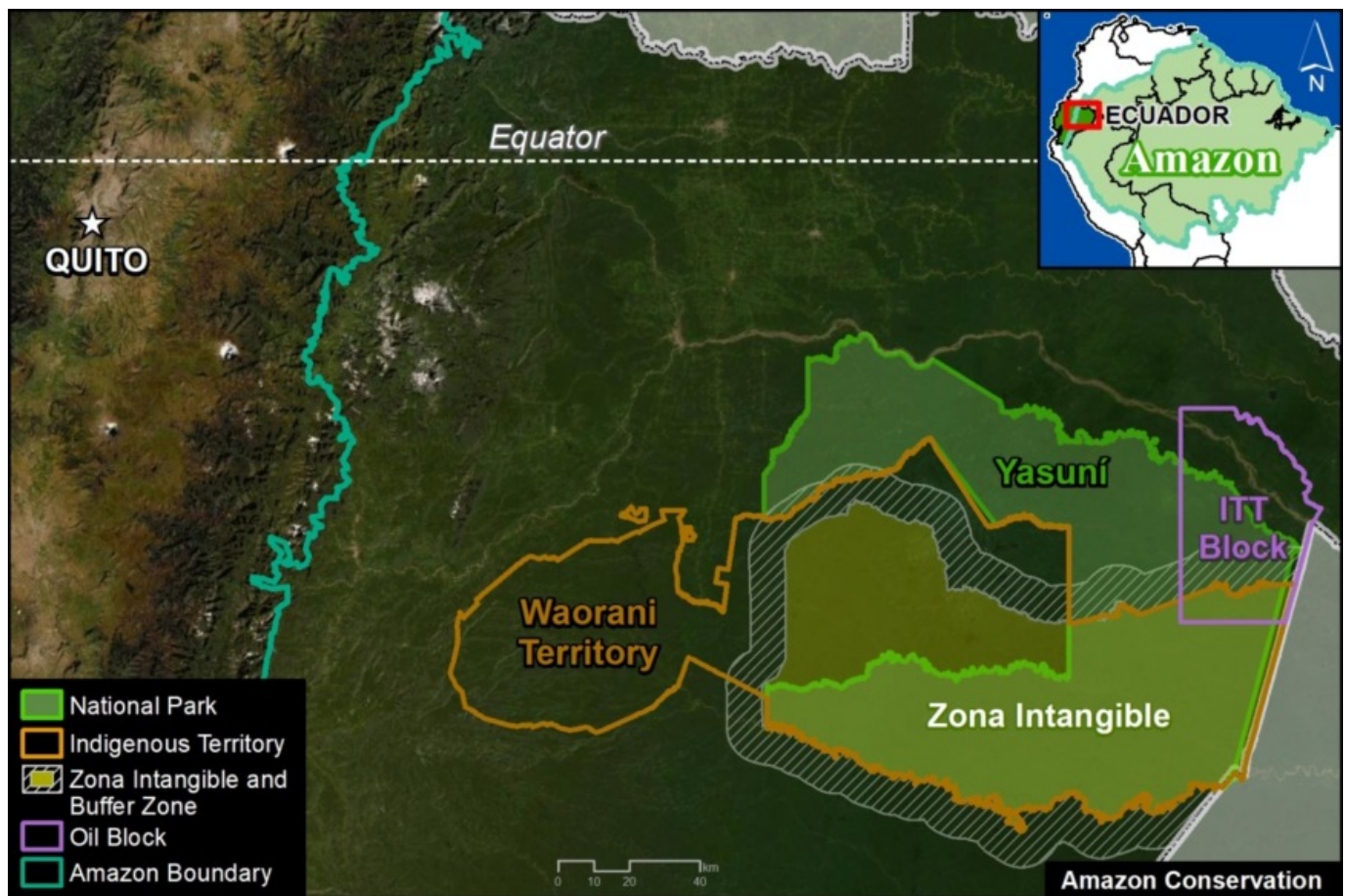


# MAAP #150: New Oil Platforms Deeper into Yasuni National Park (Ecuador), towards Uncontacted Indigenous Zone

January 31, 2022

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*Base Map. Location of Yasuni National Park, ITT Block, and Zona Intangible in the Ecuadorian Amazon.*

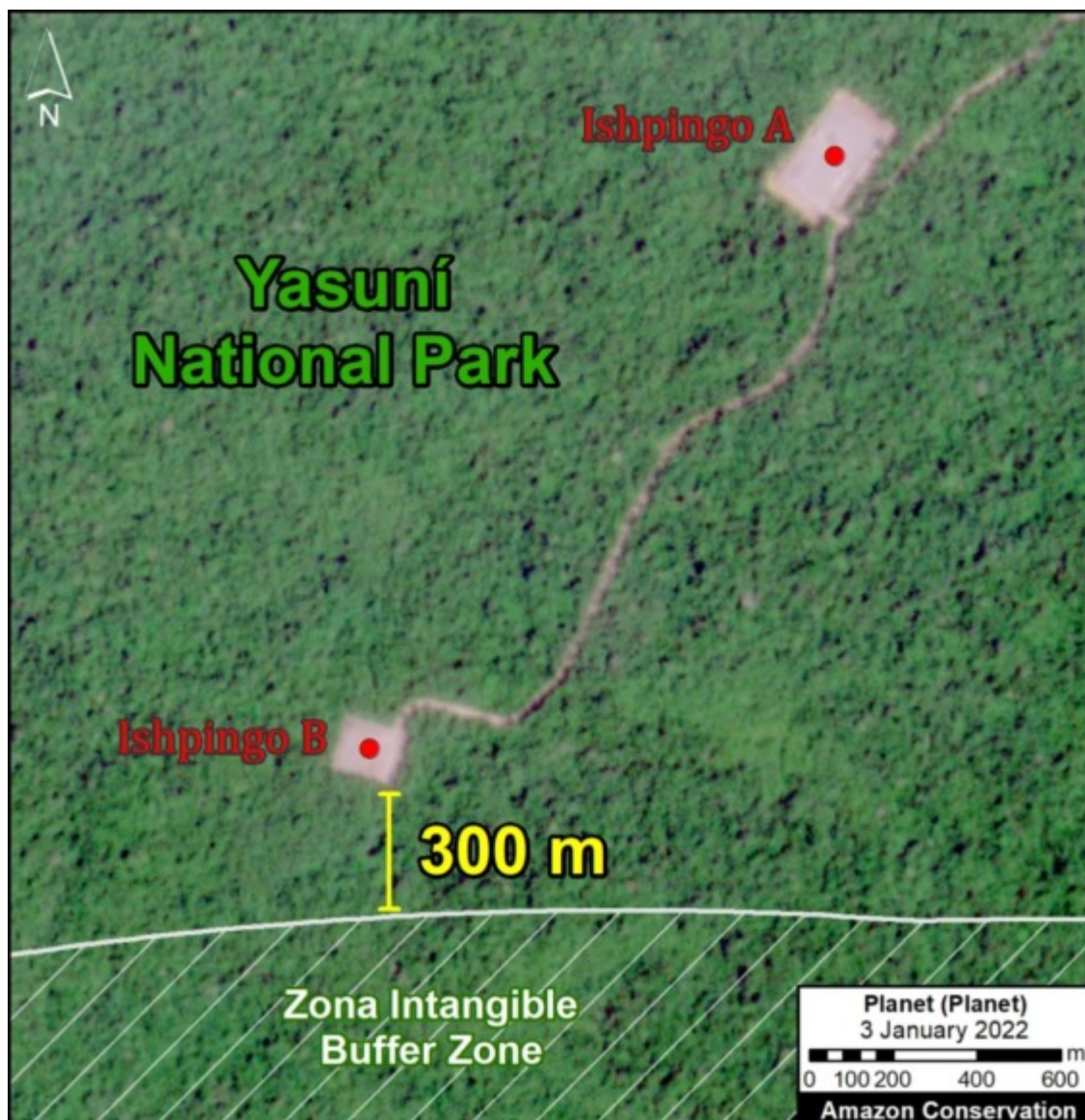
**Yasuni National Park**, located in the heart of the Ecuadorian Amazon, is one of the most biodiverse places in the world thanks to its unique location at the intersection of the Amazon, Andes Mountains, and the equator (see **Base Map**).

In addition, it is part of the ancestral territory of the **Waorani** indigenous peoples. The entire southern portion of Yasuni National Park has been declared an Untouchable Zone (**Zona Intangible**) to protect the territory of the relatives of the Waorani who live in voluntary isolation (Tagaeri-Taromenane).

In a series of previous reports (<https://www.maaprogram.org/hydrocarbon/>), we have shown the construction of oil drilling platforms (and associated access road) in the **ITT Block**. This controversial block, run by the state oil company Petroecuador, is located in the remote and largely intact northeast sector of Yasuni National Park.

In this report, based on the latest satellite images, we show the most recent construction within the ITT Block: an oil drilling platform known as **Ishpingo B**. This platform is located just **300 meters** from the buffer zone of the Zona Intangible.

We also issue a **warning** about the future construction of additional oil drilling platforms that would enter the buffer zone and reach the limit of the Zona Intangible itself.



(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/maaproject.org-maap-150-new-oil-platforms-deeper-into-yasuni-national-park-ecuador-towards-uncontacted-indigenous-zone-Map1-EcuaAmz-OilRoad-3Jan2022-Eng-200dpi-v1.jpg>)

*Image 1. Data: Planet, MAAP/ACA.*

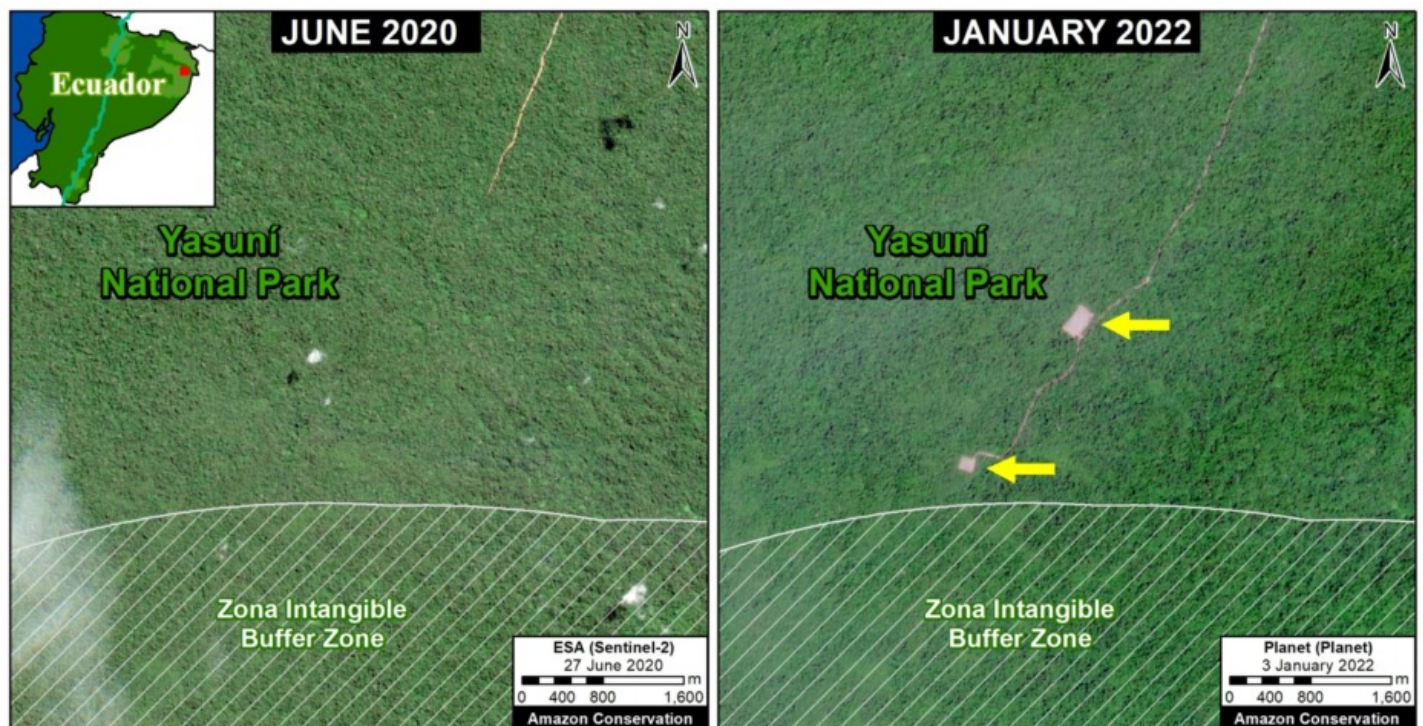
## Ishpingo Platforms A & B

The following images show the construction of the two new oil drilling platforms (**Ishpingo A and B**) in the heart of the Yasuni National Park (ITT Block).

**Image 1** (on the right) shows that the newest and southernmost platform (Ishpingo B) is located just 300 meters from the buffer zone of the Zona Intangible.

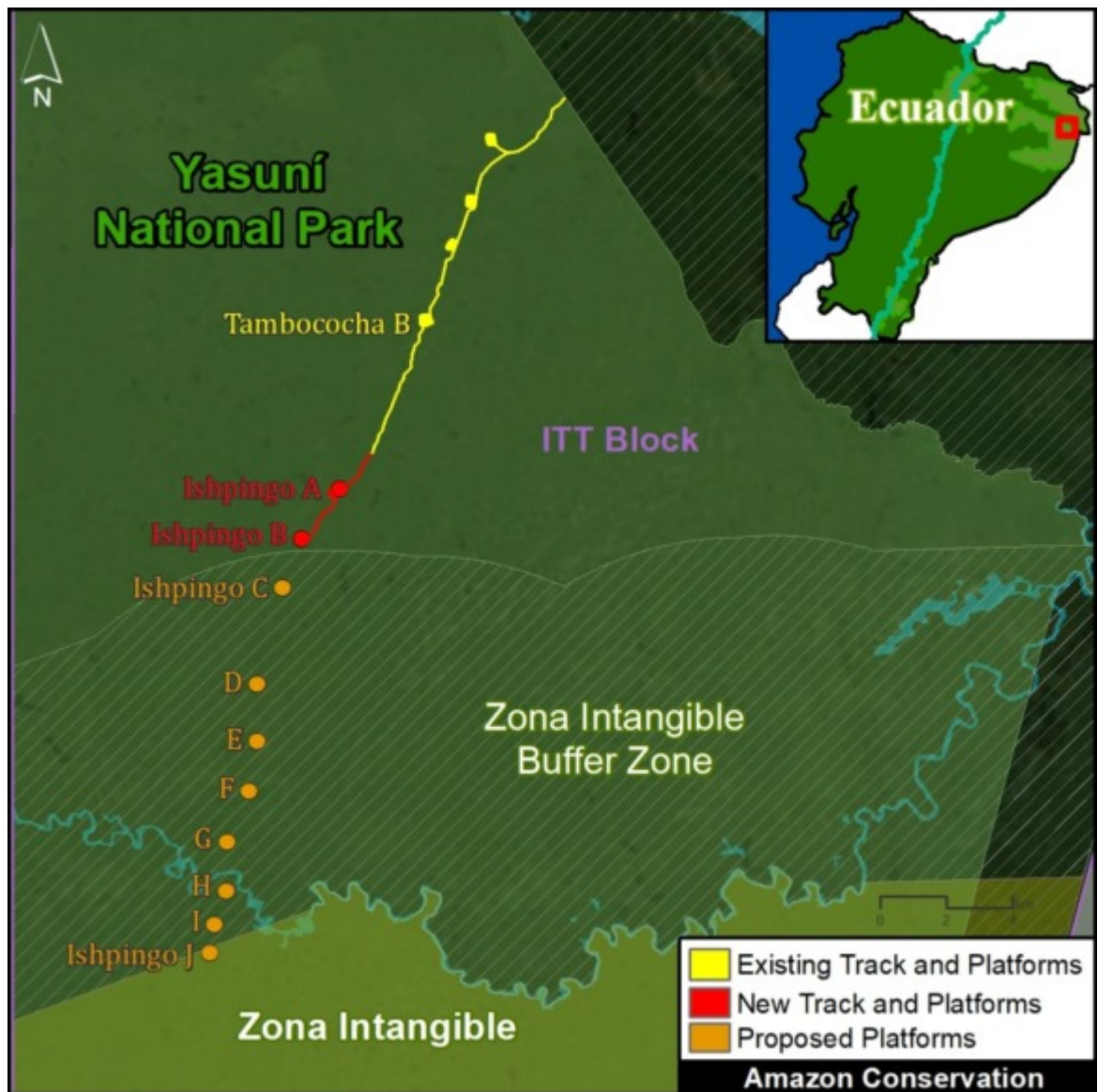
**Image 2** (below) shows the construction of the two new platforms and associated access road between June 2020 (left panel) and January 2022 (right panel).

It is worth mentioning that the construction of these platforms has a corresponding environmental license in accordance with the “Environmental Impact Study and Environmental Management Plan of the Ishpingo North Development and Production Project.”



(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/maaproject.org-maap-150-new-oil-platforms-deeper-into-yasuni-national-park-ecuador-towards-uncontacted-indigenous-zone-Panel-27Jun2020-3Jan2022-EcuaAmz-OilRoad-Eng-200dpi-v1.jpg>)

*Image 2. Data ESA, Planet, MAAP/ACA.*



(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/maaproject.org-maap-150-new-oil-platforms-deeper-into-yasuni-national-park-ecuador-towards-uncontacted-indigenous-zone-BM-2-EcuAmz-OilDrilling-YasuniNP-5Jan2022-200dpi-Eng-v1.jpg>)

Image 3. Data: MAAP/ACA, Energy and Environmental Consulting.

## Towards the Zona Intangible

**Image 3** shows (in red) the location of the two new platforms (Ishpingo A and B) in relation to Yasuni National Park and the Zona Intangible.

Once again, note that the newest and southernmost platform (Ishpingo B) is located just 300 meters from the buffer zone of the Zona Intangible.

**Alert:** It is critical to emphasize that a previous version of the Environmental Impact Study includes plans for the construction of eight additional platforms (Ishpingo C-J), all located within the buffer zone towards the limit of the Zona Intangible Zone.

In fact, in early 2022, the head of Petroecuador has begun to publicly state (<https://www.expreso.ec/actualidad/petroecuador-dice-necesitar-100-pozos-petroleros-ishpingo-120285.html>) the importance of moving forward with these extremely controversial plans.

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## Acknowledgments

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(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/maaproject.org-maap-151-mineria-ilegal-en-la-amazonia-ecuatoriana-maaproject.org-maap-151-mineria-ilegal-en-la-amazonia-ecuatoriana-EcoCiencia-Logotipo-H.png>)

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## Citation

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