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TITLE: IN-SITU AND EX SITU CONSERVATION

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1. Abstract :

Costa Rica is renowned for its progressive environmental policies and commitment to sustainable development. This case study explores the strategies Costa Rica has employed to achieve significant milestones in sustainability, focusing on renewable energy, conservation, and eco-tourism. By examining these efforts, the case study evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of Costa Rica's approach to sustainable development and provides insights into how other nations can adopt similar strategies.

2. Introduction

Sustainable development aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Costa Rica, a small Central American nation, has become a global leader in sustainable development through its innovative environmental policies and practices. This commitment is evident in its extensive use of renewable energy, conservation efforts, and promotion of eco-tourism.

3. Literature Review

3.1.Renewable Energy

- Definition and Methods

Costa Rica has prioritized renewable energy sources, primarily hydropower, wind, geothermal, and solar energy. As of 2020, over 99% of the country's electricity was generated from renewable sources. The Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE) has been instrumental in developing and managing these renewable energy projects.

- Benefits

Environmental Impact: Significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy Security: Reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Economic Stability: Creation of green jobs and attraction of foreign investment.

- Challenges

Climate Dependency: Hydropower is vulnerable to changing rainfall patterns due to climate change.

Infrastructure Costs: High initial investment for renewable energy infrastructure.

3.2. Conservation Efforts

- Definition and Methods

Costa Rica has established numerous protected areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and biological reserves, covering approximately 26% of its land area. These efforts are supported by strong legal frameworks and community involvement in conservation practices.

- Benefits

Biodiversity Preservation: Protection of diverse ecosystems and species.

Ecological Services: Maintenance of vital ecosystem services such as water purification and carbon sequestration.

Tourism Revenue: Attracting tourists interested in nature and conservation.

- Challenges

Resource Allocation: Ensuring adequate funding and resources for managing protected areas.

Human-Wildlife Conflicts: Balancing conservation with the needs of local communities.

3.3. Eco-Tourism

- Definition and Methods

Costa Rica has developed a robust eco-tourism industry that promotes sustainable travel practices. Eco-lodges, guided nature tours, and educational programs are designed to minimize environmental impact and support conservation efforts.

- Benefits

Economic Growth: Significant contribution to the national economy through tourism revenue.

Community Development: Creation of jobs and support for local communities.

Environmental Awareness: Raising awareness about conservation and sustainability among tourists.

- Challenges

Over-Tourism: Managing the impact of high tourist numbers on natural resources.

Sustainability Practices: Ensuring all tourism activities adhere to sustainable practices.

4. The Outcome of the Survey

4.1 Methodology

A survey was conducted among environmental experts, government officials, and local communities in Costa Rica to assess their perspectives on the country's sustainable development strategies. The survey focused on renewable energy, conservation efforts, and eco-tourism.

4.2 Results

Strengths

Renewable Energy:

- Environmental Impact: Effective reduction of carbon footprint.
- Economic Benefits: Job creation and energy independence.

Conservation Efforts:

- Biodiversity Protection: Successful preservation of ecosystems.
- Global Leadership: Setting a benchmark for other countries.

Eco-Tourism:

- Revenue Generation: Significant economic contribution.
- Awareness and Education: Enhancing understanding of sustainability issues.

Weaknesses

Renewable Energy:

- Climate Vulnerability: Dependence on stable weather patterns.
- Cost: High infrastructure and maintenance costs.

Conservation Efforts:

- Funding: Insufficient funding for long-term sustainability.
- Conflicts: Challenges in balancing conservation with local community needs

Eco-Tourism:

- Environmental Pressure: Potential negative impact of high tourist volumes.
- Sustainability Standards: Inconsistent adherence to sustainable practices.

4.3 Discussion

The survey highlights the multifaceted strengths of Costa Rica's approach to sustainable development, particularly in renewable energy and conservation. However, it also underscores the importance of addressing vulnerabilities such as climate dependency and funding limitations. Integrating community needs and ensuring adherence to sustainability standards in eco-tourism are crucial for long-term success.

5. Conclusion :

Costa Rica's commitment to sustainable development serves as a model for other nations. By harnessing renewable energy, implementing robust conservation efforts, and promoting eco-tourism, Costa Rica has made significant strides in sustainability. While challenges remain, the country's approach offers valuable lessons in balancing environmental, economic, and social goals. Future strategies should focus on enhancing resilience to climate change, securing sustainable funding, and integrating comprehensive sustainability standards across all sectors.

6. References

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