



COSTA RICA



→ **Costa Rica** currently has 17 public policies related to soils, which have a multi-thematic character. These are framed within the period from 1949 to 2017; In addition, they are distributed among Decrees, Laws and even the Political Constitution.

According to their thematic area, the number of existing public policies in the country regarding soils is detailed below:

● SOIL CONSERVATION: 9

- Political Constitution of the Republic of Costa Rica. Date of text: 07/11/1949
- Decree No. 29.375/MAG/MINAE/S/MOPT - Regulations to the Law on the use, management and conservation of soils. Date of text: 08-08-2000
- Decree No. 33.959/MINAE - Manual of technical instruments for the Environmental Impact Assessment process (EIA Manual) - Part V, for earthworks. Date of text: 14-08-2007
- Decree No. 35.216-MINAET-MAG National Action Program to Fight Land Degradation in Costa Rica. Date of text: 11-03-2009
- Law No. 1540 - Law for the conservation of renewable natural resources. Date of text: 07-03-1953
- Law No. 7554 - Organic Law of the Environment. Date of text: 04-10-1995
- Law No. 7575 - Forest Law. Date of text: 02-13-1996
- Law No. 7779 - Law on the use, management and conservation of soils. Date of text: 30-04-1998
- Law No. 7788 - Biodiversity Law. Date of text: 23-04-1998

● SOIL RESTORATION: 3

- Decree No. 40492-MINAE-MAG Intersectoral Articulation for the incorporation of the Principles of Neutrality of Land Degradation in the Fight against Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought. Date of text: 03-04-2017
 - Law No. 1540 - Law for the conservation of renewable natural resources. Date of text: 07-03-1953
 - Law No. 7779 - Law on the use, management and conservation of soils. Date of text: 30-04-1998
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● SOIL QUALITY: 1

- Decree No. 37.757/S - Regulation on guide values in soils for decontamination of sites affected by environmental emergencies and spills. Date of text: 15-05-2013
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● SOIL EROSION: 3

- Decree No. 29.375/MAG/MINAE/S/MOPT - Regulations to the Law on the use, management and conservation of soils. Date of text: 08-08-2000
 - Law No. 7554 - Organic Law of the Environment. Date of text: 04-10-1995
 - Law No. 1540 - Law for the conservation of renewable natural resources. Date of text: 07-03-1953
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● SOIL ORGANIC CARBON LOSS: 1

- Law No. 7788 - Biodiversity Law. Date of text: 23-04-1998
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● **NUTRIENT IMBALANCE: 4**

- Decree No. 27.012/MEIC - Technical regulation RTCR No. 359/1998: Determination of the particle size of fertilizers. Date of text: 05-01-1998
 - Decree No. 37.017/MAG - Authorizes the use of cattle slurry as an improver of the physical, chemical and microbiological characteristics of the soil. Date of text: 23-01-2012
 - Decree No. 39.994-MAG Technical Regulation RTCR No. 485:2016. Chemical substances. Fertilizers and amendments for agricultural use. Tolerances and limits allowed for the concentration of elements and contaminants. Date of text: 24-10-2016
 - Law No. 7575 - Forest Law. Date of text: 02-13-1996
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● **SOIL BIODIVERSITY LOSS: 3**

- Decree No. 37.847/S - Modifies Decree No. 37.757/S, Regulation on guide values in soils for decontamination of sites affected by environmental emergencies and spills. Date of text: 11-07-2013
 - Decree No. 39.316/S - Regulation for the management and final disposal of ordinary and special sludge and biosolids. Date of text: 10-08-2015
 - Decree No. 37.017/MAG - Authorizes the use of cattle slurry as an improver of the physical, chemical and microbiological characteristics of the soil. Date of text: 23-01-2012
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● **SOIL POLLUTION: 12**

- Decree No. 37.757/S - Regulation on guide values in soils for decontamination of sites affected by environmental emergencies and spills. Date of text: 15-05-2013
 - Decree No. 37.847/S - Modifies Decree No. 37.757/S, Regulation on guide values in soils for decontamination of sites affected by environmental emergencies and spills. Date of text: 11-07-2013
 - Decree No. 39.316/S - Regulation for the management and final disposal of ordinary and special sludge and biosolids. Date of text: 10-08-2015
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- Law No. 7593 - Law of the Regulatory Authority of Public Services (ARESEP). Consolidated text. Date of text: 05-09-1996
 - Political Constitution of the Republic of Costa Rica. Date of text: 07/11/1949
 - Decree No. 27.012/MEIC - Technical regulation RTCR No. 359/1998: Determination of the particle size of fertilizers. Date of text: 05-01-1998
 - Decree No. 33.959/MINAE - Manual of technical instruments for the Environmental Impact Assessment process (EIA Manual) - Part V, for earthworks. Date of text: 14-08-2007
 - Decree No. 37.017/MAG - Authorizes the use of cattle slurry as an improver of the physical, chemical and microbiological characteristics of the soil. Date of text: 23-01-2012
 - Decree No. 39.994-MAG Technical Regulation RTCR No. 485:2016. Chemical substances. Fertilizers and amendments for agricultural use. Tolerances and limits allowed for the concentration of elements and contaminants. Date of text: 24-10-2016
 - Decree No. 40.492-MINAE-MAG Intersectoral Articulation for the incorporation of the Principles of Neutrality of Land Degradation in the Fight against Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought. Date of text: 03-04-2017
 - Law No. 7554 - Organic Law of the Environment. Date of text: 04-10-1995
 - Law No. 7788 - Biodiversity Law. Date of text: 23-04-1998
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● WATERLOGGING: 12

- Decree No. 35.216-MINAET-MAG National Action Program to Fight Land Degradation in Costa Rica. Date of text: 11-03-2009
 - Decree No. 37.757/S - Regulation on guide values in soils for decontamination of sites affected by environmental emergencies and spills. Date of text: 15-05-2013
 - Political Constitution of the Republic of Costa Rica. Date of text: 07/11/1949
 - Decree No. 27.012/MEIC - Technical regulation RTCR No. 359/1998: Determination of the particle size of fertilizers. Date of text: 05-01-1998
 - Decree No. 29.375/MAG/MINAE/S/MOPT - Regulations to the Law on the use, management and conservation of soils. Date of text: 08-08-2000
 - Decree No. 33.959/MINAE - Manual of technical instruments for the Environmental Impact Assessment process (EIA Manual) - Part V, for earthworks. Date of text: 14-08-2007
 - Decree No. 37.847/S - Modifies Decree No. 37.757/S, Regulation on guide values in soils for decontamination of sites affected by environmental emergencies and spills. Date of text: 11-07-2013
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- Decree No. 39.316/S - Regulation for the management and final disposal of ordinary and special sludge and biosolids. Date of text: 10-08-2015
- Decree No. 39.994-MAG Technical Regulation RTRC No. 485:2016. Chemical substances. Fertilizers and amendments for agricultural use. Tolerances and limits allowed for the concentration of elements and contaminants. Date of text: 24-10-2016
- Decree No. 40.492-MINAE-MAG Intersectoral Articulation for the incorporation of the Principles of Neutrality of Land Degradation in the Fight against Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought. Date of text: 03-04-2017
- Law No. 7575 - Forest Law. Date of text: 02-13-1996
- Law No. 7779 - Law on the use, management and conservation of soils. Date of text: 30-04-1998

As a summary, a table is detailed below in which the public policies mentioned above are displayed and what are the issues with which they are linked:

PUBLIC POLICY	THEMATIC AREA									
	SC	RS	SQ	SE	SOCL	NI	SBL	SP	WI	
Political Constitution	■							■	■	
Decree N° 29.375	■			■					■	
Decree N° 33.959	■							■	■	
Decree N° 35216	■								■	
Law N° 1540	■	■		■						
Law N° 7554	■			■				■		
Law N° 7575	■					■			■	
Law N° 7779	■	■							■	
Law N° 7788	■				■			■		
Decree N° 40492		■						■	■	
Decree N° 37757			■					■	■	
Decree N° 27012						■		■	■	
Decree N° 37017						■	■	■		
Decree N° 39994						■		■	■	
Decree N° 37847							■	■	■	
Decree N° 39316							■	■	■	
Law N° 7593								■		

SC: Soil conservation; SR: Soil restoration; SQ: Soil quality; SE: Soil erosion; SOCL: Soil organic carbon loss; NI: Nutrient imbalance; SBL: Soil biodiversity loss; SP: Soil pollution.; WI: Waterlogging.

Finally, the following table shows the most outstanding public policy on soils in the country:

LAW NO. 7575

This Law, in its article 46, creates the National Forest Financing Fund (FON-AFIFO) whose objective will be to finance small and medium producers through credits or other mechanisms to promote forest management; It will also attract financing for the payment of environmental services provided by forests, forest plantations and other activities necessary to strengthen the development of the natural resources sector.

Through FONAFIFO, the owners and possessors of forests and forest plantations will receive a payment for the environmental services they provide and that directly affect the protection and improvement of the environment.