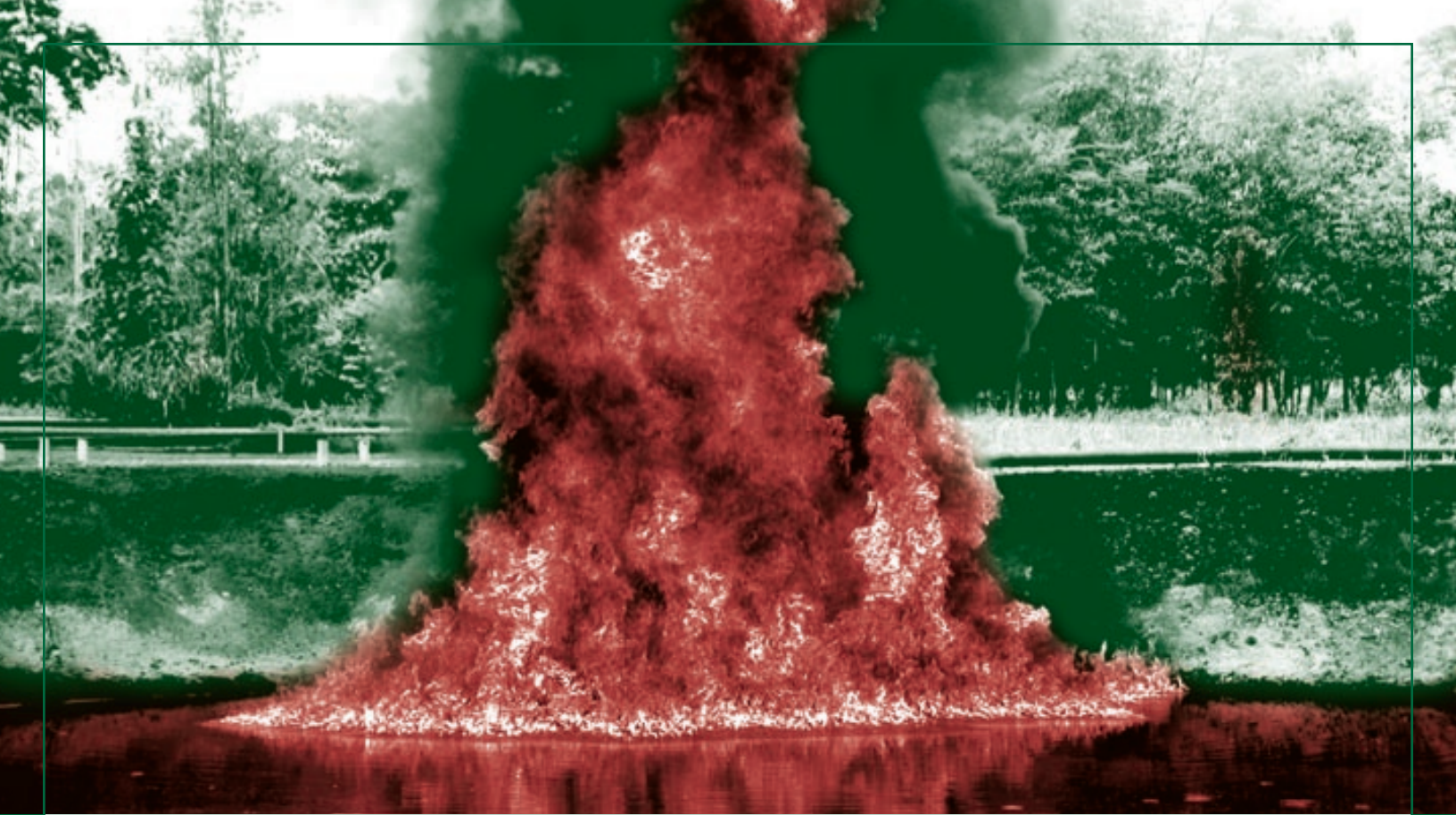


# Chevron**T**oxico

## C L E A N U P Y O U R **TOXIC LEGACY** I N T H E E C U A D O R I A N A M A Z O N !

Thirty years ago, the rainforests of the northern Ecuadorian Amazon were a pristine zone of outstanding biological diversity—boasting some of the world’s highest rates of plant and animal diversity per acre in the world. In these important Amazon headwaters, a thriving indigenous population could be found collecting drinking water and catching fish from the Aguarico and Napo Rivers. For these traditional communities, the forest and river ecosystems have been their subsistence base—both environmentally and spiritually—for thousands of years. However, since Texaco’s arrival in the early 1970s, indigenous groups like the Cofan, Secoya, Siona, Huaorani and Quichua and the environment they depend on have been pushed to the brink of collapse.





# Texaco's Crude Operations in the Amazon

Between 1971 and 1991, Texaco extracted more than 1.5 billion barrels of oil from the Ecuadorian Amazon—known as Oriente. In order to save millions of dollars—an estimated \$3 per barrel—Texaco simply dumped the toxic wastes from its operations into the pristine rivers, forest streams and wetlands, ignoring industry standards. The result is one of the most infamous environmental and social disasters in the Amazon.

Texaco's oil operations devastated one of the most biologically fragile places on earth. Nearly 2.5 million acres of rainforest were lost; oil spills equivalent to 2 Exxon Valdez disasters have contaminated the land and water; and the company recklessly dumped 20 billion gallons of highly toxic wastewater into the waterways.

Texaco also left behind more than 350 open waste pits contaminated with heavy metals and some of the most carcinogenic chemicals known to man, including: Benzene, Toluene, Arsenic, Lead, Mercury and Cadmium.

As a result of the company's reckless operations, local indigenous communities and farmers are suffering an exploding health crisis.

Studies by a Harvard medical team, British researchers and Ecuadorian health authorities have found eight different types of cancer in communities affected by Texaco's operations:

bile duct, stomach, larynx, liver, melanoma, leukemia, lymphoma, and cervical. In some villages near polluted water sources, the rate of cancer is 1000 times higher than the historical norm.

Indigenous cultures like the Cofan, Siona and Secoya, have been disproportionately affected by Texaco's operations. The Cofan, who numbered approximately 15,000 when Texaco's first oil well was built on their territory, now number in the hundreds. The Secoya and Siona also have seen dramatic decreases in their populations, partly because the water that they once depended on for drinking, fishing, cooking and bathing are now dangerously polluted.

In 1991, the book "Amazon Crude", written by Judith Kimerling, exposed the extent of oil contamination in the Ecuadorian Amazon. For the first time, clear evidence was presented to the media, the government, and the oil companies, that supported the claims of the communities.

## Affected Communities Respond

In 1993, Ecuadorian plaintiffs representing 30,000 indigenous people and campesinos filed a class-action lawsuit against Texaco in U.S. court. The case was the first environmental lawsuit ever filed in the U.S. by foreign plaintiffs alleging that a U.S. corporation violated the law of nations by causing pollution abroad.

## Texaco's Failed Cleanup

In 1995, as the lawsuit progressed and international outrage grew, Texaco attempted to diffuse this escalating legal and public-relations disaster by striking a deal with some Ecuadorian agencies to provide \$40 million for "clean up" efforts. However, these funds were completely inadequate considering that the estimated cost of a complete clean up to the environment and compensation to each affected individual for damages to their persons and property is upwards of \$1 billion and that Texaco made approximately \$6 billion in profits from their two decades of destructive oil operations. Nevertheless, Texaco claims that they have already cleaned up the contaminated areas and compensated the affected communities and the Ecuadorian government. The truth is that the company has made NO good faith effort to remedy the devastation they caused, and the situation on the ground is still dangerous for

local communities. For example, more than 60 percent of the toxic waste pits are still oozing poison into the surrounding communities and ecosystems.

## Still Waiting for a Cleanup...

Thirty years after Texaco's arrival into the Oriente, the environment is still contaminated and people continue to get sick and die from cancer caused by the mess that Texaco left. People are still waiting for Texaco to clean up its mess and compensate them for their losses.

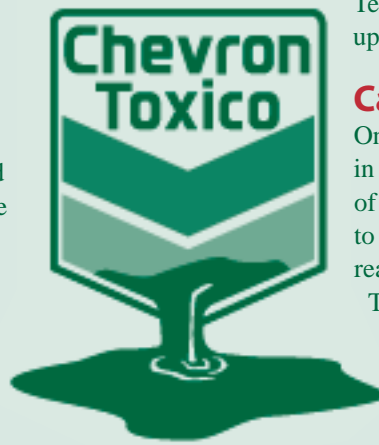
## Texaco and Chevron Merger

In 2001, Texaco merged with Chevron, forming the second-largest energy company in the world, after ExxonMobil. Under U.S. law, the new company, ChevronTexaco, assumes the liabilities as well as the assets of Texaco. Now it is Chevron

Texaco's legal and ethical responsibility to clean up the toxic mess that Texaco left in Ecuador.

## Case Sent to Ecuador

On August 16th, 2002, the 2nd Court of Appeals in New York subjected Texaco to the jurisdiction of Ecuadorian courts where the case is expected to be reinstated. The New York judge did not reach a decision on the merits of the case and Texaco has never denied its liability in the district court.



*“Before Texaco's arrival we were the guardians of the forest.  
Now we are the guardians of contamination and poverty  
and all that we are faced with is death.”*

**Inocencio Macanilla, Amazon Quichua Indigenous leader**



## International Campaign for Clean Up Is Launched

The affected communities, indigenous and campesinos, are organizing to re-file their legal challenge in Ecuador and make ChevronTexaco pay for 30 years of destruction. They are also organizing a new international campaign against not only the Texaco brand name, but Chevron's brand as well.

Amazon Watch is working directly with affected communities and their organizations including the Frente de Defensa de la Amazonia and Accion Ecologica who are organizing against ChevronTexaco in Ecuador as part of the international campaign to demand that ChevronTexaco CLEAN UP, PAY UP and NEVER COME BACK to Ecuador!!! Amazon Watch is supporting the resistance led by the Quichua community of Sarayacu who is currently blocking ChevronTexaco and CGC's attempts to conduct oil exploration in their territory, an area of the Ecuadorian Amazon known as block 23.

The damage that was done by Texaco in the Ecuadorian Amazon is irreversible. No amount of money is enough to compensate the loss of 2.5 million acres of forest, the demise of indigenous cultures, and the pain and suffering of those who have faced serious illness, loss of life, and livelihood due to the contamination.

However, the people's suffering would end and the forests would at least have a chance of healing if ChevronTexaco cleaned up the waste sites and compensated the affected communities.

ChevronTexaco needs to be held accountable for its reckless and deadly operations around the world. ChevronTexaco needs to clean up its mess and compensate those affected.

## Take Action NOW!

Get involved in the International ChevronToxico Campaign.

Help us pressure ChevronTexaco by writing or calling the CEO, David O'Reilly TODAY.

Mr. David J. O'Reilly  
Chairman and CEO  
ChevronTexaco Corporation  
575 Market St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
tel: 415-894-7700  
fax: 415-894-6017

Tell O'Reilly that you want ChevronTexaco to:

1. Clean up Texaco's toxic mess in the Ecuadorian Amazon,
2. Compensate affected communities for damages and ensure their access to clean drinking water and health care.

And express your outrage that the company is now going back to block 23 of the Ecuadorian Amazon for more drilling.

Also let the company know that you will not buy ChevronTexaco products until these demands are met.

For more information on the campaign or how to get more involved, visit:

[www.chevrontoxico.org](http://www.chevrontoxico.org)

or

[www.amazonwatch.org](http://www.amazonwatch.org)

Contact Amazon Watch  
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