

[Pachamama Alliance](#)

The indigenous people in this region are strongly opposed to any plans for oil development and vow to resist and stop these projects. They know the environmental and social disaster that oil development will bring.

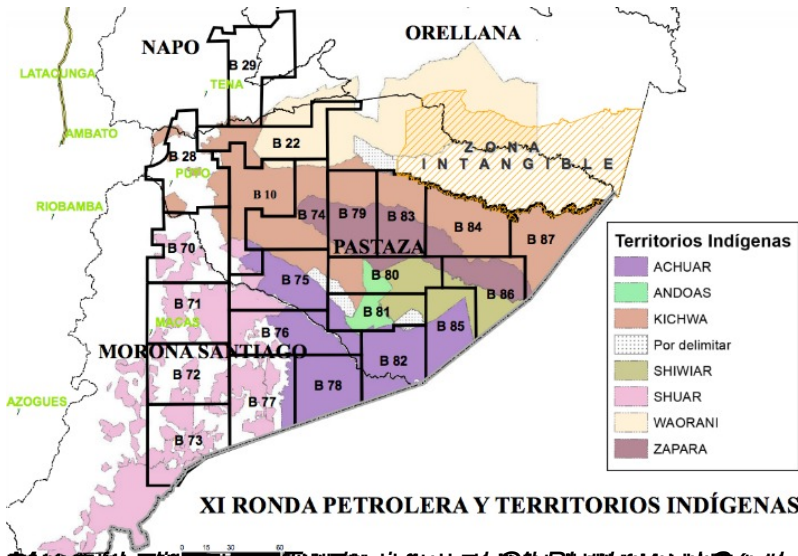
On January 26 the government of Ecuador formally signed exploration contracts for two Amazonian oil blocks—known as blocks 79 and 83—with Chinese state oil company, Andes Petroleum. The Ecuadorian government also announced plans to open up 16 other oil blocks in its South-Central Amazon region to bids later this year.

The indigenous people in this region are strongly opposed to any plans for oil development and vow to resist and stop these projects. They know the environmental and social disaster that oil development will bring.

For two decades, Pachamama Alliance has worked in solidarity with the indigenous organizations of Ecuador's South-Central Amazon region to defend their rights and their territorial homes: the Achuar, Shuar, Kichwa, Sápara, and Shiwiar. Over eight million acres of pristine tropical rainforest have been protected from oil development.

In late 2013, oil development rights to nearly 100% of this territory were offered at auction to oil companies. The auction attracted very little interest from the oil industry, however at that time Andes Petroleum placed a bid on blocks 79 & 83. The recent signing of a formal contract for these blocks represents a next step in what can be a lengthy oil development process, especially when oil prices are at historic lows. However, in this case the government is clearly attempting to accelerate the process.

As you can see from the map below, the areas making up blocks 79 and 83 are home to both Kichwa—including the community of Sarayaku—and Sápara people. There are also two indigenous groups, the Tagaeri and Taromenane, living in voluntary isolation in the area comprising block 83. Ecuador's Constitution declares the territories of such people off-limits to development.



XI RONDA PETROLERA Y TERRITORIOS INDÍGENAS

