

## GeoPark Answers – Cuestión Pública

March 23, 2022

GeoPark is a Company that respects the right to information and participation, and seeks respectful, transparent and an open engagement with all stakeholders. Answers to these questions have been shared by the Company on previous occasions with parties that have requested them, and we are pleased to now share them again with you and your organization, while stating, with absolute clarity, about unsubstantiated claims involving the Company and its actions in the territory. In this regard, we would very much like to invite you and your organization to meet with us to discuss these questions or other topics that may be of interest to you.

**1) It is common knowledge that Amerisur-GeoPark is facing a lawsuit in England for environmental impact in several communities in Putumayo. The communities claim that the Company did not have a contingency plan to avoid the spills in 2015 in the village of Los Achapos and in 2020 in the village of La Rosa. What caused the spills? What action plan does Amerisur-GeoPark have for these events? Was it implemented in the aforementioned cases?**

For legal reasons we cannot comment on a judicial process that is taking place in the United Kingdom related to the contingency of 2015. However, to answer your questions, we will refer to specific facts that are public knowledge.

The spill took place on June 11, 2015, when armed individuals stopped five (5) road tankers carrying crude oil owned by Ecopetrol and Amerisur on the road between La Rosa and the urban area of Puerto Asís, specifically in the village of Sinaí-Achapos. The drivers of the vehicles were forced to open the valves of the tanks, emptying the crude into bodies of water near the road. Amerisur and the transport companies involved had contingency plans<sup>1</sup> that were activated once the National Army allowed entry to the affected area, allowing the consequences of the oil spill on water bodies to be mitigated.

Amerisur informed the National Environmental Licensing Authority (ANLA) about the contingency and continued to inform about the Company's mitigation, clean-up and remediation work from the time of the spill until the event was formally closed in the terms of the applicable regulations.

To contribute to the remediation of the affected ecosystems and the quality of life of the communities, through contractors Amerisur implemented a voluntary cleaning process of the areas, which was agreed with the neighboring communities. Cleaning and remediation activities were carried out in two periods: from November 7 to December 6, 2019, and from December 7, 2019 to January 15, 2020.

Although the events occurred before GeoPark acquired and assumed the operations of Amerisur, GeoPark conducted a due diligence process in all areas of Amerisur, including environmental and social issues.

**2) What effects did these spills have on the water bodies in the area and on the health of the inhabitants? Did the company do any follow up on these situations?**

Once the Public Security Forces secured the area where the contingency occurred and allowed the Company and its transport contractors to enter the area, Amerisur and its contractors implemented all the containment and mitigation measures considered in the respective contingency plans.

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<sup>1</sup> Contingency Plans approved by relevant authorities, in compliance with the provisions of the National Contingency Plan (PNC) against spills of hydrocarbons, derivatives and harmful substances in marine, fluvial and lake waters, in Decree 321 (1999) and other applicable regulations.

These actions minimized the impacts of the spill on water quality in the area, as well as the possible negative effects on inhabitants' health.

As part of its management, the Company launched a periodic monitoring campaign of the affected water bodies, according to the criteria requested by environmental authorities. This led to the continuous monitoring of the water quality in bodies of water near the point of the spill, and the results of this monitoring have been given to ANLA.

**3) In the SECOP platform there are (at least five) contracts that the multinational signed between 2014 and 2019 with the Army to protect its areas of exploration and exploitation. Why are contracts like this signed in a territory that is still a victim of the armed conflict and which says that armed forces are not available for community cases?**

Considering that hydrocarbon infrastructure is of interest to the Colombian State due to its capacity to contribute to development, the State created several collaboration agreements or inter-institutional agreements between private and public actors that contribute to the development of strategic activities for the State, many of which contribute to the protection and guarantee of human rights.

To strengthen the regulation of this type of agreement with the Public Security Forces, the Ministry of National Defense established the Manual of Agreements through Resolution 5342 of June 25, 2014. It reaffirms that the Security Forces must act in accordance with the National Constitution, the human rights treaties ratified by Colombia and under the rules of International Humanitarian Law.

Notwithstanding the existence of these agreements between private and public actors, it is the National Army that determines - autonomously and based on its primary objective of providing security to citizens, the law and the Constitution - the activities it carries out and the personnel it assigns in each area, including the areas the Company operates in.

The purpose of these agreements -which are built on the SECOP platform for public consultation- is to maintain constitutional order, the security of the community and people in the general area and the area of influence in which the company develops its activities, contributing to the protection and guarantee of Human Rights in that area. GeoPark organizes periodical monitoring committees made up of authorized representatives of the National Army and the Company but does not intervene or have any type of influence on the activities of protection and guarantee of security which are the duties of the Armed Forces.<sup>2</sup>

**4) The Buenavista reservation of the Siona people claims that discharges from Amerisur exploratory work have caused pollution in the Piñuña Blanco River,**

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<sup>2</sup> The Twenty-Seventh Brigade has publicly stated that it: Conducts offensive military operations for territorial control, security and defense of Armed Forces, and operations to support the civil authority (ADAC) to systematically combat persistent and emerging threats, illegal phenomena, protect the population, contribute to socio-economic development and the consolidation of peace.

It thus implements combined arms maneuvers under the doctrinal guidelines established in the use of combat force, with the clear objective of defeating enemy ground forces, neutralizing and/or capturing members of organized and outlawed armed groups who commit crimes in the jurisdiction, guaranteeing the security of the civilian population, troops, infrastructure and strategic assets.

In addition to the above, this Tactical Unit implements integral activities, development days that seek interaction and integration between members of the Armed Forces and the Indigenous Communities that inhabit the territory.

On the other hand, in compliance with the training plans issued by the Integral Legal Department of the National Army, serving Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Soldiers and Civilians Employees are constantly trained in issues of respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, and specially protected populations such as indigenous communities, Afro-descendants and the LGTBI population. (See Memo 2021627015037853)

**the Mansoyá River and the Singuiya Canyon, and that this is evidenced in water pollution, higher numbers of dead animals, and the scarcity of medicinal plants. What is the company's position on these claims? What action plan have you implemented so that within the framework of your activities the communities are not affected?**

The environment is especially important in the development of the Company's operations, which is why GeoPark strongly rejects allegations of the supposed dumping of toxic waste into the Putumayo River or any other tributary.

According to the records of Amerisur's environmental permits in the Platanillo block, the company stopped discharging into surface water bodies in 2013<sup>3</sup> and began to use other alternatives authorized by the environmental license to dispose of water used in the operation.

The discharges that were made until 2013 complied with ANLA's parameters and requirements, guaranteeing that they did not contaminate water sources. After GeoPark's acquisition of Amerisur, no discharges have been made to surface water bodies.

Several water quality studies carried out by Amerisur between 2012 and 2019 in the Mansoyá and Putumayo rivers, within the framework of the Environmental Monitoring Plan<sup>4</sup> implemented by the Company in compliance with the obligations established in the Environmental License<sup>5</sup> and its modifications<sup>6</sup> and reported to the environmental authority demonstrate that there are no effects on water bodies, or the soil or vegetation in areas previously authorized for dumping. This shows that the livelihoods of the communities were not affected and their right to food was not affected by Amerisur's activities. In summary, dumping prior to 2013 was authorized.

The Environmental Monitoring Plan contemplates taking samples from 32 water streams<sup>7</sup>. All monitoring is carried out by laboratories duly accredited by the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM). Amerisur reports its monitoring results reports are reported annually to ANLA through the project's Environmental Compliance Reports (ICAs) by Amerisur.

In conclusion, the bodies of water analyzed allow the ecology and environmental services to continue functioning, and the maintenance of the fauna and flora of the aquatic ecosystem.

**5) Amerisur has been accused of making partnerships with dissidents of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) to protect its operating projects in the La Perla Campesino Reserve. What is the company's official position on these allegations?**

GeoPark categorically rejects any reference to relationships with illegal armed groups. As a socially responsible Company that respects all internationally recognized human rights and fully complies with Colombian legislation that prohibits any type of relationship, financing or support to illegal groups, we strongly state that we do not have

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<sup>3</sup> GeoPark Sustainability Report 2020, p.121, available in [https://www.geopark.com/files/publications/informe\\_sostenibilidad\\_reporte\\_speed\\_esg\\_2020\\_geopark.pdf](https://www.geopark.com/files/publications/informe_sostenibilidad_reporte_speed_esg_2020_geopark.pdf), last accessed November 20, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> These are the product of the evaluations and follow-up visits of the National Environmental Licensing Authority (ANLA).  
<sup>5</sup> Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, National Environmental Licensing Authority, Resolution No. 2531, December 17, 2009, grants the Global Environmental License to Amerisur Exploración Colombiana Limitada for the project "Platanillo Hydrocarbons Exploitation Area"

<sup>6</sup> Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, National Environmental Licensing Authority, Resolution No. 107, November 22, 2011, modifies Resolution 2531. Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, National Environmental Licensing Authority, Resolution No. 0513, May 7, 2015, modifies Resolution 2531.

<sup>7</sup> 23 are lotic surface type (ravines, valleys and rivers), 9 are lentic (swamps, lagoons) and there are 11 monitoring points of underground water resources.

any relations with these groups and that we demand the same conduct from our contractors and service providers.

The Company is furthermore concerned about this type of comments since they have serious effects on the human rights of its employees, contractors and service providers, as well as those of neighboring communities.

In response to the allegations, GeoPark has consistently and resoundingly condemned acts of violence, any act involving threats or harassment and attacks of any kind against anyone, in particular leaders or members of community activism groups or human rights defenders. Below are links to some public statements made by the Company:

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As a way of fulfilling its duty to report, and contributing to the protection of human rights concerning the security of the neighboring communities in the Company's area of influence, GeoPark has a protocol that is activated when there is information of a serious, potential or real impact on the Human Rights related to the security of these stakeholders and this is communicated through sending official reports and communications through institutional relations.

The Company informs relevant national, regional and local authorities of the situation and follows up with them in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Business and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, in order to contribute to the respect for human rights.

**6) The company is also accused of partnering the 'Comandos de Frontera' illegal group. Why is the Company related to this group in the area?**

The Company categorically rejects any statement that it has any relationship with any illegal armed group; therefore, it reiterates that any statement to that effect is unfounded and false. We emphasize the above and we do not have relationships with illegal armed groups. As a Company committed to the respect and promotion of Human Rights, this type of false and unfounded accusations has serious impacts on the Human Rights of our neighbors, employees, contractors, and service providers.

The contracts that Amerisur/GeoPark signs with its contractors and service providers contain clauses that oblige them to comply with GeoPark's human rights policies and procedures. This includes human rights policy and the prohibition of engagement with and funding of illegal armed groups.

**7) Communities in Putumayo have questioned the fact that despite the damage they say they have experienced because of Amerisur's activity in Putumayo and the alleged connections with legal and illegal armed actors, the oil company supports social processes with public organizations such as the National Learning Service (SENA) and the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF). What is the official position of Amerisur-Geopark in this regard?**

As mentioned above, the Company does not have any links to illegal armed groups. Since it started operations in Colombia in 2012, and since the acquisition of Amerisur in January 2020, GeoPark has contributed significantly to economic growth at local, regional and national levels. In this sense and making use of the institutional offer, the Company has established, establishes and will continue to establish agreements and partnerships with first-class institutions at national and international levels, through which it works to enhance the development of the territories it operates in.

In the case of the project with the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) developed under the Works for Taxes mechanism in the PDET Putumayo subregion, more than 3,300 young children in nine municipalities of the department will benefit through us providing furniture, pedagogical materials, audiovisual equipment, appliances and other materials to Child Development Centers (CDI).

The social programs promoted and supported by GeoPark are agreed with and communicated to their direct beneficiaries, including those who chair Community Action Boards, members of village communities in areas of influence of the Company, social organizations and local authorities. All these actors participate in the definition of the scope and lines of work of each of the programs, which correspond to our support and contribution to resolving the needs felt and prioritized by the neighboring communities and/or entities in the territories we operate in.

The authorities and communities in GeoPark's areas of operation, as well as its employees and collaborators in the supply chain, will continue to count on the benefits that during almost a decade of GeoPark's presence in Colombia have been felt in jobs and infrastructure, educational and health programs, the promotion of productive projects and, in general, more sustainable and dynamic economies.