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

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.

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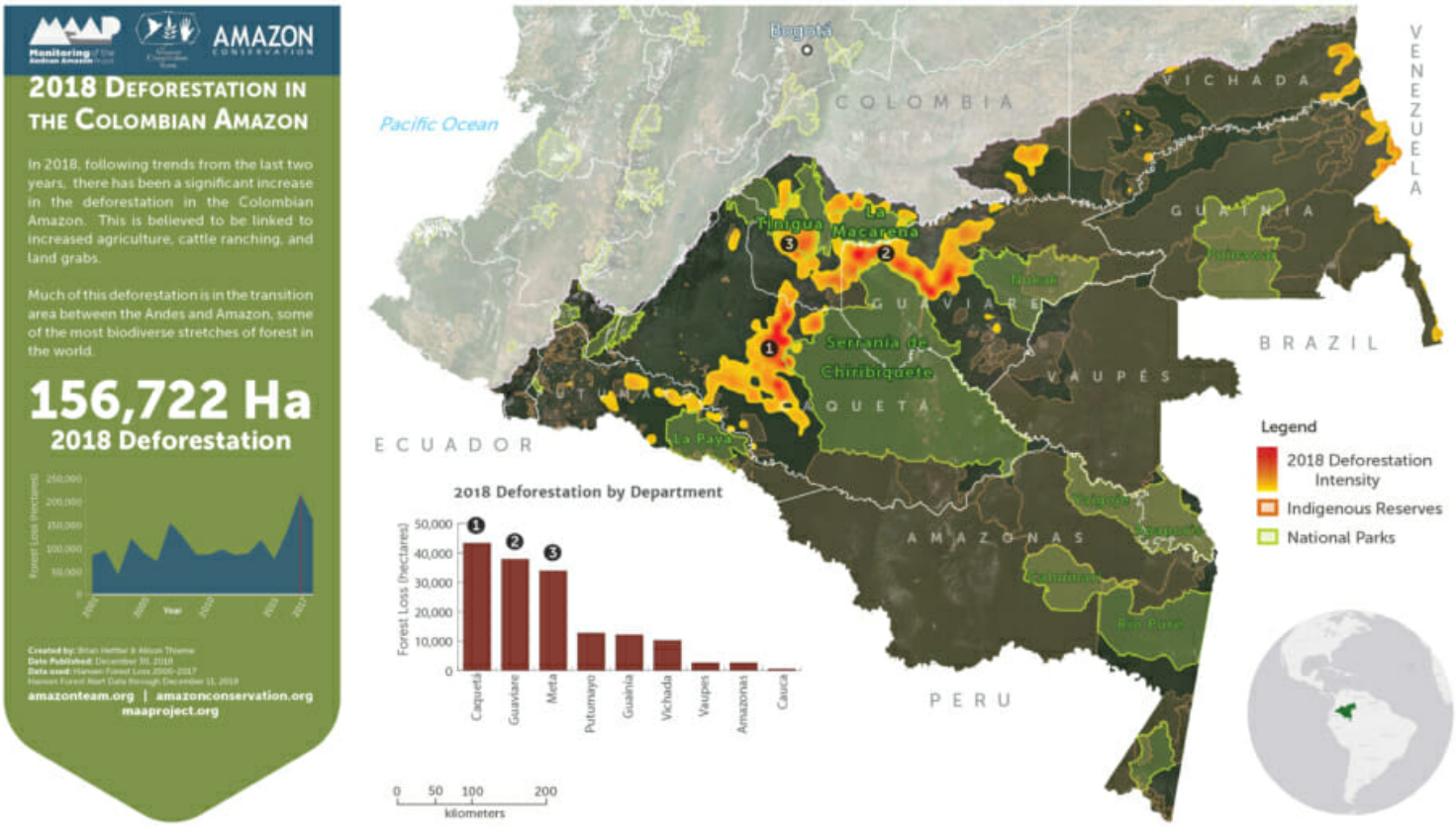

Base Map. Deforestation hotspots in the Colombian Amazon. Click to enlarge. Data: UMD/GLAD, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA, PNN, SIAC, RAISG

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.

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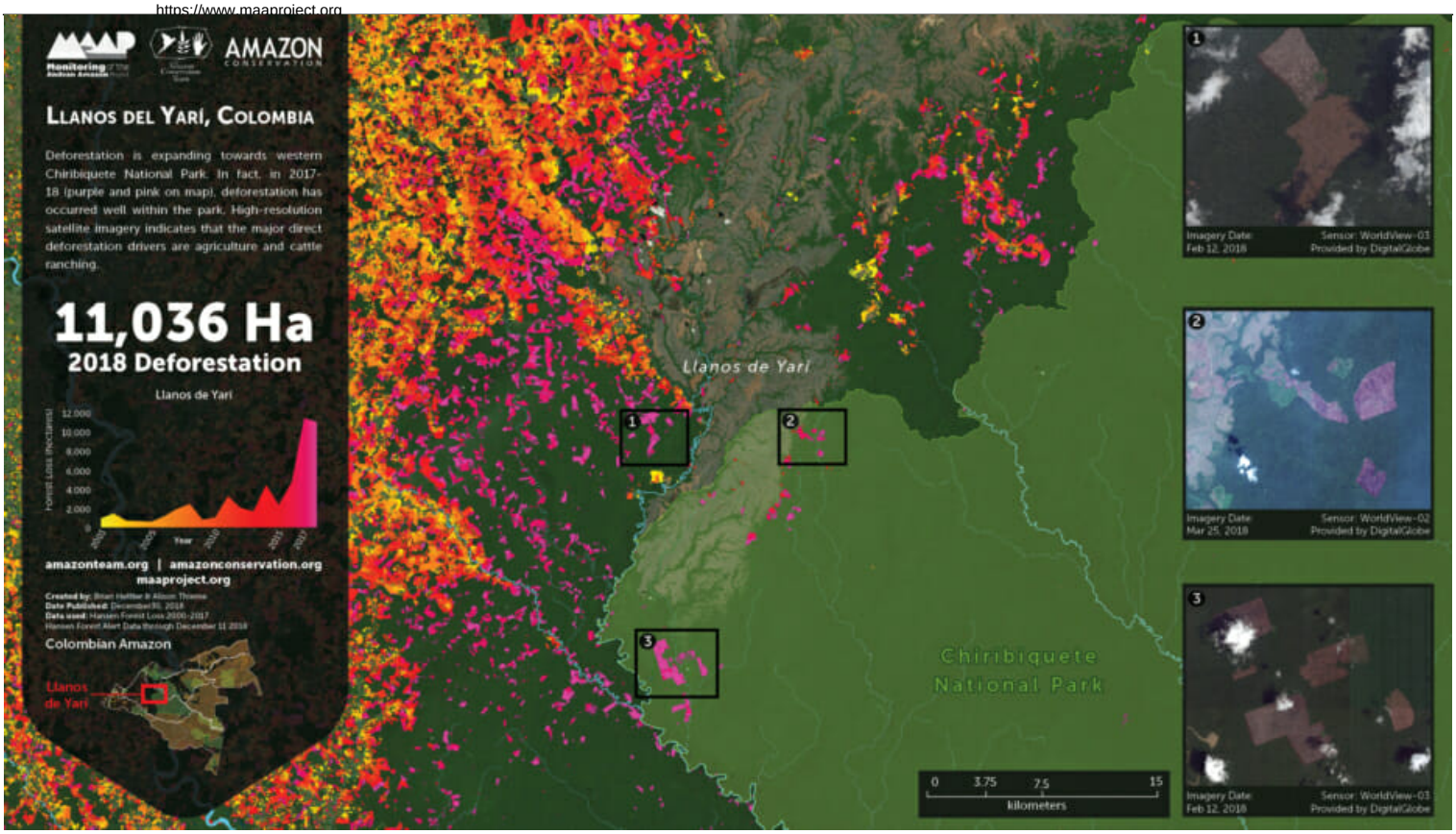

Zoom 1. Llanos de Yari. Click to enlarge. Data: DigitalGlobe, UMD/GLAD, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA, PNN, SIAC, RAISG

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.

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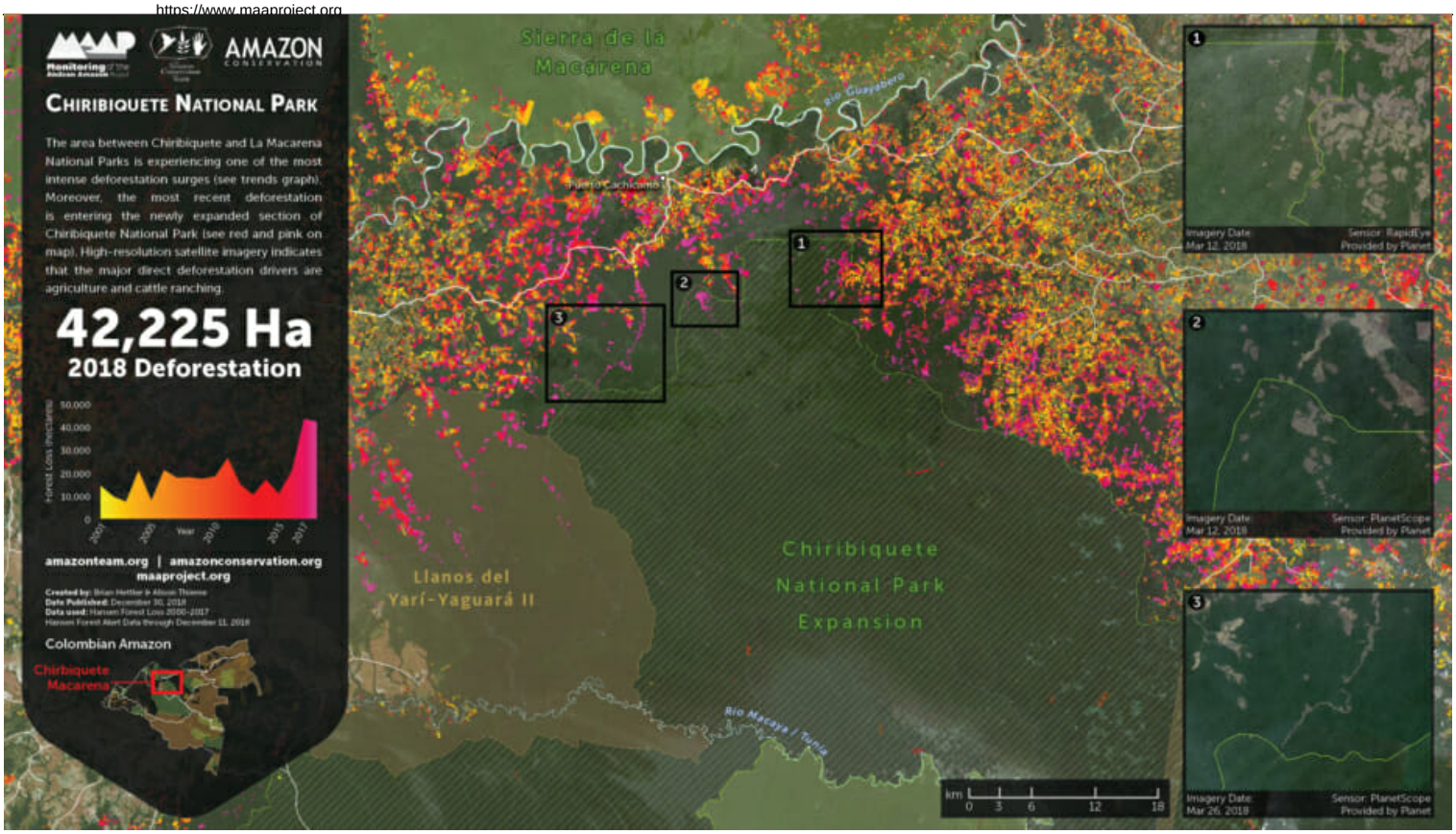

Zoom 2. Chiribiquete - La Macarena. Click to enlarge. Data: Planet, UMD/GLAD, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA, PNN, SIAC, RAISG.

Zoom 3: Tinigua National Park

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

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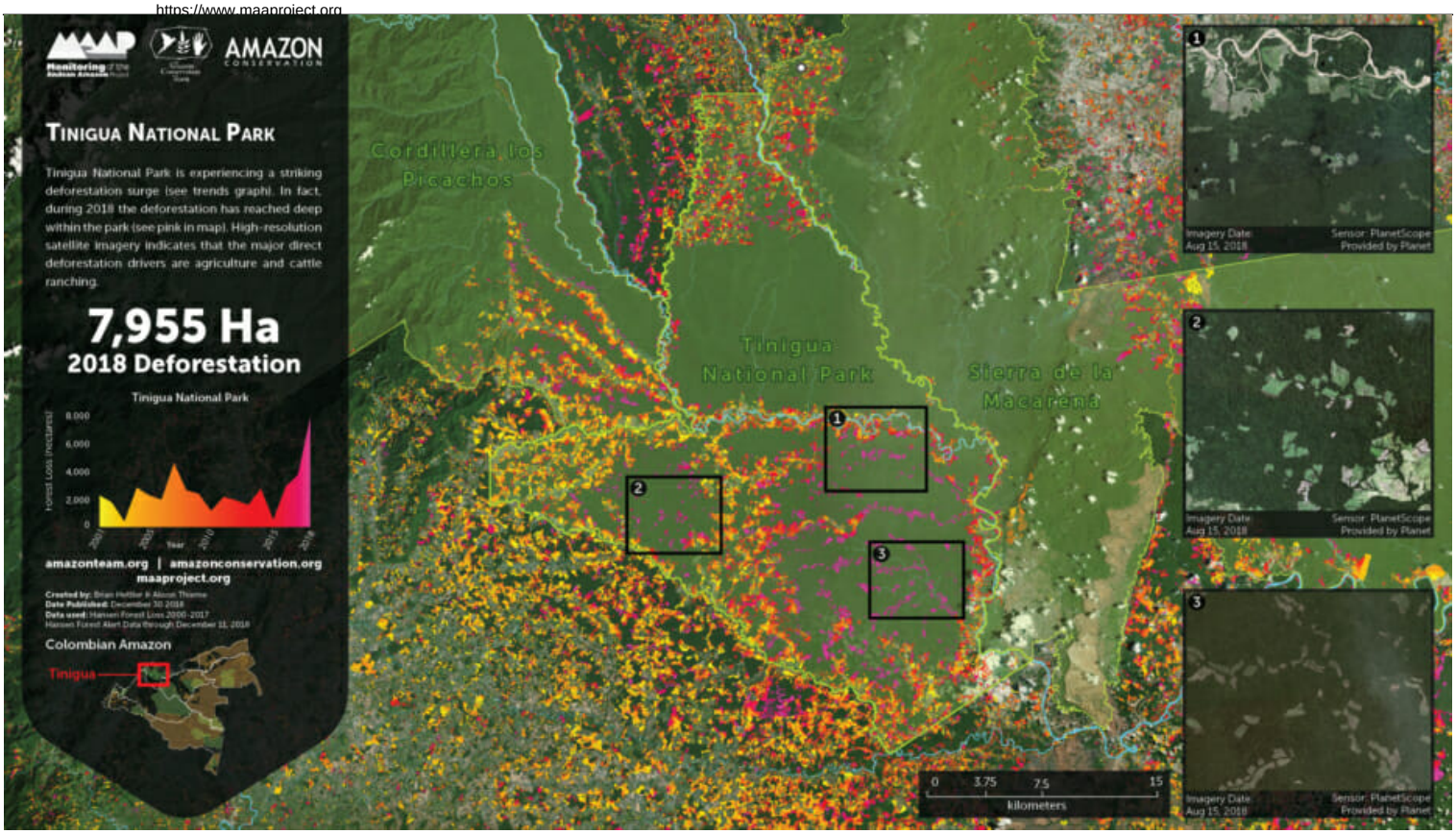

Zoom 3. Tinigua National Park. Click to enlarge. Data: Planet, UMD/GLAD, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA, PNN, SIAC, RAISG

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Citation

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