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News: Ecuadorians reject oil drilling in the Amazon in historic decision

- In a historic decision, Ecuadorians voted on Sunday against the oil drilling of a protected area in the Amazon that's home to two un-contacted tribes and serves as a biodiversity hotspot.
- With over 90% of the ballots counted by early Monday, around six in ten Ecuadorians rejected the oil exploration in Block 44, situated within Yasuni National Park, one of the world's most biodiverse regions. The area is inhabited by the Tagaeri and Taromenani, who live in self-isolation.

Amazon Rainforests

- Amazon Rainforests are **large tropical rainforests** occupying the drainage basin of the Amazon River and its tributaries in **northern South America**.
- The **Amazon rainforests cover about 80% of the Amazon basin** and they are home to nearly **a fifth of the world's land species** and are also **home to about 30 million people** including hundreds of indigenous groups and several isolated tribes.
- The Amazon basin is huge with **an area covering over 6 million square kilometres; it is nearly twice the size of India**.

- The basin produces about 20% of the world's flow of freshwater into the oceans.
- Comprising about 40% of Brazil's total area, it is bounded by the Guiana Highlands to the north, the Andes Mountains to the west, the Brazilian central plateau to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.
- According to a recent study, Amazon Forests have started emitting Carbon dioxide (CO₂) instead of absorbing it.
- Growing trees and plants have taken up about a quarter of all fossil fuel emissions since 1960, with the Amazon playing a major role as the largest tropical forest.
- A significant amount of deforestation (over the course of 40 years) in eastern and southeastern Brazil has turned the forest into a source of CO₂ that has the ability to warm the planet.
- Not only have the Amazon rainforests, some forests in Southeast Asia also turned into carbon sources in the last few years as a result of formation of plantations and fires.