

POSITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA ON THE OFFERING OF BLOCKS FOR OIL EXPLORATION BY THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

The Government of the Republic of Costa Rica informs national and international companies that the Republic of Nicaragua is offering maritime areas for oil exploration and exploitation that belong to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Costa Rica has recently learned of the offering of blocks or areas for oil exploration and exploitation in the Pacific Ocean as well as the Caribbean Sea made by the Republic of Nicaragua in the document "*Petroleum Promotional Folder of Nicaragua*", issued by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Energy and Mines, dated 2012.

On page 31 of this document there is a map that indicates, in general terms, the location of the blocks or areas offered. It is evident that an important number of these blocks or areas offered by Nicaragua are located on maritime spaces belonging to the Republic of Costa Rica according to International Law, and the Republic of Nicaragua has failed to inform the potential bidders that the areas offered belong to or are claimed by the Republic of Costa Rica.

Costa Rica does not recognize and shall not recognize any effect or right arising from the concessions granted or to be granted by Nicaragua, and it does not accept rights derived in favour of third parties, whether these are States, other subjects of international law, companies or citizens of any country, which might claim rights of any kind over these areas. Costa Rica reserves the right to take and it shall take all and any judicial action, both locally and internationally, against any rights that might be claimed in relation to these spaces, or in relation to living or non-living resources existing therein.

For illustrative purposes, some of the referred blocks or areas offered by Nicaragua that are undoubtedly on Costa Rican maritime areas are presented below:

Pacific Ocean Blocks

PA-31, PD-36, PD-35, PD-34, PE-01, PE-02, PE-03, PE-04, PE-05, PE-06, PE-08, PE-09, PE-10, PE-11, PE-12, PE-15, PE-18, PB-01.

Caribbean Sea Blocks

AI-04, AI-05, AI-06, AI-07, AI-08, AI-09, AI-10, AI-11, AI-12, AI-13, AI-14, AI-15, AI-16, AI-17, AI-18, AI-19, AI-20, AI-21, AI-22, AI-23, AI-24, AI-25, AI-26, AI-27, AI-28, AI-29, AI-30, AI-31, AI-32, AI-33, AI-34, AI-35, AI-36, AD-18, AD-22, AD-23, AD-24, AD-27, AD-28, AD-29, AD-30, AD-33, AD-34, AD-35, AD-36, AE-03, AE-04, AD-05, AD-06, AJ-01, AJ-02, AJ-03, AJ-04, AJ-05, AJ-06.

This list is only presented as an example and in no way limits, exhausts or restricts the rights and interests of Costa Rica on the maritime spaces of the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The non-inclusion here of other blocks or maritime areas offered by Nicaragua which encroach on Costa Rican maritime spaces does not affect Costa Rica's rights over these spaces.

Consequently, the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica declares that the exploration and exploitation of oil resources, or resources of any other kind such as natural gas, will not be permitted on maritime spaces belonging to the Republic of Costa Rica. The Republic of Nicaragua has already been informed of the legal position of the Republic of Costa Rica.