

## ICT and INA handed out the first certifications: 100 guides for sustainable tourism

From now on tourists wishing to travel with tour operator Companies in the Certification for Sustainable Tourism (CST) Program will be learning more about the conservation policies practiced in this country and the environment. This will come true because of the education received by professionals choosing this new modality.

The Costa Rican Tourist Board (ICT) and the National Learning Institute (INA) implemented a new tourist guide certification program. The Tourism Nucleus was launched in May with the participation of 150 persons, 100 of whom graduated today.

For Carlos Ricardo Benavides, Minister of Tourism, this effort is one more example of the institution's commitment with sustainable tourism development, a way to preserve our natural patrimony, saving it for the future generations.

These 100 guides have compromised to show tourists the guidelines of sustainability undertaken by our country, they are greatly contributing in the task, explaining visitors how Costa Rica has seriously committed to preserve the natural riches it owns, and directed its actions to urge the private sector into a development pattern that contributes to improve the quality of life of our citizens; to the growth of a tourism in harmony with nature, said Benavides.

This program is implemented for the first time; it's intended to have accredited and certified tourist guides who give a better service, showing tourists the natural beauties of this country and how we can best conserve them.