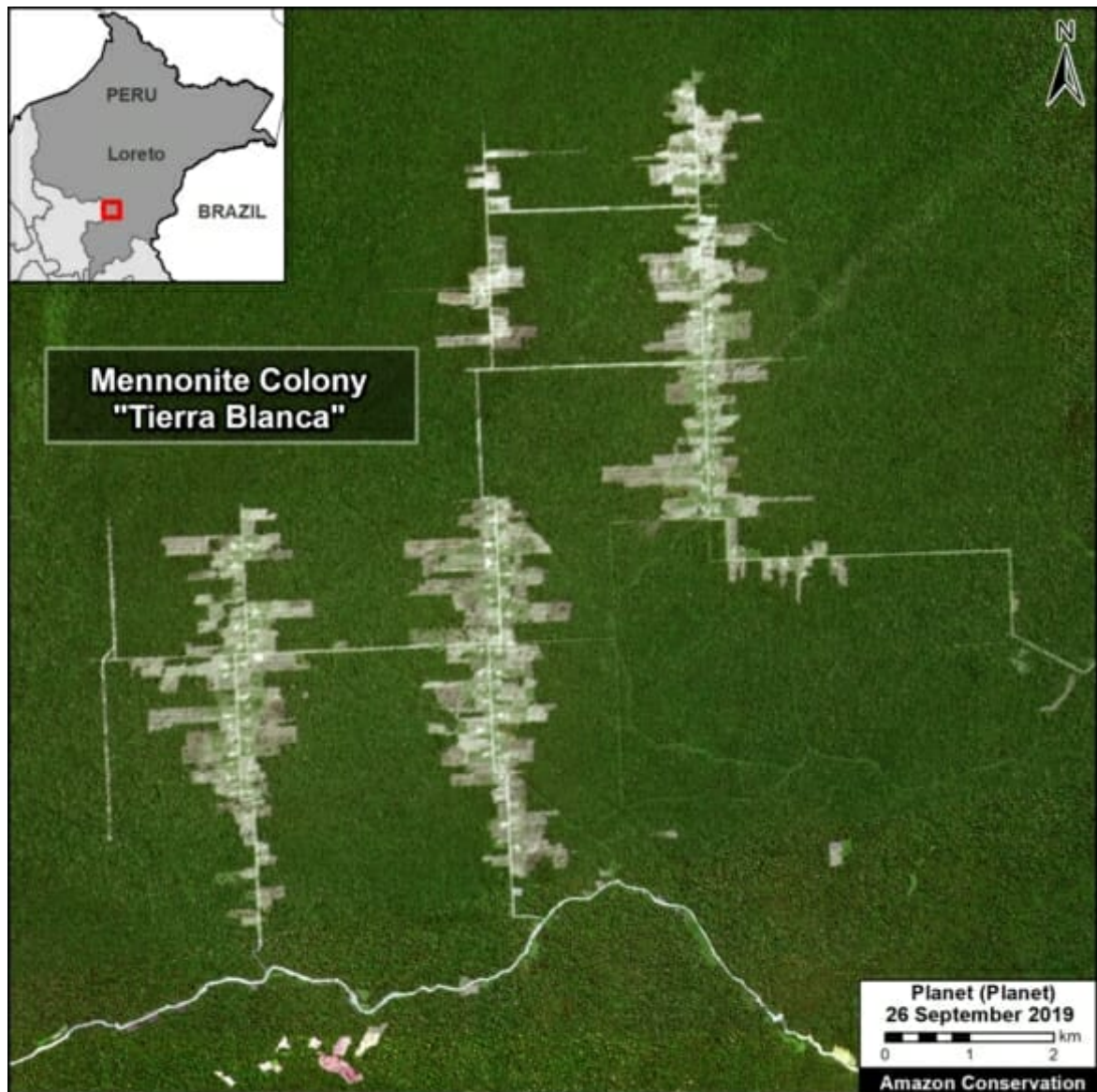


MAAP #112: Mennonite Colonies – New Deforestation Driver in the Amazon

October 18, 2019



(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/maaproject.org-maap-112-mennonite-colonies-new-deforestation-driver-in-the-amazon-TierraBlanca-lmg-26Sep2019-200dpi-Eng.jpg>)

Time-lapse deforestation in the "Tierra Blanca" Mennonite colony in Loreto, Peru. Data: Planet.

The **Mennonites**, a religious (Christian) group often dedicated to organized agriculture, are increasingly inhabiting the western **Amazon** (Peru and Bolivia).

Here, we reveal the recent deforestation of **18,500 acres** (7,500 hectares) in three Mennonite colonies (see the Base Map below).

The two colonies in **Peru** (**Tierra Blanca and Masisea**) are new, causing the deforestation of 6,200 acres since 2017 (including 3,500 acres in 2019) in the Loreto and Ucayali regions.

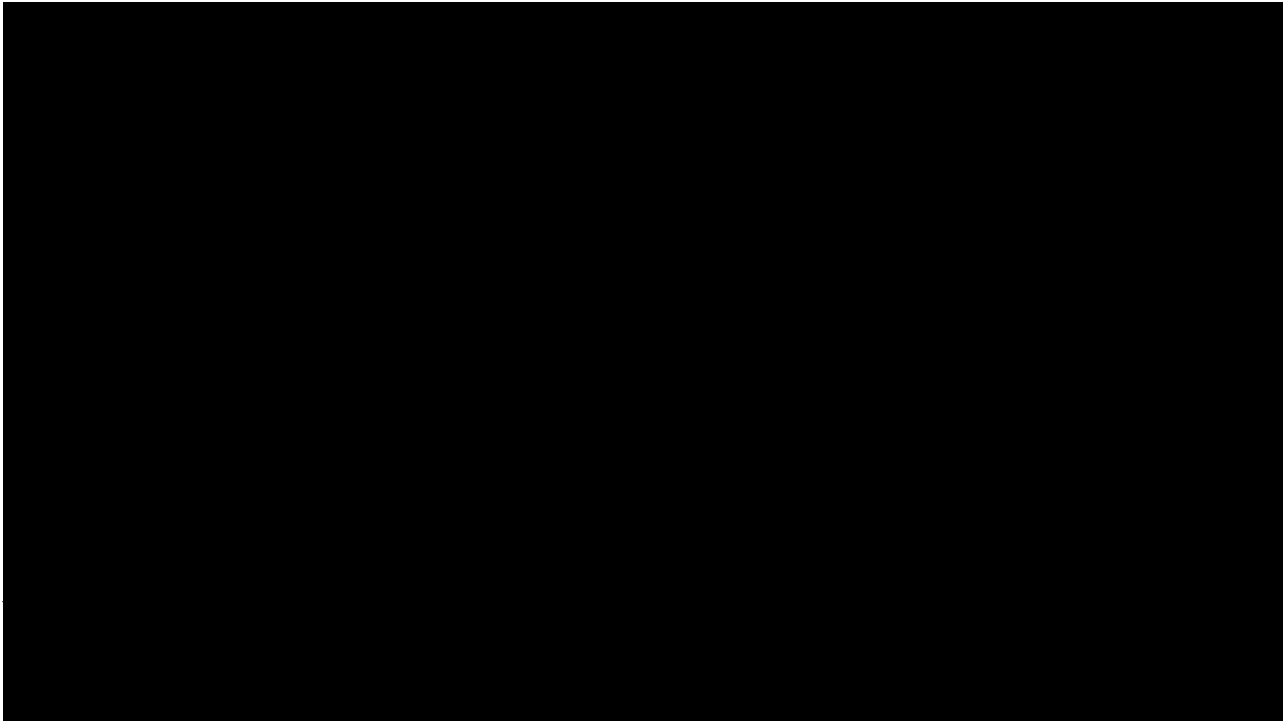
The colony in **Bolivia** (**Río Negro**) is older, but deforestation recently began to increase again, causing the deforestation of 12,350 acres since 2017 in the department of Beni.

Next, we present a series of **satellite image videos** showing the deforestation in the three Mennonite colonies.

Tierra Blanca (Perú)

The Mennonite colony referred to here as “**Tierra Blanca**” is located in southern Loreto region, near the town of Tierra Blanca.

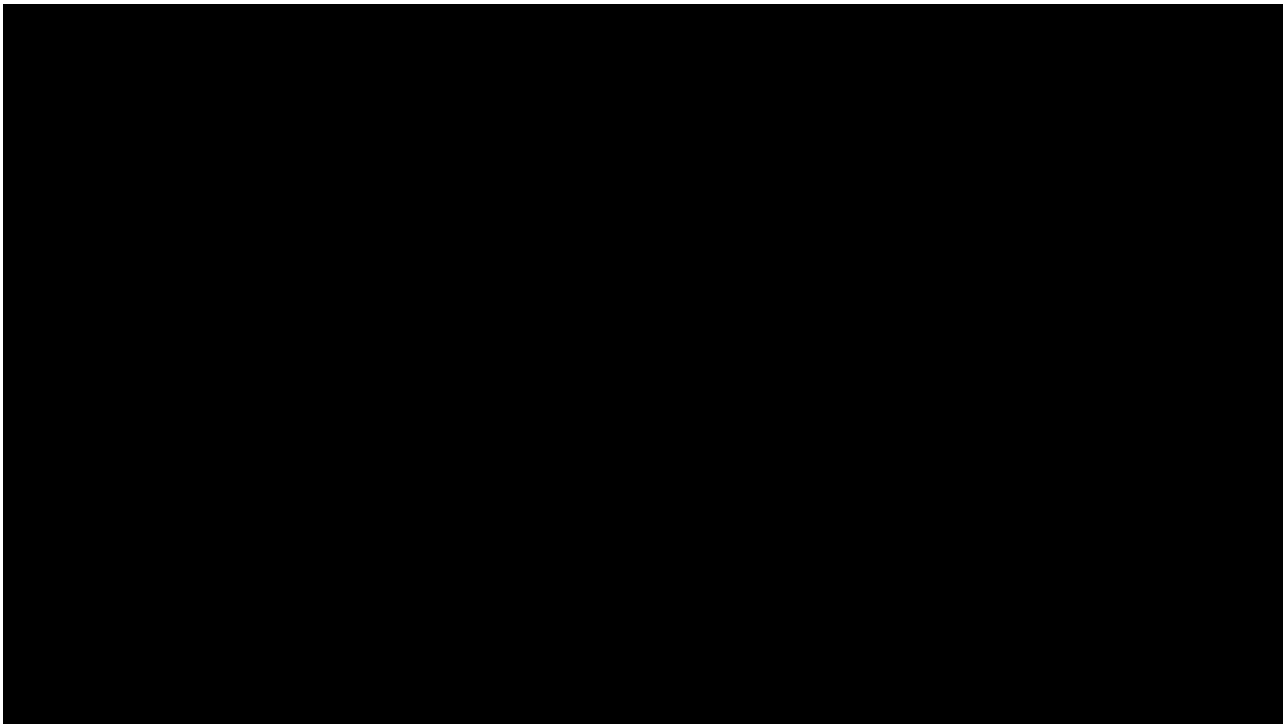
Video A shows the deforestation of **4,200 acres** in the Tierra Blanca colony since 2017 (Planet link (https://www.planet.com/stories/mennonites-tierrablanca_2017-2019-hDPFUBpZg)). We note that 2019 experienced the most deforestation (2,470 acres).



region,

planet link
note that

2017 experienced the most deforestation (900 acres).

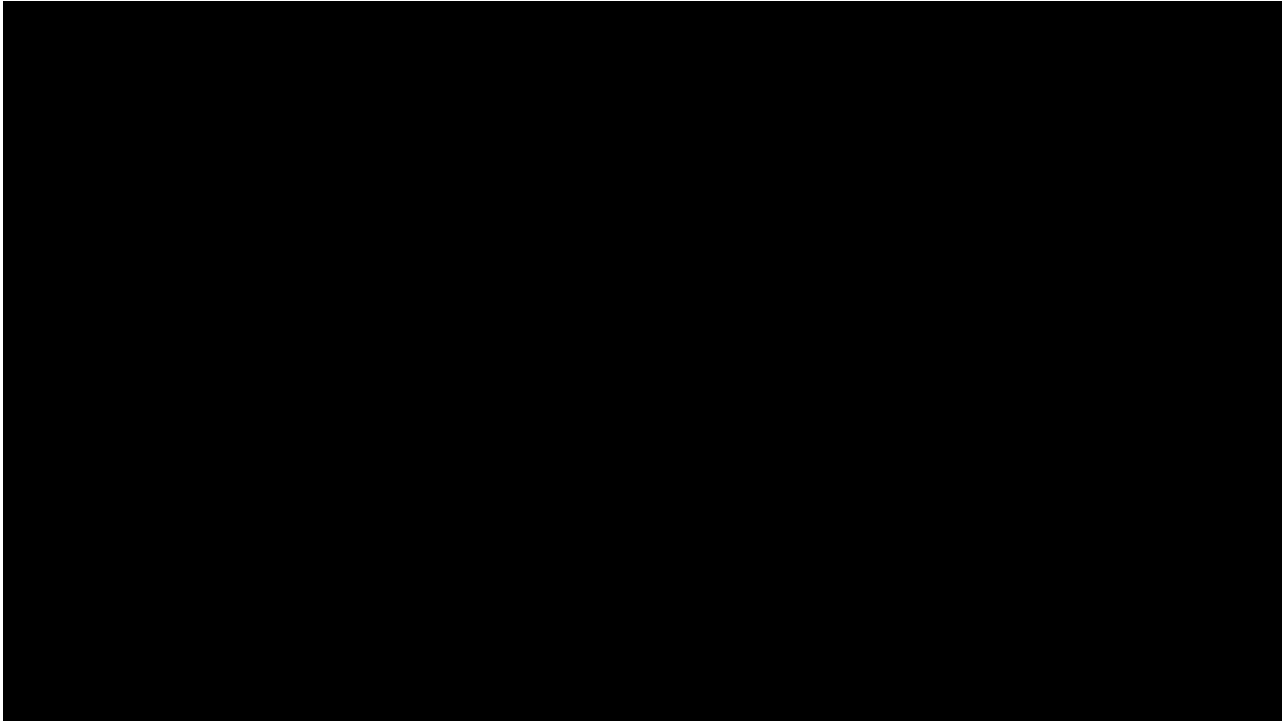


In the detailed map in the Annex, note that the deforestation has reached the limit of a protected area, Imiría Regional Conservation Area. In addition, deforestation has occurred within two native communities (Buenos Aires and Caimito) and a Conservation Concession managed by a Peruvian university.

Río Negro (Bolivia)

The Mennonite colony **Río Negro** is located in southeastern Beni department. There are several Mennonite colonies in southern Bolivia, but this is one of the first deeper in the Amazon (Kopp, 2015).

Video C shows the deforestation of 12,350 acres in the Río Negro colony since 2017 (Planet link (https://www.planet.com/stories/mennonites-rionegro_2017-2019-OVWk_BpWg)). Much of the deforestation occurred in 2017-18.



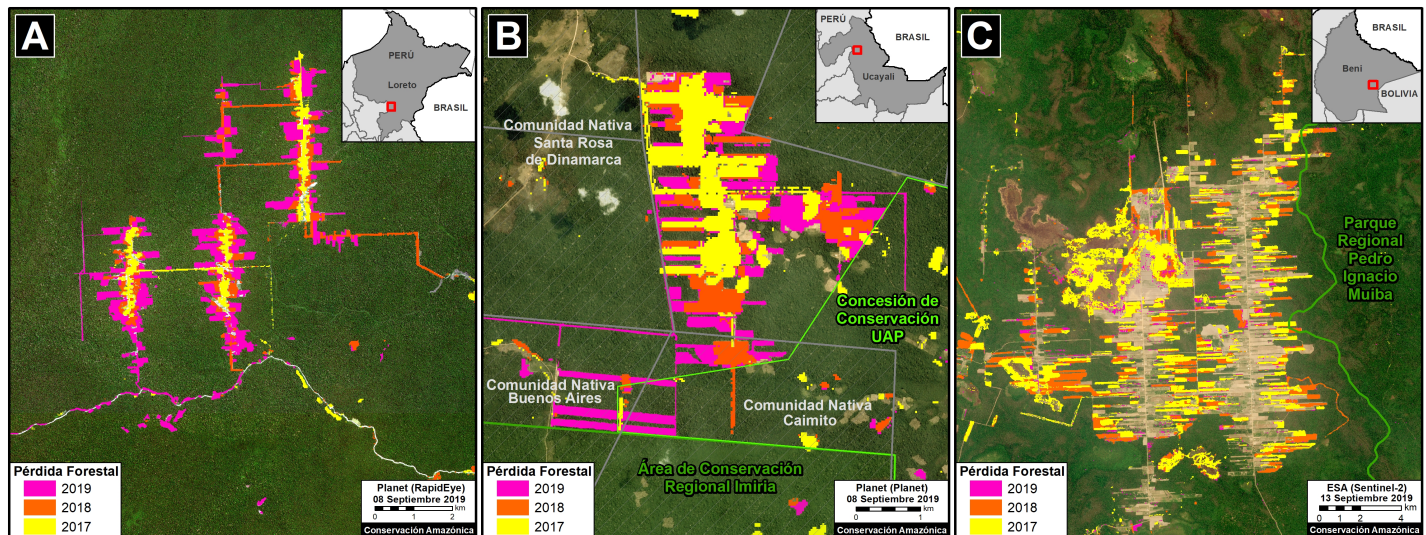
Annex 1: Base Map



(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/maaproject.org-maap-111-asentamientos-menonitas-nuevo-driver-de-deforestacion-en-la-amazonia-Location2-MennonitesPeru-Bol-Sep2019-200dpi.jpg>)

Base Map of Mennonite colonies in Peru and Bolivia. Data: MAAP.

Annex 2: Detailed Maps



(<https://www.maaprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/maaproject.org-maap-111-asentamientos-menonitas-nuevo-driver-de-deforestacion-en-la-amazonia-BM2-MennonitesPeru-Bol-toSep2019-200dpi.jpg>)

Deforestation in the three colonies A) Tierra Blanca, B) Masisea y C) río Negro. Data: UMD/GLAD, Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA

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