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On January 31st of 2013, President Chinchilla signed the “Reforms and Additions to the Wildlife Conservation Law”, which reforms the 1992 law, due to many outdated sanctions.

This legislation establishes fines of ₡1.5 million for the killing of animals for reasons unrelated to issues of subsistence, for scientific purposes, or for species control. In addition, it sets fines up to ₡900,000 for trafficking wildlife species; i.e., animals that cannot survive without the intervention of man. The law also expands the scope of coverage to all marine and continental species. During the signing, President Chinchilla also launched a campaign to prevent forest fires.

The Flora and Fauna Conservation Association (APREFLOJAS) – an organization that approves national wildlife standards – promoted these changes to the legislation.

This law was passed by popular initiative, making Costa Rica the first country in Central America to approve a law utilizing this mechanism.
