

## Air Quality Policies

This document is based on research that UNEP conducted in 2015, in response to Resolution 7 of the UNEA 1. It describes country-level policies that impact air quality. Triple question marks (???) indicate that information for the section couldn't be found.

Please review the information, and provide feedback. A Word version of the template can be provided upon request. Corrections and comments can be emailed to [Vered.Ehsani@unep.org](mailto:Vered.Ehsani@unep.org) and [George.Mwaniki@unep.org](mailto:George.Mwaniki@unep.org).

<b>NICARAGUA</b>		
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	<b>CURRENT / PLANNED POLICIES &amp; PROGRAMMES</b>
GENERAL OVERVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Overall situation with respect to air quality in the country, including key air quality challenges:</b> key sources of air pollution are high use of fuelwood for cooking (rural areas) and growing vehicle use (urban areas)</li> <li>● <b>Air quality monitoring system:</b> No</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>National Ambient air quality standards:</b> PM10 and Ozone meet WHO Interim Targets; SO2 and NO2 do not meet; No PM2.5 standard</li> <li>● <b>National Air Quality Policy:</b> No. Government preparing guidelines for one</li> <li>● <b>Air Quality legislation / programmes:</b> main legal framework on environment is in Law No 217 “Natural Resources and Environment General Law”; Nicaraguan Criminal Code has chapter on Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes, to punish criminal acts against the environment including air pollution</li> <li>● <b>Other:</b></li> </ul>
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM INDUSTRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Industries that have the potential to impact air quality:</b> chemicals, petroleum refining</li> <li>● <b>GDP of country:</b> \$12 billion</li> <li>● <b>Industries’ share of GDP:</b> 25%</li> <li>● <b>Electricity sources:</b> Petrol (79%); hydro (9%); geothermal (9%); biomass; gas; wind</li> <li>● In 2015, officials say that about 50% of electricity is being generated by renewables (hydro, geothermal and wind), with more being planned</li> <li>● 28% of electricity lost during transmission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Emission regulations for industries:</b> environmental permit required, emission limits</li> <li>● <b>Small installation’s emissions regulated:</b> (Yes/No) ???</li> <li>● <b>Renewable energy investment promoted:</b> renewable energy law provides for economic incentives and priority rights, including exemption from import taxes, VAT and 7 years income tax; goal of 94% of electricity from renewable energy by 2017 (ex Tumarin Hydro project will be completed by 2016 and could provide 50% of country’s electricity on its own)</li> <li>● <b>Energy efficiency incentives:</b> No</li> <li>● <b>Incentives for clean production and installation of pollution prevention technologies:</b> ???</li> <li>● <b>Actions to ensure compliance with regulations:</b> (monitoring, enforcement, fines etc) ???</li> <li>● <b>Other actions at national, sub-national and / or local level to reduce industry emissions:</b> ???</li> </ul>
REDUCE EMISSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Key transport-related air quality challenges:</b> no emission standards, poor fuel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Vehicle emission limit:</b> None</li> </ul>

FROM TRANSPORT	quality, increased numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Fuel Sulphur content:</b> 5000 ppm</li> <li>● <b>Restriction on used car importation:</b> vehicles older than 10 years banned</li> <li>● <b>Actions to expand, improve and promote public transport and mass transit:</b> intra-city fare is fixed and subsidised; Inter-American Development Bank to finance improvement in public transport system; developing a National Transport Plan</li> <li>● <b>Actions to promote non-motorized transport:</b> (ex: include sidewalks and bike lanes in new road projects, car-free areas etc) ???</li> <li>● <b>Other transport-related actions:</b> ???</li> </ul>
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING OF AGRICULTURAL / MUNICIPAL WASTE (OUTDOOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Outdoor, open burning:</b> garbage, including toxic and heavy metal wastes, are often burned, especially in rural areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Legal framework:</b> (ex: is burning banned?) ???</li> <li>● <b>Actions to prevent open burning of municipal waste and / or agricultural waste:</b> ???</li> </ul>
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING OF BIOMASS (INDOOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Dominant fuels used for cooking and space heating:</b> 64% use solid fuels, mostly wood (92% in rural areas)</li> <li>● <b>Impact:</b> 700 deaths/year from indoor air pollution (100 from outdoor air pollution)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Indoor air pollution regulated:</b> No</li> <li>● <b>Promotion of non-grid / grid electrification:</b> 65% electrification rate; 32% in rural areas; some rural electrification projects have been carried out, usually with diesel mini-grids</li> <li>● <b>Promotion of cleaner cooking fuels and clean cook stoves:</b> renewable energy cookstove programme</li> <li>● <b>Other actions to reduce indoor biomass burning, or to reduce its emissions:</b> ???</li> </ul>

**Secondary Sources used in the research:** [https://energypedia.info/wiki/Nicaragua\\_Energy\\_Situation](https://energypedia.info/wiki/Nicaragua_Energy_Situation), [http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/04/23/000442464\\_20130423123344/Rendered/PDF/768940WP0P144500Nicaragua000ENGLISH.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/04/23/000442464_20130423123344/Rendered/PDF/768940WP0P144500Nicaragua000ENGLISH.pdf), <http://cleantechnica.com/2013/01/06/94-renewable-energy-by-2017-is-goal-for-nicaragua/>, <http://www.evwind.es/2015/03/11/nicaraguas-renewable-energy-revolution-picks-up-steam/50925>, <http://nicaraguadispatch.com/2013/06/managua-buses-enter-digital-era/>, <http://www.bnamericas.com/en/news/infrastructure/nicaragua-tenders-transport-consultancy-project>, [http://www.centralamericadata.com/en/article/home/Nicaraguas\\_20\\_Year\\_Plan\\_for\\_Transportation](http://www.centralamericadata.com/en/article/home/Nicaraguas_20_Year_Plan_for_Transportation), <http://www.cleanairinstitute.org/calidaddelaireamericalatina/cai-report-english.pdf>, [http://www.unep.org/Transport/new/PCFV/pdf/Maps\\_Matrices/LAC/matrix/LAC\\_FuelsVeh\\_June2015.pdf](http://www.unep.org/Transport/new/PCFV/pdf/Maps_Matrices/LAC/matrix/LAC_FuelsVeh_June2015.pdf), <http://latinlawyer.com/>,

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[http://www.who.int/quantifying\\_ehimpacts/national/countryprofile/en/#I](http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/national/countryprofile/en/#I)

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