

# Fighting a legal battle in Nicaragua

**Submitted by: Movimiento Ambientalista Mesoamericanois**

***Key players:***

***Movimiento Ambientalista Mesoamericanois***

***Government of Nicaragua***

In Nicaragua, more than 30 rivers have dried out over the past 25 years. The impacts of deforestation, agricultural expansion and climate change are becoming palpable, affecting water resources in one of the world's most biologically rich regions. When rain does fall it is quickly lost in runoff and does not reach the communities who need it. Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan government is proposing to privatise water and electricity under the North American Free Trade Agreements.

Movimiento Ambientalista Mesoamericano and other social and environmental movements from Central American countries, have together created the Meso-American Alliance against water privatisation, to campaign against the various Free Trade Agreements (NAFTA, WTO) and for water as a common good. They do research, media and lobbying activities for the right to water.

In Nicaragua, popular uprisings prevented the privatisation of the water supply companies in the Lake Apanas region and communities are now lobbying against the building of the Copular dam, which will be filled with 400km<sup>2</sup> of water and displace over 18 thousand people. Water use is unregulated in Nicaragua, which leads to exploitation and pollution of water by corporations.

The Movimiento Ambientalista Mesoamericanois run a legal office named "Environmentalists 4th of May", an Association of Democratic Jurists of Nicaragua. Since 1990 it has taken forward thousands of environment-related legal cases on behalf of the public, including the right to water.

**For more information**

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