



Independent Forest Monitoring Project in Nicaragua

Mission Report No. 013

Mission of the Independent Monitor

Community Forest Management General Plan Annual Operational Plan in a Conifer Community Forest

Name of the property:	Dipawala, Caño Yulukira
Forest Harvesting Permit / AOP 04 - 05 :	PAF No. 0004079
Forest Management General Plan:	Authorisation no. 1602 P655
Produced by:	German López
Forest Regent:	Omar Cruz (Masangni cooperative)
Owner:	Las Crucetas Miskita Community
Municipality:	Prinzapolka
Department:	RAAN

Mission date: 22 to 24 July 2007

Report date: 10 September 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 Collaboration Agreement between INAFOR¹ and Global Witness, a monitoring mission was carried out on 24 and 25 August 2007 to the Community Forest Management General Plan CEPISA – Las Crucetas, located in the municipality of Prinzapolka, North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN).

This Management Plan is being implemented in pine forests that belong to Las Crucetas Community, in the place known as Dipawala – Caño Yulukira. The beneficiaries are a group of 53 families of the said community, represented by Mr. Chavelo Andrews.

The Forest Management General Plan (FMGP) of the Compañía Exportadora de Pinos, S.A (CEPISA) was produced in May 2001 with the support of Proyecto Forestal / PROFOR/ World Bank, and was approved on 23 May 2004 by INAFOR forest authorisation No. 1602 – P655. A management period of 43 years was established, starting in 2002 and ending in 2045.

The community forest has an area of 11,200.00 has., of which 6,086.50 has. are production forests. The estimated volume to be harvested is 483,274.2 m³, with an annual volume of 8,654.00 m³ in a total of 43 compartments.

In 2004, INAFOR approved the first Annual Operational Plan (AOP 04 – 05), through authorisation No.0004049, where it allowed the logging of 3,189 pine trees (*Pinus caribea*) with a total volume of 7,794.43 m³ and an average volume per tree of 2.444 m³. However, due to financial difficulties facing the community, the AOP could not be carried out that year, and it was not until 2006 – 2007 that the plan was partially implemented. To this end, INAFOR renewed the Forest Harvesting Permit, which expired in June this year.

From 2004, Las Crucetas community received technical support from WWF-Nicaragua to implement the FMGP and the AOP 04 – 05. At the end of 2006, WWF withdrew its support to the community and this role was assumed by the Masangni cooperative, which headquarters are in Bilwi, Puerto Cabezas, RAAN.

Activities carried out during this monitoring mission focused on the verification of the perimeter of compartment No. 33, as well as on the collection of data of trees logged beyond the FMGP and the compartment authorised by INAFOR, and the protection areas for water sources. The FMGP and the AOP 04 – 05 were also reviewed in detail.

As a result of the fieldwork and the review and analysis of the relevant information, the independent monitor offers the following conclusions about the mission:

1. The INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation approved AOP 04 – 05 and issued the Forest Harvesting Permit without appropriately verifying the coordinates of compartment No. 33 in the field, thus breaching the requirements established to this end, which make it compulsory for INAFOR to undertake field verification before approving an AOP.

¹ Instituto Nacional Forestal – Nicaraguan Forest Authority

2. Company CEPISA did not carry out the required delimitation and demarcation of compartment No. 33 of AOP 04 – 05 which was harvested in the period 06 – 07.
3. According to the coordinates of compartment No. 33 included in the AOP document, and according to the map produced based on them, it is estimated that such compartment covers an area of 60 has., which contradicts the same document, where it is stated that the total area is 130 has.
4. A total of 33 trees were logged illegally beyond the area of the FMGP, and a further 166 trees were logged beyond the perimeter of compartment No. 33. It is estimated that a total volume of 485 m³ of timber was logged beyond boundaries.
5. Out of the total number of trees logged, 76 were harvested within the 50 meter protection area for permanent water courses.
6. Company CEPISA built a log pond and facilities to locate a portable sawmill in compartment No. 36 without INAFOR's authorisation. 90 pine logs were found in such premises, with a total estimated volume of 30 m³ of timber.

Based on these conclusions, the following recommendations are presented:

1. INAFOR should take the pertinent measures to implement sanctions related to the breach of technical and administrative regulations stemming from the evidence presented in this report.
2. The INAFOR – Prinzapolka authorities should significantly increase their efforts with a view to carrying out an effective and rigorous monitoring of the FMGP approved within their jurisdiction, so as to prevent the occurrence of illegal logging activities.
3. INAFOR should temporarily suspend the implementation of FMGP CEPISA – Las Crucetas, until both CEPISA and the Masangni cooperative have done an appropriate delimitation of the area under management and have updated the technical and volumetric information contained in the documents.
4. Company CEPISA and the Masangni cooperative, through the assigned forest regent, should adequately delimit and demarcate the area under management in the period 06 – 07, in order that this area is not included in future AOPs.
5. INAFOR should carry out a stumps inventory of all trees logged by company CEPISA which fall beyond compartment No. 33 of the FMGP in order to quantify the exact number of trees logged illegally.
6. The Masangni cooperative should increase their efforts to improve their technical support to the community Las Crucetas – Dipawala in implementing their FMGP, and should at the same time share the responsibility for the irregular behaviour of CEPISA.

2. Composition of the monitoring team

The monitoring team was comprised by the following people:

- Br. Ezequiel Andrews, community member, partner of CEPISA.
- Enésimo Jarquín, Delegate of the Local Council, Prinzapolka – RAAN.
- Wilfredo Davis, Masangni cooperative
- Omar Cruz, Forest Regent – Masangni cooperative
- Erick Velásquez, Central INAFOR
- Félix Hernández, Forest Inspector, INAFOR- Rosita
- Kirk Smith Thompson, Delegado Municipal INAFOR – Prinzapolka
- Humberto Méndez, Head of the Forest Monitor Department – Central INAFOR
- Laura Furones, Independent Forest Monitoring Manager, Global Witness
- Arturo Avila, Independent Forest Monitoring technical team, Global Witness
- César Zelaya, Independent Forest Monitoring technical team, Global Witness

3. Positive aspects

This monitoring mission was collaboratively and willingly supported by Central INAFOR staff and District II of the INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation, as well as by staff from the Masangni cooperative.

The costs to transport the mission participants from Rosita to the CEPISA – Las Crucetas FMGP area were shared by the District II of the INAFOR Municipal Delegation and Global Witness.

4. Constraints

There were no constraints that hindered the development of this mission.

5. Description of the fieldwork

Fieldwork comprised the following activities:

- Verification of the perimeter and demarcation of compartment No. 33 of AOP 04 - 05.
- Registration of the GPS coordinates.
- Registration of data related to the diameter and location of the stumps of trees logged beyond the FMGP perimeter and beyond compartment No. 33.
- Registration of data related to the diameter and location of the stumps of trees logged near water sources.

6. Mission results

6.1 General description of FMGP CEPISA - Las Crucetas

This Management Plan is being implemented in pine forests that belong to Las Crucetas Community, in the place known as Dipawala – Caño Yulukira. The beneficiaries are a group of 53 families of the said community, represented by Mr. Chavelo Andrews.

The Forest Management General Plan (FMGP) of the Compañía Exportadora de Pinos, S.A (CEPISA) was produced in May 2001 with the support of Proyecto Forestal / PROFOR/ World Bank, and was approved on 23 May 2004 by INAFOR forest authorisation No. 1602 – P655.

A management period of 43 years was established, starting in 2002 and ending in 2045. The community forest has an area of 11,200.00 has., of which 6,086.50 has. are production forests. The estimated volume is 483,274.2 m³, with an annual volume of 8,654.00 m³ in a total of 43 compartments.

In 2004, INAFOR approved the first Annual Operational Plan (AOP 04 – 05), through authorisation No.0004049, where it allowed the logging of 3,189 pine trees (*Pinus caribea*) with a total volume of 7,794.43 m³ and an average volume per tree of 2.444 m³. However, due to financial difficulties of the community, the AOP could not be carried out that year, and it was not until 2006 – 2007 that the plan was partially implemented. To this end, INAFOR renewed the Forest Harvesting Permit, which expired in June this year.

From 2004, Las Crucetas community received technical support from WWF to implement the FMGP and the AOP 04 – 05. At the end of 2006, WWF withdrew its support to the community and this role was assumed by the Masangni cooperative, which headquarters are in Bilwi, Puerto Cabezas, RAAN. Their work focused on strengthening the technical and administrative capacity of the members of company CEPISA.

CEPISA has faced financial difficulties, which has hindered them from implementing all the forest activities included in the FMGP.

6.2 Main findings

6.2.1 Approval of FMGP / AOP 2004

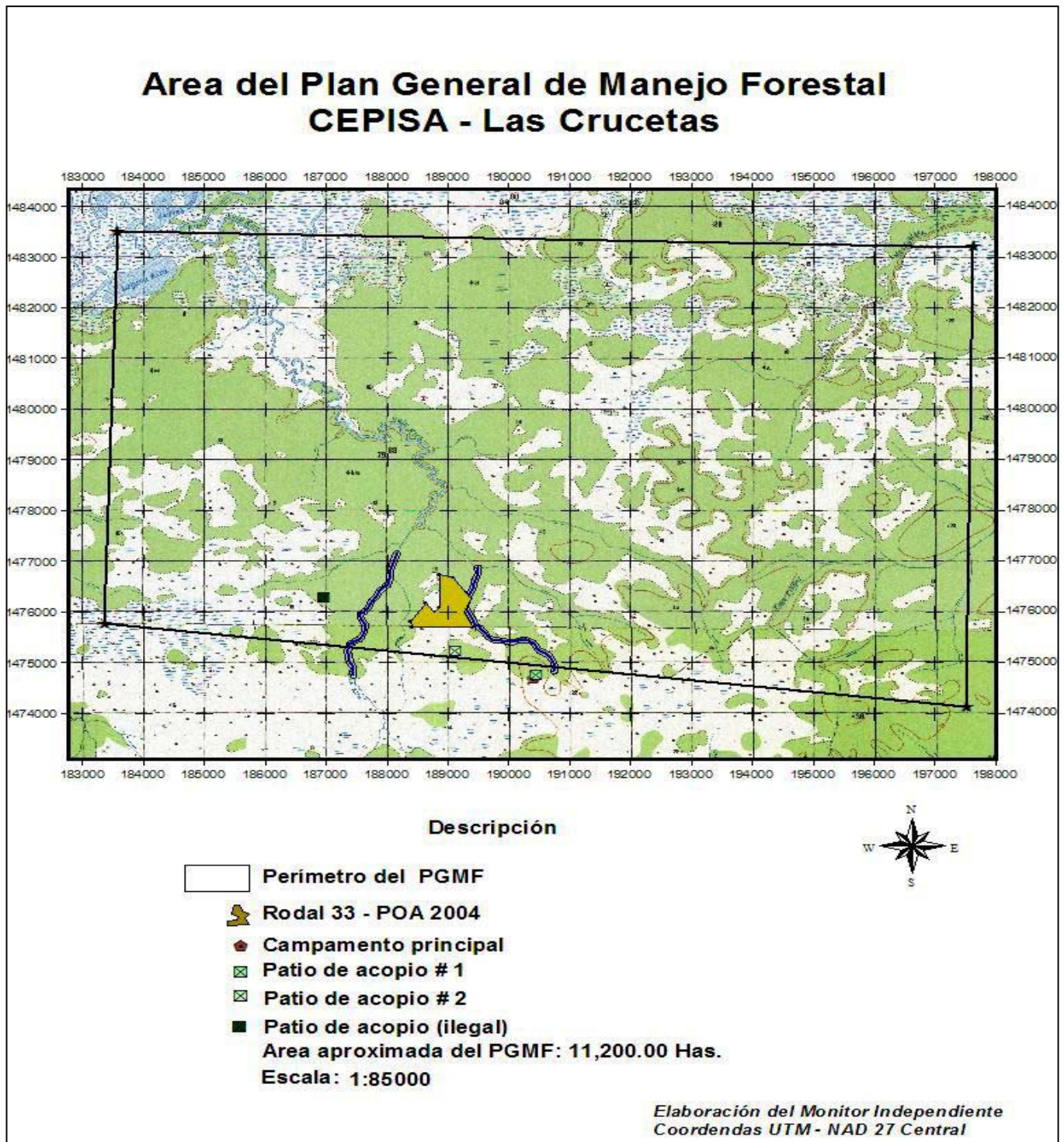
The approval of FMGP CEPISA – Las Crucetas complied with all the required paperwork. However, such approval was granted by the regional and national authorities² without previous field verification of the information contained in the FMGP and AOP 2004.

After reviewing the documents and completing the fieldwork in the FMGP and AOP 2004 area, the independent monitor verified that the coordinates in both plans (which are the ones used by the members of the Dipawala – Las Crucetas miskita community) had not been located in the field, and this has resulted in the serious consequences presented in this report.

Map No. 1 shows the FMGP delimitation according to the coordinates presented in the documentation and approved by INAFOR. The independent monitor was not able to verify the accuracy of these coordinates.

² RAAN Regional Council (*Consejo Regional de la RAAN*), RAAN Secretariat of Natural Resources (*Secretaría de Recursos Naturales de la RAAN*), Alamikamba Municipal Council (*Alcaldía Municipal Alamikamba*), INAFOR, MARENA.

Map 1: Area of the FMGP CEPISA – Las Crucetas



6.2.2 Delimitation and demarcation of compartment No. 33 of AOP 2004

Using the coordinates included in the approved AOP 2004, the independent monitor carried out a field verification of the boundaries of compartment No. 33 and found out that there had been no delimitation or demarcation in the field as required, which results in a lack of clarity about the real location of the area that was managed.

The independent monitor could not register the coordinates of compartment No. 33 on the ground due to the lack of knowledge of the community leaders and the assigned forest regent about their location.

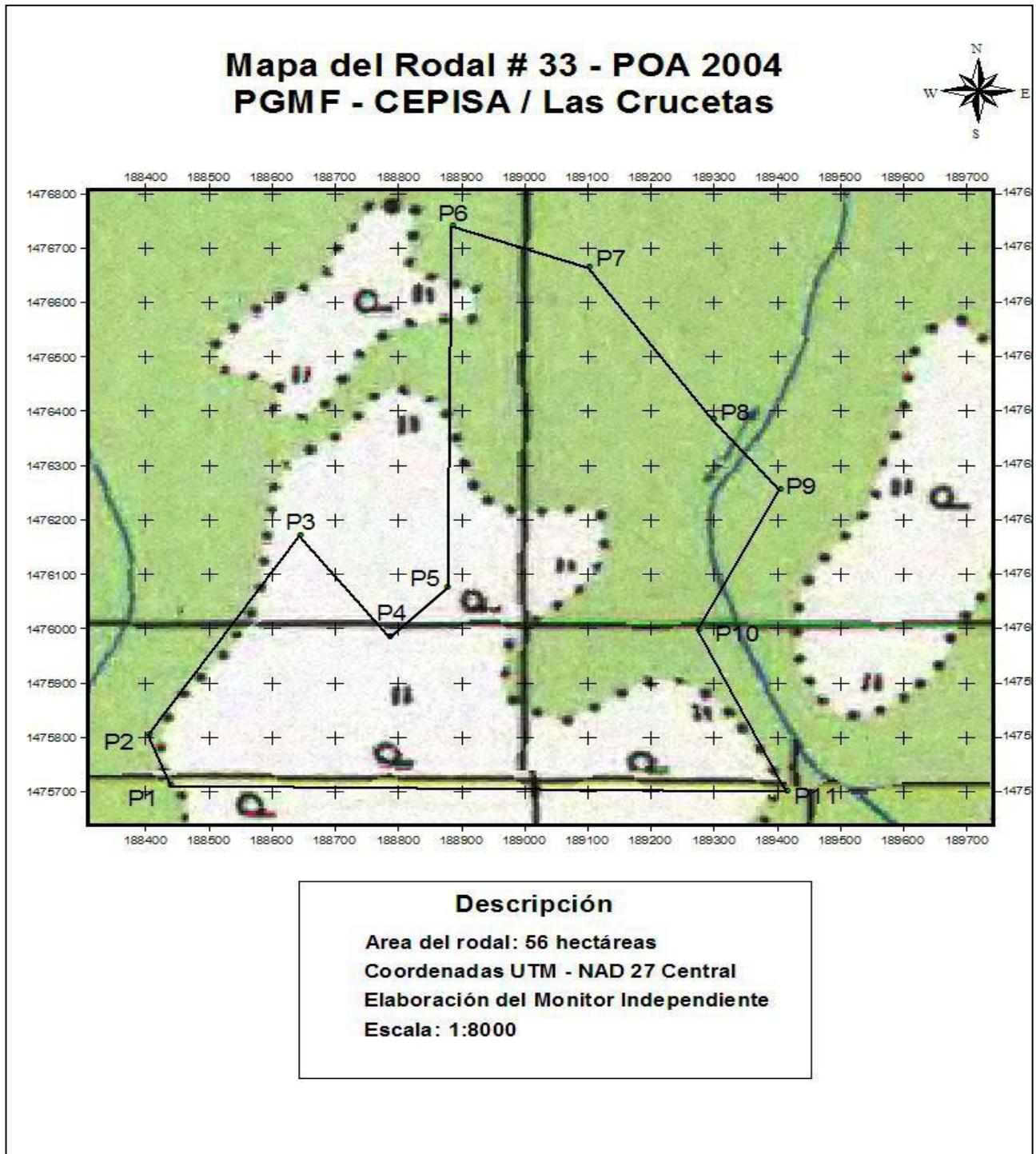
6.2.3 Area of compartment No. 33

According to the documents, compartment No. 33 has a total area of approximately 130 has. However, according to the map produced by the monitor using the approved coordinates, the resulting area was 60 has.

It is worth noting that the AOP document includes a map that does not correspond to the official coordinates of the compartment. This raises a question about a possible overestimation of the volume of the forest area under management, which was authorised by the pertinent authorities.

Annex 1 shows the boundaries of compartment No. 33 in the AOP map. However, the coordinates in the document do not coincide with this map. Map 2 has been produced by the independent monitor and shows the coordinates and the area of compartment No. 33 according to the data in the document.

Map No. 2: compartment No.33 FMGP CEPISA-Las Crucetas as produced by the monitor



6.2.4 Logging trees beyond the perimeter of the FMGP and beyond compartment No. 33 of AOP 2004

Whilst verifying the boundaries of compartment No. 33 in the field, and taking as a reference the location indicated by the community leaders and the forest regent of the FMGP, the independent monitor registered the GPS coordinates of the trees harvested, with a view to subsequently locating them on a map.

This verification showed that a total of 33 trees were logged beyond the boundaries of the FMGP, and 166 were logged beyond the boundaries of compartment 33.

The following tables show the number of stumps, their diameter in centimetres and the UTM coordinates.

Table No. 1. Inventory of stumps of trees logged illegally beyond the perimeter of FMGP CEPISA – Las Cruetas.

No. of stump	Diameter	Coordinates		No. of stump	Diameter	Coordinates	
		Latitude	Longitude			Latitude	Longitude
1	45	190680	1474775	18	50	190701	1474833
2	45	190682	1474976	19	50	190701	1474830
3	40	190683	1474778	20	34	190674	1474840
4	34	190686	1474784	21	43	190674	1474840
5	36	190689	1474781	22	60	187468	1474883
6	39	190689	1474787	23	75	187460	1474935
7	56	190689	1474793	24	53	187430	1475001
8	44	190686	1474797	25	53	187431	1475154
9	40	190680	1474806	26	53	187422	1475170
10	46	190683	1474809	27	66	187424	1475193
11	50	190677	1474812	28	51	187424	1475194
12	45	190680	1474815	29	50	187428	1475202
13	48	190677	1474815	30	53	187428	1475210
14	45	190686	1474815	31	52	187425	1475231
15	38	190689	1474821	32	43	187421	1475239
16	44	190692	1474818	33	64	187437	1475270
17	46	190704	1474821				

Table No. 2. Inventory of trees logged illegally beyond the perimeter of compartment No. 33 of FMGP CEPISA – Las Cruetas.

No. of stump	Diameter	Coordinates		No. of stump	Diameter	Coordinates	
		Latitude	Longitude			Latitude	Longitude
1	49	190684	1474953	84	62	190325	1475319
2	46	190660	1474985	85	51	190330	1475329
3	60	190653	1474985	86	57	190310	1475329
4	48	190658	1474992	87	46	190277	1475325
5	44	190662	1475004	88	62	190271	1475352
6	42	190670	1475008	89	50	190271	1475359
7	38	190673	1475012	90	49	190283	1475356
8	33	190675	1475013	91	68	190250	1475347
9	42	190675	1475010	92	56	190254	1475344

10	52	190683	1475010	93	61	190225	1475350
11	42	190689	1475033	94	51	190200	1475338
12	41	190699	1475035	95	59	190198	1475349
13	51	190690	1475040	96	51	190201	1475352
14	42	190679	1475045	97	74	190171	1475343
15	55	190676	1475055	98	56	190155	1475365
16	43	190679	1475057	99	47	190675	1474923
17	56	190693	1475082	100	37	190681	1474929
18	58	190696	1475081	101	42	190675	1474926
19	31	190695	1475085	102	38	190678	1474932
20	49	190690	1475106	103	47	190678	1474935
21	40	190685	1475113	104	50	190643	1474960
22	49	190691	1475121	105	39	190640	1474979
23	42	190693	1475123	106	48	190640	1474976
24	52	190688	1475133	107	56	190643	1474994
25	51	190680	1475151	108	55	190649	1474991
26	54	190685	1475152	109	53	190640	1475000
27	48	190670	1475147	110	56	190592	1475010
28	42	190668	1475155	111	45	190589	1475007
29	34	190665	1475156	112	45	190586	1475013
30	43	190670	1475159	113	62	190589	1475019
31	58	190659	1475148	114	62	190553	1475056
32	40	190636	1475169	115	54	190535	1475047
33	43	190634	1475164	116	54	190532	1475044
34	32	190631	1475167	117	63	190514	1475045
35	38	190636	1475159	118	46	190508	1475054
36	48	190636	1475159	119	47	190505	1475066
37	48	190631	1475155	120	54	190517	1475069
38	40	190630	1475161	121	55	190490	1475082
39	58	190631	1475171	122	44	190490	1475085
40	50	190620	1475175	123	52	190491	1475091
41	36	190628	1475182	124	45	190482	1475094
42	31	190603	1475196	125	49	190481	1475085
43	41	190602	1475194	126	50	190472	1475085
44	36	190598	1475200	127	34	190457	1475079
45	42	190595	1475198	128	59	190463	1475076
46	38	190596	1475197	129	46	190467	1475101
47	46	190594	1475219	130	46	190464	1475101
48	65	190583	1475236	131	54	190455	1475107
49	43	190587	1475240	132	45	190454	1475095
50	60	190563	1475256	133	63	190448	1475095
51	58	190550	1475253	134	40	190436	1475095
52	50	190538	1475236	135	69	190383	1475160
53	59	190536	1475230	136	57	190377	1475145
54	44	190553	1475226	137	59	190371	1475154
55	42	190558	1475228	138	46	190365	1475145
56	52	190507	1475273	139	59	190350	1475145
57	48	190510	1475273	140	48	190341	1475148
58	42	190499	1475287	141	48	190338	1475148
59	53	190493	1475289	142	65	190326	1475151
60	60	190488	1475286	143	60	190326	1475154
61	49	190483	1475286	144	49	190341	1475170
62	42	190478	1475281	145	47	190332	1475170

63	50	190481	1475279	146	59	190329	1475167
64	43	190465	1475277	147	67	190320	1475167
65	68	190448	1475302	148	56	190299	1475173
66	51	190437	1475303	149	68	190299	1475170
67	62	190446	1475307	150	58	190302	1475167
68	45	190446	1475310	151	64	190277	1475161
69	38	190435	1475310	152	64	187437	1475270
70	51	190433	1475299	153	66	187422	1475316
71	45	190422	1475301	154	60	187512	1475433
72	54	190421	1475301	155	63	187534	1475435
73	43	190413	1475298	156	46	187576	1475416
74	63	190413	1475304	157	54	187575	1475436
75	58	190416	1475290	158	55	187590	1475441
76	58	190423	1475284	159	60	187587	1475446
77	40	190426	1475282	160	55	187606	1475456
78	53	190400	1475305	161	62	187852	1475716
79	46	190393	1475297	162	44	187556	1476215
80	55	190375	1475332	163	60	187547	1476180
81	57	190348	1475329	164	50	187551	1476174
82	49	190348	1475333	165	25	187553	1476165
83	63	190331	1475322	166	50	187556	1476179

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

Trees harvested x average volume per tree³ per m³ = total volume

199 trees x 2.444 m³ = 485.56 m³ harvested

An estimated volume of 80.65 m³ was harvested beyond the perimeter of the FMGP authorised by INAFOR, and a volume of 405 m³ was harvested beyond compartment No. 33.

Picture 1: marking and georeferencing stumps



³ This information has been taken from the Forest Harvesting Permit, which is included in Annex 2.

The previous Picture shows a member of the IFM team marking a stump located beyond the area of compartment No. 33.

6.2.5 Logging trees within protection areas for water courses

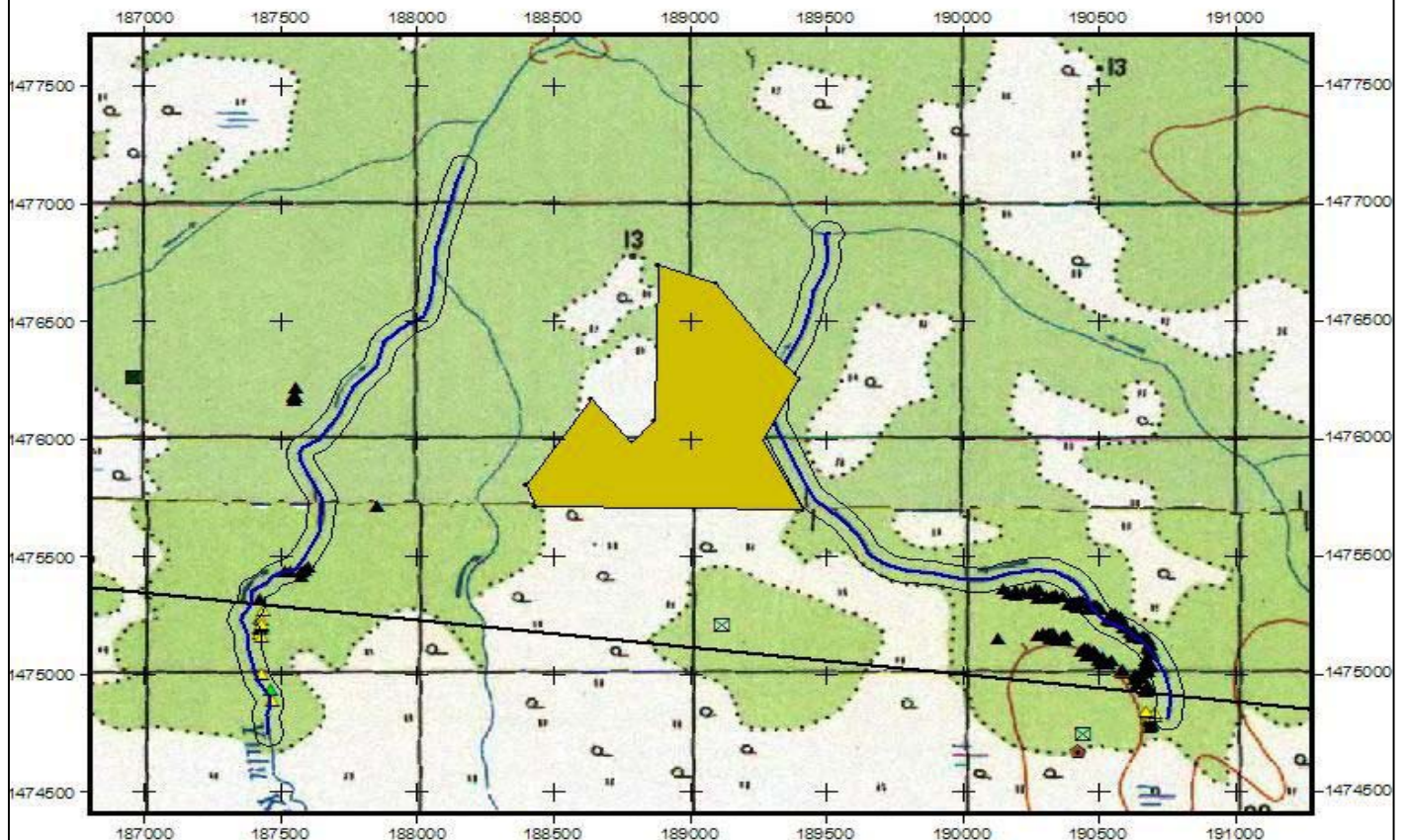
The tables above show the main data related to the stumps found beyond the FMGP and the AOP. Shadowed in grey are the data of the 76 trees that were logged less than 50 meters away from two permanent water courses.

Map 3 shows the stumps of trees beyond the boundaries of the FMGP and compartment 33, as well as the trees logged within protection areas for water courses.

Map No. 3: compartment 33, AOP 04. FMGP CEPISA – Las Crucetas

Rodal 33 - POA 04. PGMF CEPISA - Las Crucetas

Corte de árboles fuera del PGMF y POA y en
fajas de protección de fuentes de agua



Descripción



- Area del POA (Rodal 33)
- Zona de protección de fuentes de agua
- Árboles cortados fuera del POA
- Árboles cortados fuera del PGMF
- Campamento principal
- Patio de acopio # 1
- Patio de acopio # 2
- Patio de acopio (ilegal)

Escala: 1:25000

Elaboración del Monitor Independiente
Coordenadas UTM - NAD 27 Central

6.2.6 Illegal construction of a sawmill

As part of the field verification of the forest management activities in the AOP 2004 area, the independent monitor found a log pond and facilities to locate a portable sawmill in compartment No. 36 of the FMGP. The construction of this log pond and the related facilities was not authorised by the forest authority, and is thus illegal.

A total of 90 pine logs were found in this site, with a total of approximately 30 m³ of roundwood. The origin of such logs could not be verified by the independent monitor. Map 3 presents the location of the log pond, and the following pictures offer a view of it and of the related facilities.

Picture 2



Picture 3



The coordinates of this area are: N 13 20.285 W 83 53.375 / 17 P 186956 1476255

7. Conclusions and recommendations

After analysing and processing the information of the FMGP and the AOP, as well as the data gathered in the field mission to the area, the independent monitor presents the following conclusions:

1. The INAFOR – Prinzapolka Municipal Delegation approved AOP 04 – 05 and issued the Forest Harvesting Permit without appropriately verifying the coordinates of compartment No. 33 in the field, thus breaching the requirements established to this end, which make it compulsory for INAFOR to undertake field verification before approving an AOP.
2. Company CEPISA did not carry out the required delimitation and demarcation of compartment No. 33 of AOP 04 – 05 which was harvested in the period 06 – 07.
3. According to the coordinates of compartment No. 33 included in the AOP document, and according to the map produced based on them, it is estimated that such compartment covers an area of 60 has., which contradicts the same document, where it is stated that the total area is 130 has.

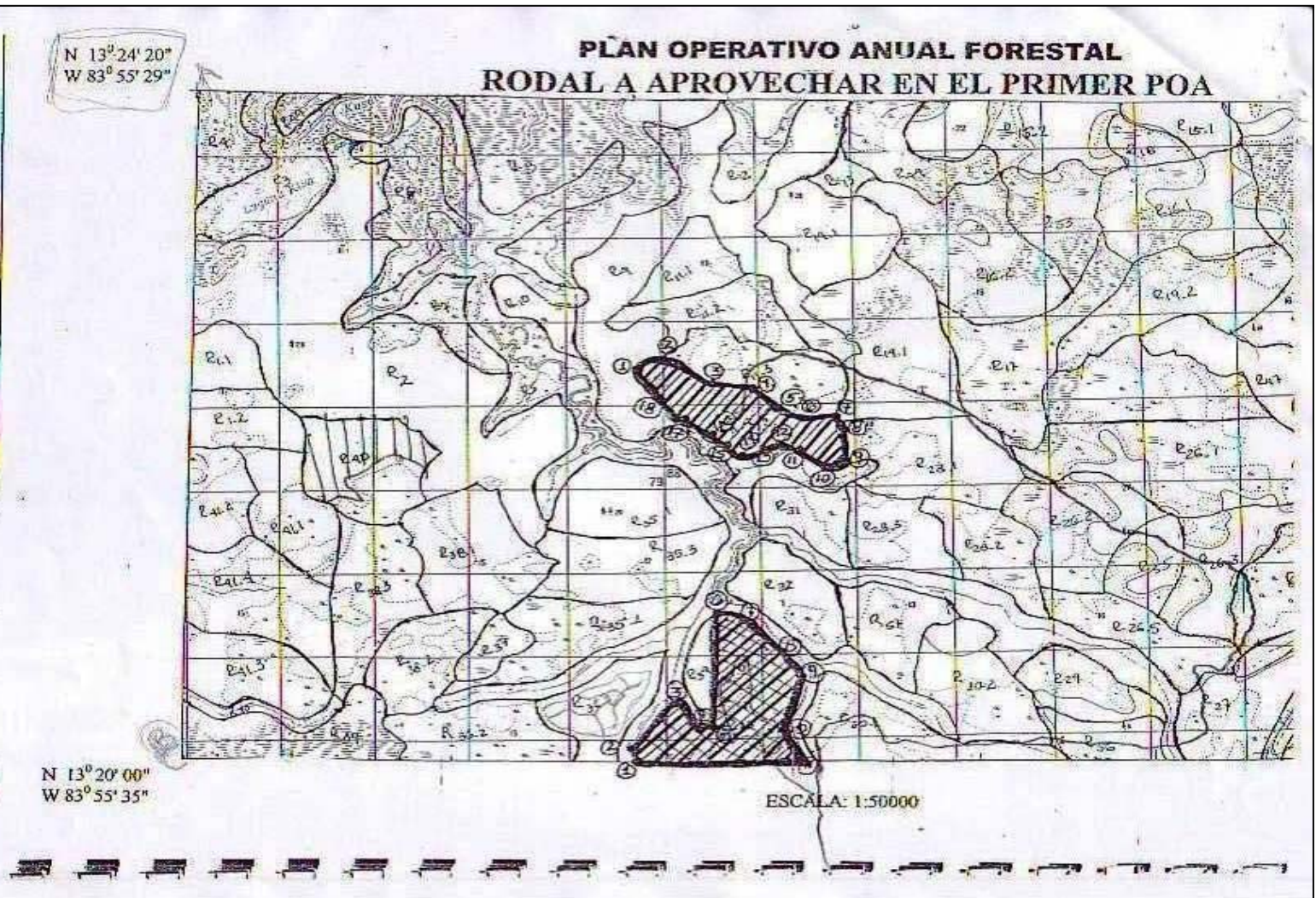
4. A total of 33 trees were logged illegally beyond the area of the FMGP, and a further 166 trees were logged beyond the perimeter of compartment No. 33. It is estimated that a total volume of 485 m³ of timber was logged beyond boundaries.
5. Out of the total number of trees logged, 76 were harvested within the 50 meter protection area for permanent water courses.
6. Company CEPISA built a log pond and facilities to locate a portable sawmill in compartment No. 36 without INAFOR's authorisation. 90 pine logs were found in such premises, with a total estimated volume of 30 m³ of timber.

Based on these conclusions, the following recommendations are presented:


1. INAFOR should take the pertinent measures to implement sanctions related to the breach of technical and administrative regulations stemming from the evidence presented in this report.
2. The INAFOR – Prinzapolka authorities should significantly increase their efforts with a view to carrying out an effective and rigorous monitoring of the FMGP approved within their jurisdiction, so as to prevent the occurrence of illegal logging activities.
3. INAFOR should temporarily suspend the implementation of FMGP CEPISA – Las Crucetas, until both CEPISA and the Masangni cooperative have done an appropriate delimitation of the area under management and have updated the technical and volumetric information contained in the documents.
4. Company CEPISA and the Masangni cooperative, through the assigned forest regent, should adequately delimit and demarcate the area under management in the period 06 – 07, in order that this area is not included in future AOPs.
5. INAFOR should carry out a stumps inventory of all trees logged by company CEPISA which fall beyond compartment No. 33 of the FMGP in order to quantify the exact number of trees logged illegally.
6. The Masangni cooperative should increase their efforts to improve their technical support to the community Las Crucetas – Dipawala in implementing their FMGP, and should at the same time share the responsibility for the irregular behaviour of CEPISA.

8. Annexes


Annex 1: Forest map FMGP CEPISA – Las Cruces



Annex 2: Renewal of the Forest Harvesting Permit



REPUBLICA DE NICARAGUA
INSTITUTO NACIONAL FORESTAL
RENOVACION DE PERMISO DE APROVECHAMIENTO



Expediente 1602P655012 Número 0004079

El Instituto Nacional Forestal otorga la presente autorizacion a nombre del señor(a) CRUCETAS (CEPISA) para que realice las actividades de Corte, Extraccion y Transporte de árboles, del bosque ubicado en el sitio conocido como CRUCETAS del Municipio PRINZAPOLKA del Departamento RAAN que a continuación se detalla:

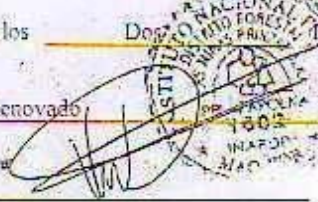
Código	Nombre Científico	Nombre Común	Total Árboles	Volumen (m3)	Volumen Por Arbol
61	<i>Pinus caribea</i>	Pino Caribe	3,189	7,794.43	2,444
Total Aprobado Una especie			3,189	7,794.43	2,444

Esta autorizacion es Válida Hasta: 07/06/2007

Para transportar la madera debera hacerse con la guia de transporte de madera en rollo

Dado en la Ciudad Prinzapolka a los 12 días del Mes de Agosto 2006

Observaciones: Permiso Renovado


 Firma Autorizada