

3-20-1992

# Costa Rica: Report On Environment

Deborah Tyroler

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## Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Costa Rica: Report On Environment." (1992). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/7222>

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## **Costa Rica: Report On Environment**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Friday, March 20, 1992*

According to a recent report submitted to the government by several non-governmental organizations, the main causes of rapid environmental deterioration in Costa Rica are inadequate official policies, public ignorance, poverty, foreign debt, inappropriate technology, and contradictory environmental conservation policies. The report will be presented at the global conference on environment and development, scheduled for Rio de Janeiro in June. The report said that Costa Rica has the highest per capita emission of greenhouse gases among Central and North American countries. Other environmental hazards described as serious in Costa Rica are pollution of rivers, poor soil management, deforestation and dumping of toxic and industrial wastes. The study criticized the absence of a "uniform environmental policy to guide private and state firms. Consequently, each institution sets its own goals for specific projects." Agriculture and forestry account for nearly 20% of GDP, and 28% of employment. Approximately 65% of Costa Rican exports are farm products. (Basic data from Inter Press Service, 02/29/92)

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