

Costa Rica experience of a geomatic, airborne and remote sensing data laboratory

The National Center for High Technology (CeNAT) is located in the neighborhood La Geroma, Pavas, San José, Costa Rica. Its creation was officially approved on March 1999 by the Consejo Nacional de Rectores (CONARE, National Rectors Council) of the four public institutions of higher education (Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR), Universidad Nacional (UNA), Tecnológico de Costa Rica (TEC), Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED)). CeNAT is a meeting intercollegiate space between academic, government, and the country's productive sectors in various scientific-technological fields.

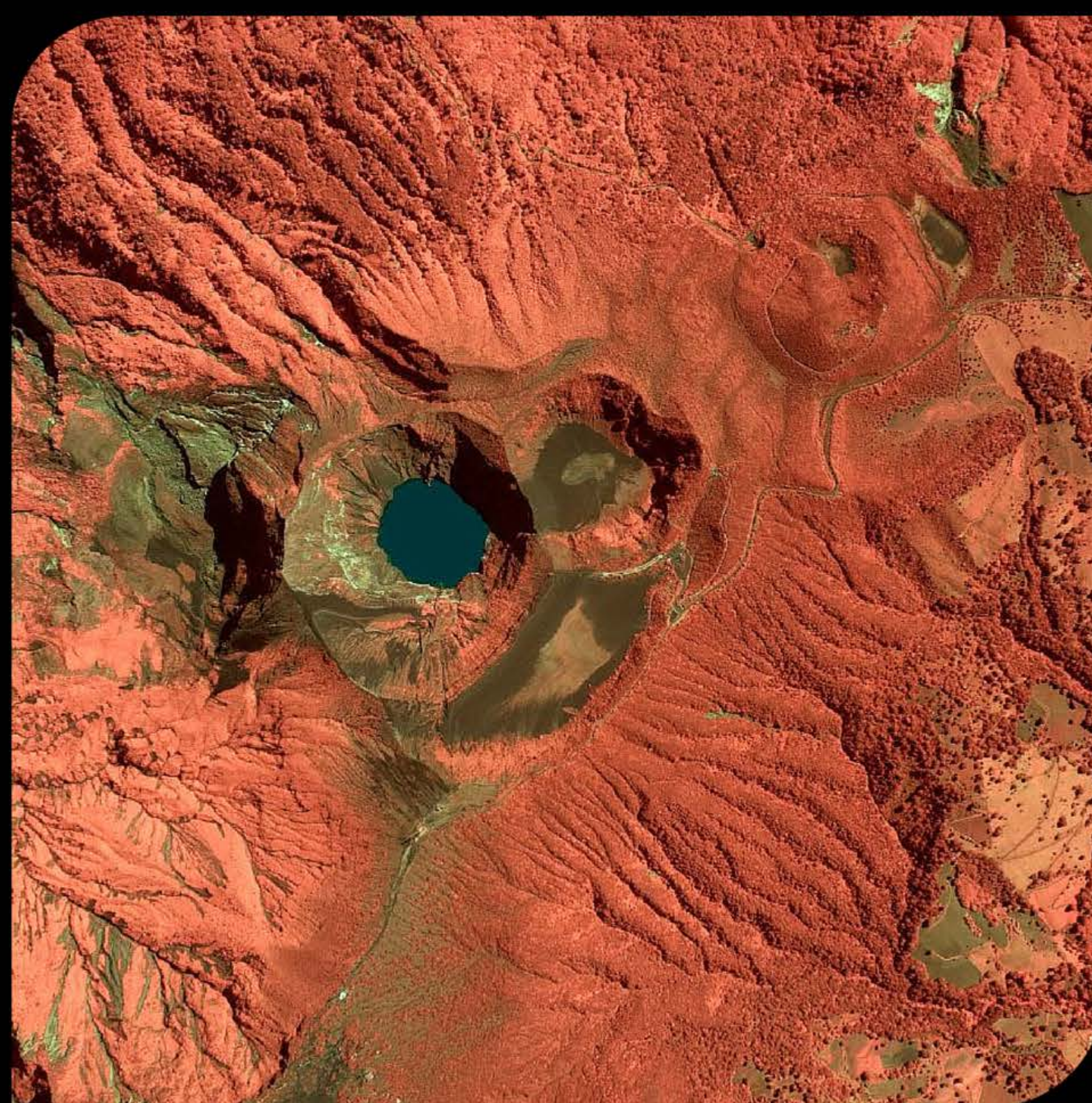


The Fundación Centro de Alta Tecnología (FunCeNAT) was established in 1998 by law (ley7806 of May 25th 1998) in order to manage the funds, both public and private; national and international, for CeNAT's operation and the projects of all its areas of study

The Programa de Investigaciones Aerotransportadas y Sensores Remotos (PRIAS), was created on 2003 within the CeNAT and has developed different missions and scientific projects within the country mostly with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The first CARTA mission laid the foundation to establish PRIAS.



PRIAS's work is centered in the geospatial industry, which acquires, integrates, manages, analyzes, maps, distributes and uses geographical data, information and knowledge at different temporal and spatial scales through basic and applied research, education and the decisions of individuals and organizations.



PRIAS has positioned the country as the technological leader in Central America and the Caribbean, in the use of airborne sensors to study and monitor the surface of the landscape and the scientific research contributes to the development of applications for the public and private sectors in different niches such as satellite navigation, updating the national base map, land use, prevention and mitigation of disasters associated with natural events, including other aspects of Environmental Management.

National and international institutions have developed projects and joint research with PRIAS such as the Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio), public universities, the Sistema Nacional de Areas de Conservación (SINAC), Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía (MINAE), Ministerio de Agricultura (MAG), Fundación Neotrópica, CajaCostarricense de Seguro Social (CCSS), Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional (UCI), Ministerio de Seguridad Pública (MSP), Dirección General de Aviación Civil (DGAC), Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento Forestal (FONAFIFO) Foundation Oro Verde, Museo Nacional, Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), Mc Gill University, Gund Institute, Center for Responsible Travel (CREST), Earth Economics, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) among others

PRIAS provides training workshops on topics such as GIS, remote sensing, processing and analysis of multi and hyperspectral images, GPS, among others, to researchers and users of public universities, governmental institutions and private companies.

