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## Costa Rica: Nation Seeks Big Emissions Cut

*by LADB Staff*

*Category/Department: Costa Rica*

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The following is reprinted with the permission of Noticias Aliadas/Latinamerica Press in Lima, Peru. It was posted Dec. 2, 2009. Costa Rica is heading to the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen with a heavy agenda. The Central American nation, whose leader, President Oscar Arias, launched an initiative last year to turn the country carbon neutral by 2021, will ask developed countries to cut their carbon emissions by 45% at the Dec. 7-18 summit. "We'll seek a positive result that includes concrete arrangements for the mitigation, adaptation, financial assistance, technological exchange" and training for developing countries, said Environment, Energy and Telecommunications Minister Jorge Rodriguez. The Ministerio de Ambiente, Energia y Telecomunicaciones (MINAET) said it would seek stricter emissions restrictions than those in the Kyoto Protocol, which was not signed by the US. By 2050, MINAET said it would demand that developing countries cut their carbon emissions, a chief cause of global warming, by 95% compared with 1990 levels. While any agreements reached in Copenhagen will not be legally binding, Costa Rica is calling for international mechanisms to monitor that countries are complying with the reductions. In a statement, the ministry said it would seek for countries that fail to fulfill these promises to be fined or receive other types of penalties. "Support for our countries must be a fundamental part of the agreements because it is the only way to guarantee that national adaptation programs confront the adverse effects of climate change and reduce emission levels," said Alvaro Umana, chief negotiator for Costa Rica's delegation to Copenhagen. Latin America and the Caribbean are greatly impacted by climate change, while it is not a major contributor of global greenhouse-gas emissions. Rising temperatures have caused the rapid melting of tropical glaciers in the Andes. Higher sea temperatures have created violent storms that have ravaged parts of the Caribbean and Central America. Costa Rica is one of several developing nations proposing significant reductions in carbon emissions. Mexico is making a similar request (see SourceMex, 2009-12-16).

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