

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 and George.Mwaniki@unep.org.

NICARAGUA		
GOALS	CURRENT STATUS	CURRENT / PLANNED POLICIES & PROGRAMMES
GENERAL OVERVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall situation with respect to air quality in the country, including key air quality challenges: key sources of air pollution are high use of fuelwood for cooking (rural areas) and growing vehicle use (urban areas) ● Air quality monitoring system: No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Ambient air quality standards: PM10 and Ozone meet WHO Interim Targets; SO2 and NO2 do not meet; No PM2.5 standard ● National Air Quality Policy: No. Government preparing guidelines for one ● Air Quality legislation / programmes: 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 ● Other:
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM INDUSTRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Industries that have the potential to impact air quality: chemicals, petroleum refining ● GDP of country: \$12 billion ● Industries’ share of GDP: 25% ● Electricity sources: Petrol (79%); hydro (9%); geothermal (9%); biomass; gas; wind ● In 2015, officials say that about 50% of electricity is being generated by renewables (hydro, geothermal and wind), with more being planned ● 28% of electricity lost during transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emission regulations for industries: environmental permit required, emission limits ● Small installation’s emissions regulated: (Yes/No) ??? ● Renewable energy investment promoted: 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) ● Energy efficiency incentives: No ● Incentives for clean production and installation of pollution prevention technologies: ??? ● Actions to ensure compliance with regulations: (monitoring, enforcement, fines etc) ??? ● Other actions at national, sub-national and / or local level to reduce industry emissions: ???
REDUCE EMISSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key transport-related air quality challenges: no emission standards, poor fuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vehicle emission limit: None

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

Secondary Sources used in the research: 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://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.cleanairinstitute.org/calidaddelaireamericalatina/cai-report-english.pdf>, http://www.unep.org/Transport/new/PCFV/pdf/Maps_Matrices/LAC/matrix/LAC_FuelsVeh_June2015.pdf, <http://latinlawyer.com/>,

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