

# Nicaragua

## Earthquake

**31 December 2015**

### Event Briefing

**4 January 2016**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

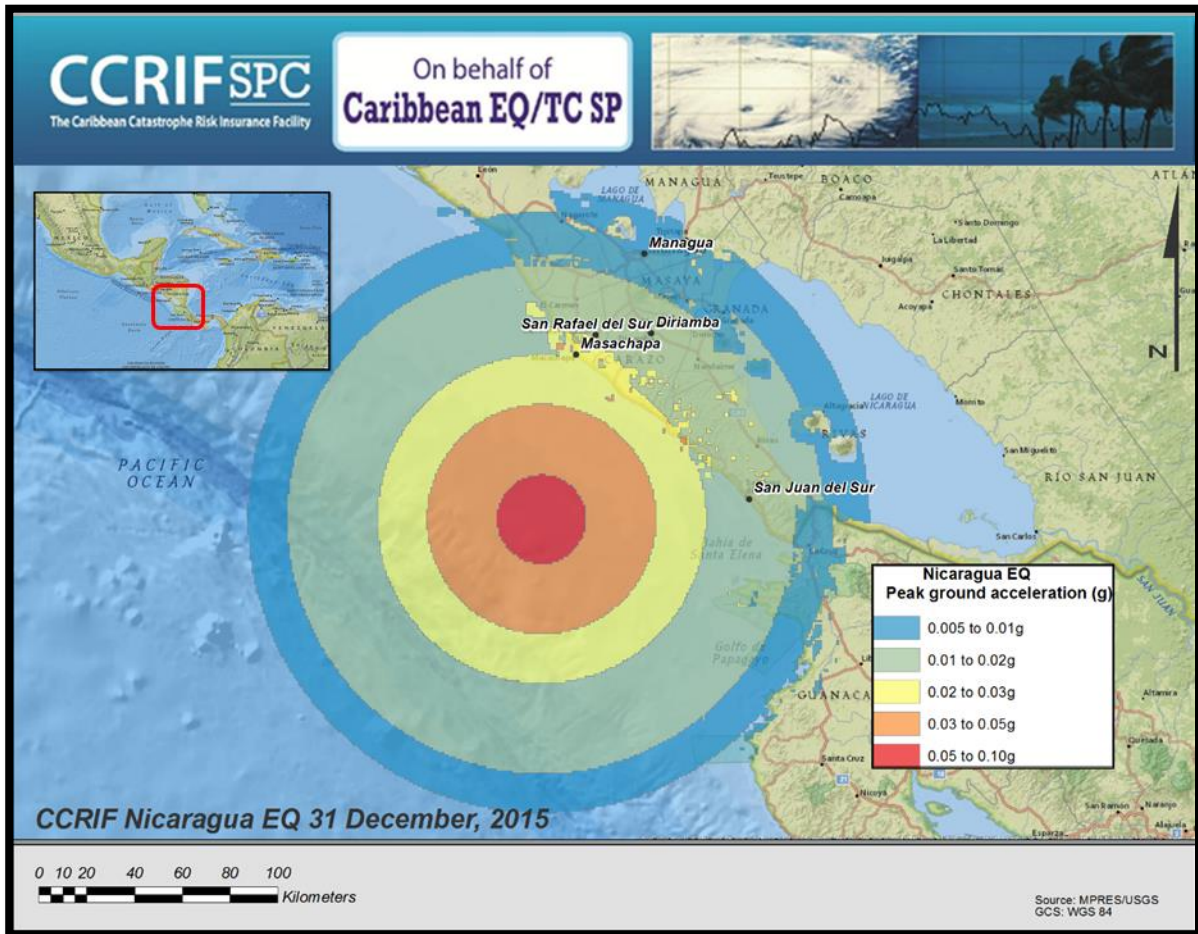
A magnitude 5.7 earthquake occurred at 10:57:00 UTC (04:57:00 local time) on 31 December 2015, at 68 km (42 mi) S of Masachapa, Nicaragua, 77 km (48 mi) SSW of San Rafael del Sur, Nicaragua, 87 km (54 mi) SSW of Diriamba, Nicaragua, 88 km (55 mi) SSW of Jinotepec, Nicaragua and 114 km (71 mi) SSW of Managua, Nicaragua. Initial estimates from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) located the epicentre of the event at 11.175°N, 86.637°W, and at a depth of 36.5 km (22.7 mi).

## **2 CCRIF MODEL OUTPUTS**

Under CCRIF's loss calculation protocol, a CCRIF Multi-Peril Risk Estimation System (MPRES) report is required for any earthquake with a magnitude of greater than 5.0 within a box bounded by the following – Latitude 2° and 41°N, Longitude 97° and 51°W – which generates a peak ground acceleration of at least 0.01 g in part of at least one member country that has an earthquake policy. This was the case for the 31 December earthquake, which occurred close to Nicaragua's coastline. Based on the MPRES footprint, a peak ground acceleration of less than 0.03g (very small ground shaking) was felt in a small portion of the Nicaragua territory close to the Pacific Ocean coastline (Figure 1).

## **3 IMPACTS**

According to Nicaragua's national disaster organization, Sistema Nacional para la Prevención, Mitigación y Atención de Desastres (SINAPRED), no damage to infrastructure or injuries were reported in Nicaragua. However, there were reports of alarm and nervousness among citizens who felt the earthquake.



**Figure 1:** Map showing the peak ground acceleration in Nicaragua following the magnitude 5.7 earthquake on 31 December 2015. *Source: USGS & CCRIF KAC/MPRES*

For further information, please contact ERN-RED, the CCRIF SPC Risk Management Specialist.

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