

# MAAP #97: Deforestation Surge in the Colombian Amazon, 2018 update

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Deforestation trends in the Colombian Amazon. Data: UMD/GLAD, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA, RAISG

The Colombian Amazon is currently experiencing a **deforestation surge** (see graph).

The surge started three years ago (2016) and peaked in **2017** with the highest annual deforestation on record (214,744 hectares).\*

Deforestation remains high in **2018**: 156,722 hectares (based on early warning alert data).\* If this estimate is confirmed, it would be the second highest on record (behind just 2017).

National experts indicate that **land grabbing** (acaparamiento de tierras) is an increasingly dominant direct driver of deforestation.

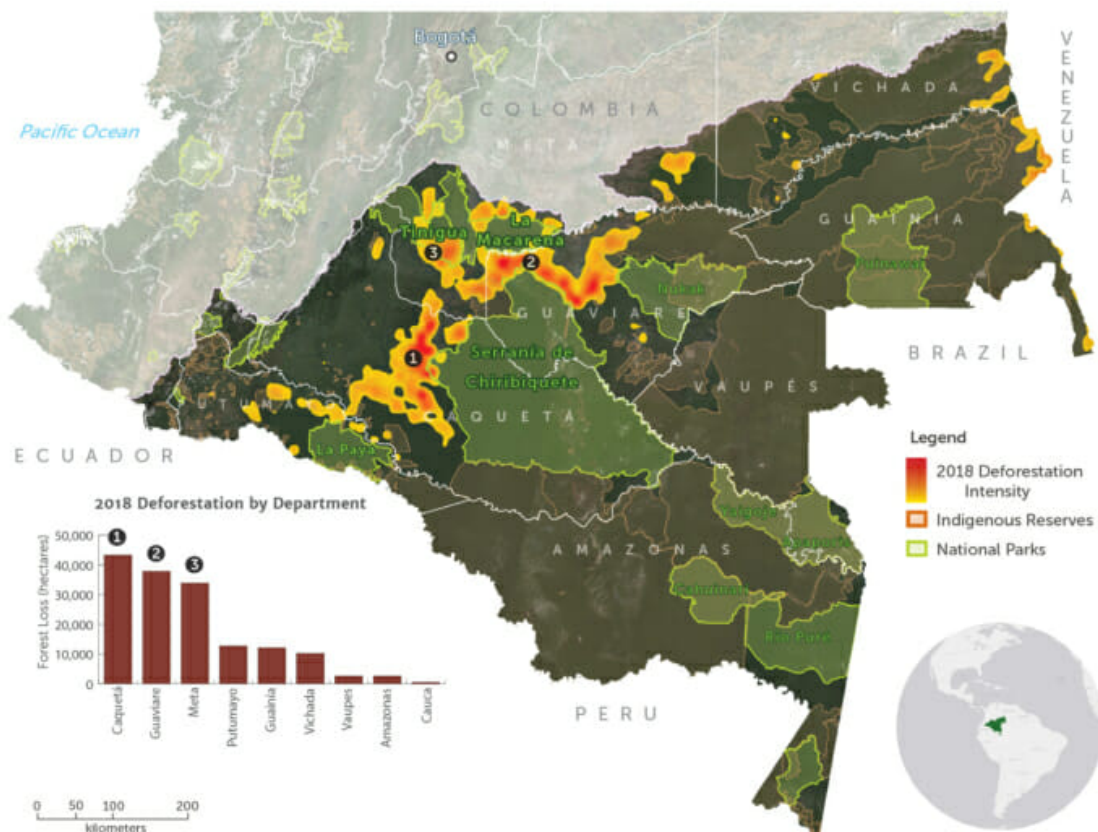
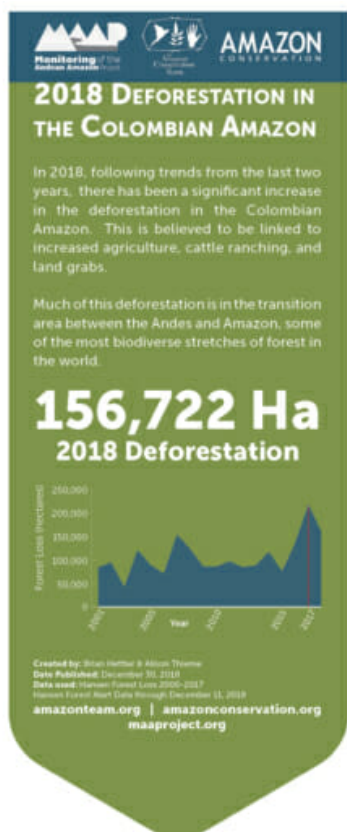
\*Data from the University of Maryland. Annual data from Hansen et al (2013) [citation below] and 2018 data from GLAD alerts.

*MAAP Colombia is a collaboration between [Amazon Conservation](#) and [Amazon Conservation Team](#)., funded by the [MacArthur Foundation](#).*

We also present a **Base Map** that shows the **2018 deforestation hotspots**. Note that the deforestation is concentrated in three departments located in the transition area between the Amazon and Andes: Guaviare, Caqueta, and Meta.

We highlight the location of three critical areas that are examined in greater detail below: 1) **Llanos de Yari**, 2) **Chiribiquete- La Macarena**, and 3) **Tinigua National Park**.

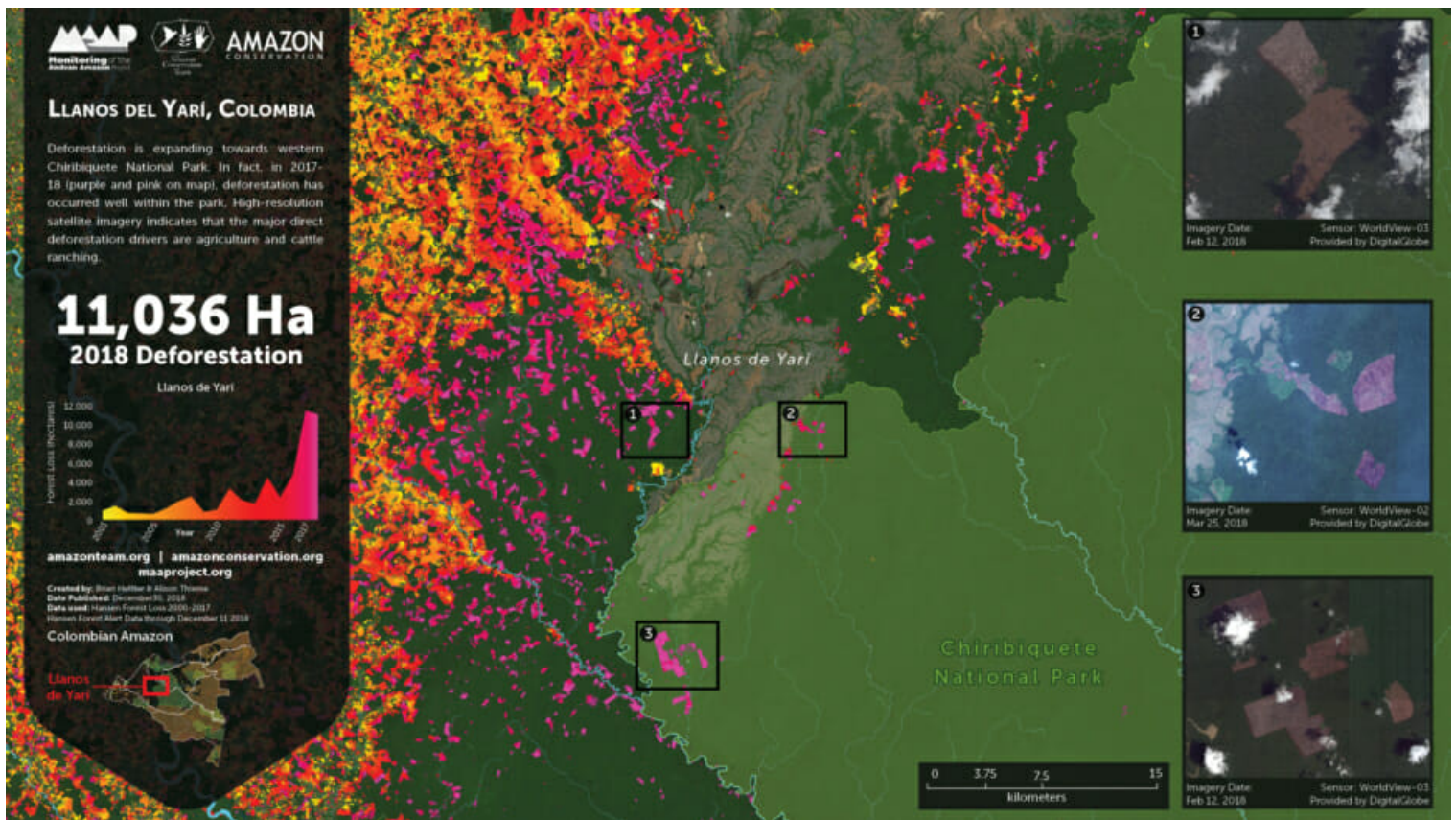
For the Base Map and Zooms below, please click on the image to enlarge or download.



Base Map. Deforestation hotspots in the Colombian Amazon. Click to enlarge. Data: UMD/GLAD, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA, PNN, SIAC, RAISG

### Zoom 1: Llanos de Yari

**Zoom 1** shows deforestation expanding towards western **Chiribiquete National Park**. In fact, in 2017-18 (purple and pink on map), deforestation has occurred well within the park.

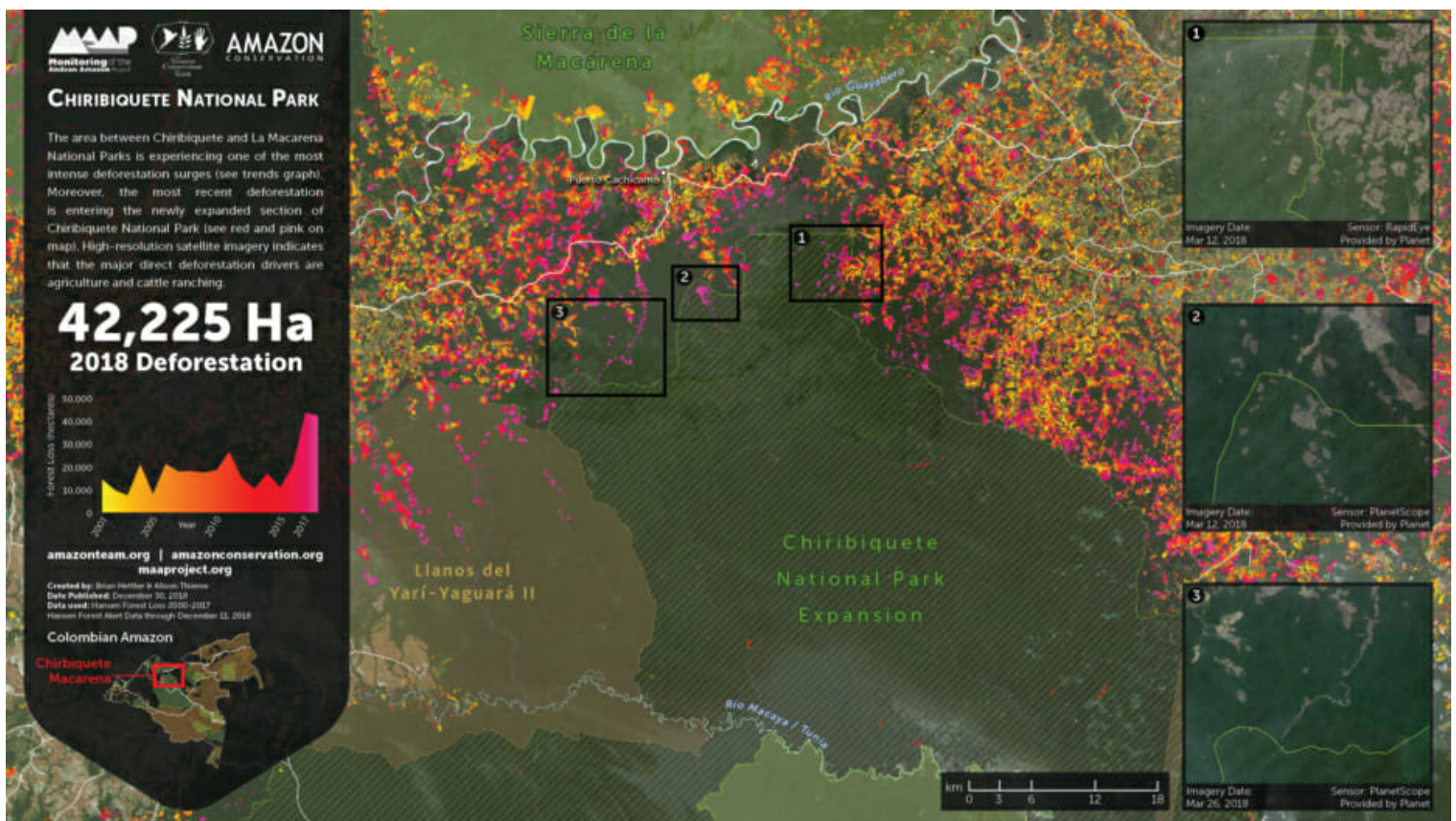


Zoom 1. Llanos de Yari. Click to enlarge. Data: DigitalGlobe, UMD/GLAD, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA, PNN, SIAC, RAISG

## Zoom 2: Chiribiquete – La Macarena

As we first reported in [MAAP #86](#), the area between **Chiribiquete and La Macarena National Parks** is currently experiencing one of the most intense deforestation surges. **Zoom 2** shows the most recent deforestation (indicated in red and pink) is entering the newly expanded section of Chiribiquete National Park.

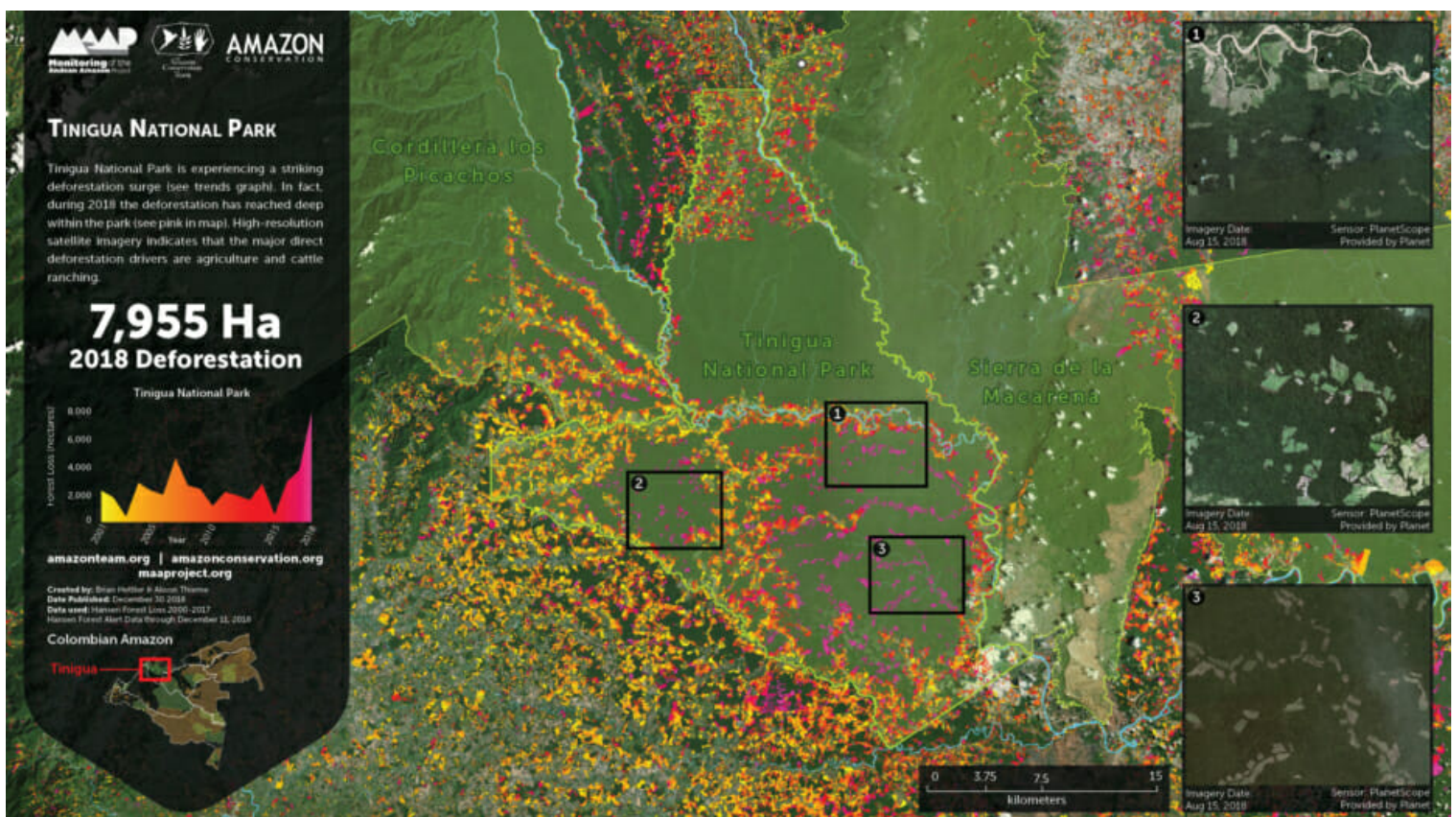




Zoom 2. Chiribiquete – La Macarena. Click to enlarge. Data: Planet, UMD/GLAD, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA, PNN, SIAC, RAISG.

### Zoom 3: Tinigua National Park

Zoom 3 shows how 2018 has seen a surge of deforestation deep within **Tinigua National Park** (see pink).



Zoom 3. Tinigua National Park. Click to enlarge. Data: Planet, UMD/GLAD, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA, PNN, SIAC, RAISG

## References

Planet Team (2017). Planet Application Program Interface: In Space for Life on Earth. San Francisco, CA. <https://api.planet.com>

Hansen, M. C., P. V. Potapov, R. Moore, M. Hancher, S. A. Turubanova, A. Tyukavina, D. Thau, S. V. Stehman, S. J. Goetz, T. R. Loveland, A. Kommareddy, A. Egorov, L. Chini, C. O. Justice, and J. R. G. Townshend. 2013. "High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change." *Science* 342 (15 November): 850–53. Data available on-line from: <http://earthenginepartners.appspot.com/science-2013-global-forest>.

## Citation

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