

# **NATIONAL ASSESMENT REPORT**

## **POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND STUDIES OF THE CASES OF CLIMATIC CHANGE IN NICARAGUA**

The following national assessment report constitutes a mapping of the main policies, programs and official strategies that the country has, as well as 5 studies of cases that refer to important subjects.

- I. **Climatic Change associated institutional context in Nicaragua:**
  - A. **International Institutionalilty**
    - **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)<sup>1</sup>**

President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro subscribed the Convention that was later ratified by the National Assembly of Nicaragua through the Decree No. 1010 of April 26, 1995, and published in La Gaceta, Official Gazette No. 123 on July 3, 1995.<sup>2</sup>

The Kyoto Protocol was ratified by the National Assembly of Nicaragua through the Decree number 2295 of July 1, 1999, published in La Gaceta number 133 on July 13, 1999.

Recently, in the Conference of UNFCCC (COP 16/ MOP 6) carried out in Mexico, the parties established the so called "Cancun Agreements", which precedents are settled in the "Copenhagen Accord"<sup>3</sup> during COP 15. Among the decisions taken by the AWG-LCA are: the commitment to a global agreement for the reduction of emissions that maintain the average global temperature in a maximum increase of 2 Celsius degrees; the establishment of an Adaptation Framework and an Adaptation Committee; the establishment of a working program to refer to the losses and damages related to the climatic change impacts; the establishment of implementation stages for REDD+<sup>4</sup> the Green Climate Fund creation and Transitional Committee in charge of its design<sup>5</sup>; and the technology mechanism among other aspects.

It is valid to point out that during COP 16 all of the countries, but Bolivia, supported the aforementioned agreements. During the final negotiation plenary, it called the attention that Bolivia, in a solitary way and without the explicit support of the ALBA group, sustained that these agreements did not adjust to science and also fulfilled the global demand for a fair, ambitious, and juridically binding agreement. The Nicaraguan delegation did not present any opposition about it, neither the other countries members of the ALBA group, which indicated a lack of coincidence in essential aspects of the negotiations.

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<sup>1</sup> Complete document in: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/convsp.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Complete document in:  
[http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/%28\\$All%29/EC28A3181B6EC2490625714500556475?OpenDocument](http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/%28$All%29/EC28A3181B6EC2490625714500556475?OpenDocument)

<sup>3</sup> A group of 26 countries created the so called Copenhagen Accord, out of the formal negotiation process of the Convention. Since the Accord infringed the process that was done in the AWGs, the COP decided just to take NOTA, meaning, not to approve it nor reject it." Francisco Soto, November 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Establishment of policies and positive incentives for the emission reduction caused by deforestation, and forest degradation and the preserving role, sustainable forest management and carbon stock improvement in the developing countries.

<sup>5</sup> In Mexico, from April 27 to the 29<sup>th</sup> the first meeting of the Transitional Committee for the establishment of the Green Climate Fund, was carried out.

## Global Environment Facility (GEF)<sup>6</sup>

GEF gathers 182 member governments, in cooperation with international institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to face the global environmental issues. It is a financially independent organization and it gives donations to the developing countries and to countries with economies in transition for projects related to biodiversity, climatic change, land degradation, ozone layer and persistent organic pollutants.

It was founded in 1991 and it is currently the biggest financial backer of projects for the environment in the world.

Here we present a general list of the projects that Nicaragua has currently approved or which are in an approval process<sup>7</sup> before GEF. It is important to point out that these funds are given in the form of donations.

### NATIONAL:

- » Enabling Nicaragua to Prepare its Initial National Communication in Response to its Commitments to UNFCCC<sup>8</sup> (ID 440).
- » Renewable Energy and Forest Conservation: Sustainable Harvest and Processing of Coffee and Allspice<sup>9</sup> (ID 847).
- » Off-grid Rural Electrification for Development (PERZA)<sup>10</sup> (ID 1079).
- » Mainstreaming the Multilateral Environmental Agreements into the Country's Environmental Legislation<sup>11</sup> (ID 3068)
- » Adaptation of Nicaragua's Water Supplies to Climate Change<sup>12</sup> (ID 4492).
- » Integrated Management in Lakes Apanas and Asturias Watershed<sup>13</sup> (ID 3981).
- » Climate Change Enabling Activity (Additional Financing for Capacity Building in Priority Areas)<sup>14</sup> (ID 1011).
- » Second Communication on Climatic Change<sup>15</sup>
- » Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport in Metropolitan Managua<sup>16</sup> (ID 2801)

### REGIONAL:

- » Trans-Border Biosphere Reserve Project "Hearth of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor"<sup>17</sup> (ID 2099)
- » CleanTech Fund (ID 3005)<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Web oficial: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/whatisgef>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.thegef.org/gef/gef\\_country\\_prg/NI](http://www.thegef.org/gef/gef_country_prg/NI)

<sup>8</sup> <http://gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=440>

<sup>9</sup> <http://gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=847>

<sup>10</sup> <http://gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=1079>

<sup>11</sup> <http://gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=3068>

<sup>12</sup> <http://gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=4492>

<sup>13</sup> <http://gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=3981>

<sup>14</sup> <http://gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=1011>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.undp.org/ni/proyectos/2/101>

<sup>16</sup> <http://gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=2801>

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.ccad.ws/nodos/territoriales/corazon\\_CBM\\_proyecto.html](http://www.ccad.ws/nodos/territoriales/corazon_CBM_proyecto.html)

- » Establishment of a Programme for the Consolidation of the Meso-American Biological Corridor (ID 243)<sup>19</sup>
- » Creation and Strengthening of the Capacity for Sustainable Renewable Energy Development in Central America<sup>20</sup> (ID 27).
- » Regional Programme on Electrical Energy Efficiency in Industrial and Commercial Service Sectors in Central America<sup>21</sup> (ID 1899).
- » Accelerating Renewable Energy Investments through CABEL in Central America<sup>22</sup> (ID 975).
- » Capacity building for Stage II Adaptation to Climate Change (Central America, Mexico and Cuba)<sup>23</sup> (ID 1060).

#### GLOBAL:

- » Renewable Energy Enterprise Development - Seed Capital Access Facility<sup>24</sup> (ID 1609).
- » Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment<sup>25</sup> (ID 1281).

#### SMALL GRANT PROGRAM:

The GEF also manages a program called “Small Grant Program” which has approved 112 projects of Nicaragua, carried out by UNDP.

#### ADAPTATION FUND<sup>26</sup>:

Nicaragua was one of the first countries to be benefited with these funds along with Senegal, Pakistan, and the Solomon Islands. The currently implemented project is:

- » ***Reduction of Risks and Vulnerability Based on Flooding and Droughts in the Estero Real River Watershed<sup>27</sup>*** Implementing Entity: **United Nations Development Program.** Executing entity: Ministry of the environment and natural resources (MARENA) amount of financing requested: 5,500,950 US dollars the objective of the program is to reduce risks from droughts and flooding generated by climate change and variability in the watershed of the Estero Real River. To reach the objective, the program will rely upon a coordinated set of interventions designed to implement new public policies for addressing climate change by introducing agro-ecological practices and participatory watershed management in highly vulnerable rural communities. Through targeted investments in water retention, long-term farm planning, and institutional capacity building in local

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=3005>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=243>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=27>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=1899>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=975>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=1060>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=1609>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=1281>

<sup>26</sup> What is adaptation? Climate change is undermining development and increasing the burdens on the poorest people in the world, who are often hardest hit by weather catastrophes, desertification, and rising sea levels, but who have contributed the least to the problem of global warming. Helping the most vulnerable countries and elements of societies is thus an increasing challenge and duty for the international community, especially because adaptation to climate change requires significant resources in addition to what is already needed to achieve internationally agreed-on development objectives such as the Millennium Development Goals. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines adaptation in their 4th Assessment report as “adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.” Adaptation Fund: <http://www.adaptation-fund.org/adaptation>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.adaptation-fund.org/system/files/Nicarague%20final%20project.pdf>

communities, municipalities and government agencies. This project is already authorized; the program implementation was to be started on February 2011 and will finish in March 2015.

#### **A. Central American Regional Institutionalility**

To this date, the Central American Integration System (SICA) is formed by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Belize, Panama and Dominican Republic (as an associate state). SICA has an environmental subsystem formed by CCAD (Central American Commission for Environment and Development), CRRH (Water Resources Regional Committee) and CEPREDENAC (Natural Disaster Prevention Coordination Center in Central America), which coordinate actions among themselves.

- Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) of the Central American Integration System (SICA).
- The Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) is the organ of the Central American Integration System (SICA), responsible for the regional environmental agenda. Its main purpose consists on contributing to the sustainable development of the Central American region, strengthening the cooperation and integration regime for environmental management.”<sup>28</sup>
- CCAD is formed by the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources of the seven member countries and associate state. The Council is its highest authority and it is responsible for defining the general policies, establishing regional action plans and the election of the Executive Secretariat of CCAD. There is a pro-tempore presidency organized in an alternate manner every 6 months and that is in charge of the Commissions’ representation.

In the framework of this initiative, the investigative project called “Climatic Change Economy in Central America” was carried out with the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), Ministers of Environment and Public Treasury of the seven countries of Central America, the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Secretariat of Economic Integration Central America (SIECA). The purpose of said study was to alert the key actors in the decision making of the region on the urgency to face the challenge of climatic change and to promote a dialogue about the public policy options and the national and regional actions, including the Climatic Change Regional Strategy<sup>29</sup>. We believe that it is an essential document to approach the subject.

The XXXVI Regular Meeting of Heads of State and Government of SICA<sup>30</sup> on December 16, 2010 (Belize) is the last meeting of presidents that has been made to the month of June, 2011, in which the presidents validate and approval of the Climatic Change Regional Strategy, adopted by the Ministries of Environment on November 10 and 11, 2011.

#### **c. National Institutionalility**

- » Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA):  
Is the state Ministry in charge of regulating and monitoring the pursuance of the environmental policy and the management of natural resources, as well as administrating protected areas and the system of environmental assessment.

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<sup>28</sup> [http://www.sica.int/ccad/ccad\\_breve.aspx?IdEnt=2](http://www.sica.int/ccad/ccad_breve.aspx?IdEnt=2)

<sup>29</sup> ECLA, *Synthesis 2010*. Pp.11.

<sup>30</sup> Documents in:

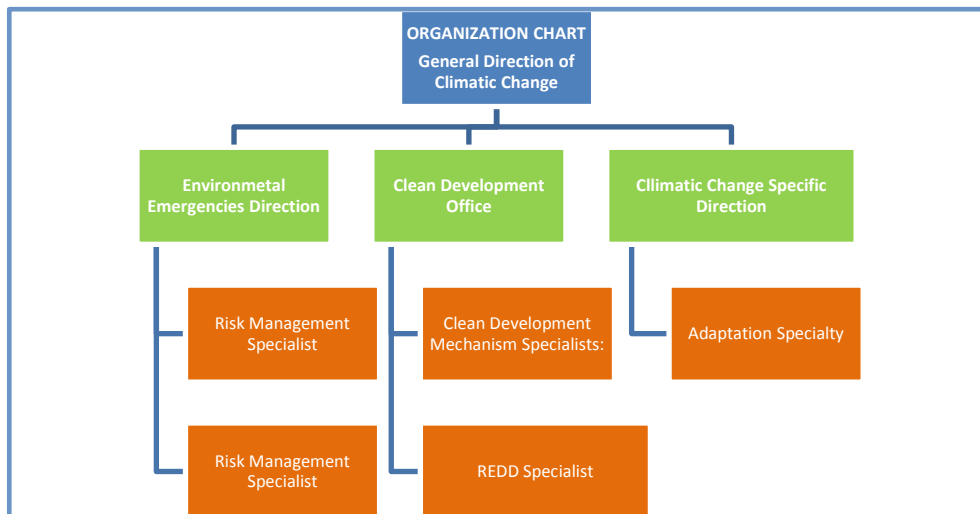
<http://www.sica.int/busqueda/Reuniones%20Grupo%20de%20Autoridades.aspx?IDItem=55995&IDCat=9&IdEnt=401&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1>

» **General Direction of Climatic Change (Dirección General De Cambio climático-DGCC)**

The General Direction of Climatic Change was created on January 2009, and it is attached to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA).

Currently, the DGCC has the main function to be a regulating and governing entity in all of the management procedures of climatic change, which includes adaptation, mitigation, risk management, official aid for development management and international negotiations; although in this last aspect the responsibilities are shared with chancellery and the Ministry's Secretariat.

Currently, there are 11 employees working in this Direction and additional staff that belongs to the implementation of specific projects, for example, the ones supported by the German cooperation. Next, we present the organization chart.



**CLEAN DEVELOPMENT NATIONAL OFFICE (ONDL)**

ONDL was established with the support of UNDP through the Clean Development Office Creating Law (Decree No. 21-2002) <sup>31</sup> as a specialized entity that hierarchically depends on the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Currently, Nicaragua has 5 officially registered projects as a part of its mechanism<sup>32</sup>

- » San Jacinto Tizate Geothermal Project (project 0198)<sup>33</sup>: Registered in April 8<sup>th</sup> of 2006, involves the construction of a power plant. The geothermal project will be carried out by Polaris Energy Nicaragua, S.A. (subsidiary of Polaris Geothermal Inc. ) with an estimated emission reduction of 280,703 metric tons of CO2 per year.
- » Monte Rosa Bagasse Cogeneration Project (MRBCP) (Project 0191)<sup>34</sup> : Registered in June 22 of 2006, is a biomass project based on sugarcane bagasse for the cogeneration of energy, connected to the National Interconnection System (SIN). According to the Second National Communication of Nicaragua, with an approximate investment of 16 million dollars, the project will achieve to reduce 78,213 carbon equivalent tons for a 21 year period.
- » Vinasse Anaerobic Treatment Project (Project 0675)<sup>35</sup>: Registered on March 9, 2007, presented by the *Compañía Licorera de Nicaragua S.A. (CLNSA)* and through the *Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF)* essentially consists on the construction of a biodigester for the generation of self-consuming energy from vinasse, with an 8 million dollar investment. According to the Second National Communication of Nicaragua, the project would obtain a total income close to 6 million dollars, and Nicaragua will contribute with 1,500,000 tons of equivalent carbon reduced in a 14-year period.
- » Amayo 40 Wind Power Project (Project 2315)<sup>36</sup> : Registered on April 12, 2009 and its main target is to obtain renewable energy through the wind.
- » Southern Nicaragua Reforestation Project (Project 3970)<sup>37</sup>: carried out by Precious Woods Nicaragua, under the CDM. The project will sequester 20 thousand tons per year and will reforest with teak crops and 10% of the native trees. The government approval has already been given, and the authorized counterparties are IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) as a fiduciary entity

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<sup>31</sup> Aprobado el 20 de febrero de 2002 y publicada en La Gaceta 56, 21 de marzo de 2002. Documento íntegro en: [http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/%28\\$All%29/1A23A4298760F2D5062570A1005781DD?OpenDocument](http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/%28$All%29/1A23A4298760F2D5062570A1005781DD?OpenDocument)

<sup>32</sup> Para conocer los proyectos de otros países de la región centroamericana, buscar en: [http://www.sica.int/cambioclimatico/mitigacion\\_proyectos.aspx?IdEnt=879&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1](http://www.sica.int/cambioclimatico/mitigacion_proyectos.aspx?IdEnt=879&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1)

<sup>33</sup> <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/DNV-CUK1135673240.22/view>

<sup>34</sup> <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/TUEV-SUED1135170073.01/view>

<sup>35</sup> <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/TUEV-SUED1159511157.97/view>

<sup>36</sup> <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/SGS-UKL1227712726.26>

<sup>37</sup> <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/BVQI1283980227.35/view>

for Bio Carbon Fund and the Government of Canada. The period of approval is fixed and goes from July 4, 2003 to July 3, 2033.

## **GENERAL BALANCE OF THE PROJECTS**

According to the official website of CDM/UNFCCC<sup>38</sup> these 5 projects represent 577,757 Certified Emission Reduction Credits (CERs). For this process, the National Clean Development Office has the support of the Project “Capacity Development for the Clean Development Mechanism- CD4 CDM”, funded by the “United Nations Environment Programme (PNUMA-UNEP RISO CENTRE of Holland) which started on April 2007 with the purpose to support the National Authorities, designated in the CDM projects approval process to improve the institutional preparation and building of the national capacities.

According to the second national communication “the incursion of 6 private companies in renewable energy projects that are being managed and/or with the interest to apply CDM, and a private company that is interested in reforestation projects.

### **Presidency Secretariat for Public Policies**

The Government of Nicaragua, through the Presidency Secretariat for Public Policies, was recently selected within the *Grupo Latinoamericano (GRULAC)*, (*Latin American Group*) as a member of the Transnational Committee for the establishment of the Climatic Green Fund, according to the Cancun Agreements. This Secretariat has acted as the chief of the Official Delegation of Nicaragua during the Parties Conference 15 and 16 carried out in Copenhagen and Mexico, respectively.

## **II. POLICIES MAPPING, PROCESSES AND STRATEGIES ON THE CLIMATIC CHANGE IN NICARAGUA:**

### **» INTERNATIONAL:**

#### **→ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol: Universal Declaration of Common Good of the Earth and Humanity<sup>39</sup>**

On February 6, 2010, Nicaragua became the first country to be a member of this declaration, which is a Resolution Project for the United Nations General Assembly but it has not been authorized. The important approaches of this declaration are:

Common good of the Earth and Humanity asks us to understand earth as an alive and dignified being.

The Common Good demands to protect and to restore the integrity of ecosystems.

Oil and mine activities and also agro-fuels must be subjected to a state and social control.

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<sup>38</sup> <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Statistics/Issuance/CERsIssuedByHostPartyPieChart.html>

<sup>39</sup> Complete document in: <http://www.ecodes.org/noticias/qdeclaracion-universal-del-bien-comun-de-la-tierra-y-de-la-humanidadq>

The ethical principles of respecting each being, caring for nature and the universal responsibility of preserving biodiversity and continuing with the planetary human project, cooperation and solidarity, belong to the Common Good of Humanity.

→ **Agreement of the People: World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth**<sup>40</sup>

This Conference took place on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 in Cochabamba, Bolivia. This conference is independent from the process promoted by ALBA countries and it was an agglutinating effort of social movements, unions, NGOs, parties, etc. The Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth was proposed therein.

- » The capitalist system has imposed a logic of competition, progress and unlimited growth.
- » The countries of the world must recover, revalue, and strengthen the knowledge, wisdom and ancient practices of the Indigenous Peoples.
- » The intent of a group of countries to annul the Kyoto Protocol is deplored.
- » Rejection to the Free Trade Agreements and Association Agreements.
- » Creation of an International Court of Conscience.

→ **Central-American Regional:**

- Regional Strategy on Climate Change (ERCC)<sup>41</sup>

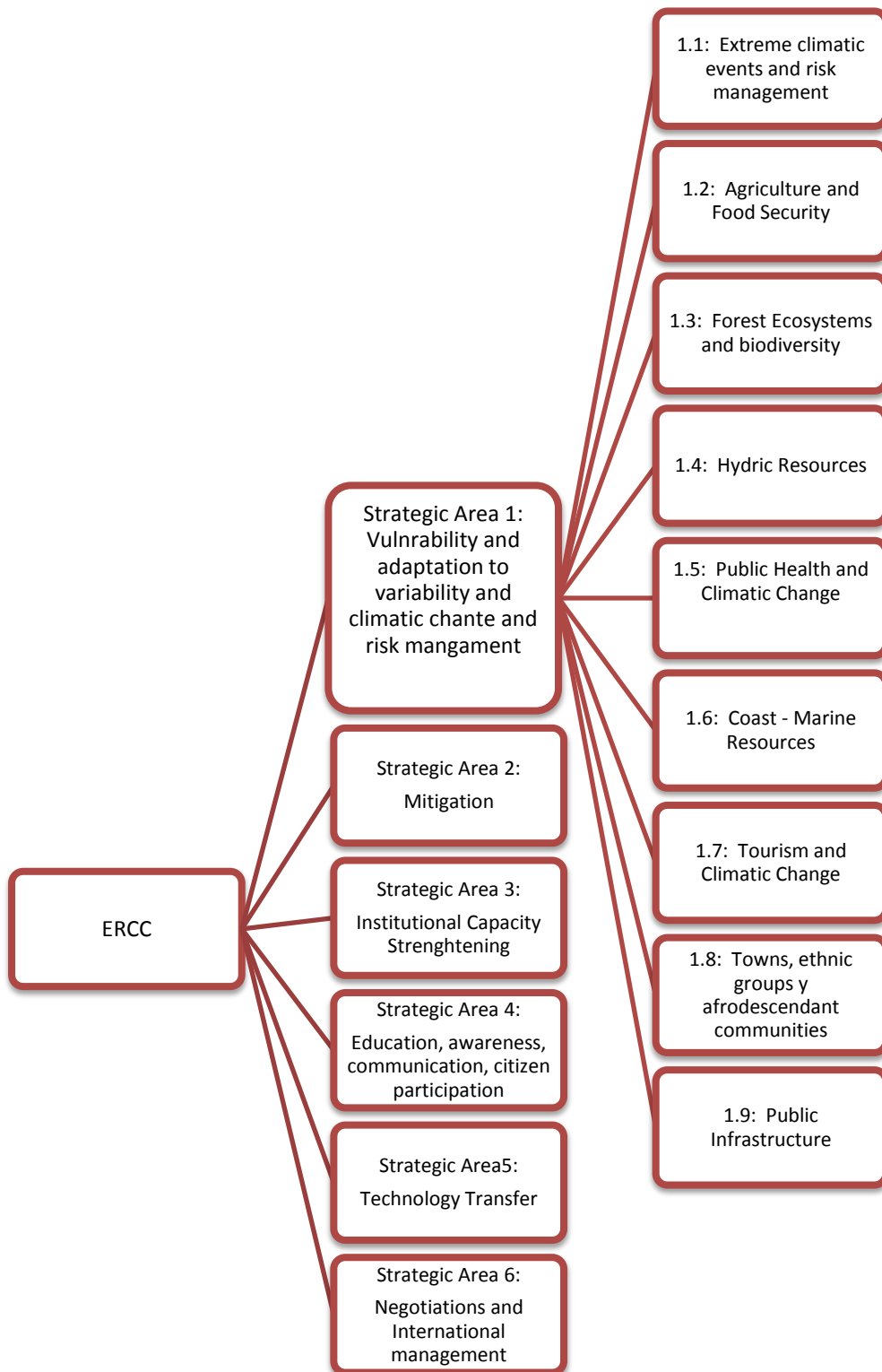
Part of the challenges recognized by the ERCC is the urgency to evidence the level of damages already suffered by the Central American region, at the same time to show the political will to carry out actions with the countries own resources in order to reduce the impact of the disasters related to climate.

As far as concrete actions go, the ERCC is organized according to "Strategic Areas" wherein strategic objectives and operation objectives and action lines are detailed. Next we present an organizational diagram that shows the thematic contents:

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<sup>40</sup> Complete document in: <http://cmpcc.org/acuerdo-de-los-pueblos/>

<sup>41</sup> Complete document in: <http://www.sica.int/busqueda/secciones.aspx?IdItem=55544&IdCat=48&IdEnt=879>



The expectation is that the commitments established in the ERCC are indeed fulfilled, which implies that the countries who are members of SICA (Sistema de Integración Centroamericana- Central American Integration System) will develop the implementation plans, this process must be done during the year

2011, guarantying a greater participation of the parties. It is important to emphasize that to this date there has not been any disposition, political will, financial resources, coordination among different countries and government structures to achieve acceptable levels of implementation of the strategy.

→ **Central American Policy for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR)<sup>42</sup>**

The contents have set specific responsibilities at the scope of the Institutionality of the Central American Integration System. Among the focal points of the PCGIR are: “environment and climate change”, which is stated in the following way: 1. Framework Harmonization of the policies and Risk-Water-Environment strategies. 2. Incorporation of the approach of risk management in Climatic Change.

→ **Central American Regional Environmental Plan (PARCA) 2010-2014<sup>43</sup>**

The Central American Regional Environmental Plan (PARCA) is a strategic instrument on environmental matter whose purpose is: “to carry out the added value of the regional environmental management, by giving support to countries in the application of the regional and national instruments on environmental management, and promoting the development of coordination agreements and mechanisms for the incorporation of the environmental dimension, to the agendas of SICA and regional authorities in charge of the policies and sectorial strategies.”<sup>44</sup> 2010-2014 PARCA proposes a management model with emphasis on Environment Governance, focused on the application and the fulfillment of the inter-sectorial agendas, processes and permanent programs, agendas and work plans based on the subsystem approach of SICA.

Among the general targets it is stated that “in the climatic change field, the attention is focused in the construction and application of the Agro-environmental and Health Regional Strategy (ERAS) and the Climatic Change Regional Strategy (ERCC) under the guidelines established in the Presidential Summit of May, 2008, in San Pedro Sula. The risk construction and the application of these strategies must be supported in a vast social agreement that involves private and public sectors, and that achieves new institutional arrangements that allow it to be a State policy of a broad citizen consensus.”<sup>45</sup>

In PARCA, the Strategic Area 4 exclusively refers to “Adaptation and mitigation of climatic change and environmental risk management”. Its purpose is that the citizens and the governments of the region become aware of the threats and the opportunities that the climatic change represents, and to diminish its vulnerability to disasters, to promote adaptation and to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases based on the Climatic Change Regional Strategy.

In the case of Nicaragua, considering that the national authorities have clearly stated that Nicaragua has no interest in the carbon markets or the offsets, whereas it is established in PARCA as a central theme the opening of these markets.

**REDD-CCAD-GIZ<sup>46</sup> Program:**

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<sup>42</sup> Complete document in: <http://www.crid.or.cr/digitalizacion/pdf/spa/doc18011/doc18011-contenido.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> Complete document in:  
<http://www.sica.int/busqueda/Centro%20de%20Documentaci%C3%B3n.aspx?IDItem=43702&IdCat=32&IdEnt=2&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1>

<sup>44</sup> *CCAD Spreading Document.*

<sup>45</sup> Pp.17.

<sup>46</sup> Official website: <http://www.reddccadgiz.org/>

This program is under the direction of CCAD, with the financial support of GIZ German Technical Cooperation and specifically refers to the mechanism that is called within the context of the UNFCCC “Emission Reduction by Deforestation and Forest Degradation” (REDD). It has a 6 year term, valid until September, 2015 and the total amount reaches 12 million Euro for the 8 countries members of SICA.

To this date workshops of planning have been carried out, in each of the countries members of SICA, which allowed creating a National Plan for the first stage of the program, with the purpose that this works as the base to create an Operational Plan, tentatively for the year 2011, which will have specific activities with a budgetary allocation.

### **Energy and Environment Partnership with Central America (AEA-SICA-CCAD)<sup>47</sup>**

Brings support mainly to projects to generate solar energy, wind power, small hydroelectric power stations, bio-energy and geothermic; in coordination with governmental institutions, NGOs and private sector.

Among its main targets are:

- To promote the sustainable use of renewable energy sources and clean technology through the development of accessible energy facilities, for the less fortunate groups in the rural areas of the region.
- To support the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

According to the status of the projects published on the web<sup>48</sup> until April 2010, Nicaragua has currently 6 approved projects.

### **Regional Political Declarations**

#### → **Regional Agreement on Climatic Changes<sup>49</sup>**:

Signed by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, on October 29, 1993, in Guatemala City, with the purpose to establish regional mechanisms related to the subject.

#### → **Antigua Declaration of the Presidents of the Legislative Commissions on Environment and Natural Resources of Central-America on Climatic Change<sup>50</sup>**

Signed on September 30, 2009, by the Commissions of Environment and Natural Resources of the Legislative Assemblies of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama (CICAD) in the city of Antigua, Guatemala.

#### → **Joint Declaration on Climatic Change of the Presidents of the Justice Bodies of Central-America.<sup>51</sup>** **Signed by the Presidents of the Justice bodies of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and the Central American Court of Justice in the city of Tegucigalpa,**

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<sup>47</sup>Official website : <http://www.reddccadgiz.org/elprograma.php>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.sica.int/busqueda/Centro%20de%20Documentaci%C3%B3n.aspx?IDItem=28437&IdCat=32&IdEnt=117&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1>

<sup>49</sup> Complete document in:

<http://www.sica.int/busqueda/Centro%20de%20Documentaci%C3%B3n.aspx?IDItem=1255&IdCat=7&IdEnt=2&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1>

<sup>50</sup> Complete document in:

<http://www.sica.int/busqueda/Centro%20de%20Documentaci%C3%B3n.aspx?IDItem=41603&IdCat=32&IdEnt=879&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1>

<sup>51</sup> Complete document in:

<http://www.sica.int/busqueda/Centro%20de%20Documentaci%C3%B3n.aspx?IDItem=24465&IdCat=30&IdEnt=2&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1>

**Honduras, on April 22, 2008 with the occasion of the celebration of “Earth’s day” and in preparation to the Presidential Summit that would be carried out in San Pedro Sula.**

**Common Position on Climatic Change of the member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA)<sup>52</sup>:**

Expresses the intention to advance in regional positioning facing the agreements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In this common position the countries recognize the high vulnerability of the region; the need to advance in the implementation of the Climate Change Regional Strategy (ERCC) in coordination with the policies and national plans including it in the strategic and operative planning.

**C. National:**

**National Plan on Human Development (Updated 2009-2011)<sup>53</sup>**

The National Plan on Human Development includes some aspects related to the climatic change in the following sections:

- ❖ Strategy for prevention, mitigation and disaster attention
- ❖ Agricultural, livestock and forest strategy.

**Environmental and Climatic Change National Strategy (ENACC) – Action Plan 2010-2015:**

The “Environmental and Climatic Change National Strategy for the Common Good of Mother Earth and the Nicaraguans”, was presented on April 6 2010. This document constitutes the first strategy openly related to the climatic change, created by the country’s government and proposes a 5-year plan.

ENACC proposes 5 strategic guidelines: 1. Environmental Education for life; 2. Defense, environmental and natural resource protection; 3. Preservation, recovery, collecting and harvest of water sources; 4. Mitigation, adaptation and risk management before climatic change; 5. Sustainable land management.

Finally, an Action Plan is established (according to the strategic guidelines), in which there is not enough clarity on what projects will fund the actions, except for a very general outline.

Some of the opinions gathered in consultation workshops, clearly express their concerns on the ENACC: “The strategy presents voids in relation to the role of other actors, general budgets, local participation, concrete general targets, indicator monitoring system, contradictions with current actions like the use of hydrocarbon and urea, but it is an instrument that must be used as a base for each territory, each local government and interested actors discuss on how to integrate the action development plans deriving from each central theme, according to the municipality’s problems.”<sup>54</sup>

→ **Law of Reforms and Additions to the “General Environment and Natural Resources Law” (Law 647)<sup>55</sup>**

Approved on February 13 2008, includes Section XIII called “Climatic Change Management” which establishes that the executive power must formulate and promote a Climatic Change Adaptation Policy, with the purpose of incorporating adaptation and mitigation in the sectorial plans.

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<sup>52</sup> Complete document in: <http://www.sica.int/busqueda/Noticias.aspx?IDItem=55242&IDCat=3&IdEnt=879>

<sup>53</sup> Complete document in: <http://www.pndh.gob.ni/>

<sup>54</sup> Memoria “Foro Departamental Cambio Climático y Desarrollo Local”. Chinandega, 9 de agosto 2010. ANACC, ASODEL y MARENA.

<sup>55</sup> Complete document in: [http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/%28\\$All%29/3931522956B885A30625744E00548B32?OpenDocument](http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/%28$All%29/3931522956B885A30625744E00548B32?OpenDocument)

### III. Study of Cases:

#### A. Nicaragua's participation on parallel processes to the climate negotiations: the case of the Forestal Carbon Fund for the Forests (FCPF) and the creation of the Deforestation and Forest Degradation National Strategy (RPP/ENDE):

As the World Bank's own definition states, the FCPC attempts to be a complement of the negotiations on REDD+ that are given in the CMNUCC. However, critical studies on the FCPF dynamic like the one carried out by FERN and Forest Peoples Programme on February 2011, indicate that "through the FCPF, the World Bank is setting the post-Cancun agenda, on how the forests are integrated in global climatic regime, how will REDD be implemented and how the funding is going to be originated. Therefore, it is a matter of great concern that this analysis has discovered that the political debate of the FCPF on 2010, has been distinguished for a progressive decrease of the requirements to respect social and environmental rules. This appears to be a result of the combined pressure of the REDD countries that resist to strict social and environmental rules, and the important donors that want a quick fund outlay. The attempt of the FCPF to create a credit market of forest carbon, even before such decision is taken at UNFCCC level, shows the Bank's eagerness to create a new market, in spite of the total lack of proofs that such market works out for forests, towns and an increasing body that evidences that it will not." <sup>56</sup>

To understand the financial structure of this fund, it must be said that the World Bank acts as a funding entity for the Readiness and the Carbon Fund (both funds integrate the FCPF), provides Secretariat services and implements the FCPF through the technical support for the REDD participating countries, and conducts the process in matter of fiduciary policies and environmental and social safeguards.

To this date, 37 countries are part of this REDD package of the World Bank, of which 14 are from Africa, 15 from Latin-America and the Caribbean, 8 from Asia and the Pacific. During the first stage, in which the draft of the proposal is prepared for REDD (Readiness Preparation Proposal, RPP), the Bank offers an amount of 200,000 dollars in quality of donation. Then, once the review of the proposal has been done and its approval, the Bank offers a Readiness donation agreement of an amount up to 3.6 million dollars for each country for the implementation of the package established in the RPP.

There are 16 major financial contributors among them: French Development Agency, Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Nature Conservancy, The Netherlands Kingdom, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. These contributors have promised the FCPF about 350 million dollars (200 million for the Readiness Fund and 145 million for the Carbon Fund).

According to the FCPF web, "to this date the FCPF emphasis has been the REDD+ Readiness, although it is expected that the Carbon Fund, which will make the payments for the verified emission reduction of the REDD+ programs in the countries that have accomplished it or that have made a considerable progress towards REDD+ Readiness, is launched during 2011 as a public-private alliance. The FCPF cooperates closely with other initiatives, particularly with the United Nations Program UN-REDD established by the FAO, UNDP AND UNEP and with the Forests Investment Program jointly administrated by the Multilateral Development Banks"<sup>57</sup>. It is very clear that the 3 entities (FCPC, UN-REDD AND FIP) which currently concentrate the biggest funding for REDD+, are working together and constitute the REDD+ practice mechanism.

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<sup>56</sup> *Smoke and mirrors. A critical assessment of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.* Kate Dooley, Tom Griffiths, Francesco Martone and Saskia Ozinga. FERN and Forest People Programme, February 2011. Pp.32.  
Documento íntegro en: <http://www.fern.org/smokeandmirrors>

<sup>57</sup> [http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Sep2010/FCPF\\_About\\_US\\_Spanish.pdf](http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Sep2010/FCPF_About_US_Spanish.pdf)

It is important to point out that in May 31<sup>st</sup> 2011, the World Bank launched the CARBON FUND in the Carbon Expo in Barcelona, which complements the READINESS FUND. Its obvious purpose is to establish carbon markets for REDD+. Different civil society organizations pronounced about it, indicating that this lounge is early, and that it will affect the READINESS process promoted by the Bank itself, since it will put additional pressure to speed up the process, since financial incentives will be offered to the countries that promptly enter the CARBON FUND.

## NICARAGUA'S PARTICIPATION

Regarding Nicaragua's participation, to this date the country has informally presented its RPP-ENDE proposal called "REDD+ Preparation Stage Proposal in the framework of national efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation (ENDE) in Nicaragua."<sup>58</sup> The Nicaraguan Alliance Against Climatic Change (ANNAC – *Alianza Nicaraguense ante el Cambio Climatico*) after finding out that Nicaragua was already compromised to FCPF and in the process of the making of its proposal, carried out a detailed analysis of the second draft contents which was presented in January, 2011, having announced that Nicaragua was already a part of this REDD initiative, directly promoted from the government authorities, since that had not been openly or officially announced.

Later, ANNAC had the third draft of the Readiness proposal for Nicaragua<sup>59</sup> in wherein it also published the assessments that we will now share and that were announced in May 13<sup>th</sup> 2011. In the FCPF web site the fourth reviewed version can be found <sup>60</sup> dated May 30<sup>th</sup> 2011. During the month of June the presentation of the draft proposal was carried out in the FCPF. This is a specific example of incidence actions of the national networks on the climatic change subject and particularly regarding our forest resources, which is why we consider important to share this ANACC's considerations:

### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. The diagnose situation offered in the examined document does not include the structural causes of deforestation and degradation in the forests of Nicaragua.
2. It does not identify the actors involved in the reality that is happening in relation to the forests, therefore it does not offer action proposals that contribute to revert the current deforestation and degradation. The proposal should examine and improve this aspect.
3. For the government and all the nation, to negotiate the REDD strategy without substantively advancing in accordance to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change (UNFCCC) , weakens the position of the countries of the south regarding the north ones. Particularly in the sense of demanding bigger efforts to the last ones to diminish their greenhouse effect gases (GHG).
4. In response to the market derived from the approach of the situation, REDD pretends to exonerate the Countries from Annex 1 from the responsibility of the reduction of emissions in

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<sup>58</sup> Documento integro en: <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/NI>

<sup>59</sup> Documento integro en: <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/node/76>

<sup>60</sup> Documento integro en:  
<http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/May2011/Nicaragua%20Revised%20draft%20RPP-May%2031%2C%202011.pdf>

the source. If anything, to try to locate the problem in the countries with lower levels of GHG emissions.

5. The consultation process for the preparation of the three (3) drafts of the RPP/ENDE proposal, presented by Nicaragua before the FCPF, has been insufficient and very partial.
6. The respect for the right to a previous consultation to the elaboration of the strategy and the need to be previously informed.
7. The indigenous peoples reiterate the necessity of a bigger and better representation in the whole process.
8. The consultation process must add –besides the risk management of disasters approach– particularly the ones that derive from the adverse effects to climatic change, the comprehensive management approach of hydric resource and among generations.
9. The gender equity approach must be incorporated to the National Strategy.
10. The consultation process must be developed on active and operative structures in a territorial scope.
11. The preparation proposal of the REDD+ process (R-PP) does not thoroughly approach the direct and essential causes of deforestation.
12. There is no compatibility and coherence between the Human and Social Development National Plan (PNDH) and the Environment and Climatic Change National Strategy (ENACC) and the National Strategy of Avoided Deforestation (ENDE). The correct situation is that ENDE should be framed in ENACC and this to PNDH. ENDE is not even included in the PNDH.

As we mentioned before, Nicaragua carried out the informal presentation of this draft in session number 9 of the PC of FCPF in Oslo, Norway in June of this year. In the FCPF website<sup>61</sup> the fourth version of the proposal draft can be founded, as well as an assessment document made by Global Witness wherein the substantial assessments made by ANACC are included, which we consider to be highly positive since it transmits to the FCPF formal process some of those valuable contributions.

According to the approachments carried out by the Responsible Technician for the RPP/ENDE elaboration by MARENA, with who we had the chance to exchange criterions and opinions in the Second National Workshop on REDD organized by ANACC, the greatest interest for Nicaragua is sequestration, storage and increase of CO<sub>2</sub>. The proposal is a forest adaptive code, to generate our own model outside the negotiations, to implement REDD. And who exposed that Nicaragua “Is officially not in favor of the REDD markets”, but recognizes that REDD+ has lifted the forestal sector profile.”

What lies ahead will be of great importance for the administration of valuable forest resources of the country, which is why we insist that this process includes a broad and effective active participation of the different actors of the civil society who are involved, and even more of the dependent communities of the forests among them indigenous peoples and local communities.

## **B. Relevant Funding for programs and projects associated to climatic change in Nicaragua:**

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<sup>61</sup> <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/node/76>

Actors according to the source of their funds	Total Number of Projects and Percentage	Criterion according to approach					
		Adaptation	Regional Mitigation	Regional Adaptation	Multifocal	Convention Convergence	Mitigation
Funding Multilateral Institutions	46(31%)	11	2	1	2	4	26
Private Companies	4 (3%)	0	0	0	0	0	4
Official Cooperation Agencies	67 (44%)	4	0	3	5	0	55
Non-Financial Multilateral Agencies (EU)	15 (10%)	4	0	5	3	0	3
International NGOs	20 (13%)	11	0	5	1	0	3
Total	152 (100%)	30	2	14	11	4	91
%	100%	20%	2%	10%	8%	3%	60%

Summary of Results by Frequency.

Source: Environmental Incidence Area Analysis of Humboldt Center.

In this process we have obtained 152 projects in a global form, of which the biggest part comes from the funding of Cooperation Official Agencies followed by the Multilateral Funding entities as far as project quantity goes. Regarding the topical approach, 60% correspond to the projects for climatic change mitigation in Nicaragua, and most of them correspond to the energy sector for changes in the matrix and energetic efficiency of the country; only 20% corresponds to adaptation actions regarding the total quantity of the mapped projects. A consistent effort seems to be made on mitigation issues by the different investments related to the electrical generation matrix.

The national adaptation is strongly marked by the efforts of the international NGOs, that execute the projects through national NGOs and it has focused in the strengthening of capacities and political impact actions, such as the ones carried out by the members of ANACC (*Alianza Nicaraguense Ante el Cambio Climático*).

The multifocal projects include mitigation, adaptation, risk management and food security actions, and respond to 8% of the total of mapped projects. It is foreseen that there is an increase of these type of projects given to the transversalization of Climatic Change inside of the development initiatives and trying to include one or several main approachments directly related to climatic change (mitigation, adaptation, risk management, etc.).

Regarding the Sources of Funding, the multilateral Funding Institutions and the cooperation agencies for development, represent more than 70% of the funding for the mapped projects, which are essentially executed by government offices. Of the remaining amounts 26% correspond to Non-Financial Multilateral Agencies (EU: European Union) and International NGOs, mainly executed by Non Government Offices in relatively small amounts and with dispersion, only 3% corresponds to private sector investments, which are associated in a recovery process of their investments through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

and that correspond to big companies, contrary to the spirit of the Kyoto Protocol to create incentives that benefit small businessmen.

When analyzing the projects according to their financial modality, we find that only the Financial Institutions present credits, whether to private investment or the State of Nicaragua on mixed Investments, mostly directed to the energetic infrastructure sector (Mitigation) and which has been currently the direct Foreign Investment promoter, wherein according to the Pro Nicaragua Agency numbers the energy sector is located in the first place contributing in the year 2010 with about \$158.9 million dollars out of the \$508 millions on foreign investment (22%).

Financial Institutions that are frequently related with the grant of credits:

- » Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- » Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE)
- » World Bank

### **C. Nicaragua's participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change (UNFCCC):**

The first national communication of Nicaragua to the UNFCCC was carried out in July 25<sup>th</sup> 2001<sup>62</sup>, in which the year of 1994 is taken as reference, submitting the First National Inventory of Greenhouse Effect Gasses (INGEI).

The Second National Inventory of Greenhouse Effect Gases (INGEI) in spite that its first version was known in the year of 2008, as a result of a project executed by MARENA-UNDP (NIC Project 10-00036532 "Second Communication to Climatic Change") which was financed by the Global Environment Fund (GEF), however this has not been officially sent to the Convention and to this date, Nicaragua has not fulfilled its responsibility to officially present the Second National Communication.

### **Nicaragua in the process of international negotiations**

#### **Negotiating Groups:**

Regarding the process of international negotiations, Nicaragua belongs to four main negotiating groups in the framework of the UNFCCC, these are:

#### ***Grupo Latinoamerica (GRULAC) –Latin-America Group-:***

This negotiating group is formed by the states of Latin-America and the Caribbean, and corresponds to the usual practice of the United Nations to regionally organize the countries to reach a balanced representation in different instances of the negotiations.

Currently, this group is not very active in the international negotiations, however, it has a lot of relevance when it comes to the distribution of participating spaces in new instances created in the framework of the Convention.

#### **G77 Group plus China (G77):**

This group is formed based on the common interests of the country that integrate it, which are mostly developing countries. It currently has 131 members.

The G77's Presidency is currently held by Argentina.

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<sup>62</sup> Entire document in: [http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/library/items/3599.php?rec=j&prirref=3188#beg](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/library/items/3599.php?rec=j&prirref=3188#beg)

Just like GRULAC there are enormous asymmetries between the countries that integrate it, there are also oil countries which are solely oil importing or countries with high income and also some countries with the lower per capita income, which makes it difficult to reach a consensus and that all of the countries feel completely represented with their approaching.

» **Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America Group (ALBA)**

This group is formed according to the countries that integrate ALBA, among them Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Dominica, Ecuador, San Vicente y Las Granadinas, and Antigua y Barbuda. The ALBA is a strategic policy joint space of the aforementioned countries, which according to its own definition “has the fundamental historical purpose to unite the capacities and strengths of the countries that form it, in the perspective to produce the structural transformations and the necessary relations system to reach the comprehensive development required for the continuity of our existence as sovereign and fair nations”.

Nicaragua incorporates to the group during the Third Summit carried out in Managua in January 2007, under the presidency of Daniel Ortega Saavedra.<sup>63</sup> In the subject of climatic change it is important to highlight the following ALBA declarations:

- **Special Declaration on Climate Change of in the VII Summit of ALBA-TCP towards the XV Copenhagen Conference<sup>64</sup>**

This declaration is dated on October 17, 2009 and was made in the VII Summit carried out in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Like its own name indicates this was a joint declaration in preparation of the COP 15 carried out in Copenhagen.

- **Special Declaration on Climatic Change, Otavalo, 2010:<sup>65</sup>**

This declaration took place in the X ALBA Summit, carried out in Otavalo, Ecuador, on June 25<sup>th</sup> of 2010. Is a declaration that politically supports the results of the First World Conference of the Peoples on Climatic Change and Rights of Mother Earth, carried out in April 2010 in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and where approximately 35,000 of 140 countries participated. Further on we will refer to the approachments of the Peoples Summit.

This position is previous to the COP 16, carried out in Cancun, and it alerts that the new negotiation facilitators’ proposals eliminate the main proposals of the developing countries grouped in G77 + China, and promote an even worse version. In this declaration it is denounced that they “are a reinforced Copenhagen Accord” that pretends to violate the Convention’s principles, eliminate the Kyoto Protocol, to soften the commitments on emission reduction of the developed countries, and to divide the developing countries by classifying them in more and less vulnerable to climatic change.”

They demand that the proposals of the “Peoples Conference” were included in the process of negotiation in Cancun.

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<sup>63</sup> <http://www.alternativabolivariana.org/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=1>

<sup>64</sup> Complete document in:

<http://www.alba-tcp.org/contenido/declaraci%C3%B3n-especial-sobre-cambio-clim%C3%A1tico-de-la-vii-cumbre-del-alba-%E2%80%93-tcp-con-miras-la-x>

<sup>65</sup> Entire document in: <http://www.alba-tcp.org/contenido/declaracion-especial-cambio-climatico-en-otavalo>

As we mentioned before, in spite of the strengths that ALBA may have as a bloc of countries, the truth is that in international negotiations on climatic change they seem to have diverging interests. The fact that only Bolivia determinedly opposed to the Cancun Agreements, called the attention, in spite of –according to what we read in the Otavalo Declaration- the ALBA countries understood that the body of negotiations advanced toward a “Reinforced Copenhagen”. Having knowledge of these declarations, maybe a bigger resistance to the agreements would have been expected by this bloc, and even more after what they did on COP 15 in Copenhagen where they achieve to block the negotiations and prevent the imposition of an agreement that was mainly presented by developed countries. We would have to be alert of the upcoming positionings, taking in to account that this is a crucial year for the continuity of the Kyoto Protocol. It remains to be seen if the ALBA bloc sustains its approachments with stronger vehemence and if Bolivia will not remain relegated again to a lonely role in the defense of Mother Earth.

#### **SICA group:**

Formed by countries that integrate the Central-America and Caribbean Integration System (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic) was recognized as a negotiation group in Copenhagen. It is not a very recognized group in the framework of the Convention.

#### **Authorities**

To this date (June 2011) the Designated Contact Point according to the website of the Convention<sup>66</sup> it is an officer from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources for the UNFCCC as well as for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). However, during COP 15 and COP 16, the Private Secretariat of the Presidency for Public Policies was the official responsible of the Nicaraguan delegation. Nicaragua was recently elected as a member of the Transitional Committee for the establishment of the Climatic Green Fund for the Latin-America and Caribbean region, the responsible person is the official of this Secretariat.

#### **D. Inexistence of the National Commission on Climatic Changes:**

According to the Ministerial Resolution No. 014-99<sup>67</sup>, approved on June 15<sup>th</sup> 1999, and published in La Gaceta No. 161 on August 24<sup>th</sup> 1999, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources resolved the creation of the Climatic Change Commission as a result of the contracted obligations in the UNFCCC. This commission, of indefinite duration, was established as “a national consultation instance between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the different instances and sectors of the Nicaraguan society”. Among its main functions we have:

- » To be an instance of consultation and recommendation on the activities related with climatic change, among others, source and drain inventories of the greenhouse effect gases; activities for the GHG emissions control; study, assessment and research of the impacts and possibilities of adaptation to climatic change.
- » To favor consensus at a national scope on strategies, programs, projects and actions to be developed in the subject of climatic change.
- » To participate in the elaboration of a national position in the international negotiations.

Sadly, to this date, more than 13 years have gone by without its functioning, in spite it was already formally constituted, which has unquestionably damaged the whole national process related to

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<sup>66</sup> <http://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/index.html>

<sup>67</sup> [http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/%28\\$All%29/362C00F592B0D31F0625725D005604BB?OpenDocument](http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/%28$All%29/362C00F592B0D31F0625725D005604BB?OpenDocument)

policies, laws, political positions and government actions related to climatic change, since this mandate has not been fulfilled and without any guarantee that it will.

This situation disables the effective participation of the Nicaraguan civil society in the process of political decisions on the topic, and represent an enormous institutional weakness on the subject for the country, which should be promptly corrected by the government in office, which is why we decided to include it as part of the case study, as a counterproductive experience at the national level.

E.Relevant Actors of the Civil Society in Nicaragua, examples of incidence actions and important lessons learned:

→ Sustainability Observatory (SUSWATCH) and the demonstrative actions of Climatic Change Adaptation: The Sustainability Observatory, Suswatch Latin-America, is formed by a group of organizations, civil society networks and Latin-American social movements, leaders in the climatic change topic and the ODM, that manage specialized technical information and that work together in national spaces and platforms to impact on public policies related to the subjects.

This network is formed by Latin-American organizations such as *Fundación Solar* (Guatemala), *Centro Humbolt* (Nicaragua and El Salvador), LIDEMA (Bolivia) and ACICAFOC - *Asociación Coordinadora Indígena y Campesina de Agroforestería Comunitaria*- (Indigenous and Community Based Agroforestry in Central America) (Honduras and Costa Rica). In Nicaragua, Centro Humboldt is the national focal point of the network and it also practices the regional facilitation.

SUSWATCH, since 2008 has been promoting this approach as an effective alternative to face the climatic change with environmental and social responsibility, at a local scale, national and regional, through the execution of actions that contribute to the development of capacities for the adaptation exercise, and at the same time to strengthen the community organization to face the challenges on climatic change.

Demonstrative actions, is a concept that the SUSWATCH Net has been promoting since 2008, and it refers to the execution of small projects of climatic change adaptation in Central-American communities which are selected under the following criterions:

1. That the community reflects a high poverty indicator
2. That the community is located in a high risk zone before the impacts of natural phenomena.
3. That it is a zone far from the main cities or its county seat.
4. That the community is already organized under a structure that determines leadership and enables the execution of any socio-environmental project.

The purpose of executing these projects is to show to the national governments, cooperation agencies and private sector, that with few resources, coordinated work and good initiatives that good actions can be carried out which contribute to the preparation of the more impoverished communities to face the negative effects of climatic change in harmony with the environment and the natural resources of the locality.

Because these actions do not need great financial investments, the community itself can collaborate so that other localities can carry out their replica with great simplicity, since additionally these actions have integrated the capacity strengthening in the beneficiaries for the making of:

- Joint diagnosis to determine the needs of immediate adaptation.

- Training for transmitting an adequate and understandable information on concepts related to climatic change (where the gender equity is included).
- Identification of those practices known by the communities and that are put on practice to arrest the environmental damage.

## **EXPERIENCE IN NICARAGUA: SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION IN LA LABRANZA COMMUNITY No. 2**

Located in the Estelí Department, Nicaragua, *La Labranza* No. 2 is a peasant producer community which main activity is agriculture and cattle farming in a small scale. The community is settled in the highlands of the country's interior with inclines higher than 45 degrees. The number of families that inhabit the community is 555.

### **THE SITUATION:**

One of the main problems that the community faces is the low agricultural productivity; some of the agricultural practices, the draught and the soil erosion are cutting down the local production, this generates a dependency of the food products brought from the city, which displace the traditional foods of the area and bring about the abandonment of the few good agricultural practices that conserve the natural resources. Due to the lack of knowledge and to inadequate application practices that directly impact the soil results in a quick and fast erosion and degradation of this resource.

Since several years ago, the soil misuse has provoked the loss of fertility of the soil and this translates in low production yield which causes economic instability and food insecurity for the peasant families that inhabit the area.

### **DEMONSTRATIVE ACTION:**

In the period between 2010 and 2011, in La Labranza Community No. 2, SUSWATCH carried out demonstrative actions of climatic change adaptation focused on soil and water conservation, with the Peasant to Peasant Program collaboration PCAC of the National Agricultural and Cattle Farmers Union (UNAG).

The objective of the action was to contribute the adaptation of La Labranza to climatic change promoting a program of soil, water conservation and establishment of agro-forestry systems with 35 community families. Through the execution of this action there were promoted initiatives that contributed to establish diversified agro-forestry systems, according to the area conditions y requested by the target population.

To achieve good results the people of the community received talks and permanent training in which they learned to build systems of live and dead barriers to protect and conserve the soil; and at the same time these systems, in a short term, will increase the family income, because through these actions, the diversified and sustainable production was encouraged.

35 families will participate in the action (210 people average) basic grain producers in its majority, and sustain one property of 4 to 5 blocks of soil. These families are coordinated and organized with an autonomous communitarian committee support in their decisions and initiatives, which gave a follow-up of the work.

## **THE RESULTS:**

After almost a year of attending to the La Labranza No. 2 Community, it has been achieved:

To start a climatic change adaptation process, through the improvement on the soils management, fertility and the establishment of agro-forest systems.

35 families of the La Labranza No.2 community compromised to monitor and maintain the works of soil and water conservation works in their plot.

At least 20 families of the La Labranza No. 2 community compromised to monitor and to establish agro-forest systems in their farms.

The experience in La Labranza No. 2 becomes a replicable model in other zones in the municipality as well as outside of it, as a measure of adaptation to climatic change.

To arise the interest of other producers inside and outside the community, to reproduce the experience in their plots and community.

The community work is strengthened in La Labranza No. 2

The alliance work with the Peasant to Peasant Program of the UNAG is strengthened.

“Our experience has been successful; the peasants of the communities understand that we must say zero chemicals, zero plastics, zero contamination and zero burnings. Orientation is given through radio, posters, banners and workshops that are made in the communities and through the population awareness is promoted through fairs and small markets.” Carmen Picado/Community Leader La Labranza 2.

Nicaraguan Alliance before Climatic Change (ANACC) and impact actions facing RIO+20

ANACC is a platform of Nicaraguan organizations that promotes at a national and central-american regional level, civil society positions facing the official one of our government on climatic change in the subject of national, central-american regional policies and international negotiations in the UNFCCC.

We have consider that is important, besides referring to ANACC’s contributions to the REDD+ topic, to indicate its contributions to the discussions and the country’s preparation in facing the Sustainable Development Summit, named RIO+20, making reference to two specific actions: the Conversatory “Rio + 20: towards the construction of a country report” done in the Universidad Evangelica de Nicaragua, on June 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, and the encounter held with the authorities of the Ministry of Environment (MARENA) as a result of said conversatory.

## **Nation Table for Risk Management -*Mesa Regional para la Gestión de Riesgo- (MNGR)* and the National Education Policy:**

It has its origins in the occasion impacts by the Mitch Hurricane, creating this organization that specifically deals with the subject related to Risk Management as a priority in the public agenda. It currently represents a space of discussion and programmatic articulation among its members. It is recognized by the civil society, cooperation and national government as a valid interlocutor with capacity and positioning on the subject of risk management. Among the MNGR’s challenges are the joint of efforts between the problems generated by climatic change and risk management.

Regional Networks and Regional Forum: “Vulnerable Central America United for Life” –“*Centroamérica Vulnerable Unida por la Vida*”

With the production of this fórum on October 27th and 28th 2010 in Managua, the coordination of criterions and opinions among different networks was accomplished, to build a joint position document, that was finally taken to the COP 16. The Sustainability Observatories Network (SUSWATCH) as well as ANACC and MNGR played an important role in the effort to favor this space of exchange among

organizations that even have different positions about some subjects, however, they managed to agree in other relevant aspects of the international negotiations.

The perspectives facing 2011 are the strengthening of said coordination and continuing with the efforts to build joint positions that can be later promoted by this wide range of organizations in their countries and directly with their official delegations, as well as during COP. Among the organizations and member networks we have: *Coordinadora Indígena de Mesoamérica y el Caribe (CIMCA)*, *Jubileo Sur Américas*, *Concertación Regional para la Gestión del Riesgo (CRGR)*, *Observatorio de la Sostenibilidad-Red Latinoamérica (SUSWATCH-LA)*, *Alianza Social Continental (ASC)*, *Campaña Mesoamericana de Justicia Climática*, *ACT-Alianza*, *Programa de Fortalecimiento de Capacidades en Gestión de Riesgo (PFC-GR)* y *Alianza Nicaragüense ante el Cambio Climático (ANACC)*.

**1.- National and Regional Preparatory Meetings.**

**2.- Elaboration of Documents for the Encounter**

**3.- Meetings with the Cooperation**

**4.- Logistic actions and others**

**5.-Communication Actions (Press Conferences, TV spot, Posters, Banners, Etc)**

The encounter had the participation of regional network leaders, social movements, community leaders, indigenous peoples, NGO leaders, academy and members of the international cooperation entities. During the first day the participation of 210 persons was registered (119 men and 91 women) and during the second day 191 persons were registered (106 men and 85 women).

In summary, among the main findings, conclusions and learning of this forum, that is about to be repeated in its second edition during the year 2011 and in preparation of the intersessional to be carried out in Panama, we have:

Its members have positively valued the fact that there was synergy among the Networks, NGO and Social Movements, which happens very few times in the region.

The addresses that were carried out during the event are conclusive in a sense that more commitments by the government are required, to avoid the climatic catastrophe in the planet.

It is necessary to spread more information to the communities.

A weakness that was detected in the agreements assumed by the Networks is related to the follow-up mechanisms.

The presence of Indigenous peoples in the event was very important for the discussion, analysis y REDD proposals.

The political positioning of the event was given to the governments of the region and SICA entities, which includes in its official position towards COP 16, several approachments and demands of the participating OSC in the regional encounter.

## **2. Lessons: success and challenges**

During the making of the mapping, we have done some important findings regarding the state of the policies, strategies and national laws on the climatic change subject. As a general evaluation we must say that the increasing impact of disasters related to the climatic variability and climatic change,

suggestively indicate that in spite of all of the declaratory and elaborated plans up to this date, we have not yet achieved that Nicaragua truly heads towards to a process that permits to face these impacts, having as an essential priority the life quality of the most vulnerable communities and the urgency to build national capacities to face this global phenomena of which sadly, we are not responsible for.

Here we present some **conclusions and findings:**

There is an increasing interest of the government institutions, at a national as well as Central-American regional scale, for the aggravation of the global climatic crisis.

This complex body of rules, policies and strategies do not share a common vision, and therefore do not respond to a joint body that offers comprehensive answers to the problem.

The level of advance that the international negotiations on climatic change have not had the timing that the governments of the region expected, and therefore the access to additional financial resources has been limited. The perspectives of the access to funding as a result of the global process of negotiation are scarce, and the possibility to materialize the strategy with their own funds is minimum.

The main funding sources that have been identified include: Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and the funds that come from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) established for the Kyoto Protocol, in which Nicaragua has several projects with low significant amounts in relation the climatic crisis.

Some sectors, different from the strictly environmental sector, have started to show interest on the subject and its particular affections, however it a bigger involvement and commitment are required from the different sectors of the national life, to reach comprehensive answers on the subject.

The participation in the different creation processes of strategies, plans and programs, has been insufficient and an absence of permanent participation instances is perceived, even the ones established by decree, such as the Climatic Change Commission. Currently there is not a formal interlocution space between the guilds, social movements, networks and government institutions responsible for the negotiations.

Political declarations at the scope of the Central-America are reached, but without having a true impact in the negotiations carried out within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change, including the recognition of the region as highly vulnerable and the financial resources management for adaptation actions. The existence of three members from Central America (Belize, Nicaragua and El Salvador) in the Transitional Committee for the establishment of the Green Climatic Fund opens the possibility of an effective management of financial resources.

The SICA countries in the “Panama Declaration” of 2010 compromised to “instruct the Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers and the Council of Ministers of Environment to recognize the region as highly vulnerable in the negotiation text, according to the IPCC reports”, which was finally not accomplished. However in the XXXVI Regular Meeting of Heads of State and the Government of SICA<sup>68</sup> carried out in December, showed the results of the COP 16 carried out in Mexico: “on the subject of adaptation, funding and technology”, without recognizing that the countries of the region were not capable to

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<sup>68</sup> Documents in :

<http://www.sica.int/busqueda/Reuniones%20Grupo%20de%20Autoridades.aspx?IDItem=55995&IDCat=9&IdEnt=401&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1>

achieve an effective recognition of the region's vulnerability, which was clearly settled in the Panama Declaration. Nicaragua was not present in that Meeting and did not sign the document therefore.

Regrettably, in spite of the existence of a Environment and Climatic Change National Strategy the country has not achieved to build an Adaptation Policy (expressly regulated in the reforms of Law 217), and even more the National Adaptation Plans established in the UNFCCC, that will promote the concrete actions demanded by the most vulnerable communities.

Nicaragua is the only country of the Central-American region which is currently a member of the ALBA bloc, which acts as a group in the UNFCCC negotiations.

We positively value that the authorities which are bonded to the making of "REDD+ Preparation Proposal" (RPP/ENDE) in the World Bank framework, have stated that Nicaragua does not aim to the establishment of carbon markets as "offsets" for the reduction of emissions derived from deforestation and degradation. However, we warn that the World Bank's own dynamic and the FCPF is oriented to the establishment of such market mechanisms which is confirmed with the recent launch of the Carbon Fund, so that the authorities proceed in a cautious manner if they don't want to be absorbed by this dynamic. Also, it is important to point out the existing contradiction between this national political approach and what is established in PARCA 2010-2014, in which the carbon market opening is expressly stated for REDD+.

The second National Communication of Nicaragua has not been officially communicated to the Convention, after being subjected to a long process of unsubstantial adjustments.

The instance to deal with the climatic change subject at a regional scope is the Technical Commission for Climatic Change, wherein clear mechanisms are not established for the participation of the civil society, and which also does not work with the required regularity. Regarding the Climatic Change General Direction we have discovered that because of its reduced dimension and the scarcity of available financial resources has limited capacities to face the topic complexity and the urgency of the measures that must be taken.

Next, some **recommendations**:

To make an important political effort to join this multiplicity of documents, policies, programs, strategies and rules related to climatic change, to be able to transform them in practical, concrete and specific orientations, truly work as national priority central themes.

The Central-American Region and mainly SICA, as a negotiating group, must act with more belligerence in the negotiations that are carried out under the UNFCCC, vehemently demanding the recognition of the region as highly vulnerable (together with the less developed countries or the small island countries) to achieve an additional financial resource flow, which has to be demanded even internally in the different negotiating blocs (such as ALBA, G77+China, Rainforest Nations, etc).

It is still essential that the Central-American Countries and particularly Nicaragua vehemently defend, within the UNFCCC framework, the establishment of a second period of commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and the negotiation of binding agreements under the LTC (Long Term Cooperation) that are oriented to ambitious goals on greenhouse effect gas emission reduction.

It is essential to develop National Adaptation Plans.

A bigger transparency must exist by national authorities on the political decisions defended in the international negotiations, opening dialogue spaces and open citizen discussion, that allow to build a collective conscience of the problem and its solutions.

The Second National Communication of Nicaragua must be sent as soon as possible.

The preparation process of REDD+ under the FCPF of the World Bank must be carefully done, truly analyzing the impacts of that the REDD projects may have in the environment's quality and in the quality of the communities that live or depend on the forests. It must be submitted to a public, open and sincere discussion, which is why we urge the national authorities to open a specialized space on the subject to receive contributions and inputs of the different sectors involved on the topic.

The Technical Commission of Climatic Change of CCAD/SICA must normalize its work and have an opening to a more effective participation of the civil society.