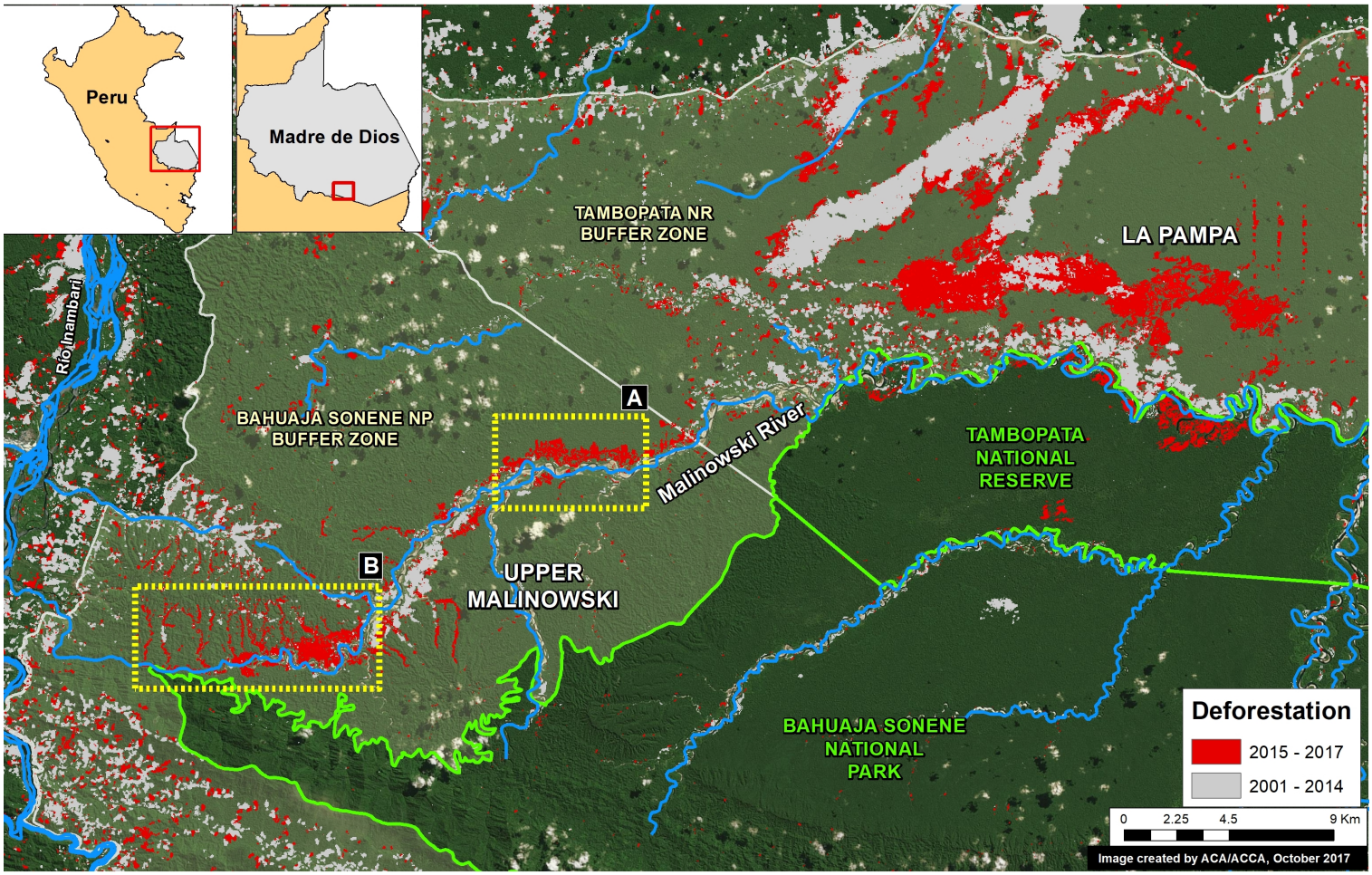
MAAP #72: New Gold Mining Deforestation Zone in Peruvian Amazon: the Upper Malinowski (Madre de Dios)

In a series of previous reports (MAAP # 60), we have described the dire **gold mining deforestation** in the southern Peruvian Amazon, most notably in the area known as "La Pampa" (see Base Map). However, over the past 3 years another critical area has emerged in the region: the **Upper Malinowski**. This area is located near the headwaters of the Malinowski River, upstream of La Pampa (see Base Map).

Here, we show **satellite images** of the rapid advance of gold mining deforestation in two sectors of the upper Malinowski. In total, we document the deforestation of **3,880 acres** (1,570 hectares) between 2015 and 2017 inside the buffer zone of the Bahuaja Sonene National Park.



Mapa Base. Datos: SERNANP, UMD/GLAD, MINAM/PNCB, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA

Upper Malinowski - Sector A

Sector A has experienced the rapid deforestation of 704 acres (285 hectares) over just the past 2 years. **Figure 72a** shows satellite images (courtesy of the company Planet) of this rapid mining deforestation between October 2015 (left panel) and October 2017 (right panel). In addition, we show a **very high resolution image** (0.32 meters) over an active part the sector (Inset A2); note the visible presence of mining camps and organized mining pits. There are no mining concessions in this sector, thus all mining activity is illegal.

2016. This PDF was generated from MAAPROJECT.org MAAP is developed by Amazon Conservation Association (ACA) and Conservación Amazónica (ACCA) All use is Open-Access, but must contain an attribution link back to maaproject.org or the citation at the end of the article.

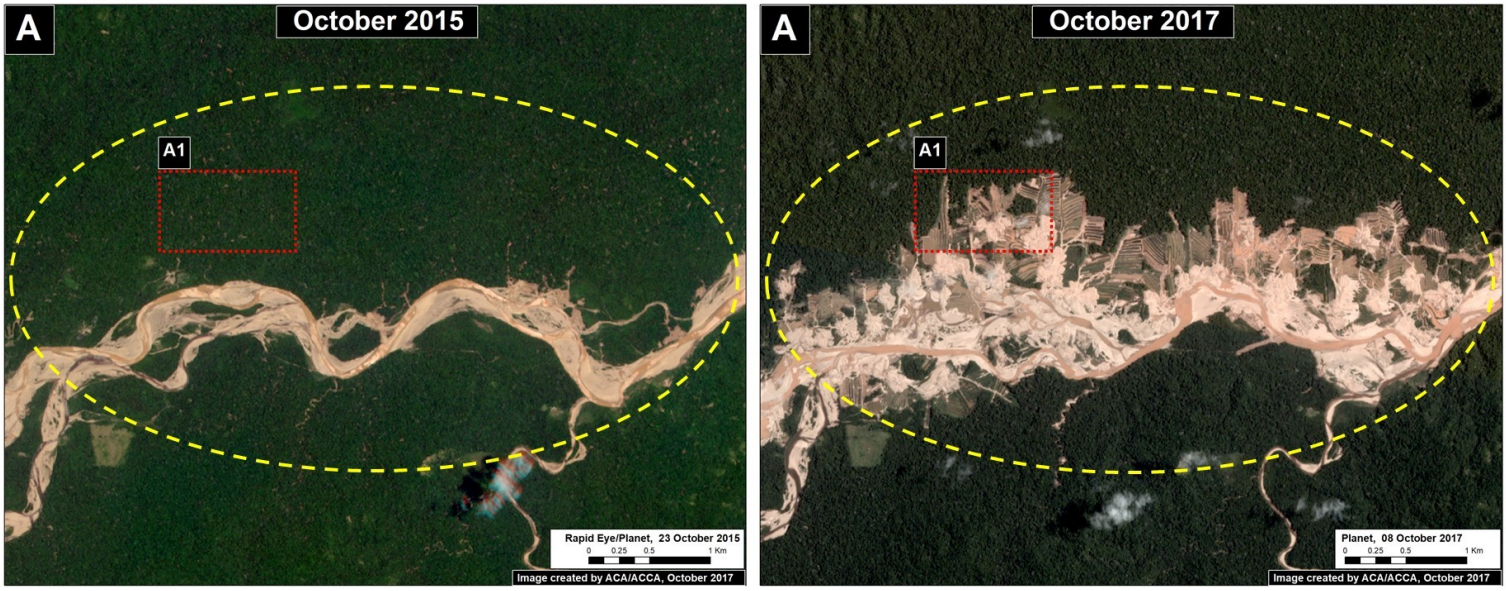


Image 72a. Data: Planet

Very High Resolution Zoom. Data: DigitalGlobe (Nextview)

Upper Malinowski - Sector B

Sector B has experienced the deforestation of 3,175 acres (1,285 hectares) over the past 3 years. **Figure 72b** shows satellite images (from the company Planet) of the mining-caused forest loss between 2014 (left panel) and 2017 (right panel).

2016. This PDF was generated from MAAPROJECT.org MAAP is developed by Amazon Conservation Association (ACA) and Conservación Amazónica (ACCA) All use is Open-Access, but must contain an attribution link back to maaproject.org or the citation at the end of the article.

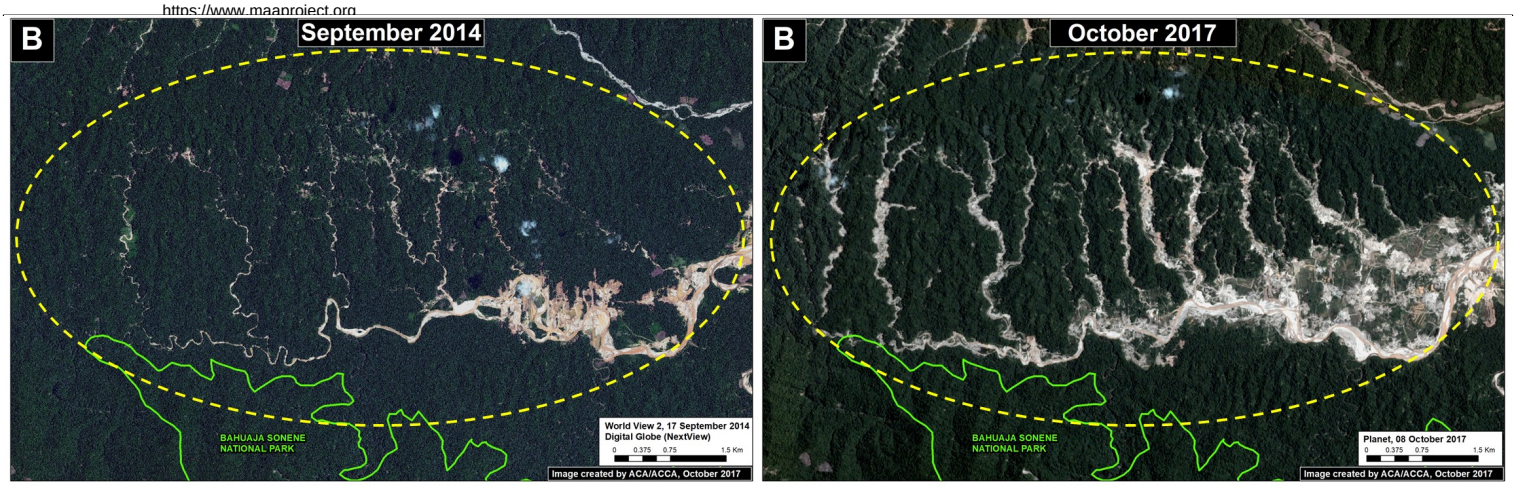


Imagen 72b. Planet

Coordinates

Sector A:
-13.052761, -70.164371

Sector B:
-13.120311, -70.268055

References

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

Citation

Finer M, Novoa S (2017) New Gold Mining Deforestation Zone: Upper Malinowski (Madre de Dios, Peru). MAAP: 72.

2016. This PDF was generated from MAAPROJECT.org MAAP is developed by Amazon Conservation Association (ACA) and Conservación Amazónica (ACCA) All use is Open-Access, but must contain an attribution link back to maaproject.org or the citation at the end of the article.