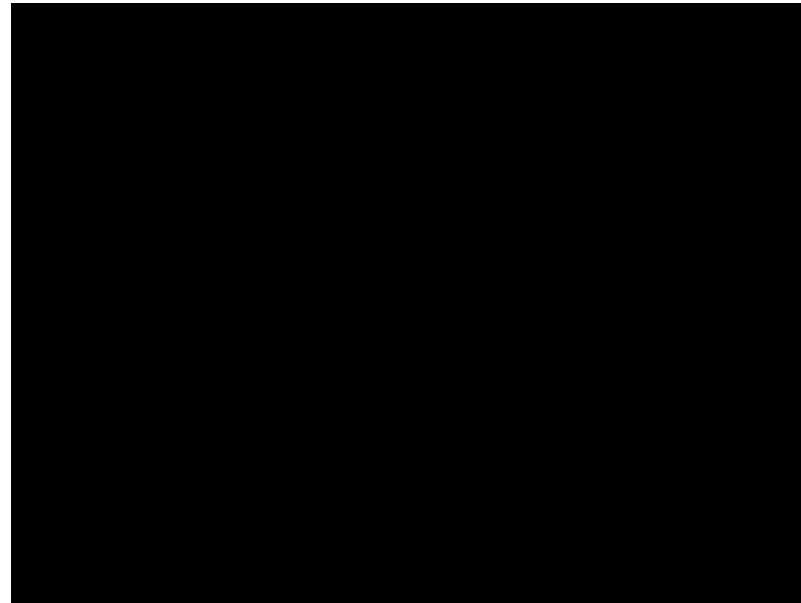
- 8) A perception in countries of origin that both age protection and sexuality have a different meaning, a different value, this part of the world, where the social norm governing the game rules that “everything goes as long as it does not kill and it is paid for”

**THE INVOLVEMENT OF KEY TOURISM SECTOR PLAYERS
IN THE PREVENTING OF RISK FACTORS AND THE
REPORTING OF CASES (CC)**

...DECONSTRUCTING THE ANTICIPATION OF ANONIMACY AND
IMPUNITY THROUGH EARLY WARNING AND COORDINATED
NEIGHBORHOOD CARE AND ACTION.



**Spot for
Close
Circuit
Hotels**



“x 15”



Challenges



THE GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF CRIMINAL NETWORKS IN THE SEX MARKET AFFECTING YOUNGSTERS AND THE UNBALANCE IT CREATES IN TERMS OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY: **THE CAPACITY TO CORRUPT**

THE RESORTING TO NEW TECHNOLOGY BY CLIENTS AND INTERMEDIARIES AND THE LACK OF LOCAL REGULATIONS AND MEANS TO CONTROL IT

THE IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMICAL CRISIS BOTH ON THE VULNERABLE POPULATION AND ON THE INDUSTRY



**THE SELECTIVE WAY IN WHICH CRIMINAL SYSTEMS
TEND TO FUNCTION, AND**

**THE RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF KEY
INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIAL AGENTS TO STOP
PERCEIVING THIS MORE AS A NON HARMFUL INCOME
GENERATING ACTIVITY OR A EXCHANGE OF “GOODS
& SERVICES” BETWEEN CONSENTING PARTNERS,
THAN A S A SERIOUS CRIME.**



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