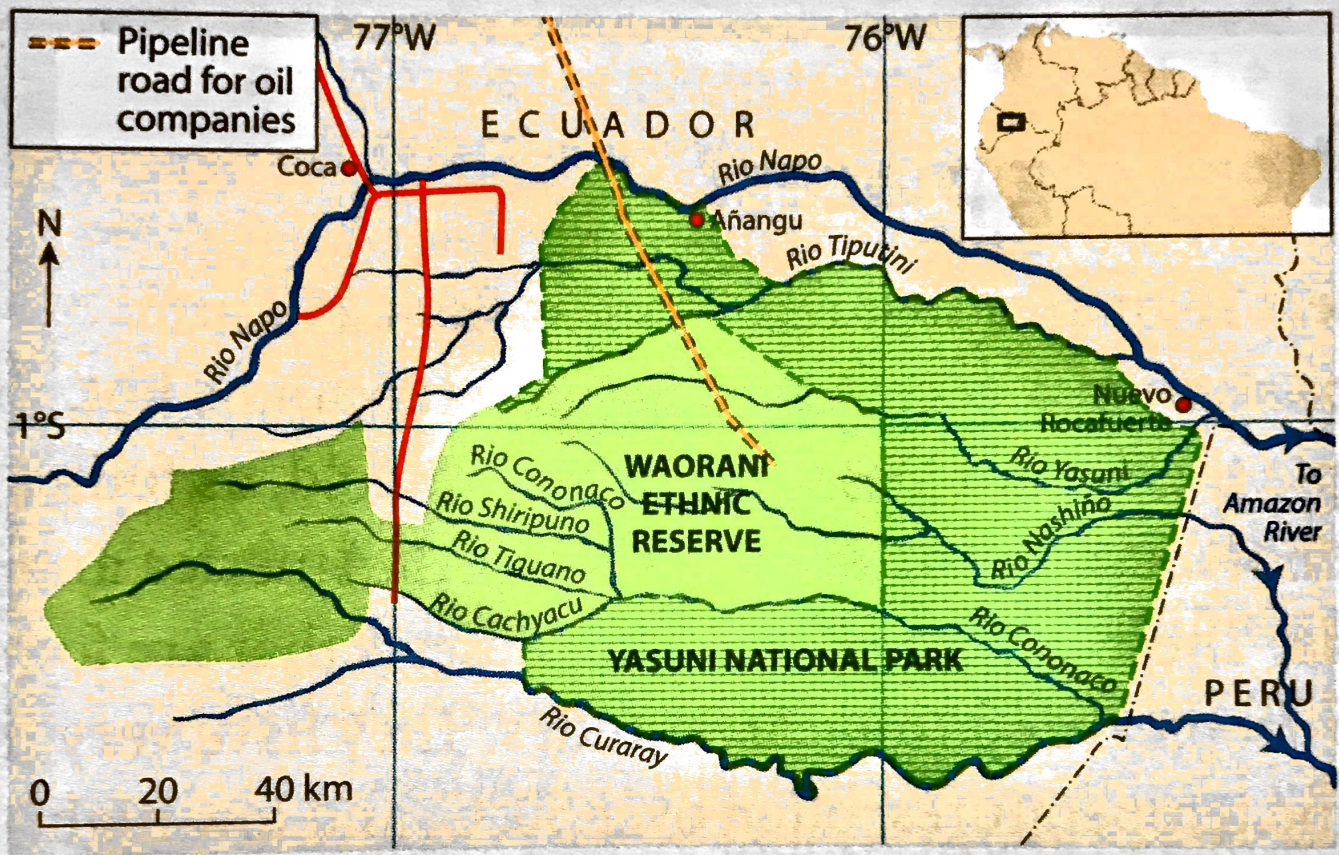


Conserving the rainforest – the Yasuni National Park



The Yasuni National Park is an international biosphere reserve, established in 1979. It covers an area of 1 million hectares in the north-east of Ecuador. It is home to the most diverse ecosystem of plants, animal and insect species in the world. The soils beneath the rainforest in the park are tropical red soils (see page 117). The park has been created to the east of the Waorani tribe's reserve where, due to the area's inaccessibility, hunter-gatherers have survived for centuries by living off the rainforest. Now the park and the reserve are both threatened by road-building, tourism and oil drilling.