

AMAZONIA 2016

PROTECTED AREAS AND INDIGENOUS LANDS

The **Amazonia 2016** map published by RAISG (Amazon Georeferenced Socio-environmental Information Network) provides information on Protected Natural Areas (ANPs), Indigenous Lands (TIs) and deforestation.

The main purpose of this publication is to contribute to overcoming fragmented perspectives and to promote integrated regional, national and international initiatives and processes that contribute to the consolidation of protected areas and indigenous territories (45.2% of the region) as an important part of the conservation and sustainable use of Amazonian ecosystems. This publication is the result of an ongoing collaboration by civil society organizations in the Amazonian countries, who seek to systematize, improve and integrate their databases in order to construct an integrated perspective on the Amazon.

The work has developed around a common agenda for thematic analysis and the development of shared and decentralized information management protocols. It is a continuous exercise that resembles a real "jigsaw puzzle".

It is important to emphasize that in order to develop a compatible cartographic representation for the different countries, the specificities of each needed to be considered, so as to arrive at common categories. Similarly, international boundaries were adjusted around a common base to avoid information gaps or overlaps. In the case of protected natural areas, information was classified in accordance with a common attribute, the use category, while indigenous territories were classified both according to specific national categories and the existence (or otherwise) of some form of official recognition.

Since 2008, RAISG has prioritized the development of its analysis of deforestation so as to estimate forest loss throughout the region, this being an indicator of the speed of landscape transformation and a key element in the monitoring processes. At the time, existing data were fragmented and provided only partial coverage – even within countries – because they had been generated according to different conceptual and methodological approaches. Other characteristics of the heterogeneous origin of the data were differences in geographical scales, periods, and titles and subheadings. A common analytical framework, known as the RAISG Protocol, was therefore developed, based on standardized concepts and tools. The baseline of the study was the year 2000, on which analysis of the five-year periods 2005-2010 and 2010-2015 in respect of TIs and ANPs was conducted.

Note: RAISG has chosen to retain country names in their national language in all versions of the map.

DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON 2000-2015

Forests in the Amazon region continue to decline as a result of deforestation. However, analysis by RAISG reveals that between 2000 and 2015 the rate of deforestation showed a general tendency to decrease.

In the period under analysis, 238,900 km² of original forest cover were lost. Forest loss changed from 113,200 km² in the first five-year period, to 79,900 km² in the second period, and to 45,800 km² in the third. However, this trend is not homogenous across the region. Brasil - with the highest percentage of deforestation in the Amazon – and Bolivia showed a marked declining trend. In contrast, in the Venezuelan Amazon the rate of deforestation increased, almost doubling in the period 2010-2015 compared to 2005-2010. In the remaining countries of the region there is no clear trend; however, deforestation increased in the second five-year period and declined in the third period (Table 1), except for Guyane Française.

In the case of indigenous territories, deforestation shows a trend similar to that observed across Amazonia as a whole. Results for five-year periods show that deforestation decreased from 9,195 km² in the first period to 9,109 km² in the second, and to 6,586 km² in the third. An analysis by category of indigenous territory shows a lack of homogeneity in the trend, revealing that deforestation has increased in indigenous territories without official recognition and has declined in those officially recognized (Table 2). At the country level, in Brasil, Colombia and Ecuador, deforestation has tended to decline, while in Guyane Française and Venezuela it is on the rise. In the remaining countries, the trend is not homogeneous, with ups and downs in the five-year periods analysed.

In Protected Natural Areas (ANPs) there was also a decrease in deforestation during the last two five-year periods, both in direct use and in indirect use areas. However, it should be noted that in sub-national direct use ANPs and in national transitional use ANPs, deforestation increased in the second five-year period and decreased in the third. In the case of national indirect use ANPs, the rate of deforestation was reduced by about 25% over the three periods studied.

Finally, it should be noted that 83% of deforestation in the Amazon during the period 2000 to 2015 was concentrated in the areas outside TIs and ANPs, recalling that, in 2000, these areas contained the smaller proportion of the region's forests (just 43%). However, it is this unit of analysis which shows the most marked fall in deforestation between the first and the third five-year periods (respectively 97,519 km², 64,965 km², and 35,250 km²), and it is this that has determined the downward trend of deforestation in the region, given the sizeable proportion of the loss that it represents. Much of this reduction in deforestation outside TIs and ANPs has occurred in Brasil, the country which accounts for 64% of the Amazon.

It needs to be pointed out that the TI and ANP layer considered in the analysis covering the whole period includes new areas resulting from revisions made during the period. These revisions have resulted in new figures for TIs and ANPs for the period 2000-2010, compared with those previously published in 2015.

Table 1. Deforestation in Amazon countries (km ²)						
Countries	Surface of original forest cover	Cumulative deforestation until 2000	Deforestation rate			
			2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	
Bolivia	323,474	13,552	4,615	3,735	3,035	
Brasil	3,552,125	463,620	94,989	58,767	29,627	
Colombia	456,607	32,612	3,445	6,092	3,360	
Ecuador	96,073	9,020	1,054	1,090	957	
Guyana	192,405	3,097	785	821	303	
Guyane Française	83,195	1,539	295	257	340	
Perú	763,951	58,069	6,919	7,371	5,167	
Suriname	150,254	5,664	194	263	231	
Venezuela	394,116	9,852	889	1,523	2,781	
total Amazonia	6,012,201	597,024	113,186	79,918	45,802	

Figure 1. Deforestation in the Amazon, by country and five-year period (%)

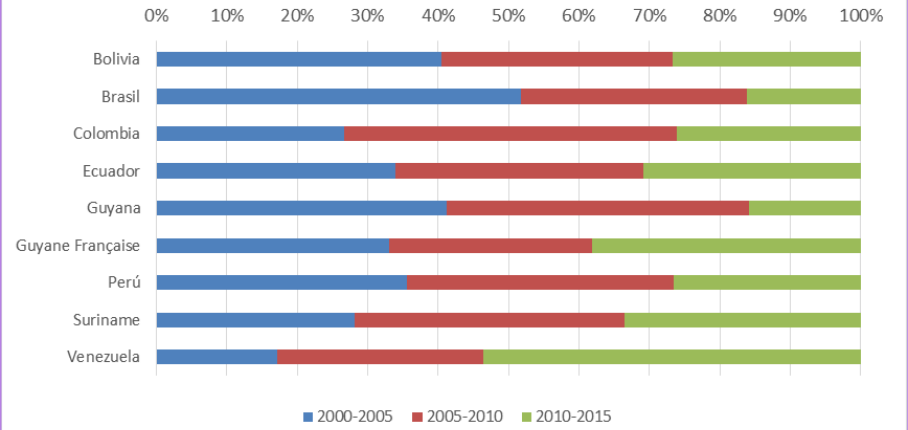


Figure 2. Distribution of estimated original forest cover and deforestation in the period 2000-2015, inside and outside of Amazon PNAs and TIs

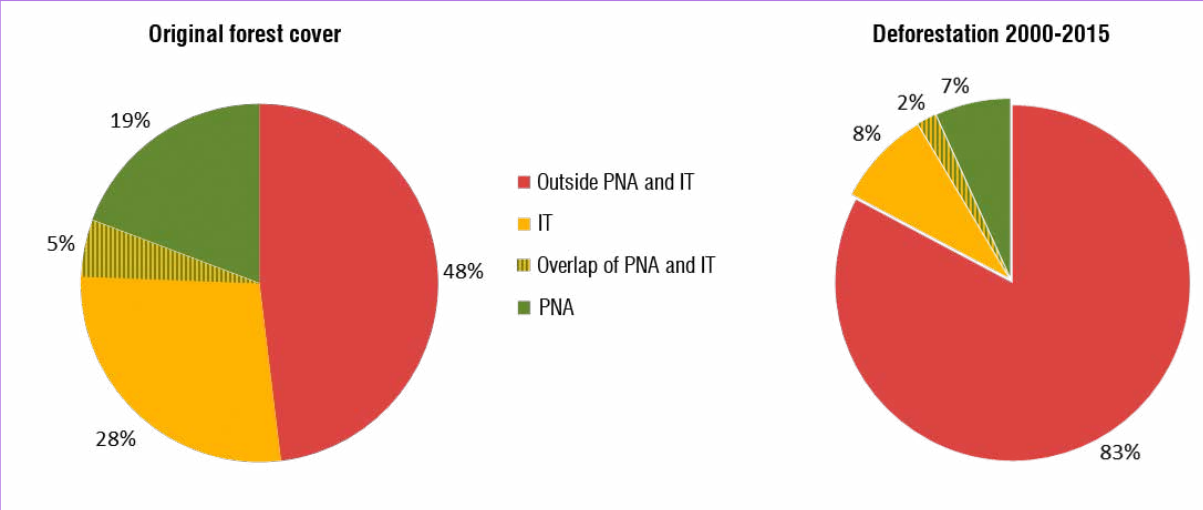
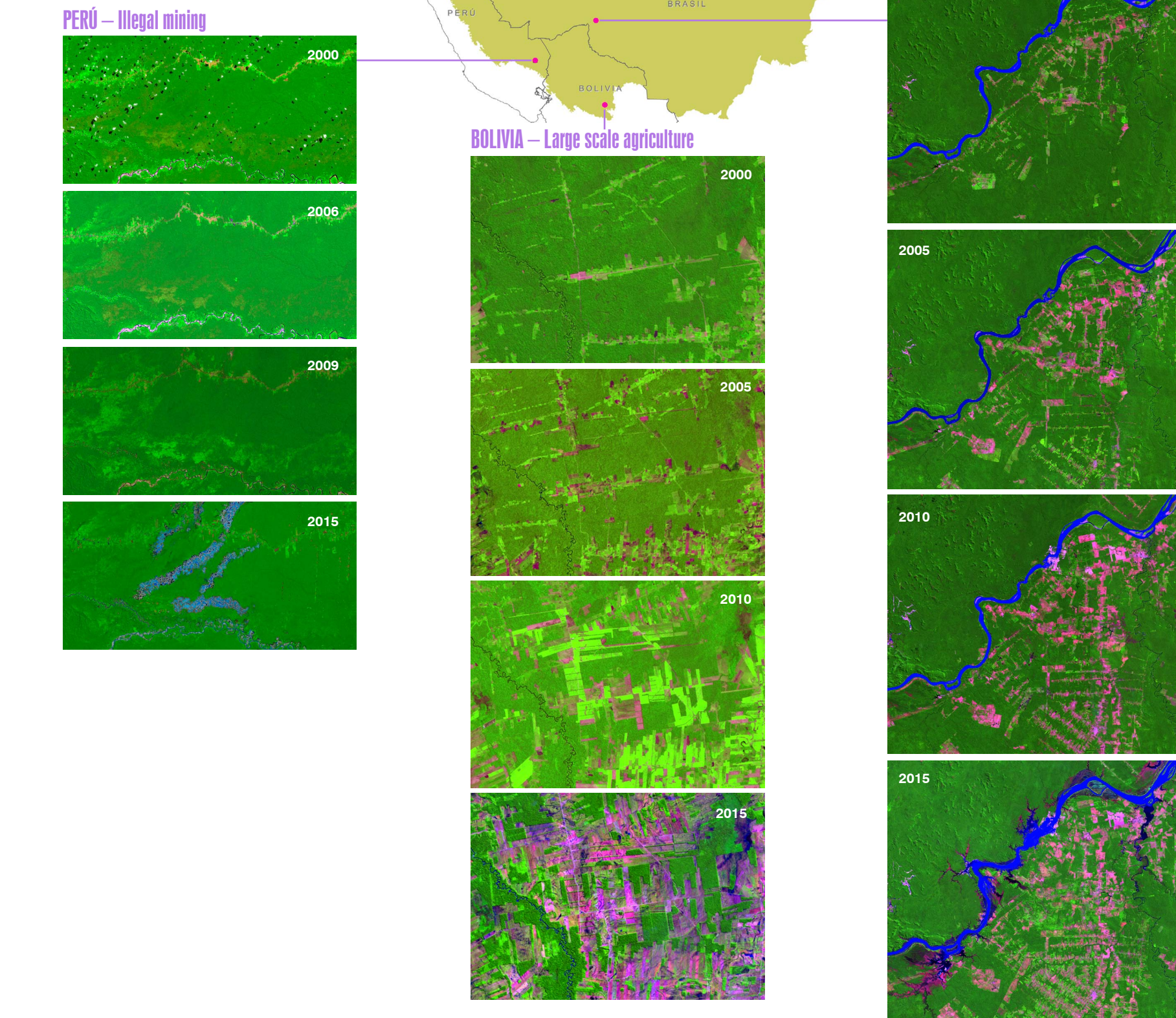
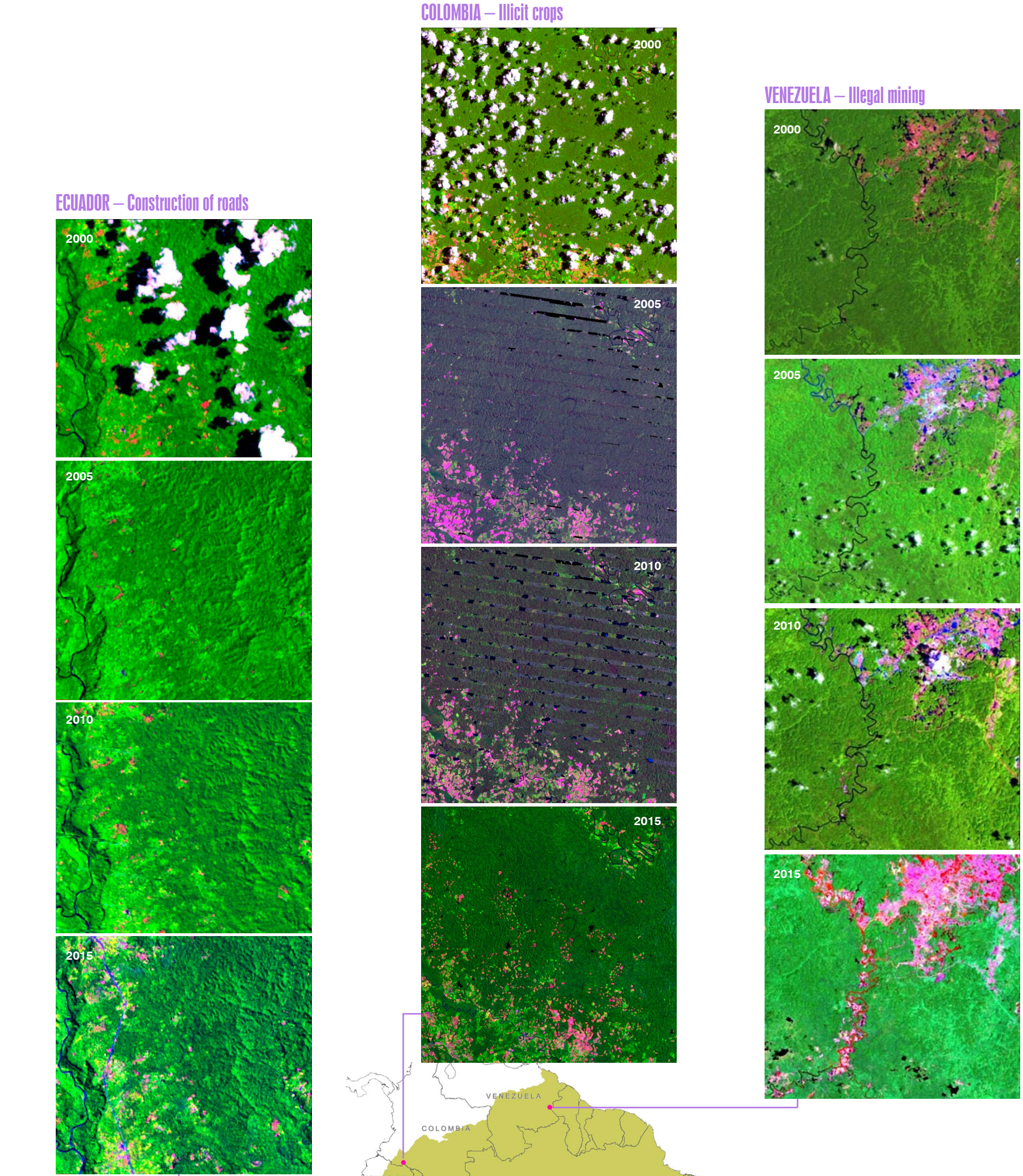


Table 2. Amazon deforestation by period (km ²)						
Unit	Surface of original forest cover	Cumulative deforestation until 2000	Deforestation rate			
			2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	
Outside PNA and IT	2,890,221	550,015	97,519	64,965	35,250	
Indigenous Territories	1,965,284	31,141	9,195	9,109	6,586	
IT not officially recognized	355,301	6,391	976	1,250	1,501	
Proposed Indigenous Reservation	41,265	354	16	32	28	
Territorial Reservation	30,569	199	47	35	12	
IT officially recognized	1,538,149	24,196	8,156	7,792	5,045	
Protected Natural Areas	1,466,120	20,431	7,888	7,088	5,468	
State/departamental-direct use	296,676	2,190	1,482	1,581	1,349	
State/departamental-indirect use	104,025	607	453	200	300	
National-direct use	369,410	6,875	2,561	2,376	1,686	
National-indirect use	652,374	6,153	2,903	2,165	1,661	
National-direct and indirect use	4,067	16	1	11	3	
National-translational use	39,349	4,589	487	754	469	

Causes of deforestation in the region

The main causes of deforestation in the Amazon region continue to be mechanized agriculture, small-scale agriculture and livestock. Agriculture shows up as the direct cause in almost all countries. In Perú, Guyana, Guyane Française, Suriname and Venezuela mining (legal and illegal) is also revealed as a direct cause. Deforestation for illicit crops should also be added to the list in the case of Colombia. In the case of Brasil, the construction of hydroelectric plants has caused deforestation in the extensive areas flooded by dams.

The construction and expansion of roads, mainly rural roads and highways, which favour the establishment or creation of new settlements, needs to be included among the current direct causes of deforestation in the region. In countries such as Ecuador and Perú, these are expected to be important contributors to forest loss in the coming years.



METHODOLOGY OF THE ANALYSIS OF DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON

The analysis of deforestation in the period 2000-2013 was carried out in accordance with the methodological protocol developed by RAISG member institutions. This protocol is based on ImgTools software, created by Imazon, which enables processing of Landsat 5, 7 and 8 satellite images. ImgTools is software written in the IDL (*Interactive Data Language*) programming language, which processes Landsat images using an NDFI (Normalized Difference Fraction Index) spectral mixture model and performs classification by means of decision trees. Satellite images with the lowest possible percentage of cloud cover are acquired from USGS (*US Geological Survey*) servers.

For the analysis of the period 2013-2015, the methodological protocol migrated to the Google Earth Engine (GEE) platform, a Google service that offers a large collection of Landsat satellite images at various levels of processing. The new protocol demanded an interface in the GEE platform for the development of codes that would make it robust enough for the construction of a large library of algorithms for processing satellite images. The updated methodological protocol allows processing of all images in a "Google Cloud Computer" computer cloud, which eliminates the need for downloading huge amounts of data. The images used are in the L1T level of geometric correction, which allows the use of several images from the same region to compose a temporal mosaic and reduce the areas with cloud presence. The protocol also includes auxiliary layers such as elevation, which is incorporated mainly to facilitate the differentiation between deforested areas and shadows generated by the relief, which frequently occurred with the previous method and required more time and effort in editing the classification.

With regard to Brasil, analysis of the period 2013-2015 combines information processed with ImgTools and the GEE platform. This is because there was considerable progress in analysing deforestation with ImgTools for this country when migrating to GEE. It is important to note that these are not two different methodologies, but rather that both protocols are based on the same processing method and image classification, although GEE is higher version, which is why migration to this platform has meant a breakthrough for RAISG.

Note on Estimated Original Forest Cover: The original forest cover information estimated in the 2015 RAISG study ("Deforestation in the Amazon 1970-2013") was made for each country based on the RAISG Amazonian boundary, from which were subtracted areas of bodies of water and areas classified as "non-forest" for the year 2000, according to the RAISG methodology. Now the estimated original forest cover has been obtained from the "forest" class resulting from the classification made by each country for the year 2000, following the RAISG methodology and generating a mosaic for the whole Amazon region.

Amazonia and human population	Bolivia	Brasil	Colombia	Ecuador	Guyana	Guyane Française	Perú	Suriname	Venezuela	total Amazonia
Total population of the country (nº of inhabitants)	10,027,262	190,755,799	48,747,632	16,595,399	751,000	208,171	31,151,643	492,829	27,227,930	
Amazon population (nº of inhabitants)	1,476,539	23,654,036	1,954,066	846,365	214,969	208,171	4,362,450	492,829	1,725,120	35,470,906
Total area of the country (km ²)	1,098,581	8,514,876	1,141,748	248,542	214,969	86,504	1,291,585	163,820	916,445	13,677,070
Amazon area of the country (km ²)	480,341	5,006,316	480,164	116,270	214,969	86,504	782,820	163,820	453,915	7,788,119
% Area Amazonia within the country	6.2%	58.3%	6.2%	1.5%	2.8%	1.1%	10.1%	2.1%	8.6%	56.9%

Protected Natural Areas and Indigenous Territories in Amazonia ¹ - calculated on the basis of the political boundaries of Amazonia by country ² - Information on protected areas and indigenous territories updated on June, 2016																				
Protected Natural Areas in Amazonia (km ²)																				
area by category (km ²) deducting areas superimposed on another more restrictive category ²																				
	Bolivia		Brasil ³		Colombia ⁴		Ecuador ⁵		Guyana		Guyane Française		Perú		Suriname		Venezuela		total Amazonia	
	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazonia total
DIRECT/INDIRECT USE Protection of biodiversity, geological and scenic landscape (aesthetic attributes) appropriate for tourism, education and research. Occupation by traditional populations not permitted, with the exceptions of Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guiana and Brazil.																				
National	39,786	8.3%	344,389	6.9%	94,239	19.5%	33,524	28.6%	6,640	3.1%	23,592	27.3%	92,364	11.8%	20,401	12.5%	170,106	37.5%	825,041	10.6%
State/Departmental			118,347	2.4%			161	0.1%		0.0%	2,618	3.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	121,125	1.6%
total	39,786	8.3%	462,735	9.2%	94,239	19.5%	33,684	28.6%	6,640	3.1%	26,210	30.3%	92,364	11.8%	20,401	12.5%	170,106	37.5%	946,166	12.1%
DIRECT USE Resource protection compatible with controlled use in accordance with management plans.																				
National						0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	35,584	41.1%	60,826	7.8%	5,646	3.4%		0.0%	440,347	5.7%
State/Departmental						0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	24,993	3.2%		0.0%		0.0%	364,574	4.7%
total	103,426	21.5%	564,370	11.3%		0.0%	-	0.0%		0.0%	35,584	41.1%	85,819	11.0%	5,646	3.4%		0.0%	794,845	10.2%
TRANSITIONAL USE Reserved forest area that may or may not be converted into protected area or concession as a result of further study.																				
National		0.0%		0.0%		373,490	77.3%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	13,684	1.7%			0.0%	387,174	5.0%
State/Departmental		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%			0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%			0.0%	0	0.0%
total		0.0%		0.0%		373,490	77.3%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	13,684	1.7%		0.0%	0.0%	387,174	5.0%
DIRECT/INDIRECT USE Areas of double categories.																				
National	434	0.1%		0.0%		0.0%	10,076	8.7%	3,717	1.7%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	14,227	0.2%
State/Departmental				0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	0	0.0%
total	434	0.1%		0.0%		0.0%	10,076	8.7%	3,717	1.7%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	14,227	0.2%
total for Amazonia/country	143,646	29.9%	1,027,105	20.5%	94,239	19.5%	43,760	37.6%	10,357	4.8%	61,794	71.4%	191,867	24.5%	26,047	15.9%	170,106	37.5%	1,768,922	22.7%

Indigenous Territories in Amazonia (km ²) ¹⁰																				
area (km ²)																				
	Bolivia		Brasil		Colombia		Ecuador ¹¹		Guyana		Guyane Française		Perú		Suriname		Venezuela		total Amazonia	
	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazonia total
IT officially recognized	86,961	18.2%	1,156,483	23.1%	262,957	54.4%	44,510	38.3%	31,671	14.7%	7,068	8.2%	142,394	18.2%	ND		11,865	2.6%	1,745,909	22.4%
IT not officially recognized	40,821	8.5%		0.0%		0.0%	8,804	7.6%		0.0%		0.0%	11,447	1.5%	ND		312,967	66.9%	374,009	4.8%
Territorial Reservation		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	11,876	10.2%		0.0%		0.0%	29,132	3.7%	ND			0.0%	41,008	0.5%
Proposed Territorial Reservation		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	42,170	5.4%	ND			0.0%	42,170	0.5%
total for Amazonia/country	129,782	27.0%	1,156,483	23.1%	262,957	54.4%	65,190	56.1%	31,671	14.7%	7,068	8.2%	225,143	26.8%	ND	0.0%	324,832	71.6%	2,203,126	28.3%

Protected Natural Areas and Indigenous Territories in Amazonia (km ²) - Summary																				
	Bolivia		Brasil		Colombia		Ecuador		Guyana		Guyane Française		Perú		Suriname		Venezuela		total Amazonia	
	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazon region of the country	area	% of the Amazonia total
Protected Natural Areas	143,646	29.9%	1,027,105	20.5%	94,239	19.5%	43,760	37.6%	10,357	4.8%	61,794	71.4%	191,867	24.5%	26,047	15.9%	170,106	37.5%	1,768,922	22.7%
Indigenous Territories	129,782	27.0%	1,156,483	23.1%	262,957	54.4%	65,190	56.1%	31,671	14.7%	7,068	8.2%	225,143	26.8%	ND		324,832	71.6%	2,203,126	28.3%
Overlap between PNA and IT	47,002	9.8%	101,662	2.0%	31,765	6.6%	19,470	16.7%	997	0.5%	6,289	7.3%	32,125	4.1%	ND		166,641	36.7%	405,951	5.2%
Areas with no overlap	226,426	47.1%	2,081,926	41.6%	325,431	67.4%	89,480	77.0%	41,031	19.1%	62,573	72.3%	384,885	48.2%	26,047	15.9%	328,297	72.3%	3,566,097	45.8%