MAAP #82: Oil-related Deforestation in Yasuni National Park, Ecuadorian Amazon

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Yasuni National Park, located in the heart of the **Ecuadorian Amazon**, is arguably the most biodiverse area in the world. It is also the ancestral territory of the **Waorani**, and their relatives in voluntary isolation.

However, underneath the park are large **oil** fields, setting up the constant conflict looming over Yasuni. In fact, in a recent **referendum**, Ecuadorian voters approved limiting the oil extraction area within Yasuni National Park to **300 hectares** (740 acres).

Here, we analyze high-resolution **satellite imagery** to estimate both direct and indirect oil-related deforestation within Yasuní National Park.

For **direct impact**, we document the deforestation of **169 hectares** (418 acres) within the park for oil-related infrastructure. For **indirect impact**, we document the deforestation of **248 hectares** (613 acres) due to colonization along an oil access road. The total direct and indirect deforestation due to oil extraction is **417 hectares** (1,030 acres).

Thus, one could argue that the oil-related deforestation has already **exceeded** the 300 hectares (740 acres) approved by the voters.

We illustrate these results in a **Story Map**.

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