PROTECTING THE AMAZON FOR TWENTY YEARS

Amazon Watch works to protect the rainforest and advance the rights of indigenous peoples in the Amazon Basin.
**Ecuador**

2005 Provided critical communications capacity to Sarayaku, designing and building an off-grid communications system and implementing a local training program, thereby enabling the community to monitor oil company and military operations and organize emergency responses.

2008 Petrobras abandoned its plans for oil block 31 in Ecuador’s Yasuni National Park.

2008 Nominated by Amazon Watch, Pablo Fajardo and Luis Yanza won the 2008 Goldman Environmental Prize for leading the legal battle against Chevron.

2012 The Kichwa people of Sarayaku won a major victory before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, setting new standards for the consultation of indigenous peoples.

2012 - Supported indigenous communities in successfully deterring investment in new forest oil production despite government efforts to auction off more than 10 million acres.

2013 Ecuador’s highest court affirms the judgment against Chevron in 5-0 decision. The high court strikes the punitive damages penalty, thereby cutting the amount of damages to $9.5 billion.

2013 Provided support to Yasunidos civil society movement, which inspired over 750,000 Ecuadorians to take action to protect Yasuni National Park from drilling while supporting a just transition to a post-petroleum economy. New York Times published our Op-Ed on Yasuni.

2014 Ivanhoe Energy withdrew from a controversial oil project in the Amazon.

2014 After we gathered more than 10,000 petition signatures online, Ecuador opened an investigation into a major oil spill by the state oil company Petroamazonas.

2015 Continued to lead shareholder, legal, and media pressure on Chevron to clean up Ecuador. Published whistleblower videos of Chevron’s cover-up in Ecuador, garnering over 2 million views and 40,000 petition signatures.

2015 Following a two-year campaign by Amazon Watch and allies, Canadian oil company Talisman Energy adopted a Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) policy.

2015 ConocoPhillips agreed to adhere to the principles in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and pressure corporate executives at Chevron’s annual shareholder meetings. Organized True Cost of Chevron network.

**Peru**

2003 Following a two-year campaign by Amazon Watch, the US Export Bank denied Hunt Oil $214 million in public subsidies for the Camisea fossil fuel project in the Peruvian Amazon. Hunt Oil also withdrew from the pristine Alto Purus rainforest, citing concerns for isolated and uncontacted indigenous populations.

2003 Texas-based Burlington Resources pulled out of an immense swath of rainforest in the Peruvian Amazon, citing opposition from the Achuar people, to whom Amazon Watch provided significant support.

2006 Helped organize an expert assessment of Occidental Petroleum’s environmental and health impacts in the Peruvian Amazon, which was used in the Achuar’s legal case against Oxy.

2007 The Achuar people in Peru forced major oil companies to retreat from three contested areas; ConocoPhillips and Occidental Petroleum pulled out of Achuar territory altogether, and Pluspetrol abandoned plans to drill 30 new wells.

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2007 Supported the launch of an indigenous rights training school in Peru - the Amazon School - for communities affected by extractive industries.

2011 ConocoPhillips agreed to adhere to the principles in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and withdrew from block 39 in Peru.

2012 Talisman Energy ceased all oil exploration activities in the Peruvian Amazon.

2014 Organized a human banner with Amazonian indigenous peoples at UN Climate Summit in Lima, Peru illustrating importance of indigenous rights to protection of forests and climate.

**Latin America**

2002 Occidental Petroleum abandoned its plans to drill for oil on the U’wa people’s sacred lands in Colombia.

2014 Provided support for U’wa successful effort to stop Magallanes gas project and dismantle the platform.

2002 The US government OPIC cancelled its loan to Enron to construct the Bolivia-Cuiaba pipeline.

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20 Years of Victories and Progress in Protecting the Amazon

1999

Provided logistical and media support for U'wa leader Roberto Perez to confront Fidelity Investments at its Boston headquarters, a key influencer in Fidelity’s decision to divest $400 million of Oxy stock.

2004

Supported the successful adoption of: the UN General Assembly’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Development Bank’s new environmental safeguard policy.

2009

Venezuela ratified a new Constitutional chapter setting forth legal rights for indigenous communities. Amazon Watch provided technical, media, and financial support to the indigenous peoples that forged this ground-breaking legal shift.

2012

Amazon Watch and partners organized the Symposium on Clean Energy Solutions for Brazil’s 21st Century at the Rio+20 Earth Summit.

2014

Brazil suspended the auction of the Tapajós mega-dam after the Mundurukú indigenous people, with our support, exposed the proposed dam’s negative impacts. The Tapajós River is the last major tributary in the Brazilian Amazon that still runs free.

2015

Helped ensure indigenous voices on climate change were heard at the COP21 climate summit, bringing 10 indigenous leaders and a hand-hewn 23-foot indigenous canoe from Sarayaku, Ecuador to the summit and successfully nominating the Mundurukú Iperg Ayu movement for the UNDP’s prestigious Equator Prize for their efforts opposing the Tapajós dams. Media coverage of our collective efforts was significant.

2016

Launched the “Energy for Life” campaign in Brazil to educate, raise awareness, and build support for a clean energy future.

Supporting indigenous peoples’ rights in the Amazon isn’t just a moral imperative; it is also the most effective thing society can do to protect the rainforest. Recent studies confirm that extending legal rights to indigenous communities is statistically the most effective strategy for maintaining forests’ carbon storage capacity and lowering carbon dioxide emissions and deforestation. Thus, Amazon Watch prioritizes activities that amplify these crucial indigenous voices and movements, providing communications, campaigning, logistical, and financial support to increase their impact.

Working in partnership with indigenous peoples in the Amazon Basin and with allies all over the world, Amazon Watch has achieved some astonishing victories over powerful dirty energy corporations and corruption-ridden governments that seek to profit from the Amazon’s destruction. For 20 years now, we have stood in solidarity with forest and river peoples to protect their rainforest homes, advance their rights, and support indigenous solutions to climate change.
The Task Before Us

Amazon Watch’s expertise and history as a principled ally to indigenous peoples uniquely positions the organization to help shape the global narrative on why and how we must defend the Amazon.

This year, we need your help to:
1. Pressure the Brazilian government to cancel plans for a complex of large dams in the Tapajós River basin;
2. Support indigenous allies in the Sacred Headwaters region of Ecuador and Peru in their efforts to stop oil drilling proposals and increase their legal rights;
3. Grow the Keep It In the Ground movement to demand an end to fossil fuel extraction in indigenous territories and sensitive ecosystems from the Amazon to the Arctic;
4. Stigmatize dirty Amazon crude oil by tracking and exposing its path to American companies, municipalities, large end-users, and ultimately our own homes;
5. Hold Chevron accountable for its toxic legacy in Ecuador by supporting affected communities in their pursuit of legal and financial redress; and
6. Support indigenous communities fighting industrial extraction and development by securing and redistributing financial support through our re-granting program.

Please make a generous gift to support this work either by sending a donation to our Oakland office or online at amazonwatch.org/donate.