

Chevron in Ecuador

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Session 2B. The role of social movements in influencing health and trade policy
change

18 November 2024

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A case study of

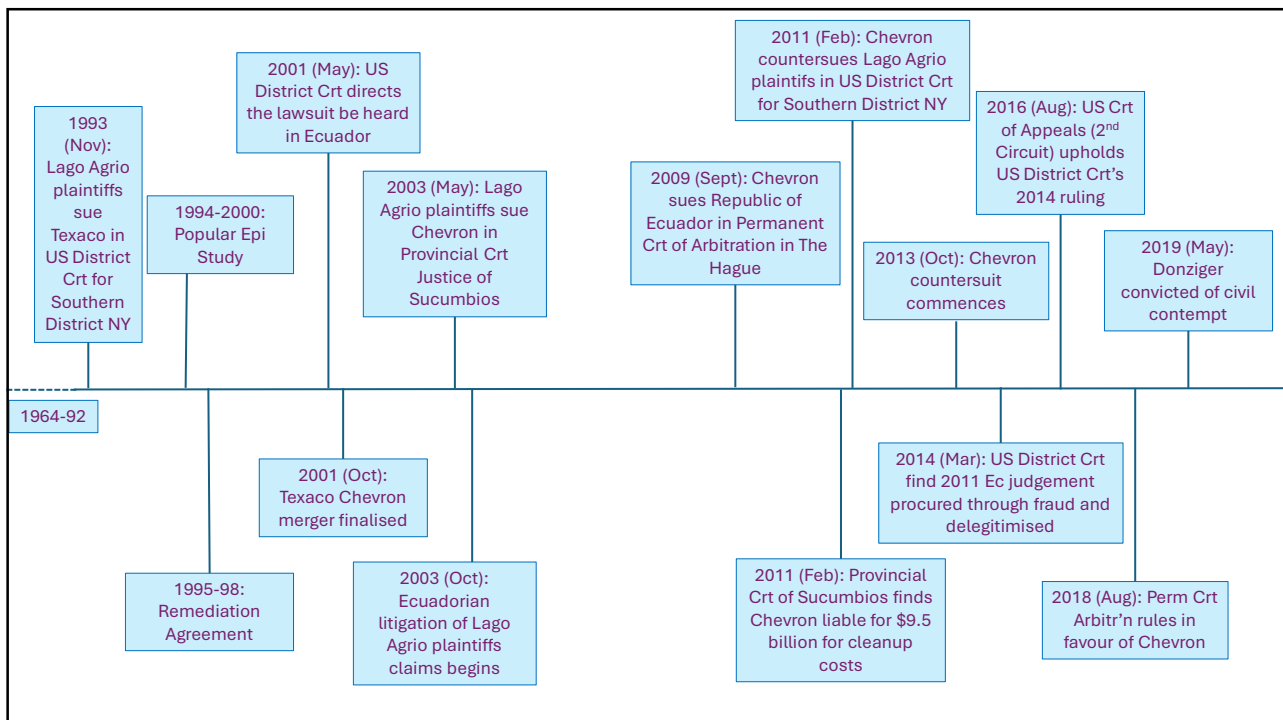
- Gross rainforest pollution
- Corporate disregard for the farmers, indigenes, the forests, non-human forest dwellers
- Corporate refusal to deploy best practice environmental protection
- Corporate duplicity in dealings with Ecuador and local community organisations
- US legal arrogance in over-riding judgements of Ecuadoran courts
- Corporate use of ISDS to protect corporate impunity
- Ambiguous use of epidemiological method
- Farming and indigenous communities coming together to challenge corporate crime
- International solidarity (lawyers, epidemiologists, social movements) in support of Ecuadoran community organisations

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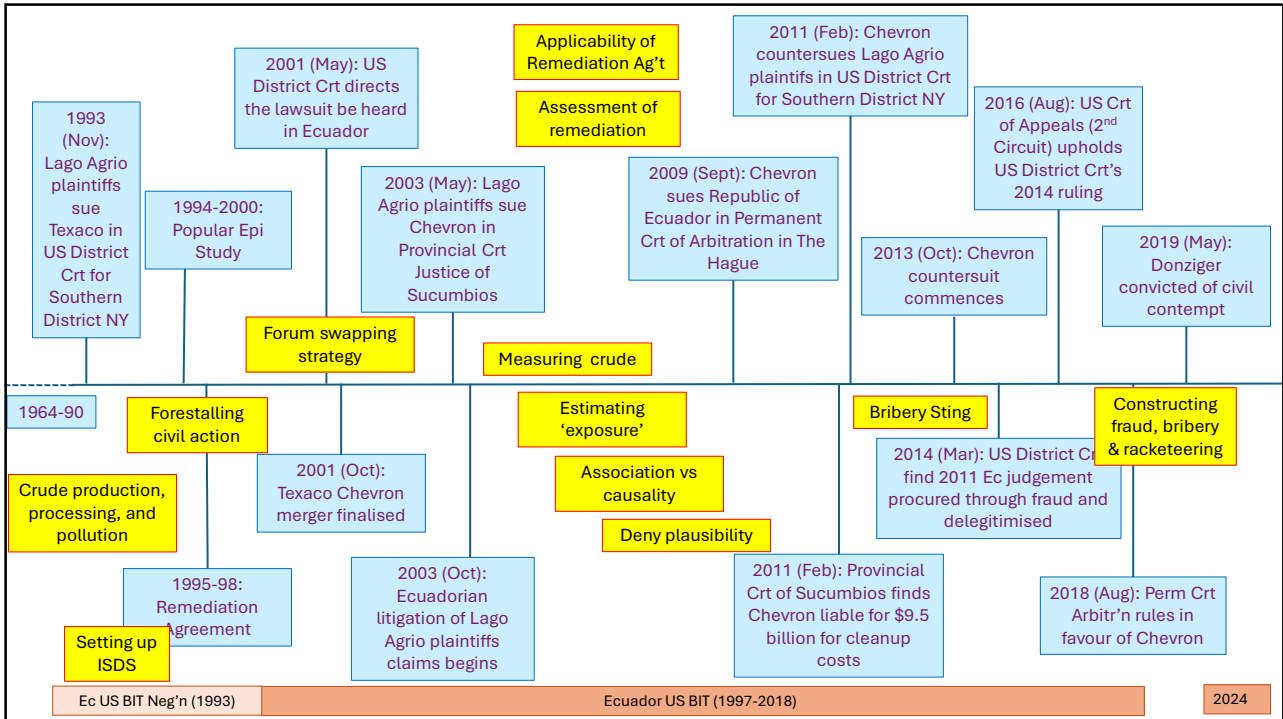
From 1964 to 1990 Texaco:

- Operated 15 oil fields, 22 production stations and 339 wells
- Extracted 1,434,000,000 million barrels of crude . . . across a region of approximately 500,000 hectares
- Filled 900 waste pits with crude oil and ‘formation waters’ (rather than ‘re injection’ approach)
- Spilled sixteen million gallons of crude oil and twelve to twenty billion gallons of contaminated water into the Upper Amazon
- Impacted 30,000 people who suffered skin and stomach infections, dizziness, headaches, spontaneous abortions, and cancers
- Impacted communities, farms and forests including the dying of cattle and domestic animals, the loss of crops from poisoned water and oil spills, the dying of fish in rivers

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Social movements, science and litigation

- The collectivity of campesinos and Indigenas of Lago Agrio in Northern Ecuador who challenged Texaco/Chevron
- Anti-extractivism movement (especially based in Canada)
- Donziger solidarity movement (mediated through Chuffed.Org)
- Environmental health movement (health, science, popular)
- Anti-globalisation movement, especially opposition to ISDS (legal, political economic, popular)
- Climate action movement
- Legal solidarity and activism
- Anti-colonial, anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist movements

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27 March 2024

Hi David,

I'm reaching out first and foremost to say thank you for your generous support of my campaign to secure a pardon from President Biden.

We're gaining a lot of momentum, but I wanted to update you on the urgency of my situation.

I still have no bank account, passport, or law license. At any moment Chevron could decide to seize my computer, possibly resulting in another contempt case and detention.

The reason I'm fighting for a pardon is because it represents the greatest threat to big oil. Without it, Chevron and other 'big oil' giants have the chance to get away with what they have done.

I've exhausted every other legal option. Chevron's influence over the courts has denied my appeals and has allowed it to evade accountability for the suffering it has continued to inflict upon the communities in Ecuador's Amazon.

This pardon is a crucial test of Biden's commitments to climate, protecting human rights, and standing up to corporate power. I need your help to continue pressuring the White House to finally deliver justice for the people of Ecuador.

We need to make sure what happened to me never happens to any other advocate.

But to make this happen, we need the ongoing support of donors like yourself. I would be so grateful if you are able to support me again. If you can't donate again, please share this email with a friend who wants to help me hold big oil accountable, once and for all.

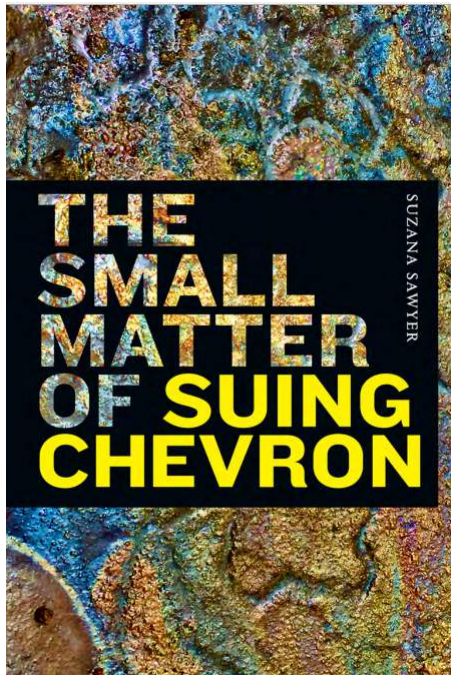
Donate today

<https://chuffed.org/campaign/free-donziger>

Thank you so much.

Steven Donziger

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- **Suzana Sawyer.** (2022). *The Small Matter of Suing Chevron*. Duke University Press. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1215/9781478022572>
- Remarkable book
 - History
 - Epidemiology
 - Epistemology
 - Social justice

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