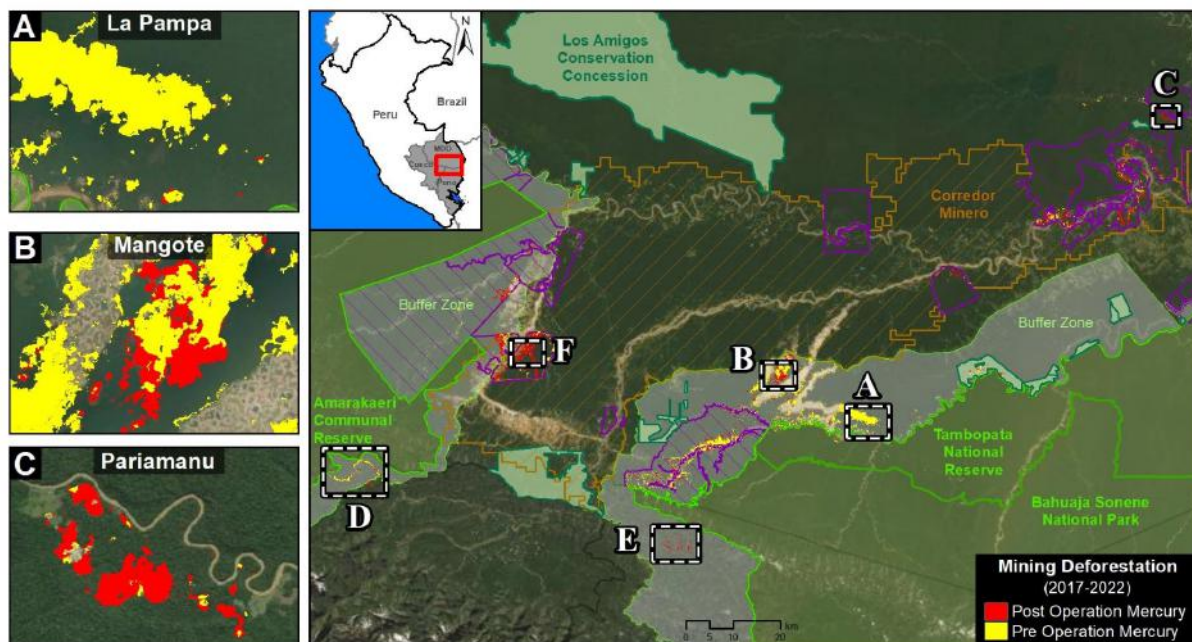




MAAP #154 Illegal Gold Mining in the Peruvian Amazon - 2022 Update

MAAP is a project of the Amazon Conservation Alliance



Illegal gold mining reached crisis levels in the southern Peruvian Amazon in 2017 and 2018, clearing over 1,200 hectares (3,000 acres) in the most critically impacted area, known as La Pampa (located in the buffer zone of Tambopata National Reserve, region of Madre de Dios).

In early 2019, the Peruvian government launched **Operation Mercury**, an unprecedented long-term crackdown on illegal mining, with an initial focus in La

Here, in [MAAP #154](#), we present an updated analysis of illegal gold mining in the Peruvian Amazon. Specifically, we compare rates of deforestation before vs after Operation Mercury at the most important illegal mining sites (see **Base Map**).

We found that, overall, illegal gold mining deforestation **decreased 62% across all sites** following Operation Mercury.

This drop includes a remarkable **96% decrease in La Pampa** and an **81% decrease in the buffer zones** of protected areas (Tambopata National Reserve, Bahuaja Sonene National Park, and Amarakaeri Communal Reserve).

However, illegal mining deforestation **increased over 100% at several key sites**, most notably along the Pariamanu River as well as several indigenous communities (such as Barranco Chico), resulting in new rounds of government interventions in these areas.

Finally, we show a striking series of **very high-resolution satellite images** of active sites (including Pariamanu and Barranco Chico), that visualize actionable details such as illegal mining camps and equipment.

[Read the full report](#)

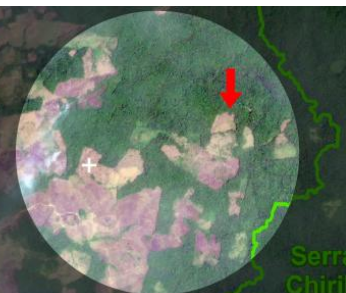
MAAP #153: 2021 Deforestation Hotspots Across the Amazon

[READ MORE](#)



MAAP #152: Major Deforestation Continues in Chiribiquete National Park (Colombian Amazon)

[READ MORE](#)





CONSERVACIÓN
AMAZÓNICA



Follow us to stay in-the-know about the latest in conservation!



DONATE NOW



Copyright © 2022 Amazon Conservation Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [subscribe to this list](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)