

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON NICARAGUA / UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** Since 22 February 1952
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** Yes (2015-2019)
 - *Previous term:* 1989-1993.
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees and Commissions:** 3
 - Legal Committee (end of term: 39th session of the GC in 2017)
 - Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (end of term: 39th session of the GC in 2017)
 - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
4. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**

Ms Ruth Esperanza Tapia Roa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO since February 2016. She is also Ambassador to France and Portugal.

Previous Permanent Delegates: Mr Mauricio Lautaro Sandino Montes (September 2015 – February 2016); Ms Ruth Esperanza Tapia Roa (February 2014 and August 2015); Mr Mauricio Lautaro Sandino Montes (January 2011 to January 2014); Mr Carlos Enrique Corea Lacayo (January 2010 to December 2010).
5. **UNESCO Office in San José (Costa Rica):**

Since January 2014, **Ms María del Pilar Álvarez-Laso** (D-1, Mexico) is the Director of the Cluster Office in San José and UNESCO Representative to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama.
6. **Nicaraguan National Commission for UNESCO:**
(Comisión Nicaraguense de Cooperación con la UNESCO)
 - Established in 1952;
 - President (since 2011): Ms Miriam Raudez, Minister of Education;
 - Permanent Secretary (since 2014): Mr Miguel de Castilla Urbina.
7. **Personalities linked to the UNESCO activities** (Goodwill Ambassadors, Special Envoys, etc):
None
8. **UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks:** None
9. **Associated Schools: 14**

Nicaragua joined the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) in 1992. There are at present **14** ASP member institutions (1 nursery and pre-schools, 7 primary, 2 primary and secondary, and 4 teacher training institutions). The activities worked on by Nicaragua addressed the following themes: Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) including Climate Change and water, Intercultural Dialogue and Respect for Cultural Diversity.
10. **Category 2 Institutes and Centres:** None
11. **Biosphere Reserves:** 3
 - *Bosawas* (1997) is located in the north of the country, next to the frontier with Honduras. Together with three neighbouring protected areas of Honduras 'Río Patuca' National Park, 'Tawhaka'

Anthropological Reserve, and 'Río Plátano' Biosphere Reserve, it constitutes the so called 'Heart of the Mesoamerican Biocorridor', representing the largest protected area complex of tropical mountain moist forest north of the Amazon basin. As a cluster of existing protected areas it includes the Saslaya National Park, a complex of old volcanic peaks as 'Cerro Saslaya' and other peaks with 1,594 meters above sea level. Numerous small streams cascade from the mountains into the Rio Wani, which is an upper tributary of the Rio Prinzapolka. The biodiversity is extremely rich, with many rare or endangered species. The indigenous Mayangna and Miskitu groups live essentially from subsistence agriculture (maize, beans, rice, cacao, tuber), domestic animals raising and traditional medicine practices in their collective territories.

- *Río San Juan* (2003) is composed of seven protected areas and other adjacent territories. The biosphere reserve covers an important variety of ecosystems representative of tropical humid forests and wetlands, tidal marsh, coastal lagoons and estuaries which are important shelters for rare or threatened animals and plant genetic resources of the meso-American tropics. The vast size of the biosphere reserve, in addition to its proximity to neighbouring Costa Rica protected areas, and as part of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, guarantee an adequate area for preserving genetic diversity, free mobility of species, breeding and maintenance of major species such as the jaguar or american tiger (*Felis onca*), the tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) and the red and green parrot (*Psittacidae*).
- *Ometepe Island* (2010) is an island biosphere reserve in the biggest freshwater reservoir in the country, Cocibolca Lake or Lake Nicaragua. The site's name in the local Nahuatl language is "island of two hills", referring to its two volcanoes. The surrounding lake serves as an important source of freshwater, as well as habitat for exceptional species, e.g. freshwater sawfish, Nicaraguan freshwater shark and many others. The island is home to some 30,000 people and its rich pre-Columbian vestiges (petroglyphs, statues, ceramics) demonstrate its long history of human settlements.

12. UNESCO Global Geopark: None

13. Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List: 2

- *León Cathedral* (2011) (Cultural) - Built between 1747 and the early 19th century to the design of Guatemalan architect Diego José de Porres Esquivel, the monument expresses the transition from Baroque to Neoclassical architecture and its style can be considered to be eclectic. The Cathedral is characterized by the sobriety of its interior decoration and the abundance of natural light. The vault of the Sanctuary, however, presents rich ornamentation. The Cathedral houses important works of art including a wooden Flemish altarpiece, and paintings of the 14 stations of the Way of the Cross by Nicaraguan artist Antonio Sarria (late 19th and early 20th centuries).
- *Ruins of León Viejo* (2000) (Cultural) - León Viejo is one of the oldest Spanish colonial settlements in the Americas. Founded in 1524 by Francisco Hernández de Córdoba, during its short history, the city has undergone a series of natural disasters. Partially destroyed by the Momotombo volcano that irrupted in 1578, the earthquake of 1610 struck the final blow by destroying what remained standing. The decision was taken to move the city and to rebuild it six leagues away. The gradual burial of the city due to natural disasters has preserved the vestiges unaltered and in the same environment, without having undergone any change. As León Viejo did not develop, the ruins are a remarkable testimony to the economic and social structures of the Spanish Empire in the 16th century. The site preserves the original layout of the first cities founded by the Spaniards in the New World before the Laws of the Indies. It also testifies to experiments carried out on materials to find those that would be used in future colonial buildings erected in the Americas.

Tentative List: 5

- Fortress of the immaculate Conception (1995)
- The Natural Reserve "Miskitos Keys" (1995)
- The Natural Reserve "Bosawas" (1995)

- Volcan Masaya National Park (1995)
- City of Granada and its natural environment (2003)

14. Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: 2

- *Language, Dance and Music of the Garifuna* (2001) - Multinational ICH element: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua. A population of mixed origin incorporating cultural elements of indigenous Caribbean and African groups, the Garifuna settled along the Atlantic coast of Central America after being forced to flee from the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent in the eighteenth century.
- *El Güegüense* (2005) - El Güegüense is a satirical drama known throughout the country that is performed every year between 17-27 January on the occasion of the celebration day of Saint Sebastian, patron of the town of Diriamba, in the province of Carazo. El Güegüense offers a synthesis of indigenous and Spanish cultures and mixes theatre, dance and music. It is considered one of the most remarkable latin-american expressions of the colonial period.

15. Memory of the World Register 1

- *Archives of the National literacy crusade* (2007), which are a unique collection of a variety of documents created on the occasion of a mass literacy campaign conducted in Nicaragua in 1980. That campaign, termed Crusade, was organized after the overthrow of the dictatorship of the Somoza family. It was made possible with the participation of 60,000 young people who, for five months, lived in the rural areas of the country to teach more than half of the poor and illiterate population of Nicaragua to read and write. At the same time, entire brigades of voluntary teachers from 16 countries joined in the Literacy Crusade to back up its technical organization and the preparation of teaching materials, and to prepare the young Nicaraguans for their mission. The National Literacy Crusade generated a variety of material and documents which have been assembled and preserved by the Institute of History of Nicaragua and Central America (IHNCA), with special reference to letters, interviews, first-hand accounts, diaries, maps, cassettes, and literacy exercise books and textbooks in Spanish, "Creole" English, Miskito and Sumu (languages of the ethnic minorities of the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua).

16. Creative Cities Network None

17. Legal instruments 19 ratified

18. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated: 1

- **(2016)** - *150th anniversary of the birth of the poet Rubén Darío (1867-1916) and 100th anniversary of his death* (with the support of Cuba and Ecuador). Rubén Darío, pseudonym of Félix Rubén García Sarmiento (born 18 January 1867, Metapa, Nicaragua – died 6 February 1916, León), influential Nicaraguan poet, journalist, and diplomat. As a leader of the Spanish American literary movement known as Modernismo, which flourished at the end of the nineteenth century, he revived and modernized poetry in Spanish on both sides of the Atlantic through his experiments with rhythm, metre, and imagery. Darío developed a highly original poetic style that founded a tradition. From the standpoint of artistic resourcefulness and technical perfection, Darío is considered by many to be one of the greatest poets ever who wrote in Spanish. Throughout his career he boldly experimented with many forms of verse, and he probably introduced more metrical innovations than any other Spanish-language poet.
- **(2012)** - *200th anniversary of the foundation of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN Leon)*. It was founded on 12 January 1812 by Spain, the second one in Central America, with the same mandate as others in the region, with the slogan *Sic itur ad astra* ("this way to the stars"). In 1947 it was upgraded to National University and in March 1958 obtained its autonomy. Institution of higher education in Nicaragua; the offer was then expanded to El Salvador,

Honduras and Costa Rica. Several future Presidents and personalities from those countries studied in this university. Thus, the UNAN Leon possesses a rich cultural and scientific history which has contributed to strengthening higher education development in Central America as well as regional integration. At the national level, it is considered a source of rich culture, a leader in scientific research and in the formation of high-quality professionals. It is also a recognized symbol of higher learning in Central America.

- **(1984)** - 50th anniversary of the death of Augusto César Sandino, the leader and liberator of Nicaragua

19. Participation Programme

2014-2015: 3 projects approved for a total amount of **61,530 US\$**

2012-2013: No request submitted.

2010-2011: 5 requests approved for a total amount of **110,000 US\$**.

20. UNESCO Fellowships Programme

6 Fellowship awards between 2000 and 2009 corresponding to a total amount of **46,458 US\$**

There is no fellowship awarded since 2010.

21. Payment of assessed membership fees (as at 11 February 2016) Owing

Assessment rate for 2016: 0.004 %

Last payment: 2 November 2015

22. Representation within the Secretariat (as at 11 February 2016): NORMALLY-REPRESENTED (Max. 4; Min. 2)

Total staff Nationals from Nicaragua: 2

Professional staff in geographical posts: 2

Junior Professional Officer (JPO) /Associate Expert (AE) Programme:

Nicaragua does not participate to the programme.

Young Professional Programme:

As a Normally-represented Member State, this country is not eligible to participate in this Programme.