

Environment

- 1. In order to comply with United States' demands to stop coca production, Colombia uses aerial spraying to drop herbicides on illicit crops. Since these crops are the peasants' only source of income they move into the Amazon rainforest and farm on steep hillsides. This constant push on peasants has led to the clearing of over 1.75 million acres of rainforest.**

Source: Trade and Environment Database (TED), *TED Case Studies: Columbia Coca Trade* (Washington DC: American University, 1997), pp. 4-8.

- 2. "From December 2000 to February 2001, US-backed antidrug drives resulted in the destruction of more than 29,000 hectares of coca fields (enough to produce 200-250 tons of cocaine annually)."**

Source: Rabasa, Angel & Peter Chalk, "Colombian Labyrinth: The Synergy of Drugs and Insurgency and Its Implications for Regional Instability" (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2001), p. 69, from the web at <http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1339/>, last accessed August 11, 2002.

- 3. "Current projections call for 80,000 hectares to be sprayed (largely in Putumayo), which, if achieved, will bring the annual total to roughly 65 percent of the area currently thought to be under cultivation. Fifteen specially designed fumigation aircraft are due to be transferred to Colombia in 2001, augmenting the eight planes already in action."**

Source: Rabasa, Angel & Peter Chalk, "Colombian Labyrinth: The Synergy of Drugs and Insurgency and Its Implications for Regional Instability" (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2001), pp. 21-2, from the web at <http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1339/>, last accessed August 11, 2002.

- 4. "Critics note that the spraying has not prevented the tripling of the area under coca cultivation since Pastrana's inauguration, and that the spraying simply destroys the means of livelihood of subsistence farmers and displaces the crops deeper into the jungle. The coca producers have also adapted by developing new varieties of the coca plant, such as the Tingo Maria, which produces three times as much coca as the traditional varieties."**

Source: Rabasa, Angel & Peter Chalk, "Colombian Labyrinth: The Synergy of Drugs and Insurgency and Its Implications for Regional Instability" (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2001), p. 66, from the web at <http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1339/>, last accessed August 11, 2002.

- 5. "Aerial spraying of a marijuana field near a Rarámuri village carried out by the Federal Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de la República, PGR) left 300 sick and injured and may have killed a two-year old girl according to the Chihuahua State Human Rights Office (Comisión Estatal de Derechos Humanos, CEDH)."**

Source: Macias Medina, Silvia, "PGR Allegedly Sprays Marijuana Field, Killing Child and Injuring 300", reprinted in *Frontera NorteSur*, originally published in *El Diaro*, August 5, 2000. Available on the web at <http://www.nmsu.edu/~frontera/today.html>, accessed August 8, 2000.

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- 6. In July 2000, the Colombian government agreed to work with the UN Drug Control Program on research into the use of a fungicide called fusarium oxysporum. Tests have yet to show that use of the fungus is feasible, and methods to produce the fungicide in sufficient quantities as well as a delivery mechanism have yet to be developed.**

Source: George Gedda, Associated Press, "Colombia Tries New Drug Eradication", July 7, 2000.

- 7. The US Department of Agriculture reports "A pathogenic strain of *Fusarium oxysporum*, causes *Fusarium* wilt, a disease that afflicts many crops such as watermelon, muskmelon, and basil but is a bigger problem for tomato growers."**

Source: "USDA, Canada Collaborate on *Fusarium* Wilt", *Methyl Bromide Alternatives Newsletter* (Beltsville, MD: USDA Agricultural Research Service, April 2000), Vol. 6, No. 2, from the web at

- 8. "Colombia's forests account for 10% of the entire world's biodiversity, making it the second most biodiverse country in the world in terms of species per land unit." Drug war induced deforestation in Colombia have led experts to theorize that Colombia could become another Somalia or Ethiopia within 50 years, "i.e. a fast growing population that is larger than the food production can support due to poor agricultural soils or techniques."**

Sources: Trade and Environment Database (TED), *TED Case Studies: Deforestation in Colombia*, Washington DC: American University (1997); Trade and Environment Database (TED), *TED Case Studies: Columbia Coca Trade*, Washington DC: American University (1997).

- 9. When aerially sprayed, the herbicide Glyphosate can drift for up to about half of a mile. In Colombia, where the herbicide Glyphosate is sprayed from airplanes, children have lost hair and suffered diarrhea as a result of its application.**

Sources: Cox, C., "Glyphosate, Part 2: Human Exposure and Ecological Effects," *Journal of Pesticide Reform*, Vol. 15 (Eugene, OR: Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, 1995); Lloyd, R., "Publisher Warns about Impacts of Drug War," *World Rainforest Report 37*, (Lismore, NSW: Australia, 1997); Drug Enforcement Agency, *Draft Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statements for Cannabis Eradication in the Contiguous United States and Hawaii* (Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, April 1998).

- 10. Since it is illegal to manufacture cocaine, its producers must hide their facilities in the forests of South America making it impossible to properly dispose of chemical wastes. It is estimated that the unregulated manufacture of cocaine results in 10 million liters of sulfuric acid, 16 million liters of ethyl ether, 8 million liters of acetone and from 40-770 million liters of kerosene being poured directly into the ground in the Andean region, mainly Colombia.**

Source: Trade and Environment Database (TED), *TED Case Studies: Columbia Coca Trade* (Washington DC: American University, 1997).

- 11. In Colombia, it is estimated that more than 200,000 tons of chemical wastes are dumped into the ground and streams each year, due to the unregulated manufacture of cocaine.**

Source: Trade and Environment Database (TED), *TED Case Studies: Columbia Coca Trade* (Washington DC: American University, 1997).