



HELPS
LATAM EXPERT

COSTA RICA SITUATIONAL REPORT OCTOBER 2025

COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

2,68/5

53,65%

VULNERABILITIES

Political

Economic

Sociocultural

Technological

Ecological

Legal

THREATS

Terrorism

Organized Crime

Civil Unrest

Common Crime

Health Threat

Enviromental

Cybercrime

Internal Stakeholders

GENERAL RISK PROBABILITY IN THE CONTEXT

53,65%

RANGE

05

Severe

04

High Risk

03

Elevated

02

Guarded

01

Low

The First part of our proposed methodology focuses on assessing vulnerabilities and threats across the country. This comprehensive and multidimensional approach encompasses political, economic, sociocultural, technological, ecological, and legal aspects. Furthermore, it considers specific threats, including terrorism, organized crime, protests, common crime, cybercrime, climate disasters, medical threats, and internal stakeholders. Data is collected using official government sources, national and international media, and individual testimonials in each country. This approach ensures a broad and diverse view of the region's situation. Data is collected over 30 days, allowing for real-time analysis and its progressive evolution. Once the information is gathered, it is classified into different categories of vulnerabilities and risks. Each category is evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest level and five being the most severe. This scale enables a quantitative assessment, facilitating comparisons between different categories.

The second part of our protective intelligence framework assesses and quantifies the probability of general risk to any individual or organization in a context by evaluating the vulnerabilities and threats within the designated area. The scores help understand the severity of deficiencies (General Vulnerabilities) and capabilities (General Threats), which are then used to calculate the overall risk probability.

1. General Vulnerabilities (measured by the inadequacy of controls)

1.1 Deficiencies in the System (PESTEL) - rated from 1 to 5, with one being adequate, 2 having some inconsistencies, three being deficient, four being very deficient, and five being totally ineffective.

1.2 Deficiencies in Response Capacities: Police, Armed Forces, Disaster Management, Emergency & Medical—rated from 1 to 5, with one being adequate, 2 having some inconsistencies, three being deficient, four being very inadequate, and five being totally ineffective.

2. General Threats (measured by capabilities)

2.1 Resources: Personnel, Weapons, Equipment, Transportation- rated from 1 to 5, with one being nonexistent, two being low, three being medium, 4 being high, and five being unlimited (or unknown).

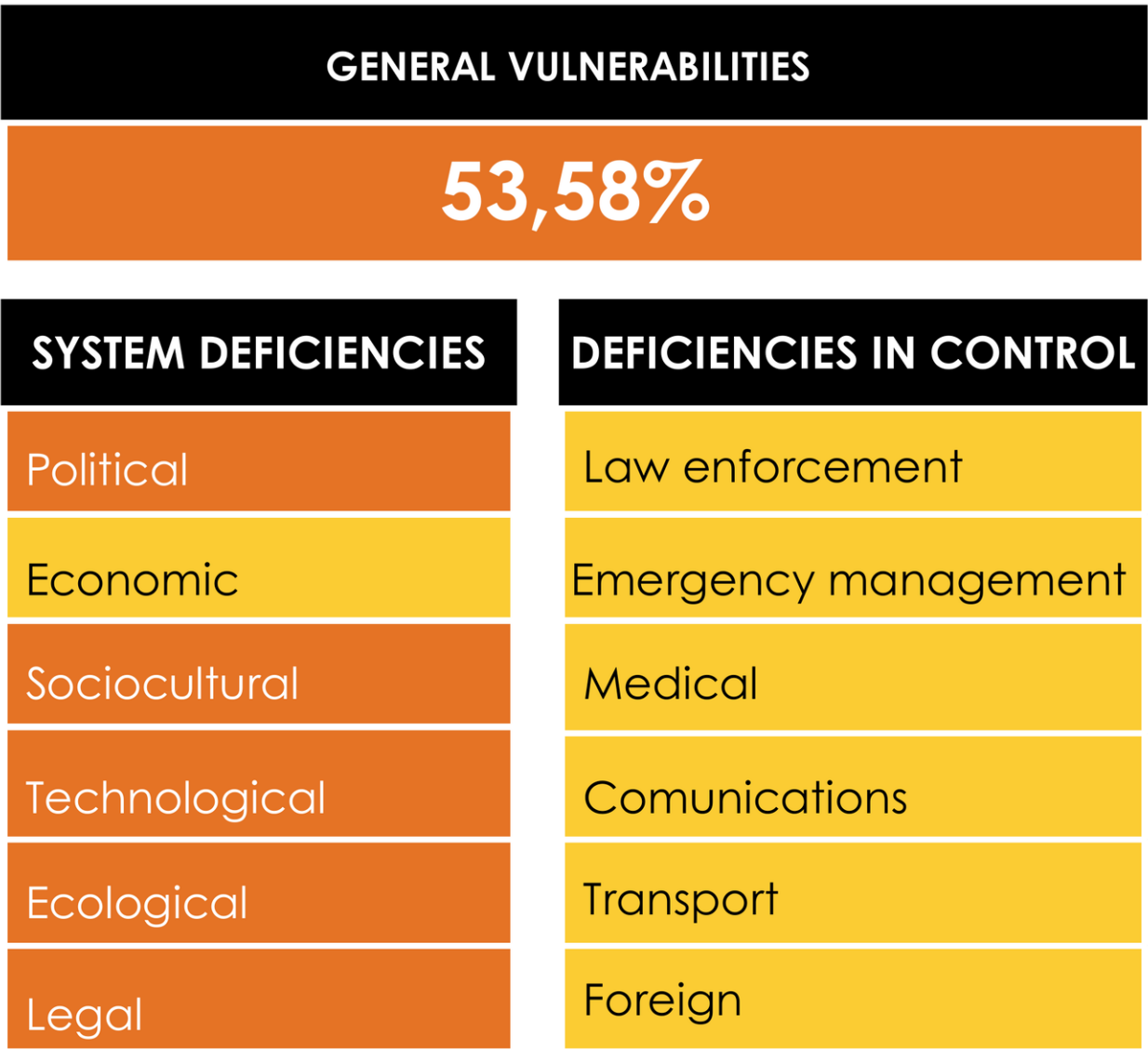
2.2 Information about: Type of crimes, Criminal Resilience, surveillance and Intelligence capability, Ability to co-opt internal staff - rated from 1 to 5, with one being unlimited, two being high, three being medium, four being low, and five being nonexistent (or unknown).

3. General Risk in the context (Average between CRP, IC, GTC)

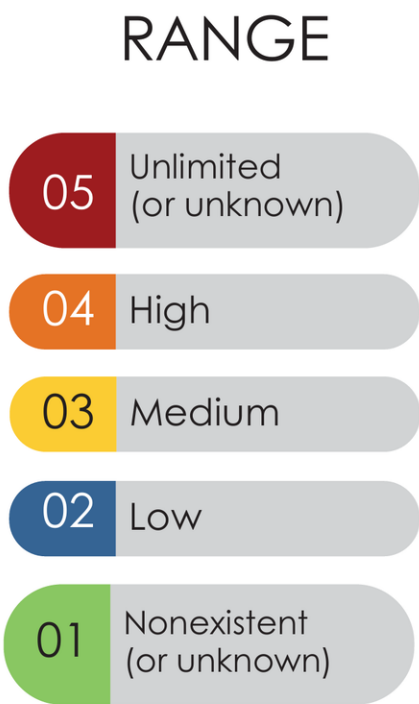
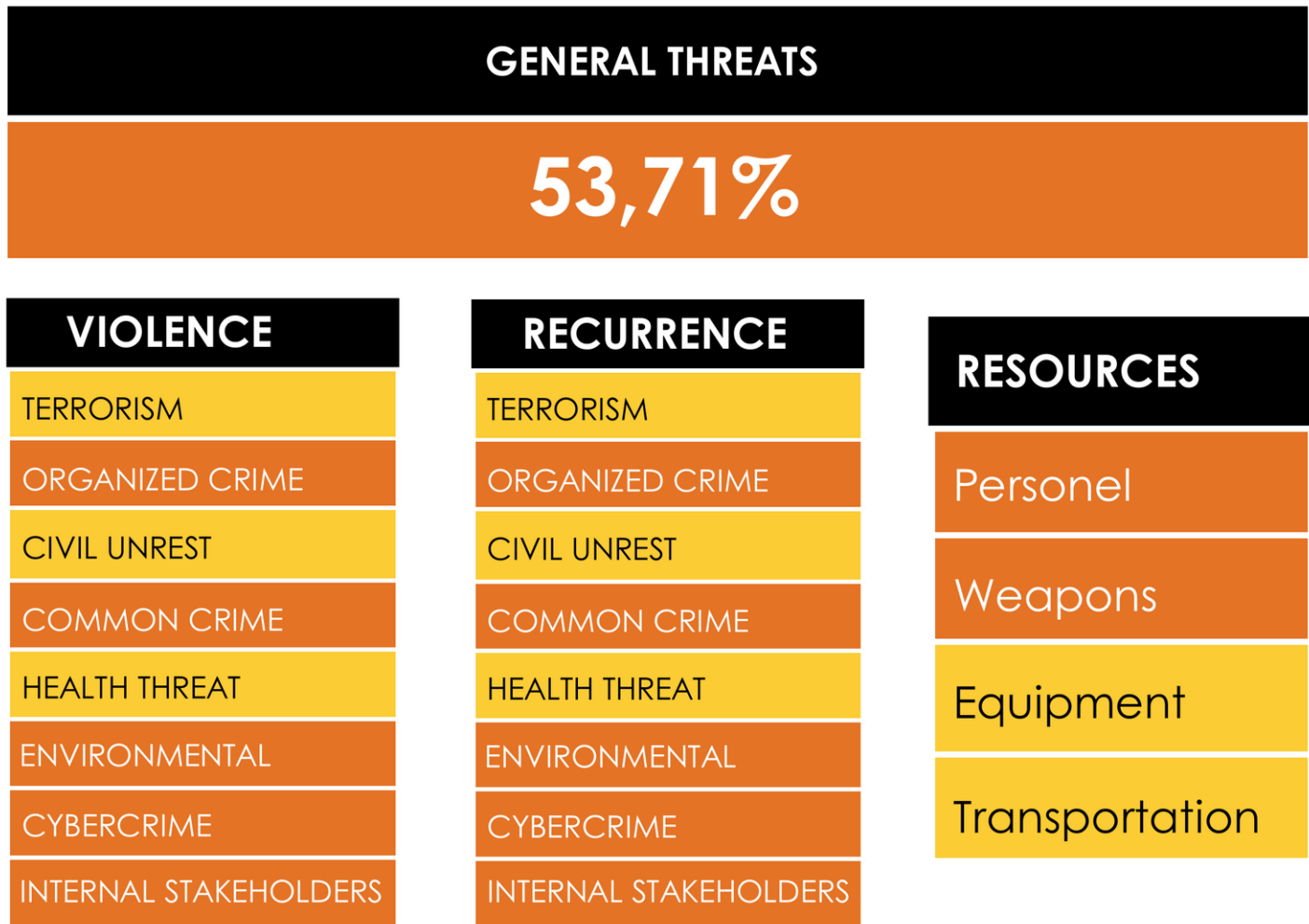
This part of the methodology comprehensively evaluates overall risk by averaging three components: Inadequate Controls (IC), which refer to insufficient security measures, and General Threat Capability (GTC), which assesses the potential dangers posed by threats.

The third and final component is the Country Risk Probability (CRP), which considers the inherent risk level in the country based on PESTEL and TOPCMEX measures. By summing these three components, we obtain the General Risk Probability, providing a comprehensive measure of the risk level to which an individual or entity may be exposed.

INADEQUATE CONTROLS



GENERAL THREATS CAPACITY



VULNERABILITIES



VULNERABILITIES	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
POLITICAL	Costa Rica is currently facing political tension stemming from ongoing conflicts between the President and various entities, including the media and autonomous institutions such as the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) and the Supreme Court. This situation is creating instability, undermining public confidence in the system, and diverting resources away from security. A significant concern is the possibility that the Legislative Assembly may revoke the President's immunity on October 22nd to allow for a trial related to an alleged corruption case. This is a development that warrants serious attention.	50,43%
ECONOMIC	Costa Rica has a stable economy supported by strong macroeconomic indicators. In recent months, national production has grown by 4%, although this growth has not been uniform. The labor market is affected by several factors, including the departure of thousands of workers, demographic pressure from an aging population, and the exclusion of youth. Additionally, the country faces social challenges related to security, inadequate infrastructure, gaps in education, and food security.	49,03%
SOCIOCULTURAL	In Costa Rica, the sociocultural landscape faces challenges primarily due to common and organized crime. Violence in the country is increasing daily, which is evident in society through unsolved homicide cases and instances of violence by teachers toward students. Recent floods have led to the displacement of people and evacuations from their homes, raising the risk of opportunistic looting and other common crimes.	60,53%
TECHNOLOGICAL	The technological threat in Costa Rica primarily stems from the vulnerability of its IT infrastructure to physical disruptions caused by extreme weather events. Additionally, there is a rising trend in cybercrime, including financial cybercrime, aimed at modern businesses. These businesses rely heavily on stable networks, which, due to inadequate infrastructure, are often exposed to risks.	51,33%
ENVIRONMENTAL	The environmental factor poses a significant and ongoing risk. The active Intertropical Convergence Zone leads to frequent storms, floods, and landslides, presenting a significant threat to business continuity through road closures and damage to logistics infrastructure.	58,73%
LEGAL	Costa Rica is undergoing a significant change in its legal landscape. The country's institutional weaknesses in combating organized crime, coupled with a widespread perception of corruption, create an environment where extortion and infiltration are challenging to address effectively. This situation heightens both the legal and reputational risks for the country. Furthermore, it contributes to corruption among certain law enforcement officials, which negatively impacts the justice system.	51,43%
AVERAGE SCORE		2,68
VULNERABILITY PERCENTAGE		53,58%

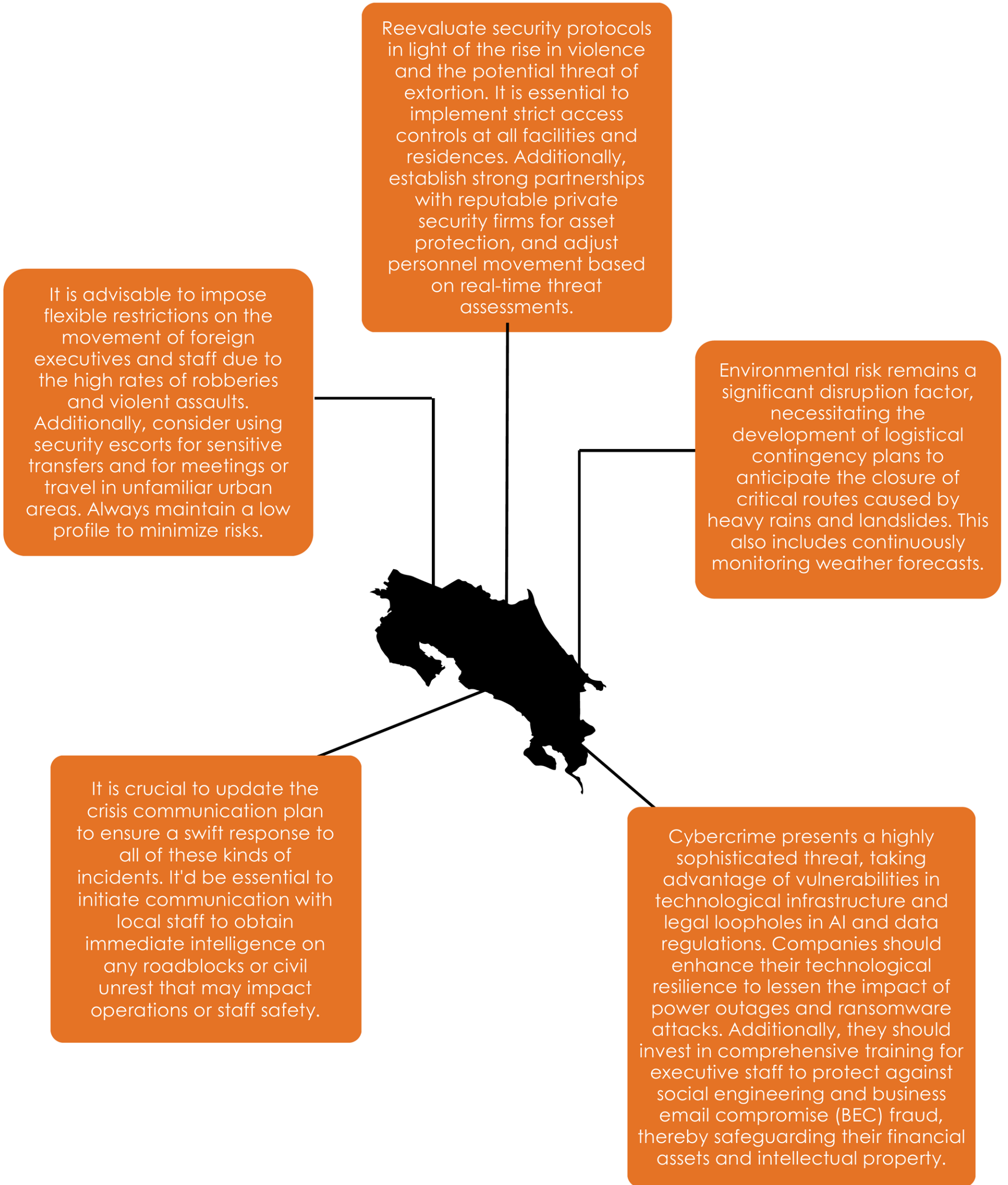


THREATS



THREATS	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
TERRORISM	Historically, terrorism has not posed a significant threat to executives or foreign infrastructure in Costa Rica. Instead, the primary risk lies in the realm of crime and social issues, with organized crime being the primary driver of violence in the country.	45,00%
ORGANIZED CRIME	Organized crime in Costa Rica manifests in various forms, including drug trafficking, kidnappings, extortion, and financial fraud. As a result, the homicide rate has reached a record high since 2023. This rising threat poses a direct impact on company logistics and the safety of executives, potentially exposing them to both random and targeted violence.	67,33%
CIVIL UNREST	In Costa Rica, social protests are infrequent, but there have been targeted strikes at ports and public services that can cause temporary logistical disruptions. Protests are usually linked to issues of corruption or economic and social conditions.	47,33%
COMMON CRIME	Crime in Costa Rica is a significant concern, particularly in urban areas. The most common types of crime include violent robberies, vehicle theft, and theft of vehicle parts. These threats pose a serious physical risk due to the levels of violence associated with them.	66,07%
HEALTH THREAT	The health sector remains on alert following the detection of a yellow fever case in a U.S. citizen on October 7. Additionally, there are ongoing threats to public health, including vector-borne diseases and potential failures in the public health system due to medicine shortages. These risks must be taken into account in the country.	47,27%
ENVIRONMENTAL	Costa Rica is confronting several environmental challenges, including floods, sinkholes, overflowing rivers, and landslides. These natural disasters can lead to physical isolation, property damage, and the collapse of essential infrastructure, such as bridges and roads.	55,07%
CYBERCRIME	Cybercrime in Costa Rica manifests through ransomware attacks that disrupt operations and phishing scams. These cyber attacks aim to compromise sensitive data, leading to significant financial losses due to operational disruptions. The risk of such attacks is heightened by the absence of clear legislation regarding artificial intelligence and data protection, which creates a legal loophole that can be exploited.	51,40%
INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	Organized crime can exert significant pressure on members of the justice system and law enforcement, which may facilitate the infiltration of these groups. This infiltration can lead to theft, fraud, or the acquisition of sensitive information, such as routes. The weaknesses within the justice system have fostered public skepticism regarding corruption cases, prompting questions about its integrity. In 2024, the Attorney General's Office filed a total of 155 corruption charges.	50,20%
AVERAGE SCORE		THREAT CAPABILITIES PERCENTAGE
2,69		53,71%





EMERGENCY NUMBERS	Numbers
General Emergency Number	911
Police	117/911
Firefighters	118 / 911
Medical Emergencies	128 / 911
Civil Defense	911
British Embassy	(506) 2258-2025
US Embassy San Jose	(506) 2519-2000



AIRPORT

Airport	Location	Type	Remarks	Numbers
Juan Santamaría (SJO)	Alajuela, San José	International	It is the largest and most significant airport in the country, serving as the primary entry point for most business travelers.	+(506) 2437-2400
Daniel Oduber (LIR)	Liberia, Guanacaste	International	It is essential for tourism and investment in the Guanacaste region.	+(506) 2668-1032 / +506 26669600
Tobias Bolaños Palma (SYQ)	Pavas, San José	National	It serves as the hub for private (executive) flights and local aviation, playing a crucial role in ensuring fast and safe transportation to remote areas of the country.	+(506) 2290-3330 / +50622322820

HOSPITALS



Hospitals in Costa Rica are operational, and the country boasts one of the most robust public health systems in Central America. However, the system does face challenges, including long wait times for surgeries and specialist appointments. Recent issues with the supply of specialized medications have further strained the system's capacity. The primary public hospitals include the Dr. Rafael Ángel Calderón Guardia Hospital and the San Juan de Dios Hospital, both located in San José, as well as the Hospital México in La Uruca. For emergency services and higher-level care for executives and foreign personnel, private clinics provide a faster and more resource-efficient alternative. Notable private facilities include CIMA San José Hospital, Clínica Bíblica Hospital, and Clínica Católica, which offer a wide range of specialized services.

ROADS



En Costa Rica, la congestión vehicular es significativa en la Gran Área Metropolitana (GAM), afectando a las principales arterias como la Autopista General Cañas y las rutas de Circunvalación, lo que genera retrasos consistentes, especialmente en horas pico. Más allá de la GAM, las carreteras hacia las costas y zonas rurales son vulnerables a interrupciones críticas debido a eventos climáticos extremos, como lluvias que provocan deslizamientos de tierra y cierres temporales, particularmente en la Ruta 32 a Limón.

HOTELS



Costa Rica offers a diverse range of hotels, particularly luxury and business accommodations, concentrated in the Greater Metropolitan Area. For executives seeking premium amenities and convenient access to business centers, top choices include the Real InterContinental San José and the Costa Rica Marriott Hotel Hacienda Belén, both located on the outskirts of the capital. In downtown San José, the Hotel Grano de Oro provides a high-quality boutique experience. For those needing a short stay near San José International Airport, the Hilton Garden Inn San José La Sabana is an excellent option. In the Guanacaste region, large resorts like the Four Seasons Peninsula Papagayo and the Andaz Costa Rica Resort are perfect for corporate retreats or relaxing stays on the Pacific coast.

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY



Costa Rica has long been a destination and transit route for migrants, particularly those from Nicaragua and Venezuela, as well as for individuals traveling from other continents who aim to reach North America. The country accommodates a significant population of immigrants and asylum seekers from neighboring countries. Additionally, both the southern and northern borders experience a steady flow of vulnerable migrants passing through, which presents security and humanitarian management challenges for authorities, especially in regions near Panama and Nicaragua.

We have Protective Intelligence capabilities in:



If you have specific questions or wish to subscribe to our
IN-DEPTH COSTA RICA SPECIFIC CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS,
you may contact our Protective Intelligence team at



HELPS
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**Our operations in COSTA RICA and
all Latin America are 100% active.**

If you need Executive Protection, Secure Transportation,
Private Investigations, Risk Management, and Crisis Support,
we are ready to HELP 24/7.

**Risk is out there, but Helps Latam Expert is here for you.
Contact us for a free Latin American capabilities
statement.**



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