

Country Profile: Costa Rica

[Country Profile \(PDF\)](#)

Country Resources

Topographic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Costa Rica 1:50,000 Scale Topographic Maps	IGNCR	1:50,000	1962 - 2004	133
Costa Rica 1:200,000 Scale Topographic Maps	IGNCR	1:200,000	2005	9
VMAPO 1:1,000,000 Scale Vector Data	NIMA	1:1,000,000	1992	4

Geoscientific

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Costa Rica 1:50,000 Scale Geomorphological Maps	IGNCR	1:50,000	1982	133
Nicaragua 1:500,000 Scale Geological Maps	INETER	1:500,000	1995	4

Thematic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
The World 1:30,000,000 Scale Topographic Map Series 1145 (NGA)	DMA	1:30,000,000		2

Global Census Archive: GIS Census Data

Year	Questions / Answers	ADM Level	Polygons at ADM	Data Points
2000	37 / 1,123	3	472	530,056
2011	55 / 719	3	472	339,368

Global Resources

Topographic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Soviet Military City Plans	VTU GSh	Varies	1944 - 2003	3,020
Soviet Military 1:100,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:100,000	1947 - 1999	24,897
Soviet Military 1:200,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:200,000	1949 - 2009	17,799
Soviet Military 1:500,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:500,000	1953 - 1998	3,093

Nautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
NGA Nautical Charts POD Certified (All Scales)	NGA	Varies	1943 - 2013	4,517

Aeronautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Joint Operations Graphic (JOG 1501A) 1:250,000 - Aeronautical	DMA	1:250,000	1958 - 2007	4,204
Tactical Pilotage Chart (TPC) 1:500,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:500,000	1967 - 2006	598
Operational Navigation Chart (ONC) 1:1,000,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:1,000,000	1969 - 2001	243
Jet Navigation Chart (JNC) 1:2,000,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:2,000,000	1971 - 1999	117

Global Navigation and Planning Chart (GNC) 1:5,000,000 Scale – Aeronautical	DMA	1:5,000,000	1981 – 1999	27
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Geoscientific

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Soviet Military 1:1,000,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:1,000,000	1948 – 1994	1,089

Note: East View Geospatial is continuously sourcing new resources that may not yet be listed in Global Explorer. Please contact us if you have geodata needs beyond what is listed above and we will be happy to discuss available off-the-shelf and custom solutions.

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Historical Country Mapping Information

Jump to: [Topographic](#) | [Geological/Scientific](#) | [Soil](#) | [Tourist/Reference](#) | [Census/Demography/Statistics](#)

Country Profile (PDF)

Topographic

The **Instituto Geográfico**, San José, was founded in 1944, but its origin can be traced back to 1889. It got its present name of **Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGNCR)** in 1968. Systematic large-scale topographic mapping began in the mid-1940s in collaboration with the **Inter-American Geodetic Survey (IAGS)**. Initially this was a 1:25,000 scale photogrammetrically produced map, issued from 1953, but this series was terminated in 1962 with only 99 sheets published.

The present basic topographic cover is a complete series of 1:50,000 scale maps (Series E762) in 131 sheets. These sheets are in five colors with a 20 m contour interval and 10 m auxiliary contours. The projection is Lambert conformal conic and the Ellipsoid Clarke 1866. The series was initially published between 1955 and 1971, and sheets are being revised at a rate of about eight per year. Sheet format is graticule-based with sheets covering 10 minutes of latitude and 15 minutes of longitude. A parallel series of 1:50,000 maps was prepared concurrently by the **US Army Topographic Command** in 137 sheets on a Transverse Mercator projection.

There is also complete cover of the country at a scale of 1:200,000 (Series E561). This nine-sheet series was originally issued between 1955 and 1971, and is derived from the 1:50,000 scale mapping. A revised edition was published in 1988. It has 100 m contours and is on a Lambert conformal projection. There is also a special sheet, *Gran Area Metropolitana*, published in 1986. Most of Costa Rica is also covered in five sheets of the 1:250,000 scale PAIGH *Unified hemispheric map series*, published by **IGNCR** in 1981-87.

Urban mapping at scales of 1:5,000 to 1:12,500 has also been undertaken by **IGNCR**. These maps have 10 m or 5 m contours. A small number of sheets in a general topographic series at 1:10,000 have been issued since 1974.

Soviet military topographic mapping of Costa Rica exists at the following scales: 1:1,000,000 (4 sheets, complete coverage, published 1966-1990); 1:500,000 (5 sheets, complete coverage, published in 1985); 1:200,000 (3 sheets, northern coverage, published in 1984); 1:100,000 (7 sheets, southern coverage, published in 1979) and a city (1:10,000) topographic map of San Jose published in 1981. These products are available in print, digital raster and digital vector GIS formats from **East View Geospatial**.

[Back to top](#)

Geological/Scientific

Geological and other earth science maps have been issued by the **Dirección de Geología, Minas y Petróleo (DGMP)**, established in 1951. The country has been well mapped, with a complete set of geological maps at 1:200,000 scale, and several smaller scale geoscience maps. It is planned to improve the resolution of geological maps to a scale of 1:50,000, but a shortage of funds during the 1980s resulted in little progress. However, a few sheets have been published since 1990. Some more detailed geological and geomorphological mapping

of the country has been carried out by the **Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR)**, including a nine-sheet *Carta geomorfológica de Valle Central de Costa Rica* at 1:50,000 scale, published in 1981. A nine-sheet geomorphological map of the whole country at 1:200,000 scale was published in 1980 by the **Secretaría Ejecutiva de Planificación Sectorial Agropecuaria (SEPSA)**. In 1987, the **United States Geological Survey (USGS)**, in co-operation with **DGMP** and **UCR**, published a mineral resources assessment (USGS I-1865). A 1:500,000 scale geological map of the whole country is in preparation.

[Back to top](#)

Soil

A range of soil, land use and land capability mapping was undertaken in the 1970s by various government departments, including the **Oficina de Planificación Nacional (OFICINA)** and the **Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (MAG)**. More recently, the **Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)** has funded the production of 1:10,000 scale topographic and soil maps of the Central Valley, and the **Dirección General Forestal (DGF)** plans to produce a forest cover map derived from satellite imagery. The **Fundación Neótopica** is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1985 which supports resource conservation and sustainable development. It publishes educational materials, including maps of national parks and has produced maps of land use and ecological change using GIS.

[Back to top](#)

Tourist/Reference

Environmentally sensitive tourism (ecotourism) is a growth industry in Costa Rica, and the **Instituto Costarricense de Turismo (ICT)** not only distributes a number of general purpose maps but has begun to publish tourist maps.

The **Ministerio de Obras Publicas y Transporte (MOPT)** is responsible for highway maintenance, and has published occasional maps, including a six-sheet map of traffic flows in 1989.

Although a comparatively well mapped country, new programs continue to suffer from shortage of funds and lack of paper on which to print the maps. A new tourist map remains unprinted for this reason, and plans for a country place name gazetteer have been postponed. Tourist maps produced by commercial publishers include a road map of the country and a map of downtown San José by **Jimenez and Tanzi (JITAN)**, and country maps by **Berndtson and Berndtson (B&B)** and **International Travel Maps (ITM)**.

[Back to top](#)

Census/Demography/Statistics

Population censuses have been carried out in 1984 and 1996. Maps for census enumeration purposes and small-scale demographic maps based on census statistics are produced by the **Dirección General de Estadística y Censos (DGEC)**.

[Back to top](#)

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