

Landslide on 17 September 2022, 16:10 Local Time Costa Rica

Wednesday, 21 June 2023 09:49 (1 minute)

Landslides along the Inter-American Highway in Central Costa Rica, between San Ramon and Esparza are common, mostly during rainy season and are more related to instability due to the state of alteration of the materials on the slopes than to local faults. The saturation of the soil and the slopes could lead to the acceleration of these landslide processes even with earthquakes of moderate magnitude. These earthquakes could occur both on the upper-crust faults, and along the subduction zone on the Pacific coast. Seismic local catalogue for the zone shows that earthquakes of low magnitude had been located nearby, being the earthquake of 20 December 2005, at 09:00:45, Ml 3.9 the largest. On 17 September at 4:10 p.m. Costa Rican time, the Costa Rica emergency system was informed of a bus accident in Los Chorros de Agua, Cambronero, Santiago de San Ramon, caused by a landslide, where several persons died. Although the landslide was small in dimension, it was detected by an infrasonic station, located on Poas Volcano ~36 km from the source and shows that infrasound station, as is this case, can be used to characterize small landslides, among other local infrasound sources.

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Promotional text

Costa Rica, infrasound station, landslide, earthquake

Oral preference format

in-person

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