

REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION**DISCLAIMER**

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▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Nicaragua

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited 29

October 2014

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

16 August, 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources

Title of National Focal Point

Minister

Name of National Focal Point

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3. Information about the contact officer submitting the reporting format if different from the above

Focal Point is submitting the national report

- ☐ Information is submitted by the national focal point
- ☒ Information is submitted through the national focal point by the contact officer

a3_subsection

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▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

3.1. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Additional information on this question if needed

{Empty}

3.2. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes

☒ No

3.3. Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

☒ Yes

☐ No

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*If the party answered Yes to Question 3 above:

i. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.

Inspection visits have been carried out to companies that have environmental authorization for the environmentally safe management of mercury-containing waste, such as mercury-added lamps. In this regard, the country has an authorized site that provides a collection and storage service for hazardous waste with mercury.

It currently has a total of 9 tons of mercury-contaminated waste, from the collection of mercury-containing lamps, which are intended to be exported to its environmentally safe final destination.

i. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.

{Empty}

ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information, for example on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks and sources.

{Empty}

3.4. Does the party have excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please explain the measures taken to ensure that the excess mercury was disposed of in accordance with the guidelines for environmentally sound management referred to in paragraph 3 (a) of article 11 using operations that did not lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative uses.

It is known of the chlor-alkali plant that operates in Managua, which was closed and dismantled under the supervision of the national environmental authority, however, resources are required to be able to quantify the volume of waste contaminated with Mercury.

3.5. *Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party's

territory in the reporting period?

- ☐ Yes, exports to parties
- ☐ Yes, exports to non-parties
- ☒ No

Additional information if needed

The answer NO is due to the absence of exports from Nicaragua to States Parties and States not Parties to the Convention.

3.6. Has the party allowed the import of mercury from a non-party?

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ The importing party has relied on paragraph 7 of article 3

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 4: MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

4.1. Has the party taken any appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4)

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

Nicaragua has a strengthened environmental legal framework. Law 217 General Law of the Environment of Nicaragua. As well as Decree 20-2017, Environmental Assessment System of permits and authorizations for the sustainable use of Natural Resources.

Nicaragua no longer consumes and does not import mercury thermometers to measure temperatures in patients. Instead digital thermometers are used.

4.3. Has the party taken two or more measures for the mercury-added products listed in Part II of Annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

In the case of dental amalgam, Nicaragua, through the health system, has adopted alternative techniques, where capsules that already contain the amalgam mixture are used for application without having to manipulate it. However, the use of dental amalgams for more health-friendly substitutions has been discouraged in the health system.

4.4. Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed under article 4?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

4.5. Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

If no, has there been an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product that demonstrates environmental or health benefits? Has the party provided to the secretariat, as appropriate, information on any such product?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

Nicaragua does not have manufacturing processes for products where Mercury is used

▼ ART. 5: MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED

5.1. Are there facilities within the territory of the party that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in Annex B of the Minamata Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 5 of the Convention?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ I do not know

5.2. Are measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B after the phase-out date specified in that Annex for the individual process?

CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

ACETALDEHYDE PRODUCTION IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED AS A CATALYST

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

5.3. Are measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in Part II of Annex B in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

5.4. Is there any use of mercury or mercury compounds in a facility using the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes

☒ No

5.5. Is there any facility that has been developed using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 7: ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING

7.1. Have steps been taken to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 in which mercury amalgamation is used in the territory

If yes, please provide information on the steps.

Activities of extraction and treatment of gold are carried out in an artisanal way and on a small scale, where it is known that Mercury amalgam has been used to obtain gold. In this regard, the first actions have been developed to have a National Plan for ASGM and an initial diagnosis of the Minamata Convention, with emphasis on the artisanal and small-scale mining sector. Institutional personnel linked to the regulation of artisanal mining activity and regulation of Mercury are receiving technical assistance for the construction of the first rapid diagnosis of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Nicaragua. The MIA and NAP are currently in process.

7.2. Has the party determined and notified the secretariat that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?

☒ Yes

☐ No

7.3. Has the party developed and implemented a national action plan and submitted it to the secretariat?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ In progress

7.4. Attach your most recent review that must be completed under paragraph 3 (c) of article 7, unless it is not yet due

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7.5. Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objective of this article?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please provide information

The enabling project "Preparation of the Initial Evaluation of the Minamata Convention and national action plan for the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Nicaragua" was approved with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to develop the MIA and the NAP of Nicaragua. With financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for a total amount of US\$700,000.00 to be implemented over a period of two years from 2021 and 2022 in coordination with institutions of the State of Nicaragua, such as the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Health,

Please provide information

{Empty}

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 8: EMISSIONS

8.1. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8.

For each of those source categories describe the measures in place, including the effectiveness of such measures, to implement the requirements of paragraph 4 of article 8.

- ☐ Coal-fired power plants
- ☐ Coal-fired industrial boilers
- ☐ Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
- ☒ Waste incineration facilities

Waste incineration facilities

MARENA, as the competent authority, issues Environmental Authorization for the environmentally safe management of the waste incineration process and final disposal of the ashes generated, as well as regulating provisions for the implementation of best available techniques and best environmental practices to control and, when feasible, reduce emissions from known sources. To do this, the presentation by the Proposer of an Environmental Management Plan, which is valid for five years, in accordance with Decree 20-20217 Environmental Assessment System for Permits and Authorizations for Sustainable Use, is used as a compliance indicator instrument. of Natural Resources, referring to

Environmental Category III Projects, Chapter V, Article 16 "Environmental Category IIIB Projects related to the management of waste and hazardous waste." Likewise, the emissions generated by combustion processes are monitored. Decree 20-2017

☒ Cement clinker production facilities

Cement clinker production facilities

MARENA, as the competent authority, regulates activities related to cement clinker production facilities through the monitoring of emissions derived from the combustion process in boilers. To this end, the companies submit to MARENA an Environmental Management Plan that includes measures adopted to regulate emissions through the use of good environmental practices and best available techniques. Likewise, regulated companies submit air quality monitoring analyzes in order to comply with the Maximum Permissible Limits for the parameters described and applied by the Nicaraguan Mandatory Air Quality Technical Standard NTON 05012-01.

Has the party required the use of best available techniques or best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control and where feasible reduce emissions for new sources no later than 5 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Attach relevant documentation

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8.2. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are existing sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8.

For each of those source categories, select and provide details on the measures implemented under paragraph 5 of article 8 and explain the progress that these applied measures have achieved in reducing emissions over time in your territory:

▼ COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

{Empty}

Progress

{Empty}

▼ COAL-FIRED INDUSTRIAL BOILERS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

{Empty}

Progress

{Empty}

▼ SMELTING AND ROASTING PROCESSES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF NON-FERROUS METALS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

{Empty}

Progress

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▼ WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☒ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☒ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☒ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

An Environmental Management Program launched for the management of residues and waste generated by the incineration activity with a validity of eight months renewable after environmental assessment and inspection by the competent authority (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources) that allows determining the environmentally safe handling of managed residues and waste.

Progress

Regular monitoring has been carried out by the Ministry of the Environment, in accordance with the provisions of Decree 20-2017 on the follow-up and monitoring of environmental authorizations described in Environmental Category III-B. No incidents derived from the management of residues and waste are reported.

▼ CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☒ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☒ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☒ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

MARENA promotes the use of BAT/BEP by establishing environmental conditions for all existing emission sources. The measures have been fulfilled as of the date of this report. The established environmental conditions are based on the Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices for the Management of residues and hazardous waste. In accordance with the environmental legal framework; As of November 2017, with the update and entry into force of Decree 20-2017 Environmental Assessment System for Permits and Authorizations for the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources.

Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standard for Air Quality NTON 05012-01.

Technical Standard for the Management and Elimination of Hazardous Solid Waste.

Progress

Regular monitoring has been carried out by the Ministry of the Environment, in accordance with the provisions of Decree 20-2017 on the follow-up and monitoring of environmental permits and authorizations described in Environmental Category III-B and environmental category II. No incidents derived from the management of residues and waste are reported.

It has been possible to establish a balance in terms of the volume of emissions generated, in the existing sources of emissions, through continuous and permanent monitoring by the companies that develop the cement clinker production activity, even as part of the extended responsibility of the generator, have carried out studies for the gradual substitution of raw material used as fuel that generates lower volume of emissions

Have the measures for existing sources under paragraph 5 of article 8 been implemented no later than 10 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

8.3. Has the party prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the Convention for it?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Have not been a party for 5 years

If no such inventory exists, please explain

Nicaragua has begun the process of preparing the initial inventory as of January 2021. Currently in the process of preparing the inventory of sources of emissions from relevant sources. It is expected to have it in the year 2022

8.4. Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please explain how the criteria for any category include at least 75 percent of the emissions from that category and explain how the party took into account guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

Nicaragua has taken into account at least 75% of the emissions in the categories mentioned in the orientation adopted by the Conference of the Parties. This process is currently being carried out under the technical assistance of UNITAR and UNIDO. In order to establish criteria for the identification of most categories of emission sources.

To this end, a process to strengthen technical capacities at the inter-institutional level is being developed, led by UNITAR through an online course (Mercurylearn) that will help establish the criteria for the identification of emission sources in a timely manner.

8.5. Has the party chosen to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions from relevant sources and its expected targets, goals and outcomes?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, has the party submitted its national plan to the Conference of the Parties under this article no later than 4 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Please explain

Nicaragua has not presented its National Plan because it is not yet ready, it is in the process of preparing it, in coordination with the authorities linked to the regulation of Mercury and the actors involved. It is expected to have the National Plan for the second half of 2022.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 9: RELEASES

9.1. Are there, within the party's territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ I do not know

Please explain

The country is in the process of identifying sources of relevant releases in the framework of the implementation of the enabling project MIA – NAP. Therefore, it is expected to have the identification of said relevant sources in 2022

9.2. Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the convention for it?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Relevant sources do not exist in the territory
- ☐ Have not been a party for 5 years
- ☒ No

Please explain

Nicaragua is in the process of determining the existence of relevant sources in the territory, and it is expected that the determination will be completed in the second half of 2022.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 10: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY

10.1. Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ I do not know

Please explain

Nicaragua is in the process of preparing its initial evaluation of the Minamata Convention and the Application Plan provided for in Article 20 of the Convention, consequently, there is no knowledge of

places in the territory where it is stored provisionally. Therefore, it is expected to have the determination of sites, if they exist, in the second half of 2022.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

11.1. Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party's mercury waste?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.

MARENA regulates the activity related to the management and storage of waste or residues that contain mercury, which are managed in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account the guidelines formulated within the framework of the Basel Convention and the requirements established in the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention. It is in the process of following all international environmental protocols described by the Basel Convention for its export for disposal purposes, since Nicaragua does not have installed technology to eliminate at the source of generation, waste and residues that contain mercury or mercury compounds.

11.2. Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ I do not know

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

Nicaragua currently does not have installed technology for the treatment and final disposal of waste containing mercury.

▼ ART. 12: CONTAMINATED SITES

12.1. Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please elaborate

Nicaragua is in the process of preparing the national inventory of emission sources, along with this, several studies are planned to be carried out within the framework of the implementation of the project "Preparation of the Initial Evaluation of the Minamata Convention and plan of national action for the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Nicaragua", so it is planned to have it in the second half of 2022.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 13: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM

13.1. Has the party undertaken to provide, within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to implement the Convention in accordance with its national policies, priorities, plans and programmes?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

Nicaragua is in the process of reviewing and updating the environmental legal framework by virtue of including relevant aspects that allow the implementation of the Minamata Convention. In turn, the analysis of institutional gaps for the regulation of Mercury is contemplated. It is expected to have proposals for norms and regulations by the end of 2022.

However, Nicaragua has already included in the National Plan to Fight Poverty and Human Development, Guideline XI "Measures to face the impacts of climate variability and climate change" actions to prevent, regulate and control environmental pollution for the conservation of ecosystems and avoid irreversible damage to our mother earth, which includes waste containing mercury.

To achieve this, through the institutions linked to the implementation of the Minamata Convention, resources have been directed to cover the costs associated with the elaboration of policies, analysis of the legal framework, development strategies, resources for guarantee this objective. In addition, alliances have been established with the private sector that contribute to the establishment and implementation of strategies and implementation plans. Currently, resources have been placed aimed at the formation of values on the risk of contamination with mercury, national legal framework.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

13.2. Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

To date, no contribution has been made since Nicaragua is a developing country and does not have the capacity to make financial contributions, however, voluntary contributions are taken into account in

accordance with the provisions of the Conference of the Parties.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

13.3. Supplemental: Has the party provided financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

To date, no contribution has been made since Nicaragua is a developing country and does not have the capacity to make financial contributions, however, voluntary contributions are taken into account in accordance with the provisions of the Conference of the Parties.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 14: CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

14.1. Has the party cooperated to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

No support or technical assistance has been provided to other Parties since Nicaragua is in the process of creating national capacities to have the initial diagnosis of the Minamata Convention and its National Implementation Plan. Therefore, the experience with which it is counted is little. However, it is expected that at the end of the process of preparing the initial Diagnosis and the Implementation Plan, Nicaragua will have the opportunity to exchange experiences and share lessons learned from this process.

14.2. Supplemental: Has the party received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

Nicaragua participated in the regional workshop for the closure of the Minamata project that took place in Uruguay and was organized by the Regional Center of the Basel Convention in 2016. Likewise, the

Regional Center provided technical training to officials of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources. Naturales in 2016 on remediation techniques for sites contaminated by Mercury, in Madrid, Spain. In 2021 Nicaragua receives technical assistance from UNITAR to develop the MIA and NAP with the institutional staff (environment, health, mining and trade authorities) in charge.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

14.3. Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Other

Please specify

No processes have been carried out where alternative technology transfer is developed in harmony with Mother Earth. However, a plan has been launched where these proposals are being developed to be disseminated and shared in the territory as of January 2022. This includes alternatives to lighting so that it is sustainable and with high energy efficiency, as well as alternative techniques to gold extraction in MAPES.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 16: HEALTH ASPECTS

16.1. Have measures been taken to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.

In August 2017, Nicaragua, through the Ministry of Health, developed the Project for strengthening capacities in the study and analysis of mercury "to determine the presence of Mercury in human hair, as well as in fish, in communities surrounding Lake Managua or Lake Xolotlán, where it was determined that there are levels of contamination by Mercury in this area due to anthropogenic activities that persisted in previous decades, as well as the influence of emissions and the presence of a volcano near the lake. A health campaign was established to suggest to the population surrounding the sites, on the food alternatives that they can consider to avoid the risk of contamination by Mercury.

16.2. Have any other measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.

Nicaragua has notified the secretariat that the artisanal and small-scale gold mining activities carried out in the territory exceed the levels considered insignificant, for this reason, it has been undertaken by the Ministry of Health and within the framework of the Project "Preparation of the Initial Evaluation of the Minamata Convention and the national action plan for the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Nicaragua" the development of a public health strategy that allows the identification and protection of populations vulnerable to mercury exposure, by establishing goals for the reduction of exposure to mercury.

This process has begun with the training and strengthening of the institutional capacity of health professionals to prevent, diagnose, treat and monitor health risks related to exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, through training workshops.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE

17.1. Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please provide more information, if any

Workshops have been held to raise awareness of the risks of exposure to mercury and mercury-added products, as well as the presentation of the results of studies on mercury in different matrices. Presentation to the general public of the conformation of the articulated work between the institutions that implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Launch of the Minamata mercury reduction project.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

18.1. Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please indicate the measures that have been taken and the effectiveness of those measures

Promotional videos, informative material and awareness workshops have been designed and reproduced within the framework of the implementation of the Project "Initial Evaluation on Mercury and National

Action Plan within the framework of the Minamata Convention in the artisanal and small gold mining sector scale"

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 19: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

19.1. Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

A detailed investigation has not been undertaken since the costs associated with it are greater than the availability of resources that the country has, however, there is already the first laboratory at the national level for the study and analysis of mercury in different environmental matrices such as soil and water, located in the Center for Research on Aquatic Resources (CIRA-UNAN), which marks an important step in the process of research and development of monitoring mechanisms, it is expected to have resources for the development of research in 2022.

▼ COMMENTS

Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention (Art. 21, para. 1)

{Empty}

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Supplemental: Part D: Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

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