

THE CAFTA-DR SECRETARIAT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS



INVITES THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO SUBMIT INFORMATION REGARDING THE ALLEGED POLLUTION OF THE YAQUE DEL NORTE RIVER.

On February 6, 2025, a Dominican citizen, on his own behalf and on behalf of the environmental group Grupo Ecológico Mundo Libre, filed a submission with the Secretariat for Environmental Matters (SEM) under the Dominican Republic–Central America–United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), identified as file number CAALA/25/001, titled “Yaque del Norte River II – DR”.



(Photo: Starus, CC BY-SA 3.0)

In the submission, he alleged that the Dominican Republic is failing to effectively enforce its environmental legislation in relation to the alleged pollution of the Yaque del Norte River, caused by the discharge of solid and liquid waste. This river is located in the northern and northwestern regions of the country.

On May 29, 2025, the CAFTA-DR Environmental Affairs Council instructed the Secretariat to prepare a Factual Record concerning the facts presented by the submitter.

Accordingly, the Secretariat invites the public to submit information related to the matters described in the submission. All submitted information must be directly and clearly linked to the technical and legal issues raised therein. The Secretariat will analyze the relevance of the information received before incorporating it into the Factual Record

SUBMITTED INFORMATION MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:



1. General information about the Yaque del Norte River.
2. Activities of any nature conducted in the areas surrounding the river.
3. Identification and details of the main sources of potential impact cited in the submission.
4. Specific actions taken by the government of the Dominican Republic to comply with its applicable environmental legislation.
5. Monitoring and control measures related to water quality and pollution levels in the river.
6. Documentation of public participation, hearings, or other community engagement mechanisms.
7. Past and ongoing projects aimed at rehabilitating or restoring the river.
8. The current legal status of the river and any related future plans.
9. In general, any information that is directly and clearly related to the technical and legal aspects of the alleged non-compliance identified by the submitter.

Any interested person, whether individually or collectively, may submit information in printed or digital format. The deadline for submission is **August 10, 2025**.

Information may be submitted via:



IN-PERSON DELIVERY:

On **July 30 and 31, 2025**, at the Hotel Hodelpa Gran Almirante, located at Avenida Salvador Estrella Sadhalá, Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, from **9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**.



EMAIL:

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This public call is intended to promote access and citizen participation. We deeply appreciate the interest and efforts of all individuals and organizations involved in this process.

Full information about the case is available at: www.saa-sem.org.