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## **Costa Rica: I.d.b. Loan Strategy**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On July 2 in San Jose, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) president Enrique Iglesias told reporters that the bank will try to convert Costa Rica into a pilot project site for integrated social development in Latin America. He said the IDB is committed to identifying a formula in the 1990s to enhance economic reforms with social welfare programs benefiting a majority of the population. In 1992-1993, the IDB plans to loan Costa Rica nearly US\$2 billion. Most of the money is earmarked for developing small-scale business, public administration reforms, public health service upgrades, hydroelectricity and irrigation projects, road construction and repairs, port facilities, airports and environmental conservation. The new approach to be implemented in Costa Rica was described as the first time the IDB has sponsored a joint focus on health, education, sanitation and services. (Basic data from Inter Press Service, 07/02/92; Agence France-Presse, 07/05/92)

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