



**Special Award in "Education"  
of the Conference of Regional Film Services**

**Commendation TOURA D'OR 2010**

**Category "Informational films and documentaries"**

**Costa Rica – Aufbruch im Paradies**

by Willy Meyer

Südwestrundfunk / Redaktion Länder-Menschen-Abenteuer

(43 min. 38 sec., German, 2008)

The Republic of Costa Rica, situated between Panama and Nicaragua, has about 4.5 million inhabitants. With its increasingly successful eco-tourism, Costa Rica is said to be a model for considerate, sustainable, and environmentally friendly tourism. Almost one third of the former Spanish colony is made up of national parks and protected areas. The open and cordial manner of the Ticos, as the inhabitants call themselves, rubs off on most of the tourists. People with American Indian, European, African or Asian roots live together in a peaceful manner and enrich this small country's culture.

Willy Meyer reports on a number of different projects. The unique flora and fauna is an attraction for rich tourists. Accordingly, more and more guest houses, so-called eco-lodges, are being set up in a cautious manner. In order to increase the awareness of the population for environmental concerns, an eco-lodge supports, for example, a primary school. Besides model initiatives, the film also shows the risks of unplanned structural growth in the case of large-scale commercial investments.

The film presents classical and best practices for an environmentally friendly tourism that does not more than minimal damage to the people, societies, culture, and nature. At the same time, the positive effects of jobs creation and the generation of secure incomes are being documented. The "Paradise on the Move" is being described in a comprehensible manner.

The production of the film was demanding, and the film includes impressive nature footage. As a contribution to the SWR serial Länder-Menschen-Abenteuer ("countries-people-adventures"), the film provides a good overview of the various efforts made to promote eco and/or sustainable tourism. It is an illustrative example of tangible work on alternative forms of travel. The film is therefore awarded the "Special Award in 'Education' of the Conference of Regional Film Services", and a TOURA D'OR 2010 commendation.