

FILING A FORMAL COMPLAINT TO STOP ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES IN NOSARA DISTRICT WITH THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

as of October 30, 2023

Find the form to fill out here:

https://www.sitada.go.cr/denunciaspublico/ingreso_denuncias.aspx

To file an environmental complaint with the SITADA system of the Ministry of Environment about environmental crimes happening in Nosara District, please follow these instructions:

1. Access the SITADA complaint form:

Open your web browser and go to the following link: [SITADA Complaint Form] (https://www.sitada.go.cr/denunciaspublico/ingreso_denuncias.aspx)

2. Choose the Type of Complaint and then the type of Crime.

Examples:

a. Mining Exploitation (Explotación Minera):

Complaint: Illegal mining activities are taking place in the XYZ area of Nosara District, causing significant environmental damage and water pollution. The unauthorized extraction of minerals is degrading the ecosystem and threatening the biodiversity of the region.

b. Forestry (Forestal):

Complaint: Uncontrolled deforestation is occurring in the ABC forest reserve in Nosara District. Large areas of trees are being clear-cut without proper authorization or reforestation efforts, leading to habitat destruction and loss of wildlife.

c. Noise Pollution (Contaminación Sónica):

Complaint: The constant loud noise from a nearby industrial facility in Nosara District is causing severe noise pollution, adversely affecting the quality of life for residents and disrupting the natural behavior of local wildlife.

d. Environmental Viability (Viabilidad Ambiental):

Complaint: Construction of a new real estate development project is proceeding without the proper environmental impact assessments and permits in Nosara District. The project poses a threat to fragile ecosystems and water sources, and it is essential to evaluate its viability before further damage occurs.

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e. Geothermal Exploitation (Explotación Geotérmica):

Complaint: Improper geothermal energy extraction methods are being employed in the Geothermal Park of Nosara, leading to the release of harmful gasses and potential risks of land subsidence. This activity endangers the local environment and the health of nearby communities.

f. Marine Fishing (Pesca Marítima):

Complaint: Unregulated and unsustainable fishing practices are being carried out in the coastal waters of Nosara, leading to overfishing and depletion of fish populations. These practices harm marine biodiversity and disrupt the ecological balance of the area.

g. Water Pollution (Agua):

Complaint: Industrial waste from a nearby factory is being discharged directly into the rivers and streams of Nosara, contaminating the water and posing a serious threat to aquatic life, as well as the health and well-being of local communities.

h. Air Pollution (Contaminación del aire):

Complaint: The excessive emissions from a power plant located in Nosara are causing severe air pollution, leading to health problems for nearby residents and contributing to climate change. The release of pollutants must be addressed to ensure clean and breathable air.

i. Waste Pollution (Contaminación por residuos):

Complaint: Improper disposal and mismanagement of waste by a local business in Nosara are resulting in the contamination of surrounding areas. The accumulation of plastic waste and toxic materials is harmful to the environment, wildlife, and human health.

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j. Biodiversity/Wildlife (Biodiversidad/Vida Silvestre):

Complaint: Destruction of vital habitats in the XYZ area of Nosara is causing a decline in biodiversity and the loss of endangered species. The encroachment on critical habitats is threatening the delicate balance of the ecosystem and must be addressed immediately.

k. Archaeological Sites (Arqueológico):

Complaint: Unlawful excavation and looting of archaeological sites in Nosara are destroying the rich cultural heritage and historical artifacts. The protection and preservation of these valuable archaeological sites are crucial for future generations.

l. Petroleum-derived Fuels (Combustibles derivados de petróleo):

Complaint: The storage and transport of petroleum-derived fuels in Nosara are being conducted without proper safety measures, posing a significant risk of oil spills and soil contamination. A strong regulatory framework is needed to prevent environmental disasters.

m. Payment for Environmental Services (Pago Servicio Ambiental):

Complaint: The local government in Nosara has failed to provide adequate payment for environmental services to landowners and communities engaging in conservation efforts. This lack of financial support undermines incentivized conservation methods and hinders sustainable development.

n. Freshwater Fishing (Pesca Continental):

Complaint: Illegal and unsustainable fishing practices are being carried out in the freshwater bodies of Nosara, leading to the depletion of fish stocks and disruption of aquatic ecosystems. Proper regulations and enforcement are necessary to protect freshwater resources.

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o. Soil Degradation (Suelos):

Complaint: Improper agricultural practices, such as the excessive use of pesticides and lack of crop rotation, are causing erosion and soil degradation in the agricultural areas of Nosara. These practices are depleting soil fertility and negatively impacting agricultural productivity.

p. Aquaculture Activity (Actividad Acuicola):

Complaint: An aquaculture facility in Nosara is discharging untreated wastewater, containing high levels of chemicals and pollutants, directly into nearby rivers, causing severe water pollution and endangering aquatic life.

q. National Park/Protected Wildlife Area (Parque Nacional/Área Silvestre Protegida):

Complaint: Unauthorized activities, such as illegal hunting and logging, are taking place within a designated national park/protected wildlife area in Nosara, resulting in the destruction of habitats and the loss of protected species. Rigorous enforcement and increased protection measures are urgently required.

3. Select the location of the environmental crime:

Identify the location where the environmental crime is happening in Nosara District.
Guanacaste - Nicoya - Nosara.

4. Describe the environmental crime:

Clearly explain the nature of the environmental crime in the designated section of the form. Include details such as the type of crime (e.g., deforestation, pollution, illegal wildlife trafficking), the extent of the damage, and any supporting evidence or witnesses, if available. Use factual and concise language to convey the information effectively.

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5. Attach supporting documents:

If you have any documents, photographs, videos, or other forms of evidence related to the environmental crime, attach them using the file upload feature provided. This additional evidence can strengthen your complaint and assist the authorities in taking appropriate action.

6. Provide your personal information:

Fill in the required fields with your personal information. This may include your full name, identification number, address, and contact details. Be sure to provide accurate and up-to-date information to receive updates.

7. Submit the complaint:

Review all the provided information to ensure accuracy and completeness. Once you are satisfied with the details, click the "Submit" or "Enviar" button to send your complaint to the SITADA system.

8. Follow up on your complaint:

After submitting the complaint, it is essential to keep track of its progress. Note down any reference numbers or confirmation emails provided by the SITADA system.

If there is a designated timeline or contact information for updates, make a note of it and follow up accordingly.

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Example:

Suppose you witnessed illegal logging activities in a protected area near Nosara. You decide to file a complaint using the SITADA system.

1. You open your web browser and visit the SITADA complaint form at [SITADA Complaint Form](https://www.sitada.go.cr/denunciaspublico/ingreso_denuncias.aspx).
2. You fill in the required fields with your personal information, such as your full name, identification number, address, and contact details. You select the Type of Complaint and the Type of Crime.
3. In the location section, you select "Nosara" from the available options to specify the area where the environmental crime occurred. Guanacaste - Nicoya - Nosara.
4. In the description section, you provide a detailed account of the illegal logging activities, including the date and time of the incident, the affected area, and any other relevant information. You mention that you have witnessed this activity several times.
5. You attach photographs you took as evidence of the illegal logging using the file upload feature.
6. After reviewing and confirming all the information, you click the "Submit" button to submit your complaint.
7. **You MAKE NOTE OF THE REFERENCE NUMBER provided by the SITADA system** and follow any instructions or contacts for updates on the complaint's status.

Remember to provide accurate and factual information in your complaint to strengthen its validity and increase the chances of appropriate action being taken against the environmental crimes in Nosara.