

LOCAL NEWS

Environmental crime complaints up 17% nationally; Chiriquí up 82%

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Summary

Infobae reports the Public Ministry logged 502 environmental crime complaints from January to September 2026, up 17% on 2025, with Chiriquí second nationally at 91 cases and an 82% rise.

Details (summary of the article)

According to Infobae, Panama's Public Ministry recorded 502 complaints of crimes against the environment and land-use rules in the first nine months of 2026, up from 430 a year earlier, a 17% increase. Crimes against natural resources made up 55% of cases (277), followed by cruelty to domestic animals (176, up 60%), wildlife offences (44) and five urban-planning infractions. Destruction of natural resources rose 21% to 187 complaints, while illegal logging in special areas fell 31% to 52. Geographically, Panama province led with 99 cases, Chiriquí was second with 91 (an 82% rise) and Panamá Oeste third with 74; Colón saw the biggest relative jump at 118%. Penalties under article 399 of the Penal Code run from three to six years in prison, higher when protected areas, watersheds or water sources are harmed; four people were jailed 48 months in June for illegal mining in Herrera. The 9 October earthquake triggered a landslide at the abandoned El Remance mine in Veraguas, where MiAmbiente found acidic water (pH 5.75) with elevated iron and sulfates, prompting it to ask IDAAN to monitor water intakes at San Francisco and Santiago. MiAmbiente also announced environmental restoration work at El Remance and five other abandoned mining sites.

Original (es)

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