

CHEVRON'S **GLOBAL DESTRUCTION**

Ecocide, Genocide, and Corruption

Dr. Nan M. Greer
2021



Toxic water pours into a waste pit in Ecuador.
PHOTO: Lou Dematteis / Redux

Executive Summary

In response to lawsuits brought by national governments, indigenous communities, and other plaintiffs against Chevron oil company, one Chevron lobbyist told Newsweek, “We can’t let little countries screw around with big companies like this ([Newsweek, 2008](#)).” When indigenous communities in Ecuador attempted to hold Chevron responsible for one of the most massive oil spills in history, the company threatened the victims with “a lifetime of litigation ([Chevron, 2007](#)).”

Chevron has used vast financial resources, political muscle, bribes, and retaliatory litigations to squash lawsuits and incident reports from communities and countries affected by their oil and gas extraction. Chevron appears to be among the most destructive oil companies in the world, destroying land and ocean ecosystems, poisoning rivers and streams, eliminating livelihoods, ravaging communities, and financing paramilitary violence, while filing frivolous and punitive litigations against anyone who dares to hold the company responsible for its crimes.

In September of 2020, Chevron oil and gas company came under scrutiny as it negotiated the takeover of Noble Energy. Preparing for such a takeover, Chevron’s record of international business came under review, and resulted in this report, which reveals alarming incidents worldwide that must be of concern to any global citizen.

As a multinational corporation, Chevron is expected to adhere to international business regulations and human rights laws and regulations. However, the company tends to behave as if it can act with impunity, failing to obey national and international laws, extracting oil and gas at any human or environmental cost. As this report documents, rather than addressing human rights and environmental incidents, the company has consistently chosen to bribe officials, hire thugs to intimidate people, or litigate against its victims.

Among the cases examined in this report, only 0.006% of fines, court judgements, and settlements have been



Figure 1.0 Chevron's Apoi North fire off Koluama, Niger Delta (News Express Nigeria, 2016)



Figure 2.0 Chevron spill Kern County, California (KOED, 2019)



Figure 4.0 Texaco-Chevron oil spill Ecuador's Amazon (TeleSur, 2019)

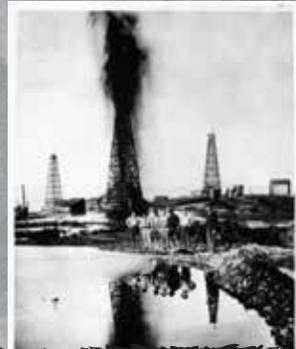


Figure 3.0 Unocal-Chevron Lakeview Gusher 1910-11, 18 month oil well blowout, San Joaquin Valley - biggest crude spill in U.S. history (KOED, 2019)



Figure 5.0 Oil spill in the Funiwa oilfields, Bayelsa, Niger Delta, Nigeria (Sweet Crude Reports)

paid, \$286-million paid, and another \$50.5-billion pending. The company has litigated against virtually every claim made against it for crimes of pollution, corruption, tax evasion, and human rights violations.

Indigenous populations, the poorest and most marginalized global citizens were victims in 61.4% of Chevron abuse incidents publicly reported. Among these incidents, 38.6% involved the loss of rights to ancestral lands, 18.6% included claims of genocide, including cases in west Africa, South America, and elsewhere. A stunning 65% of litigations documented severe human rights abuses (including torture, forced labor/slavery, rape, and murder). Many cases against Chevron document the use of paramilitary forces (30% of cases), bribing officials (22.9%), and corruption (37.1%), all violations of US FCPA-Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Violation of government environmental standards comprised 71.4%. Charges of ecocide appear in almost half the recorded cases. In regions where oil and gas

extraction continues unabated, 71% of cases against Chevron cite violations of land rights, life, and safety, and 45.7% involve the destruction of community food sources. The lawyers protecting these local communities have been harassed with retaliatory litigation in more than a quarter of the cases.

This report compares Chevron's criminal track record with five other oil companies: Royal Dutch Shell, TotalFinaElf, British Petroleum (BP), ExxonMobil, and ConocoPhillips (see pages 70-73 of this report). Clearly, Chevron appears to be the most destructive and contentious oil and gas company in the world, routinely and viciously violating human and environmental rights around the world.



Alicia Weya, representative of the Haourani community impacted by Chevron's toxic oil waste.
PHOTO: courtesy of Alicia Weya.

Preface

As an Environmental Anthropologist conducting fieldwork and community projects in indigenous rights, I have been the Executive Director of an NGO defending indigenous rights around the world for over 26 years, and I have been an Adjunct Professor of both Ecology and Anthropology for over 12 years. My field sites include Latin America, Hawaiian Islands, the Middle East/Levant, and as of the last 6 months, Africa.

Prior to giving testimony to a committee of Israel's Knesset regarding the sale of their natural resources and assets to Chevron Corporation, I spent the period of one month conducting my own comprehensive research about Chevron's environmental problems and conflicts with communities and governments around the world. The discoveries made just from looking at data on 70 cases in 31 countries were alarming.

In each of these countries, I identified significant and credible litigations over environmental damage, criminal abuse, and industrial crimes that communities, citizens, or government entities had filed against Chevron. I identified countries such as Australia where Chevron had serious conflicts with the government over tax cheating that was resolved by courts in the government's favor.

While this research was not exhaustive, there is sufficient evidence readily available to the public that provides a disgusting and shocking picture of a company refusing to comply with social, environmental, and taxpaying responsibilities — a company that litigates until silence from its victims, refusing legal compliance at all costs. This approach was repeated in country after country, in case after case I examined. Notable too was the prevalence of cases of abuse in indigenous ancestral territories and maritime areas.

The evidence of Chevron's extensive record of non-compliance, to which I testified, should be of concern to all global citizens and neighbors — indeed to all citizens and governments of any country doing business with Chevron or thinking about doing business with Chevron. At a minimum, it raises serious questions that in my view should be addressed by authorities before any country can responsibly make an informed decision about whether to approve Chevron's purchase of vital national energy assets, including in the country of the company's headquarters.

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2021

1. I testified to the Israeli Knesset on September 8th of 2020 about 65 cases, however, several cases crossed country boundaries. Involving other countries in their own independent case related to the same incident/s; as such, the number of cases grew from 65 to 71.

2. While listing 31 countries for testimony to Knesset, 2 are not reported herein (Benin and Togo), as little news reporting in country was accessible — further investigation is warranted. A third country, Nicaragua, is also not listed in this report, while Noble Energy, now a CVX subsidiary, has encouraged an inter-country dispute over oil reserves between Colombia and Nicaragua in the Atlantic, at one point causing the murder of the husband of Maria Luisa Acosta, a lawyer defending the Rama & Kriole-GTI indigenous maritime ancestral rights ([Stratfor, 2013](#)).

Dedication

I dedicate these writings, with all of my admiration, to the individuals and communities who have suffered at the hands of Chevron oil company and struggled to survive despite horrific resulting conditions from the company's horrid business practices and actions around the world, most specifically, to the children of the Niger Delta, Berezovka, and Lago Agrio.



THE CALL

Hear the call of the ravaged land
The raucous cry of famished earth
The dull dirge of the poisoned air
The piteous wail of sludged streams
Hear, oh hear!
Stunted crops fast decay
Fishes die and float away
Butterflies lose wing and fall
Nature succumbs to th'ecological war.

-KEN SARO-WIWA
Ogoni Chief

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Aaron Marr Page, law professor and international indigenous human rights lawyer, for his assistance reviewing incidents reported in the report. I would like to thank the following people for their support, assistance, and encouragement in for this work, most notably: Alagoa Morris, of Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth-Nigeria; Maya Jacobs, of Zalul, Israel; Paul Paz y Miño, Amazon Watch; Rex Weyler, co-founder of Greenpeace; Steven Donziger, lawyer to 30,000 indigenous people with the largest pending Chevron judgement payout of any environmental disaster; and Yosef Abramowitz, Green Pioneer, and 3-time Nobel Peace Nominee. Additionally, I would like to thank Dr. Leslie Sponsel, University of Hawai'i, for first sharing with me the stories of Chevron in Nigeria and Ecuador, and the Chairman of my Ph.D. committee, Dr. Eric A. Smith, University of Washington, who published cases of indigenous fighting big-oil in Canada (Smith, 1997). Without your encouragement, I would not have been able to contribute in this way to the knowledge of atrocities committed by Chevron around the world. I appreciate the opportunity to share with the world what may have been hidden at the behest of a major corporate oil giant. Thank you to Raven Fallon-Cyr for assistance in editing this report. Thanks also go to my family, who put up with me for months as I finalized the writing of this report. All errors herein, are mine.

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Farmer Servio Curipoma in Orellana Province. Mr. Curipoma had to abandon his farm, polluted by Chevron's toxic waste, after his father died of stomach cancer and his mother and sister-in-law died of uterine cancer. "Food crops won't grow here," he says. "Plants die, animals get sick, and people get sick."

PHOTO: Enrique Aviles, Ecuador Amazon Restoration Project.

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Afectados, the affected citizens of northeast Ecuador at one of Chevron's 900 toxic waste pits that continue to leach into the water table.

PHOTO: Photography Alliance, public domain



Figure 6.0 Word Cloud of Chevron-Damages Case Variables by Frequency

Ecuador oil waste pit.
PHOTO: Lou Dematteis / Redux



A worker siphoning crude oil from a waster pit left by Texaco near Duren, 1993.
PHOTO: Lou Dematteis / Redux

Introduction

Chevron's business has a record of violating human rights, pristine wilderness areas, and global business laws and regulations. Chevron states they have worked in 180 countries. In a month's time, I examined cases in 31 countries (17% of their global operations). These cases were most prominently displayed through online research. Further investigation is needed to review all 180 Chevron country sites and their subsidiaries.

Examining 17% of Chevron's global activities, the following data was compiled. The dollar value of associated judgements against Chevron, while extremely difficult to assess, was based on the cases evaluated only in this research. The following is notable:

- » Dollar value of lawsuits against Chevron pending payment = 50.5B
- » Funds paid out in sole company settlements = 286M (0.006%)
- » Dollar value of class action lawsuits/Chevron is party to = 697M + Climate Change litigations (2020, 2019, 2008/Inuit)

The cases examined herein show ecological issues due to spills: soil contamination, ground and surface water contamination and depletion, loss of biodiversity, collapse of fisheries, wetlands destruction, and more.

Looking at Chevron's record, one finds judgements of rape, torture, murder, massive spill contamination and refusal to clean, pay taxes, etc. The most violent cases have gone largely unnoticed due to being in developing countries, indigenous regions where marginalized women have suffered the most, such as in the cases of Nigeria in the Delta states.

Chevron lawsuits involve violating local country and international laws and violating legal business practices in over 15 international cases, including illegal payments, bribes, and violations of U.S. sanctions, as in the cases of Iran and Iraq – with associated Foreign Corrupt Practices Act/FCPA lawsuits by government.

Of the 70 litigations identified against Chevron reported in 31 countries,

- » 71% involved violations of rights to land, life, and safety against local populations;
- » 100% were being litigated, or had been litigated, with no response by Chevron for mediation;
- » 83% had yet to produce a settlement, with Chevron spending funds on law firms fighting claims; and,
- » 65% of the litigations involved documented claims of severe human rights abuses, including torture, forced labor/slavery, rape, murder, and even genocide-as in the cases of the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline and the Nigeria-Togo-Benin-Ghana West African Natural Gas Pipeline.

Researching effects of LNG/Liquified Natural Gas drilling, it is critical to note that as of the summer of 2020, Chevron has had two severe cases of cracks and blowouts, one in Barrow Island, Australia. The other located in China, dating 2006 and 2003 shows 41,000 people were dislocated from their homes, and another 9,000 poisoned. The Australian Barrow rig was stopped in August of 2020 due to government demands after petitioning by Australian and Maori workers.

Nigeria: Beginning in the 1960s through today, Chevron and its subsidiaries managed unparalleled global oil and gas extraction amid accusations of criminal abuse, industrial crimes, and environmental destruction. In Nigeria, deposits of crude oil litter canal wetlands of multiple indigenous groups in the Niger Delta still today, with the Tsekelewu Ijaw community, the Ogoni and Oljaw, and indigenous women of the Aja-Omaeta and Escravos groups (over 500,000 people) losing life, livelihoods, homes, land, and food. With cases extending from the 1960s through the 2000s, each group found Chevron out-litigating them. Chevron continues drilling on their lands producing well and drill fires, five documented in 2019. In response to economic and environmental damage from Chevron's activities, the Ijaje people staged a nonviolent protest and were attacked by "mobile police" hired by Chevron, the company was sued in the U.S. and denied liability for community deaths and brutality from the incident. This pattern was repeated throughout other African countries in which Chevron/Texaco worked.

Ecuador: In the Amazon rainforest of Ecuador, Chevron acquired Texaco company and liabilities that came from abandoned spills and tar pits. While a \$9.5B judgement was set by Ecuadorian courts, the company refused to pay damages for discharging over 16 billion gallons of toxic waste, abandonment of 1,000 toxic waste pits, and evidence of pollution levels in soils and water at 200 times above allowable contamination in the United States. Loss of life, land displacement, and corruption are among issues these populations have dealt with since the 1970s. People have died of cancer and other oil-related diseases in the impacted area, according to independent health evaluations ([Sebastian, et. al, 2001](#)). Five Indigenous groups have been affected, with cultural, economic, and health impacts. Instead of addressing a settlement with those impacted, Chevron sued their lawyer, Steven Donziger, in a S.L.A.P.P.-attack lawsuit (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation), putting him under house arrest now over a year, for his failure to hand over confidential information of his clients, personally identifying information with the potential to place each of the 30,000 indigenous at risk personally from Chevron, again.

Other countries: At the same time, in Kazakhstan, oil spills and gas flaring caused serious human rights abuses, at first affecting 4,000 people in the early 1990s. For over 20 years Chevron has continued oil extraction in the country, as it did in both Nigeria and Ecuador, while producing over 21% of Chevron's world reserves. Their production in Kazakhstan left local communities with extensive air, groundwater, and soil contamination. In 2003, near the village of Berezovka, Karachaganak 50% of the population was found to be chronically ill, and in 2014, in this same community of 1,400, people found their children had been poisoned by hydrocarbons while at their school. In 2018, these children of Berezovka were diagnosed with Toxic Encephalopathy, a brain disease caused by chemical poisoning from hydrocarbons and fumes. No payments were made to them or their families. Court actions resulted in litigation errors.

Continuous violent crimes have gone unchecked from the mid-1990s until the present in Myanmar-E. Timor, with widespread forced-slave labor, land confiscation, forced relocation, reports of rape, torture, murder, and corrupt practices with the national government.

Chevron also has violated local government tax laws around the world. Nation-states have failed to receive their due taxes according to signed agreements. This was another pattern in the cases researched. Australia was one of few countries to sue successfully and receive tax funds owed to the country. Similar discoveries were found in the Netherlands. Other countries have not been so successful to collect debts owed by Chevron, some have near collapsed. In 2000, Chevron began a pipeline from Chad to Cameroon on indigenous rainforest lands, displacing 22,000 Bakola Pygmy people through contamination of their water sources and soils, loss of livelihood, and loss of fisheries and other food sources. An associated protest led to violent conflict. After 2005 Chevron was ordered by the local government to leave Chad due to their failure to pay a \$1.45B owed during their operations. This failure to pay the due taxes turned the country to rubbles of poverty, through the failure of payment of taxes.

Chevron has also garnered numerous lawsuits in its own country of domicile, and in its own state. Additionally, in 2000 and again in 2009, Chevron was found guilty of failing to pay royalties on oil extracted from Native American and public lands. Later, Chevron paid the U.S. government \$45.5M to, “resolve allegations they had unpaid royalties from 1988 through 2008 ([NPR, 2009](#)).”

The U.S. Justice Department, along with the EPA finalized a settlement with Chevron for \$275M due to air pollution in four states (California, Hawai'i, Mississippi, and Utah). In 2008, 400 Inuit villagers were forced to relocate from their town in Alaska due to flooding with Chevron named in the suit. This same year, the U.S. Public Water System settled with Chevron paying \$422M to cover suits brought by the public in 20 states, consolidated in Federal Court ([Corporate Research Project, N.D.](#)). While in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Chevron blocked the Department of Environmental Protection from accessing their site for two days following a fatal explosion.

Now today, in both Richmond and Kern County of Chevron's own state in the U.S., communities are imploring Chevron to clean up recent spills and pollution in their areas. Both cases have been locked in litigation for years.

Chevron has vastly deceived its shareholders, the public, and governments around the world about disclosure of financial and health impacts in these countries caused by the company's operations.

Over 14 human rights mandates have been violated under the United Nations which pertain to Chevron lawsuits and cases.

There are credible allegations of rape, torture, slavery, murder, massive spill contamination and refusal to clean, pay taxes, etc. associated with Chevron's business, with a failure to make reparations and address grievances.

Chevron has not adhered to local country and international laws, violating legal business practices in at least 15 international cases documented in this report. One such case was against the United Nations litigated in 2007, and others include illegal payments, bribes, and violations of U.S. sanctions, as in the cases of Iran and Venezuela.

In the past year, Venezuela announced another new Chevron site spill affecting Marrocoy National Park, causing what the local government calls an “ecocide of their national park” ([Caracas Chronicles, 2020](#)).

The following is a short summary of grievances found in the cases reported herein:

- 1** Chevron has directed lawsuits against lawyers defending victim communities in the U.S., Ecuador, Indonesia, Nigeria, Cambodia, and China;
- 2** There are widespread accounts of the destruction of marginalized people's homes, resources, and livelihoods in Nigeria, U.S., Thailand, Cameroon, Chad, Angola, Argentina, Ecuador, Venezuela, Kazakhstan, Poland, Indonesia, Canada, Azerbaijan, Romania, China, E. Timor, Burma-Myanmar, and Ghana;
- 3** There are reported acts of violence, torture, forced-labor/slavery, rape, murder, and terrorism in Nigeria, Angola, Poland, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Romania, Burma, China, Chad, Cameroon, E. Timor, Burma-Myanmar, Thailand, and Ghana;
- 4** Chevron has failed to pay taxes to Australia, Sudan, Angola, Chad, Cameroon, and to Native American nations;
- 5** Chevron is reported violating the FCPA (Foreign Corrupt Practices Act) in Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Iran, Cambodia, Indonesia, Angola, Argentina, and Liberia;
- 6** Chevron has refused to comply with country mandated cleanup costs in Thailand, U.S., Argentina, Nigeria, Ecuador, Venezuela, Poland, Azerbaijan, Romania, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, E. Timor, Burma-Myanmar, and Ghana;
- 7** Chevron has ignored local country orders to shut down operations in dangerous conditions in Australia (2020), Canada, U.S., Nigeria, Brazil, and China;
- 8** Chevron has rejected country litigations around the world;
- 9** Chevron has been held liable to violating United Nations regulations;
- 10** Chevron has been warned by countries around the world to comply with local and international laws, yet has not complied, including taking Ecuador to court, in an attempt to force the country to cover cleanup costs identified as Chevron's responsibility;
- 11** There are continuing destructive activities in countries around the world, despite such countries mandating no further activities, or mandating redress from past violations; and,
- 12** There is an increasing ferocity of Chevron's approach to litigating against local community defenders and lawyers, most notable being the case of Mr. Steven Donziger, now under house arrest without trial for over a year in the United States for refusing to turn over his confidential client files on over 30,000 Amazonian indigenous, potentially risking the lives of his own clients, and violating their international rights of protection under the U.N. Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other legal instruments, including rule 1.6 of the "Model Rules of Professional Conduct" of the American Bar Association (1983).

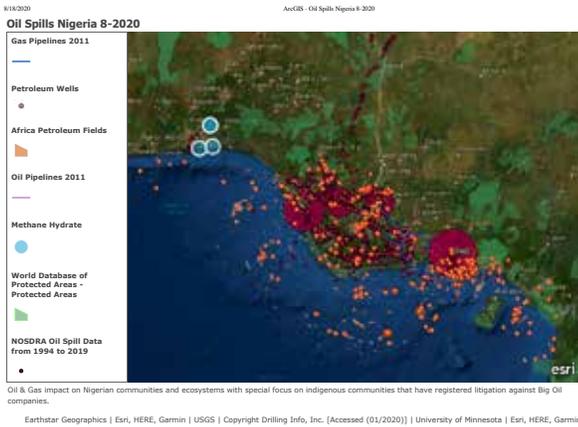
Africa

Chevron's activities in Africa presents a history of human rights abuses, environmental destruction, bribery, failure to pay taxes, violence, genocide, and causing the economic collapse of countries. In Nigeria, assessing the company's business from the 1980s until present (under only the name Chevron), I found 20 cases filed against Chevron by indigenous communities of the Delta.



1.0 Nigeria

The Rivers State is the sixth-largest geographical unit of Nigeria, according to the national government. The state is comprised of a diverse indigenous population with riverine and upland divisions. Dominant ethnic groups are Ogoni, Ijaw, and Ikwerre. The Ogoni and Ikwerre reside in 61% of the upland division, while the Ijaw dominate the riverine areas. The populations are governed as autochthonous groups/native – by territorial units of chiefdoms. With 50 years of oil production in the region, significant human and environmental rights abuses have occurred devastating the local indigenous groups. While Royal Dutch/Shell has been a grave abuser, Chevron has a history of lawsuits by local communities, in addition to demands made of the country by the federal government.



Map 2.0 Nigeria Chevron Inland Oil Spills (50 years) © Dr. Nan M. Greer/E.S.R.I. ArcGIS

Chevron first began doing business in Nigeria in 1913 as Texaco. In 1978, Chevron divested 40% of its holdings to the Nigerian public, effectively hiding behind the Nigerian government. In 1963, the company discovered oil at the Koluama field (with flaring ongoing today-2021), and in the same year, Chevron began drilling near the Escravos River, finding the Okan Field. Through Chevron's subsidiary Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL), the company reports (2020) holding a 40% interest in eight concessions of onshore and near-onshore drilling areas of the Niger Delta. They report doing business under other subsidiaries, but no further information is available from their company website. Nine indigenous groups have cases against Chevron's operations in the Niger Delta, including Ijaw, Ogoni, Ilaje, Ijaw, Itsekiri, Gbaramatu, Ugborodo, Oguta, and Ikebiri.

1.1 Tsekelewu & Chevron - Ijaw indigenous of the Warri North

(Case No. 1)

Beginning in the 1980s and continuing through 2011, the Tsekelewu (Polobubou) communities of the Ijaw people (Egbema clan) from the Warri North, Delta State found their lands illegally transformed by Chevron, when they opened the community lands to the Atlantic Ocean, resulting in a gradual drowning of entire communities below sea level, with salty seawater washing into a system of canals built by the company over their streams and rivers as a mediation method for massive pollution deposits of crude oil in their wetlands, surface, and groundwater. The result left the communities in the area with denuded river sludge where trees cannot grow in brackish water, additionally, the local water ecology has turned into a high salted swamp with continuous siltation flows into the environment. At the peak of the dry season, boats cannot navigate the waterways. While opposed by the people, Chevron achieved approval from the Federal government for the dredging of their Polobubou River. The people experienced widespread loss of livelihood, became food insecure, were displaced/moved from their community lands, suffered health problems including death, and experienced a drop in life expectancy overall (The Nation, 2014). Still to this day, the Tsekelewu communities continue to beg for assistance from the local government for basic amenities while dealing with a degraded environment and no remediation (NNN, 2019).

1.2 Ogoni & Ijaw v. Chevron

(Case No. 2)

In the 1990s, the Ogoni and Ijaw indigenous of Ondo State filed numerous lawsuits for human rights violations by Chevron who had left massive deposits of pollution from spills in addition to having had multiple violations of human rights, as reported by “Democracy Now!” host Amy Goodman (Democracy Now!, 1998). As reported, Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni rights activists were executed by Chevron-paid Nigerian military on November 10th, 1995.

1.3 Bowoto v. Chevron - Ilaje, costal Yoruba indigenous

(Case No. 3)

In lands of the Ilaje, known as Ilajeland, 42 communities are home to Chevron activities. In 1998, over 100 non-armed youths from these communities traveled into the Atlantic Ocean by canoes to the Parabe platform where they occupied the barge servicing the platform. Chevron responded with the military forcing the activists ashore to negotiate with their local employees. While agreeing to activists’ demands, Chevron did not comply, rather they sent three Chevron helicopters to another platform demonstration. It was here that Chevron-hired military recruits shot protesters, including Larry Bowoto after torturing individuals on the ocean platform (Democracy Now!, 1998). Protestors present at the event were shot, beaten, detained, and tortured according to defendants (Earth Rights International, N.D.; Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, 2014). The Bowoto v. Chevron lawsuit was brought to trial in 2008 in the United States San Francisco court but failed to repair any damages as it was thrown out of court due to lack of proper procedures in case-filing in Nigeria. After repeated re-filing of these damages, each re-filing was denied on similar grounds of procedural issues (Center for Constitutional Rights, 2008). Ultimately, Chevron sued the plaintiffs for legal costs (L.A. Times, 2009).

1.4 Opia & Ikenyan & Chevron - Ijaw indigenous

(Case No. 4)

In 1999, 500 people from Opia and Ikenyan indigenous communities in the Delta State were attacked by 100 armed soldiers in Chevron helicopters and vessels. Since the attack, 47 Ikenyan and 15 Opia community members are still missing. Chevron paid soldiers who set fires to homes and community buildings - speculations held that the attacks were perpetrated to clear lands of the communities for pipelines (SFGate, 2005). Opia resident describes the event:

“Three [of the boats] were Chevron sea trucks (two numbers were 221 and 242), the ones they normally use, and the other one was a military boat with a machine gun mounted on it. They were full of soldiers, maybe more than one hundred in all. We ran into the bush again but as we were running they started firing, it was so intense I can’t describe it... As I was running a bullet wounded me on my leg. When we went into the bush we saw fire everywhere in the community, everything was burning ([Human Rights Watch Report, 1999](#) - in [Institute for Policy Studies, 2000](#)).”

1.5 Ilaje v. Chevron - Coastal Yoruba ***(Case No. 5)***

In other areas of the coast, in Ondo State, on July 26, 1998, the Ilaje found their entire stretch of river, canals, and streams covered in oil slick due to Chevron’s deepwater exploration. This same area was the site of yet more spills in 2000 and again in 2007 ([International Journal of Engineering Innovation and Management, 2013](#); [Journal of Geography and Regional Planning, 2011](#); [ERA, 1998](#)). Again, in 2019 an astounding FIVE oil wells all belonging to Chevron caught on fire, these fires burned for over a week within the Ilaje communities ([Punch News, 2019](#)). The Ilaje have filed damages for the fires of 2019 in the amount of \$2.5bn, no reparations have been made by Chevron to the community.

1.6 Escravos Women & Chevron - Itsekiri indigenous women ***(Case No. 6)***

1.7 Escravos v. Chevron- the Itsekiri indigenous ***(Case No. 7)***

In 2002 and 2003, groups of Itsekiri women began protests for reparations due to high-level violence (including rape and homicide) in their communities, in addition to unwarranted arrests. Their list of grievances against Chevron included pollution of their water sources caused by gas spills and gas flaring in the Itsekiri Escravos community. Due to pollution, their population of 500,000 was poisoned by hydrochemicals leading to mass illness and early death among the population. The women resorted to shocking methods in their protests known widely as the “Naked Protests” ([EJA, 2007](#); [Journal of Asian and African Studies, 2004](#); [ReliefWeb, 2005](#); [CorpWatch, 2020](#)). Chevron’s LNG/Liquid Natural Gas extraction is located in the Escravos region, an area under significant environmental destruction and health ramifications from the massive pollution of water sources. Chevron currently extracts a reported condensate export of 58,000 barrels of natural gas per day ([Chevron Company Website, 2020](#)).

1.8 Makaraba Village v. Chevron - Gbaramatu indigenous, Warri Southwest ***(Case No. 8)***

Beginning their operations in Gbaramatu lands in 1973, Chevron has yet to compensate the people for the pollution of their lands ([Vanguard Nigeria, 2014](#)). From 2002 continuing through the present, Chevron’s Makaraba flow station has been a major source of pollution spills into the Makaraba River and surrounding creeks. Local populations have been gravely affected as they are predominantly farmers, working the land and depending on the land. Massive soil contamination has caused deforestation, biodiversity loss, water depletion, and a pollution so intensive it poisons the watershed of the local people of the Makaraba, depending on for drinking, washing, and bathing. Illness figures have skyrocketed, and the average lifespan age is dramatically low. The lack of Chevron cleaning up this pollution has caused a rise in violence between communities and the company ([Reuters, 2009](#); [Reuters, 2007](#)). In 2016, the people of the Okoyitoru community of Gbaramatu issued a 14-day ultimatum to Chevron regarding their Makaraba field, demanding pilling and sand filling of their community, a need due to the effects of the company’s pollution. A lawsuit was filed in 2017 relating to their demands in the amount of 1bn Naira/2.5M U.S. dollars (2017, Dec. 31 values) ([GbaramatuVoice newspaper, 2017](#)).

1.9 Metsagharun et. al. v. Chevron - Ugborodo indigenous

(Case No. 9)

In 2005, five Ugborodo villages sued Chevron for illegal gas flaring and the resulting effects on their communities. The company had failed to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment and had not included the communities in negotiating rights to their lands. In the lawsuit, Chevron disputed the use of their own files for defending the communities' claims of Chevron's illegal gas flaring, using the FLA to discredit the plaintiffs ([Earth Rights International, 2005](#)). Ultimately, Chevron agreed to a settlement. In 2002 a subcommittee of the Ugborodo called on Chevron to implement their MoU/Memorandum of Understanding which had provided for boat travel for the elderly men and women of their communities - Chevron had terminated this service, as they had also terminated the water supply to the Aruntun and Ugborodo communities ([The Genius Media, 2019](#)).

1.10 Koluama v. Chevron - Ijaw indigenous, Southern

(Case No. 10)

In 2012, the *Koluama* community faced a Chevron offshore oil well disaster with its Endeavor rig (the North Apoi Field well-head explosion) when it blew up and burned for 46 days consistently ([BBC, 2012](#)). A proposed class action lawsuit claimed Chevron had negligently ordered drilling to continue despite knowing about equipment failures, smoke, and dangerous gas buildup on the rig. Platform workers sought evacuation before the blast became deadly ([Reuters, 2012](#)). Not only had their environments been changed as had others along the coast of the Delta, but this 2012 oil well fire destroyed their lives ([ERA Field Report, 2012](#)). Out of necessity, the communities appealed for assistance for resettlement, funds that would not be provided ([All Africa, 2012b](#)).

One year later, another explosion from the Funiwa Deep 1A well located adjacent to the Endeavor littered the same lands with more crude, chemicals, and dead fish ([The Will Nigeria, 2013](#)). While in 2012, President Goodluck Jonathan had ordered Chevron to pay compensation to the Koluama communities, none have been paid out ([All Africa, 2012](#); [Channels Television, 2012](#)). In 2014, hundreds of Koluama youth boarded the oil platform over nonpayment of compensation from the 2012 explosion and subsequent fire. The youth left the rig after Chevron agreed to dialogue, ultimately producing nothing for the communities. In 2015, Chevron claimed their rig explosion "did not adversely impact any community" ([Fire Direct, 2015](#)). Failure of Chevron to pay taxes in 2006, and again in 2016 resulted in the communities of the Delta, and the Bayelsa state governor, calling for the expulsion of Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) and the immediate payment of taxes, with the assistance of President Buhari.

As tensions rose, local youth became militarized, taking matters into their own hands, such as the bombing of Chevron's Okan offshore oil platform in 2016 ([The Capital, 2016](#)).

1.11 Izombie & Chevron - Oguta indigenous, of Ancient Benin

(Case No. 11)

In 2014, Oguta from the Izombie communities protested the massive oil spills, violence, and environmental degradation on their lands. They accused Chevron of failing to keep their MoU/Memorandum of Understanding with the communities. Communities claimed Chevron had operated on their lands for over 50 years without addressing these issues or doing anything for the people, contrary to their MoU with the company ([247UReports, 2014](#)). News reports proposed the community members had a near 25% of their people negotiating blindness associated with gas flaring and other pollution.

1.12 Itsekiri & Ikebiri & Chevron

(Case No. 12)

Beginning in 2016 through the present, both Itsekiri and Ikebiri indigenous communities have protested Chevron, their illegal gas flaring, pollution, and the manipulation of the people. Their protests turned violent, including the destruction of Chevron sites ([NGR News, 2016](#)). The Omadino and Ureju communities argue they are host to the highest number of wellheads in the state, while Chevron's neglect of their communities left them with some of the highest levels of violence in the region (*ibid*).

1.13 Aja-Omaeta Women's Council & Chevron - Itsekiri indigenous

(Case No. 13)

In 2018, Chevron evicted the women of Aja-Omaeta from their lands, refusing to recognize their traditional rights and titles to land. Two oil spills also were associated with this eviction/dislocation whereby Chevron had been advised by the state to change their equipment (due to failures). Chevron refused to change this equipment, caused spills resulting from its failure. The women report intimidation by Chevron in their forced relocation and land dispossession. The women petitioned President Buhari that same year to come to their assistance. No redress, nor remediation has occurred for these women. Only seven years prior, had the men of Aja-Omaeta attempted to obtain redress from Chevron for years of refusal payment of dues ([Vanguard, 2011](#); [Vanguard, 2018](#); [TerraAqua, 2018](#)).

1.14 Southern Ijaw & Chevron

(Case No. 14)

In May of 2020, the Southern Ijaw reported deepwater contamination leading to the pollution of coastal shores and fisheries, resulting in dead fish and the poisoning of the people through their food source. The offshore drilling caused chemical leaks and constant poisoning of their ocean waters ([Journal of Geoscience and Environmental Protection, 2016](#)).

Nigerian Government Lawsuits Against Chevron

1.15 Nigeria v. Chevron/Tax evasion

(Case No. 15)

Again in 2019, Nigeria had to pursue Chevron for its failure to pay taxes owed to the country ([Tax-News, 2006](#); Reuters, 2019). In 2016, another blast occurred in Chevron's oil pipelines at the Marakaba pipeline in the same Warri territory ([The Guardian, 2016](#)). While Koluama and other coastal communities have demanded Chevron account for large numbers of dead fishes regularly littering the shorelines, stating fishermen to this day (2020), see bubbles near the rig of explosion indicating discharges are still ongoing ([NNN News, 2020](#)). Failure to pay taxes in 2016 resulted in the communities of the Delta, and the Bayelsa state governor to call for the expulsion of Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) and the immediate payment of taxes - with the assistance of President Buhari.

Lack of Settlements/Acknowledgement of Fault

Chevron chose to invest \$1.45bn in Nigeria in 2019, however, all investments went to the construction of platforms and export systems designed for oil extraction in addition to training employees - none of the funds were directed to remediation and settlement efforts with locally devastated communities ([All Africa, 2020](#)).

1.16 West African Natural Gas Pipeline - Nigeria-Togo-Benin-Ghana *(Case No. 16)*

In 1982 Chevron began the development of the West African Gas Pipeline extending from Nigeria's Escravos region of the Niger Delta, through Benin, Togo, and to Ghana. While it was the first regional natural gas transmission system in sub-Saharan Africa, populations over 50,000 were affected due to violent protests resulting in the displacement of an entire tribal group. Chevron's Nigerian violations extended to other countries ([ERA, 2008](#)). According to the project plan, spurs would be built from Togo and Benin to connect to the West African Gas pipeline, which would be laid on the seabed of the Atlantic Ocean along the coast of all four countries (*ibid*). The people were told the purpose of the pipeline was to help connect countries of West Africa to cheap energy sources. Chevron owns 42% of the pipeline company, possibly more. Ghana, concerned they would be locked into an agreement that would disallow them to utilize their own resources, called for a public hearing to block the construction ([ERA, 2008](#)). Civil society groups in Ghana expressed alarm over the project due to its subsequent increase in the already-overburdened national debt, in addition to the lack of affordability of the proposed energy to be supplied. Not only was the pipeline a challenge to Ghana, but it threatened an already tenuous peace between countries fighting over disputed resources. Despite this, communities in Nigeria and Ghana banded together to protest the construction of the pipeline and its apparent control by Chevron ([Friends of the Earth International, 2007](#)). The World Bank went so far as to acknowledge it had broken its own safeguards on resettlement and environmental impact ([Inter Press Service News Agency, 2006](#)). Despite 3,000 households being located in way of the pipeline in Nigeria, and their subsequent filing of abuse cases, the pipeline was completed in 2009 ([Environmental Justice Atlas, 2018](#); [Reuters 2007b](#); [Center for Research on Globalization, 2005](#)).





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Fire on the ocean, Apoi LNG explosion; Koluama oil water, Nigeria; Leader from Ezetu, Niger Delta, Nigeria
PHOTO: Alagoa Morris, Environmental Rights Action / Nigeria

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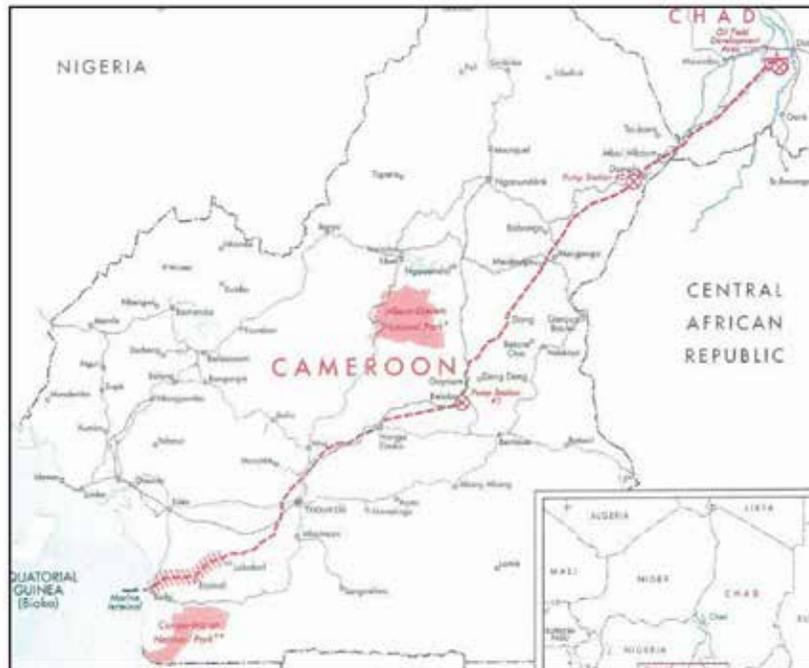
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2.0 Chad



Map 3.0: Chad-Cameroon Pipeline (World Bank, 2012)

2.1 Chad-Cameroon Pipeline *(Case No. 17)*

In 2000, Chevron began building a U\$4.2bn 1,060-kilometer Chad-Cameroon Pipeline from landlocked Doba, Chad to the Atlantic port of Kribi, Cameroon. The building of the pipeline was located on indigenous rainforest lands of the Bakola-Bagyeli Pygmy. Despite massive protests and violent conflicts with the indigenous group, 22,000 people were gravely affected, identifying a significant complaint according to the World Bank's assessment procedures (World Bank, 2012).

Four NGOs uniting civil society in both Chad and Cameroon filed a formal complaint to the International Finance Corporation and its ombudsman accountability mechanism. The complaint alleged, among others (CAO, 2012):

- » A rise in HIV/AIDS after the laying of the pipeline
- » Inadequate compensation
- » Loss of livelihoods among fishermen
- » Inappropriate waste management
- » Uncompensated work-related accidents
- » Displacement and lack of compensation of indigenous community

Surveying the effect on women, a 2011 study showed women felt doubly marginalized by the project's problems, notably, being the decrease in decision-making power within their homes due to devastating losses of livelihoods. Further, with the loss of livelihoods, women reported doubling their efforts to provide for their households, with some reporting turning to prostitution to make ends meet, and other households separating due to familial tension from lost income. Women reported rises in domestic violence and "sexual subordination" to men. The study found the pipeline had devastating gender impacts, on the human rights of women (Friends of the Earth International-Oxfam Novib, 2011). No women were employed by the company. The World Bank ultimately reported the project as "achieving progress in governance and poverty reduction by means of the

oil revenue” (ibid). Amnesty International named the pipeline as at fault in a “side-stepping of human rights” (Petroleum Africa, 2005). According to Amnesty, the pipeline created “financial disincentives” to the protection of human rights...where construction and operation accords could carry large financial penalties for the host governments if they interrupted the running of the pipeline or oil fields in the protection of people’s rights, “this makes it extremely difficult for Chad and Cameroon to take action against company malpractice, and for individuals adversely affected by the pipeline to obtain redress” (ibid).

2.2 Chad v. Chevron

(Case No. 18)

While producing 30% of the country’s oil, Chad found Chevron unwilling to pay taxes to the country. In 2006, Chad told Chevron to leave the country due to failure of payment of said taxes, they were given 24 hours to leave (CBS News, 2006). Ultimately, in 2014, Chevron sold its 25% interest in the oil concession and pipeline system in southern Chad to the country’s government for about \$1.3 billion, financed by Glencore Xstrata, Chevron also sold its 21% interest in the pipeline in Cameroon, as well as associated facilities (Reuters, 2014).

2.3 Chad-Glencoe-Chevron

(Case No. 19)

President Deby’s Chad government was ultimately crushed by the Glencore debt brought in to buy Chevron’s interests in its Doba basin fields and the pipeline. Already reeling from the collapses in oil prices, the country had an even greater disaster to address with the need to repay the debt it was unable to pay due to the failure of Chevron to pay its taxes (Africa Intelligence, 2016). Chad is known to be key in its efforts to counter Islamist insurgencies in Africa’s Sahel region and is part of the G5 Sahel joint military forces. Their costly military campaign to combat the militant group Boko Haram was significantly hampered by their country’s debt directly caused by Chevron. In fact, it was during this same time that the group Boko Haram took over large swathes of their neighboring Nigeria in 2014 (Reuters, 2018).

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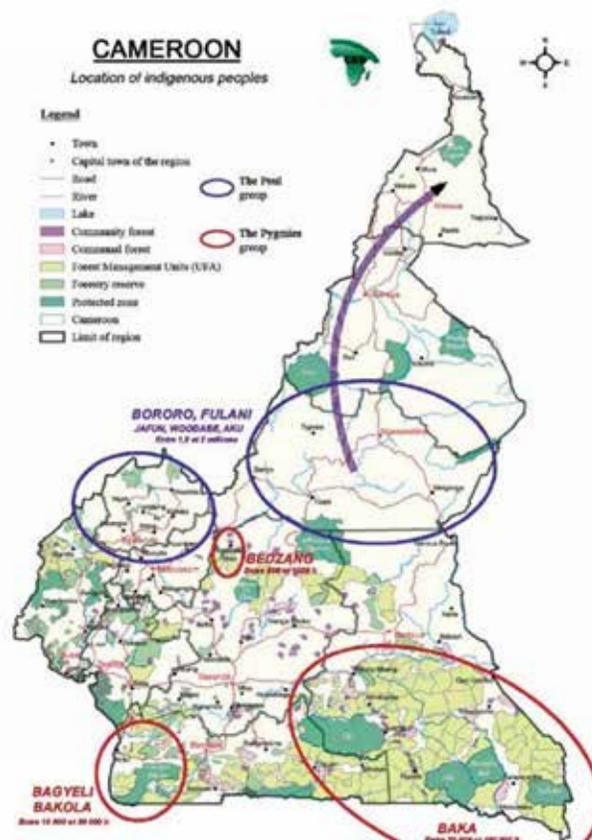
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3.0 Cameroon



Map 4.0: Cameroon indigenous populations (ILO/2015)

3.1 Cameroon & Chevron (Case No. 20)

As the Chad-Cameroon pipeline involved a U\$365M loan to help finance the project, the World Bank was called to review and evaluate hundreds of accounts of human rights abuses at the hands of the project. The complaint recorded by the World Bank in 2012 of the treatment of Cameroon indigenous was a significant violation of human rights, including, but not limited to, loss of livelihood, inadequate compensation; dislocation of communities, and lack of compensations and royalties for Cameroon.

The project involved construction of a 1,070 km pipeline transporting crude oil from three fields in Southwestern Chad to an offshore Floating Storage and Offloading Vessel close to Kribi. The pipeline was completed in July, 2003 (World Bank, 2012). Chevron maintained a 25% ownership in the Chad fields. In the World Bank's investigation, 456 cases of grievances were reported, with outstanding cases. Among grievances were the destruction of livelihood and limitation of access to ancestral forest lands of indigenous Bakola-Bagyeli pygmy communities (World Bank, 2012; Cultural Survival, 2004). The Bakola-Bagyeli are a pygmy hunter-gatherers nomadic group with a mixed subsistence economy incorporating cultivation and farming. While maintaining a nomadic lifestyle, their movement and rights to land were significantly hampered in the building of the pipeline. In the process of approving the pipeline, the rights of these indigenous groups were violated severely. The result of Chevron's activities included a double impact of the activities. As part of the environmental mandate, the government required Chevron to create a park for wildlife in the area - actually the homelands of the Bakola-Bagyeli indigenous. In the creation of the park, traditional indigenous land tenure was ignored and violated.

Additionally, in the pipeline construction, “cases of workers’ rights abuses were recorded but not resolved and... numerous workers are still waiting for justice to be done. Most of them were underpaid...many were roughed up, mistreated, and even put to jail. Their complaints were filed before several institutions (labor inspection, judicial bodies, the World Bank inspection panel, etc.) without any final and satisfactory solution... environmental protection is not guaranteed ([Global Policy, 2004](#).” Campo Ma’an National Park was created in 2001 as a compensatory mechanism of the pipeline environmental plan and covered 264,064 ha. of Bakola-Bagyeli ancestral lands ([FEDEC, 2019](#)). Suddenly, the Bakola-Bagyeli lands became home to environmentalists, ecotourism, and wildlife specialists. Today, however, the park is at risk of “extinction”, overrun by new government projects, such as the Memve’ele Hydropower Dam, the Mount Mammelles iron ore project, and the now-notorious rubber and oil palm plantations ([WWF, 2018](#)); [World Rainforest Movement, 2005](#)); foreign-lead development running rampant, has had its disastrous effects on the Bakola-Bagyeli.

From the initiation of the pipeline forward, oil spills threatened the lands it was laid upon, with Kribi’s quaint fishing port being severely affected, most notably in 2007 and again in 2010 ([All Africa, 2009](#); [Cameroon Post, 2010](#)). Kribi’s dense equatorial rainforest stretching almost to the water’s edge protecting important fishing and sea turtle nesting zones were devastated by oil spills leading to ecological and economic disaster. The use of single-hulled tankers was one of the challenges to preventing spills, and thus in recent years, the country has mandated double-hulled tankers as a method to protect the port and town ([PBS, 2010](#)).

In 2018, Cameroon became the fourth West African LNG exporter ([Chevron, 2020](#)).

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4.0 Angola

As in Nigeria, Angola began to top the regional crude oil output. Vulnerable to price swings of petrodollars, Angola turned to Chevron and U.S. supported aid ([San Francisco Business Times, 2009](#)). At one point, “there were, in fact, two American ambassadors to Angola in that period... the only real relationship was through the oil companies” ([The New York Times, 2009](#)).

4.1 Angola & Chevron (Case No. 22)

Chevron ramping up production in Angola caused the country to fine Chevron-Texaco \$2M in 2002 for causing environmental damage. In its first lawsuit against a company over pollution of its waters, Angola claimed the company’s offshore platforms had polluted beaches and forced fishermen to stop work. Further investigation found leaks from pipes with obsolete tubing used in transporting crude from the platforms ([BBC, 2002](#)).

Tombua-Landana

In 2009, Chevron began a \$3.8 billion deep-water project of Tombua-Landana that included 46 wells with the fourth-highest tower in the world. While purported to be a solid structure with no cause of concern for leaks, the project was replete with discoveries of leaks, maintenance delays, and technical problems, including fires, as soon as the project began ([Reuters, 2013](#)).

Now in 2020, maintaining a 31% interest, the platform is one of the world’s largest offshore drilling and production platforms, with the field covering 425km² and water ranging from 700 to 1,600 feet deep (Chevron, 2020). While touted to be one of the best projects in Liquid Natural Gas, “in 2019 Angola Mineral Resources and Petroleum Minister said that Angola was producing about 3 billion cubic feet per day of associated natural gas, ‘Much of this gas was burned or flared and an opportunity for financial recovery was missed, not to mention the damage that was done to the environment,’ he said ([Reuters, 2019](#)).”

4.2 Cabinda v. Chevron (Case No. 21)

In September of 2015, in Cabinda, with a population of 300,000, Chevron caused another spill, affecting the community and an additional 500 fishermen who lost their livelihoods. While the fishermen made small demands, \$2,000 per fisherman per 11/12 days of lost fishing, no amounts were paid to them or their families. While at first, they did not admit responsibility, Chevron later agreed to having caused the spill. While there have been few known spills since this date, fishermen in the oil-rich province of Cabinda are quoted in local media saying oil levels are rising in the ocean again, as do the fishermen in other African countries, such as Nigeria ([Reuters, 2015](#)).

In 2000, more than 700 people were found to be in critical condition and sent to hospitals for treatment due to serious pollution caused by crude oil-contaminated water and fish. Symptoms included vomiting, abdominal pain, throat burn and cough, and some with high fever and shortness of breath. Villagers from Futilla near the Malongo Oilfield reported to Chevron’s local subsidiary demanding a health investigation. It was also reported that oil pollution was a common occurrence in Futilla village. More than 40 barrels of crude oil were leaked from the Chevron offshore oil well, where authorities banned fishermen from fishing (Xinhua News Agency, 2000).

Civil war broke out in the oil and diamond-rich country of Angola before it declared independence from Portugal in 1975, and fighting has reportedly gone on ever since ([The Guardian, 1999](#)). As reported by The Guardian, “oil exploration in Angola has come onshore too. This development coincided with the end of the Angolan war in 2002, and a peace agreement for Cabinda in 2006... (it) was a sham, despite being welcomed by the US government” ([2010](#)).

With the Cabinda Gulf Oil Company wholly owned by Chevron and drilling in Angola for over 50 years, local fishermen noticed a large impact on fishing, upon which most of their livelihoods depend. As they state: “Where you have oil exploration, you don’t have fish” ([Mail & Guardian, 2012](#)).

4.3 Angola Case References

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5.0 Liberia

In 1968 Chevron began collecting data for establishing petroleum extraction within the country, a year later it was awarded blocks for sites, and in 1971 Chevron began drilling. New deepwater blocks were created by the country in 1982. In total, Chevron acquired three offshore Liberian blocks, holding a 45% operating interest.

In 2011, Chevron announced opening new offices in the country, and in 2012 they were to commence constructing its first well, Nighthawk, and shortly after, the second well, Carmine Deep was to be initiated ([National Oil Company of Liberia, 2012](#)).

5.1 Chevron Violates FCPA – Bribing Liberian Government *(Case No. 23)*

Shortly after the Liberian president received a Nobel Peace Prize, she met with Chevron executives to bring in one of the largest investments in her country since the end of its civil war in 2003. With a hallmark of anti-corruption in her administration, President Johnson Sirleaf was assured by Chevron of their transparent high integrity of doing business.

Shortly thereafter, in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), Chevron began a series of illegal bribes to the country for the purpose of securing their rights to the drilling fields they wanted for petroleum exploration ([Foreign Policy, 2012](#)). Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), ProPublica found Chevron had pressured the country to release four concessions to their hands. Eventually, the bribes became public, finding that while the U.S poured more than \$84 million into the country for good governance and anti-corruption programs, Chevron had been found guilty of a \$10.5 million dollar bribe, referred to then as a “social development fund” to help Liberia ([Globe Afrique, 2017](#)).

Initially, Chevron declined to discuss its investment, but provided statements that their “engagement with the Liberian Government in relation to (the) blocks has been made in accordance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements” ([ibid](#)).

On March 30, 2010, a report leaked to newspapers detailed the bribes and, “within hours of the media reports, Chevron officials contacted [the U.S. Embassy] seeking further information and expressing concerns about the implications for Chevron’s compliance with the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, according to another U.S. diplomatic cable obtained by ProPublica” ([ProPublica, 2012](#)).

5.2 Angola Case References

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6.0 Equatorial Guinea

6.1 Chevron – FCPA and the Equatorial Guinean Government

(Case No. 24)

In 2004, the Securities and Exchange Commission began its inquiry to payments made by Chevron (among other oil companies), to the nation of Equatorial Guinea ([The New York Times, 2004](#)). The government had about \$700 million in cash and investment accounts when regulators forced the accounts to be closed. Prior to the S.E.C. investigation, other federal regulators had sounded the alarm over possible bribery (*ibid*). In 2004, the S.E.C. found the funds constituted bribes. The U.S Senate’s Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations found numerous payments by U.S. oil companies to Equatorial Guinea, including Chevron ([Reuters, 2011](#)). When asked to comment, Chevron stated that the S.E.C. had decided against taking action on the case (*ibid*). Explaining why the U.S. government did not press further charges, S.E.C. authorities explained that with rampant corruption and bribery involving funneling dollars to politicians’ pet projects and officials are siphoning off funds, it, “makes it very difficult behavior to go after” (*ibid*). In 2011, however, the U.S. Justice Department gave a judge in Washington the permission to grab various assets of Teodoro Obiang, the wealthy son of the then-president ([Reuters, 2011](#)). Ultimately, Teodoro reached a \$30 million settlement with the U.S. Justice Department over corruption and money laundering on a grand scale ([Human Rights Watch, 2014](#); [The Guardian, 2011](#)).

6.2 Equatorial Guinea Case References

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7.0 Ghana

7.1 West African Gas Pipeline (Nigeria to Ghana)

(Case No. 25)

The West African Gas Pipeline was constructed from Nigeria to Ghana, going through the countries of Benin and Togo in transporting gas from Ghana to Nigeria. When the project began in 1982, violent protests broke out accompanied by human rights violations, most notably grave violations of women's rights. A report listed over 50,000 being poorly affected by the project, and 3,000 people were removed-displaced from their homes due to pipeline right of way. In 2005 civil society groups in Ghana filed a petition with the World Bank Inspection Panel to discuss the major issues. (EJA, 2018) Among Ghanaian worries was the concern that little if any gas would arrive to their people, and worse, the gas was destined for only business/industrial uses – out of the hands of the communities, and not for making their electricity more affordable and prevalent ([Global Research, 2005](#)).



Map 5.0 West African Gas Pipeline

Spurs were to be built from Togo and Benin to connect to the pipeline stretching from Escravos to Alagbado of Nigeria, on through Cotonou, Benin, and Lome, Togo, and into Tema of Ghana, ultimately finishing in Takoradi - all coastal fishing communities, most rural ([WAPCo-WAGP, 2020](#)). Owning just over 36% of the pipeline, Chevron-Texaco maintained the largest percentage of any of the other partners in the pipeline and held the role of managing sponsor ([World Bank, 2004](#)). In fact, due to massive civil unrest protesting its oil extraction in Escravos, Nigeria, Chevron had a 75% reduction in 2003 of its oil from the region, due to this loss, Chevron had a great interest in expanding its drilling rights in nearby regions (ibid). As such, the company managed the construction and commissioning of the pipeline itself. Independent audits insisted upon by the U.S. government and World Bank financing produced reports of widespread abuse from the construction of the pipeline and its associated work crews ([All Africa, 2008](#)). It was identified that Chevron had ignored recommendations of the World Bank in its project execution, and with disastrous results.

As stated in community meetings: "In Nigeria, oil and gas are at the heart of severe conflicts... Not applying social and environmental policies, as the World Bank did, is a recipe for disaster. Local people are now calling on the inspection panel and the international community to resolve the grave problems caused by the project"

([Inter Press Service News Agency, 2006](#)). The World Bank established an Inspection Panel to examine the results of the construction of the pipeline. Four World Bank policy violations were identified, with substantiated eligible complaints. While these violations were clear, under international law, local communities affected by the pipeline were unable to sue either the World Bank or any of the oil companies involved, the only option available to communities for complaint was to submit information to the inspection panel, with its members having been chosen by the organization itself-bias was a clear issue ([ibid](#)). Further, “the Bank said in a statement... ‘the project did not properly identify and arrange for the livelihood restoration of vulnerable people who involuntarily lost assets’...it also discovered significant under-compensation for the value of land...the Bank has asked that steps be taken to adequately compensate the communities affected by the project” ([Nigeria Business, 2008](#)). After its completion in 2007, the West African Gas Pipeline was declared a failure in many respects, including the false promises made to the people for low-cost electricity (it was double the cost in many areas), not to mention increases in gas flaring/burning-off, after beginning to deliver gas from the Niger Delta area in 2009, it was clear that after meeting the demands of large towns, there was little left for the other states on the pipeline ([Financial Times, 2014](#)).

While it was the first regional natural gas transmission system in sub-Saharan Africa, populations over 50,000 were affected due to violent protests resulting in the displacement of an entire tribal group resulting in the end. Chevron’s Nigerian violations extended into other countries ([ERA, 2008](#)).

In Ghana’s coastline, primarily fishing communities lined the pipeline, ethnically diverse with numerous indigenous groups relying on fishing for subsistence. With the advent of the pipeline came rising levels of poverty in the communities, as well as decreasing fish stocks. For Ghana, while the pipeline did not reach the country until last, a study focusing on the pipeline’s impacts on women revealed that because women contributed to 75% of the fishing process, they were disproportionately harmed, and their lost livelihoods resulted in migration, increased violence, and sickness:

The pipeline has also brought us ill health. In 2008, there was an oil spill here and many people in my immediate community of Matse-Mankabi located very close to the Tema Plant fell sick. My three children...also fell very sick. There were no drugs in the clinic here so I had to take them to the Volta Region Authority Hospital...still nobody has come to compensate us for all the suffering. It was an ugly experience. (Friends of the Earth International-Oxfam, 2011)

7.2 Ghana Case References

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Asia



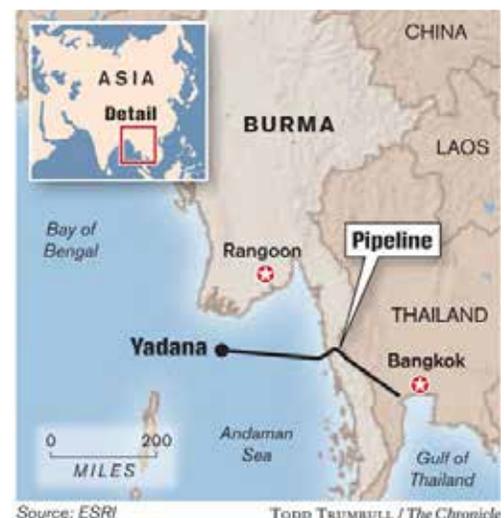
8.0 Burma - Myanmar

8.1 Yadana Gas Field and Pipeline (Case No. 26)

Beginning in the mid-1990s, Chevron caused a multitude of problems related to their Yadana Gas field and pipeline. According to Earth Rights International (2010), Chevron violated the rights of the local communities with forced labor, land confiscations, forced relocations, rape, torture, murder, toxic dumping, and even corruption with the national government. Chevron was found making illegal bribes and payments to Burmese authorities, including the military regime, since 1992 and long-since after, including when the government was an international nuclear threat (EarthRights International, 2010: 36). In 2008, however, the U.S. government went so far as to assure the oil giant would continue working in Burma despite any issues with the local government (The Guardian, 2008). Because a sanction against Chevron would force the company to give up its 28% stake in the Yadana gas field and pipeline, the U.S. decided against it so as to protect what it considered, “a political priority” (ibid). It was duly noted by human rights activists however, that the Yadana project was the cause of ongoing forced labor, rape, and land confiscation removing anyone in its path to build a natural gas pipeline from Burma to Thailand (The Guardian, 2008). It was reported that soldiers guarding the Chevron company pipeline killed nearby villagers while ordering others to serve as forced labor (SfGate, 2008). Activists called to shut down the pipeline as a way of pressuring Burmese military rulers, but Chevron refused, as they refused to address associated human rights abuses (ibid; and, Reuters, 2008).

The people of Burma are making the pipeline go through their own physical energy, their blood, their sweat and their tears... That’s what **‘Human Energy’** means in Burma. (Reuters, 2008)

Map 6.0 Yadana Gas field and pipeline



8.2 Chevron Payments to Burmese-Myanmar Government/FPCA-Corruption *(Case No. 27)*

Time magazine covered violence in Burma-Myanmar associated with Chevron in 2010, and added, “Soldiers guarding Chevron and Total’s natural-gas pipeline in the country have murdered locals and forced others to do backbreaking, unpaid labor in order to keep the gas exports flowing smoothly” ([Time, 2010](#)). Time further reported, the operation is, “keeping the country’s military government afloat... the operation generated about \$9 billion in revenues for Burma and the oil companies between 1998 and the end of 2009, with \$4.6 billion of that paid directly to Burmese officials” ([ibid](#)).

In its purchase of UNOCAL, Chevron acquired its record of 2005 abuses in the Yadana project, with Burmese exiles suing the company for forced labor and other human rights abuses, while the company denied accusations, it settled the case out of court for a confidential/undisclosed sum ([SFGate, 2007](#)).

In 2017, Chevron was asked by asset managers to take a stand against Burma’s genocidal treatment of the Rohingya, however again, Chevron declined to do so and occasionally spoke of dumping its assets in the country ([Reuters, 2017](#)). In 2016, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission released a letter in which it admitted: “We will not recommend enforcement action,” further stating it would not mandate Chevron to update its company reporting to reflect mandates agreed to with the Department of State ([2016](#)). Chevron had petitioned the S.E.C. that it had suffered negative publicity and consumer boycotts due to their work in Burma and this was enough legal risk for them to withstand ([S.E.C., 2016](#)). The Huffington Post identified the need for the FCPA to hold to better accountability with Chevron, where, “Chevron encouraged local military forces to become their company’s thugs, with victims unable to sue their own armed forces without risking further retaliation or accusations of sedition” ([HuffPost, 2008](#)).

8.3 Burma - Myanmar Case References

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9.2 Timor-Leste Greater Sunrise Gas Field

(Case No. 29)

In 1990, Chevron-Texaco was awarded the Timor Block of Indonesia off Timor Island, including a 4 million acre block area in South East Timor Sea, and coastal area of E. Timor ([Oil & Gas Journal, 1990](#)). A company operator was established to act as a block for Chevron in the event of lawsuits ([ibid](#)).

Another treaty in 2006, was pushed to establish the Greater Sunrise Unit Area, with a 50:50 shared approach, while a maritime boundary decision was then deferred for another 50 years ([Kontinentalist, 2019](#)).

Chevron-Texaco and their presence in East Timor disappeared from public record shortly after the announced massacre of over 200,000 Timorese. The genocide of 1975 and the ongoing protests in Dili (1991) were possible due to U.S. military support of oil firms in the country, such as Texaco-Chevron: “Suharto opened up Indonesia’s oil and gas reserves to exploitation on favorable terms to firms like Texaco (Chevron)...while letting out East Timor’s stolen offshore oil to Caltex (Chevron/Texaco) and Phillips Petroleum... Dili, the capital city, was honeycombed with army bases and torture houses. There were soldiers on the street corners, secret police watching the market stalls and the public parks ([Democracy Now, 1997](#)).” The community members explain:

The soldiers beat us, but we actually had received privileged treatment. We were still alive. They kept on firing into the Timorese. We were able to get onto a passing civilian truck, went into hiding, but the Timorese, who had been with us there on the cemetery road, most of them were dead. ([DN, 1997](#))

NPR news host Amy Goodman explained further: “Despite the fact that Indonesian officers who had received U.S. military aid in the past included those who planned the invasion of Timor and have overseen the policy of mass slaughter there, after the massacre, the Bush administration actually fought to increase the aid to the Indonesian military ([ibid](#)).”

Some 90% of East Timor’s government revenue comes from oil and gas. In 2020, political parties fell from power due to their stance on oil and gas extraction. Failure to pass a national budget brought down the government in 2018, while politicians clung to plans for the gas fields. In midyear, the new minister for petroleum and mines fired several of the leading oil executives of the country, as money had been wasted buying out shares of oil giants for the rights to drill in their own country. In September of 2020, East Timor was found rethinking their flawed Greater Sunrise LNG plans, and its battle with neighboring countries for resources off its coast.

9.3 East Timor Case References

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10.0 Indonesia

Chevron began working in Indonesia when its Standard Oil Company of California/SoCal – now Chevron, began investigating production possibilities in Sumatra in 1924. By 1952, it began oil production and remained active in Indonesia through decades of the Suharto dictatorship, and continues to be active today. In 2013 Chevron was found guilty of corruption under Indonesian laws, where, “because of some of the expenses of the clean-up programme, (they) would eventually have been eligible for reimbursement by the government as part of its ‘cost recovery’ scheme to promote new oil exploration, causing losses to the state” ([Financial Times, 2013](#)).

Chevron’s sites in the country have focused most notably on the Indonesian side of Borneo, and the Rokan in Riau Province of Sumatra ([Chevron, 2020](#)). Indonesia thus became the world’s second-largest liquified natural gas (LNG) exporter after Qatar when Chevron increased its productions in East Kalimantan, Borneo ([Reuters, 2008](#)).



Figure 7.0 Black tide of Chevron spill-Indonesian port of Semayang

10.1 East Kalimantan, Borneo

(Case No. 30)

In a 2011 report, it was stated that Chevron regularly paid the BRIMOB/Indonesia's Mobile Brigade Corps, the special operations, a paramilitary tactical unit of the National Police, known for severe brutality ([WALHI-Friends of the Earth Indonesia, 2011](#); [U.S. State Department, 2014](#)). The report describes, "collusions between the company and special forces in Indonesia on the 27th of January 2000 where Chevron paid the BRIMOB to cover some protests over land disputes and employment. As a result of the brutality of BRIMOB, 15 people involved in the protests against Chevron were wounded and five were hospitalized" ([WALHI-Friends of the Earth Indonesia, 2011](#)).

In 2018 Borneo experienced more and more spills and leaks, culminating in a known pollution event including spills of toxic petrels, fire, and the death of five individuals, in addition to sickening hundreds of others. With a long history of such spills, the local port authority commented it was working to clean up the spill, with hopes Chevron would comply ([Industrial Equipment News, 2018](#)). When the leaks began, "the offshore reeked like a gas station and the city on the island of Borneo was in its third day of a state emergency following the weekend spill around Semayang Port" ([The Examiner, 2018](#)). In the port of Semayang, Chevron spills caused a "black tide extend(ing) the waters around the port", Over 1,000 had immediately suffered nausea ([Asia News, 2018](#)). That same year, it announced it would return all assets to the Indonesian government for the oil and gas block after having exploited it for over 50 years. In its company announcement, it stated it was not pleased with the recent high level of control over the resources.

While it made this announcement, Chevron reported it remained committed to its Indonesia Deepwater Development (IDD), a \$12 billion LNG project located in the same port area.



Figure 8.0 Spill in East Kalimantan, Borneo

10.2 Sumatra Riau Province Communities v. Chevron

(Case No. 31)

Riau Province, across the Strait of Malacca from Singapore, has been the site of large-scale environmental pollution and disturbance, forced population dislocation of indigenous, violent protests, and corruption indictments ([Jakarta Post, 2013a](#); [Jakarta Post, 2013b](#); [Jakarta Post, 2013c](#)). The corruption indictments were related to the failure to follow Indonesian mandate relating to cleanup of pollution sites.

Caltex, a joint venture of Chevron and Texaco, reportedly called in an international security firm to deal with problems related to its oil fields. A month-long occupation by local citizens ended with what the companies described as “pressure from security forces”. The protest was related to the company’s refusal to pay compensation for land, with hundreds having protested earlier in the year, more would continue protesting after these events ([DTE, May-2001](#); [DTE, February-2001](#)). In early November, villagers demanding compensation for land set fire to 4 oil wells. That same month, the Sakai indigenous demanded their share (1%) of the profits from the fields to help improve the standards of living of the Sakai community. Chevron was accused of “robbing and exploiting” the indigenous people’s land ([DTE, February-2001](#)). Again, in January of 2001, members of the Sakai community staged another occupation in the company’s offices, and a week later, youths broke into company property and stole 20 cars belonging to the company contractor (*ibid*). The company was also hit by labor actions by workers demonstrating outside of their own offices against poor payments and conditions (*ibid*).

In 2010, WAHLI publication reported Chevron’s oil pipeline had exploded in Mangala Jonson Village of Riau. Two girls suffered burns as hot crude oil from the exploded pipe spurted over 10 meters high in the community. Because of the incident, community members were poisoned by asphyxiation, and spilled hazardous waste littered the community. Also, in 2010, in the Rumbai coastal community, other waste products had been causing skin lacerations among the local population ([WALHI-2010-pg. 39](#); [Metroterkini, 2010](#)). Reports stated: “It is suspected that the spilled oil contained dangerous gasses if inhaled...The Chairman of Walhi Riau stated he regretted the negligence of Chevron because this negligence caused the environment around the oil spill to become damaged, especially as a result of this crude oil leak” ([Metroterkini, 2010](#)).

Local news reported in 2010 that Chevron oil fields were again blocked due to farmers demanding land compensation. Roadblocks and protests were repeatedly carried out as a method to force Chevron to pay: “We were forced to again block the road, because until now Chevron is still not willing to pay compensation for our land” ([Riauterkini, 2010](#)).

10.3 Indonesia Case References

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11.0 China

For Chevron, China provides the world's largest population, and likely the largest economy in the near future. China's energy demand is tremendous and expected to grow significantly. Chevron needs China, China needs Chevron. For China, Chevron provides the country's largest upstream investments as well as offshore drilling (Reuters, 2013). Additionally, with the large experience Chevron brings to the table, China has not turned the company away. While importing a large percentage of oil from the Middle East, China has received offers from Russia for the purchase of natural gas, however, China has wanted to focus on developing its own resources. As such, Chevron and China have been married, perhaps to the detriment of communities in the Chuandongbei area.



Map 8.0 Chuandongbei Gas Project, Sichuan Basin (Chevron, 2020)

11.1 Luojiashai Gas Field, Chuandongbei, China v. Chevron (Case No. 32)

In China, Chevron partnered with the state-owned China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and its Sichuan Petroleum Administration to establish the Chuandongbei Gas Project, “one of the largest onshore gas projects developed” (Chevron, 2020). It is 800 squared kilometers of the Sichuan Basin, located in the Chongqing Municipality of the Sichuan Province with an estimated 3 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas resources (ibid). In 2003, “A burst natural gas well, believed to have been pierced in a drilling mistake, spewed out toxic gases on 23 December, killing at least 191 people and forcing 31,000 to 41,000 people to flee their homes in the town of Gaoqiao” (China Labour Bulletin, 2003). While thousands were dislocated from their homes and under evacuation orders, “9,185 people were reportedly treated for gas poisoning and other injuries (ibid).” The report further explained, “residents within a three-mile radius of Gaoqiao were evacuated, while rescuers and technicians attempted to stop the deadly release of natural gas and hydrogen sulfide from the gas field. Technicians ignited the gas streaming out on 24 December to try to burn off the toxic fumes (ibid).” Further describing the event were reporters:

A journalist wrote he had seen “at least six bodies lying beside homes and in nearby fields. The bodies of a 12 year-old boy and his mother were found on a road and dead livestock were strewn around the village...poor transport and communication...hamper(ed) the evacuation of residents and the timely treatment of those injured.” ([CLB, 2003](#))

While the cause of the disaster was not clarified, “Xinhua said it involved a drilling mishap that broke open a gas well” ([Independent, 2003](#)). When the well blew, “it spewed natural gas and hydrogen sulfide some 30 meters (100 feet) high (ibid).” The Los Angeles Times further reported of the disaster in China, “(it) is believed to be one of the nation’s worst...some people described it as a hissing column of mud gushing into the sky. Then a fireball lighted up the entire mountainside. The sky filled with black clouds that locals said smelled like rotten duck eggs” ([LAT, 2003](#)).

...corpses of dogs and cats littered the road. Pigs lay dead in their sties, their nostrils filled with white foam...the death toll was so high because the accident happened late at night when most people were asleep and the poisonous fumes spread quickly...Residents from 28 villages were evacuated to 15 relocation centers”(LAT, 2003)

The New York Times reported, “Xiaoyang village...was apparently the most devastated, with 90 percent of the people who lived there reported as dead, including many entire families. Not far away, in the town of Zhonghe, some 600 people had to be treated for poisoning and chemical burns” ([NYT, 2003](#)). One youth gave testimony of the event to the newspaper:

...he first smelled gas at 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday...he originally thought he had a gas leak in his kitchen. But then he stepped out on the street and saw people staggering. Shortly thereafter he heard an announcement on a public address system ordering people to leave immediately. He carried his grandmother on his back and began walking through the toxic air, which he described as foul and blinding, like having chili pepper tossed in his eyes. ([NYT, 2003](#))

It was reported in the end, the cap operation had been successful, and the leak had been stopped ([CNN, 2003](#)).

While the 2003 leak occurred in the Luojiazhai field, the nearby Gunziping Natural Gas field was also among those providing China with its biggest inventory. The Xuanhan gas processing plant was constructed as a part of the development of both fields. All three sites are locations of potential future leaks. Unocal-Chevron agreed to a 49% interest in the \$6.4 billion dollar project with CNPC afforded the remaining stake ([Reuters, 2016](#)).

11.2 Chuandongbei, China v. Chevron Gas Leak-Luojiazhai Gas Field-March 2006 *(Case No. 33)*

In March of 2006, another gas leak occurred at the same Luojiazhai Gas field, this time 7,000 were evacuated from their homes. Workers at the field ignited gas at the mouth of the well to avoid buildup and explosion ([CBS News, 2006](#)). Unfortunately, the incident occurred at the same mountain town where a leak explosion had caused many deaths in 2003, and the incident was still fresh in the community members' minds. "The same operators were managing the 11,100-foot well in the latest incident...the leak was discovered during 'final tests which were being conducted to bring the just-finished well into production'...many workers were trying to shut down the well...Another official from Kaixian County said residents (had) been warned against drinking from a section of a nearby river, which started 'rolling and foaming' Saturday morning...the water appeared to contain methane...a 650-foot area around the river had been cordoned off" ([CBSN, 2006](#)).

11.3 China Case References

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12.0 Thailand



Figure 9.0 The Seacrest (JUERS, 2013)

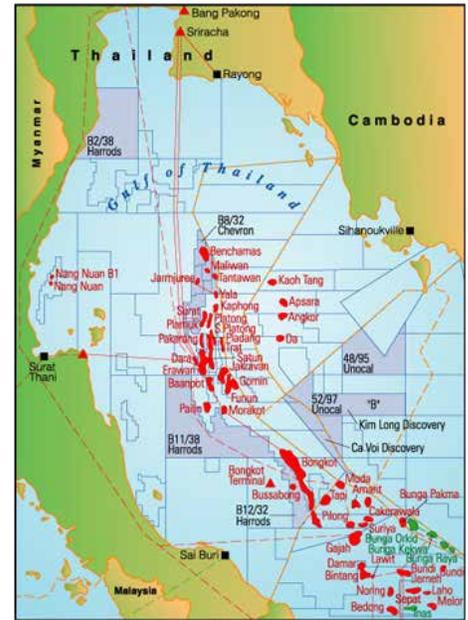
12.1 Drillship *Seacrest v. UNOCAL-Chevron* (Case No. 34)

A UNOCAL-Chevron subsidiary disaster occurred in 1989 when 91 people died from the capsizing of an oil drillship. In November, the Drillship Seacrest capsized in Platong Gas Field during Typhoon Gay. Of the 97 crewmembers, there were only six survivors found from the capsizing. In a contracted report to the company, Chevron received their assessment:

Unocal's (Chevron) emergency safety procedures for severe weather were reviewed. The documented threshold for an emergency is wind speed in excess of 75 knots, which is typhoon-strength wind. This criterion is too high. By the time the wind reaches this speed, it is impossible for supply boats to handle anchors, and evacuation becomes difficult... on November 3, 1989...the wind speed in the field was about 50 knots. This is below the stated severe weather criteria, but still above the wind speed for safe anchor handling and evacuation. (Failure Analysis Associates, 1990)

The report claimed that the weather forecast did not indicate the storm would have such force, nor did it indicate the location of the storm, as such the crew was unprepared. Search and rescue went on for 10 days, and the great loss of life was attributed to the storm and rapid drift of currents (ibid). While the drillship was anchored for drilling, and it was a 4,400ft vessel, it was capsized under 40ft-high waves. In other news reports, it was acknowledged that "apart from the severe weather conditions, the seaworthiness of the drillship was questioned as the likely cause for the tragedy. The ship also had 12,500ft of drill-pipe in its derrick, which was believed to have resulting in an unstable high centre of gravity" ([Offshore Technology, 2019](#)). A report concluded that between September and October of 1988, the Seacrest underwent modifications resulting ultimately in a counterbalance that was awkwardly engineered to include the ship's ballast tank as a stabilizer, among other tanks that were converted in the ship so as to balance the drilling ([JUERS, 2013](#)). A "flaw in the original dynamic stability analysis by the shipyard. The wind heeling arm used were 30% lower and did not meet ABS (American Bureau of Shipping) criteria on which they were based...it would not have fulfilled the ABS criteria for dynamic stability" ([JUERS, 2013: 5](#)).

Map 9.0 Full of Thailand Oil & Gas Sites (Oil & Gas Online, 2020)



12.2 Tambon Klai-Sa La Community v. Chevron (Case No. 35)

In the port of Ao Thong Kham, humble fishing people began taking up protests against Chevron in an attempt to save their livelihoods (Bangkok Post, 2012). Ao Thong Kham, or “Golden Bay” named for the refuge of teeming shoals of marine animals, is a picturesque bay of the Muang area, a 190-km coastal crescent moon-shaped area. With mega development projects in the area of the Southern Seaboard, the southern province of Thailand stretching the Gulf of Thailand, communities in Ao Thong Kham bay area began protesting to protect their food and economic resources. Chevron constructed the largest port for oil extraction in their bay and continued pushing with oil extraction. Community members of Tha Sa La responded:

What you see here is a culture of people who have developed a close bond with the sea, which is a heritage handed down from our ancestors. If the sea is ruined and if we cannot go to sea to make a living, how can we live?... Some fishermen were able to make 10,000 baht a day per family (\$322/day USD-Avg. Ann. Conv. Rate)... such a bounty of food is captured... by the abundant coral reefs in the bay... It is sustainable in its own right and treasured by the locals. (Bangkok Post, 2012)

Indeed, the area used by local fishermen to catch and nurse fish, an area where salty and sweet water meet, is the location of the chosen industrial port, with frequent spills. The villagers had designated the area as a protected food resource because of its prized fish and aquatic resources... 60% of residents rely heavily on fishing, generating 300 million baht/year for the province (9.7M US dollars) (ibid).



Figure 10.0 Local fish market at Tha Sa La (Bangkok Post, 2012)

The community had presented such a strong case, the Thai National Human Rights Commission demanded the state to review an environmental impact study prior to approving the Chevron port storage project ([Bangkok Post, 2012b](#)). The port was planned to be a deep-sea port stretching 330m into the sea, directly over the bay communities' protected fisheries. The Commission determined the EIS did not adhere to proper environmental standards (*ibid*), however, the report was approved, and the construction went forward after September of that year ([The Nation, 2012](#); [Bangkok Post, 2012c](#)). In response, the local communities contracted their own impact study ([Bangkok Post, 2014](#)). Finally, in December of 2013, Chevron announced it had canceled the port and shore facility (*ibid*). After five years of trying to halt Chevron's project of the Southern Seaboard, Tha Sa La community was named as the winner of the National Health Commission Award for 2013. However, in 2020, the company announced a new "rigs-to-reef" project off Surat Thani, an island area just north of "Golden Bay"/ Ao Thong Kham, the site of the proposed deep-sea drilling. Four deep-sea drilling units were installed with this project, against former reports and commitments to the area ([Chevron, 2020](#)). Community members had been leery they would be targeted by Chevron as had the Rayong and Map Ta Phut areas in the late 1990s, areas that would again be the site of continuing spills ([Bangkok Post, 2013](#); [Samu Times, 2013](#)).

12.3 Thailand Gov. v. Chevron *(Case No. 36)*

After years of holding drill rights, in 1979, UNOCAL-Chevron decided to proceed with Erawan gas field development. Located about 145 km/90m from land in the Gulf of Thailand, a commitment was made to begin drilling in 1981 ([Journal Petroleum Technol, 1982](#)). Chevron operated the offshore Erawan field for nearly 50 years, yet has been embroiled with the Thai national government in disagreement over who should pay decommissioning costs once the field stops producing – estimated at \$2.5 billion. In 2019, the oil company called for arbitration proceedings to avoid paying cleanup costs ([Offshore Engineer, 2019](#)). The need for the sites and concessions to be handed over smoothly is great due to the critical nature of the Erawan area for providing the majority of Thailand's energy consumption, found in small pockets in the Gulf. Thailand wants Chevron to pay the full decommissioning costs due to be handed over to the Thai state oil firm in April of 2022, when its concessions expire (*ibid*). This case has yet to be resolved as of the writing of this report.

12.3 Thailand Case References

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13.0 Cambodia

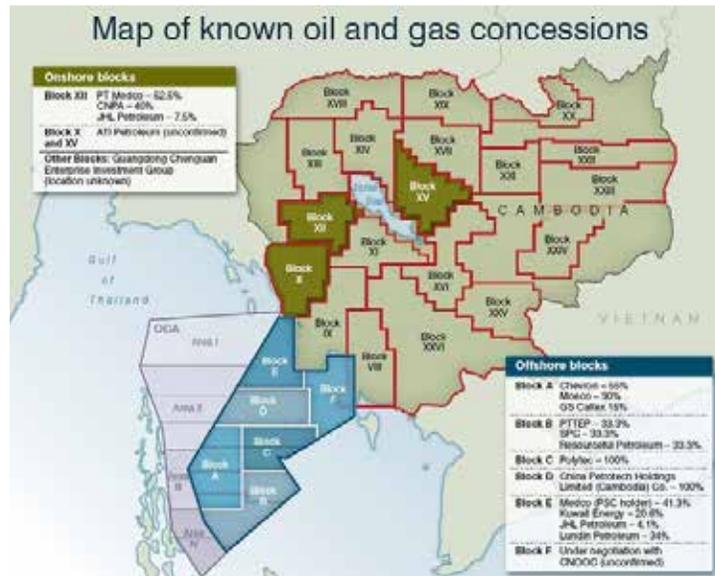
13.1 Cambodia Gov. v. Chevron

Case No. 37)

In May of 2014, Caltex/Cambodia Chevron workers launched a strike at Phnom Penh to demand their rights to fair pay. While these 300 Caltex employees were involved in strikes tied with the garment industry through the years, in 2016 activist Kem Ley was reportedly murdered while drinking his coffee at the local Caltex Chevron Star Mart. Chevron refused to hand over the video recording of the event ([The Diplomat, 2017](#)). Kem Ley, “was assassinated in the parking lot of a Caltex gas station... bringing renewed attention to long-standing friction between Chevron and the Cambodian government ([ibid](#)). A key to the case lies in Caltex station’s surveillance video, petitioned by the family of the deceased, yet refused by the firm’s lawyers. A petition for the video was made in the Cambodians’ associated International Criminal Court case but was again denied by the company ([LAT, 2017](#)). Unique about this case was the lack of associating with Chevron with anything other than a security camera catching human rights violations in public in the company’s surrounding communities. While encouraged by locals to assist in human rights defense, the company simply refused.

Later, Chevron was awarded a 55% controlling stake in the Cambodian government’s “Block A”, while refusing to join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) that stipulated verification and full publication of company payments and government revenues. Chevron refused to publicly disclose any information. In 2009, a report claimed Chevron had made payments to the Cambodian government as a “signature bonus” in addition to paying “significant sums” in the form of tax. In fact, Chevron sold 25% of its stake before being mandated to divulge financial details ([The Diplomat, 2017](#)).

Cambodian oil concessions gave drilling rights to Chevron. When ready for extraction, Cambodia was accused of dispatching soldiers and using police to forcibly remove residents from areas. Global Witness made repeat inquiries into Cambodia’s national Petroleum Authority to determine Chevron’s extent of funding the Cambodian government ([HuffPost, 2009](#)). In return, Chevron and others managed to carve up the entire country in oil and gas concessions, prior to tapping the well. Additionally, “Chevron signed an agreement with Cambodia not to publicly disclose any information regarding its concession” ([Global Witness, 2009: 46](#)).



Map 10.0 Cambodia entirely carved up into Oil & Gas Concessions

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14.0 Bangladesh

Surprisingly, a case in Bangladesh, while not involving Chevron in direct drilling, was still a site to be researched when it came to company caused disasters.

14.1 Lawachara National Park Forest Fire

(Case No. 38)

In 2008, Chevron began a sloppy seismic survey in the Lawachara National Park of Bangladesh that caused a significant forest fire ([East Bay Express, 2008](#)). Prepped to receive a Commonwealth Club award, environmentalists and human rights activists protested the award due to the company's clear violations of environmental protection on all levels. The local Bangladesh newspapers had printed a story describing the delinquent practices of Chevron in conducting a 3D seismic survey in the country's beloved Lawachara National Park – prior to the survey activists had attempted to stop its activities. Explosions were conducted, causing instant mass migrations of endangered wildlife, including a well-known case with a Gibbon primate attempting to flee the noise and electric cables. Additionally, homes in the area documented cracks in their foundation walls due to the seismic experiment by Chevron ([The Daily Star, 2008](#)). Further, Chevron had been allowed to conduct their tests during monsoon season, resulting in serious interference in the reproduction of rare species of plants. Groups of environmentalists and indigenous protested the survey, while it was discovered in 1997, that the forest had been smashed up by explosions of the Magurchara gas field due to carelessness by Unocal-Chevron and others (Occidental & IOCs-international oil companies) (*ibid*). Additionally, though mandated by country law, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) had not been conducted prior to seismic surveys. Chevron did not provide any compensation for associated explosions at Magurchara, and ultimately, the other gas company left the country after handing over the responsibility of the gas field to Unocal-Chevron ([Dhaka Tribune, 2019](#)).

14.2 Bangladesh Case References

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15.0 Kazakhstan

Chevron was happy to enter partnership with Kazakhstan, at only a year old as a sovereign state. The country's large oil and gas reserves were enough to provide Chevron with 21% of its company world reserves.



Figure 11.0 Tengiz oil field, April, 2012 (SFGate, 2012)

15.1 Tengiz Oilfield Pollution

(Case No. 39)

In 1992, Chevron signed an agreement with the country to develop the Tengiz field, and the year following they signed a 40-year agreement to form Tengizchevroil their local subsidiary. The Tengiz and Korolev fields are known as the world's deepest and largest oil reserves. According to the Ministry of Environmental Protection for Kazakhstan, estimates showed approximately 160 accidents at the Tengiz with accompanying gas flaring (Novak, 2010). Most famous was the disaster in 1985 when one of the wells caused a giant fire that could not be extinguished in over a year. Over 3 million tons were burned, reservoirs were damaged, and the area became highly prone to earthquakes (Sulejmenova, 2012). Describing the fields before 2000 when the company curbed much of its flaring, "the five flaring towers... day in, day out, send plumes of smokey orange flames into the air (St. Petersburg Times, 2001)." In 1985, a deep well blew out and a 200-meter-high gusher self-ignited two days later, the gusher was capped shortly over a year later (ibid).15.2 Karachaganak Community v. Chevron(Case No. 40)

15.2 Karachaganak Community v. Chevron

(Case No. 40)

In 1997, Chevron became a part of the Karachaganak Petroleum operating company with varying percentages of interest in each field (Chevron, 2020). "In 2003, in the area of Karachaganak oil and gas field, it was found severe pollution and poisoning of children, and the contamination of community food sources due to severe crop damage caus(ing) a difficult situation for survival" (Anosova, 2003a). This would turn into a repeated pattern until 2014 when poison subsumed the community of Berezovka.

15.3 Zhanaozen Massacre – Chevron

(Case No. 41)

In 2011, Kazakhstan's deepest unrest since independence from the Soviet Union broke out where protests rallied over oil workers' pay. After the protest began in Zhanaozen, 11 were left dead and many were hurt ([BBC, 2011](#)). President Nazarbayev declared a 20-day state of emergency to deal with the massacre. In the end, 2,000 had been fired from their jobs, 12 killed, and 50 oil workers were prosecuted in one of the most violent and repressed protest for human rights in the oil industry ([ibid](#)). Chevron's TengizChevroil was blamed as the cause ([The Diplomat, 2014](#)).

Workers claimed: "We have no rights, we're being treated like cattle" ([ibid](#)).

15.4 Berezovka Community v. Chevron

(Case No. 42)

In 2014, children of the Berezovka schools began to feel effects of poisoning with the loss of consciousness, seizures, dizziness, high or low blood pressure, and severe headaches – symptoms of their mass poisoning. Children were hospitalized in intensive care ([Kpeykin, et. al., 2015](#)).

Addressing the Berezovka experience with Chevron, activist Svetlana Anosova described:

Earlier our village was very clean and green. Hunters who often spend time outside have observed a significant change in the wildlife in our region. For example, all the grasshoppers have disappeared, the number of frogs has significantly decreased, the fish who live in our ponds smell like oil, and very few ground squirrels remain, although earlier they were extremely widespread in this area. And birds, which were once numerous, no longer live in this area...through conversations and personal observations we came to the conclusion that people were suffering from new illnesses such as skin rashes...we observed that when residents who were ailing would temporarily leave the village...they would pack all of their medications but never need them because there they would feel healthy. Then once they returned to the village, all of their symptoms would return...There are instances of cancer (leukemia, brain cancer, etc.), upper respiratory illnesses, a massive amount of illnesses...people here live into their 90s...In the past years people have been dying much younger – 40, 45, 50. ([Anosova, 2003b](#))

According to the Vice-Governor of the area, "We are not talking about any one classroom. Children from different classrooms located at different floors fainted...the children at the hospital, they are in therapy ([Tengri News, 2014](#))." The parents had further comments:

The parents said that children had started fainting two days before, on November 26, and that residents of the village that is situated close to Karachaganak oil field started noticing a strong unpleasant smell in the past several days. 'We wrote a letter to the Head of the Karachaganak Petroleum Operating asking them to stop polluting the air,' the mother of a 5th grader said. Her son, too, was hospitalized ([Tengri News, 2014](#)). A teacher describes: "Children started to faint one after another that day. But before that day there were several isolated cases of children fainting, too. When the kids fainted, they had cramps, very bad cramps that looked like epilepsy. ([ibid](#))

In response to the poisoning, a controller for the petroleum company said: "The sanitary protection zone is set in accordance with the standards. And concerning the dangerous gasses and smells, we have special ecological control posts set all around the field. Their measurements are very precise and they are all functioning" ([Tengri News, 2014](#)).

In 2016, Daily Mail of the UK reported on Berezovka, the "village of the damned where children with 'Sleepy Hollow' disease, have fits, blurred vision, stomach cramps, and fall asleep for days. Parents say children fall off their chairs in school. Over 1,500 residents moved away 15 miles down the road, but still get the symptoms" ([DM, 2016](#)).

Following the poisoning of local children in 2014, 464 families from the villages of Berezovka and Bestau were controversially relocated due to environmental degradation as the communities were now located in the new “sanitary protection zone” ([Tengri News, 2015](#); [The Ecologist, 2020](#)).

In September of 2015, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a statement about the children in Berezovka:

The village of Berezovka is located 5 kilometers from the world’s largest oil and gas condensate field. In November of last year, 19 children and 3 adults suddenly lost consciousness and began having seizures... Residents allege that the seizures and other chronic health problems are due to toxic emissions from the facility. A medical examination revealed that 80 percent of children have lung disease. ([UNOHCHR, 2015](#))

In 2018 it was reported the children of Berezovka who had been poisoned in 2014, had been diagnosed with Toxic Encephalopathy, a brain disease caused by chemical poisoning of hydrocarbons and their fumes ([UNOHCHR, 2019](#)).

Further, in a letter to the UNECE (UN Economic Commission for Europe) in 2019, it was asserted that detention and interrogation by police of families of the children who had protested the lack of a healthy environment constituted a form of pressure and acts of intimidation by the local authorities and petroleum company ([UNECE, 2019](#)).



Figure 12.0 Berezovk-2014 (East2West News)

15.5 Kazakhstan Case References

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Europe



16.0 Azerbaijan

In Azerbaijan, Chevron owned portions of the Azeri-Chirag Guneshi Deepwater fields and the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, delivering oil from the fields in the Azeri sector of the Caspian Sea to the Turkish Mediterranean coast ([Reuters, 2008](#)). Winding itself around Russian and Iranian borders, the \$4 billion pipeline is widely known to be a regular source of leaks and spills (Marriot & Minio-Paluello, 2013).

16.1 Azeri-Chirag-Guneshi Leak into the Caspian Sea *(Case No. 43)*

Published Wikileaks related to a BP spill referenced an Azerbaijan gas leak associated with BP and other big-oil companies (of which, Chevron was one), the report recorded a first blowout in September 2008 ([The Guardian, 2010a](#)). The news leaks caused further investigation into other big-oil companies involved. The blowout occurred in the Azeri-Chirag Deepwater fields, owned by a consortium of companies established in 1995. Unocal-Chevron was a partner in this consortium ([BP, 2007](#)). Over 10 years later, Caspian News marked Chevron's sale of the ACG field, in addition to the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline in 2019 to a Hungarian oil firm ([Caspian News, 2019](#)). As in various projects in other countries, Chevron had a non-operating interest in the Azeri-Chirag Deepwater Gunashli oil fields and non-operating interest in the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline as well – leaving them well out of the range for liability regardless of ownership. In November of 2019, Chevron dumped all of these holdings to a Hungarian Oil and Gas company for \$1.57 billion ([MSN, 2019](#); [Reuters, 2019](#)).

Details of the oilfield and pipeline activities found “the suspension of activities of the Central Azeri platform from September to December of 2008 following a gas release from its subsurface. The compressor and water injection platform (CWP) of Central Azeri, including the West Azeri platform, were also temporarily suspended in October due to the accident” ([Off Shore Technology, N.D.-a](#) ; [Offshore Technology, N.D.-b](#)). Figure 13.0 Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli field, 2008 (AP; Gerald Herbert) Details on the blowout were explained as a gas release from the subsurface of the field when the compressor and water injection platform was in operation ([Off Shore Technology, N.D. -b](#)). While some news reported the source of the problem would never be known, in 2010, The Guardian reported it was due to a safety fault ([2010b](#)) – improper firefighting water pumps reportedly were a cause, however, a comprehensive review mentioned subsurface gas release as well as a “bad cement job” ([FT, 2010](#)). The pipeline was also halted during this period. According to the Financial Times, the oil group was “lucky to be able to evacuate its 211 workers safely after the incident... Given the explosive potential, BP was quite fortunate to have been able to evacuate everyone” ([2010](#)). All companies were suspect for their failure to report the leak to the public and to their partners ([Financial Times, 2010](#)).



Figure 13.0 Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli field, 2008 (AP; Gerald Herbert)

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17.0 Romania

17.1 Pungesti Pollution and Violence

(Case No. 44)

Chevron gained rights to explore shale drilling in the northeastern area of Romania, in addition to parts of The Black Sea. Chevron was forced to halt drilling twice near the village of Silistea, Pungesti, in a marginalized and impoverished Vaslui County, Romania. Due to protests by community members and environmentalists, Chevron not only halted its drilling, but in 2015 it announced it was giving up both its Romanian and Polish interests in shale-gas fracking ([The Wall Street Journal, 2015](#)). It was by far a worse scenario than Chevron had met before related to their fracking activities. The village of Pungesti had been the site of protests to protect the large reserves of natural gases in the ground. Many of the protesters, elderly farmers, spent over two months protesting, even as winter weather dropped temperatures below zero. Chevron sent riot police to forcibly remove them“ ([The Guardian, 2013](#)).

At 4 am on Monday the Romanian gendarmerie (paramilitary police force) moved in to secure the way for Chevron’s trucks. In a scene that resembled a military operation, they occupied the village, blocking all access points with riot police vans and preventing anyone from leaving or entering for over 24 hours. Several villagers were detained and fined for the criminal offense of blocking a public road. Villagers say that anyone leaving their homes was stopped for questioning... local newspapers claim that between 30 and 40 people had been beaten by police. Many villagers complained of brutality and injustice... the Helsinki Committee Association for the defense of human rights in Romania said: ‘There are important signs that indicate that the gendarmes’ actions were at least abusive if not illegal. It is very clear that by restricting the access of the press in the area the authorities did not allow the public to be informed’.” ([2013](#))

17.2 Romania Case References

The Guardian (2013) “[Police remove protesters from Chevron’s fracking site in Romania](#)”

Reuters (2013) “[Chevron halts east Romania shale gas search after protests](#)”

The Wall Street Journal (2015) “[Chevron to Give Up Romanian Shale-Gas Interests](#)”

18.0 Poland

In Poland, Chevron was given rights for exploration of the country's shale resources. Using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to blast water, sand, and chemicals into underground rock formations to unlock Polish gas and oil, Chevron drilled sixty-eight wells but none were put into production ([NYT, 2015](#)).

18.1 Zurawlow Community v. Chevron

(Case No. 45)

In the southeastern area of the country, Chevron began fracking in the community of Zurawlow, with a population of only 96. "In 2012 already, Chevron had to stop operation in Zurawlow because locals successfully argued in courts that the company's operations at the time were breaching the EU Birds Directive (laws and regulations protecting over 500 wild bird species in the EU corridor, ([EUBD](#)) ([Global Issues, 2013](#)))." The Zurawlow community protested for 400-days to ensure Chevron would be stopped from drilling and fracking in their neighborhoods. In 2013, community members claimed Chevron did not have the right to explore for shale gas in their village, Chevron claimed it had permits and proceeded by "illegally fencing off a site in the village of Zurawlow" ([International Business Times, 2013](#)). Farmers stated: "roads were damaged and destroyed when seismic tests were done with heavy machinery,...people's houses had cracks in their walls afterwards ([The Guardian, 2015](#))." Villagers also claimed Chevron used illegal and underhanded measures to silence the protests and enlist local political support ([ibid](#)).

Environmentalists believe water tainted by shale salts from the drilling have entered the Radunia river, providing water to Gdansk ([The Guardian, 2015](#)). Rather than discussing the effects of shale fracking, or allowing mediation with the local community, Chevron pressed charges in a civil lawsuit against protesters in Poland ([Reuters, 2013](#)).



Figure 14.0 Zurawlow protest banner reads: 'Poland has gas, America has profits.' ([The Guardian, 2015](#))

18.2 Poland Case References

[Global Issues \(2013\) "Poland's Shale Gas Bubble 'Bursting'"](#)

[The Guardian \(2015\) "Poland's shale gas revolution evaporates in face of environmental protests"](#)

[International Business Times \(2013\) "Polish Anti-Chevron Protestors Claim Chevron Has No Permit For Shale Gas Site: Chevron Says It Does Have Permits"](#)

[The New York Times \(2015\) "Chevron to Abandon Shale Natural Gas Venture in Poland"](#)

[Reuters \(2013\) "Chevron files suit against Polish anti-shale gas protesters"](#)

Middle East



19.0 Iran

19.1 Violation of U.S. Sanctions/FCPA

(Case No. 46)

Chevron/Gulf first became involved in Iran in 1954 when it became a part of the Iranian Consortium formed to explore, produce and export oil and gas in the country. Despite sanctions against economic activities with Iran, Chevron began meeting with the Iranian government in the early 1980s due to lost assets from the 1979 Iranian revolution. Iran agreed to pay the company \$115 million in 1986 ([NYT](#)). Later, however, in light of U.S. sanctions against the country of Iran, Chevron was found in its own violation of working in the country ([The Guardian, 2010](#)). It was discovered Chevron had negotiated in 2009 with the Iranian government about developing Iran-Iraq cross-border oilfields, in violation of 2006 imposed U.S. sanctions according to Iraqi PM Nouri al-Maliki ([International Business Times, 2010](#)). In the government's communications, Chevron informed Iraq it had discussed the cross-border oilfield development with Tehran, Iran at the time of applied sanctions (*ibid*).

19.2 Iran Case References

The Guardian (2010) "[WikiLeaks cables: Chevron discussed oil project with Tehran, claims Iraqi PM](#)"

International Business Times (2010) "[Chevron approached Iran to develop oil project](#)"

The New York Times (1986) "[Chevron Receives Iran Settlement](#)"

20.0 Iraq

20.1 United Nations v. Chevron FCPA violation/UN Oil for Food Program

(Case No. 47)

In violating U.S. sanctions against Iran, Chevron also violated the sanctions as established with Iraq. Sanctions against Iraq began in 1990 and stayed in force until 2003, with some sanctions remaining until present. Chevron settled in November 2007 with the Securities and Exchange Commission of the U.S. government on violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act due to its violations under the UN Oil-for-Food program. Chevron paid \$28 million to settle charges relating to illegal payments to the Iraqi government (\$20M was given illegally to Saddam Hussein's Iraq under the United Nations Oil for Food Program) ([Mondaq, 2008](#); [S.E.C., 2007](#)).

20.2 Iraq Case References

Mondaq (2008) "[The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act' Seizes the Spotlight](#)"

S.E.C. (2007) "[Chevron to Pay \\$30 Million to Settle Charges for Improper Payments to Iraq Under U.N. Oil for Food Program](#)"

Australia / New Zealand



21.0 Australia

21.1 Barrow Island LNG-Australia v. Chevron *(Case No. 48)*

In Australia, Chevron focused their activities on a wildlife island known as “Australia’s Ark,” with 24 of the island’s native species found nowhere else on earth. There, as with Galapagos, animals are 10% larger than mainland animals due to lack of predators and people ([News Australia, 2015](#)). Listed as an A-Class reserve under Australian law, the most protected type of land anywhere, became home to the Chevron Gorgon LNG plant (ibid). It became known among employees that Chevron was “using Barrow Island to show that big industry can coexist on an A-class reserve to provide that it can manage drilling and extraction in other pristine areas such as Alaska, the Arctic, and Antarctica. In 2003 the Environmental Protection Authority recommended against the Gorgon LNG expansion and... opposed Chevron bringing gas onshore to Barrow from its Jantz and Gorgon deep-sea fields, northwest of the island ([News Australia, 2015](#)).

In early 2020, the Australian government ruled against Chevron over illegal emissions at the Gorgon LNG plant. Arguing over the time period of emissions burial targets, Chevron stated it would be impossible to meet the 80% target for carbon sequestration and should not have to pay for carbon reduction projects to make up for their deficit. The company would be required to pay for offsets of \$100 million for carbon dioxide emissions released. Chevron reportedly vented over 8m tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere in the first three years of its operation, but said, “under a best-case scenario, about 40% of reservoir of CO₂ over the five years would be buried (half of the mandate) ([The Guardian, 2020](#)).”

By August of 2020, Australia ordered an urgent inspection of Chevron’s critical equipment of the Gorgon plant following safety concerns raised by a trade union ([Reuters, 2020](#)). The plant had cracks in the propane heat exchangers on two trains (LNG plant liquification and purification facilities) used in transporting natural gas. Chevron was asked to mitigate any consequences of any potential gas leaks. “Maintenance checks revealed thousands of cracks in essential equipment ([SMH, 2020](#)).” In early September Chevron announced a complete shutdown of the plant until October when repairs were able to be completed ([Reuters, 2020b](#)).”

21.2 Australia Case References

The Guardian (2020) “[Chevron could be forced to pay \\$100 M for failure to capture carbon emissions](#)”

News AU (2015) “[The island where nature and big industry coexist but you’re not allowed to see it](#)”

Reuters (2020a) “[Chevron ordered to inspect propane kettles at Gorgon LNG plant in Australia](#)”

Reuters (2020b) “[Chevron delays restart of Gorgon LNG unit to October for extra repairs](#)”

The Sydney Morning Herald (2020) “[‘Workers fear for their safety’: Calls for Gorgon shutdown after cracks found in critical plant components](#)”

22.0 New Zealand

22.1 Labour Unions of New Zealand v. Chevron

(Case No. 49)

In 2011, protesters spilled into the streets at Chevron's headquarters in Perth where Australians complained about the company's practice of importing cheap labor from New Zealand under temporary working visas ([Australia Mining, 2011](#)). Protests continued over the years, until in 2015 residents of Perth demanded the New Zealand government to, "reconsider offshore oil exploration permits granted to oil and gas giant Chevron in the Pegasus Basin" ([Te Ao Maori, 2015](#)). New Zealand unions joined the call to halt permits from New Zealand to the Chevron oil company. According to protestors, "They already (had) hands on experience with Chevron which they claim has disappointed local communities... 'failing to meet commitments for local jobs and to local businesses, poor safety and other conditions for workers, massive cost overruns and project mismanagement in its construction phase' were some of the complaints to the New Zealand government." ([ibid](#))

22.2 New Zealand Case References

Australia Mining (2011) "[Thousands of angry workers march on Chevron](#)"

Te Ao MaoriNews (2015) "[Protestors against Chevron take concerns to NZ consulate in Perth](#)"

Latin America



23.0 Ecuador

23.1 Indigenous COFAN v. Chevron

(Case No. 50)

Due to continuous spilling, a failure to clean up and scientific evidence of continuing related health issues associated with 16 billion gallons of toxic waste in 54 waste pit sites (over 200 times the level of contamination allowed in the U.S.) ([Sebastian, et. al, 2001](#)), Chevron-Texaco was sued by 30,000 indigenous people of Ecuador. Initially a \$27 billion lawsuit ([Business & Human Rights Resource Center, 2003](#)), in 2018, the Ecuador court (where Chevron had argued in U.S. courts it could only be sued due to location of related oil activities), awarded a \$9.5 billion judgement against the company (*ibid*). The massive land displacement, destruction, and associated local community cancer rates related to the oil company's practices led to the largest environmental lawsuit judgement in the world. The proceedings continued in Canada, where an attempt was made in 2012 to collect Chevron assets in the country. In 2015 the Canadian Supreme Court had affirmed jurisdiction in their courts for the case but in 2018, the Canadian court of appeals in Ontario stated that Chevron Canada could not be held liable for actions of the parent company ([Business & Human Rights Resource Center, 2020](#)).

23.2 Chevron v. Steven Donziger, Esq./Lawyer to COFAN

(Case No. 51)

Due to the \$34 million lawsuit filed by Chevron against the indigenous plaintiffs' lawyer Steven Donziger, the judge in the proceedings sentenced Donziger to criminal contempt (the first of its kind in U.S. civil court history) and house arrest for failure to provide his personal confidential files of the 30,000 plaintiffs, he remains under house arrest as of the writing of this report, now well over 700 days ([Law and Crime, 2020](#)). In early 2021, a landmark decision in his case revealed Steven had done nothing wrong and was falsely imprisoned in his home due to negligence by the court ([FDA, 2021](#); [U.S. Court. Docket 18-855-cv, March 4, 2021](#)). While the U.S. Attorney's office declined to take up the contempt case, in an unusual judge-ordered private prosecution, District Judge Preska issued a judgement against Donziger for contempt and expects to proceed to sentence him in October 2021. Though numerous U.S. senators demand the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to review the multiple known conflicts of interest among prosecutors and judges in this case, calling for his immediate release, Steven Donziger remains under house arrest into an undefined future.



Figure 15.0 Steven Donziger under house arrest
Figure 16.0 Steven Donziger under house arrest over 500 days

23.3 Chevron & Ecuador-Arbitration ***(Case No. 52)***

In 2010 Chevron was allowed to use an arbitration office of The Hague to discuss with representatives of Ecuador about their \$9.5 million liability to the country. In the meeting, arbiters decided that Chevron did not have to pay Ecuador (TeleSur, 2018). However, with new litigation wins (FDA, 2021), the case is expected to resume for collection of the Chevron \$9.5 billion judgement.

23.4 Ecuador Case References

- Al Jazeera (2020) "[An oil spill in the time of coronavirus](#)"
- Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (2003) "[Texaco/Chevron lawsuits \(re Ecuador\)](#)"
- Business & Human Rights Resource Center (2012) "[Chevron to fight Ecuador ruling](#)"
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- CorpWatch (2015) "[New Evidence Shows Main Chevron Witness Lied in \\$9.5 Billion Ecuador Lawsuit](#)"
- Courthouse News (2011) "[Hague Orders Ecuador to Pay Chevron \\$96M](#)"
- FDA (2021) "[Donziger Wins 'Extraordinary' Victory Over Chevron in New York Federal Appeals Court](#)"
- Forbes (2020) "[Dutch Tribunal Upholds Chevron's Award Against Ecuador](#)"
- The Guardian (2020) "[Chevron is refusing to pay for the 'Amazon Chernobyl' – we can fight back with citizen action](#)"
- HuffPost (2014) "[False Testimony Forced Chevron to 'Prep' Its Million-Dollar Witness for 50 Days in Ecuador Case](#)"
- Law and Crime (2020) "[Steven Donziger has been under house arrest for over 500 days awaiting a misdemeanor trial](#)"
- Open Democracy (2018) "['The Last Guardians' Film: indigenous people's fight in Ecuador](#)"
- Reuters (2012) "[Panel reinforces Ecuador award halt in Chevron case](#)"
- Reuters (2012) "[Ecuador court rejects Chevron arbitration ruling](#)"
- SFGate (2010) "[Chevron wins bid for Ecuador arbitration](#)"
- TeleSur (2018) "[The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague Rules Against Ecuador, Favors Chevron](#)"
- U.S. Court Docket 18-855-cv (2021) "[Chevron Corporation v. Steven Donziger](#)"

24.0 Brazil

24.1 *Brazil v. Chevron*

(Case No. 53)

In 2011, Brazil fined Chevron \$28 million for an offshore spill on the 8th of November. While Chevron stated they had not been notified of the suit, prosecutors stated, “Chevron and Transocean weren’t capable of controlling the damages from a spill of 3,000 barrels of oil (416,400 liters in two weeks), which proves a lack of environmental planning and management” (BBC, 2011). The prosecutors argued that Chevron had kept information of the spill from the country’s oil regulator. Chevron had already been banned from drilling new wells for over three months at the time of the spill (Reuters, 2011). Chevron, accepting responsibility for the leak stated it had, “underestimated the pressure of underwater oil deposits while drilling, causing oil to rush up the borehole and seep into the surrounding seabed” (BBC, 2011). Legal documents demonstrated an expectation for criminal charges, as the accident had, “‘Cracked geological structures in the reservoir and oil will continue leaking from the field until it is emptied,’ the prosecutor told Reuters” (Reuters, 2012). A former \$11 billion environmental lawsuit was then joined by a new criminal case, one focusing on the irreversible damage from the reservoir depletion into the sea. While Chevron claimed it had controlled the leak, constant leaks in the Frade field and other areas of the Campos Basin were documented evidence to the contrary (Reuters, 2012; Forbes, 2012). The basin is the source of about 80 percent of Brazil’s oil (ibid). The head of the Brazilian Federal Police’s Environmental Division stated in his report: “The well that led to the November leak ‘should not have been drilled” (Reuters, 2012). The report continued: “The blow-out preventer trapped the kick pressure in the well, cracking the bare rock of the well, bore hundreds of meters below the seabed. Oil seeped through the breach into porous rock and cracks then migrated to the seafloor and up to the surface...This should not have surprised Chevron (ibid).” The opinions of the Environmental Division were confirmed in the criminal lawsuit, and again at its appeal by Chevron, even after an attempted settlement with the Brazilian government (Reuters, 2014). In 2013, Offshore Energy reported Chevron paid \$41.6 million (of a \$20 billion claim) in the settlement (OE, 2013). The second \$20 billion fine was related to the continued leaks occurring in the Basin and associated with the improper drilling. The prosecutor stated, “Environmental damage to the state...are incalculable. Every new leak increases this financial impact and exposes the state to future and past errors of calculation (by Chevron)” (Forbes, 2012). In 2020, the Houston Chronicle reported Chevron would sell its share in the Campos deepwater Brazilian field while continuing to develop other deepwater blocks recently acquired (2020).

24.2 *Brazil Case References*

BBC (2011) “Chevron faces \$10.6bn Brazil legal suit over oil spill”
Forbes (2012) “In Brazil Chevron’s lone gunman shoots again”
Houston Chronicle (2020) “Chevron, Petrobras plan to sell deepwater Brazilian field”
Offshore Energy (2013) “Brazil: Chevron pays \$41.6 Mln in Frade Spill Settlement”
Reuters (2011) “Brazil suspends Chevron’s drilling rights”
Reuters (2012) “Brazil Chevron oil leak charges to focus on safety”
Reuters (2014) “Chevron Brazil faces criminal oil-spill charges, reinstated on appeal”

25.0 Argentina

25.1 FCPA/Argentina

(Case No. 54)

In 2012, Chevron was accused of expropriating funds through the YPF/Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales, the Argentine energy company ([El País, 2012](#)). Specific amounts were not released to the public, although the New York Times had reported an initial investment of \$1.24 billion for drilling rights to more than 100 wells ([NYT, 2013](#)). An unusual clause remained in the agreement between Chevron and YPF, the state company, the agreement allowed chevron to “develop the rich oil and gas shale deposits in Patagonia (and) includes compensations for risks and potential losses for the U.S. company. In effect after the company invests 1.2 billion dollars, 18 months later it can withdraw from operations without penalty and continue to receive net profits of 50% of the production from the initial wells, in perpetuity” ([Merco Press, 2013](#)).

In 2012, Chevron’s assets in Argentina were frozen for even months as Ecuadorean plaintiffs pressured the company through the InterAmerican Human Rights system under the O.A.S. ([Página12, 2013](#)). Due to the grave situation in Ecuador where Chevron had divested all its interests, Argentine activities were thus halted. However, when the case reached the Argentine Supreme Court, the attorney general, “filed a brief with the court arguing that the Ecuadorean judgement could not be enforced against Chevron Argentina since the subsidiary could not defend itself in the Ecuadorean proceeding” ([NYT, 2013](#)).

Then, in Neuquén, Argentina on the Patagonian steppe, Chevron sought to frack for the shale oil reservoir that proposed then to be the next great oilfield ([NYT, 2013](#)) and the source of potential gains in perpetuity. The field, entitled Vaca Muerta/Dead Cow, was the next site of contention between Argentina and Chevron. While Chevron continued to claim they did not contaminate water sources due to the extreme depth of drilling the Mapuche claim otherwise, demonstrating a multitude of health problems in the area since the fracking began (*ibid*).



Figure 17.0 Vaca Muerta gas well (The Guardian, 2019)

25.2 Neuquen Shales Pollution

(Case No. 55)

The area chosen for the site of Chevron's fracking was in indigenous Mapuche ancestral lands, albeit untitled to the tribes. Their lands used by the Mapuche have been grazing lands for over 100 years, now "pockmarked with close to 500 fracking wells that have sprung up in the past seven years" ([The Guardian, 2019](#)). Indigenous elders claimed, "The oil companies entered our land without our permission...we (have) goats born without jaws, without mouths" due to the chemicals injected in the fracking process (*ibid*). In 2015, local authorities refused to accept the communities' claims to their lands they had inhabited the area in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, stating they had failed to prove their existence ([The Guardian, 2019](#)). As soon as 2013, Chevron began oil and gas pollution at the Vaca Muerta site, Similar to in Ecuador, Chevron left open-air waste pits dotted across Vaca Muerta (*ibid*). The same year Chevron arrived in their lands they built a community building to monitor their lands – it was promptly burnt in an intentional fire. In 2018, the Mapuche Confederation filed a lawsuit against Chevron for the abhorrent conditions of the Vaca Muerta site, breaching several state environmental regulations ([Forensic Architecture, 2013](#)). In 2014, an independent review of the case revealed: "The Chevron operation in Vaca Muerta as the case with the highest business risk factor. We are reminded of the warning issued by the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural rights in 2011 on the abuse of indigenous rights in Argentina. (They stated), 'For many years, the Mapuche have peacefully protested and participated in campaigns to defend their human rights protected by the National Constitution...There is no doubt that all the announcements on these oil mega fields are a clear and direct threat to the life and culture of the Mapuche communities' (UNPO, 2014)."

Well-known for self-defense, with their lands being termed the "Spanish Graveyard", the Mapuche struggled to fight Chevron as it poisoned their lands, polluted their water, destroyed wildlife and biodiversity, cut down their forests, caused food insecurity, and ultimately resulted in violence between the Mapuche, and Chevron hired gunmen, as in other countries. "Mapuche fighting on the Argentinian side of the border that has been drawn through their territory have had to deal with paramilitaries and brutal police assaults, especially once they began taking on the exploitation of their land by oil giant Chevron" ([InterContinental Cry, 2013](#)). "The Mapuche people are angry. We feel like they have enslaved our land. It's as if someone came into your house without asking... They have contaminated everything" ([BBC, 2016](#)). A pro-government congressman stated, "Argentina needs oil and gas. You cannot stop production for 45 million people because one or two thousand people feel that their rights are affected (*ibid*)." The Mapuche continued struggling for rights to their land both above and below ground ([InterPress Service, 2014](#);[MapuExpress, 2015](#)).

25.3 Argentina Case References

BBC (2016) "[Mapuche community in Argentina fights fracking site](#)"

Forensic Architecture (2013) "[Oil and Gas Pollution in Vaca Muerta](#)"

InterContinental Cry (2013) "[The Mapuche's Struggle for the Land](#)"

InterPress Service (2014) "[Shale Oil Fuels Indigenous Conflict in Argentina](#)"

MapuExpress (2015) "[Campo Maripe, el resurgir Mapuche en medio del avance petrolero](#)"

Merco Press (2013) "[Alleged 'secret clause' in YPF/Chevron shale agreement triggers strong controversy in Argentina](#)"

The New York Times (2013) "[An Odd Alliance in Patagonia](#)"

Pagina12 (2013) "[Un dictamen a favor de Chevron](#)"

El Paíz (2012) "[YPF anuncia un preacuerdo de inversion con la estadounidense Chevron](#)"

UNPO (2014) "[Mapuche: The Costs of Oil and Mining](#)"

26.0 Venezuela

26.1 Maracaibo & Chevron

(Case No. 56)

In 1946 Chevron first began drilling in the Boscán field of Maracaibo, Venezuela after first discovering the area in the 1920s (Chevron, 2020). In 2007/8 a report was issued detailing the environmental issues that had developed in the bay as a result of the drilling. As the only freshwater lake in the world connected to an open ocean, its environment is unique. Gulf-Chevron had reportedly helped in filling not only the lake but also its estuaries with kilometers of tubes and pipes in their oil drilling (JACM, 2007/8). In 2010, the state PDVSA, partner with Gulf-Chevron, launched a cleanup of an oil spill in the lake while local fishermen said they planned to take the company to court over damages from the spill – there was no mention of Chevron helping in cleanup (Venezuelan Analysis, 2010). Bloomberg reported that in 2015 the lake had become an endless filth of oil due to abandoned pipelines, remnants of spilled oil, and constant traffic of oil ships in and out of the lake (Bloomberg, 2015). A year later, renowned Mongabay reported, “Lake Maracaibo is a Caribbean estuary that for many years supported a strong commercial fishery. But over the past century the vast briny lake’s underlying oil deposits became a cash cow for the oil-dependent Latin American nation...Fishermen say that many commercial species have declined or disappeared completely since the Venezuelan economy hit hard times and oil cleanups have largely ceased in Lake Maracaibo – which seems to have become an oil infrastructure sacrifice zone” (Mongabay, 2016).

26.2 Morrocoy & Chevron

(Case No. 57)



Figure 18.0 Results of leak at Anzoategui State, 2018

In 2018 spills began in the Morrocoy National Park, and in August of 2020 another oil spill was announced near the shores of the park (Reuters, 2018a; Caracas Chronicles, 2020). Most sensitive to the spill were the mangroves along 10 hectares of coastline habitat, also home to numerous endemic/unique species of fish and birds, such as flamingos (Asamblea Nacional, 2020). The source of the disaster in 2020 was due to the collapse of a waste lagoon, a result of a lack of maintenance at the El Palito refinery of Puerto Cabello, Carabobo State. Giving an update on the situation in Morrocoy, PDVSA explained: “The 655,000-bpd Amuay refinery, Venezuela’s largest, will process 303,000 pbd of crude next month due to lack of spare parts and equipment malfunctions, the report said. That volume includes 35,000 pbd of upgraded oil coming from the Petropiar joint venture with U.S. oil firm Chevron Corp. Amuay’s flexicoker, delayed coker, hydrotreater, alkylation unit, and one of its crude distillation units are expected to remain out of service, while its fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) and two other distillation units will operate with limitations...(adding,) two crude distillation units will remain under maintenance” (Reuters, 2018a). Petropiar, the heavy crude upgrader, was a joint venture between Chevron and PDVSA, turning sludgy crude into exportable grade oil (Reuters, 2020).

Petropiar facilities in the Anzoategui state, part-owned by Chevron, exported crude from Venezuela's Orinoco Belt ([Venezuela Analysis, 2019](#)). While difficult to trace, it is necessary to examine the subsidiaries of Chevron. Nationalization took place in 1976, "leaving all the private firms licensed to operate in the country fully compensated and converted into newly formed state companies... Thus, Standard Oil (Chevron) became Lagoven as well as Petropiar, among others" ([ibid](#)). In both 2016 ([Reuters](#)) and 2018, Bare Operational Center in Anzoategui state leaked oil into its coastal waters off the Atlantic coast. Bloomberg and others reported the leaks as a PDVSA site ([Bloomberg, 2018](#)), while research reveals the site as a Petropiar-PDVSA site – a Chevron site ([Energy Voice, 2018](#)). Reuters described an upgrader's shutdown, "after a nearly month-long repair-related shutdown and a fire...Chevron (began) to restart their...Petropiar heavy crude upgrader" ([Reuters, 2018b](#)). Given years spilling in these manners into the coastal waters off Morrocoy National Park, the marine protected area was known to have succumbed to ecocide.

Foreign Corrupt Practices Act/FCPA-Corruption

In 2018 Chevron was forced to evacuate its employees from Venezuela executives following arrests due to contract disputes with the state partner of PDVSA. The arrests were related to another 80 executives at PDVSA who were detained by Venezuela for massive corruption ([Reuters, 2018](#)). Chevron workers faced calls of treason, as workers balked at high costs of parts and the lack of competitive bids in negotiation. "Venezuela's foreign minister...linked the Chevron arrests to the government anti-corruption probe" ([Reuters, 2018c](#)).

26.3 Venezuela Case References

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North America



27.0 Canada

Researching Chevron’s record in Canada focused turned to both pipeline construction and LNG installations, due to Chevron’s pending purchases of LNG resources around the world. Missing Indigenous WomenA series of news articles presented the case for Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) in both Canada and the U.S. having resulted from oil company “man camps” established to house male workers on pipeline, sand tar, and LNG projects ([National Observer, 2017](#); [Yes Magazine, 2019](#); [Canada-NIMMIWG, 2019](#)).

27.1 Newfoundland Hibernia Drill

(Case No. 58)

In the summer of 2020, the Hibernia offshore production platform 315 was halted after spilling drilling and production fluids with oil sheen observed 2.5 kilometers from the platform. While the company reported production was immediately shut down, only a year prior it had been shut down for a month due to similar reports ([The Toronto Star, 2020](#); [CBC, 2019](#)).

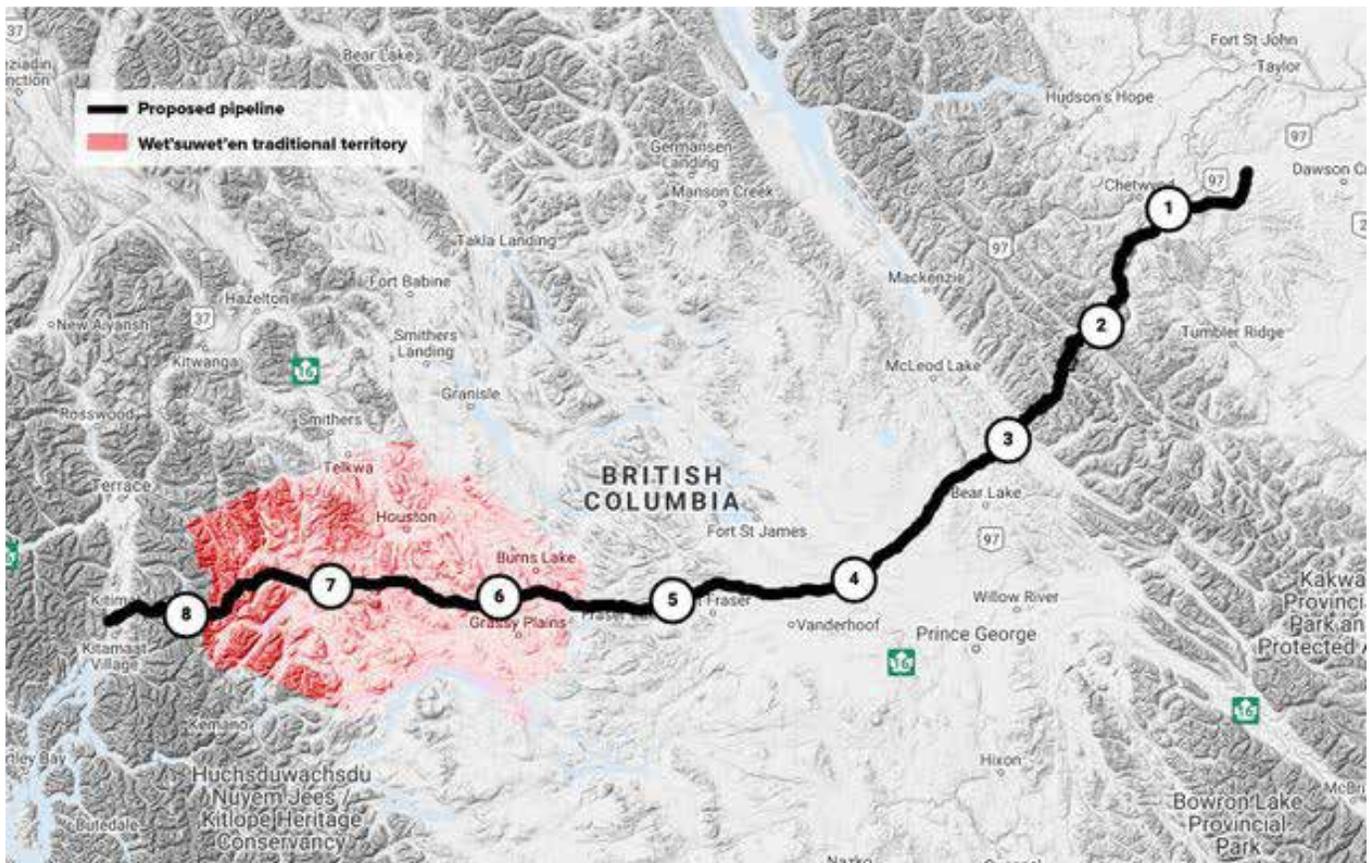
27.2 Wet’suwet’en Indigenous and Unist’ot’en v. Chevron

(Case No. 59)



Figure 19.0 Heavily armed RCMP officers shutting down indigenous roads for pipeline construction (Crosscut, 2019)

The Wet'suwet'en and Unist'ot'en indigenous in northwest B.C., Canada have fought over 8 years against the arrival of the Coastal GasLink pipeline at their doorsteps until in 2019 and 2020 when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were sent to the tribes' protest camps to clear the area for constructing an access road through tribal non-ceded lands. Widespread protests across Canada erupted to defend native resources from multinational corporate interests. While several stop-work orders have been issued by the Canadian provincial government, they have been largely ignored. "RCMP (are) enforcing an injunction to build the Coastal GasLink pipeline through their land (and it) has exploded into a national headline, as protesters and land defenders occupy ports, rail lines, and intersections across Canada to draw attention not only to the pipeline but also to indigenous land rights on the whole...(further), 'there is absolutely no legal precedent nor established legal authority for such an overbroad policing power associated with the enforcement of an injunction,... The arbitrary RCMP exclusion zone and overbroad access restrictions are completely unjustified and unlawful and constitute a serious violation of indigenous rights" (HuffPost, 2020).



Map 11.0 Planned construction of pipeline intersecting with Wet'suwet'en territory (HuffPost, 2020)

The pipeline, owned by TC Energy, a subsidiary of TransCanada, had signed agreements with Chevron, as reported in 2014 for constructing the \$1.9 billion pipeline that would bring LNG to the proposed export facility near Kitimat, B.C. ([Crosscut, 2019](#); [Financial Post, 2014](#)). Indigenous Wet’suwet’en continue today to fight the entire C\$6.6bn (U\$5bn) pipeline and facility projects and the littering of oil and gas over their homelands ([The Guardian, 2020](#)). In early 2020, Dr. Karla Tait was arrested, Tait’s family had lived in the territory. She had been protesting the pipeline, gas companies, and their takeover of Wet’suwet’en traditional lands ([The Intercept, 2020](#); [Democracy Now, 2019](#)). As of the writing of this final report, other elder women of the indigenous groups defending the roads were also arrested ([The Narwhal, 2020](#)), while other community members were severely harassed ([Toronto Star, 2021](#)). “The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was called into Canada to withdraw police and security forces from traditional lands since 2019 ([ibid](#)).” The Committee released a statement about the incident, saying it was disturbed by the “forced removal, disproportionate use of force, harassment and intimidation by law enforcement officials against Indigenous Peoples who peacefully oppose large-scale development projects on their traditional territories” ([Toronto Star, 2021](#)). However, pipeline construction continues today.

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28.0 United States

In its own country of domicile, Chevron has several cases of lawsuits against them. Many of such sites are located in areas where communities are migrant populations, low income, or Native American.

28.1 *Santa Barbara v. Chevron*

(Case No. 60)

Chevron was fined for pleading guilty to 65 violations of the Clean Water Act in Santa Barbara ([Oil & Gas Journal, 1992](#)). The Justice Department issued \$6.5 million in criminal penalties, and \$1.5 million in civil fines, totaling \$8 million. It was the third-largest criminal penalty in U.S. history (*ibid*). “In 1992 the company paid \$8 million for repeatedly dumping oil, grease, and other toxic wastes into the ocean in violation of the Clean Water Act” ([LA Times, 1997](#)). “According to prosecutors and the company, Chevron discovered during a routine maintenance inspection in mid-1994 that a shut-off valve about 100 feet beneath the ocean floor was not fully closing (*ibid*).” Later, in 1997, it pleaded guilty due to a broken anti-blowout valve that had been a key safety feature, halting the flow of oil during emergencies (*ibid*).

28.2 *Native Americans v. Chevron*

(Case No. 61)

Chevron has failed to pay royalties of oil extracted on Native American (and public) lands. Due to this failure, the company is cited for a disturbing underpayment for over 20 years. In 1999, The New York Times reported Chevron had agreed to settle underpaid royalties with Native American tribes from oil extracted from their lands beginning in 1988. Chevron had agreed to pay \$95 million ([NYT, 1999](#)). Again, in 2000, the NYT continued reporting Chevron’s intent to pay \$95 million of unresolved royalties of over 11 years of underpayment to Native American tribes ([NYT, 2000](#)). Again nine years later, it was reported by NPR that not only had Chevron not conceded to the settlement agreement, but in fact, now would only agree to a \$45.5 million payment, and at that “Chevron is not admitting wrongdoing” ([NPR, 2009](#)). Chevron paid the U.S. Government \$45.5M to resolve underpayment of royalties from 1988-2008 “This settlement successfully ends long-standing litigation and ensures that taxpayers receive their fair share of royalty revenues from energy production on federal and American Indian lands” – Interior Secretary Ken Salazar (*ibid*). While these cases were reported in the news, payments for underpaid royalties have in most cases been yet to be made. In 2019, Chevron offered \$5M to end an Oklahoma underpayment suit ([Law360, 2019](#)).

28.3 *Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)*



Figure 20.0 Protesting Missing Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG),
Credit: Nation of Change.org © Lorie Shaul

In the process of reviewing cases of royalties' underpayment, the case of missing indigenous women in both Canada and the U.S. became clear as resulting from oil company "man camps" established to house male workers on pipeline, sand tar, and LNG projects. Both the United States and Canadian governments are imbued with methods to curb this genocidal slaughtering, yet appear to be failing, as numbers continue unabated. The Atlantic reported, "Between 2009 and 2011, federal case filing on North Dakota rose 70 percent" (2013). Reports include sexually abusing minors, forcing minors into prostitution, in addition to kidnapping and murder (ibid). When the Canadian government demanded a report on the situation, a committee was established and finally submitted its work - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report "Reclaiming Power and Place." Notable in the report was reference to oil and gas man camps established by Chevron and other big oil companies. "Finally, in a third Deeper Dive, we focus on the challenges faced by Indigenous women and girls in communities where resource extraction projects are based, and the realities shared by witnesses about "man camps" established as part of these projects" (NIMMIWG, 2019). Further details demonstrated the nature of legal loopholes and manipulated populations in Chevron's drill sites. "Expert Witnesses told the National Inquiry that resource extraction can drive violence against Indigenous women and girls in several ways, including issues related to transient workers, harassment and assault in the workplace, rotational shift work, substance abuse/addictions, and economic insecurity. They argued that resource extraction can lead to increased violence against Indigenous women at the hands of non-Indigenous men, as well as increased violence within First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities. Based on the reports, witnesses submitted to substantiate their claims about violence associated with these projects, and a considerable body of literature, the National Inquiry argues that there is an urgent need to consider the safety of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women in all stages of project planning, assessment, management, and monitoring" (NIMMIWG, 2019: 39).

28.4 U.S. Gov. v. Chevron (Groundwater) *(Case No. 62)*

Chevron was added to the list of companies party to a lawsuit regarding groundwater contamination. Groundwater had been contaminated with the gasoline additive MTBE. As part of the settlement with a San Francisco environmental group, five major oil companies were sued for cleanup demands ([Berkeley Daily Planet, 2001](#)).

28.5 U.S. Justice Dept. – EPA v. Chevron *(Case No. 63)*

In 2001, Chevron faced a settlement demand of U\$275M for illegal airborne emissions from five refineries in California, Hawai'i, Mississippi, and Utah ([EPA, 2010](#)). Payment of this series of emissions violations was wrapped into a settlement with other cases and was not addressed with a specific settlement ([EPA, 2018a](#); [EPA, 2018b](#)).

28.6 Kivalina-Inuit / Alaska v. Chevron
(Case No. 64)

Map 12.0 Flooding forcing Inuit of Kivalina, Alaska to relocate (NYT/2008)



Due to flooding associated with oil exploration, 400 Inuit from the coastal village of Kivalina were forcibly relocated. Chevron was named in the suit related to the destruction of property, environment, and pollution ([Business & Human Rights Resource Center, 2008](#)). They argued “the increased storm damage is a massive erosion problem... Houses and buildings are in imminent danger of falling into the sea” ([NYT, 2008](#)).

Chevron continued their extraction efforts on Inuit lands, and with other companies as before, was accused of seismic blasting underwater. “The area’s marine waters provide habitat for 116 species of fish, such as Arctic char, an important dietary staple for Nunavut’s Inuit communities” ([The Narwhal, 2016](#)). Scientists “fear high-intensity sounds from seismic blasting in the Arctic could adversely affect marine wildlife, exacerbating the food-insecurity crisis...Inuit hunters have observed altered migration patterns of some species, and reported horrific damage to the internal organs of seals and other animals exposed to underwater seismic blasts ([ibid](#)).” “Global oil companies, including Chevron, were the owners of drilling rights in the Greenland Sea and were those benefiting from the underwater blasting, “the practice of firing seismic airguns to find new oil reserves beneath the Arctic Ocean... TGS-NOPEC recently began firing airguns that emit 259 decibels towards the seabed in order to map possible oil reserves beneath it. Above water, this sound intensity would be perceived as approximately 8 times louder than jet engine heard 50 meters away” ([Nation Talk, 2015](#)). “TGS-NOPEC has a license to survey 7,000 miles of seismic lines this summer in the Greenland Sea on behalf of a consortium of oil and gas companies including... Chevron” ([Nunatsiaq News, 2015](#)). Indigenous took the company to court in the Federal Court of Appeals that ruled against the people’s bid to stop a 5-year seismic testing program ([ibid](#)).

28.7 U.S. Gov/Public Water System v. CHEVRON
(Case No. 65)

Again, in 2008, the states from the 2001 lawsuit against Chevron, combined with others and brought a consolidated case to the Federal Court against the oil giant. The lawsuit resulted in a historic settlement with 153 public water providers from 17 states receiving funds from oil giant Chevron, among others ([Water Technology, 2008](#)).



Figure 21.0 Flaring at Chevron Refinery, Richmond, VA

28.8 RICHMOND Community v. CHEVRON

(Case No. 66)

Constant flaring at the Chevron refinery in Richmond, California set off a series of lawsuits that would continue for years. With 15,000 residents affected a sent to hospitals due to massive pollution and poisoning from the flaring, Chevron workers responded that the problem had been identified and they were working on it ([KRON, 2020](#)). In this 2012 incident, the EPA enforced an investigation into a 2012 fire releasing hydrocarbons. Other sites were then entered into this investigation to include a 2013 fire in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and another in 2013 in El Segundo, California ([EPA, 2020](#)).

In 2018 it was reported that Chevron had settled with the city of Richmond and would pay \$5 million to cover flaring and a series of refinery accidents in the Bay Area. The Richmond mayor issued his complaints with the settlement stating the legal team thought it was “a \$1 billion lawsuit... they were really unwilling to even consider settling it for tens of millions of dollars... the agreement represents a small settlement for what our community went through and is not a good settlement in my view” ([KQED, 2018](#)).

28.9 GREENE COUNTY PITTSBURG/PENN v. CHEVRON

(Case No. 67)

In 2014, a gas well explosion was reported in Greene County Pittsburg at the Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Well. Two fires broke out at one site, with one being injured and another dying. Immediately after the tragedy, Chevron blocked the Department of Environmental Protection from accessing the site for nearly two days following the fatal explosion ([SIP, 2014a](#); [SIP 2014b](#)). Death and injury resulted from the explosions of noxious gasses. With families desperate for redress, Chevron sent coupons for free pizzas to the affected families ([SIP, 2014b](#)).

28.10 Red Butte Creek / Colorado v. Chevron

(Case No. 68)

In 2010 a rupture in a crude pipeline caused a spill into the Red Butte Creek, dropping crude from western Colorado into Utah. Massive cleanup efforts would go on for years where 21,000 gallons of oil were spilled into Salt Lake City waterways. While “crews capped the leak spilling into the Red Butte Creek, officials said they had the flow slowed to just two to three gallons per minute” ([KSL, 2010](#)). Chevron would be charged \$30 million in cleanup costs from the spill ([KSL, 2017](#)). Overall, Chevron paid \$875,000 of the \$30 million demand though 66 residents sued for damages ([ibid](#)).

28.11 U.S. EPA/New Orleans v. Chevron

(Case No. 69)

In February 2007 aerial photos showed disappearing marshlands east of Golden Meadow due to the effects of the canals dug for oilfields (similar to in the Niger Delta). A lawsuit charged oil and gas companies (including Chevron) with threatening hurricane levees by digging exploration and production canals through Louisiana’s coastal wetlands. Other lawsuits along the coastal zone were filed in 2013 ([NOLA-Times Picayune, 2019a](#)) In 2019, Chevron asked the New Orleans wetlands damage suit be heard in federal court ([NOLA-Times Picayune, 2019b](#)). However, in mid-2020, “the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld a decision keeping the suits in state court, where the six coastal parishes want them tried” ([KLFY/Associated Press, 2020](#)). The damages destroyed biodiversity and wetlands, and caused massive pollution at a \$14.6 billion valuation, no payout has been made ([ibid](#)).

28.12 Kern County Community v. Chevron

(Case No. 70)

800,000 gallons of Crude oil spilled for 113 days into Kern County canyon. There were “four ‘surface expression’ spills – water, steam and oil forced to the surface - ... the spills caused ‘significant threat of harm to human health and the environment’” ([Desert Sun, 2019](#)). Chevron had failed to comply with transport requirements and had not conducted operations in accord with good oilfield practice according to reports. Damages in the amount of \$2.7 million were sought, but Chevron said it would appeal the order ([ibid](#)). In 2019, Chevron returned to the permitting process to continue working in Kern County.

28.13 Global Climate Change Multiparty Lawsuit

(Case No. 71)

In 2017, a case by the City of Oakland and the City and County of San Francisco was brought against five of the world’s largest energy companies (Chevron was one). The lawsuit accused “a public nuisance in the form of ‘global warming-induced sea-level rise’ due to ‘production and promotion of massive quantities of fossil fuels’” ([Law Street, 2020](#)). As a part of the proceedings, “when it was his turn to present, the Chevron attorney agreed that human activity is changing the climate and that it warrants action” ([Vox, 2018](#)). With a barrage of motions to dismiss, and several months later, Chevron reported the lawsuit was “not viable” despite the lawsuit’s reference to the decision in favor of Kivalina indigenous regarding the same ([Forbes, 2018](#)).

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29.0 Comparables of Chevron-Texaco with Other Oil Companies

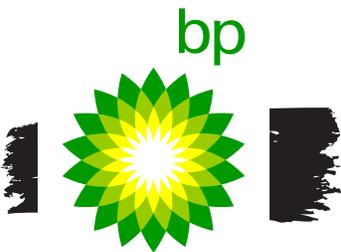
Assessing the record of Chevron-Texaco lead to a comparison with other big oil companies. The following companies were thus investigated on a comparative level: Royal Dutch Shell, TotalFinaElf, British Petroleum (BP), ExxonMobil, and ConocoPhillips. In assessing the most notable destructive activities of each company around the world, a rapid assessment clarified that indeed Chevron-Texaco has predominantly the worst record of global crimes, including a far worse record in its country of domicile.

Notable among comparables, each of the companies have had lawsuits brought against them in both foreign and domestic courts, some cases remain ongoing. **Royal Dutch Shell** oil company (Shell) has had a long record of cases brought against them from their activities in Nigeria.

In Nigeria, Shell having a greater advantage over other oil companies as a British company, has been accused of extracting 'oil for free' under colonial right/claim. As a British colony, all unmined minerals and land/sea containing them (which included oil), became the property of the crown. As such, colonial lands/seas with minerals were taken and owned by the British colonial government. While this alone is a violation of the rights of Nigerians, Royal Dutch Shell administered oil extraction on the country's Niger Delta in a manner violating the human rights of many communities, most notably of the Ogoni indigenous people – and continue to litigate reparation demands by these communities (Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organization, 2019). The company has litigated against the community claims, and while some reparations have been made, they remain small tokens of the need for redress. Shell has also incurred a dirty record of ecological destruction in Curaçao of the Caribbean (Curaçao Chronicle, 2013; Dutch Caribbean Legal Portal, 2011).



TotalFinaElf has cases in three countries, Myanmar, Sudan, and Angola where claims have been made against the company for their failure to address human rights abuses (Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, 2002), lack of cooperation with national governments (Human Rights Watch, 2003), and corruption with bribery (Human Rights Watch, 2001).



British Petroleum (BP) has a rather large number of cases in which it has been accused of improper business practices. In Azerbaijan, they were found working closely with the Aliyev regime and complicit in human rights violations ([Human Rights Watch, 2014](#)). In Egypt, they were accused of the same, as well as causing an incident with the Idku community in 2011 ([Egypt Independent, N.D.](#); [Egypt Oil & Gas Newspaper, 2014](#)). In West Papua, the company was accused of working with an Indonesian occupying government and denying indigenous rights to land, as well as causing widespread violence (including a genocide complaint) ([New Internationalist, 2018](#); [The Guardian, 2008](#)). In Colombia, BP was found paying the Ministry of Defense to protect its oil facilities, while being accused of multiple allocations of human rights violations, including filings in human rights courts ([Carbon Web, 2003](#)). In Algeria, BP was accused of corruption and the use of repressive military and police in its operations to ban demonstrations and protests ([Platform London, 2014](#); [Reuters, 2016](#); [Oil & Gas Journal, 1997](#)). In Angola, the company was accused of making illegal payments to the president's daughter, as well as other claims of corruption ([Financial Times, 2017](#); [Global Witness, 2014](#); [SEC, 2020](#)). In Turkey, BP was accused of breaking international rules of human rights responsibilities of multinational companies in its operations on the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline ([Platform London, 2011](#)). Lastly, BP's well-known Deep Horizon Spill in the Gulf of Mexico was one of the worst oil spills in history, incurring guilty charges in 14 criminal cases of 'gross negligence and willful misconduct', impacting livelihoods of thousands, and the destruction of ecosystem/ ocean waterways and land coastals in the United States ([Louisiana Law Review, 2011](#); [HuffPost, 2012](#); [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, 2010](#)). Due to the Deep Horizon Spill into Mexico, the company was accused of extreme violence and causing insecurity of peoples' livelihoods where their deep-water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico of the Deepwater Horizon spill caused contamination in Mexico that has never been addressed ([The Guardian, 2020](#); [Forbes, 2020](#)). Despite the large number of different countries with incidents against BP, it is in no comparison with the large multitude of cases against Chevron-Texaco around the world that are easily discoverable.



ExxonMobil Corp. is also known for a lengthy list of incidents and violations in various countries. In Nigeria in 2015, anti-corruption activists asked for an investigation into ExxonMobil's \$1.5bn deal to purchase 20-year rights to lease oil fields (which were also sold to Chinese company CNOOC). Global Witness confirmed the investigation with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFFCC). The company reported it expected gains in the millions, not billions, contrary to its 40% stake in the wells. ([The Guardian, 2016](#)). In New Guinea, two million tons of boulders, limestone, water, mud, and trees came roaring down from the top of Tumbi Mountain in a landslide that buried homes and people lying sleeping in them. At least twenty-seven people died instantly, while a precise death count is unknown as no bodies were recovered. The company was mining limestone for the construction of a \$19 billion LNG project, and receiving over \$3 billion in a loan from the U.S. Export-Import Bank in 2009 for the project. With local community members complaining as to the unsafe mining and the contamination of their water, no response was given by the company until after the disaster ([The Nation, 2013](#)). In Iraqi Kurdistan in 2013 ExxonMobil was accused of employing local security militia in Iraqi Kurdistan who shot at civilians, killing two local Yazidi community members staging demonstrations against the company. Additionally, the oil company's activities were found responsible for the displacement of about 5,000 people from their homes. A complaint was filed with the U.N. Human Rights Council ([Ekurd Daily, 2020](#)). In Indonesia, the company was subject to the Alien Tort Statute (ATS) and corporate liability issues related to its Aceh gas fields. On July 8, 2011, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated a lawsuit against ExxonMobil by eleven Acehnese villagers, "alleging that the company and its Indonesian subsidiary are liable for killings, torture, and other human rights abuses committed by the Indonesian military". In reinstating plaintiffs' claims, the court clarified that ExxonMobil, "did not have immunity for torts based on heinous conduct allegedly committed by its agents in violation of the law of nations" ([Global Business and Human Rights, 2011](#)). In July 2015, a federal court ruled the plaintiffs' claims could proceed in U.S. court, the case is still ongoing ([Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, 2003](#)). In Mozambique, the company was accused of illegal military and police detentions and causing disappearances and death ([Business & Human Rights Resource Center, 2001](#)).

In the United States, the company became known for one of the worst oil spills ever, in 1989 when the Exxon Valdez tanker spilled its contents into Prince William Sound, Alaska. It was markedly one of the most devastating oil spills in its time, adversely affected 1,300 miles of Alaska's coastal habitats from seabirds to salmon with some 32 million gallons of oil spilled into Prince William Sound. In 2001 the company was ordered to pay \$5 billion to those affected, however, years later the payment was reduced to \$500 million. With a 125-year company history, the company is not unscathed of its own human rights abuses. Even in Jacksonville, Maryland, the company was responsible for a leak of approximately 25,000 gallons of unleaded gas from a line delivering the gasoline to a dispenser. The problem was concealed for some time and the public was not immediately warned about the spill, in 2011 the families and businesses affected by the spill were awarded \$500 million in damages. The company was found guilty of a 2013 pipeline rupture in which bitumen blend gasoline spewed 200,000 gallons through streets and past homes and into a local lake in Arkansas, causing massive pollution, in addition to multiple cases of nausea, vomiting, dizziness, and headaches. Bayway refinery in New Jersey caused the EPA to file a suit against the company for the loss of use and contamination of 1,500 or more acres of marshes, wetlands, waters, and meadows. The state set an amount of \$8.9 billion for damages which was contested vigorously by the company and ultimately resulted in a settlement of \$250 million paid to the state ([MoneyInc, 2016](#)).

Again, while maintaining atrocious records, neither BP nor ExxonMobil do not have the extensive record of cases and incidents of human rights violations, environmental destruction, and corruption as does Chevron-Texaco.

Lastly, I compared **ConocoPhillips** record with that of Chevron-Texaco. In Georgia, ConocoPhillips was accused of Bribery ([Global Arbitration Review, 2019](#)). In Bohai Bay, China, the company was accused of failure to address an oil spill and its impact ([Business & Human Rights Resource Center, 2012](#)).

While the lists of cases of these oil companies is certainly not exhaustive, it becomes obvious when comparing the records of each to that of the 71 Chevron-Texaco cases listed in this report (an assessment of only 17% of their global activities), Chevron-Texaco is undoubtedly the worst violator of human rights, acceptable business practices, and corruption while causing worldwide destruction of an overabundance of ecosystems, both terrestrial and marine.

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Summary and Recommendations

After completing this report on Chevron's activities around the world, I urge countries doing business with Chevron or considering doing business with Chevron, to thoroughly investigate the company's activities, and resulting lawsuits by victims, in relation to the UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, the World Bank, and other multinational bilateral institutions dedicated to human rights in international law.

I encourage the UNOHCHR to investigate each of these cases reported herein to determine how Chevron can be brought to justice for violating the rights of citizens around the world, most notably indigenous and marginalized populations. Chevron should be required to complete a Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) report addressing each of the human rights violations in this report, in addition to other violations not reviewed in this report.

Chevron operates as if they can act with impunity anywhere, violating any laws that restrict their access to resources or profits. Chevron has been using bullying litigation to deny victims and entire nations from normal procedures that hold the company accountable. Nations and international agencies must ensure that Chevron's atrocious and pervasive record of human rights violations cease.



PHOTOS: Lou Dematteis / Redux
From the book "Crude Reflections: Oil, Ruin and Resistance in the Amazon Rainforest" (City Lights Books)

Nations ought to refuse doing business with Chevron until a complete examination of their human rights and environmental record can be concluded. Chevron ought to pay court damages in cases pending payments, while meeting its commitments to compensate individuals, communities, and nations for damages against people and environments.

While Chevron lobbyist may have announced to Newsweek, "We can't let little countries screw around with big companies like this," ([Newsweek, 2008](#)). Chevron cannot continue to bully nations from holding the company accountable for human and environmental impacts of its practices. Chevron must agree to cease fabricating evidence, bribing officials, and filing punitive SLAAP lawsuits against its victims and their lawyers. Any decent oil company can make appropriate profits without resorting to these sorts of unlawful and bullying tactics.

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Europe

Romania Protestor Stop Chevron Flag (Getty Images); Shale Gas Drilling POLAND Cretis Stanislaw Wadas - Demotix.



Latin America

Mabel Campo Maripe, Argentina (Nicolas Villalobos-Greenpeace); Chevron Frade Spill Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil.



Thailand

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Appendix A: Cases Sited

Cases Cited - by date

Case	Date	Country	Location	Incident Details
56	2020, Aug	Venezuela	Morrocoy National Park, Venezuela – OIL SPILL	Site co-owned Chevron-PDVSA – under investigation; 15km of coastline affected (tourism, mangroves, reef, marine protected areas; lack of maintenance/EI Palito refinery)
47	2020, July	Australia	Morrocoy National Park, Venezuela – OIL SPILL	Gorgon LNG, Barrow Island, Australia/ liquified natural gas
57	2020, July	Canada	Newfoundland, Canada	Hibernia offshore production platform 315
14	2020, May	Nigeria	Southern Ijaw, Bayelsa State, Nigeria	Coastal shores-deepwater contamination; dead fish-food source; poisoning of people
5	2020	U.S.	Global-Climate Change	U.S. & Canada - Lawsuits targeting oil consortiums
69	2019	U.S.	Kern County, California	800,000 gallons crude oil spilled into Kern County Canyon; Cymric Oil Field; “failure to comply with transport requirements for oil and to conduct operations in accord with good oilfield practice”
7	2019	Nigeria	Ilaje Ondo State, Nigeria	5 Oil wells catch fire – indigenous government land
13	2018	Nigeria	Aja-Omaeta, Delta State, Nigeria	Aja-Omaeta Women’s Council – Chevron evicting them from their lands, not recognizing their traditional rights to lands; two spills associated; Chevron advised by state to change equipment, did not, equipment failure resulted in spills; intimidation of local women and loss of lands
35	2019, Sept	Thailand	Thailand	Failure to pay for decommissioning facilities- all assets installed-no longer deemed usable/Erawan field
68	2019, April	U.S.	New Orleans, U.S.	Wetland Damage suit/multiple oil companies (Chevron party to suit)

Case	Date	Country	Location	Incident Details
55	2018	Venezuela	Lago de Maracaibo, Venezuela	Severe environmental damage / conversion of freshwater lake to heavy pollution of petroleum; Pollution; biodiversity loss; soil erosion, oil spills; surface water pollution / 1-3 M population
48	2018	Australia / New Zealand	Australia & New Zealand / labor unions	Unfair treatment of workers-lack of safety; mistreatment of indigenous Maori workers; occupational disease & accidents
50	2018	U.S. / Ecuador	Chevron v. Donziger	Lawsuit against lawyer for 30,000 Ecuadorians, demanding turnover of all client files; held in contempt of court for not doing so - held in house arrest in civil case; continuing
24	2017 / 1977	Liberia	Liberia	FCPA-payment of bribes USD 10.5M in exchange for drilling permits. 10.5M received for projects with communities, only \$100,000 spent
67	2017, 2010	U.S.	Red Butte Creek, CO, U.S.	Drilling site, 2 spills, 54,600 gallons; 66 residents sue for damages U\$30M; EPA demands \$875,00 for spills, superseding court
53	2012	Argentina	Argentina	FCPA corruption payment
54	2013-16	Argentina	Neuquen shales, Argentina	Fracking; FCPA-corrupt business practices; 600,000 affected population; pollution, spills, deforestation, biodiversity loss; food insecurity
12	2020, Aug	Nigeria	Itsekiri indigenous lands, and Ikebiri community, Nigeria	Chevron facility-local militia blow-up to stop production permanently; polluted waters, dying fisheries, degraded environment
11	2015	Nigeria	Morrocoy National Park, Venezuela – OIL SPILL	Massive spills, violence, environmental degradation
23	2015, Sept	Angola	Morrocoy National Park, Cabinda, Angola	Offshore/affecting 500 fishermen; community population affected 300,000; widespread violence, arrests; corruption-payment of government officials (Chevron-70% oil production Angola)/FCPA

Case	Date	Country	Location	Incident Details
41	2014, Nov.	Kazakhstan	Berezovka, Kazakhstan	Karachaganak Oil & Gas Condensate field; severe environmental & air pollution; mass poisoning of school children (1,400 community population); water pollution; crop damage (other parties responded, Chevron failed to make any response)
66	2014, Feb	U.S.	Greene County Pittsburg, Penn, USA	Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Well Explosion; two fires at one site; one injured, one dead; Chevron had blocked Department of Environmental Protection from accessing the site for nearly two days following the fatal explosion
44	2013, June-2015, Jan.	Poland	Zurawlow POLAND shale gas field – Fracking Pollution/ Farmer's protest	Biodiversity loss; soil contamination; surface water pollution; groundwater pollution; large-scale disturbance of hydrogeological systems; air pollution
30	2000-2013, May	Indonesia	Riau province, Indonesia	Violent protests; FCPA-corruption mass violence/ protest of flooding, soil contamination; waste overflow; large-scale disturbance of hydro & geological systems; biodiversity loss; food insecurity / crop damage; groundwater depletion/ pollution; asphyxiation, burn wounds, hazardous waste reactions
31	2013, May	Indonesia	Riau Province & E. Kalimantan, Sumatra Island, Indonesia	Environmental pollution, indigenous population dislocation, corruption
65	2012, 2020	U.S.	Richmond, San Francisco	Richmond Refinery problems; massive pollution; 15,000 people affected
56	2012-2020	Canada	Wet'suwet'en indigenous of Unist'ot'en camp, B.C. Canada	7B pipeline project on unceded and indigenous occupied lands; 8-year protest
34	2012, 2013	Thailand	Tambon Klai, Thailand	Chemical storage & deep-sea drilling; destruction of seafood resources; food insecurity; Tha Sala community named winner of National Health Commission for their protest of Chevron drilling
28	2012, Jan	Nigeria	Koluama, Southern Ijaw, Bayelsa State, Nigeria	KS Endeavor-45-day spill due to gas explosion / 2 deaths; massive chemical spill in fishing areas; soil contamination; groundwater pollution; loss of livelihood
10	2012	Nigeria	Koluama, Nigeria	North Apoi Field well head explosion & blowout fire
40	2011	Kazakhstan	Zhanaozen oil Strike & Massacre, Kazakhstan	2,000 affected / 12 killed, 2,000 fired workers, 50 oil workers prosecuted; violence targeting activists; oil spills; activists criminalized & repressed

Case	Date	Country	Location	Incident Details
3	2011	Nigeria	Nigeria	Bowoto v. Chevron – lawsuit failed due to procedural issues / U.S. Sn Francisco jury cleared Chevron of wrongdoings; 2009 Appeals court denied request for new trial
52	2011	Brazil	Southeast Coast, Brazil	Crude oil spill: 416,400 liters / 3,000 barrels in two weeks, drilling caused cracks in sea floor-breach of contract; lawsuit for \$17.5B in damages
43	2010-2015	Romania	Pungesti, Romania	Protesting fracking by Chevron; violence 30-40 villagers beaten by police; water pollution
42	2009	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Azeri-Chirag-Guneshi (ACG) field, Azerbaijan's Co-owned / Chevron one party; massive leak from drill; polluting Caspian Sea
45	2009 / 10	Iran	Iran	Violating U.S. sanctions against Teheran, negotiated with Iranian government re-developing Iran-Iraq cross-border oilfield
28	2010, 2008, 2005	Burma/Myanmar	Burma	Chevron accused of human rights abuses, soldiers guarding Chevron pipeline accused of murdering locals & demanding unpaid labor; revenues used by corrupt government military forces
36	2008-2014	Cambodia	Cambodia	FCPA-corruption; payment of foreign government for offshore drilling rights / Hun Sen; 300 employees strike, activist Kem Ley murdered-Chevron refuses to hand over video recording of event-compliance deadline set 2017, then extended
37	2008	Bangladesh	Lawachara National Park, Bangladesh	Forest fire caused during Chevron 3D seismic survey
64	2008	U.S.	U.S. Public Water System	\$422M to settle suits that had been brought by public water systems in 20 states and consolidated in federal court
63	2008	U.S.	Inuit town Kivalina, Alaska	400 Inuit villagers forced relocation due to flooding; Oil companies named; Chevron included
41	2007	Nigeria	Ilaje, Ondo state, Nigeria	Massive oil spill; floods, fires, food insecurity-crop damage; waste overflow; surface water pollution, groundwater pollution; displacement, violation of human rights

Case	Date	Country	Location	Incident Details
46	2007	Iraq	Iraq/United Nations	Chevron pays \$30M to settle charges relating to illegal payments (\$20M/made to Saddam Hussein's Iraq under the United Nations Oil for Food Program)
18	2006	Chad	Chad	Producing 30% country's oil; Company told to leave country due to failure to pay taxes
22	2006	Angola	Cabina, Angola	Environmental damage due to leaks in pipes transporting oil from offshore drilling platforms; pipes not properly maintained
9	2005	Nigeria	Riau province, Indonesia	Nigeria-general lawsuit Metsagharun vs Chevron
19	2005	Chad/Cameroon	Chad & Cameroon	Amnesty International file human rights violation case against Exxon and Chevron; Chevron debt/Glencoe responsible for massive country economic problems-debt 1.3B repurchase
25	2004	Equatorial Guinea	Equatorial Guinea	Payments of Ruling Elite-dictator - violation FCPA
31	2003, Mar., 2006	China	Luojiazhai, China	Luojiazhai Field No 16 Well explosion; 200 killed, 9,000 thousand poisoned/41,000 people dislocated
32	2003	China	Chuangdongbei, China	Chuangdongbei Gas Field – Gas well accident-BURST natural gas well/243 people killed – LNG; 7,000 people dislocated; 9,185 treated for gas poisoning; 431 hospitalized/17 critical condition
62	2003	U.S.	U.S. Justice Department/EPA	Settlement U\$275M to reduce airborne emissions from five refineries in California, Hawai'i, Mississippi, & Utah
39	2003	Kazakhstan	Karachaganak, Kazakhstan	Joint venture-massive environmental and air pollution
8	2002 - present	Nigeria	Zhanaozen oil Strike & Massacre, Kazakhstan	Makaraba flow station, major spill pollution of Makaraba River and surrounding creeks; local population predominately farmers-affected; biodiversity loss; soil contamination, deforestation; water pollution & depletion

Case	Date	Country	Location	Incident Details
15	2016 - present	Nigeria	Nigeria	Failure to pay taxes to country
6&7	2002	Nigeria	Escravos, Niger Delta	Women's protest for reparations; violence, arrests; gas flaring, gas spills; pollution of water sources; illness/death-chemical poisoning (population 500,000)
61	2001	U.S.	Groundwater California, U.S.	Chevron among companies' party to lawsuit/\$422M; 20 states included in suit
20	2000	Chad/Cameroon	Doba, Chad to Kribi, Cameroon	Building of Chad-Cameroon pipeline on indigenous rainforest lands, despite massive protest & conflict with local populations (Bakola Pygmy, etc.); contamination of local water sources, 22,000 people affected
60	2000; 2009	U.S.	Royalties withheld from Native Americans for oil extracted on their lands/USA	Chevron failed to pay royalties of oil extracted from Native American and public lands
57	1999	Nigeria	Opia & Ikenyan communities in Delta State attacked by 100 armed soldiers in Chevron helicopters & vessels	Attack on local communities to control opposition; 47 Ikenyan and 15 Opia community members still missing; soldiers set fire to homes & community buildings. Speculation attacks were to clear lands for pipelines
5	1998	Nigeria	Ilaje, Ondo State, Nigeria	Iljaw oil spill – indigenous government lands
59	1998	Nigeria	Niger Delta, Nigeria	Nigerian troops kill local protestors, others detained at Chevron facility & tortured, Nigerian soldiers paid by Chevron for their services
27	1996 - present	BURMA/Myanmar	Yadana Gas field & pipeline, Myanmar	Offshore drilling, widespread human rights abuses by pipeline security forces; forced labor, land confiscation, forced relocation, rape, torture, murder; toxic dumping; corruption w/government
38	1993	Kazakhstan	Tengiz Oilfield & Processing Plant; Kazakhstan	Oil spills & gas flaring; air pollution, biodiversity loss; surface water pollution, groundwater pollution; corruption; 4,000 population affected
59	1992	U.S.	Santa Barbara Channel, California, U.S.	Clean Water Act & Clean Air Act violations; \$8M in Fines

Case	Date	Country	Location	Incident Details
2	1990s	Nigeria	Ogoni and Oljaw indigenous land, Ondo State, Nigeria	Numerous lawsuits filed against Chevron for spills & human rights abuses
33	1989, Nov.	Thailand	Drillship Seacrest, Thailand	UNOCAL-Chevron subsidiary; Seacrest drillship capsized in Platong Gas Field during typhoon Gay; 91 deaths/6 survivors;
1	1980s-2011	Nigeria	Tsekelewu community, Ijaw people, Egbema clan, Warri North, Delta State, Nigeria	Massive pollution/deposits of crude oil on their lands from canals constructed by Shell & Chevron to their oil facilities; displacement, surface water pollution, groundwater pollution; loss of livelihood
26	1982	Nigeria/Ghana	West African Gas Pipeline, from Nigeria to Ghana	Protests; pollution; 50,000 population affected/displaced
29	1990s	E. Timor		
51	2018 - present	Ecuador	Arbitration Chevron v. Ecuador	Chevron insists on arbitration to eliminate debt to Ecuador
49	1960s - present	Ecuador	Continuous spilling, failure to cleanup; indigenous Ecuadorean communities (30,000 people in danger)	Chevron-Exxon Amazon pits & drill rigs – massive spills; scientific evidence of cancer producing pollution; 16B gallons toxic waste; in 54 sites waste pits included 200 times contamination allowed in U.S.; loss of life; land displacement; fraud; corruption
70	2018 - present	U.S.	Global-Climate Change	Multiparty lawsuit California



PHOTOS: Lou Dematteis / Redux
From the book "Crude Reflections: Oil, Ruin and Resistance in the Amazon Rainforest" (City Lights Books)



Appendix B: Cases Sited

Cases Listed by Frequency

Variable	# of Cases	Percentage
Attack-by-Paramilitary	21	30.0%
Accidents	49	70.0%
Accidents - Drilling	43	61.4%
Bribing Officials	16	22.9%
Corruption	26	37.1%
Collapse - Government	4	5.7%
Compensation - Inadequate	50	71.4%
Children - Affected	26	37.1%
Displacement	33	47.1%
Destruction - Wetlands	32	45.7%
Death	26	37.1%
Deforestation	26	37.1%
Dislocation	27	38.6%
Ecocide	34	48.6%
Environmental - Standards - Violation	50	71.4%
Destruction - Food - Source	32	45.7%
Fires	34	48.6%
Flaring	25	35.7%
Fracking	4	5.7%
FCPA - Violation	11	15.7%
Genocide	13	18.6%
Health - Problems	34	48.6%
Lawyer - Harrassment	19	27.1%
Indigenous - Polulation	43	61.4%
Indigenous - Loss of Land	27	38.6%
Livelihood - Loss	29	41.4%
Life-span - Avergae - Drop	23	32.9%
Lanour - Forced - Slavery	6	8.6%
LNG - Accident	3	4.3%
Lawsuit/s	48	68.6%
Militarization - of - Community	24	34.3%
Torture	17	24.3%
Ocean - Spill	14	20.0%
Pollution	55	78.6%
Protests	52	74.3%



Margarita Coquinche (Kichwa) and Gabriel Ruales in Orellana Province, Ecuador with a picture of their dead son. They lived near a stream polluted by Chevron's toxic oil waste. Their son was born with cerebral palsy, Mrs. Coquinche's father died of stomach cancer, and her sister died of uterine cancer. **PHOTO: Enrique Aviles, Ecuador Amazon Restoration Project**

Steven Donziger, lawyer for the class-action plaintiffs in Ecuador, the victims of Chevron oil pollution, who has since been attacked by Chevron using retaliatory litigation, SLAPP lawsuits, and fabricated evidence. **PHOTO: Lisa Gibbons**

Veronica Guaman, born with birth defects from the toxins left behind by the oil companies. Thousands of birth defect and cancer victims have received no compensation from Chevron, who has spent some \$2-billion on lawyers, private investigators, PR firms, and paid witnesses to avoid paying the court-imposed compensation. **PHOTO: Amazon Watch**



CHEVRON'S GLOBAL CRIMES

THE CASE FOR REVOKING THE COMPANY'S
LICENSE TO OPERATE



Dr. Nan M. Greer
2021