



# PROTECTING THE AMAZON FOR TWENTY YEARS

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



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# 20 YEARS 1996-2016



20 Years of Victories and Progress in  
Protecting the Amazon

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.

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.

## San Francisco - Oakland, USA

- 2014** Convened an expert working group to analyze the growing role of China in the expansion of the Amazon oil frontier and published a widely cited report.
- 2015** Launched global call to keep fossil fuels in the ground to protect the Amazon and the climate, bringing together more than 50 NGOs to create the Keep It In the Ground Alliance. Our Keep the Oil in the Ground video featuring Kichwa indigenous leader Nina Gualinga garnered more than 2 million views and 40,000 petition signatures.
- 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. Helped expose Chevron U.S. retaliatory case as fraud when company's star witness admitted he perjured himself. Organized coalition of over 40 environmental and human rights groups to condemn Chevron's attacks against its critics.

## San Ramon, USA

- 2001 - present** Worked closely with impacted Ecuadorian and Californian communities to educate investors and pressure corporate executives at Chevron's annual shareholder meetings. Organized True Cost of Chevron network.

## Calgary, Canada

- 2010** After years of pressure from Amazon Watch and allies, Canadian oil company Talisman Energy adopted a Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) policy.

## New York, USA

- 2007** UN General Assembly adopts the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## Boston, USA

- 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.

## D.C., USA

- 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.

## Paris, France

- 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 Mundurucu Ipereg Ayu movement for the UNDP's prestigious Equator Prize for their efforts opposing the Tapajós dams. Media coverage of our collective efforts was significant.

## Los Angeles, USA

- 1997** Released *Arteries for Global Trade, Consequences for Amazonia* and began our partnership with the U'wa people of Colombia by coordinating a protest and investor engagement at Occidental Petroleum's shareholder meeting in LA, an event at which we would protest for 15 consecutive years.
- 2010** Accompanied Avatar Director James Cameron on two delegations to the Xingu River and worked closely with him to release the film "A Message from Pandora" about the battle to stop Brazil's Belo Monte dam, helping to bring global attention to the polemic project.

## 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 - 2014** Supported indigenous communities in successfully deterring investment in new rainforest frontier 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.

## 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.
- 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.

## Colombia

- 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.

## Venezuela

- 1999** 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.

## Bolivia

- 2002** The US government agency OPIC cancelled its \$200 million loan to Enron to construct the Bolivia-Cuiaba pipeline.

## Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- 2012** Amazon Watch and partners organized the Symposium on Clean Energy Solutions for Brazil's 21st Century at the Rio+20 Earth Summit.

## Brazil

- 2002** The Coari-Manaus pipeline proposed for the Brazilian Amazon was indefinitely suspended.
- 2012 - Present** Stood with the communities of the Xingu in fighting construction of the Belo Monte dam, escalating international opposition, engaging in direct actions, and supporting legal actions that significantly delayed its construction and increased its cost.
- 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.
- 2014** Launched the "Energy for Life" campaign in Brazil to educate, raise awareness, and build support for a clean energy future.

AMAZON



## 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](https://amazonwatch.org/donate).**

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