

# MAAP #116: Amazon Gold Mining, Part 2: Brazil

April 6, 2020



(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/maaproject.org-maap-116-amazon-gold-mining-part-2-brazil-Basemap-BrazilAmz-Mining2017-2019-Eng-300dpi-v4-scaled.jpg>)

*Base Map. Major gold mining deforestation zones across the Amazon. Data: MAAP.*

We present the second part of our series on **Amazon gold mining**, with a focus on the **Brazil\***

Specifically, we focus on mining in **indigenous territories** in the Brazilian Amazon.

Extractive activities, such as gold mining, are constitutionally not permitted on indigenous lands, but the Bolsonaro administration is advancing a bill (<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/02/bolsonaro-sends-congress-bill-to-open-indigenous-lands-to-mining-fossil-fuels/>) (PL 191) that would reverse this.

The **Base Map** indicates three Brazilian indigenous territories where we identified recent major gold mining deforestation:

- A. **Munduruku (Pará)**
- B. **Kayapó (Pará)**
- C. **Yanomami (Roraima)**

We documented the gold mining deforestation of **10,245 hectares** (25,315 acres) across all three indigenous territories over the past three years (2017 – 2019). That is the equivalent of **14,000 soccer fields**.

Below, see more detailed data, including a series of **satellite GIFs** of the recent gold mining deforestation in each territory.

\*Part 1 looked at the **Peruvian Amazon** (see MAAP #115 ([https://www.maaprogram.org/2020/mining\\_frontiers\\_peru/](https://www.maaprogram.org/2020/mining_frontiers_peru/))). For information on Suriname, see this report from Amazon Conservation Team (<https://www.amazonteam.org/maps/suriname-gold/>). For all other countries see this resource from RAISG (<https://mineria.amazoniasocioambiental.org/>).

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## Mining Deforestation Increasing

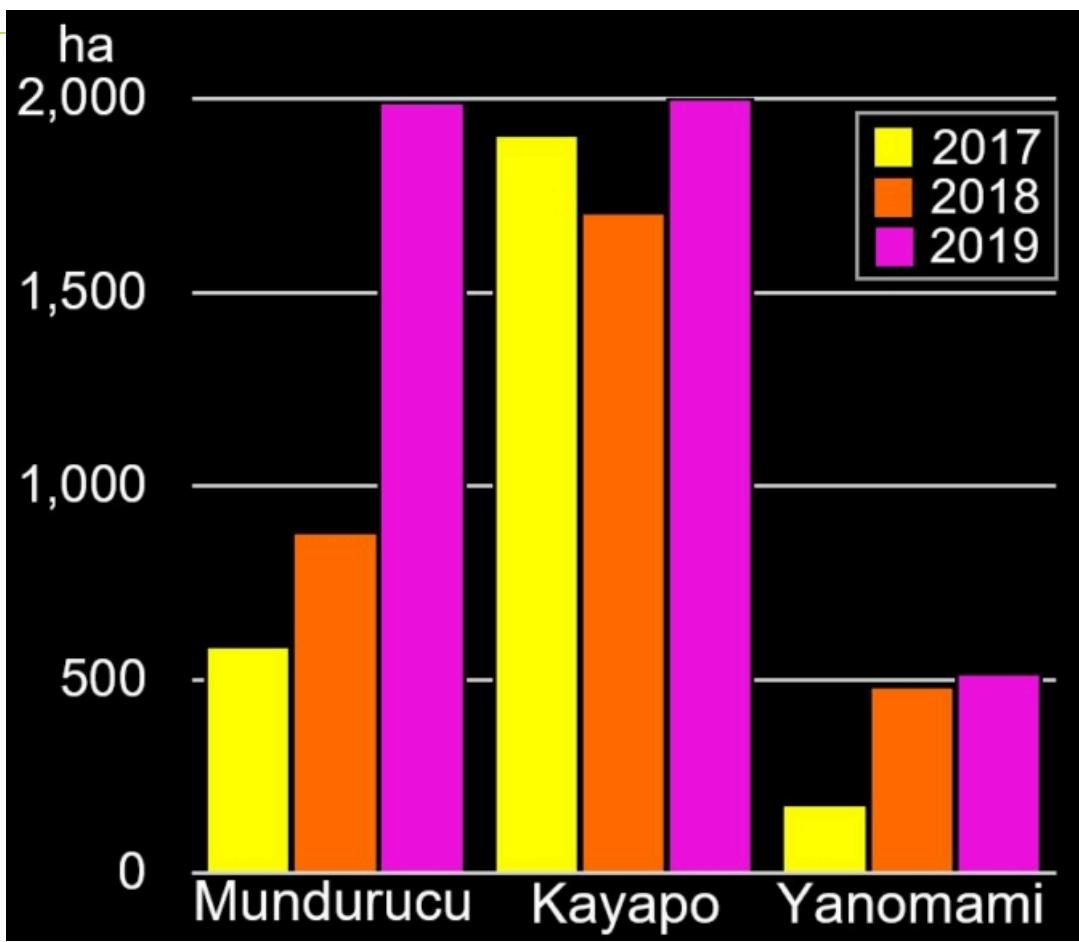
In 2019, all three territories experienced an increase in gold mining deforestation.

In **Munduruku Territory**, we documented the loss of **3,456 hectares** due to mining activity between 2017 and 2019. Note the major spike in 2019, where mining deforestation reached 2,000 hectares.

In **Kayapó Territory**, we documented the loss of **5,614 hectares** between 2017 and 2019. Note that mining deforestation also reached 2,000 hectares in 2019.

In **Yanomami Territory**, we documented the loss of **1,174 hectares** between 2017 and 2019. Note that mining deforestation reached 500 hectares in 2019.

Overall, 44% (4,500 hectares) of the gold mining deforestation occurred in 2019, indicating an increasing trend.



(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/maaproject.org-maap-116-amazon-gold-mining-part-2-brazil-Mining-IT-Brazil-2017-2019-v2.jpg>)

*Graph 1. Gold mining deforestation in three indigenous territories in the Brazilian Amazon.*

## A. Munduruku (Pará)

The GIF below shows an example of gold mining deforestation in Munduruku Territory between 2017 and 2019.



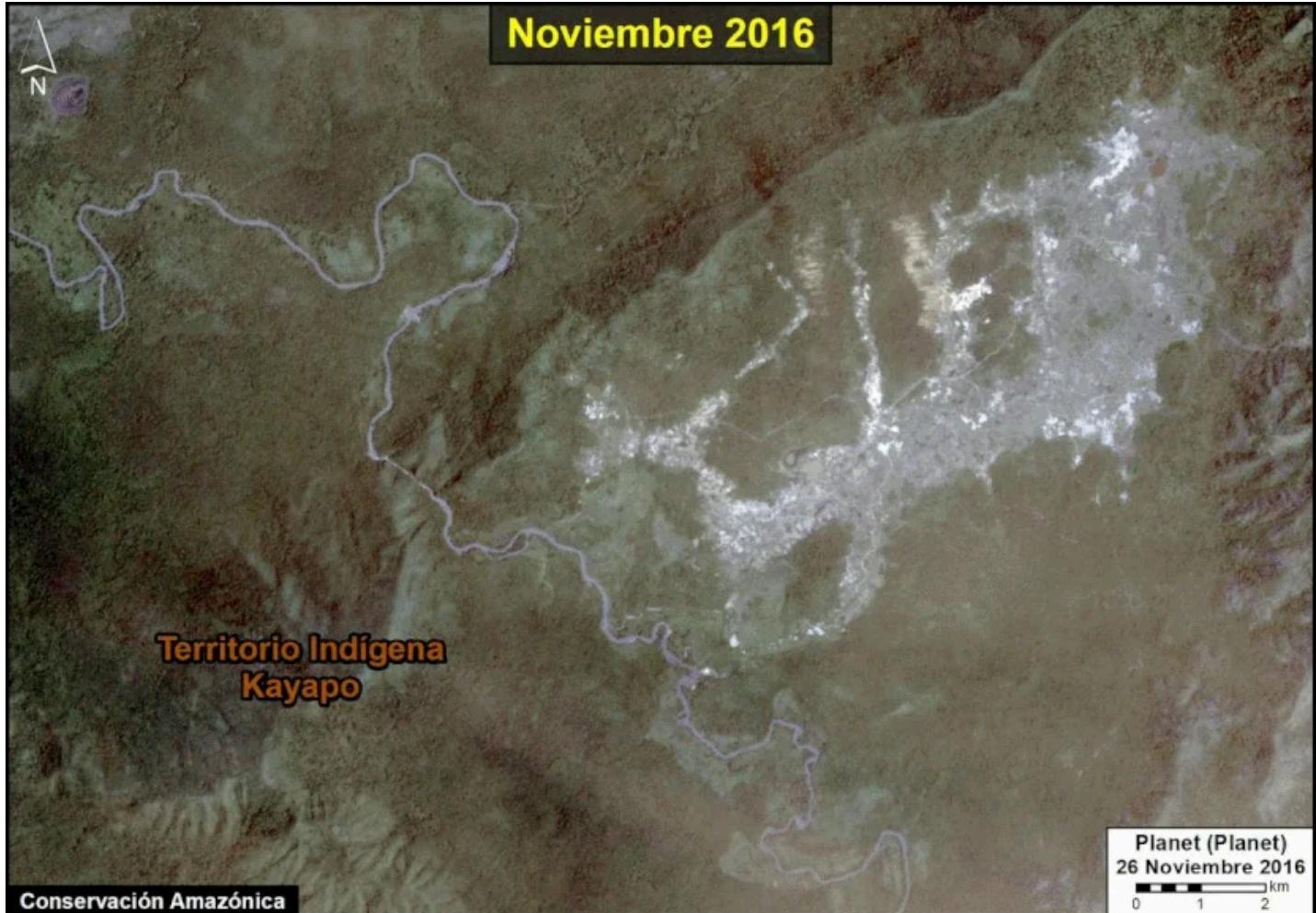
Conservación Amazónica

(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/maaproject.org-maap-116-amazon-gold-mining-part-2-brazil-ezgif.com-gif-maker-mundu-1.gif>)

*Gold mining deforestation in Munduruku Territory between 2017 and 2019. Data: Planet, MAAP.*

## B. Kayapó (Pará)

The GIF below shows an example of gold mining deforestation in Kayapó Territory between 2017 and 2019.



(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/maaproject.org-maap-116-amazon-gold-mining-part-2-brazil-ezgif.com-gif-maker-kayapo.gif>)

*Gold mining deforestation in Kayapó Territory between 2017 and 2019. Data: Planet, MAAP.*

## C. Yanomami (Roraima)

The GIF below shows an example of gold mining deforestation in Yanomami Territory between 2017 and 2019.



Conservación Amazónica

Planet (Planet)  
19 Octubre 2016  
km  
0 1 2

(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/maaproject.org-maap-116-amazon-gold-mining-part-2-brazil-ezgif.com-gif-maker-Yanomami.gif>)

*Gold mining deforestation in Yanomami Territory between 2017 and 2019. Data: Planet, MAAP.*

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## Annex: Detailed Territory Maps

Below see detailed gold mining deforestation maps for all three Brazilian indigenous territories detailed in this report. Click each image to enlarge.

(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/maaproject.org-maap-116-amazon-gold-mining-part-2-brazil-Anexo-A-Munduruku-Mining2017-2019-200dpi-v4.jpg>)

*Gold mining deforestation in Munduruku Territory between 2017 and 2019. Data: MAAP. Click to enlarge.*

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(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/maaproject.org-maap-116-amazon-gold-mining-part-2-brazil-Anexo-B-Kayapo-Mining2017-2019-200dpi-v1.jpg>)

*Gold mining deforestation in Kayapó Territory between 2017 and 2019. Data: MAAP. Click to enlarge.*

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(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/maaproject.org-maap-116-amazon-gold-mining-part-2-brazil-Anexo-C-Yanomami-Mining2017-2019-200dpi-v1.jpg>)

*Gold mining deforestation in Yanomami Territory between 2017 and 2019. Data: MAAP. Click to enlarge.*

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## **Citation**

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