

Located on the western edge of the Amazon rainforest, the Ecuadorian Oriente is home to thousands of species of plants and animals. Since the arrival of Texaco in 1967, the region has endured unprecedented environmental degradation and deforestation. Over the past three decades, Texaco has dumped more than 20 billion gallons of toxic waste into local waterways and spilled more than 17 million gallons of crude oil.

## Who are the winners and losers?

Texaco has earned billions in profits at the expense of the local and indigenous peoples living in the area. Toxic waste in the water and soil pose a serious health risk, while Texaco's practice of burning excess crude oil has added pollutants into the atmosphere. Meanwhile, these local and indigenous groups have received no compensation or justice for the damage that has been done to their homes, environment, and health.



## What has been done?

Protests by environmentalists, human rights organizations, and indigenous groups forced Texaco into addressing the damages done to the environment and the people. However, inadequate clean-up on the part of Texaco brought about the filing of a class-action lawsuit against the oil company

by over 30,000 people affected by the spills. Texaco projected clean-up costs of more than 27 billion dollars.