

# This large Central American country currently has the largest project portfolio of any country in the region.

About Nicaragua: Located in the Central American isthmus, it has approximately 130,000 km², making it the largest country in the region. Its capital is Managua and, in terms of maritime boundaries, it borders El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Colombia. It has coasts on the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. It is a volcanic and tropical country, in its interior there are two large lakes: Lake Managua, known by the aboriginal name Xolotlán, and Lake Nicaragua, also known as Cocibolca or Lake Granada.

Nicaragua is made up of 15 departments and two autonomous regions: the South Caribbean Coast and the North Caribbean Coast, which are basically made up of indigenous populations and their local government is governed by each culture's own norms.

An urban and mestizo population: With a population of 6.6 million people, it has a moderate density of 50 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. Of the total, 2.7 million are rural and 3.9 million urban, with a predominance of 51% women versus 49% men.

The majority of Nicaraguans are mestizos (69%), while 17% are white, living mainly in the western region of the country. About 5% are native Nicaraguans descended from indigenous inhabitants, and the remaining 9% of the population are

blacks, most of whom reside on the sparsely populated Caribbean Coast. Primarily of West Indian origin, these people are descendants of laborers brought from Jamaica when the region was a British protectorate. There is also a smaller number of Garifuna, a people of mixed Caribbean, Angolan, Congolese and Arawak descent. Nicaraguan economy: The Central Bank of Nicaragua reported that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) registered a variation of 9.7% in the third quarter of 2021 when compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

Despite the economic and health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country is projecting economic growth of between 3.5 % and 4.5 % by 2022 and an expected inflation of 2.5 % to 3.5 %. The sectors with the highest cumulative growth during the year were mining and quarrying, construction, commerce, manufacturing, electricity, livestock, hotels and restaurants, transportation and communications, agriculture and water.

# CABEI finances initiatives that contribute to Nicaraguans' economic and social development.

In response to requests from the Government and the Nicaraguan private sector, Nicaragua is the country with the largest active portfolio of CA-BEI-financed initiatives in the region, with a total of 33, amounting to US\$1,586 million and approvals in 2021 for US\$890.17 million



#### Some Initiatives

### **Impacts**

VI Road Improvement Project.

CABEI Financing: US\$ 70.45 million.

- · People Benefited: 131,907.
- · Jobs generated: 1,318 temporary y 122 permanent.
- · Fast connection of 8 municipalities.
- · Savings in operating and vehicle maintenance costs

National Sustainable Electrification and Renewable Energy Program for Nicaragua. (PNESER Segment A).

CABEI Financing: US\$ 75 million.

- · People Benefited: 2,621,990.
- Construction of 7,169 km of electricity distribution and transmission network.
- Increase in electricity coverage from 64.7% to 86.7% of the country in its approval in 2010.
- · Job generation: 2,000.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Procurement Project.** 

CABEI Financing: US\$ 100 million.

· Beneficiaries: 3.27 million people.

Project to Improve the Technical and Operational Capabilities of Corinto Port (Expansion)

CABEI Financing: US\$184.6 million.

- · People Benefited: 433,773
- Jobs Generated 566 temporary y 122 permanent
- Improve and expand the operational and technical capacity of Puerto Corinto, in order to contribute to the increase of foreign trade.

Bio-CLIMA Project: Integrated Climate Action to Reduce Deforestation and Strengthen Resilience in the Bosawás and Río San Juan Biosphere Reserves (extension).

CABEI Financing: US\$44.2 million.

 It will benefit 665,821 inhabitants of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast.

Environmental Sanitation Project for Lake Manaqua's South Shore

CABEI Financing: US\$151.4 million.

- · People Benefited: 430,386 up to 2033
- Direct temporary jobs: 944
- · Permanent jobs: 57

Improvement and Expansion of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Systems in 19 cities

CABEI Financing: US\$ 100.06 million.

- · People Benefited: 733,036.
- · 17,308 Potable water connections
- 7,900 sewerage connections
- Construction of 9 wastewater treatment plants.
- Job generation: 1,000.

Among the sectors that will benefit in 2021 are: electricity, hospital and port infrastructure, climate change adaptation, water and sanitation, support for MSMEs, and the purchase of vaccines to contain the pandemic caused by COVID-19.

In the same year, the rehabilitation and modernization of the Centroamérica and Santa Bárbara hydroelectric plants was completed, achieving confidable, renewable and clean energy generation from water for up to 25 more years. The Central Electrical Transmission Substation also began operations, benefiting 142,987 people who live and circulate in the central area of the capital.

For its part, the Program for Adaptation to Changes in Markets and the Effects of Climate Change (NICADAPTA) ended after six years of implementation, contributing to climate change adaptation and poverty reduction with a gender

focus, benefiting some 45,000 families.

Likewise, the paving of 154.56 km was completed as part of the program for the Improvement of Rural Roads and Highways with Con-

nection to the Caribbean and the improvement of 58.5 km of the Muy Muy - Matiguás - Río Blanco highway, benefiting approximately 100,000 Nicaraguans.

## Nicaragua, founding member of CABEI

Nicaragua has been one of CABEI's founding members since its creation in 1960, with a 10.79% share in the Bank's capital structure and a subscribed capital of US\$714.0 million.

As part of the measures taken by the Bank to ensure due diligence at all stages of its programs and projects, in accordance with the provisions of its procurement policies, the Bank hires an independent supervision and audit, providing close and conti-

nuous monitoring by internal and external control bodies.

The organization also has as a principle zero tolerance for Prohibited Practices, unethical situations or non-compliance with regula tions, for which reason it has available means for filing complaints.

#### **About CABEI**

CABEI was created in 1960 as the region's financial arm for integration and development. Its resources are continuously invested in projects with an impact on development to reduce poverty and inequalities, strengthen regional integration and the competitive insertion of its partners in world economy, paying special attention to environmental sustainability. CABEI is based in Tegucigalpa with offices throughout Central America.

CABEI's financial strength as the best credit in Latin America is supported by its high credit rating granted by the different international agencies: Standard & Poor's with a rating of AA, Moody's with a rating of Aa3, and Japan Credit Rating with AA.

