



Republic of Nicaragua  
Office of the President of the Republic  
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**NICARAGUA: ESSENTIAL LEADERSHIP IN THE  
GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: A  
UNIQUE STRATEGY**

**-White Paper-**

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## **Acronyms**

ALBA:	Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America
CITES:	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
AFOLU:	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses
IDB:	Inter-American Development Bank
CATHALAC:	Water Center of the Humid Tropics for Latin America and the Caribbean
CELAC:	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CCAD:	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
COP:	Conference of Parties
CNU:	National Council of Universities

ENDE-REDD: National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

GEF: Global Environment Facility (GEF)

FVC: Green Climate Fund

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GHG: Greenhouse Gases

GRULAC: Latin American and Caribbean Group

GRUN: Government of Reconciliation and National Unity

INTA: Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology

INETER: Nicaraguan Institute for Territorial Studies

INAFOR: National Forestry Institute

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change

LMDC: Like-minded Developing  
Countries

MRV: Monitoring, reporting and  
verification

MAB: Program on Man and the  
International Biosphere

MARENA: Ministry of the Environment and  
Natural Resources

MAG: Ministry of Agriculture

MEM: Ministry of Energy and Mines

MHCP: Ministry of Finance and Public  
Credit

MEFCCA: Ministry of Family, Community,  
Cooperative and Associative  
Economy

NDC: Nationally Determined  
Contribution

WMO: World Meteorological  
Organization

LMOs: Living modified organisms

UNEP: United Nations Environment  
Program

PNDH: National Human Development Plan

RAMSAR: Convention Related to Wetlands  
of Importance

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework  
Convention on Climate Change

SNRCC: National Climate Change  
Response System

SCF: Standing Committee on Finance

SICA: Central American Integration  
System

SINAPRED: National System for Disaster  
Prevention, Mitigation and  
Management

SESSAN: Executive Secretariat for Food  
and Nutrition Sovereignty and  
Security

UNESCO: United Nations Education,  
Science and Culture  
Organization

UNIDO: United Nations Industrial  
Development Organization

WWF: World Wildlife Fund



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Since 2007 the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity (GRUN) has implemented a policy of protection and defense of our Mother Earth, which is manifested in the aims of the National Human Development Program. In accordance with this policy, Nicaragua was the first signatory to the "Universal Declaration of the Common Good of Earth and Humanity" in 2010.

The GRUN considers Climate Change to be one of the main obstacles to the development of Nicaragua and one of the main risks facing humanity. Thus, both international and national politics have reflected this first priority since the first day of the government in 2007, which are summarized below.

## **International Policy**

Nicaragua ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1995 and in 1999 the Kyoto Protocol. These international instruments established mandates and commitments for developed countries, the most relevant being the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, Clean Development Mechanisms, Technology Transfer and legally binding emissions reduction commitments for developed countries, known as Annex 1. The Kyoto Protocol that entered into force in 2005, is an excellent climate agreement, legally binding, which postulated a global goal of reducing 5% of emissions in 1990, with the same formula (5% of 1990) for Annex 1 countries "Developed." In the 2012 Doha Amendment, the target was raised to 18% of global emissions in 1990 and for each of the Annex 1 countries. The period of

validity of the Kyoto Protocol was also extended from 2013 to 2020, on that date, the Kyoto Protocol must be absorbed under the Paris Agreement with its terms prevailing. The Doha Amendment has not yet entered into force given, as of May 27, 2020, 138 countries have ratified of the 144 needed for it to enter into force.

One problem in the negotiations was that the United States was a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, but the Congress of that country never ratified it. The formation of two working groups in Bali were negotiated with the aim of including the United States despite not being in the Kyoto Protocol. The European Union and the Latin American right wing countries (Lima Group) accepted the agreement made by the United States and agreed with China at COP15 in Copenhagen in the face of President Obama's desperation to reach an

agreement for North American political reasons. For the Chinese, "Saving Face" is very important, but you can also "Give Face" to a party in distress.

Beginning with the Durban COP17 in 2011, the future contents of the Paris Agreement were beginning to be defined. The European Union and the Latin American Right gave concession after concession to the United States. First, it was defined that instead of being a binding agreement, it would instead be "An agreement under the convention with the force of law." Even the lawyers of the United States could not explain what that meant, the only thing that is known is that they do not mean legally binding, because that is what is being replaced. Likewise, the United States was pleased to define that all the commitments of the NDCs would be voluntary and defined by each country, both

developed and developing. Europe with the United States tried to abolish "Common Needs", for "Differences" and "Historical Responsibilities" with a concept of "Universal Responsibilities," however, given the stubborn resistance of developing countries led by Like-Minded Countries, with Nicaraguan playing a very prominent role, this change was prevented. Given all the concessions made to the United States, it must have been a very unpleasant surprise for Europe and the Latin American Right when in the Paris Agreement, the Trump Administration announced that it was withdrawing from the agreement. At the same time ending its contributions to the UNFCCC, IPCC and FVC, as the United States' quotas are the largest in its capacity as the world's largest economy.

Notwithstanding its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, the United States played a negative role at COP25 in Santiago / Madrid, blocking all climate finance initiatives and the efforts of developing countries led by Nicaragua to raise Losses and Damages to the same level as Mitigation and Adaptation, as well as access to financing for localities that have suffered Losses and Catastrophic Damages, such as; Dominica, Barbuda and Abaco, Grand Bahamas, among others.

Diplomatic efforts in the international negotiations on Climate Change, based on facts and science related this planetary scourge, has made our country achieve important consensus among developing nations.

Nicaragua, as spokesperson and main negotiator of ALBA at COP15 in Copenhagen in

2009, participated in preventing the imposition of a consensual agreement between the main emission countries outside of the United Nations negotiations, without transparency or participation, as well as in an undemocratic manner.

Thanks to the resistance of ALBA countries (mainly Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela), the proposal, which lacked consensus of all nations, was not approved, but only "noted". Nicaragua's outstanding participation and leadership in these negotiations earned her wide recognition.

COP 15 in Copenhagen turned out to be a real disaster due to the pretense of developed countries, seeking to impose on developing countries an Agreement redacted in Washington, which delayed climate negotiations for years. There were high political expectations with more than 100

Heads of State and Government participating in Copenhagen, as well as in the media and environmental organizations. The disappointment was enormous and took even longer to suspend.

Faced with this failure, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change continued its established negotiations in a low-profile manner for several years until reaching COP21. Nicaragua prioritized maintaining and defending the script and spirit of the Climate Change Convention, which it continues to do, as the Paris Agreement is being implemented.

At the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris, France, in November 2015, developed countries proposed 2°C as the target and developing countries 1°C as the target. The 1°C position had a weakness because greenhouse gas emissions

were already reaching that level. Nicaragua and Bolivia negotiated 1.5°C instead of 1°C and that was accepted by the COP and the Paris Agreement, proposes to stop the rise in temperature by less than 2° and preferably at 1.5°C.

Subsequently, Nicaragua and Bolivia argued that the 2°C goal had their IPCC study for what is required to meet that result. It was pointed out, that 1.5°C was not going to be a real objective if there was not also another study pointing out what to do to stop the temperature rise at that level. That was also approved by COP-21 and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was tasked to review the work and report for 2018. The IPCC met this deadline and the 1.5C study was published in October 2018. Developed countries sought to oppose the completion of the report, knowing very well that this would corroborate our arguments

throughout the process of the negotiations, but the pressure to approve victory.

Today, the IPCC 1.5°C study sets the standard for developing countries regarding climate change. The IPCC Report postulates that to stop at 1.5°C during this century, emissions must be cut by -45% by 2030 and reach zero net emissions by 2050. Everyone, including Secretary General Antonio Guterres, accepted the IPCC 1.5°C objectives as the targets that need to be achieved today.

Our delegation argued the weaknesses of the proposal of the Paris Agreement, since the proposed commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions were insufficient to limit temperature rise to 2°C and had even less possibility of achieving 1.5°C. We were alerted to the catastrophic consequences for our peoples if the developed countries did

not meet their reduction targets and if the global average temperature were to rise to 3.7°C. These arguments were supported by numerous environmental organizations and scientific centers.

Despite the pressure that the Nicaraguan delegation suffered from developed countries, and the undemocratic act of the President of COP21, in not giving Nicaragua the right to speak, our delegation remained firm with the mandate of our President of the Republic.

The mandate was clear, not to oppose or object the Paris Agreement, but rather to point out its weaknesses and the requirements to limit the increase in temperature by a maximum of 2°C or 1.5°C according to science, in order to avoid a climate catastrophe. Basically, we wanted to express the need of more ambitious emission

reduction targets by developed and highly emitting countries.

In October 2017, Nicaragua signed our country's accession to the Paris Agreement, because there was already a consensus among the vast majority of countries that the 2015 commitments were insufficient and more ambition was expected, a position that remains in force and was even the main issue of the COP25 in Madrid, and which the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called "The COP of Ambition."

After four years of the Paris Agreement, Nicaragua's position on climate change is still more valid than ever. Emissions continue to rise, anomalies in the increase in temperature continue to grow, developed countries do not take concrete actions to meet their reduction targets, nor to reduce

the financial gap to provide developing countries with the means for implementation.

We have also participated prominently in various consultation and financial bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) representing all developing countries.

The Nicaraguan representation has had an outstanding participation due to their positions in the different meetings of entities such as: Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), Adaptation Fund and Global Environment Fund (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (FVC).

The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua actively supported the proposal for the formation of the Green Climate Fund (FVC) at COP-16, held in Cancun in 2010, although the

general concept was proposed at COP-15 in Copenhagen in 2009.

At COP-17 in Durban, in 2011, the proposed organization was approved and confirmed to the World Bank as a Trust.

In the final negotiation of the resolution approving the Green Climate Fund in COP-17 held in Durban, the G-77+China designated Nicaragua to represent developing countries, while the United States represented developed countries.

In 2018, Nicaragua was chosen by developing countries in the Green Climate Fund to represent them as Co-chair of the Board of Directors. We subsequently held a position as a member of the Board of Directors of the Green Climate Fund in 2019, and now maintain participation as Advisor to the Board of Directors.

Nicaragua has also promoted the inclusion of Losses and Damages in addition to climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, for climate finance.

At COP 19 in Warsaw, Poland, in 2013, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Losses and Damages was created, with the active participation of Nicaragua, overcoming resistance from the United States.

Nicaragua has proposed in the last Conferences of the Parties (COP) that the topic of Losses and Damages be raised to the same category as Mitigation and Adaptation in the Framework Convention, so that in this way, climate change resources can be transferred and received for the reconstruction of damages in countries victims of natural disasters caused by climate change.

At COP25 in Madrid, there was a great effort from several states, with the leadership of Nicaragua to actively seek contributions and formulas to move forward, all of which were blocked by the United States, meanwhile catastrophic losses and damages accumulated in Dominica, Barbuda, Abaco and Grand Bahamas, among others.

Nicaragua represented the Permanent Finance Committee on the Interim Directory of the Losses and Damages Mechanism. The whole year was wasted discussing whether "Losses and Damages" should include financing or not. Developed countries led by the United States blocked the inclusion of finance.

It is not until 2018 that the Mechanism's Board writes to the Convention's Standing Committee on Finance. At COP24, the Secretary of the Mechanism was applying pressure for financing and declared that he

would seek funds from the Green Climate Fund. In other words, six years after the Warsaw Losses and Damages Mechanism was founded, there is still no financing for victims.

The scientific and objective solution for Losses and Damages was presented by the President of Nicaragua, Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra, to the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in October 2015, expressing:

"The Government and People of Nicaragua hope that, from the Paris Conference, COP21, a Commitment to Climate Justice will emerge, as well as an indispensable Compensation Policy, converted into direct and unconditional Cooperation."

"The emitters and those responsible for the depredation, degradation and imbalan-

ces must recognize our losses, and contribute to recovery, to restore the Right to Health and Life of Mother Earth and of the Peoples of the World."

The different studies carried out by the Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change (IPCC) have determined that Central America is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the effects of climate change and Nicaragua has been active with other SICA countries in trying to achieve recognition by the COP's as being very vulnerable.

Nicaragua's position of defending common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities, are not ideological positions but objective realities. The entire world demands that rich and developed countries take climate action by dramatically reducing emissions and increasing climate finance for poor countries.

## **National Policy**

Nicaragua's robust legal framework is accompanied by public policies for the protection and care of Mother Earth and continued activity in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, losses and damages, capacity building and institutional strengthening.

On the REDD + issue, Nicaragua supports mechanisms that link adaptation and mitigation, non-market approaches, non-carbon benefits, respect for indigenous peoples through the principle of free, prior and informed consent and a vision of multiple forestry benefits.

Nicaragua's actions in the face of Climate Change include in the international arena the publication of three National Communications and the Nicaragua Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and at the national level,

the Nicaragua National Policy on Climate Change.

All policies and programs are based on the model of inclusion, dialogue, alliance and consensus with the private sector, workers, families and communities, embodied in the Nicaraguan Constitution, and to achieve the objectives in the framework of sustainable development and the Socialist Model of Christian Solidarity, with justice, freedom, equality, solidarity and social responsibility.

The Government of Nicaragua has worked with an inter-sectoral approach with proposals from the main actors in the country and has made significant progress in public policies for the use, protection, conservation and restoration of Mother Earth, promoting the active participation of all Nicaraguans through shared responsibility.

Nicaragua has also made a great effort towards the reforestation goal of 2.8 million hectares. We have committed to the Carbon Cooperative Fund (FCPF) to reduce emissions by approximately 11 million tons of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) in five years and will receive in return, a positive incentive of \$55 million dollars. The methodology and technology used by the country has been internationally approved in order to scientifically measure the capture of (GHG).

As of May 2020, the electricity generation matrix is 70% based on renewable sources: solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal and biomass. In addition to this, electric coverage is 97.2% and this year's goal is to reach 98.4%, having been 54% in 2007.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The concern about how human activity causes enormous damage to nature is a topic that began with specific concerns of prominent scientists and intellectuals, who were gaining traction internationally and later derived in documents from leading international groups to culminate in the convening of the "Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit" in 1992.

Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring" was published in September 1962, which started a huge debate in the United States and Europe about the damage caused to the environment by DDT.

Carson's work was the first public complaint on the danger of using synthetic pesticides. The book brought about a new perspective regarding concern for the environment and

marked the advance in the mentality from "Conservationism" to "Ecology". When DDT appeared on the market in 1942, it was seen as a brilliant answer to eradicate agricultural pests and malaria.

In 1972, there was already talk of a future climate tragedy, with the publication of *"The Limits of Growth: Report to the Club of Rome on the Predicament of Humanity"*, which warns that *"...if industrialization, environmental pollution, food production and the depletion of resources maintain current trends in world population growth, this planet will reach the limits of its growth in the course of the next hundred years..."*

That year, the term sustainable development was coined for the first time at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden. Here, the right of all people to live in a quality environment was

articulated, allowing them to lead a dignified life and enjoy well-being. At this meeting, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) was established.

In 1987, the Brundtland World Commission on Environment and Development published "*Our Common Future*" known as the Brundtland Report, where for the first time the term Ecodevelopment was coined, defined as "...one that meets the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

In 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change (IPCC) was established, sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), an international organization formed at the request of Member States and subsequently ratified by the United Nations General Assembly.

In 1992, the Earth Summit takes place in Rio De Janeiro, where the countries prepared three international treaties: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), addressed what countries could do to limit increases in average global temperature and the results of climate change. It states that "the planet's natural resources, including air, water, land, flora and fauna, and especially representative samples of natural ecosystems, must be preserved for the benefit of present and future generations." The other two treaties approved at this summit are the Convention on Biological Biodiversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

From here on, Rio and the three conventions begin years of international negotiations and endless struggle so that those who are primarily responsible for the global deterioration of the

environment assume their responsibilities in reversing the damage and modifying the system of depredation of nature's riches.

## **II. Background of the participation of Nicaragua in the fight against Climate Change**

Since the signing of the first international commitments related to climate change, Nicaragua's role has been tangential, participating in the regional groups of countries, but without standing out in contributions and substantive proposals to reverse the aforementioned global effects.

Since 2007, with the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity headed by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra and today Vice President Rosario Murillo Zambrana, the policy of defending Mother Earth was again focused on national priorities.

The GRUN has considered Climate Change as one of the main obstacles to the development of Nicaragua and one of the main risks facing humanity, thus, both international and national politics have reflected this priority.

In June 2008, Father Miguel D'Escoto was elected President of the Sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly. From the beginning of his mandate, Father D'Escoto set a precedent by exercising bold and decisive political leadership, which coincided with the outbreak of the 2008 financial crisis. D'Escoto openly challenged the monopoly and exclusion of the P-3s, the G-8 and the Bretton Woods institutions, opening up a global conversation [G-192] in the General Assembly on the global economic crisis.

He also appointed a Committee of Experts on the reforms of the international monetary and financial system, chaired by Professor Joseph Stiglitz, to lay the groundwork for the United Nations High-Level Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impacts on Development, which was held in June 2009 in New York.

At the end of his term in the General Assembly, Father Miguel D'Escoto undertook a political initiative to reinvent and democratize the United Nations, including a proposal for an updated UN Charter, with a series of actions to unmask the hegemonist and imperial policy of the United States of America and promote international law, multilateralism and the rights of Mother Earth.

Since 2007, the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity (GRUN) has put into practice a policy of protection and defense

of our Mother Earth, which is manifested in the aims of the National Human Development Plan. In accordance with this policy, Nicaragua was the first signatory to the "Universal Declaration of the Common Good of Earth and Humanity" in 2010.

The Nicaragua State has worked intensely and with dignity with the international community in promoting collective action on climate change, maintaining a firm and coherent position in defense of the environment and making continued efforts to increase adaptation, mitigation and losses and damages for the Nicaraguan people, which are a consequence of global climatic deterioration.

The diplomatic efforts in international negotiations on this subject and the adherence to the scientific points of view regarding this planetary scourge, have allowed our country to achieve important consensus among developing

countries, even achieving an outstanding participation in various consultation and financial bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), representing all developing countries.

At the national level, in the last 13 years, a broad legal framework has been consolidated that lays the foundation for the country to face the adverse effects that global climate variations are producing precisely in countries like ours which, proportionally, are one of the least polluting.

The robust Nicaraguan legal framework is accompanied by public policies for the protection and care of Mother Earth and continued activity in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, losses and damages, training of human resources and institutional strengthening.

Additionally, there is an effective promotion of the participation of the private sector in investments in sensitive sectors for the response to climate change, such as renewable energy, commercial forestry plantations, transformation of sustainable agricultural systems, agroforestry, silvopastoral solutions and environmental education.

Along these lines, the GRUN has fulfilled the goals, commitments and agreements of the Framework Convention and has defined the emission reduction goals through the National Determined Contributions (NDCs), which are currently in the process of being reviewed and improved. In addition, a National Policy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change has been defined, thus guaranteeing consistent and systematic action in favor of protecting Mother Earth and reducing the effects of climate change with our own resources.

This work aims to systematize the efforts that, as a country, Nicaragua has been making since 2007 to protect the nation from the effects of climate change, as well as international efforts so that the main perpetrators of the current climate crisis respond as it is due, based on their historic responsibilities, assuming robust enough ambitions to avoid a global average temperature rise of more than 1.5°C at the end of the century, a fight that continues to this day.

Message by the President of Nicaragua, Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra, to the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, October 2015:

*"The Government and the People of Nicaragua hope that, from the Paris Conference, COP21, a commitment to Climate Justice will emerge, as well as*

*an indispensable Compensation Policy, converted into direct and unconditional cooperation."*

*"The emitters and those responsible for the depredation, degradation, and imbalances must recognize our losses, and contribute to recovery, to restore the Right to Health and Life of Mother Earth and of the Peoples of the World."*

### **III. Participation of Nicaragua in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Nicaragua ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1995 and in 1999 the Kyoto Protocol. These international instruments established mandates and commitments for developed countries, being among the most relevant the principle of "Common but Differentiated Responsibilities",

clean development mechanisms, technology transfer and legally binding reduction commitments for developed countries known as Annex I.

These commitments for the first period, which expired in 2012, consisted of a 5% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) compared to 1990.

For the Europeans and the Japanese, the Kyoto protocol had a serious birth defect. The United States, the country with the highest historical emissions at that time, signed the agreement, but Congress did not ratify it.

After a long process of negotiation, the Conference of the Parties (COP-13) held in Bali, Indonesia established the Bali Action Plan with two ad hoc working groups, Long-Term Cooperation (AWG-LCA) and the special

group of commitments under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP). The entire process of Bali included the United States, despite not being within the Kyoto Protocol. This started a long process of the Annex I countries, especially the European Union with the countries of the Latin American right, making concessions to accommodate the demands of the United States, weakening the negotiation process.

The pillars of the convention were defined in the Bali Action Plan, these being a shared vision, adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and financing.

The change from a binding agreement to a non-legally binding one, the postponement of action until 2020, the attempt not to identify China as a developing country and the ambiguous legal status ("product agreed upon with force of law"), but not legally

binding, were accepted to satisfy the United States and achieve a Paris Agreement of some form.

Both panels were suspended at COP17 in Durban, and the Durban Platform was created as a working group to negotiate a future agreement and commitments in 2015 in France. The Durban Platform is a roadmap imposed by developed countries that consists of the following principles:

1. The large emitting countries agree among themselves to negotiate an agreement for 2015 that would enter into force after 2020.
2. It would not be legally binding like the Kyoto Protocol.
3. All countries in the world would be included and would not contain the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

4. It would be an agreed upon product with the force of law under the convention.

Nicaragua has had a participation in international negotiations that is very consistent with the mandates of our GRUN and has participated in alliances with friendly countries such as ALBA, LMDC (Developing Countries with Like Minded Ideas), GRULAC, African Group and SICA, among others. The lack of political will of developed countries to responsibly resolve the fundamental aspects of climate change, such as financing and greater ambition related to GHG reduction, has been strongly demanded. In specific terms, our country has the following positions:

1. In adaptation, it is considered as the national priority and there must be permanent and sufficient financing to face the impacts of climate change.

Financial resources for adaptation in developing countries must be carried out in accordance with the principles of equity and justice, prioritizing the countries with the greatest needs and risks, according to their vulnerable situation.

The urgency of operationalizing and capitalizing on the international mechanism for the rehabilitation and compensation for losses and damages caused by climate change, according to the decisions of COP 19 in Warsaw.

2. Mitigation is voluntary and there should be no commitment involving monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV). Mitigation must be a policy linked to changing the energy matrix and promoting private investment to reduce costs.

3. Regarding financing, Nicaragua demanded the actual operationalization of the Green Climate Fund through the US\$100 billion annually promised in Copenhagen in 2009 and reiterated at COP16 in Cancun. These funds must be new, additional and sufficient. In this regard, Nicaragua has been part of the Standing Finance Committee of the UNFCCC and a member of the Adaptation Fund.

Regarding the Kyoto Protocol, Nicaragua at the Doha COP expressed reservations in adopting the second period of commitments of the Kyoto Protocol, due to the low ambition of reductions by developed countries and the implementation of the Green Climate Fund without the promised \$100 billion.

Nicaragua reaffirmed that the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol should establish commitments in accordance

with science and binding for all Annex I countries.

In the second period of the Protocol the level of ambition was raised to a level of -18% from the level of the year 1990, while Nicaragua advocated for a -30%, Europeans were interested in maintaining the legal basis of the European carbon market agreement with their carbon markets ("offset").

On the REDD + issue, Nicaragua supports mechanisms that link adaptation and mitigation, non-market approaches, non-carbon benefits, respect for indigenous peoples through the principle of free, prior and informed consent and a vision of multiple forestry benefits.

Nicaragua does not agree with the carbon markets known as "offset", mainly the new markets that may arise in the second commitment period and the market regulated

by the UNFCCC. As it is more of a mechanism to continue polluting than an effective emission reduction agreement, the cost of emissions actually increases, which reinforces the same situation. The impact on the environment is more harmful.

### **III.1. Nicaragua's participation in the different groups of countries**

#### **IN ALBA:**

Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America ("ALBA"). This group was formed from an initial agreement between Cuba and Venezuela (2004), to which Bolivia (2006), Nicaragua (2007), Dominica (2008), Ecuador, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines subsequently joined in (2009) and Saint Lucia in (2013). On the subject of climate change, ALBA has been one of the most active groups in the framework of

climate negotiations. The member islands are also members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

**IN SICA:**

The following member states actively participate in this space of the Central American Integration System (SICA): Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

As Central America is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change, this pillar is essential. In this field, significant progress has been made in the coordination and regionalization of projects, through processes led by the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), which benefit the Central American population.

During the Pre-COP 24 in San José in October 2019, the region established a joint position to make a call to reinforce "Climate Action" in the region, strengthen the means of implementation and make flexible the financing mechanisms for adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

### **IN CELAC:**

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization that brings together the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, without the interference of the United States and Canada. It was born in Caracas in December 2011. In the Climate Change negotiations, the existence of the Lima Group, with positions aligned with those of the United States and other developed countries, has weakened the group's actions.

This alliance of Latin American countries maintains a belligerent position on climate

negotiations and is the source for the election of authorities in the different mechanisms of the Framework Convention.

### **IN GRULAC:**

The Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) is the representative group of the 33 countries of the region within the framework of the United Nations, established with the purpose of promoting dialogue and agreement among them. For the purposes of negotiating on climate change, the coordination of GRULAC is decided by the countries of the region at the UN headquarters in New York and is renewed regularly. It also has an important specific weight in climate negotiations and in the election of authorities in the different mechanisms of the Convention. It is worth noting the support that this group has given to make Nicaragua a rotating member of the Board of Directors of the Green Climate Fund and the Permanent

Finance Committee of the Convention. Nicaragua has been nominated by the Dominican Republic, to occupy the Vice Presidency of COP26 in Glasgow in 2021.

**IN THE G77 + CHINA GROUP:**

It is a group of developing and least developed countries with the aim of helping, sustaining and supporting each other in the deliberations of the UN.

As of 2015, the group consisted of 134 countries, which, united only by the condition of being developing countries, try, with increasing difficulty, to reconcile interests that are often contradictory. The group includes island countries whose long-term survival could depend on drastic collective intervention to mitigate climate change, as well as hydrocarbon-exporting countries, whose income would be affected by a widespread and

ambitious policy of reducing emissions, making global demand for fossil fuels drop.

As in CELAC, the existence of the Lima Group, the Latin American right, has limited the group's effectiveness, maintaining similar positions to that of developed countries.

#### **IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH LIKE MINDED IDEAS (LMDC)**

Given the limitations in representing the Latin American right in the G77 + China Group, a group of countries with the most belligerent positions formed the Group of Like-Minded countries.

Nicaragua actively participates in the group of countries called "Like-minded Developing Countries" (LMDC), which also have an important specific weight in climate negotiations. On the basis of the historical responsibility of

developed countries for climate change, the LMDCs raise the inequity that would represent the fact that, at this stage, developing countries assume greater responsibilities and take more effective actions than those that are already implementing.

### **III.2. The Warsaw Mechanism on Losses and Damages**

At COP 19 in Warsaw, Poland, in 2013, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Losses and Damages was created, with the active participation of Nicaragua, overcoming resistance from the United States.

Nicaragua has proposed in the last Conferences of the Parties (COP) that the issue of losses and damages be elevated to the same category as mitigation and adaptation in the Framework Convention, so that climate change resources can be transferred and received for the

reconstruction of damages in countries victims of natural disasters caused by climate change.

At COP25 in Madrid, there was an effort by several states to propose contributions and formulas, all blocked by the United States, while catastrophic losses and damages were accumulated in Dominica, Barbuda, Abaco and Grand Bahamas.

Nicaragua represented the Permanent Finance Committee on the Interim Directory of the Mechanism. The whole year was lost discussing whether "Losses and Damages" should cover finances or not. Developed countries led by the United States blocked the inclusion of finance.

It was not until 2018 that the Mechanism's Board writes to the Convention's Standing Committee on Finance. At COP24, the Secretary of the Mechanism was pressing on finances and

declared that he would seek funds from the Green Climate Fund.

The action and financing for the Losses and Damages Mechanism in developing countries is very complex and of great magnitude, and it is almost impossible for only the States to assume it themselves. Therefore, it will be necessary to mobilize private, national and foreign funds, all of which need to be involved in these activities, under the principle of shared responsibilities.

### **III.3. Recognition of Central America's vulnerability to climate change**

The different studies carried out by the International Panel of Experts on Climate Change (IPCC in English) have determined that Central America is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the effects of climate change.

Crop losses due to floods and drought as well as tropical storms and hurricanes are estimated to have left millions of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the region. The loss of regional productive infrastructure, the losses of thousands of homes and productive areas represent a profound negative impact on the economies of the Central American peoples, with extremely high costs of recovery and reconstruction.

#### **III.4. The Principle of Common but differentiated Responsibilities**

Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities are not political positions but objective realities. This principle postulates that, although we all have responsibility for the deterioration of the environment, SOME COUNTRIES HAVE MORE RESPONSIBILITIES THAN OTHERS and some countries have achieved a higher level of

development at the by producing greater global deterioration of the environment. A few countries have been and continue to be responsible for the highest percentage of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

To maintain that we are all historically responsible for climate change would be to say that we all participated equally in the Industrial Revolution, as well as in the massive accumulation of capital resulting from it, which is absurd.

To maintain that we are all equally and universally responsible for greenhouse gas emissions today, that is, the 100 countries with the lowest emissions, which amount to 3% of the total, have the same responsibility as the ten countries with the highest emissions that have 72% of the total, would be a great injustice.

At the same time, it is equivalent to saying that most countries with less than one ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e per capita have the same responsibility as countries that produce 16 to 18 tons per capita, which is not true.

### **III.5. Increased ambition of large emitters.**

The National Determined Contributions (NDCs) defined by the Parties to the Convention are not sufficient to achieve the reduction goals established in the Paris Agreement. With the current reduction targets, the minimum increase in global average temperature will reach 3°C above the pre-industrial era (slightly better than that of the Paris Agreement, which was 3.7°C), which will translate into an increase of between 4°C and 6°C in the countries and small islands of the tropics and deserts, as well as arid zones, which will be catastrophic for these peoples and in the worst case, will mean their disappearance.

There is a need for the countries that are Parties to the Paris Agreement and mainly the countries that are the largest emitters of greenhouse gases (GHG), to increase their ambitions and emission reduction goals because only by increasing ambitions can the goal be met *"Keep the global average temperature rise well below 2°C from pre-industrial levels, and continue efforts to limit that temperature rise to 1.5°C from pre-industrial levels."*

The entire world demands that rich and developed countries take climate action by dramatically reducing emissions and increasing financing for the development of poor countries. The world demands that the catastrophe of not being able to limit the increase in the global average temperature by 1.5°C be avoided, which happens because the ambitions in the reduction goals of the NDC's are increased.

The United States' announcement of its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement indicates that the country does not want to collaborate in the global effort to increase ambitions. That withdrawal came, however, years after the European Union and the Latin American right weakened the negotiations through endless "concessions" to satisfy the United States, but all without success in the end.

#### **IV. COP 15 and the participation of ALBA, with Nicaragua as spokesperson, before the "Copenhagen Accord"**

The Denmark COP15 Conference of the Parties on Climate Change, was held in December 2009. This session brought together, between December 16 and 18, in the High Level segment, more than 100 Heads of State or Government, because the completion of the Bali Action Plan was expected (December 2007).

Expectations of a definitive agreement on the issue of climate change were enormous, in addition to the 100 Heads of State or Government present in Copenhagen, the world media highlighted this as the most important element of the moment and the NGO's that were on the streets of the world capitals had high expectations of an agreement.

The rumor, generated almost since the start of COP 15, about the existence of an alternative document to the projects that the Working Groups had and that would seek to be brought to the plenary session of the High Level segment, led to accusations among negotiators regarding the transparency of the process, and even about the process itself.

The truth is that, during the High Level segment, at least 20 Heads of State made informal consultations to draft an alternate

document, which was intended to unlock the negotiation process of the Bali Action Plan at the last minute. In the end it was a document drafted by the United States that was agreed upon with China, with the intermediation of Brazil called the "Copenhagen Accord" that was released on December 18 by the President of the convention.

The final plenary meeting of COP 15 was postponed to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2009, however, at 10:00 p.m. President Barack Obama announced from the Copenhagen airport before leaving, that a Copenhagen Agreement had already been reached. This, despite the fact that the plenary meeting had not yet been called.

Obama was under strong pressure to strike a deal, having gone to Copenhagen a few weeks earlier to unsuccessfully host the 2016 Olympics for his hometown of Chicago, Illinois. Opposition

media in the United States said that he would spend AIR FORCE fuel again without results.

It caused discomfort among developing countries, that they were not even taken into account. At 23:00 the meeting was not convened, but was postponed until 3:30 am the next day, knowing that at that hour the President of the Conference, Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen of Denmark would present the so-called Copenhagen Accord to the COP. If the hope of meeting so late was that there would be fewer people, it did not happen since all the delegations were present.

Rasmussen announced that delegations had one hour to consider the document and consult with their negotiating groups and capitals, and would convene again for 4:30 am. Faced with this provocation, there were multiple countries asking for a point of order and

Rasmussen was heard clearly saying in open microphone that there would be no point of order. The Nicaraguan delegation approached Ban Ki-moon, and declared: "Mr. Ban Ki-moon, you know that he has to recognize the points of order." Then Ban Ki-moon and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer convinced Rasmussen to start listening to the points of order.

While the points of order were presented, the ALBA group decided that a decision of the working groups of the Kyoto Protocol had not been reached and thus the meeting was not fulfilling its objective and proposed, with the Nicaraguan delegation as its spokesperson, that the meeting remain open to return to the topics in six months, that is, in June 2010.

The ALBA proposal for postponement sparked feverish consultations among the meeting

organizers and after more than half an hour of consideration they approached Nicaragua to negotiate with ALBA. Mr. Ban Ki-moon asked what would ALBA require regarding the "Copenhagen Accord" document"? The response was a non-approval, but simply "take note of the document" that should not be on a United Nations letterhead or have a number, that is, it would be a "Non Paper."

In order not to face the complete failure of the document, the President of the Conference accepted this and stated that COP 15 had taken note of the document "Copenhagen Accord" under the stipulated conditions, that began a series of subsequent interventions, one of which on the part of the representative of the G77 + China, Lumumba Di-Aping delegated by South Sudan, declaring that it was very important not to approve the Copenhagen Accord because that would have represented a holocaust for African countries.

The use of the term "holocaust" by the representative of the G77 + China caused about twenty interventions condemning the lack of sensitivity when using the term holocaust due to the genocide of the Second World War.

This gave time for the UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Edward Miliband to return to COP 15. Miliband was tasked with saving Obama's face regarding the Copenhagen Accord and announced that those who adhere to the Copenhagen Accord would have a \$30 billion fund (Initial Fast Start) to be distributed over the next 3 years.

Hillary Clinton Secretary of State of the United States had previously announced that developed countries could contribute US\$100 billion annually starting in 2020. Ban Ki-

moon used the US\$30 billion to try to break ALBA countries and accept an approval of the Agreement from Copenhagen, but they resisted.

There were several countries, especially the Small Island States that spoke about the importance of being able to access the funds offered. Ian Fry, Ambassador for Climate Change and Environment of the Government of Tuvalu declared "they are asking us to betray our countries for the 30 pieces of silver of Judas Escariote."

Anyway, the meeting ended around 10 am on Sunday, December 20, without being able to reach an agreement. However, the above Yves de Boer as Executive Secretary of UNFCCC and Ban Ki-moon as Secretary General of the United Nations, invited countries to join the Copenhagen Accord in order to participate in the "Quick Start Fund", putting the list of

countries with their accessions on the websites of their respective institutions. This was a blatant violation of the good faith of the COP negotiation, as the document was never approved but only noticed.

The vast majority of countries including Nicaragua have never seen anything from the \$30 billion fund, and the US device of the \$100 billion from 2020 served to produce a lost decade of low-level climate action at the worst time.

ALBA opposed the proposal due to lack of transparency, exclusion from decision making and the undemocratic nature of the process in Copenhagen, apart from substantive disagreements.

The decisions of the Conference were simple: since the Special Working Group of the Kyoto Protocol was unable to conclude its negotiations (as mandated by the Bali Action Plan), its

mandate was extended to both this Group and the Working Group for Long-Term Cooperation. As for the Copenhagen Accord, only its presentation in plenary was noted.

The way in which the writing was carried out, and, precisely because of the way in which its existence was made known, were the main reasons that led to the 2009 Climate Summit ending abruptly, with trust among the actors shattered, and with the feeling that climate diplomacy had been met with a resounding failure in the Danish capital.

Regarding mitigation, the Copenhagen Accord can be divided into two large blocks. Regarding developed countries, it was pointed out that Annex I countries would strengthen the mitigation actions already started under the Kyoto Protocol and that the reduction goals would include all economic sectors for 2020, it did not establish a base year of reference

or create an overall reduction objective, with which Nicaragua did not agree.

A substantive modification was the condition that Non-Annex I countries carry out mitigation actions appropriate to their capacities. In this sense, the Copenhagen Accord held that the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States could undertake actions comparable to the financial support they receive from abroad. Developing countries that were not in the above assumption should appeal to their own national capacities to implement mitigation actions, whether or not they should be supported by external financing. For mitigation actions not supported by international financing, these should be disclosed every two years through National Communications.

Regarding adaptation, the Copenhagen Accord recognized that it is a challenge for all

the countries of the world, so there was talk of the need to implement a comprehensive adaptation program that will have international financing. The Copenhagen Accord committed nearly US\$30 billion for the 2010-2012 period (Fast Track). Developed countries pledged to mobilize \$100 billion by 2020.

Regarding technology, the Agreement proposed creating a Technology Mechanism that would be applied individually and that would be subject to international financing. A deadline was set for January 31, 2010, so that countries would adhere to the Copenhagen Accord, however, the possibility was opened that even after that date countries that so decided could join.

In summary, thanks to the resistance of a group of ALBA countries (Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela), the proposal was not approved, but only "noted". Nicaragua's

outstanding participation and leadership in these negotiations earned it the recognition of many developing countries.

## **V. COP 21 and the Paris Agreement**

COP 15 in Copenhagen resulted in a real disaster due to the pretense of developed countries, when trying to impose on developing countries an Agreement drafted in Washington.

Faced with this failure, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change continued its negotiations in an established manner for several years until reaching COP21. Nicaragua prioritized in these negotiations, maintaining and defending the script and spirit of the Climate Change Convention, which it continues to do now as implementation of the Paris Agreement is underway.

Those five years of negotiations were very arduous and difficult. Developed countries closed ranks in delaying everything related to the Kyoto Protocol, prioritizing their positions and actions in the negotiations of the New Agreement, demanding that developing countries implement only Mitigation actions and leaving everything related to Adaptation and Losses and Damages in the background.

In November 2015, the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP 21) took place in Paris, France. Developed countries proposed 2°C as a target and developing countries 1°C. The 1°C position had a weakness because greenhouse gas emissions were already reaching that level. Nicaragua and Bolivia negotiated 1.5°C instead of 1°C, that was accepted by the COP and the Paris Agreement proposed to stop the rise in temperature by less than 2°C and preferably at 1.5°C. Later Nicaragua and Bolivia argued that the goal of 2°C had its IPCC study of

what is required to arrive at such a result. It was pointed out that 1.5°C was not going to be a real objective if there was not also another study pointing out what to do to stop the rise at that level. This was also approved by COP-21 and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was commissioned to review the work and report for 2018. The IPCC met this deadline and the 1.5°C study already sets the standard that developing countries defend in climate change matters. The report postulates that in order to stop at 1.5°C during this century, emissions must be cut by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050.

Our delegation argued the weaknesses of the Paris Agreement, as the ambitions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions were insufficient to limit the temperature to 2°C and even less to achieve 1.5°C, and alerted to the catastrophic consequences for our peoples if

the developed countries did not meet their reduction goals. These arguments echoed around the world and were supported by hundreds of environmental organizations, scientific centers, some developed countries and many developing countries that did not have the courage to not follow the instructions of the empire.

Despite the pressures that the Nicaraguan delegation suffered from developed countries, and the undemocratic act of the COP21 President, in not giving Nicaragua the right to speak of, the delegation remained firm with the mandate of the President of the Republic.

The mandate was clear, not to oppose or object to the Paris Agreement, but rather to point out its weaknesses and the requirements to limit the increase in temperature by a maximum of 2°C or 1.5°C according to science, in order to avoid a climate catastrophe. Basically,

we wanted to express the need to increase the ambitions to reduce emissions from developed and highly emitting countries, ensure the mobilization of financial resources in the Green Climate Fund in adaptation projects, guarantee the capitalization of the losses and damages compensation mechanism and convert the Paris Agreement into a legally binding instrument.

In the early hours of the last day of the negotiations, Nicaragua did not accept that the Paris Agreement only mentioned limiting the temperature to 2°C; negotiations stalled for several hours, at the insistence and irrefutable arguments of Nicaragua and already with the support of Bolivia, the delegation of the United States proposed to Nicaragua, in order to close the negotiations on this issue, that the following language be included: "*and to continue efforts to limit the increase in temperature to 1.5°C*", which was agreed to

the joy of many developing countries that did not believe that 1.5°C could be included, as reflected in the Paris Agreement.

In October 2017, Nicaragua signed our country's accession to the Paris Agreement, because there was already consensus among the vast majority of countries that the 2015 commitments were insufficient and more ambition was expected, a position that remains in force and was even the main theme of the COP25 in Madrid, and to which the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called "The COP of ambition".

After four years of the Paris Agreement, Nicaragua's position on climate change is still more valid than ever. Emissions continue to rise, anomalies in the increase in temperature continue to grow, developed countries do not take concrete actions to meet their reduction targets, nor has

the financial gap to provide developing countries with means of implementation been reduced.

All of Nicaragua's predictions are coming true, which worries us greatly. According to the article entitled: *It is time to revisit Nicaragua's initial position in the Paris Agreement*, published on September 9, 2018 by the Journal of Diplomacy, Nicaragua was the only country in the world to raise its voice to defend the peoples that are vulnerable to climate change and denounce the lack of political commitment of developed countries to reduce the environmental impacts of climate change.

Following the Global Climate Summit that took place in San Francisco, California, in September 2018 and the Climate Summit at the United Nations, in New York in September 2019, thousands of organizations and unions protested in the streets about the low results of the Paris

Agreement and the accelerated increase in carbon dioxide emissions that will have repercussions

on temperature increases of more than 3°C. There were also thousands of people protesting in Brazil, Nigeria, India, Australia, the United States and France, among other countries.

Currently in the world, almost no one refers to 2°C, moreover, a counted few developed countries make any mention of this.

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres himself, has assumed as a priority and stressed the urgent need for 1.5°C, as well as to provide the necessary financing for adaptation and mitigation actions in developing countries, for the fulfillment of their Determined National Contributions, and, therefore, reaffirmed the historical reasoning of Nicaragua.

## **VI. Participation of Nicaragua in the Instances on Climate Finance**

The Standing Finance Committee is the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change specialized body on climate finance and Nicaragua has been a full member in representation of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC).

The Nicaraguan representation has had an outstanding participation due to its positions regarding the different meetings of instances such as: Standing Finance Committee (SFC), Adaptation Fund and Global Environment Fund (GEF), these being the following:

1. It is urgent that we begin to base our policies and actions against climate change more on science, and not only on political commitments that tend to reduce

CO2 emissions to the lowest common denominator.

2. Science indicates that we only have until 2020 to start rapid CO2 reduction if we want to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.
3. In order to achieve the 1.5°C targets, it is necessary for gross emissions to decrease by -45% by 2030 and to achieve zero net emissions by 2050.
4. Mobilization funds exist to start this process. These are the trillions of dollars dedicated to the modernization of nuclear weapons, wars of regime change that only leave death and destruction, and plans to put weapons in space, which has already been banned by the United Nations since 1963. These funds could be mobilized through the sale of AAA green bonds issued by multilateral development banks and distributed to existing funders, such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environmental

Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund, Forest Carbon Cooperation Fund. This would generate access for all developing countries.

5. Nicaragua and other developing countries have explained in the different negotiation spaces of COP25 that the US\$100 billion promised at COP 15 cannot be a simple accounting of previous funds. These have to be a new, additional, predictable and accessible cash flow. Also, it has been emphasized that these resources must be administered with criteria of transparency, equity and without political aspects, coercive measures with unilateral and illegal restrictions, or seeking "extraterritoriality". When obtaining financing, they must be channeled under the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to ensure access with equality and without restrictions.

6. The recognition of historic responsibilities is becoming a viable alternative for obtaining funds, based on the fact that there are countries and companies that have historical responsibilities regarding climate change.
7. Laying the methodological foundations to determine the financing needs of developing countries in the face of climate change, was one of the agreements of a meetings held in 2019, in which the representative of Nicaragua indicated that this type of work lent itself to assemble a model that would allow permanent reviews and the analysis of different scenarios of a dynamic reality.
8. Adaptation is considered as the national priority and there must be permanent and sufficient financing to face the impacts of climate change. In this sense, adaptation plans must be prioritized at the local level.

9. Financial resources for adaptation in developing countries must be carried out in accordance with the principles of equity and justice, prioritizing countries with the greatest needs and risks according to their vulnerable situation.
10. The urgency to operationalize and capitalize the international mechanism for the rehabilitation and compensation for losses and damages caused by climate change, according to the decisions of the COP13 in Warsaw.
11. Mitigation is voluntary, there must be no commitment that implies monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV). Mitigation should be a policy linked to changing the energy matrix and promoting private investment to reduce costs through the efficiency of production processes.

Nicaragua believes that developed countries should reduce their domestic emissions and not buy carbon credits cheaply in developing countries.

Nicaragua has a National Strategy for Avoided Deforestation ENDE-REDD+, which constitutes a framework of policies and strategies for the management of programs and projects aimed at: reducing the emission of greenhouse gases caused by deforestation and forest degradation; increase forest carbon stocks; improve the conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources of flora and fauna and contribute to the protection of mother earth against climate change. The ENDE-REDD + is made up of a set of methods, models and protocols, mainly implemented by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) and the Nicaraguan Institute for Territorial Studies (INETER).

The responsibility for monitoring Greenhouse Gases lies within MARENA, while INETER is responsible for monitoring deforestation and forest degradation with satellite imagery. Together and in a complementary manner, these two entities work, along with other entities such as the National Forestry Institute (INAFOR) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG), in promoting the implementation of the National Strategy for Avoided Deforestation, following international monitoring standards of the UNFCCC, FCPF and the IPCC.

Based on the last study carried out by MARENA (ENDE-REDD+, "Causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Nicaragua" of November 2017, it is indicated that the main historical cause of the change from forest use to another use in Nicaragua, is extensive livestock and agriculture, a phenomena also known as "Advancement of the agricultural frontier."

## **VII. Nicaragua in the Green Climate Fund**

The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua actively supported the proposal for the formation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) at COP-16 held in Cancun, in 2010, although the general concept was proposed at COP-15 in Copenhagen, in 2009.

At COP-16 in Cancun, it was decided that the GCF would be organized through a Transition Committee with the World Bank as an Interim Trust, where Nicaragua was a member, and was tasked with designing a proposal for the organization of the Green Climate Fund.

At COP-17 in Durban, in 2011, the proposed organization was approved and confirmed to the World Bank as a Trust.

In the final negotiation of the COP-17 Green Climate Fund approval resolution held in Durban, the G-77 designated Nicaragua to represent developing countries, while the United States represented developed countries.

In 2018, Nicaragua was chosen by developing countries in the Green Climate Fund to represent them as Co-chair of the Board of Directors. Subsequently Nicaragua held a position as a member of the Board of Directors of the Green Climate Fund in 2019, and now maintains its participation as Advisor to the Board of Directors.

During the Co-Presidency in the Green Climate Fund in 2018, the State of Nicaragua representing developing countries, together with Sweden, representing Developed Countries, approved 42 new projects, mobilizing a total of 8,056 million dollars in climate finance since the beginning of the year (including

co-financing). Implementation on the ground also accelerated rapidly during this period. The Green Climate Fund now has 39 projects underway, worth \$ 1.6 billion.

Nicaragua has also promoted the approval of a new cycle of resource mobilization to finance projects for mitigation and adaptation to climate change in developing countries. This is crucial for developing countries to be protagonists in the fight to reach the goal of limiting the global average temperature rise, adaptation to climate change and the construction of sustainable low-carbon societies by 1.5°C.

At the end of the Nicaraguan Co-Presidency, in the Green Climate Fund, there were 40 projects under execution for \$93 billion, representing \$1.8 billion of the total approved portfolio, worth \$ 4.6 billion. This proportion is equivalent to 43 percent of the projects approved, representing an increase of more

than ten times in the value of projects in execution, and more than double the number of projects in execution (18 projects registered in 2017).

## **VIII. Nicaragua's Actions Against Climate Change**

### *VIII.1. At the international level*

#### VIII.1.1. National Communications

Nicaragua has developed three National Communications, processes that have involved institutions that today are part of the National System of Response to Climate Change (SNRCC): MARENA, INAFOR, INETER, MEM, MHCP, SDCC and CNU.

In October 1998, the first phase of the studies for the First National Communication began, culminating in its presentation to

the UNFCCC Secretariat in July 2001. The reference year for the preparation of the First Communication was 1994. The inventory refers to: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), as well as indirect greenhouse gases. The Report states that the global balance of emissions was 8,365 Gg of CO<sub>2</sub>eq.

In March 2005, the enabling activities for the preparation of the Second National Communication began, later published in October 2008, and presented to the Secretariat of the Framework Convention in 2011. For this Communication, official statistical data for the year 2000 were used. and the IPCC Guidelines, as revised in 1996, as well as guidance on good practices for land use, land use change and forestry from 2003 were applied. The Communication indicates that the total value of emissions was 59,477 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>eq, being the sectors with the highest contribution, Agriculture, Forestry

and Other land uses (AFOLU), contributing 91.7% of the total<sup>1</sup>.

Subsequently, in 2013, the enabling activities for the preparation of the Third National Communication began, with financing from the GEF. Nicaragua concluded in the year 2018 its Third National Communication on Climate Change referring to the period 2000-2010 that includes the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory for that same period, using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, as well as the application of reliable methods from the scientific point of view to estimate the emissions and removals of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from Use and Change of Use of Land, by using Landsat satellite images at a resolution of 30 meters.

The result of the national inventory produced significant improvements when migrating the

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.sinia.net/multisites/NodoCambioClimatico/images/NodosTematicos/NodoCambioClimatico/cncc/index.html>.

complete inventory of the 1996 Methodology to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, obtaining a more complete time series that allowed us to analyze two five-year periods 2000-2005-2010, obtaining 5.2377 Gg of CO<sub>2</sub>eq, 19.193 Gg Co<sub>2</sub>eq and 15,267 Gg Co<sub>2</sub>eq, for each of the aforementioned periods.

The sector that emitted the most for all the years evaluated was Land Use and Land Use Change (AFOLU), however, there is a tendency to stabilize the sector as it decreases and increases in energy consumption, and hence an increase in emissions from that sector.

Additionally, the Third Communication created a national system of indicators for monitoring climate change, an assessment of climate change scenarios based on the 4th IPCC Report, a national assessment of climate risk, based on the aforementioned scenarios, as well as

a study of the main adaptation technologies that are being implemented in the country.

#### VIII.1.2. Elaboration of the National Determined Contribution (NDC)

The Nicaragua National Determined Contribution has the purpose of complying with the Paris Agreement in relation to the mitigation of climate change and is oriented, mainly, to the Energy and Agriculture, Land Use and Land Use Change sectors, through measures to increase the sources of renewable energy, as well as measures for forest conservation and recovery.

Nicaragua intends to achieve its mitigation objectives in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) sector through the implementation of activities of the National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from

Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENDE-REDD+).

Since 2008, Nicaragua began negotiations to develop the REDD + preparation process, and in 2013 a REDD + initiative, financed by the Cooperative Carbon Fund (FCPF) and administered by the World Bank, which was approved to implement a program to conserve forests and prevent their degradation, which will come into effect between 2020-2024 and consists of reducing emissions by 11 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e within Protected Areas in the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua<sup>2</sup>.

Another possible mitigation potential that was studied was the 72 protected areas that Nicaragua possesses, of which 25 are located in the climatic region of the Pacific with

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<sup>2</sup>Contribución Nacionalmente Determinada:  
<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Nicaragua%20First/Contribucion%20Nacionalmente%20Determinada%20Nicaragua.pdf>

predominance of dry forests, the central region of the country with a part of forests located in dry climate and the other part in semi humid climate and the protected areas of the Caribbean Coast Regions, which are located in humid and very humid zones. Also, in this region are two Biosphere Reserves totaling 2,232,968 ha.

A study carried out within the framework of the Third National Communication on Climate Change indicated that by 2015 protected areas emitted 4,316 Gigagrams CO<sub>2</sub>eq and absorbed 10,798 Gigagrams of CO<sub>2</sub>eq, which shows that even in these protected areas, it is worth allocating important resources for its conservation.

In the adaptation to climate change component, the NDC indicates that the country requires financial support to develop priority adaptation measures, such as:

1. Modernization of the country's hydrometeorological services, which allow accurate forecasts and early warning systems to be maintained for an effective and efficient response, which includes modernization of observation, assimilation and forecast systems, access to sensors and technologies, as well as training of qualified human resources. The investment required for this is approximately \$30 million.
2. Measures for the development of infrastructures and drainage systems in the capital city and other Pacific cities of Nicaragua that are highly vulnerable to floods. The cost of these investments is approximately 450 million dollars for the capital city.
3. Develop a national program to collect water and promote irrigation systems in the dry corridor of Nicaragua, for an investment amount of approximately 800 million dollars.
4. Increase the efficiency in the protection of biosphere reserves through a land management

program and promote reforestation, for an investment amount of approximately 400 million dollars.

5. Cooperation to strengthen capacities in climate finance.
6. Development of drinking water and sanitation infrastructure and resilience programs for urban drinking water systems.
7. Access to additional resources to implement adaptation measures in the road infrastructure network.

## *VIII.2. National Scope*

### VIII.2.1. The National Climate Change Policy

Through the PRESIDENTIAL DECREE, approved in February 2019, the National Policy on Climate Change was put into effect and creates the National Climate Change Response System, which includes a set of actions for the Government of National Unity and Reconciliation that

are objectives of public interest, as a result of the significant danger of global warming and climate change for humanity and the need to develop actions for mitigation and adaptation, without compromising the economic and social development of the country.

The Policy is based on principles that have scientific, social, economic and / or internationally recognized support from the different organizations that make up the United Nations. The principles are as follows:

**Focused on Economic Development:** The consideration of climate change should influence decisions and the set of actions that generate development, selecting measures that combine adequate mitigation and adaptation, which guarantee economic growth in the face of the impacts of climate change.

**Complementarity with Disaster Risk Management:**

Any consideration of climate change must be complemented by disaster risk management, considering that reducing risk to current events is an important contribution to reducing future risk.

**Innovation and Efficient Use of Resources:**

The challenges of climate change must incorporate innovation in decisions associated with technological development, production processes and business strategies of the private sector, as well as in public investments to achieve economic development safely.

**Ecosystem approach:** Adaptation measures to climate change will recognize that the environmental degradation of the country's ecosystems contributes to increasing vulnerability to climate change and decreases mitigation capacity, therefore, adaptation measures will be

articulated in a dynamic and evolutionary context of ecosystems.

**Gender Participation Approach:** Adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change will incorporate the participation of the population and especially those most vulnerable, under the family and community model.

**Viability of the measures:** The measures must be carefully evaluated to determine their economic, social, environmental and climatic viability, for this, the goals proposed in the policy will be achieved at the lowest costs and generate the greatest possible benefits.

**Climate finance:** There is an evident financial gap within the country for the implementation of adaptation projects to climate change, for the 2013-2016 period, according to ECLAC it was U\$1,963.1 million dollars.

The policy contains the following guidelines:

1. Agricultural development resistant to the impacts of current climate variability, as well as to future climate, promoting actions that favor low greenhouse gas emissions.

The objective is to implement strategies that reduce the expansion of the agricultural frontier, contribute to increased production in existing agricultural areas, increase the efficiency and effectiveness of production systems, promote changes in people's knowledge to produce under new climate conditions and with lower greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Implement a low carbon energy development strategy capable of adapting to climate

change. Its aim is to diversify the country's energy matrix by combining various renewable energy sources and minimizing emissions from burning fossil fuels.

3. Promote the development of human settlements adapted to climate change and with low greenhouse gas emissions. The objective seeks to produce a change in the disorderly manner in which human settlements have been growing, reducing exposure to floods and emissions caused by transportation, reducing horizontal growth, achieving vertical residential developments, improvement of drainage and network infrastructures, drinking water and wastewater management, promoting the orderly use of land and urban spaces, as well as the development of housing technologies adapted to a new climate.

4. Development of infrastructures adapted to climate change and with low carbon emissions. The objective is to ensure that the social infrastructure developed by the government, as well as the private sector, incorporate a previous assessment and the inclusion of mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change.
  
5. The use and conservation of eco-systemic services to achieve low carbon and climate adapted development. The objective is to promote initiatives and / or actions for the rational use of ecosystem services, such as the use and conservation of water; the recovery of degraded lands and protection of productive lands; the protection, conservation and rational use of wetlands; improving the effectiveness in the use and enjoyment of protected areas; among others.

6. Conservation, restoration and rational use of forests, as well as the promotion of forestry plantations in areas with a vocation for forestry.
7. Promote knowledge, research, financing and information on adaptation and mitigation to climate change, as well as the modernization and strengthening of surveillance and early warning systems. The objective is to strengthen all national mechanisms to make efficient public-private management of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The policy was the result of broad consensus and consultations with government institutions, the private sector, municipal mayors, the National Council of Universities and some non-governmental organizations.

#### VIII.2.2. Institutional strengthening

Nicaragua is the first country in the world to sign the Universal Declaration of the Common Good of Earth and Humanity, as a commitment of the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity (GRUN) and the country, to inherit a healthy environment to future generations of Nicaraguans that will allow for sustainable human development, strengthening the principles, practices, values and capacities of the Citizens Power Model, with and for the benefit of the Nicaraguan population, through the Protection of Mother Earth, Adaptation to Climate Change and Comprehensive Risk Disaster Management and Prevention.

The National Human Development Plan (PNHD), is the national strategic policy framework to continue building the sustainable development of the country, from which these policies emerge, that seek to address the main current environmental problems and is evidence of the

commitment of the government and the country toward sustainable human development, preserving the common good on Mother Earth, developing capacities for environmental care, disaster prevention, as well as promoting values for the strengthening of families.

All this is based on the model of inclusion, dialogues, alliances and consensus with the private sector, workers, families and communities, embodied in the Nicaraguan Constitution, and these objectives must be achieved within the framework of sustainable development and the Socialist Model of Christian Solidarity, with justice, freedom, equality, solidarity and social responsibility.

The Government has the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), as the competent national authority on matters of regulation, monitoring and control of environmental quality, as well as the sustainable use of

renewable natural resources and environmental management of non-renewable resources, in accordance with the provisions of the General Law for the Environment and Natural Resources and other laws currently in effect.

The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) is the coordinating institution, in order to develop the strategic lines of the Action Plans of the National Environmental and Climate Change Strategy, in conjunction with government institutions: Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy (MEFCCA); Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA); National Forestry Institute (INAFOR); Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM); National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Attention (SINAPRED); Executive Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Sovereignty and Security (SESSAN); Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries

(INPESCA); Nicaraguan Institute for Territorial Studies (INETER) and MARENA itself, who is also the competent authority to impose administrative sanctions for non-compliance of the Environmental Norms.

The Government of Nicaragua has worked with an inter-sectoral approach, with proposals from the main actors in the country and has made significant progress in public policies for the use, protection, conservation and restoration of Mother Earth, promoting the active participation of all Nicaraguans through shared responsibility. This is how GRUN ensures its policies on promoting economic and social development, by protecting the most vulnerable sectors of the population, through a model of direct work with families and communities, creating capacities, knowledge and behaviors that allow the population to face and recover from all the risks and disasters.

The National Policy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change is applicable to all state entities, all natural or legal persons, foreign or domestic, throughout the national territory, and whose general objective is to establish a strategic national reference framework to develop guidelines and actions to mitigate the causes of climate change and face the challenges of adaptation, with the development approach as a principle.

### VIII.2.3. Mitigation of climate change

#### A) Change of the Energy Matrix

At the end of 2019 Nicaragua had an energy generation matrix which was 70% based on renewable sources and today, with the contributions of solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal and biomass, it is approaching 80%. Added to this, electricity coverage is 97.2% and this year's goal is to reach 98.4%, having only been 54% in 2007.

The change in the energy matrix is very important, so there is a regulatory body in charge of proposing and evaluating the policy of the Electricity Subsector and those related to renewable energy resources, in addition to proposing and / or issuing, as the case may be, the necessary regulations of the Electricity Sub-Sector and renewable energy resources.

During the presentation of the report "The Global State of Renewables", the Representative of the Global Climate Initiative of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Kim Carstensen, pointed out that emerging countries such as Nicaragua, are leading the world, with efforts to increase the use of renewable energy and reduction of carbon dioxide emissions." "Countries like Nicaragua, Honduras, Uruguay, Morocco, South Africa and Jordan, are investing more than 1% of their GDP to promote the use of clean energy and reduce pollution," said Carstensen.

For its part, "Clean Energy XXI" highlights that Nicaragua is one of the few countries with well-defined goals and plans for clean energy production and mitigation of the effects of climate change. Nicaragua is implementing a strategy of reforestation and the use of renewable energy to eliminate 11

million tons of carbon emissions in the next five years.

The former Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Achim Steiner, recognized that Nicaragua is an example to follow in taking advantage of its renewable resources for the generation of clean energy. A Clean Energy XXI report indicates that the growth of renewable energy is helping to reduce poverty and environmental pollution in the region. "Nicaragua, Brazil and Uruguay are examples of this transition in Latin America," said the Director of UNEP.

Experts from the International Monetary Fund have highlighted the progress made in the Nicaraguan energy sector. Among the positive aspects are the creation of an Anti-Energy Fraud Law, the approval of a Renewable Energy Promotion Law and the establishment of a subsidy for low-income consumers.

The responsibility for monitoring Greenhouse Gases lies within MARENA, while INETER is responsible for monitoring deforestation and forest degradation with satellite imagery. Together and in a complementary manner, these two entities work, along with other entities such as the National Forestry Institute (INAFOR) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) in promoting the implementation of the National Strategy for Avoided Deforestation, following international monitoring standards of the UNFCCC, FCPF and the IPCC.

## B) Energy efficiency

Of great relevance is the energy efficiency program, through which approximately 15,600 LED luminaires have been installed, 720,000 energy saving light bulbs and 20,000 lamps in the government sector, in addition to 100 productive solar modules. Simultaneously,

free internet has been guaranteed, taking Wifi services to 163 parks in Managua and other departments and regions. The technological classrooms in the municipalities have a capacity of 5 Mb and 7 Mb for the institutes.

The installation of the first parking lot with a solar sunroof for vehicles in Nicaragua stands out. Built by real estate company ESCALA, the new parking lot is expected to contribute to lower costs on the electric bill.

The Alejandro Dávila Bolaños Military Hospital in Nicaragua has invested U\$4.5 million in a new electrical system based on solar energy, with the support of the United Nations Agency for Industrial Development (UNIDO). The new solar plant, which was built in an area of 4,450 square meters, has had a positive impact on the environment, eliminating the emission of more than 1,100

tons of carbon dioxide each year, being the first major project of its kind that is being financed by a soft loan.

Data from "Clean Energy XXI" indicate that the La Colonia supermarket company has started a major investment in solar energy. The project is being developed by the ECAMI company with more than 20 years of experience in the development of photovoltaic energy systems. The investment will save 90MW per year equivalent to the consumption of some 50 homes.

The Central University of Nicaragua (UCN) invested U\$182,000 in the installation of 120 solar panels on its Central Campus. University authorities explained that the investment seeks to contribute to the development of renewable energy and promote awareness among students about the importance of mitigating the effects of climate change. The solar

panels will supply the entire university, reducing 70% of its electrical bill.

- BIOCLIMA

The BIOCLIMA project was presented to the Green Fund and has the objective of: "transforming extensive livestock, agriculture and forest exploitation causing deforestation and forest degradation, into sustainable forms of production that include more intensive production, free of deforestation and that integrate the conservation of ecosystems and their services. There are four BIOCLIMA interventions: Promotion of sustainable forest management of forests; livestock production with silvopastoral systems; development of agro-forestry systems of coffee and cocoa; and multifunctional planted forests.

In 2020 Nicaragua will develop some programs and projects that will contribute to the

reduction of deforestation and forest degradation in the country's biosphere reserves. Among these are:

- Livestock program (BOVINOS), with a focus on improved production and processing of meat and milk and with a budget of €8 million euros.
- CONAGAN - MIF / IDB, focuses on increasing livestock production through silvopastoral systems and improving linkages and coordination throughout the value chain. Approximate budget of U\$1.9 million.
- NICADAPTA Program, focuses on improving the production and organization of coffee and cocoa producers, with a budget of U\$7.9 million.
- GEF-BM Resilient Landscape Management Project. With the objective of strengthening

the National System of Protected Areas to promote the conservation of biodiversity, resilient landscapes and local livelihoods, with a budget of U\$10 million.

- Forest plantations

Private investments in forest plantations have had an impact on national reforestation activities. At the end of 2018 there were 32,899 ha of areas under management, including 24,087 ha of commercial plantations. CONFOR member companies accumulated almost 150 million dollars in investments as of that date.

It is estimated that the current area of productive plantations is 70,000 hectares, whose contribution under a sustainable management regime can offer the market an annual volume of 840,000 m<sup>3</sup> / year, under the assumption that

the average growth of plantations is 12 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/year<sup>3</sup>.

The National Disaster Prevention System (SINAPRED), together with the National Forestry Institute (INAFOR) have a plan to focus on the prevention and control of forest fires, with the objective of reducing incidents or occurrences of fires, reducing impacts on climate change, protecting and conserving biodiversity, and guaranteeing a better quality of life for the population.

The priority areas at the national level in 2020 are: Nueva Segovia, Chontales, Rivas, Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region, Chinandega, Managua, León, Estelí, Río San Juan and Madriz.

This plan, presented at the regional, departmental and municipal levels, is being

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<sup>3</sup> Diagnosis of the Forest Sector in Nicaragua. Ronnie from Camino Velozo BID.

adjusted by the delegations to the incidents that occur in each territory.

### Lines of work

- The activation of 161 technical prevention commissions.

With broad participation of the institutions and with all the actors and protagonists including private companies, young people from the Environmentalist Movement Guardabarranco, Firemen, Army and National Police.

- Disclosure and communication.

Promote, through different campaigns, awareness among the population, which includes launching at the national and municipal levels in departments and protected areas, meetings and exchanges with community brigade members, as

well as radio campaigns and meetings with environmental observers.

- Prevention and control of forest fires.

One thousand new brigade members and more than 12,500 community members will be trained to carry the message of the importance of good practices in the community. 370 new community brigades will be equipped, talks with information on values and house-to-house visits will be carried out, carrying the message of good practices and love for Mother Earth, likewise workshops, tours and patrolling of protected areas will be implemented.

- Monitoring and evaluation

Workshops are being developed at the national level, allowing for the use, management and expansion of tools to

monitor environmental incidents, making nationwide daily reports of satellite monitoring of hot spots.

- Early warning

Work is being carried out on inspections, prioritizing the most vulnerable areas for early warning and attention to forest fires.

- Rehabilitation of areas

The task, once winter begins, is to restore affected areas in 2019, plus the areas that may be affected during this year.

### C) Change of Land Use

In 2013, the MAG published the "Potential Land Use, Compendium of maps" that includes zoning of the potential use of 18 agroforestry species, from which eight species have been

selected that are considered ideal for the establishment of industrial plantations, which are Pine (*Pinus oocarpa*), Pochote (*Pachira quinata*), Laurel (*Cordia alliodora*), Rubber (*Elastic castile*), Granadillo (*Dalbergia retusa*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*).

Selecting all the sites that coincide with the zones of potential forestry use on the INETER map in 2015, we obtained an area of 24,173 km<sup>2</sup> that can be dedicated to the establishment of plantations of aforementioned eight forestry species. This would involve transforming vast areas under grassland into plantations, which can be complex.

If variables such as land price, land market, access to infrastructure and legal status of properties are considered, it can

be estimated that at least 500 thousand hectares are suitable for plantations.

The available forestry potential for management revolves at around 1.8 million hectares that could offer a sustainable annual volume of 5.5 million cubic meters.

By incorporating the remaining forests into forest management and facilitating the production of plantations, the country would be generating a total of U\$242 million a year on a sustained basis.

#### VIII.2.4. Adaptation to climate change

For Nicaragua, climate change is not a phenomenon that it will experience in the future but one that it has already been experiencing in recent decades.

According to historical data from the Nicaraguan Institute for Territorial Studies (INETER), the average annual temperature in Nicaragua increased by + 1.4°C during the last 50 years. During this period, the highest average annual increases were registered in the mountainous area of the country, and in particular in the city of Ocotol, where the average temperature increased by + 2.7°C.

Similarly, between the years 1900 and 2010, a reduction in the average annual rainfall in the Pacific region occurred, which ranges from anywhere between 12% and 24%.

It should be added that a greater frequency and intensity of tropical storms has also been recorded. If in the last century every 8-10 years the national territory was affected by a category III or greater hurricane, between 2005 and 2011 they practically occurred every year, including storms that, although

they were less intense, caused considerable damage.

An example of this was the Tropical Depression 12-E, which in 2011 affected 148,530 people, including 16 deceased, and produced an economic impact of U\$445.4 million, equivalent to 6% of GDP that year.

Something similar could also be said regarding the succession between the El Niño and La Niña phenomena, which went so far as to alternate both phenomena in the same year.

Nicaragua came to be, for several consecutive years, among the 10 countries most affected by extreme weather events according to the Global Climate Risk Index of Germanwatch and Munich Re.

To this must be added the forecast of the V Report of the IPCC (2014) that, for Central

America, foresees that at the end of the century there will be an increase in the average temperature of + 3<sup>0</sup>C, while rainfall may be reduced by around 10%.

### Main national advances in adaptation

Since 2007, significant progress has been made in adapting to climate change. Some of them are listed below:

In soils and waters:

- In the last 10 years, 363 springs have been protected in water sources in the hydrographic basins of the San Juan, Coco and Grande and Matagalpa Rivers.
- Soil and water conservation works have been built on 25,000 hectares in 22 municipalities in the dry corridor.
- 5,323 small water harvesting works have been built, such as reservoirs, lagoons, micro dams and rainwater harvesting systems

on house roofs, prioritizing communities settled in the dry corridor, which have benefited 7,848 families.

In production systems:

- Productive, Agricultural, Fishing and Forestry Systems in Indigenous Territories of the RACCN and RACCS (NICARIBE) to improve the income levels of 10,580 protagonists.
- Support for adaptation to climate change through the production of coffee and cocoa from small producers in suitable agroclimatic zones.
- Upper Dipilto River Basin Project (SDC): Integrated management of soil, water and forest resources that benefits 60,000 people in the city of Ocotal.
- Climate Change Adaptation Project in the Upper Coco River Basin (EU): Integrated management of water, soil and forestry in the dry corridor.

Logically, it is necessary to mention once again the approval and implementation of the National Policy on Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change.

This Policy was announced by GRUN, through MARENA, in March 2019 and has two main objectives:

1. Establish a national strategic reference framework to develop a set of guidelines and their actions to mitigate the causes of climate change and face the challenges of adaptation.
2. Contribute to economic and social development, with the capacity to face climate risk, reduce economic damages and losses, as well as, promote economic development with low carbon emissions.

#### VIII.2.5. Losses and damages

Nicaragua has been developing a National Policy for the Comprehensive Management of Disaster Risk Reduction, with which it promotes permanent changes in the organization and performance of the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Attention (SINAPRED), with the main objective of preserving and protecting the life of the Nicaraguan people.

The guidelines of this policy are consistent with the guidelines developed within the National Human Development Plan (PNDH), which focuses on safeguarding the integrity of the human being, the family, the community and Mother Earth, constituting a transversal and integral axis for human security and the pursuit of well-being.

The participation of families, the organized community and the establishment of alliances with public institutions, local governments, social organizations and specialized institutions

for the attention and reduction of disaster risks, constitutes a fundamental axis for the implementation of these policies.

The guidelines proposed in the National Policy for Comprehensive Management of Disaster Risk Reduction are the following:

- **Promotion of a culture of prevention and preparedness of the population in the face of disasters:** carry out training and preparation actions for the Nicaraguan families, which promote their role and the development of habits that contribute, from the home and the community, to reducing their vulnerability to disasters.
- **Strengthening of community response capacity in the face of disasters:** Carry out actions that contribute to the organization, preparedness and development of community capacities in the face of disasters, as well as their articulation in the territories

with institutions and local governments, in order to ensure response and timely care for families during emergencies.

- **Strengthening of warning systems and institutional response to disasters:** Technical personnel are trained, early warning systems are developed, specialized attention to emergencies ensured, and accompaniment programs provided for the reduction of vulnerabilities of populations at risk.
- **Mitigation, recovery with transformation and adaptation to the effects of climate change:** Municipal, departmental, regional and national post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction actions are developed, with a comprehensive development approach that contributes to reducing vulnerabilities, mitigating the effects of disasters and climate change.

- **Planning, development and public and private investment, with criteria for comprehensive disaster risk reduction management:** The incorporation of comprehensive disaster risk reduction management is promoted in national, sectoral and local development plans, programs and projects, as well as in public and private investments.
  
- **Managing scientific-technical knowledge about risks of natural phenomena:** It is an information management system that generates scientific-technical knowledge to address risk reduction, which contributes to having a better informed population, with the designing of efficient and effective actions, and the strengthening of human and technical capacities at different levels.

A) Mechanisms for financial protection against catastrophic damage due to climatic events.

A strategy for financial protection against disasters is consolidated, based on the two initiatives that the country currently has: With an amount of U\$186 million that was disbursed in 2014 by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Attention, within the framework of the Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster Emergencies.

In 2015, with the support of the World Bank and Japan, the CCRIF (Insurance Mechanism against Catastrophic Risks in the Caribbean) and our Government, signed a Participation Agreement for Nicaragua to formally become the first Central American country to join the insurance mechanism.

- Establishment of the First Environmental Trust

Representatives of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Tobacco and the local governments of Estelí,

Condega, Palacagüina, Yalagüina, and Banco de la Producción (BANPRO), signed a trust for U\$30,000 dollars for the conservation and protection of the Estelí River.

The document is valid indefinitely, in order to achieve an effective collaboration between all organizations to improve the environmental conditions of the Estelí river basin, highly deforested and contaminated.

This trust is a pilot project that can be extended to other micro-basins and basins in the country, as well as the complementary efforts that have been developed.

Within the plan, the cattle ranchers near the Estelí river basin try to promote a reforestation plan, where the producers contribute part of their land. In the future, the wood from the new plantations may be sold and, with these funds, strengthen the trust with new investments in

the recovery of the Estelí river basin and the training of poor communities.

These are advances from the alliance model that the Nicaraguan Government has been strengthening to create routes of prosperity and the Common Good of Mother Earth.

- The Environmental Funds

The Nicaraguan Electricity Company (ENEL) is preparing an Environmental Fund, within the framework of the "Integrated management of the hydrographic basin of the Apanás and Asturias lakes" project, financed by the World Environment Fund (GEF) through the IDB, which aims to reduce deforestation and conserve forest cover to decrease erosion and sedimentation in Lake Apanás in Jinotega, in order to maintain the lake's useful life for hydroelectric generation.

- The National System of Response to Climate Change (SNRCC)

The creation of this system strengthens MARENA's role to integrate information on the country's efforts in terms of adaptation and mitigation, coordinating with other relevant actors and instances to socialize the information and share responsibility for the following information flows defined in the decree creating the SNRCC, such as:

- i) Prepare National Communications and National Greenhouse Gas Inventories;
- ii) Prepare the country's climate risk assessments;
- iii) Calculate national greenhouse gas emission factors, through academic and scientific research;
- iv) Compile and disseminate the progress of Nicaragua in terms of mitigation and adaptation to climate change;

- v) Promote national research on climate change;
- vi) Manage international cooperation and financing for mitigation and adaptation and climate change.

The National Climate Change Response System also strengthens national capacities to respond to the requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (MTR) under the "Paris Agreement", regarding needs for updating national GHG inventories for the 2000-2015 period, the update of the First Biannual Inventory for the period 2016-2018 (BUR).

It also includes a set of tasks related to the modalities, procedures and guidelines of the Enhanced Transfer Framework that were approved at COP 24 of 2018, including the content required to prepare the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR).

### VIII.2.6. About Liability or Compensation for Damage

Before the Napoleon Code, although it was true, there was a trend in favor of a general principle of tort based on fault, this figure did not exist legally.

The general principle of liability for fault was first affirmed in the Napoleon Code of 1804, and the trinomial (fault, damage, liability) was consecrated therein, under the legal precept that: "Every act of man that causes damage to another, forces the one whose fault it was it occurred, to repair it." It refers to damage caused with intentional fault or willful misconduct, and that "Everyone is responsible for the damage he has caused not only deliberately, but also for his negligence or recklessness", which refers to unintentional fault and includes both negligence and recklessness.

Since the creation of the figure of Damages and Prejudices, which is born with the Napoleonic Code, until today, both nationally and internationally, the laws have incorporated this legal precept, so that all those actors who break the laws are subject and are required to compensate the damages caused.

Compensation for damages also exists in "Common Law" in Anglo-Saxon countries with their variants between the United Kingdom and the United States.

### **Common Law (Anglo-Saxon Law) regarding Torts (damages) United States and England.**

#### **USA**

North American civil liability law is still based on the old common law. It is primarily a right created by judges, although there are a large number of reform laws, which vary from state to state. North American judges often, but not

invariably, take into account corresponding or similar rulings by other states and federal courts. They often follow the -uniform- tort law rules proposed in the Restatement of Torts, which has strong persuasive authority among judges and lawyers.

## **England**

Although English common law was the source of the idea of punitive damages and the punitive function of tort law for North American tort law, English law is much more restrictive in this regard today. Furthermore, the English convictions in the few punitive prejudice events that arise never reach the North American dimensions. The English Common Law has always recognized, and still does, exemplary or punitive damages.

Another precedent of great importance was the 1992 Rio Summit, where Heads of State and representatives of non-governmental organizations

participated, in which the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* was approved, containing principles within which it was established that States should develop national legislation regarding the responsibility and compensation of victims of pollution and other environmental damage.

Taking up the principles of the Rio Declaration of 1992, in Nicaragua, the General Law of Environment and Natural Resources was born in 1996.

This law establishes within its provisions on damages, that any person who by action or omission damages the environment, is obliged to repair the damages caused to the environmental resources, the balance of the ecosystem, health and quality of life of the population.

In addition, it affirms that the any official whom by action or omission authorizes the

carrying out of actions, activities or facilities that cause damages to environmental resources, the balance of the ecosystem, the health and quality of life of the population, will be jointly responsible with whoever executed them.

#### VIII.2.7. Institutional strengthening in climate finance:

##### The Public Expenditure Classifier

In Nicaragua, an inter-institutional consultation and analysis process was carried out, coordinated between the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MHCP), the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) and the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Attention (SINAPRED), with the technical support of the World Bank, which has generated a proposal for a Methodological Guide to identify and classify the expenses that the country's

public entities allocated in the General Budget of the Nation to issues of environmental management, climate change and disaster risk management.

The budget classifier is proposed as a tool in a permanent process of improvement, in the sense that it is feasible to include new activities that the government considers pertinent in each of the affected processes. The classification proposal considers a distinction between the budget allocated for losses and damages associated with climatic, meteorological and hydrological events, from those related to other events, for example, geological or geophysical.

The general objective of the classifier is to articulate the policies that guide environmental management, climate change and comprehensive disaster risk management, with the formulation and execution of the budget. With this instrument, it is possible to establish

the relationship that exists in budgetary terms, between the expenses in these areas, with the needs set forth in the National Human Development Plan, the National Strategy for Climate Change and the Environment and the National Policy for Comprehensive Management of Disaster Risk Reduction.

#### VIII.2.8. Advances in scientific research

The Nicaraguan Institute for Territorial Studies (INETER), as a scientific institution in charge of climate monitoring and projections, has carried out the following tasks:

1. Prepare future scenarios of climate change to be a part of the Third National Communication on Climate Change.
2. With the results of the scenarios, threat scenarios were established and risk maps for hurricanes, floods, droughts, and sea

level rise were obtained at the municipal level, using geographic information systems.

3. A methodology was developed to include aspects related to climate risk, mitigation and adaptation in land use planning processes, which was validated through the Land Planning Plan prepared for Corn Island.

4. Since 2016, in conjunction with MARENA, the Greenhouse Gas Monitoring and Verification Unit was established, for the use and change of use of land, through Landsat-30 images, as well as the alerts about changes in land uses.

5. Currently INETER participates in a regional CORDEX project, led by the Spanish Meteorological Agency (AEMET), to obtain

regionalized climate scenarios, which will contribute to the IV National Communication on Climate Change and the first BUR prepared by MARENA.

6. INETER is initiating a project to Modernize Hydrometeorological Services with the Green Climate Fund, which will significantly improve its early warning and response capabilities in the processing of a climatic series.
7. INETER has worked together with other government institutions and specialists hired by the World Bank to prepare the National Water Resources Plan, which will be published shortly. The climatic and hydrological information prepared by INETER has served as the basis for the analysis of Resource Balances and future scenarios of availability of water resources.

#### VIII.2.9. The role of the private sector

Nicaragua received approval from the Cooperative Forest Carbon Fund of the REDD +

program, through which rural communities and indigenous peoples living in the forests of the Caribbean Coast, BOSAWAS and Indio Maíz, will reduce deforestation and forest degradation, reducing emissions in approximately 11 million tons of Carbon Dioxide and will receive in return positive incentives for 55 million dollars in five years.

#### CAMBioII project

Nicaragua is part of the Green Climate Fund's "Productive Investment Initiative for Climate Change Adaptation (CHANGE II)" adaptation program, which aims to: Reduce obstacles for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), access credit and support the best adaptation measures available in seven countries of Central America.

The National Reforestation Association of Nicaragua (CONFOR) has invested more than 150 million

dollars in plantation areas in recent years, the main investments being made by Equiforest, Agroforestry / Simply Wood and MLR FORESTAL. Likewise, Exportadora Atlantic, has carried out innovative initiatives for Adaptation to Climate Change in Coffee Cultivation, such as micro propagation of coffee clones and grafting of Arabica coffee on robusta coffee.

#### VIII.2.10. Water Resources Plan and the City of Managua

Among the activities carried out by the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity (GRUN) in the face of Climate Change, the actions carried out by the Municipality of Managua through the **Strategic Plan in Disaster Risk Management for Sustainability and Development of Managua**, stand out.

It aims to consolidate the sustainability and urban resilience of the municipality of

Managua against the risk of disasters and climate change, guaranteeing the quality of life for families. In this strategy, Managua is seen as a resilient municipality against the risk of disasters and climate change, with inclusive, participatory management processes that lead to sustainable economic, social and environmental development, guaranteeing human and territorial security.

The thematic axes of the plan are institutional strengthening, risk awareness, risk reduction and adaptation, as well as preparedness, response and recovery.

The Strategic Plan is expected to be progressively implemented until 2030, with a total of 20 actions in the short, medium and long term.

A variety of actions are carried out within the strategy, such as: strengthening the processes

of participation and social and cultural appropriation for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, updating of databases and technical-scientific studies of threat, vulnerabilities and risk; incorporating risk management into territorial planning and strengthening of community early warning systems, known as SAT.

## **IX. ANNEXES**

### **National and international legal framework**

Nicaragua has a broad legal framework, modern and consistent in environmental matters. There are countless legal instruments that range from the Political Constitution to laws, decrees, agreements, policies, plans and programs that are executed in an intersectoral manner.

Likewise, Nicaragua has ratified all the main international instruments of relevance to the country in matters of the Environment and Climate Change, for the common good of Mother Earth and humanity and to promote sustainable development, combat climate change and mitigate its adverse effects.

The international legal instruments ratified by Nicaragua are regulated in Annex B.

#### *IX.1. Annex A: National legal instruments*

**The Political Constitution of the Republic of Nicaragua.** Our Magna Carta establishes as a social right that Nicaraguans may live in a healthy environment, as well as their obligations regarding preservation and conservation. The supreme and universal common good, condition for all other goods, is Mother Earth, who must be loved, cared for and regenerated. The common good of Earth and humanity asks us to understand Earth as a living entity and subject to dignity. The Nicaraguan nation works to adopt patterns of production and consumption that guarantee the vitality and integrity of Mother Earth, social equity in humanity, responsible and caring consumption, and good community living. Based on the principles of the Constitution of the Republic, Nicaragua has developed a legal framework, summarized in Annex A.

**General Law of the Environment and Natural Resources,** published in June 1996, establishes

the rules for the conservation, protection, improvement and restoration of the environment and natural resources, ensuring their rational and sustainable use.

**General Law of National Waters.**

Published in September 2007, it establishes the institutional legal framework for the administration, conservation, development, use, sustainable, equitable use and preservation in quantity and quality of all the existing water resources in the country.

**Law that creates the Commission for the Sustainable Development of the Water Basin of Lake Cocibolca and the San Juan River,**

published in August 2007, in order to coordinate the application of environmental and development policies, plans and actions for their protection and conservation, with the participation of governmental and non-governmental institutions, municipalities, and the

indigenous and campesino communities settled in the area.

**The criminal code.** Published in May 2008, it regulates, among others, crimes against the environment and natural resources, imposing both monetary and prison sanctions on all those who cause environmental damage.

**Land Use Conservation Law in the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve,** published in November 2008, to strengthen the current legal and institutional framework of the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, while maintaining respect for the autonomy, culture and ways of life of the original inhabitants of the Reserve.

**Law for the Development of Coastal Zones.** Published in July 2009, in order to regulate use and sustainable development and guarantee the access of the population to the coastal areas of the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

**Border Regime Law**, published in December 2010, to establish a special legal regime in land, sea and air border territory, in order to guarantee sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, internal security, environmental and natural resource protection, as well as the inalienability of public real estate and allow the promotion and application of a comprehensive development policy.

**Tobacco Control Law**. Published in August 2010, to establish regulations, prohibitions and effective control mechanisms for tobacco use, to minimize the detrimental impact it causes to human health and the environment.

**Law on Prevention of Risks from Living Modified Organisms through Molecular Biotechnology**, published in April 2010, in order to establish regulatory provisions on activities with living modified organisms derived from the use of molecular biotechnology techniques, in order

to prevent, avoid and reduce the risks that could be caused to human health, the environment, biological diversity, agricultural, forestry and aquaculture activity.

**Law that Declares and Defines the Pearl Cays System as a Wildlife Refuge**, published November 2010, declares the Pearl Cays System, located on the Caribbean Coast, as a Protected Area, under the category of Wildlife Refuge, to guarantee the maintenance of the habitat and the needs of certain resident species or migratory animal communities of national or international importance, unique, threatened or in danger of extinction.

**Law for the Promotion of Agroecological or Organic Production**, published in July 2011, the purpose of which is to promote the development of agroecological or organic production systems, through the regulation, preservation and promotion activities and practices and production

processes with environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability.

**Law of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity**, published in October 2012, in order to regulate the conservation and sustainable use of existing biological diversity in the country, guaranteeing an equitable participation and fair distribution of the benefits derived from the use of the same.

**Legal Digest of Law No. 443, Law of Exploration and Exploitation of Geothermal Resources.** Published September 2012, to modernize and enact legislation that allows the Nicaraguan Nation to continue with the process of maximizing the use of its natural resources in a regulated and sustained manner, which allows uninterrupted growth of the installed energy capacity in the country, prioritizing the use of geothermal resources as a primary energy source.

**Law that Declares and Defines the Limits of the Ometepe Island Biosphere Reserve**, published in March 2013, to declare Ometepe Island a Biosphere Reserve, recognized and incorporated into the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the Organization of United Nations for Education, Science and Culture -UNESCO, within the framework of the Man and Biosphere program (MAB).

*IX.2. Annex B: International Legal Instruments:*

**Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**, published on August 1977, aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not constitute a threat to their own survival.

**Accession and Ratification of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its Annexes**, published February 1993, aims to establish

concrete measures for the elimination of the use of substances that deplete the ozone layer, to avoid damage to health and the environment.

**Ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity**, published in December 1995, which aims at the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the fair and equitable participation in the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.

**Ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** published October 1995, which aims to stabilize concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference in the climate system.

**Ratification of the Convention for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protection of Priority Wildlife Areas in Central America,**

published in October 1995, whose objective is to conserve as much as possible the biological, terrestrial and coastal-marine diversity of the Central American region.

**Accession to the Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal**, published in October 1996, in order to define which wastes are considered hazardous, also enabling signatory countries to add other wastes to that list that they consider dangerous.

**Accession to the Convention Relating to Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR Convention)**, published in October 1996, whose main objective is the conservation and wise use of wetlands through local, regional and national actions, thanks to international cooperation.

**Approval of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Affected**

**by Serious Drought or Desertification**, particularly in Africa, published December 1997. The convention specifically focuses on arid, semi-arid and sub-humid and dry areas, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems are found.

**Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**, published in September 1999; sets binding greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for industrialized countries.

**Ratification of the Regional Agreement for the Management and Conservation of Natural Forest Ecosystems and the Development of Forest Plantations**, published in April 1999, to promote national and regional mechanisms to avoid the change of use of areas with forest cover located in suitable terrain forest and recover deforested areas.

**International Treaty on Phylogenetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.** Adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2001, Nicaragua acceded in 2002. This Convention aims at the conservation and sustainable use of phylogenetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from its use.

**Ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Annexes,** published June 2002, to protect biological diversity through the administration of movements between countries of living modified organisms (LMOs), resulting from the application of modern technology **Ratification of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs),** published in October 2005, aims to protect human health and the environment against Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

**Ratification of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Greater Caribbean region** and its Annex Protocol, published in February 2005, for the protection of the marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and adjacent areas of the Atlantic Ocean of the States.

**Decree Approving Accession to the Rotterdam Convention** on the prior informed consent procedure applicable to certain pesticides and dangerous chemicals in international trade, published August 2008, to promote shared responsibility and the joint efforts of the countries party to the sphere of international trade in certain dangerous chemicals.

**Ratification of the Agreement Establishing the Water Center for the Humid Tropics for Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC)**, published in May 2012, aims to promote sustainable development through applied research and development,

education and technology transfer on water resources and the environment.

**Decree of Approval of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and its Annexes A, B, C, D and E,** published in September 2014, to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

**Nicaragua's accession to the Paris Agreement.** Nicaragua joined this Agreement on October 23, 2017. The Agreement aims to keep the increase in global temperature well below 2°C, increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and promoting resilience to climate change and low carbon development.

**Decree of Approval of the Nagoya Protocol,** published in March 2020, on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable participation in the benefits derived from their use of the

Convention on Biological Diversity. The application of the Convention on Biological Diversity is based on and supports, in particular one of its three objectives, the fair and equitable participation in the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.