

THE AMAZON IS NOT FOR SALE!

A Fact Sheet on Oil Auctions in Ecuador - August 2025

In August 2025, the Ecuadorian government announced the "Hydrocarbon Roadmap," a portfolio of 49 projects with a projected investment value of more than \$47 billion USD. Of these projects, 18 oil blocks will impact large areas of Indigenous territories in the Southern-Central Ecuadorian Amazon and the sub-Andean region. In this document, we present a summary of [public information provided by the Ecuadorian government](#), as well as its response to [public information requests](#) made by seven Indigenous organizations concerned about the future of their territories.

THE SUB-ANDEAN AND SOUTHEASTERN ROUNDS:

- **22 oil blocks** comprise the Sub-Andean and Southeastern Rounds, covering an area of **14,052.8 square miles**, nearly equal to the entire surface area of Taiwan.¹ There has yet to be any oil extraction in any of these oil blocks.
- Of the 22 oil blocks, **government-issued oil concessions have already been granted** for four oil blocks, covering an area of **2,703.935 square miles**. Current contracts and assignments:
 - Concessions for blocks 74 and 75, with an area of **1,427.26 square miles**, were granted to Petroecuador EP (2015).
 - Concessions for blocks 79 and 83, with an area of **1,172.42 square miles**, were granted to Andes Petroleum (2016).
- A total of 18 blocks covering **11,453.11 square miles were opened to bidding starting in August 2025**.² This land area is similar in size to the entire territory of **Belgium**, and is **37.5 times the size of New York City**³:
 - 9,033.92 square miles are located in the South-Central Amazon.
 - 874.78 square miles are located in the Sub-Andean region.

¹ The total land area of Taiwan is 13,976 square miles. Source: Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Taiwan>.

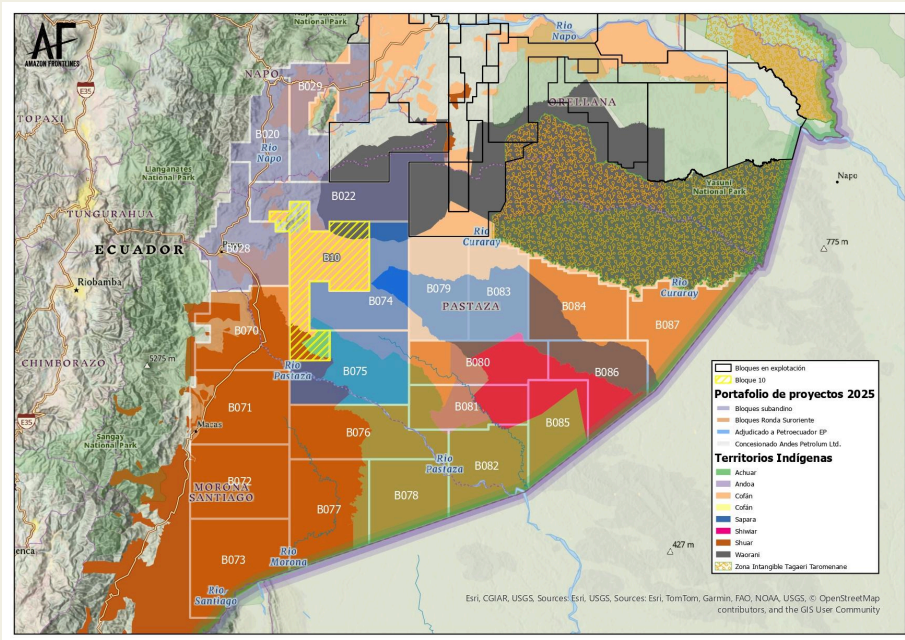
² Ecuador's Ministry of Energy and Mines, 2025. Hydrocarbon Roadmap, Portfolio of Prioritized Projects. Published on August 15, 2025. <https://es.scribd.com/document/914803384/Portafolio-VH-EPP>.

³ The total land area of New York City is 305 square miles. Source: Encyclopedia Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/place/New-York-City>.

- The territories of seven Amazonian Indigenous nations – the Andwa, Shuar, Achuar, Kichwa, Sapara, Shiwar, and Waorani – have been superimposed with 22 oil blocks. (See [interactive map](#) on the [landing page](#))
- Primary forests cover 89% of the surface area of the oil blocks in these development projects.
- 100% of the territories of the Achuar, Andwa, Sapara, and Shiwar nations will be affected.
- Five major tributary watersheds of the Amazon River will be affected by oil concessions: **the Napo River, the Tigre River, the Pastaza River, the Morona River, and the Santiago River**. Also affected are 22 sub-basins: Jatunyacu, Ansu, Misahuallí, Arajuno, Bueno, Payamino, Curaray, Pintoyacu, Conambo, Corrientes, Nushiño, Palora, Chiguaza, Copotaza, Corundayacu, Ishpingo, Bobonaza, Huasaga, and Morona.

Nation	Oil Blocks that overlap indigenous territories
SHUAR	70, 71, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77
ACHUAR	75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 21, 82, 85
KICHWA	20, 28, 22, 74, 75, 79, 83, 84, 86, 87
SAPARA	74, 79, 80, 83, 84, 86
SHIWIAR	80, 81, 86, 85
WAORANI	22, 74
ANDWA	80, 81

Source: Ministry of Energy and Mines, Hydrocarbon Roadmap, Portfolio of Prioritized Projects. Published August 15, 2025 - Public Information Requests. Prepared by: Carlos Mazabanda, Amazon Frontlines.



Oil blocks of the Sub-Andean and Southeastern Round. Source: Ministry of Energy and Mines of Ecuador, Hydrocarbon Roadmap, Portfolio of Prioritized Projects. Published on August 15, 2025. - Public information requests. Prepared by: Carlos Mazabanda - Amazon Frontlines. [Link to download](#)

GLOBAL OIL CONSUMPTION

- In 2007, the Ecuadorian government published [estimates](#) of the amount of oil that could be extracted over time from the Southeast Oil Round.⁴ In its medium-term scenario, with neither a pessimistic nor an optimistic view, the government established the possibility of extracting 800 million barrels of oil. According to the United States Energy Administration,⁵ daily global oil consumption is [103 million barrels](#) per day. By those figures, the oil reserves found deep within these ancient forests could satisfy global demand for oil – powering planes, trains, automobiles, plastics, artificial intelligence, and air conditioning – for just eight days.⁶
- More recently, according to the 2025 project portfolio of Ecuador's Ministry of Energy and Mines, expected production from oil tenders is 14,638 billion barrels of oil (10,000 billion barrels from the Sub-Andean Round and 4,638 billion barrels from the Southeast Round). According to the [Statistical Review of World Energy](#), [global oil consumption](#) in 2024 was **101.8 million barrels per day (bpd)**.⁷ At that rate, the expected production resulting from

⁴ "Ecuador's Southeast Round. Technical, legal, economic, and socio-environmental aspects" Ministry of Non-Renewable Natural Resources, 2007, p. 33. <https://bit.ly/4gzUSyt>.

⁵ U.S. Energy Information Administration "EIA forecasts world oil consumption growth to slow amid less economic activity," May 15, 2025. <https://bit.ly/4nHZaWO>.

⁶ Anderson, Mitch. "The Oil Spill that Blinded a Farmer—And Why We Must Stop Big Oil's Expansion in the Amazon." Amazon Frontlines, June 23, 2025. <http://bit.ly/3VpTN2x>.

⁷ Forbes, 2025. "Global oil production remains stable, but some subtle shifts suggest changes ahead," July 25, 2025. <https://bit.ly/3VUIbG3>.

the devastation of 3.5 million hectares of the planet's most important tropical forests will be consumed in 4.8 months.

THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OIL EXPLOITATION AND PROGRESS⁸

- For 50 years, oil has been extracted from the Ecuadorian Amazon, particularly in the provinces of Sucumbíos, Orellana, Napo, Pastaza, and Morona Santiago. These are also the poorest provinces in the country.
- The INEC, with data from each province during June 2025, records the following figures for poverty and extreme poverty, respectively: Sucumbios (46.21% and 23.97%), Orellana (28.49% and 18.82%), Napo (52.38% and 24.62%), Pastaza (48.88% and 39.74%), and Morona Santiago (71.19% and 59.90%), the latter being the most impoverished province in Ecuador. All of these provinces have poverty and extreme poverty rates higher than the national average, which is 24% living in poverty and 10% in extreme poverty.
- Employment levels do not improve with the presence of oil companies. On the contrary, precarious and informal labor is prevalent. Adequate employment percentages are lower than the national average, and they fluctuate according to the international price of oil.
- Informal employment figures by province: Orellana has 83.01% of workers in the informal sector, Morona Santiago 83.32%, Napo 77.74%, Zamora Chinchipe 72.43%, Pastaza 70.31% and Sucumbíos 70.27%.
- Adequate employment: 10.44% of the population of Orellana province has adequate employment, Napo 13.82%, Morona Santiago 14.60%, Sucumbíos 20.67%, Pastaza 19.97%, and Zamora Chinchipe 25.34%. All are below the national average of 35.9%.

⁸ INEC/ENEMDU, cited by Liz Ortiz, 2025. "The paradox of the Ecuadorian Amazon: it generates more wealth but lives in greater poverty." Primicias, September 12, 2025: <https://bit.ly/46vNRdw>. Report - "The Paradoxes of Oil Exploitation in the Amazon: Poverty and Inequality," Nuñez, Fernanda et al. <https://bit.ly/47QW6TR>.

TIMELINE OF THE SYSTEMATIC VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE RIGHT TO FREE, PRIOR, AND INFORMED CONSENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOUTHEAST ROUND, FROM 1983 TO 2025

1983 - 2011	Ten rounds of oil bidding took place, without consultation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1998, Ecuador ratified ILO Convention 169, which requires free, prior and informed consultation.⁹ In 2008, ILO Convention 169 was incorporated into the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador.
2011	Creation of 21 oil blocks, also without consultation, within the framework of the XI Oil Round.
2012	
19/07/2012	SARAYAKU CASE: The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) set consultation standards.
02/08/2012	Issuance of Decree No. 1247 for the Regulation of the Execution of Free and Informed Prior Consultation in the Bidding and Allocation Processes of Hydrocarbon Areas and Oil Blocks. "Consultation socials" are held in several communities in the Southern Amazon. ¹⁰
28/11/2012	Official call for tenders for 13 oil blocks.
2012 - 2013	At least 28 indigenous organizations and women's associations, among others, issued 19 resolutions and joint statements rejecting the XI Oil Round. ¹¹
2015	Blocks 74 and 75 granted by concession to Petroamazonas EP.
2016	Blocks 79 and 83 granted to Andes Petroleum Ecuador Ltd.
2018	Reopening of blocks 22, 86, and 87 due to lack of consultation.
2019	
March	Rejection of Juyuintsa : The communities of the Shiwiar, Sapara, and Kichwa nations reject the bidding for blocks 86 and 87.
March - July	The Waorani communities of Pastaza province demand justice for illegitimate consultation processes stemming from their Pikenani Mandate, and they obtain a ruling against the Block 22 consultation.

⁹ Poveda, Carlos, 2019. "Prior Consultation in the Ecuadorian Legal System." Amazon Frontlines. December 2019. <https://bit.ly/3luW61j>.

¹⁰ "Ecuador's Strategy of Deceit in the Amazon." Amazon Frontlines, June 2025. <https://amazonfrontlines.org/chronicles/ecuadors-strategy-of-deceit-in-the-amazon/>

¹¹ Mazabanda, Carlos, 2013. "Prior Consultation in the Eleventh Oil Round: Mass Citizen Participation?" Pachamama Foundation, July 2013. <https://bit.ly/4nG6vpQ>.

2020	The Waorani victory was selected by the Constitutional Court (Case 1296-19JP) for its relevance and novelty, to create jurisprudence on the right to free, prior, and informed consultation. To date, there has been no ruling from the Court.
07/07/2021	President Guillermo Lasso issues Decree 95 with an Immediate Action Plan for the development of the hydrocarbon sector, with the goal of expanding the oil frontier. ¹² The decree was repealed on June 27, 2022, during the national strike.
2023	In a popular vote, the Ecuadorian people decided to leave the Yasuní oil underground. So far, the will of the people has not been honored.
2024	<p>June Leaders of five indigenous nations speak out against the expansion of the oil frontier after receiving a response to a public information request from OWAP. OWAP reports exploration in several oil blocks in Napo and Sucumbíos, and it declares that future projects will not be consulted because of Decree 1247 of 2012.</p> <p>July Leaders of seven indigenous organizations march to the Constitutional Court in Quito to demand that Case No. 1296-19-JP be prioritized, that a hearing be held in the territory, that binding jurisprudence be issued, and that the rights of the seven affected indigenous nations be protected.</p>
2025	<p>1/22/2025 The Ministry of Energy and Mines launches its Hydrocarbon Sector Investment Plan for 2025-2029.</p> <p>7/28/2025 Peruvian President Dina Boluarte announces an agreement with Ecuador for the use of the North Peruvian oil pipeline.</p> <p>8/15/2025 The Ecuadorian government presents its project portfolio, establishing 49 projects, including the Subandean and Southeastern Rounds.</p>

¹² Acero, Jorge; Espinosa, María y González, Ángel, 2021. "Lasso, his extractivist plans, and the violation of individual, collective, and environmental rights." Analysis. Amazon Frontlines, November 2021.
<https://amazonfrontlines.org/m3di4/Analisis-Decretos-95-y-151.pdf>