

# PETROLEUM IN BOLIVIA 2001

## 1. AMBORO NATIONAL PARK

The Friends of Nature Foundation (FAN) believes that seismic petroleum exploration in Amboro National Park could let loose irremediable consequences in the area and correspondingly recommends studies into the matter, urging that the Andina petroleum company revoke its decision to work there. The affirmation is based in scientific studies conducted in the area.

FAN was invited by Andina to form part of a team that conducted an environmental impact study on the seismic project, but the foundation excused itself and asked in exchange to conduct an independent evaluation centering around the subject of the area's biodiversity, a proposal which was accepted by the company.

On the first page of its study, FAN states that "from an ecological and biological point of view, the best thing for the biodiversity of the park and its integrated management area would be to not carry out the seismic exploration project." It also warns that seismic prospection will attract third parties to the park.

Andina is one of the companies that has benefitted from the capitalization processes of the state petroleum company YPF.

Amboro National Park is located in the central part of Bolivia, in the subandean zone of the Eastern Range of the Andes, in Santa Cruz state. It is at 400 meters above sea level at its lowest part and at 3000 meters above sea level at its highest part, a characteristic which permits the coexistence of various life zones and phytogeographic refuges such as yungas, Chaco and Amazonia, which reflects the area's biodiversity. The reserve is found in one of the refuges of the Pleistocene in which there are many endemic species, many of whom are in danger of extinction.

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