



Pollution, Water, and Mining: Environmental Issues in Latin America

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FILMS

13 Pueblos en defensa del agua el aire y la tierra (13 Peoples Defending Water, Air, and Land)

In the future, wars will be fought over water. In the Mexican state of Morelos, this war has already begun. A documentary that contemplates Mexico's destiny, *13 Peoples defending water, air and land* tells the story of the struggle of Mexican indigenous people to preserve their natural resources and their cultural identity. Finalist in the 2009 Latin American Environmental Media Festival. Directed by Atahualpa Caldera Sosa and Fernanda Robinson. filmed in Mexico. Spanish with English subtitles, 1 hour, 3 minutes

Amazon: Land of the Flooded Forest

This documentary explores one of the most unusual geographic regions on earth, where water and land life intermingle six months of the year. When rains raise the Amazon River basin into the treetops, fish feed off fruit trees and families hurry to hoist their floorboards above water level. Guided by an expert Amazon biologist, National Geographic's cameras capture in lush color some of the forest's most intimate events. English, 60 min.

Black Plague

This documentary shows the destruction of the Amazon in Ecuador by Chevron/Texaco during their 20 years of oil exploitation. It also shows the campesino and indigenous movement in Ecuador against this giant oil company based in the San Francisco Bay Area. It was made for the International Campaign against Chevron/Texaco organized by Amazon Watch. 2002. *English and Spanish w/ English subtitles*, 10 min.

Black Water

As pollution from upstream factories and mills flows down to the sea, the once rich waters around Sao Braz, a traditional maritime community in Bahia, Brazil, are no longer able to sustain the marine life which provided employment and sustenance for the villagers. As their catches diminish, fishermen intensify their efforts, further depleting stocks. And, as protein sources become scarce, malnutrition among the young rises. Stunningly photographed, *Black Water* portrays the plight of Brazilians who are suffering

the environmental impact and the human costs of poorly planned industrial planning, over which they have no control. First Run/Icarus film. 1990. English, 28 min.

El Charango

This short documentary is about a little instrument, a large silver mine and the highest city in the world. Cerro Rico in Potosi, Bolivia, was discovered by Spanish conquistadors in 1545, who enslaved the local indigenous people. It is said that 8 million people, including African slaves, died in the mines of this mountain while providing Spain with immense wealth. The Spanish culture spread into Potosi, and the local people became aware of something they had never seen or heard before: a stringed instrument. Forbidden from ever playing the Spanish guitar, the miners copied it and created the charango. The story of the charango symbolizes the larger struggle for human rights and a quest to keep traditional culture alive among indigenous people. 2006. *Spanish with English subtitles*, 22 minutes.

The Devil's Miner

The Devil's Miner is an astonishing portrait of two brothers, 14-year-old Basilio and 12-year-old Bernardino, who work deep inside the silver mines of Cerro Rico, Bolivia. Raised without a father and living on the slopes of the mine, Basilio and his brother must work the mines when they are not in school to help support their family and afford supplies vital to their education. In the mines, which date back to the 16th century, it is an ancient belief that the Devil determines the fate of those who enter. Basilio and his brothers place their faith in the mountain devil's generosity, hoping to earn enough money so they can continue going to school-their only chance of escaping their destiny in the silver mines. Spanish w/ English subtitles, 82 min.

Donde No Hay Agua (Where There is No Water)

Donde No Hay Agua is a documentary that explores water scarcity issues in the Dominican Republic. This island nation is known for its tropical climate, but in some parts of the country, citizens struggle to find water to meet their day to day needs. This struggle is best represented in Oviedo, a small town in the poor southwestern region of the country. Oviedo's water is dependent on an agricultural canal that is fed from a diminishing watershed in the nearby mountains of Paraiso. The citizens of Oviedo receive bathing and cleaning water from the canal as well as subterranean salt-water wells. Most drinking water comes from cistern trucks that sell water at 30 pesos a barrel. The water challenge in Oviedo is due to various factors including: politics, economics, and location, but the overarching factor is the environment. Whether an aqueduct is built in Oviedo or not, if the watershed is deforested, the water will disappear. This documentary illustrates how slash and burn agricultural techniques have damaged nearby watersheds. If the remaining watersheds are not protected, the already precarious water sources will vanish forever. Though local institutions and residents are working to save the watershed, there is still much work to be done. This is not only a local problem, but a national problem for the Dominican Republic, and an international issue, where water is quickly becoming a scarcity. This documentary shows the challenges of life *Donde No Hay Agua*, and explores the complexities of water scarcity in the developing world. 2005. Spanish w/ English subtitles, 23 min.

Esmeraldas: Petroleum and Poverty

A film that portrays an intimate connection with a desperate community. The bulk of Ecuador's petroleum is refined in an Afro-Ecuadorian community in Esmeraldas. After years of illnesses from wastes and spills, the refinery exploded, killing several people and contaminating the river. Graphic depictions of illnesses caused by the pollution accompany the story of this community's struggle for health, safety and dignity. 2002 *English*, 9 min.

Fuera

This film focuses on the debate over water as a commodity or as a basic human right. The people of El Alto, Bolivia, do not have access to potable water even though the water treatment facility adjoins their neighborhood. The necessity of water and health hazards connected to water deprivation is highlighted in this impactful work. Privatized since 1997, the water system in El Alto, Bolivia, has become the topic of recent political and social debates in Bolivia and around the world. *Fuera* evaluates how the privatization of water, under the transnational Suez, has affected access and the quality of water for the citizens of this sprawling urban center. This documentary includes interviews with local and international activists, doctors, public health officials, academics, and most importantly the Alteos themselves. Directed by Lindsay Katona and Maria Corcorran. 2005. Spanish w/ English subtitles, 30 min.

Haiti: Waters of Sorrow

Captain Cousteau, the crew of the Calypso, and an entourage of scientists and filmmakers examine the land of Haiti, home to almost six million and more densely populated than India. The poverty, the dire health problems, and the danger to sea and land resources are seen in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. *English*, 30 min.

I Defend the Jungle

The CGC oil company invades the Sarayacu territory to conduct geographical surveys without the permission of the people who live there. The people attempt to defend their society, culture, and environment against pollution and human rights violations when the government decides to support the oil company. Directed by Eriberto Gualinga. 2003. Spanish w/ English subtitles, 22 min.

Justicia Now! (Justice Now!)

Over the past 43 years, Chevron Texaco has intentionally spilled over ten times the amount of oil in and around Lago Agrio, Ecuador, than was lost in the Exxon Valdez disaster and yet not one drop has been cleaned up. An area of pristine rain-forest the size of Rhode Island has been devastated, and one tribe of indigenous Indians has been wiped out. For those remaining natives, water supplies are completely contaminated and serious health issues such as cancer, Leukemia, birth defects and skin disease run rampant, affecting every family. An epic lawsuit - one of the largest environmental suits in history - is brewing between *Los Afectados* (The Affected Ones, a group of 30,000 settlers and indigenous people) and Chevron Texaco's army of international lawyers whose attitude towards this has been a combination of strong armed intimidation and complete denial. Standing up against them is Pablo Fajardo, a

humble unassuming man, who was born the same year Texaco came to Ecuador. Having worked the oil fields before putting himself through law school, he graduated only three years ago and is now the lead lawyer in the case during which time his brother was murdered, the killers mistaking him for Pablo, and his office containing over 80,000 court documents has been burglarized and ransacked. On top of that, the judge has survived an assassination attempt and tribal leaders have been beaten up and threatened. Is this big business or organized crime? 2009 Winner of the Latin American Environmental Media Festival of Tulane University. Mofilm. Directed by Martin O'Brien and Robbie Proctor. filmed in Ecuador. Completed in November 2007. 31 minutes. This Project contains dialogue in English with no translations available. English, 31 min.

El sueño del agua (The Dream of Water)

This film will expose the political and social problems related to water resources. Expert voices from personalities such as William Cosgrove: President of the World Water Council, Mikhail Gorbachev: President of Green Cross International, Jean-Michel Cousteau, President of Ocean Futures Society and Rita Levi-Montalcini, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine, will contribute their ideas for solutions to avoid the conflicts that arise in the wake of water division. In parallel, boys and girls from different parts of the world will speak in first person about the water problems that they confront daily. In Benin, Crepin will explain to us how the pollution of this lake is reducing the number of fish. In Holland, Muriel will tell us how she is forced to evacuate her home because of the need to reinforce the dyke that protects her house from the sea. Nandini, in India, will detail for us her daily odyssey just to be able to provide water for her family. On the Gaza Strip, Isam and Anath will explain how the distribution of potable water mounts the tension in one of the most unstable regions of the world. And in the desert of Atacama, in Chile, Julio will show us how they have decided to combat drought through imagination Spanish w/ English subtitles, 57 min.

Oleoducto Contaminación y Pobreza (Amazon Oil Pipeline-Pollution Corruption and Poverty)

In Ecuador in the year 2000 construction began on a heavy crude oil-pipeline, the OCP. It is intended to double Ecuadorian oil output in order to satisfy the energy requirements of the U.S. The oil will be extracted from the Amazon headwaters, wiping out rainforests, national parks and indigenous cultures. This documentary testifies to the reality of 30 years of oil exploitation in a country whose extremely rich natural patrimony is being destroyed due to the greed of transnational corporations and of the international banking system. 2003. Spanish w/ English subtitles, 33 min.

Our Developing World: Cuba

Topics featured in this program include the preservation of cultural heritage and the environment. Specifically, the program discusses the many historical sites of Havana that have been saved from destruction by UNESCO; a second segment talks about efforts underway to rescue the Bay of Havana from the ravages of pollution. Film for the Humanities and Sciences. www.film.com. 1996. English, 17 min.

La Raíz Olvidada

The harbor of Veracruz, and the harbors of Pánuco and Campeche were the main

channels through which African slaves were introduced to Mexico. From there, they were taken to practically all parts of the country to work in mining, cattle raising and other activities. On the shores of Gulf of Mexico, Africans' descendents held positions from mine and plantation workers, to servants and even landowners. As a result, important African settlements developed in this region. The area known as *Costa Chica* was a region very much isolated until thirty years ago. Today we find in this region clearly differentiated with Afromexican phenotype communities. Most of the black population was taken there by the Spanish to replace indigenous labor, mainly as foremen and cattle hands, while others drove pack animals and arrived to the region to settle. Those escaping slavery found a fitting place on the coast to keep their freedom. *Costa Chica*, one of the regions least known by Mexicans, constitutes one of the most interesting examples of cultural mingling between Western Hemisphere Indians, Africans and Europeans, producing an entire coastal culture on the Pacific Shore. The video emphasizes that Africans were present throughout the country, and works towards a reconciliation with those African roots of Mexican culture that have been forgotten for too long. 2001. 50 minutes

Rio Blanco - The Story of the Farmer and the Mine

On the 21st of April 2004, 5,000 farmers from Huancabamba province, Northern Peru, marched to protest against a proposed mine in their area. Farmers feared possible contamination of their fresh water sources and were angry they had not been consulted over the project. Although meetings had been prearranged for the 21st of April to start a process of dialogue, representatives from the Peruvian government and the mining company (Monterrico Metals, based in London) failed on two occasions to arrive at the specified times. On the 22nd of April the farmers arrived at the mining site and were again told to wait for the representatives from the government and the mine. While waiting and without forewarning, a group of police started firing tear gas at the protestors. In the ensuing chaos a protestor, Reemberto Herrera Racho died; according to the police he fell down a hill; according to eyewitnesses he was hit in the head by a tear gas bomb. "Rio Blanco, The Man and The Mine" is an investigation into these two days. It draws from footage shot at the time, interviews with protestors on the march, and press coverage of the event to build up a picture of what happened and how it was portrayed afterwards in the national and international media. The documentary highlights the top-down way in which many multinational companies operate in the developing world and the conflicts that arise from the lack of dialogue between company and community. Directed by Michael Watts and David McNulty. Completed in March 2008. Spanish and English, 27 minutes.

Sipakapa is not for sale

Montana Exploradora, subsidiary of the Canadian/US transnational company Glamis Gold, received 45 million US dollars in financing from the World Bank to exploit an open-pit gold mine in Sipakapa, Guatemala. In accordance with ILO Convention 169, a Community Consultation was held in this Maya region to establish whether the population would accept or reject mining exploitation in its territory. The result was a resounding "NO" to mining. *Sipakapa Is Not For Sale* analyses the debate on mining exploitation and demonstrates the dignity of the Sipakapan People as they fight to

defend their autonomy in the face of encroaching neoliberal megaprojects.
Copyright 2005. *Spanish with English subtitles*, 55 minutes.

Yaku Patsa (World of Water)

Yau Patsa means 'World of Water'. This documentary shows the culture of the people that live in the southern region of Conchucos (Ancash, Peru) through their relationship with water. Along a voyage starting at 2000 meters above sea level and ending at 5000 meters in the Cordillera Blanca, we meet 4 characters that tell us about the different ways they relate to water. Antonio is a carpenter and recalls how his ancestors used to call for water during droughts, Ninfa shows us how to make maize beer and Bebel tells us about how he makes educational documentaries and about an origin myth. Finally, Jose describes how global warming has affected his profession and the glaciers that give the water to the region. Quechua and Spanish with English and Spanish subtitles, 34 minutes.

Trinkets and Beads

After twenty years of devastating pollution produced by oil companies in the Amazon basin of Ecuador, a new kind of oil company - Dallas based MAXUS - promises to be the first company to protect the rainforest, and respect the people who live there. *Trinkets & Beads* tells the story of how MAXUS set out to convince the Huaorani - known as the fiercest tribe in the Amazon - to allow drilling on their land. It is a story that starts in 1957 with the Huaorani massacre of five American missionaries, moving through the evangelization efforts of Rachel Saint, to the pollution of Huaorani lands by Texaco and Shell, and then the manipulation of Huaorani leaders by MAXUS. Now the Huaorani leader, Moi, is trying to unite the tribe in opposition to MAXUS. "It's not just about exploiting oil," says Moi, "it's about who controls the rainforest... it's everyone's concern because this is the heart of the world..." Filmed over two years, *Trinkets & Beads* reveals the funny, heartbreaking and thrilling story of the battle waged by indigenous people to preserve their way of life. The story of how the Huaorani are attempting to survive the Petroleum Age on their own terms exposes hidden consequences of our relentless drive to "develop" the world. Copyright 1996. English, Spanish, and Huaorani with English subtitles, 52 min.