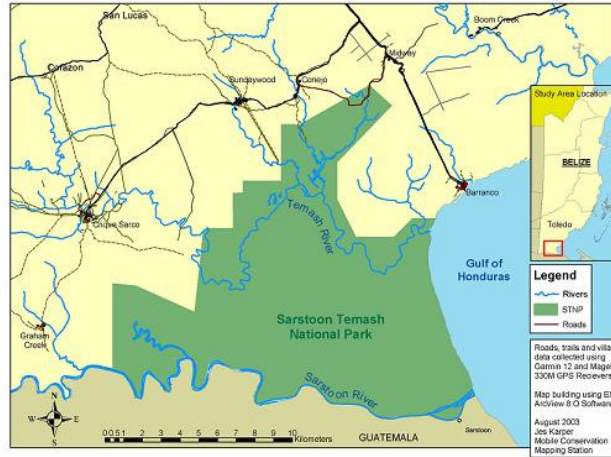


The Way Forward

- SATIIM will be working closely with the government's technical team to ensure the EIA for seismic testing meets the highest standards and is conducted in the most transparent and satisfactory way
- SATIIM will ensure that a locally negotiated impact benefit sharing agreements are in place for local indigenous communities that may be impacted by oil exploration and development, if it does go ahead
- SATIIM will continue to engage civil society in coalition building, public education and awareness raising activities to keep communities and supporters informed
- You can help by providing technical, financial and moral support to SATIIM! Please contact the office or visit www.globalresponse.org

This campaign has been made possible thanks to the support of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Global Greengrants, Conservation International, ELAW and the Ecologic Development Fund.

The Sarstoon Temash National Park



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SARSTOON TEMASH INSTITUTE FOR INDIGENOUS MANAGEMENT

Our campaign to keep the STNP Oil Free!



Our campaign aims to halt or mitigate the impacts of oil exploration in the Sarstoon Temash National Park and to incorporate biodiversity conservation and indigenous community concerns into Belize's relevant oil and protected area policies and regulations.

CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE & THE STNP

In 2006, the Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM), responded to the threat of oil exploration and development in the Sarstoon Temash National Park (STNP) and surrounding indigenous communities in southern Belize. US Capital Energy, an American oil company, was given permission by the Belizean Forest Department in April 2006 to begin seismic testing in the National Park. SATIIM's Board and staff felt this was illegal and unfair.

In response SATIIM mounted a law suit and advocacy campaign that included public outreach and education, coalition building, policy research and analysis, mobilizing local supporters, lobbying government ministers, and generating international and national support.



Over fifty villagers from Toledo traveled with SATIIM to visit the Belize Natural Energy (BNE) oil fields in western Belize on February 2, 2007.

Supreme Court Ruling: An EIA is legally required

The Supreme Court ruled in favour of SATIIM in September 2006 and ordered the company to do an Environmental Impact Assessment

(EIA) for seismic testing before a permit can be issued to begin oil exploration in the park.

This decision signals to all oil prospectors and the Government that EIAs are legally required *before* oil exploration can begin in Belize.

However, as of March 2007— the EIA has still not begun. SATIIM continues to lobby the government to ensure that this EIA is done with the highest technical and scientific standards in place, and a consultation process that takes into consideration the particular needs and interest of the local indigenous communities.



Honourable Dean Barrow, Senior Counsel for SATIIM, outside of the Supreme Court on judgment day.

National Parks still not protected from oil development

The Supreme Court failed to make a judgement that would have found oil exploration to be illegal in National Parks. This would have ensured that Belize's National Parks system remain completely off limits for oil exploration and development in Belize. Instead, for the time being, they remain fair game for seismic testing, yet largely inaccessible for the local communities that live around the park.

The Association of Protected Area Management Organizations (APAMO) has joined SATIIM's efforts to fight for justice in Belize's national parks systems. Negotiations with the government of Belize will begin shortly on a number of crucial policy questions for the co-managers of Belize's highly valued protected areas.



This lagoon in one of the pristine environments that could be contaminated if oil exploration and development go ahead in the Sarstoon Temash National Park.