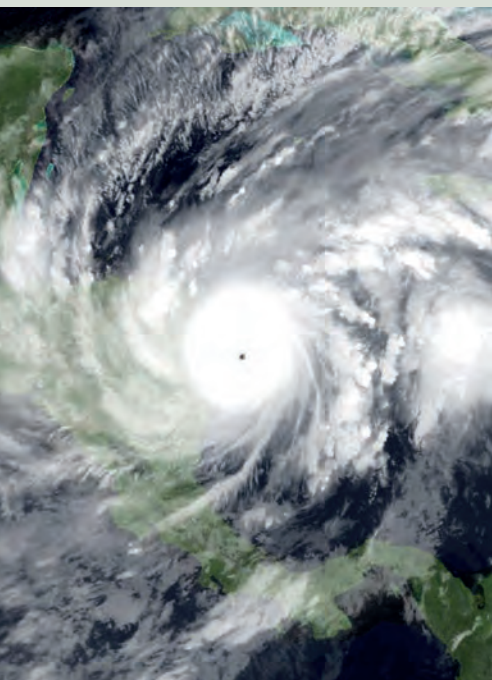


# Session 3

## Environment in Nicaragua



**‘The environment is very important to me because it’s my lifeline.’** Johaira, aged 15



### Hurricanes Eta and Iota

Tropical cyclones are common in the country, with an average of one storm happening a year. A cyclone is a circular storm that forms over a warm ocean, bringing heavy rains and strong winds. A hurricane is another name for something that is essentially the same thing, the difference being which ocean they develop in. Coastal areas are particularly affected, and in Nicaragua they are usually seen from July through to October. However, 2020 had more storms than any other year since records began. It is the first year in which two hurricanes formed in the Atlantic in November, which is later than the time when hurricanes usually hit.

The high winds and floods that came with these storms caused a huge amount of damage to property. Within two weeks in November 2020, two hurricanes called Eta and Iota swept through Nicaragua. About 160,000 Nicaraguans had to be evacuated from their homes to keep them safe. Many people were injured or died in the hurricane, including children.



La Prensa, a local newspaper, reported people being swept away by a raging river south of the capital, Managua. Sadly, 13 people were reported missing after a landslide near the city of Matagalpa, including a 12-year-old girl. Many people lost their homes, crops and livelihoods.

Nicaragua’s vice-president, Rosario Murillo was quoted in *The Guardian* as saying that catastrophic physical damage had been caused by what authorities called the most powerful storm ever to hit the country. ‘Thank God more lives have not been lost,’ she said. Experts say that the temperature of the sea is rising, and this contributes to the strength of the hurricanes. The rising temperature of the sea is linked to climate change.



Christian Aid worked with its partners Soppexcca to provide food, medicine and hygiene kits to 5,000 people who were in desperate need. They also supported children and adults to feel less anxious about what had happened to them through recreational activities like drawing, drama, and play.

You can find out more about cyclones and hurricanes on the BBC Newsround webpage [www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/24879162](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/24879162). This explains how they are formed, why they are given names, and what damage they can do. Did you know the winds in a cyclone or hurricane can

get faster than 73 miles an hour? That’s faster than a car is allowed to drive on the motorway!

**‘With climate change, we have diseases in the coffee and a lot of pollution. I have learnt about climate change at school. They teach us everything about it, what the future will be if we don’t take care of the environment.’**

Johaira, aged 15

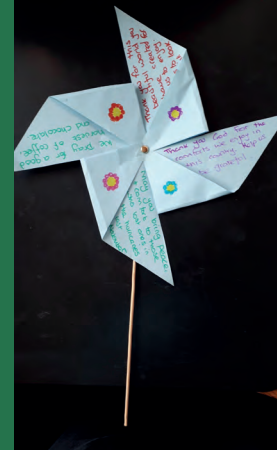


## Prayer

Dear Lord, we pray for your protection over the people in Nicaragua who suffer from these huge storms that destroy homes, crops and lives. Help us to be more concerned in helping to care and look after your creation. Amen.

## Active prayer

Using the template from the resources page on the website, make a windmill. On each of the sails, write or draw a prayer for communities in Nicaragua that have been affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota, a prayer thanking God for his amazing creation, a prayer thanking God for your home, and a prayer for people across the world to cut down on the things they do that affect the environment.



## Bible link Psalm 24:1-2 (International Children's Bible)

*'The earth and everything in it belong to the Lord. The world and all its people belong to him. He built it on the waters. He set it on the rivers'*

We are called to look after God's creation and act in ways that will restore and protect the environment. I wonder how can you play your part in looking after God's creation? Can you write a poem or a song about the wonder of God's creation?

## Game An adaptation of Fruit Salad

Everyone sits on a chair set in a circle, with one person standing in the middle without a chair.

The leader labels each player one of four types of weather: snow, rain, sun or cloudy. The one in the middle calls out a type of weather, and everyone in the circle with that weather type must swap places, and find another chair to sit on. At the same time, the person in the middle must try to find a chair. The person left standing is the new caller. Calling out 'Hurricane' means everyone must get up and change places.



**Greta wonders...** Climate change is becoming a more urgent issue as we learn more about the impact of human actions on creation. Think about how climate change is affecting UK weather patterns, and how this has affected local communities. Have you ever been outside on a wet and windy day? What is it like? How would you feel if you had no home to go back to because it has been blown away?

## Action point

Find out more about how hurricanes are formed. Did you know your actions, together with those of everyone else, can affect the weather, and that that affects communities like those in Nicaragua? What actions can you take to help climate disruption? You might walk to school, or put on an extra layer of clothes rather than turning up the heating. Carry out a 'How well I look after the environment' survey of people in your church, family or school to see how they are doing in protecting the environment. Can you persuade them to do more? Things to think about include water usage, travel, recycling and reusing, what you eat, how you choose what you buy, how you heat your home, and how you use your garden.

Discuss with the leadership of your church how it might become an eco-church.

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

WEATHER CHART				
<small>Use the chart below to record the weather where you live and then check the weather in Granada, Nicaragua.</small>				
<small>Show in symbols for the type of weather and record the temperature. Do this for a week, and then compare the weather between the two places. What is the result?</small>				
Day/Date	My Home Town	Town in Nicaragua		
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Sunday				

## Activity Weather watch

Keep a weather chart monitoring the weather in a town in Nicaragua and in your part of the world each day for a month. You can do this by going to <https://bit.ly/2R0KOHe>. How does it compare?

There is a weather monitoring chart in the resources at [www.urc.org.uk/go-with-greta-and-connect](http://www.urc.org.uk/go-with-greta-and-connect) or you can make your own.

