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On Deforestation In Northern Nicaragua

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 21, 80 clergypersons, politicians and businesspeople submitted a letter to government officials calling for an end to commercial timber cutting activities in northern Nicaragua. The document characterized current practices as "ecological barbarism," and warned that if an environmental protection policy is not implemented immediately, the forest cover in Nicaragua's northern mountains would become "mere history." The letter noted that deforestation has caused the erosion of vast tracts of mountainous terrain, and a drop in the water level of Lake Apanas (Jinotega department). The water level reduction has in turn affected the nation's principal hydroelectricity plants. (Basic data from AFP, 10/21/91)

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