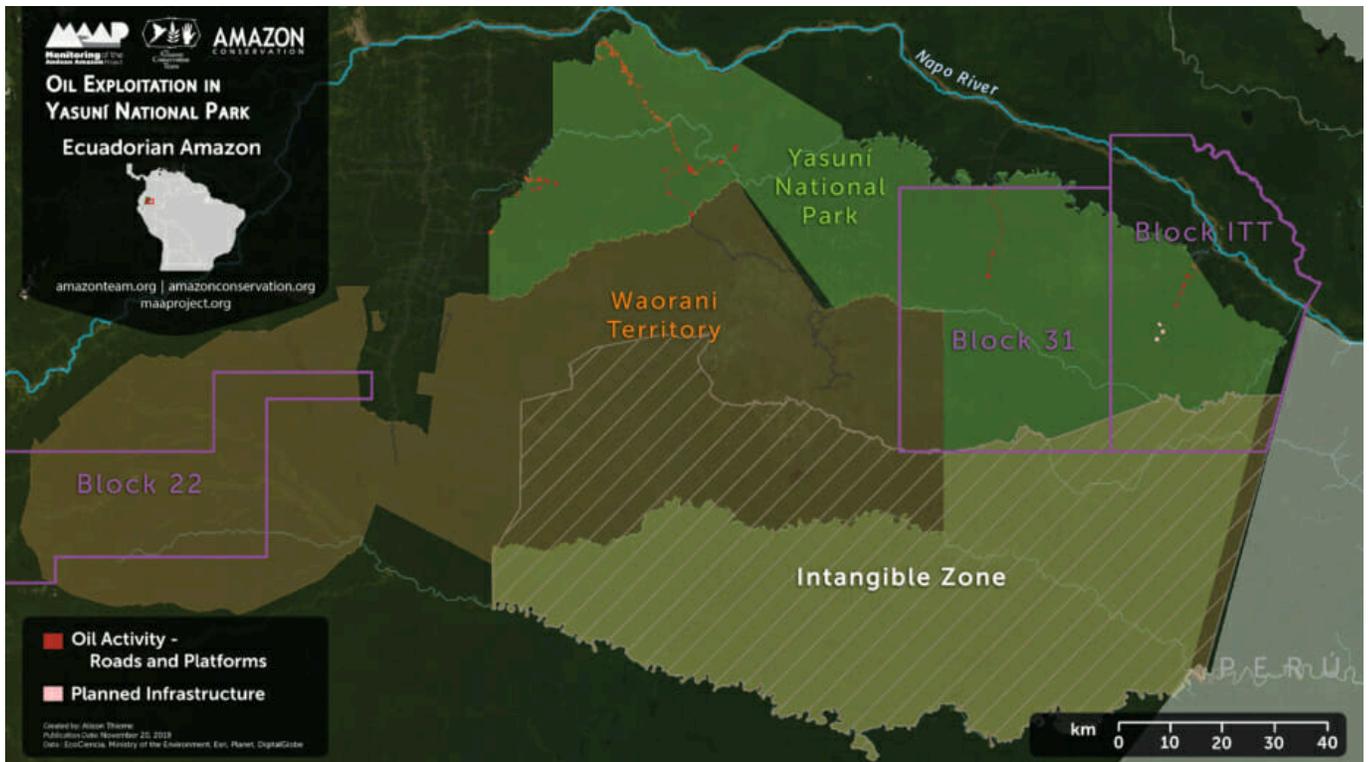


MAAP #114: Oil Drilling Pushes Deeper into Yasuni National Park

December 2, 2019

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Base Map. Oil Exploitation in Yasuni National Park. Click to enlarge.

Yasuni National Park, located in the heart of the Ecuadorian Amazon, is one of the most biodiverse places in the world and forms part of the ancestral territory of the **Waorani** (see **Base Map**).

Under the ground of this vast area, however, are **large oil fields**.

In July 2019, the Waorani won an important legal victory to prevent oil activity in the western part of their territory (**Block 22**).

However, here we show the construction of new oil drilling platforms in the controversial **ITT Block**, in the northeast part of Yasuni National Park.

We calculated the deforestation of **57.3 hectares** (141.6 acres) for drilling platforms and access roads within ITT and the adjacent Block 31.

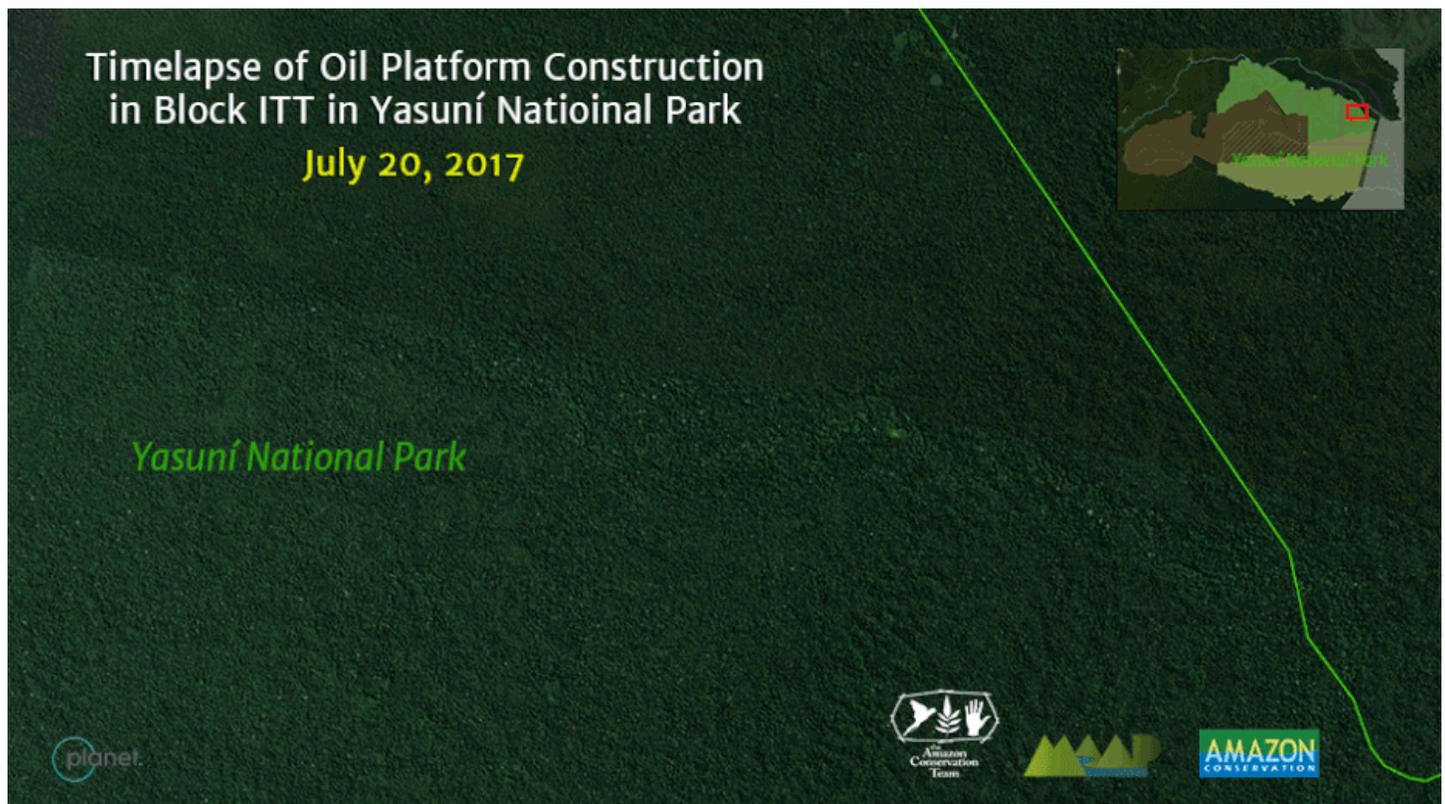
In addition, incorporating **edge effects** caused by the deforestation, we estimate the impacted area is actually **655 hectares** (1,619 acres), exceeding the limit of 300 hectares (741 acres) established in the public referendum of 2018.*

ITT Block

The **ITT Block** covers one of the most remote and intact parts of Yasuni National Park. In 2007, the Ecuadorian government launched a unique initiative to keep ITT's oil underground in exchange for economic compensation from the international community (**Yasuni-ITT Initiative**).

In 2013, however, the Initiative failed and was abandoned. Indeed, the government is now actively advancing its ITT oil extraction plans.

Next, we present a **video of satellite images** showing the recent oil-related activity inside the ITT Block, within Yasuni National Park. It involves the construction of **4 drilling platforms** (Tambococha A,B,D, E) and an **access road**, between 2017 and 2019. The associated deforestation is **28.5 hectares** (70 acres).



(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/maaproject.org-maap-114-oil->

Zona Intangible (Untouchable Zone)

There are plans for at least **3 more drilling platforms** deeper into Yasuni National Park (see yellow circle in map below). These platforms would bring oil activity close to the buffer zone of an area known as the **Zona Intangible**, or Untouchable Zone.

The government established the Zona Intangible in 2007 as an area where extractive activities, including oil, are prohibited to protect the territory of the Waorani relatives in **voluntary isolation** (Tagaeri and Taromenane).



(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/maaproject.org-maap-114-explotacion-petrolera-se-adentra-mas-en-el-parque-nacional-yasuni-ecuador-zoom-snip.jpg>)

Planned oil platforms (yellow circle) near the buffer zone of the Zona Intangible. Click to enlarge.

*Notes

Edge effects are the impacts that extend into the surrounding forest from the edge of deforestation. These impacts include changes in forest structure and microclimate, higher tree mortality, and increased susceptibility to fire. Based on Broadbent et al (2008), we

incorporated an edge effect of 100 meters, which represents the median distance of edge effects recorded in 62 scientific studies. This is a conservative estimate given that an edge effect of 300-2000 meters could also be justified according to the data.

In MAAP #82 (https://www.maaprogram.org/yasuni_eng/), we documented the oil-related deforestation of more than **400 hectares** (990 acres) throughout all of Yasuni National Park.

Referenes

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