

LOCAL NEWS

66,600-hectare mangrove protected area created in Chiriquí

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Summary

The Ministry of Environment has formally set the boundaries of the Alanje, David and San Lorenzo Mangroves Managed Resources Area in Chiriquí, covering 66,600 hectares of marine and land area.

Details (summary of the article)

TVN Panamá reports that the Ministry of Environment has officially established the limits of the "Manglares de Alanje, David y San Lorenzo" Managed Resources Area in Chiriquí under Resolution DM-0670-2026 of 21 October 2026, published in the Official Gazette. The area covers 66,600 hectares — about 36,973 marine and 29,626 terrestrial — uniting the mangroves of the three districts in one protected area; Chiriquí's mangroves make up roughly 25% of Panama's mangrove cover. A 50-metre buffer zone is set around the area, without changing land tenure or existing legal rights. Banned activities include cutting, filling or destroying mangroves, polluting waters, dumping waste, introducing invasive species, mineral exploration and extraction, and certain fishing practices harmful to wildlife including sea turtles. Traditional artisanal and non-commercial fishing and the gathering of shellfish and crabs may continue with permits; the ministry's Chiriquí regional office must open a register of traditional users within six months. Projects requiring environmental impact assessment will need prior approval of environmental viability, and a participatory management plan must be approved within 12 months. The public consultation drew 791 comments, and a 2007 protected area declared by David's Municipal Council is now integrated into the new area.

Original (es)

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