Evan Yunker

Cuenca summaries

Oil exploitation in Ecuador:

Damages from oil spills and oil production has been studied in the paper “The Health Effects of Oil Contamination: A Compilation of Research” written by Jon Gay, Olivia Shepherd, Mike Thyden, amd Matt Whitman. This paper is a very long description of how damages from various oil spills around the globe, including in northeast Ecuador, have damaged both the environment and people. Both physically and psychologically. Over a large span of time, data was collected and compiled into a system. In that system data can be searched by “Type of Health Effect” and “Location of Contamination”. This allows an easy way to search for and find data and facts based upon certain oil spills from various areas.

This ties into the incident of the Texaco-Chevron oil contamination in the Ecuadorian rainforest. For decades the company had been dumping billions of gallons of toxic oil waste. Finally, citizens who lived in the Amazon sued the company and won. Chevron was ordered to pay upwards of 17 billion dollars for what they had done. This spilling of toxic waste caused large increases in health problems in the indiginous people who lived there as well as death all while being told by Chevron that the black oil in the water contained valuable vitamins and minerals. Unfortunately Chevron believed that they were above the law and tried to get away with a heinous crimes that ultimately would cost them billions of dollars. Even though the 17 billion dollars will not fix or reverse the damage that was done, at least it helped send a message that acts like that will not be tolerated.