



global witness

## Independent Forest Monitoring Pilot Project in Nicaragua

# Monitoring Mission Report No. 007

### *Independent Monitoring Mission*

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#### Forest Management General Plan

#### Annual Operational Plan for Private Conifer Forest

<b>Location:</b>	San Gregorio
<b>Annual Operational Plan 2005:</b>	Authorisation no. 1307P05299 - 155
<b>Forest Management General Plan:</b>	Authorisation no. 1307P05299
<b>Owner:</b>	José Blas Palma Palma
<b>Municipality:</b>	Murra, Nueva Segovia.

**Mission dates: 8-9 December 2006**

**Report date: 2006**

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# 1. Executive Summary

A monitoring mission was carried out on 8-9 December 2006 within the framework of the Agreement signed by INAFOR and Global Witness in August 2006 for the implementation of an Independent Forest Monitoring Pilot Project in Nicaragua. The mission concerned the San Gregorio Forest Management General Plan (FMGP) in the municipality of Murra, Nueva Segovia, and the corresponding Annual Operational Plan (AOP).

This Forest Management General Plan for conifer forest was authorised by INAFOR on 6 June 2005 by means of authorisation no. 1307P05299 issued to the owner Mr José Blas Palma Palma.

The 2006 AOP describes intervention in 5 sectors (1, 2, 6, 7 and 8), representing an area of 16.70 hectares. Final felling would be conducted here leaving seedlings and commercially-thinned forest. The total volume of timber to be extracted was 391 cubic metres.

The monitoring mission was conducted with the collaboration of the INAFOR District Delegate, Mr Harold Rodríguez and the Municipal Delegate, Mr Freddy Torrez. The Forest Regents responsible for implementing the AOP also participated in the mission with the Independent Monitor.

The Independent Monitor reached the following conclusions with respect to this mission:

1. The maps presented in the San Gregorio FMGP and AOP were not drawn up in accordance with the prevailing technical regulations.
2. There were no markers or signs to clearly indicate the boundaries and corners of the FMGP area. This contravenes the prevailing technical regulations.
3. The area described in the General Plan document (33.53 hectares) does not correspond with the area shown on the map drawn up in accordance with the coordinates given in the same document (59.70 hectares).
4. Trees were felled outside the boundaries of the Management Plan area.
5. The legality of harvesting activities conducted in the management area is questionable.

On the basis of these conclusions, the Independent Monitor presents the following recommendations:

1. The current maps should be amended to take into account the technical regulations, in particular paragraph 4.1.2.
2. The Regent responsible for the implementation of the plan should repeat the demarcation activities for the area under management such that the area's signs, corners and boundaries can be clearly seen.
3. The actual area under management should be amended in accordance with the coordinates given in the documents.
4. INAFOR should undertake an investigation to identify those persons responsible for illegal logging in the perimeter zone of the managed area and should pursue relevant administrative proceedings until their conclusion.

## **2. Composition of the monitoring mission team**

Flor de María López, Forest Regent responsible for the San Gregorio Forestry Management Plan, Jícaro Municipality.

Jasmina del Carmen Bustillo Torrez, Forest Regent, Jícaro Municipality.

Arturo Avila, Independent Forest Monitoring Technical Staff, Global Witness.

César Zelaya, Independent Forest Monitoring Technical Staff, Global Witness.

Laura Furones, Project Manager for Independent Forest Monitoring in Nicaragua, Global Witness.

## **3. Assistance given to the mission**

The forest monitoring mission was greatly assisted by the participation and collaboration of the Forest Regents.

This participation and collaboration took the following form:

- Facilitating the inspection of the managed area,
- Providing information and documentation on the managed area, and
- Sharing information on the work conducted in the inspected area.

## **4. Constraints**

The Independent Monitor did not encounter any restrictions in carrying out this forest monitoring mission.

## **5. Description of the fieldwork**

The monitoring mission carried out the following work:

### *Day 1 (8 December)*

- Inspection of the perimeter of the area and recording the geographical coordinates of the plan survey points.
- Verification of logging within the perimeter of the managed area.

### *Day 2 (9 December)*

- Inspection of the perimeter of the area and recording the geographical coordinates of the plan survey points.
- Verification of logging within the perimeter of the area and in protection zones, as shown on the maps provided in the document.
- Inventory of stumps outside the perimeter of the plan area.

## **6. Results of the mission**

### **6.1. General description of the area inspected**

The San Gregorio FMGP is located in the San Gregorio community in the municipality of Murra, Nueva Segovia Department. It is administered by the INAFOR delegation of the municipality of Jícaro.

The Plan was authorised by the district delegation on 6 June 2005 under no. 1307 – P05299.

The Plan comprises 33.35 hectares divided into 13 sectors, eight of which are productive forest, one is pasture, two are cultivation areas and two protection areas. The projected total volume of timber to be extracted is 1,901 cubic metres over 10 years divided into three periods.

### **6.2. Main findings**

#### **6.2.1. Maps of the managed area**

The FMGP documentation includes two maps of the managed area. The first map, apparently drawn freehand, illustrates the sectors. The second, also drawn freehand over a printed map, uses the coordinates described in the document. The second map merely displays the location of the managed area (see maps 1 and 2 in annex).

The first map does not show the scale, survey points or coordinates; this is a breach of the prevailing technical regulations (paragraph 4.1.2). The second map is not drawn in accordance with the established scale and does not provide important information (area, neighbouring plots, etc.).

The Independent Monitor drew up a third map (see annex 3) taking into account the coordinates given in the FMGP. This shows a different area from that described by the document. For this reason the legality of the management activities, in particular harvesting, is questionable.

#### **6.2.2. Delimitation of the managed area**

During the inspection of the perimeter of the area it was noted that there were no markers of the boundaries or corners. This represented a failure to indicate and demarcate the area, which is actually a requirement of all forestry management plans. Furthermore, it was noted that there were no signs indicating the managed area.

#### **6.2.3. Harvesting trees outside the Plan boundaries**

A total of 10 stumps were georeferenced at the edge of the FMGP area during the monitoring mission. The map below shows that four trees were felled outside the area. However there was no evidence of who was responsible for this logging. Although only a few trees have been felled illegally, it is still a matter of concern as the Regents responsible for the plans were unaware of these activities in areas which, in theory, they should know very well.

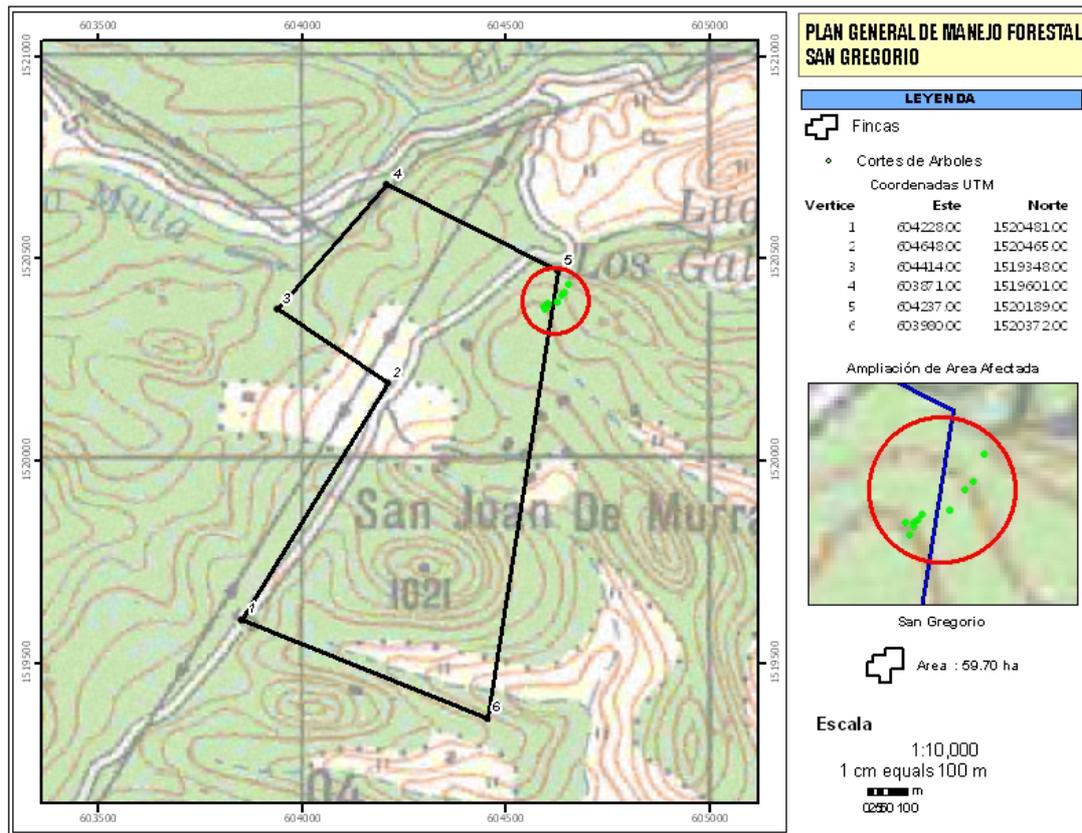


Figure 2 shows the diameter of the stumps and the approximate volume of timber extracted from near the boundaries of the Management Plan area.

No.	Stump diameter	Approximate volume (cubic metres)
1	57	0.47
2	45	0.47
3	49	0.47
4	54	0.47
5	48	0.47
6	62	0.47
7	59	0.47
8	53	0.47
9	71	0.47
10	70	0.47
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4.70</b>

## **7. Conclusions and recommendations**

After analysing and processing the information gathered during the monitoring mission for the San Gregorio FMGP and AOP, the Independent Monitor offers the following conclusions:

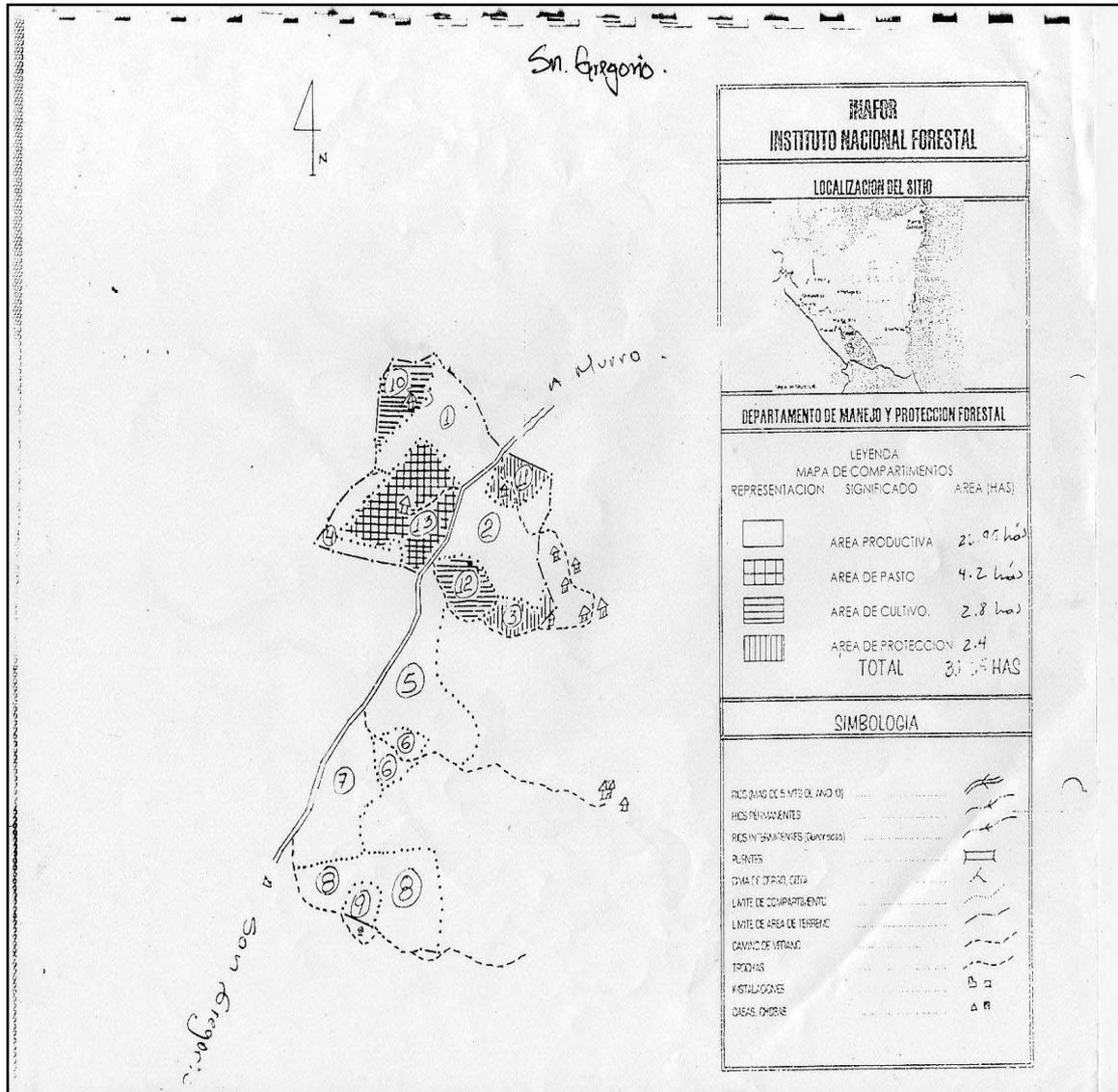
1. The maps presented in the San Gregorio FMGP and AOP were not drawn up in accordance with the prevailing technical regulations.
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3. The area shown in the General Plan document (33.53 hectares) does not correspond to the area on the map drawn up according to the coordinates given in the same document (59.70 hectares)
4. Trees were felled outside the boundaries of the Management Plan area.
5. The legality of harvesting activities conducted in the managed area is questionable.

On the basis of these conclusions, the Independent Monitor presents the following recommendations:

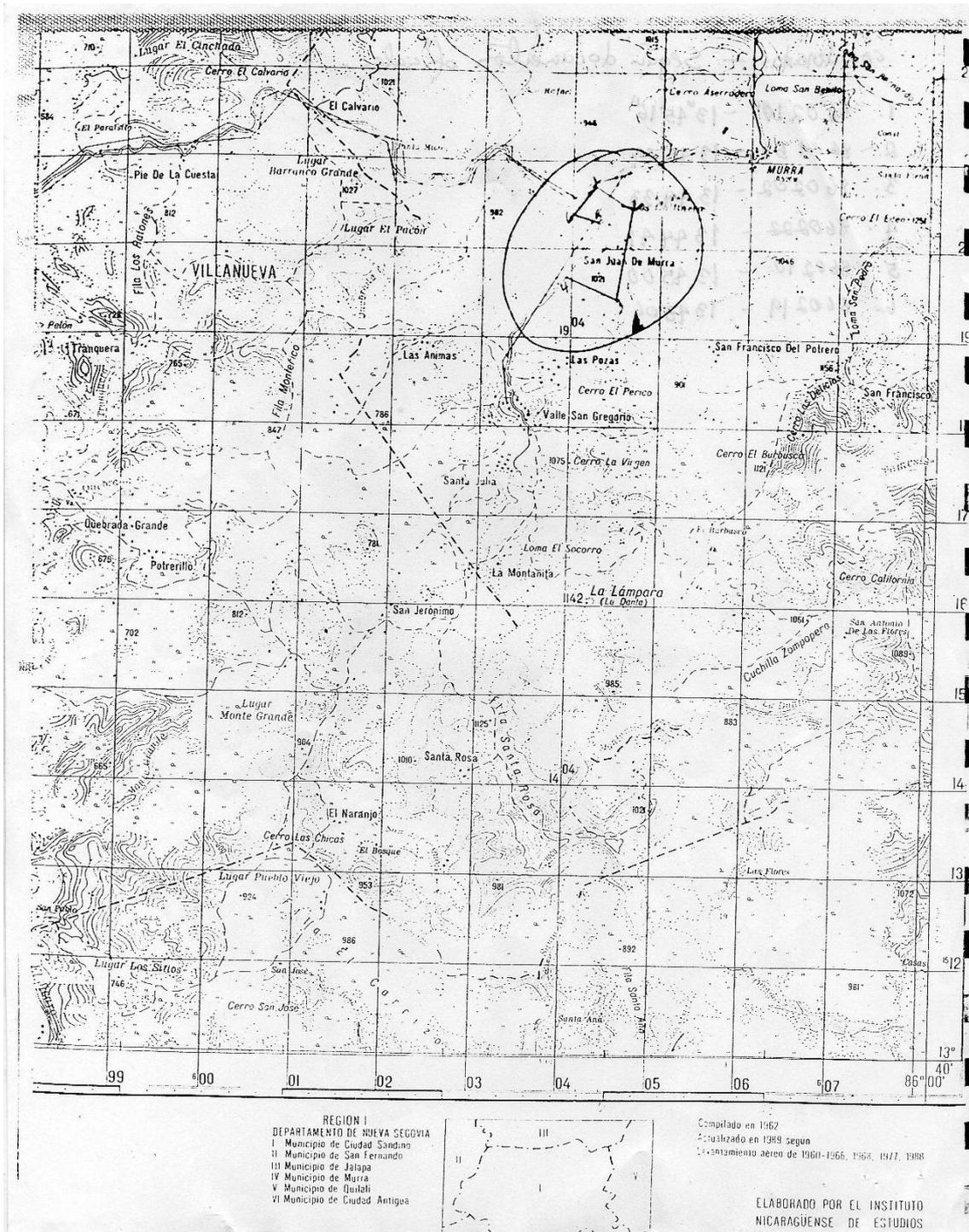
1. The current maps should be amended to take into account the technical regulations, in particular those in paragraph 4.1.2.
2. The Regent responsible for the implementation of the plan should repeat the demarcation activities for the area under management such that the area's signs, corners and boundaries can be clearly seen.
3. The actual managed area should be amended in accordance with the coordinates given in the documents.
4. INAFOR should conduct an investigation to identify those persons responsible for illegal logging at the perimeters of the managed area and should pursue appropriate legal proceedings until their conclusion.

# 8. Annexes

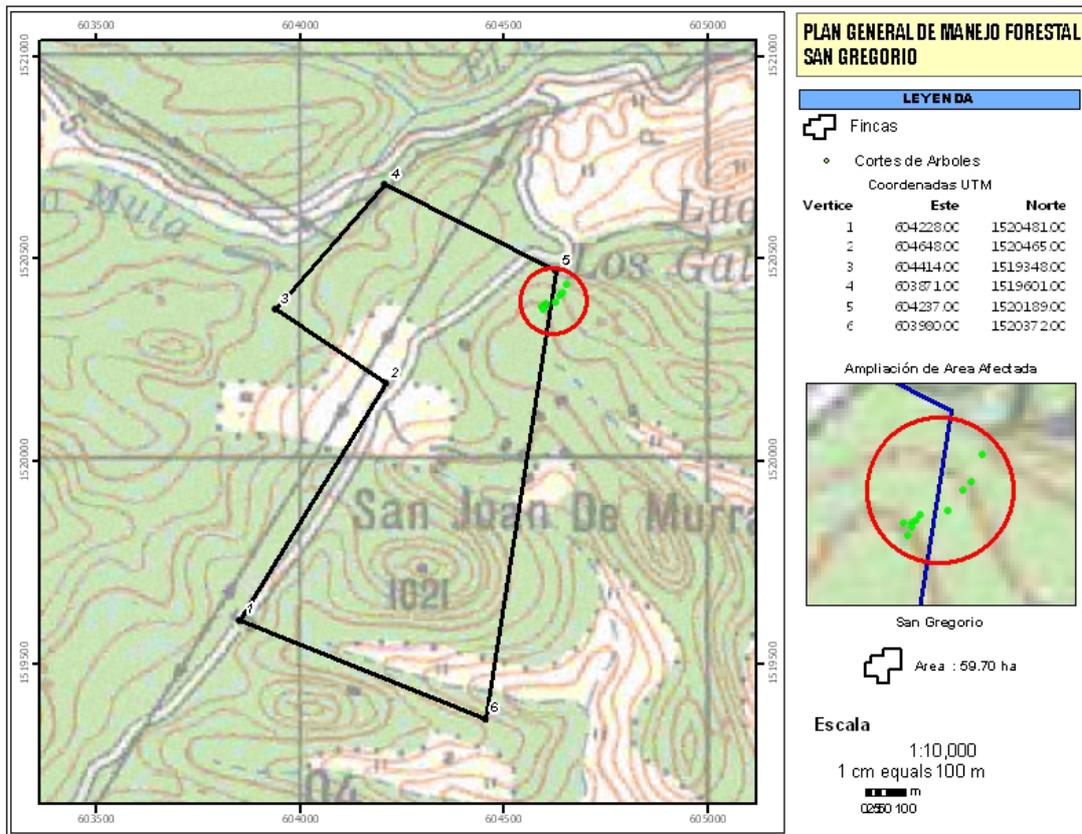
## Annex 1. Map of the managed area, drawn freehand.



**Annex 2. Map of the managed area drawn over a printed map according to the document coordinates.**



**Annex 3. Map of the managed area drawn up by the Independent Monitor in accordance with the document coordinates.**



Annex 4. Forest Management General Plan authorisation.

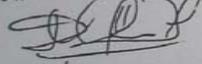
 **República de Nicaragua**  
**Instituto Nacional Forestal**  
**INAFOR** 

**AUTORIZACION FORESTAL**

1307 P05299

El Instituto Nacional Forestal, aprueba el **Plan General de Manejo Forestal ( P.G.M.F. )**:  
Jose Blas Palma Palma, por haber cumplido con los requisitos Técnicos, Legales y  
Administrativo que para tal efecto se requieren. Al propietario: Jose Blas Palma Palma,  
Ubicado en el departamento de: Nueva Segovia, en el municipio: Murra.  
Para que durante periodo 2005 - 2015, realice operaciones de manejo sostenible al  
recursos forestal, en el sitio conocido como: San Gregorio, Que para  
tal efecto deberá ser presentado el correspondiente PLAN OPERATIVO ANUAL ( POA ).

Dado en la ciudad de Ocotal, a los 06 días del mes Junio de 2005.

*Donald José Aguayo Huidiel*  
  
Ced: # 489-020673-0008K  
Reg. # 0245  
09/06/005

Delegado Departamental  
INAFOR



Forma 981202-046