



IOC Circular Letter No 2990
(Available in English, Spanish and French)

IOC/VH/ON/ah
2 April 2024

To : ICG/CARIBE-EWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNC)
ICG/CARIBE-EWS National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs)
ICG/CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP)

Cc. : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC,
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of CARIBE-EWS
Directors of UNESCO and IOC Regional Offices in the Caribbean Region
Permanent Observers to ICG/CARIBE-EWS
Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)
Director, International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)

**Subject: Invitation to the Seventeenth session of the IOC Intergovernmental
Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning
System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XVII),
Managua, Nicaragua, 6–9 May 2024**

On behalf of Mr Gérard Métayer, Chairperson of ICG/CARIBE-EWS, I am pleased to invite you to designate representatives to ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XVII which is set to take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel of Managua, Nicaragua from 6 to 9 May 2024. Please do so by registering their names, positions and contact details directly on the session website at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4089> no later than 12 April 2024. If you have questions about registration, please contact a.haidar@unesco.org.

With reference to IOC Resolution XXIII-13 that established ICG/CARIBE-EWS in 2005, the membership of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS consists of:

- Member States of the IOC from the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
- Observers from other IOC Member States, and
- Invited observers from other organizations (including NGOs), programmes and projects in accordance with the IOC Rules of Procedure.

The agenda for the session attached to this invitation is technical in nature and delegates should be prepared to participate in the technical discussions. The working languages of the hybrid session will be English with simultaneous interpretation in French and Spanish for the remote participants of the plenary sessions.

Chairperson

Dr Yutaka MICHIDA
Professor
Atmosphere and Ocean Research
Institute, The University of Tokyo
Kashiwanoha 5-1-5
2778564 Kashiwa
JAPAN

Executive Secretary

Mr Vidar HELGESEN
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Dr Marie-Alexandrine SICRE
Directrice de Recherche
Centre national de la recherche scientifique
(CNRS)
3 rue Michel Ange
75016 Paris
FRANCE

Dr Nikolay VALCHEV
Director
Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
40 Parvi May Str.
9000 Varna
BULGARIA

Mr Juan Camilo FORERO HAUZEUR
Executive Secretary
Colombian Ocean Commission (COO)
Avenida Ciudad de Cali No. 51 – 66
Edificio WBC, Oficina 306
111071 Bogotá, D.C.
COLOMBIA

Dr Srinivasa Kumar TUMMALA
Director
Indian National Centre for Ocean
Information Services (INCOIS)
Pragathi Nagar (BO), Nizampet (SO)
Hyderabad 500090
INDIA

Prof. Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA
President
National Institute of
Oceanography and Fisheries
(NIOF)
Qaitbay, Al-Anfoshi
Alexandria
EGYPT

The deadline for submitting national reports to the ICG Technical Secretary, preferably in writing using the attached template, is 26 April 2024 at the latest. In this document, the presentation of national plans and efforts towards improving the tsunami warning and mitigation system will contribute to the development of the CARIBE-EWS global [Implementation Plan](#).

A logistic note including suggested accommodation, airport transfers to the venue of the meeting and local information is attached hereafter.

The general documentation and information for the meeting will be posted and updated at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4089> as they become available. As is customary for intergovernmental meetings, participants are required to secure their own financial support to attend the session.

At this session, heads of delegation are kindly invited to declare their availability to host the 18th session of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS, scheduled for 2025.

Please further note that the ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XVII will provide also an opportunity for the organization of a Tsunami Ready Workshop on Friday, May 10, 2024 during 08:00–13:00, at the same venue of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XVII session, to be conducted by the International Tsunami Information Center–Caribbean Office (ITIC-CAR) in coordination with the Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (CTIC) with funding support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The objective of this workshop is to increase awareness on the indicators, implementation, verification, recognition process and the available tools and resources of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP). Participants will have the opportunity to also share best practices and challenges. While the primary focus of this Workshop is Member States currently executing TRRP projects with the support of ITIC-CAR, two additional participants from other Member States can also be accommodated. Interested Member States are invited to contact Christa von Hillebrandt of ITIC-CAR (christa.vonh@noaa.gov) and Alison Brome of CTIC (a.brome@unesco.org) by Friday 26 April at the latest to express their interest in participating.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (4):

- 1/ Provisional Agenda
- 2/ Provisional Timetable
- 3/ Template for national reports
- 4/ Logistic Note

**Seventieth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
(ICG/CARIBE-EWS XVII)**

Managua, Nicaragua

6–9 May 2024

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

- 1.1. NICARAGUAN AUTHORITIES
- 1.2. INETER
- 1.3. ICG/CARIBE-EWS CHAIR
- 1.4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF UNESCO

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

- 2.1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- 2.2. DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR(S)
- 2.3. CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

3. REPORT ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 3.1. CARIBE-EWS CHAIR'S REPORT
- 3.2. CARIBE-EWS SECRETARIAT REPORT
- 3.3. REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER (CTIC)
- 3.4. REPORTS FROM UN AND NON-UN ORGANISATIONS
 - 3.4.1. IOCARIBE
 - 3.4.2. UNDRR (WTAD and EW4All)
 - 3.4.3. NCEI/WDS
 - 3.4.4. SMART Cable
- 3.5. STATUS OF OTHER ICGs
 - 3.5.1. ICG/IOTWMS
 - 3.5.2. ICG/NEAMTWS
 - 3.5.3. ICG/PTWS
- 3.6. TSUNAMI SERVICES PROVIDER REPORT (PTWC)
- 3.7. CATAAC REPORT
- 3.8. NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS
- 3.9. REPORT OF CARIBE WAVE 2024
- 3.10. TSUNAMI READY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME

4. WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORTS

- 4.1. WORKING GROUP 1: RISK KNOWLEDGE
- 4.2. WORKING GROUP 2: TSUNAMI DETECTION, ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING
- 4.3. WORKING GROUP 3: TSUNAMI WARNING DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION
- 4.4. WORKING GROUP 4: PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

5. POLICY MATTERS

- 5.1. REVIEW OF TOWS-WG-XVII RECOMMENDATIONS
- 5.2. EXERCISE CARIBE WAVE 2025
- 5.3. CENTRAL AMERICA TSUNAMI ADVISORY CENTER (CATAC)
- 5.4. UN OCEAN DECADE TSUNAMI PROGRAMME (ODTP)
- 5.5. 2nd GLOBAL TSUNAMI SYMPOSIUM

6. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2024–2025

7. INTRASESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS MEETINGS

8. INTRASESIONAL WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

9. NEXT SESSIONS

- 9.1. DATES AND PLACE OF ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVIII
- 9.2. TARGET DATES AND VENUE FOR ICG/CARIBE EWS-XIX

10. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11. ICG/CARIBE-EWS WORKING GROUPS AND TASK TEAM MEMBERS LIST

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. CLOSURE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION of UNESCO
Seventeenth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System
for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS XVII)

Managua, Nicaragua, 6-9 May 2024

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Hour	Monday 6 May 2024	Tuesday 7 May 2024	Wednesday 8 May 2024	Thursday 9 May 2023
8:00-9:00	REGISTRATION/LOGISTICS			
9:00-10:30	<p>1. WELCOME AND OPENING</p> <p>1.1. NICARAGUAN AUTHORITIES (10 min)</p> <p>1.2. INETER (10 mins)</p> <p>1.2. ICG/CARIBE-EWS Chair (5 mins)</p> <p>1.3. UNESCO/IOC (5 mins)</p> <p>2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION</p> <p>2.1. Adoption of the Agenda (5 min)</p> <p>2.2. Designation of the Rapporteur(s) (5 min)</p> <p>2.3. Conduct of the Session, Timetable and Documentation (5 min)</p> <p>3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES</p> <p>3.1. ICG/CARIBE-EWS Chair's Report (15 mins)</p> <p>3.2. ICG/CARIBE-EWS Secretariat Report (15 min)</p>	<p>3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)</p> <p>3.9. Report of Caribe Wave 2024 (30 min)</p> <p>3.10 Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (60 min)</p>	<p>7. INTRASESSIONAL WGs MEETINGS</p>	<p>8. INTRASESSIONAL WGs REPORTS</p> <p>9. NEXT SESSIONS</p> <p>9.1. Dates and Place of ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVIII</p> <p>9.2. Target Dates and Venue for ICG/CARIBE EWS-XIX</p>
10:30-11:00	COFFEE BREAK + Group Photo	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
11:00-12:30	<p>3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)</p> <p>3.3. Report of CTIC (30 mins)</p> <p>3.4. Reports from UN and non-UN organizations</p> <p>3.4.1 IOCARIBE (15 mins)</p> <p>3.4.2 UNDRR (WTAD and EW4All) (15 min)</p> <p>3.4.4 NCEI/WDS (15 min)</p> <p>3.4.4 SMART Cable (15 min)</p>	<p>4. WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORTS</p> <p>4.1. Working Group 1 (30 mins)</p> <p>4.2. Working Group 2 (30 mins)</p> <p>4.3. Working Group 3 (30 mins)</p>	<p>7. INTRASESSIONAL WGs MEETINGS (continued)</p>	<p>10. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</p>
12:30-13:30	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
13.30-15.00	<p>3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)</p> <p>3.5. Status of other ICGs</p> <p>3.5.1 ICG/IOTWMS (10 min)</p> <p>3.5.2 ICG/NEAMTWS (10 mins)</p> <p>3.5.3 ICG/PTWS (10 min)</p> <p>3.6. Tsunami Services Provider Report (PTWC) (30 min)</p> <p>3.7. CATAc Report (30 min)</p>	<p>4. WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORTS (continued)</p> <p>4.4. Working Group 4 (30 mins)</p> <p>5. POLICY MATTERS</p> <p>5.1. Review of TOWS-WG-XVII Recommendations (30 min)</p> <p>5.2 Exercise Caribe Wave 2025 (30 mins)</p>	<p>7. INTRASESSIONAL WGs MEETINGS (continued)</p>	<p>10. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)</p>
15:00-15:30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
15.30-17.00	<p>3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)</p> <p>3.8. National Progress Reports (90 mins)</p>	<p>5. POLICY MATTERS (continued)</p> <p>5.3. CATAc (30 min)</p> <p>5.4. UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Program (30 min)</p> <p>5.5. 2nd Global Tsunami Symposium (15 min)</p> <p>6. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2024-2025 (15 min)</p>	<p>7. INTRASESSIONAL WGs MEETINGS (continued)</p>	<p>11. ICG/CARIBE-EWS WGS AND TT MEMBERS LIST</p> <p>12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>13. CLOSURE</p>
18:30-21:00	RECEPTION / WELCOME DINNER			

National Reports will be posted to the ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVI web site without TWFP contact details

NATIONAL REPORT
Submitted by (country name)

BASIC INFORMATION

1. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami National Contact (TNC)

The person designated by a Member State to an Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) to represent his/her country in the coordination of international tsunami warning and mitigation activities. The person is part of the main stakeholders of the national tsunami warning and mitigation system. The person may be the Tsunami Warning Focal Point, from the national disaster management organization, from a technical or scientific institution, or from another agency with tsunami warning and mitigation responsibilities.

Name:
Title:
Organization:
Postal Address:
E-mail Address:
Telephone Number:
Fax Number:
Cellular Telephone Number:

2. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP)

The 7x24 contact person, or other official point of contact or address, is available at the national level for rapidly receiving and issuing tsunami event information (such as warnings). The Tsunami Warning Focal Point either is the emergency authority (civil defense or other designated agency responsible for public safety), or has the responsibility of notifying the emergency authority of the event characteristics (earthquake and/or tsunami), in accordance with national standard operating procedures. The Tsunami Warning Focal Point receives international tsunami warnings from the PTWC, or other regional warning centres.

Name:
Title:
Responsible Organization:
Postal Address:
E-mail Address:
Emergency Telephone Number:
Emergency Fax Number:
Emergency Cellular Telephone Number:

National Tsunami Warning Centre (if different from the above)

Person in Charge:
Title:
Responsible Organization:
Postal Address:
E-mail Address:
Emergency Telephone Number:
Emergency Fax Number:
Emergency Cellular Telephone Number:

3. Tsunami Advisor(s), if applicable

(Person, Committee or Agency managing Tsunami Mitigation in country)

Name:

Title:

Postal Address:

E-mail Address:

Emergency Telephone Number:

Emergency Fax Number:

Emergency Cellular Telephone Number:

4. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Local Tsunami (when a local tsunami threat exists, less than 1 hour travel time)

5. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Regional Tsunami (when a regional tsunami threat exists, 1–3 hour travel time)

6. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Distant Tsunami (when a distant tsunami threat exists, more than 3-hour travel time)

For each situation, please provide the following:

- *What organization identifies and characterizes tsunamigenic events?*
- *What is the threshold or criteria for declaring a potential tsunami emergency?*
- *What organization acts on the information provided by the agency responsible for characterizing the potential tsunami threat?*
- *How is the tsunami information (warning, public safety action, etc) disseminated within country? Who is it disseminated to?*
- *How is the emergency situation terminated?*
- *For Distant Tsunami Procedures:
What actions were taken in response to warnings issued by PTWC and/or US NTWC, during the intersessional period?*

7. National Sea Level Network

Please include a table with position and description of stations/sensors, and a map.

8. Information on Tsunami occurrences/Tsunami Exercises

Please include sea level observations, pictures, wave arrival descriptions, public, media, or other responses to warnings, lessons learned, etc.

9. Web sites (URLs) of national tsunami-related web sites

10. Summary plans of future tsunami warning and mitigation system improvements. *This information will be used to aid the development of the CARIBE-EWS Implementation Plan*

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

11. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brief statement of no more than one page addressing all items discussed in the Narrative section of the National Report (below).

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12. NARRATIVE

Detailed description of innovations or modifications to National tsunami warnings procedures or operations since last National Report, tsunami research projects, tsunami mitigation activities and

best practices (especially in preparedness and emergency management), tsunami exercises, as well as public education programmes or other measures taken to heighten awareness of the tsunami hazard and risk.

.....

Date: Name:

**Seventeenth session of the IOC Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
(ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XVII)
Managua, Nicaragua, 6–9 May 2024**

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Contacts

The ICG/CARIBE-EWS XVII is hosted by Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales (INETER) on behalf of the Government of Nicaragua. The Tsunami Advisory Center (CATAC) is subordinated to the Director of INETER.

Principal local contacts are:

Dr. Wilfried Strauch

Coordinator of CATAC/INETER and local organizer

Emails: wilfried.strauch@yahoo.com, wilfried.strauch@ineter.gob.ni

Cellphone/Whatsapp: +505-89246234

Home phone: +505-22331383

Ing. Rosario Aviles

Logistics Assistant

Emails: raaa130660@hotmail.com, raaa130660@yahoo.com

Cellphone/Whatsapp: +505-89695505

Other personnel mainly from INETER's seismology section will provide assistance to the session.

2. Venue and Accommodation

The Meeting will be organized at the **Hotel Crowne Plaza Managua**. The hotel rooms have to be reserved and paid by the participants of the meeting through its [webpage](#).

3. Visa, Arrival, Departure and Customs Requirements

INETER will inform the authorities about your participation in the meeting. In a special communication INETER will ask you to provide your travel information to considerably accelerate your entrance formalities to Nicaragua. Further visa requirements are provided on the [website](#) of the General Directorate of Migration and Immigration of Nicaragua (in Spanish only), but you are kindly advised to verify the visa requirements subject to your conditions.

The arrival of most of the participants by air travel will be at the International Airport of Managua (MGA) "Augusto C. Sandino".

All travelers should have a return ticket and evidence of funds to support themselves during your presence in Nicaragua. You must always carry a valid identity document.

Once you arrive in Nicaragua, you must purchase a tourist card for \$10 USD at the immigration counter (exact change recommended), valid for up to a total of 90 days in any of the member countries of the Central America-4 Border Control Agreement. Visitors remaining longer must obtain an extension from Nicaraguan immigration to avoid large fines.

Individuals traveling from countries at risk of yellow fever transmission must show proof of yellow fever vaccination administered at least 10 days before travel to be permitted entry to Nicaragua. If you use a passport of a different nationality than you did on prior trips to Nicaragua, Nicaraguan authorities may deny you entry. If you possess multiple nationalities, you should carry a valid passport for all of them.

International Airport of Managua (MGA) "Augusto C. Sandino" has only one exit. Please look for the INETER personnel (speaking Spanish and English) who will be waiting for you. If there is some unusual situation (you lost your flight, you failed to meet the INETER personnel), please try to phone or chat via Whatsapp or using email to one of the contacts given above.

You must exit Nicaragua with the same passport used for entry. If your passport is lost or stolen while in Nicaragua, you will need to get a new entry stamp from Nicaraguan Immigration before you can depart by following instructions available on the [website](#) of the General Directorate of Migration and Immigration of Nicaragua (in Spanish only). This cannot be done at the airport on departure.

Customs procedures at the airport are normally very fast (X-Ray). The entrance with special equipment as drones, professional cameras, scientific equipment is only possible with previous permissions. If you bring in the equipment without the permission customs will retain it during your stay and you must request it back from the Airports customs office when you leave the country. If you intend to enter Nicaragua with such items, please inform INETER in advance.

4. Transport

INETER will organize transportation of participants from the airport to the hotel using their pickups or buses. The distance is about 15 km and it will take around 20 to 40 minutes for rides to get to destination, depending on traffic. There are currently big construction works on the way.

Taxi

In case you fail to get in contact with personnel from INETER you might need to use a taxi. Please, use only the official taxis which are available at the airport exit. A taxi ride from airport to hotel should cost around 20 USD. The official taxis will bring you directly to the hotel. Therefore you won't need to share it with other passengers which is a common practice in Nicaragua (for cheap taxi transportation). There is no UBER service in Nicaragua and similar services should be taken with caution.

Land Connections

Some participants who come from Central America might enter the country passing the border with Honduras in the North of Nicaragua or from Costa Rica in the South. Similar border procedures to the ones of air connections apply, see above.

Bus terminals in Managua

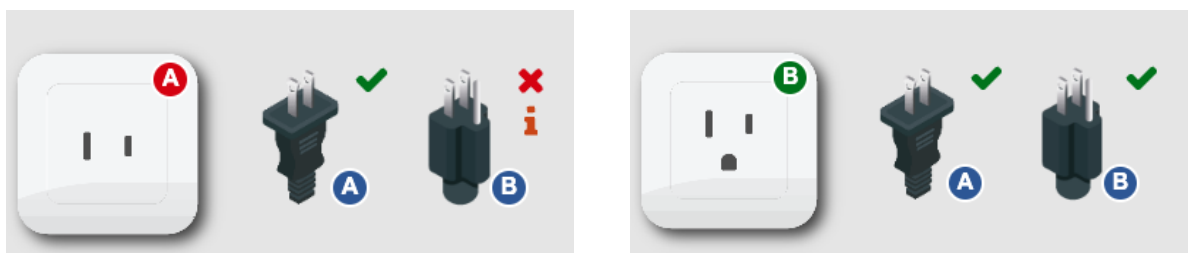
There are several international bus terminals in Managua, most are rather close to the meeting Hotel. If you plan to arrive by bus, please, inform INETER in advance about your probable arrival time and bus company to be picked up and driven to the hotel. You can also use a taxi to get to the hotel.

5. Currency

Nicaragua uses the "Cordoba" as its currency. 1 American Dollar corresponds to about 37 Cordobas. The money exchange at the airport might offer very unfavorable exchange rates. You can easily obtain the cash you need using your credit or debit cards at many ATM's in Managua. Please consider that the use of US money is very common in Nicaragua. You can pay nearly everywhere with US dollars, except for very small businesses or when you must pay only small amounts. Also, when you pay in dollars you can get the exchange in Cordobas and you can use them to pay smaller transactions. It might even not be necessary to use any cash for the participation in the meeting as the use of credit or debit cards is very common in Nicaragua except for small businesses or in small villages. Changing cash from other currencies other than dollars (e.g. Euro) is rather complicated and only offered at banks.

6. Voltage and plugs

The voltage in Nicaragua is 120 V and the type A and B plugs (US style) are used. You may need a power plug adapter for sockets type A. Sockets type B can fit your plugs but may not always be available locally¹.



¹ <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com/us/nicaragua/#:~:text=Do%20your%20power%20plugs%20fit,not%20always%20be%20available%20locally.>

7. Additional Information

Shopping

There is a big shopping center “Plaza Inter” in front of the Hotel Crown Plaza with ATMs and restaurants.

Sightseeing

Interesting sites near the hotel are:

- “Laguna de Tiscapa” a crater lake in a not longer active volcano
- Paseo and port “Salvador Allende” at Lake Managua with many restaurants and view to the lake and the Apoyeque volcano complex.
- Old Cathedral of Managua – destroyed by the earthquake in 1972.
- The offices of Civil Protection Agencies SINAPRED and Civil Defense and National Assembly of the Republic of Nicaragua are at only 400m and 1km away from the hotel, respectively.

Climate in Managua

Nicaragua has a tropical climate, temperatures in May in daytime are around 30-35 degrees Celsius, slightly lower temperatures during the night, 26-30 degrees Celsius. There might be slight rain falls.