

## **FACTS BEHIND THE \$9.5BILLION FRAUDULENT JUDGMENT AGAINST CHEVRON IN ECUADOR**

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Over the course of 20 years of litigation regarding former oil operations in Ecuador, numerous allegations have been made about purported impacts to people and the environment. Specific allegations have included drinking water contamination, extinction of entire indigenous groups, increased cancer rates, massive deforestation, biodiversity loss, and improper soil remediation. These allegations have been repeated by some NGOs and the international press as if they were facts. However, extensive research into each of these alleged impacts has proven them all to be false. In spite of the overwhelming evidence that the claims were false, in February, 2011, an Ecuadorian court awarded a judgment of USD \$18 billion for these alleged damages.

Texaco Petroleum spent six years conducting audits, remediation, infrastructure improvements, and donating funds for socioeconomic projects. All of this work was done with government oversight and inspection resulting in a final settlement agreement absolving Texpet of any liability in 1998. Yet even after this major effort, a new lawsuit was filed in 2003. As part of that case, thousands of water and soil samples, historical records, decades of satellite imagery, government census and mortality data, and field surveys of biota have been compiled and analyzed by a team of experts including epidemiologists, anthropologists, chemists, biologists, economists, remediation specialists, human health risk assessors, and environmental engineers. The results of this research have been submitted to the courts in Ecuador. This paper will summarize the highlights of this unprecedented case and the tremendous volume of evidence collected to refute the claims that were part of an emotionally-charged, high-stakes litigation and NGO press campaign.

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