

Country: <b>NICARAGUA</b>	Presenter: National Civil Defense System, National Civil Defense Directorate, Armed Forces of Nicaragua.		
<b>1. Experiences and Recent Disasters</b>			
Items	Events	People affected	Losses
<p>1.1 Major disasters over the past five years</p> <p>Events mentioned: 5</p> <p>Types of events: Floods: 1 Tropical Storms: 2 Hurricanes: 2</p>			
	Floods in the Pacific region (1995)	<p>Only overall figures were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,887 deaths</li> <li>• 386 injured</li> <li>• 427,640 displaced or otherwise affected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47,779 homes lost</li> <li>• US\$1.6 billion in losses</li> </ul>
	Hurricane Cesar (1996)		
	Tropical Storm Lili (1996)		
	Tropical Storm Andrew (1997)		
	Hurricane Mitch (1998)		
1.2 Impact of the disasters	Damage to homes and severe economic losses in agriculture, fishing, road infrastructure and the environment.		
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted	<p>Training and capacity-building projects, complemented in some cases with communications equipment, aimed at local authorities and volunteers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Regional Atlantic Basin Committees</li> <li>• 35 Municipal Committees</li> <li>• 17 Local Civil Defense Committees</li> <li>• Civil Defense Brigades</li> </ul> <p>Emergency Plans aimed at responding to various hazards.</p>		

1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities the country needs to reinforce	Specific legislation is a crucial requirement. International agencies must provide greater scientific and technical support as well as assistance to strengthen relevant organizations and improve information and education efforts.
1.5 Improvements in disaster reduction as a result of the IDNDR proclamation	National authorities and the general population have become more aware of the need for disaster reduction and preparedness, largely since 1994.
1.6 Success stories involving prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil defense organization and training project, North Atlantic Region.</li> <li>• Tsunami Early Warning Project.</li> <li>• “Managua the Vulnerable” Project.</li> </ul>
<b>2: Advances since the Launch of the IDNDR</b>	
2.1 National achievements	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>No integrated methodology is yet in place, but some Assessments have been carried out based on historical reconstructions. Priority municipalities have been identified.</p>
	<p>Structured mitigation plans:</p> <p>There are no specific mitigation plans, but there are emergency plans based on hazard mapping and other documents.</p>
	<p>Access to Early Warning:</p> <p>The Nicaraguan Territorial Studies Institute (INETER) monitors existing hazards and can provide warning to Civil Defense institutions.</p>
2.2 Obstacles the country faces in meeting the IDNDR objectives, and recommendations to overcome them	<p><i>Obstacle:</i></p> <p>There is no Civil Defense legislation.</p> <p><i>Recommendations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The United Nations should launch a campaign to promote up-to-date civil defense legislation, with emphasis on disaster prevention and mitigation.</li> <li>• Training and equipment should be provided to the relevant institutions.</li> </ul>
2.3 Information and Educational Campaigns	Information and dissemination projects have been launched, aimed at students and the general population, on appropriate measures and behaviour in the event of an emergency.
2.4 Links with policymakers, organizations and the media	There is good coordination with NGOs. A CEPREDENAC National Commission is also in operation. Project development is coordinated with international agencies such as the UNDP, OFDA, OAS, GTZ and ASDI.

2.5 Work with other sectors in incorporating disaster reduction into planning activities	Integration efforts have been by and large unsuccessful, due to the lack of the appropriate legislative framework.
2.6 Contributions at the international level	There is a lack of effective information exchange at the international level, although print material does arrive from a variety of sources.