



Independent Forest Monitoring Pilot Project in Nicaragua

Mission Report No. 012

Mission of the Independent Monitor

Forest Management General Plan El Limón III Annual Operational Plan in conifer Community Forest

Name of the area:	El Limón
Forest Harvesting Permit/ AOP 2006 :	PAF No. 07185
Forest Management General Plan:	Authorisation no. 1602 P05016
Produced by:	Walter Campos V.
Forest Regent:	Ramiro Maradiaga
Owner:	Julio Rodezno Casco
Municipality:	Prinzapolka
Department:	RAAN

Mission date: 20 July 2007

Report date: 27 July 2007

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1. Executive Summary

In continuing the implementation of the Independent Forest Monitoring Project in Nicaragua, and within the framework of the Agreement between the National Forest Institute (INAFOR) and Global Witness, a monitoring mission was carried out on 20 July to the conifer Forest Management General Plan El Limón III, located in the Municipality of Prinzapolka, in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN).

This management plan is implemented in pine forests that belong to the Alamikamba community, and the beneficiary is Mr. Julio Rodezno Casco, to whom 60 hectares of forest were allocated as a concession. This was done in compliance with the legal requirements established to this end. However, in awarding these rights to harvest, the boundaries of the allocated area were not specified.

This Forest Management General Plan (FMGP) was approved in January 2006 under INAFOR Forest Authorisation No.1602 – P05016, and is valid for 10 years (2005-2015). To this date, the first harvest has been made under the Annual Operational Plan (AOP) 2006. This includes Forest Harvesting Permit No. 07185, which expired in January 2007.

The activities carried out during this monitoring mission focused on verifying the perimeter FMGP and the compartments it is divided into. It also gathered data related to the harvesting of trees beyond the perimeter of the FMGP authorised by INAFOR, and subsequently a detailed review of the FMGP and the AOP were carried out.

As a result of the fieldwork and the review and analysis of the information and document provided, the independent monitor presents the following conclusions about the mission:

1. The procedures to approve FMGP El Limón III and AOP 2006, both at a desk level and in the field, were not followed rigorously by the INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation. There was an evident lack of field verification and control of the forest inventory data and the relevant calculations stemming from it.
2. Mr. Julio Rodezno Casco transferred the ownership of FMGP El Limón III to the company Tepas de Nicaragua S.A. (Teknisa) without informing the INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation.
3. In July 2006, a new delimitation of the FMGP was done by Teknisa through a forest regent, which resulted in the wrong demarcation of the plan and its compartments. 60% (11 hectares) of this new demarcation was done beyond the area authorised by INAFOR in January 2006, and the area was decreased from 60 to 20 hectares.
4. Teknisa carried out harvesting activities beyond the area established in the FMGP.
5. A total of 99 trees were logged beyond the perimeter of the FMGP, which adds up to an average volume of timber of 48.2 cubic meters. It is not known who is responsible for such logging.

6. The INAFOR Municipal Delegation did not carry out the field verification for the new delimitation of the FMGP made by Teknisa.

Based on these conclusions, the following recommendations are presented:

1. INAFOR should request to both Mr. Julio Rodezno Casco and Teknisa that they clarify and legalise the ownership of the FMGP so as to assume responsibilities regarding the anomalies found in the area under management.
2. Teknisa should carry out a new demarcation of the FMGP based on the coordinates included in the document approved by INAFOR.
3. INAFOR should inform the communal and municipal authorities about the illegal logging of trees carried out in communal areas beyond the authorised area of the FMGP.
4. The INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation should carry out an inventory of trees logged by Teknisa beyond the boundaries of the FMGP as a result of the demarcation done in July 2006.
5. Central INAFOR should provide the INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation with the technical equipment (maps, compasses, GPS devices, tape measures, etc) to allow effective monitoring activities of the forest activities carried out in the municipality.

2. Composition of the monitoring team

The monitoring team comprised the following people:

- Ramiro Maradiaga, Teknisa Forest Regent
- Kirk Smith Thompson, INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegate
- Humberto Méndez, Head of Forest Monitoring Department – Central INAFOR
- Arturo Avila, Independent Forest Monitoring Technical staff, Global Witness
- César Zelaya, Independent Forest Monitoring Technical staff, Global Witness

3. Positive aspects

This mission enjoyed collaboration and willingness of the Central INAFOR staff, the INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation, and the forest regent of Teknisa.

4. Constraints

No constraints were found in the implementation of this mission.

5. Description of the fieldwork

Fieldwork comprised the following activities:

- Verifying the FMGP boundaries.

- Registering points using a GPS device.
- Gathering data of the diameter and location of the felled trees (stumps) beyond the FMGP boundaries.

6. Results of the field mission

6.1 General description of the FMGP El Limón III

The site known as El Limón is located in communal lands that belong to the Alamikamba community, from the Prinzapolka Municipality, in the North Autonomous Atlantic Region (RAAN).

FMGP El Limón III was approved by INAFOR in January 2006 through Forest Authorisation No. 1602 – P05016, under the name of Mr. Julio Rodezno Casco. The area to be managed is 60 hectares and is divided in three compartments of 20 hectares each, which are mostly comprised of *Pinus caribaea*, in an area of transition towards a broadleaf forest.

The plan is valid for ten years, and three interventions are established, in years one, four and eight respectively. A total of 5980 m³ is to be harvested in that period.

The first intervention was to be carried out in compartments Nos. 1 and 2, applying a 'final logging' treatment, where seedlings should be left standing in 2006 and activities should end in January 2007, as AOP 2006 reflects. This is based on Forest Harvesting Permit No. 07185, which authorises the logging of 5244 trees with a total of 2,580 m³, with an average volume of 0.49 m³ / tree.

According to the forest regent Ramiro Maradiaga, a total of 1,233.397 m³ were harvested until January 2007, thus a total of 1,356.603 m³ remained to be harvested according to the volume authorised in the Forest Harvesting Permit.

This FMGP was authorised to Mr. Julio Rodezno. However, in July 2006 it became the property of the Company Tepas de Nicaragua, S.A. (Teknisa), but the transfer of this ownership was not registered in the INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation. With the change of owner, the forest regent was also changed, from Adrián Gutiérrez at first to Ramiro Maradiaga more recently.

The annexes show all the documents related to the approval of the FMGP and the AOP.

6.2 Main findings

6.2.1 Approval of the FMGP / AOP 2006

The approval of the FMGP is based on the desk review of the documents presented by the company and the field verification carried out by INAFOR in the area under management.

However, the independent monitor, in following the same procedures that those employed by the forest authority, detected a lack of rigorousness in the approval of the FMGP and its AOP 2006. More specifically, this refers to the verification of the

coordinates and technical data related to the compartments. There is a lack of information to this end in the formats required by INAFOR.

In checking the FMGP coordinates, the independent monitor was able to detect that point 2 of compartment No. 1 and point 2 of compartment No. 2 had been moved to the east, and therefore there should have been an approval of the amended plans. Map No. 1 shows the amended boundaries of the FMGP.

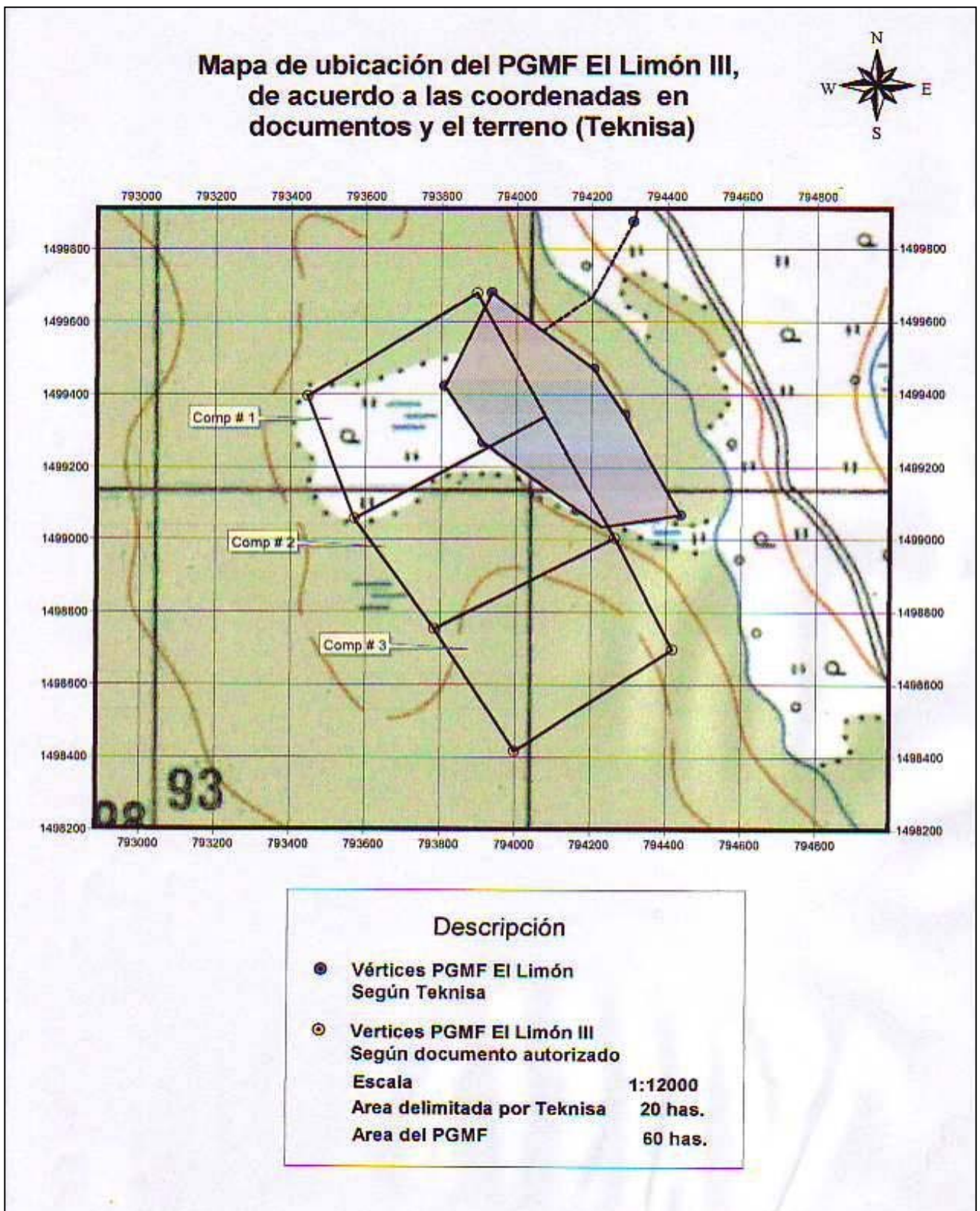
6.2.2 Demarcation of the FMGP boundaries carried out by the company Teknisa

In July 2006, when the ownership of FMGP El Limón III was transferred from Mr. Rodezno to Teknisa, a new demarcation of the plan was carried out by forest regent Ramiro Maradiaga.

This demarcation was not tallied with the FMGP coordinates shown in the document approved by INAFOR. 60% of the new demarcation was outside the area authorised, and the harvesting activities carried out by Teknisa were therefore beyond boundaries.

Map No. 1 shows this new demarcation.

Map No. 1



6.2.3 Logging of trees beyond the FMGP

During the verification of the boundaries of FMGP El Limón III, when taking into account the demarcation established on the ground, it was found that 98 trees had been logged. By using a GPS device, and based on the coordinates established in the management plan, the monitor verified that these were beyond the area authorised to Mr. Julio Rodezno Casco, and so all stumps were registered.

The table below shows the number of stumps, the diameter in cm and the UTM coordinates where each was located.

Table No. 1. Inventory of stumps of trees illegally logged beyond the perimeter of FMGP El Limón III

Stump no.	Diameter	Coordinates		Stump no.	Diameter	Coordinates	
		Latitude	Longitude			Latitude	Longitude
1	59	793788	1499583	51		794295	1498925
2	51	793796	1499580	52		794296	1498913
3	54	793796	1499588	53		794296	1499161
4	42	793811	1499577	54		794297	1498925
5	55	793813	1499578	55		794299	1499095
6	47	793814	1499572	56		794306	1499343
7	52	793815	1499578	57		794315	1499082
8	53	793907	1499732	58		794317	1499046
9	49	794087	1499144	59		794318	1499080
10	59	794094	1499130	60		794322	1499085
11	55	794101	1499129	61		794322	1499332
12	53	794119	1499135	62		794324	1499299
13	35	794123	1499137	63		794326	1499040
14	59	794137	1499596	64		794334	1499071
15	45	794158	1499129	65		794334	1499102
16	60	794166	1499121	66		794334	1499105
17	58	794175	1499105	67		794334	1499096
18	60	794212	1498871	68		794334	1499289
19	80	794216	1498885	69		794338	1499268
20	50	794223	1499114	70		794340	1499285
21	60	794228	1499231	71		794345	1499044
22	63	794228	1499446	72		794352	1499048
23	48	794234	1499232	73		794361	1499049
24	57	794245	1498918	74		794363	1499069
25	69	794246	1499099	75		794366	1499089
26	42	794248	1498911	76		794374	1498968
27	57	794249	1498935	77		794374	1498977
28	49	794249	1499091	78		794375	1498916
29	44	794250	1498919	79		794377	1499055
30	60	794257	1498865	80		794379	1499078
31	62	794257	1498927	81		794380	1498912
32	62	794259	1498873	82		794382	1498907
33	60	794261	1499055	83		794382	1499180
34	49	794264	1499402	84		794384	1498898
35	70	794269	1498854	85		794384	1499102
36	44	794272	1498922	86		794385	1499103

37	48	794274	1498938	87		794386	1499100
38	50	794277	1498919	88		794386	1499146
39	60	794281	1498856	89		794387	1499146
40	48	794282	1498926	90		794390	1499081
41	46	794282	1499191	91		794397	1499083
42	65	794285	1499189	92		794398	1499078
43	50	794286	1498932	93		794404	1499133
44	69	794286	1499044	94		794406	1499135
45	58	794286	1499083	95		794416	1499089
46	65	794287	1499037	96		794417	1499087
47	58	794289	1498893	97		794424	1499127
48	63	794291	1499355	98		794432	1499088
49	42	794292	1499091				
50	50	794292	1499375				

With a view to calculate the volume of timber logged illegally, the monitor applied the following formula:

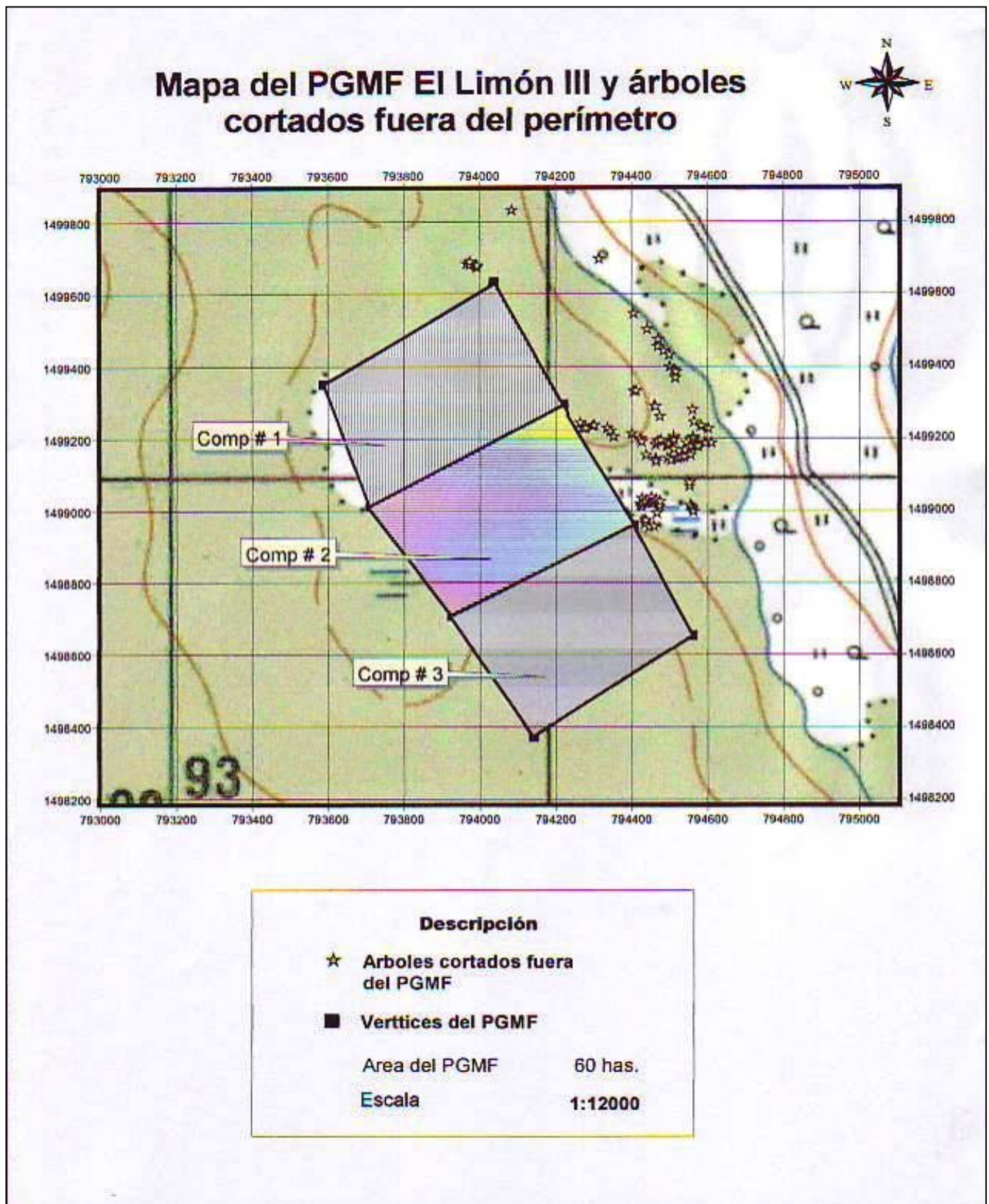
Trees harvested x average volume per tree (m³) = total volume

98 trees x 0.492 m³ = 48 m³ harvested

As shown above, the estimate volume logged beyond the boundaries of the FMGP approved by INAFOR, is 48 m³.

Map No. 2 shows the boundaries of the FMGP El Limón III and the illegal logging of trees beyond it.

Map No.2



7. Conclusions and Recommendations

After analysing and processing the information contained in the FMGP and AOP documents, as well as the data gathered in the field, the monitor presents the following conclusions:

1. The procedures to approve FMGP El Limón III and AOP 2006, both at a desk level and in the field, were not followed rigorously by the INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation. There was an evident lack of field verification and control of the forest inventory data and the relevant calculations stemming from it.
2. Mr. Julio Rodezno Casco transferred the ownership of FMGP El Limón III to the company Tecas de Nicaragua S.A. (Teknisa) without informing the INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation.
3. In July 2006, a new delimitation of the FMGP was done by Teknisa through a forest regent, which resulted in the wrong demarcation of the plan and its compartments. 60% (11 hectares) of this new demarcation was done beyond the area authorised by INAFOR in January 2006, and the area decreased from 60 to 20 hectares.
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6. The INAFOR Municipal Delegation did not carry out the field verification for the new delimitation of the FMGP made by Teknisa.

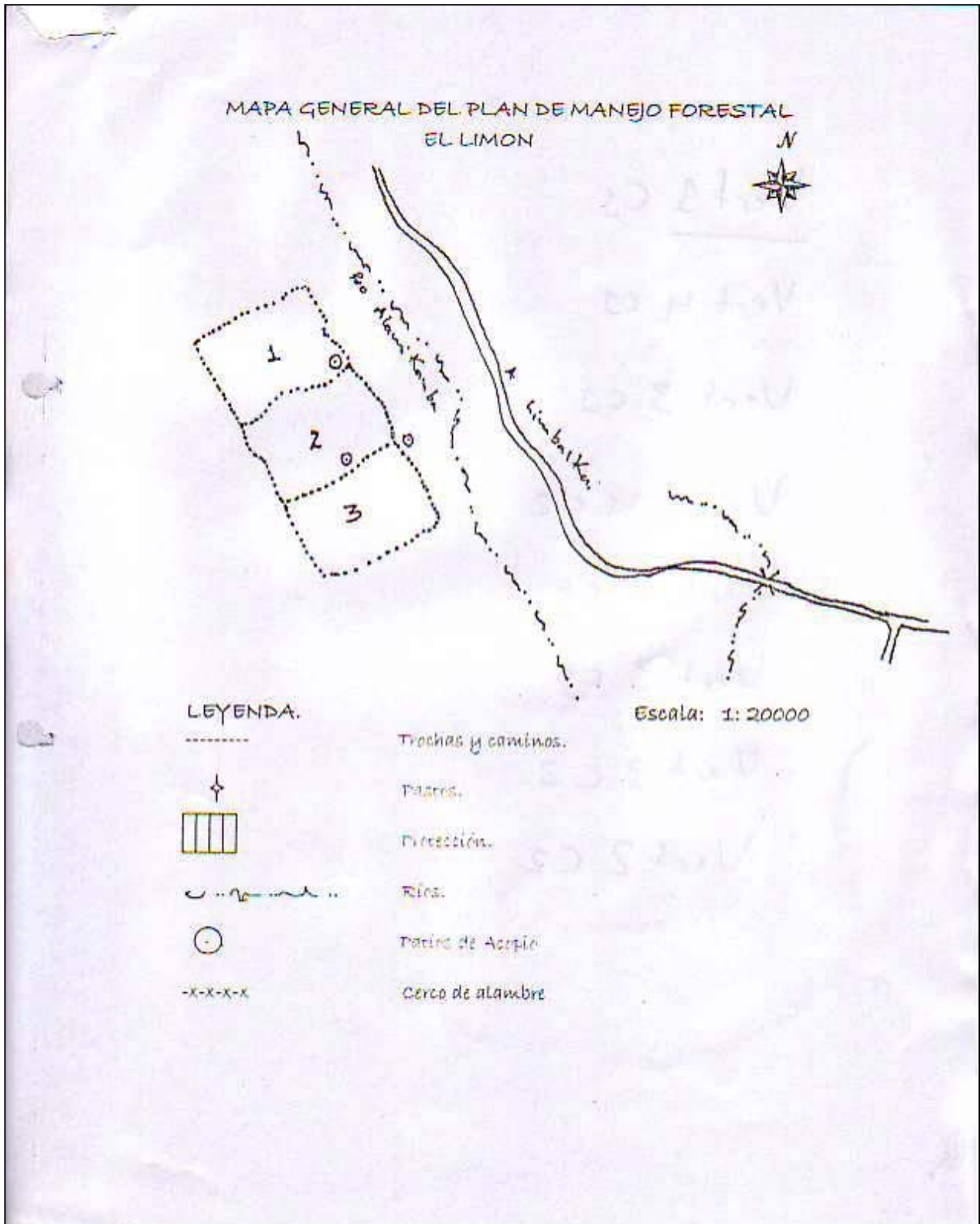
Based on the previous conclusions, the following recommendations are presented:

1. INAFOR should request to both Mr. Julio Rodezno Casco and Teknisa that they clarify and legalise the ownership of the FMGP so as to exonerate themselves from the anomalies found in the area under management.
2. Teknisa should carry out a new demarcation of the FMGP based on the coordinates included in the document approved by INAFOR.
3. INAFOR should inform the communal and municipal authorities about the illegal logging of trees carried out in communal areas beyond the authorised area of the FMGP.
4. The INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation should carry out an inventory of trees logged by Teknisa beyond the boundaries of the FMGP as a result of the demarcation done in July 2006.




5. Central INAFOR should provide the INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation with the technical equipment (maps, compasses, GPS devices, tape measures, etc) to allow effective monitoring activities of the forest activities carried out in the municipality.

8. Annexes

Annex 1: Map of FMGP El Limón III



Annex 2: Authorisation of FMGP El Limón III

	República de Nicaragua Instituto Nacional Forestal INAFOR	
AUTORIZACION FORESTAL		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;"> 1602 P05016 </div>		
El Instituto Nacional Forestal, aprueba el Plan General de Manejo Forestal (P.G.M.F.) :		
El Limón III	por haber cumplido con los requisitos Técnicos, Legales y	Administrativo que para tal efecto se requieren. Al propietario: <u>Julio Rodezno Casco</u> ,
Ubicado en el departamento de: <u>R.A.A.N</u> , en el municipio: <u>Prinzapolka</u>	Para que durante periodo <u>2005-2015</u> , realice operaciones de manejo sostenible al recursos forestal, en el sitio conocido como: <u>Alamikamba</u> , Que para tal efecto deberá ser presentado el correspondiente PLAN OPERATIVO ANUAL (POA).	
Dado en la ciudad de <u>Prinzapolka</u>	a los <u>23</u> días del mes <u>Enero</u>	de <u>2006</u> .
		
Delegado Departamental INAFOR		
Forma 081202-046		

Annex 3: Forest Harvesting Permit 2006

CÓDIGO	NOMBRE CIENTÍFICO	NOMBRE COMÚN	TOTAL ÁRBOLES	VOLUMEN (m ³)	VOLUMEN POR ÁRBOL
61	<i>Pinus Caribea</i>	Pino Caribe	5,244	2,580	0.492
Total Aprobado			5,244	2,580	0.492

Esta autorización es válida hasta: 24-01-2007

Para transportar la madera deberá hacerse con la guía de transporte de madera en rollo

Dado en la ciudad de Prinzapolka a los 23 días del mes de Enero del 2006

Observaciones:

Firma Autorizada

ORIGINAL: DUEÑO
 1ra COPIA: INAFOR DEPTAL.
 2da COPIA: INAFOR MUNICIPAL
 3ta COPIA: INAFOR CENTRAL