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Deborah Tyroler

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## **Nicaragua: Government Approves 20-year Concession For Taiwanese Firm To Exploit Timber Reserves**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Dec. 2, in Madrid (Spain), the Pro-Amazon Commission (Comision Pro-Amazonia) released a communique criticizing the Nicaraguan government for entering into an agreement with the Taiwan-based Equipe Enterprise Company, L.T.O. The 20-year concession permits exploitation and timber extraction in a 200,000 ha. area of northeastern Nicaragua. According to the Commission, the agreement was finalized shortly after Taiwan approved a US\$100 million loan for Managua's foreign debt service payments. The projected logging operations are to be concentrated in Zelaya Norte, described as ecologically fragile. The region is also home to dozens of Miskito indigenous communities. According to the Commission, deforestation would force the Miskitos to abandon their homes. (Basic data from Spanish news service EFE, 12/02/91)

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