MAAP #48: Oil Palm Deforestation in the central Peruvian Amazon

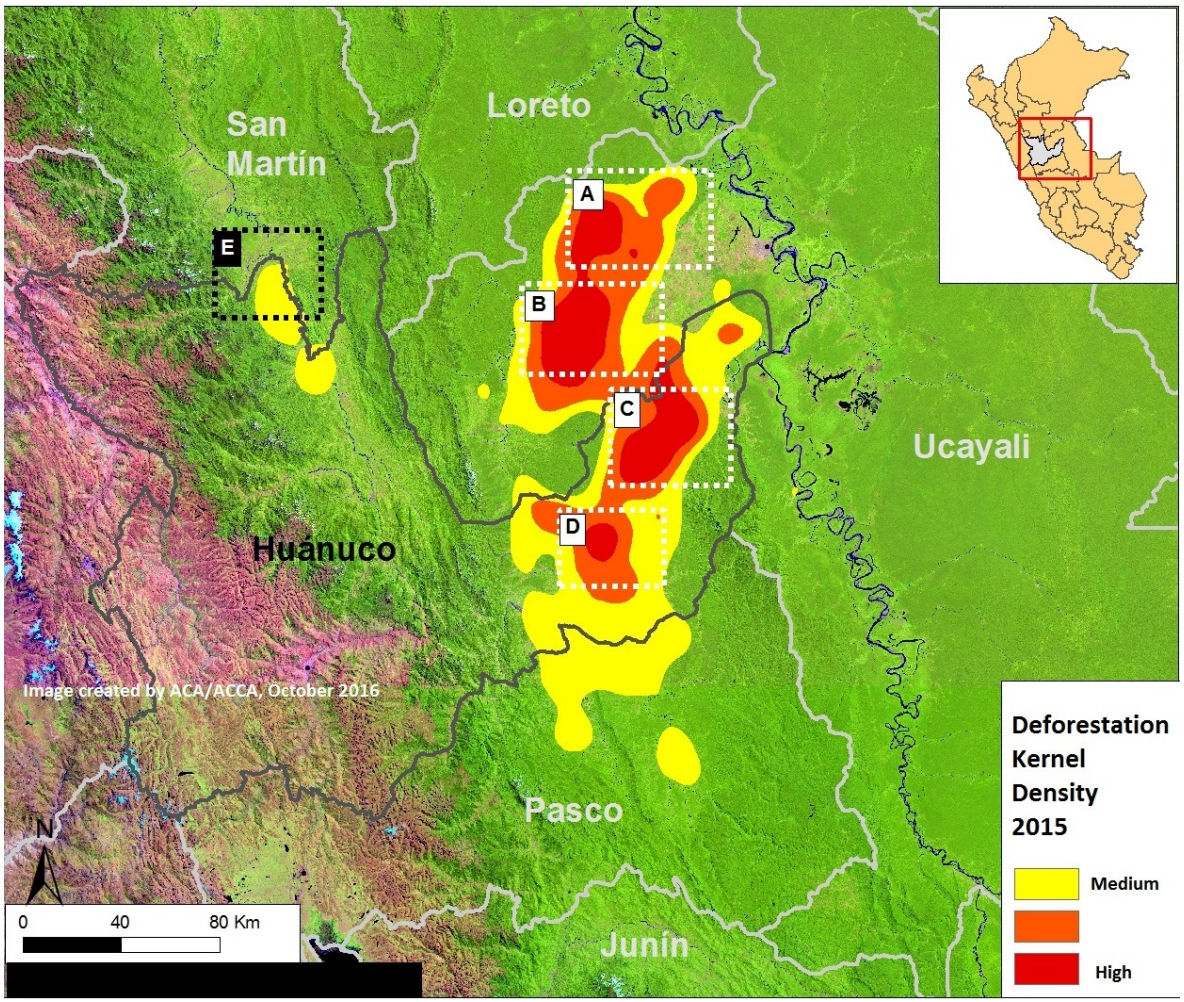

Image 48a. Data: UMD/GLAD

In MAAP #26, we presented a **2015 Deforestation Hotspots** map for the Peruvian Amazon, which showed that the highest concentration of deforestation is located in the central Amazon region.

Here, we zoom in on one of these hotspots, located in the northern Huanuco region along its border with San Martin (see Inset E of **Image 48a**).*

We found that the main deforestation driver in this hotspot was the establishment of small- and medium-scale **oil palm plantations**.**

*Note that we analyzed the hotspots in Insets A-D in MAAP #26 and MAAP #37.

** We defined small-scale as less than 5 hectares, medium-scale as 5-50 hectares, and large-scale as greater than 50 hectares

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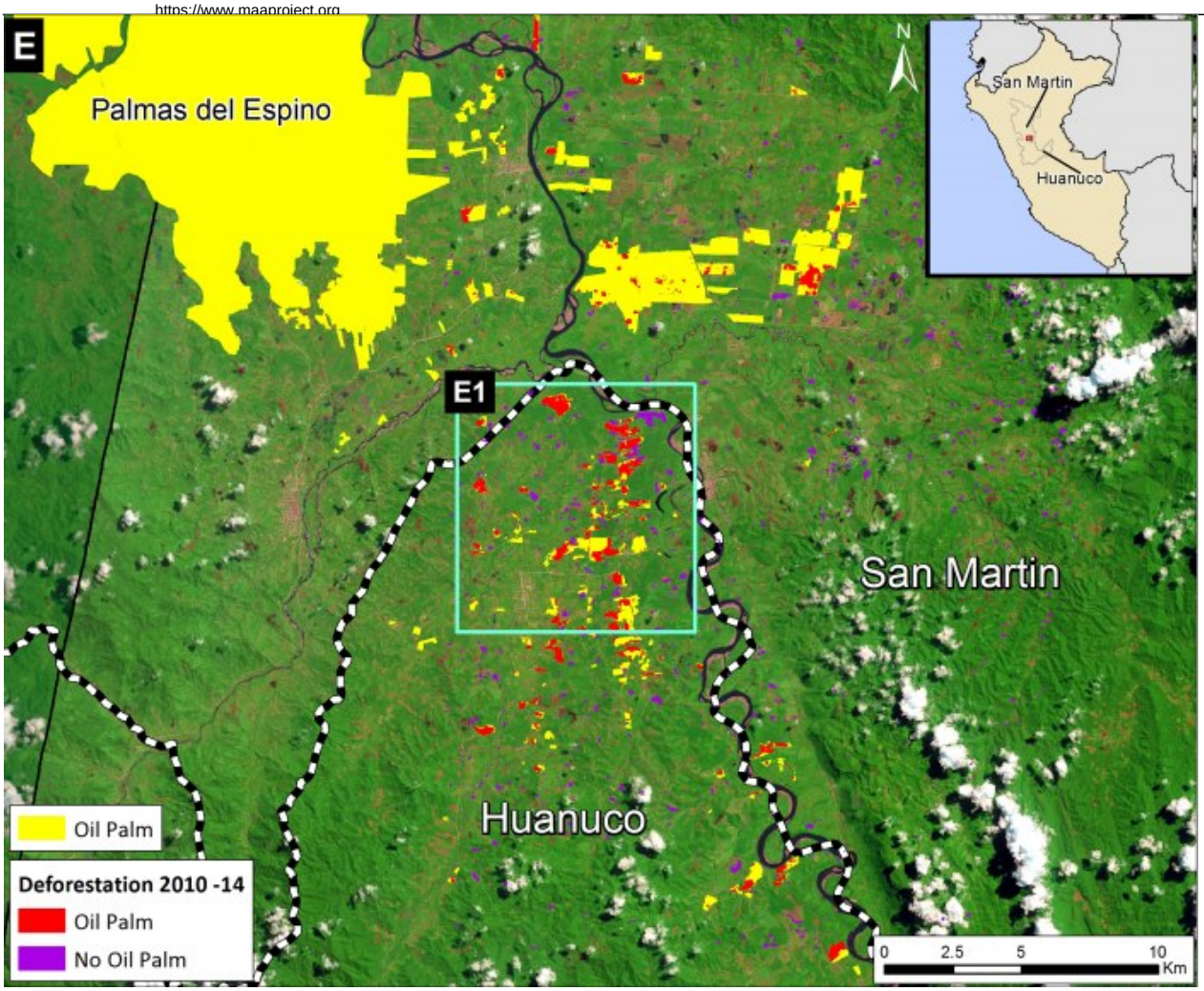

Image 48b. Data: ACA, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA

Oil Palm Causing Deforestation

Image 48b shows our area of interest.

The San Martin side is characterized by large- and medium-scale plantations (yellow), while the Huanuco side is characterized by small- and medium-scale plantations.

Red indicates areas deforested and converted to oil palm plantations between 2010 and 2014, according to our analysis of high-resolution satellite imagery.

We estimate the deforestation of 558 hectares (1,370 acres) for establishment of oil palm plantations between 2010-2014 in northern Huanuco. Two-thirds of the plantations are medium scale (5-50 hectares) and the remaining third are small-scale (

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