



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Artisanal Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector Expansion in Latin America: Drivers, Impacts, Solutions

LAC Environment
Learning Series Webinar



When poll is active, respond at **PollEv.com/measuringimp548**

Text **MEASURINGIMP548** to **22333** once to join

Which ASGM impact is most relevant to your work?



Deforestation

Mercury contamination

Corruption and transnational criminal organizations

Climate change

Human trafficking

Biodiversity loss

ASGM and its impacts are not relevant to my work



To

0

LAC Environment Learning Series

Today:

- I. Artisanal Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector Expansion in Latin America: Drivers, Impacts, Solutions

Upcoming Webinars:

2. Tuesday March 9 12:30- 2:00 pm EST
 - Private Sector Engagement Learning Sprint and PSE in Sustainable Cattle Practices
3. Combating Conservation Crime: Spotlighting the Colombia Mission's experience with analyzing corruption- March 23
4. Reducing Ocean Plastics in LAC- TBD date and time



— Agenda

- Welcome
- Combating Conservation Crime Learning Agenda
- Presentations
 - **Ana Villegas**, Biodiversity and Forest Advisor, USAID LAC Bureau
 - **Beatriz Torres**, Regional Amazon Environment Specialist, USAID/Peru
 - **Luis Fernandez**, Executive Director, Wake Forest University's Center for Amazonian Scientific Innovation (CINCIA)
- Q&A with presenters



LAC Environment CCC Learning Agenda

Strategic Approaches:

- Strengthen reporting by Indigenous/local communities
- Strengthen law enforcement



The image shows the USAID logo at the top left, followed by a large photograph of a dense forest canopy from a low angle looking up through the trees.

COMBATING CONSERVATION CRIME LEARNING AGENDA
Latin America and the Caribbean Environment
November 2020

Photo by Eric Stoner
Forest Canopy In Para state Brazil

Purpose and Context
The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is a key partner in the U.S. Government's interagency Task Force on Combating Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) and on conservation crime more broadly. The 2013 CWT Executive Order and the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 established combating wildlife trafficking as a U.S. government priority. With the 2017 Executive Order on Transnational Organized Crime, the Administration added combating conservation crimes to the interagency CWT effort, highlighting the links between transnational organized crime and illegal logging, illegal extraction and trade of gold, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The LAC Environment Combating Conservation Crime (CCC) Learning Program and Agenda address the need to understand the drivers, actors, and patterns of conservation crimes particular to the LAC region, and the conditions under which prioritized CCC strategic approaches best function to achieve environment outcomes. This learning agenda is designed to gather and share evidence on the effectiveness of approaches to deter conservation crimes to **inform USAID programming for biodiversity conservation and sustainable landscapes**. It defines **learning questions** and then develops types of **learning activities** to address them.

This Learning Agenda complements the USAID Office of Forestry and Biodiversity's CWT Learning Program. While FAB's CWT Learning Program contributes to global learning, it has been primarily informed by CWT efforts in Africa and Asia, the regions with the deepest history of attention to this issue. The particular dynamics of conservation crime in Latin America necessitate focused learning. For example, understanding and addressing threats to the safety of Indigenous and other local communities, who are often the frontline defenders against conservation crimes, is especially urgent in the LAC region.

The Learning Agenda will also link to the Targeting Natural Resource Corruption Learning Series and USAID's [Self-Reliance and Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Learning Agendas](#) and [Environment and Natural Resource Management Framework](#).

Purpose and Content
Framework
Community Reporting
Law Enforcement
Learning Questions
Corruption



LQ 1

Under what conditions is **community reporting** effective at deterring conservation crime?

LQ 2.1

Under what conditions is **law enforcement** effective at deterring conservation crime?

LQ 2.2

Under what conditions does **transnational coordination** improve the effectiveness of combating conservation crime?

LQ 3

What are the factors related to **corruption** that impact the effectiveness of combating conservation crime?

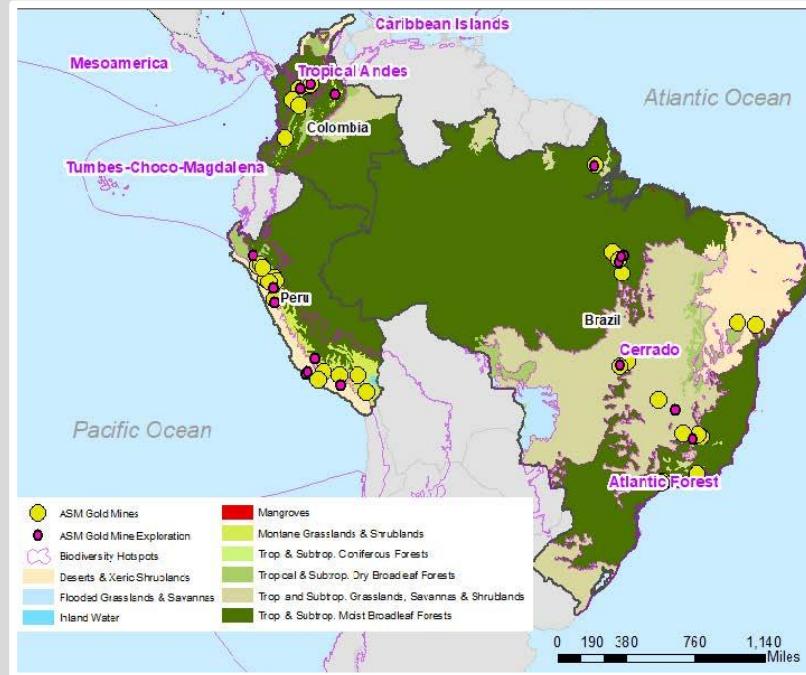
USAID: Small-Scale & Artisanal Mining Impacts on Biodiversity in Latin America - March 2019

Ana Cristina Villegas, Ph.D., Biodiversity & Forestry Advisor
Office of Regional Sustainable Development/Environment (RSD/ENV), LAC



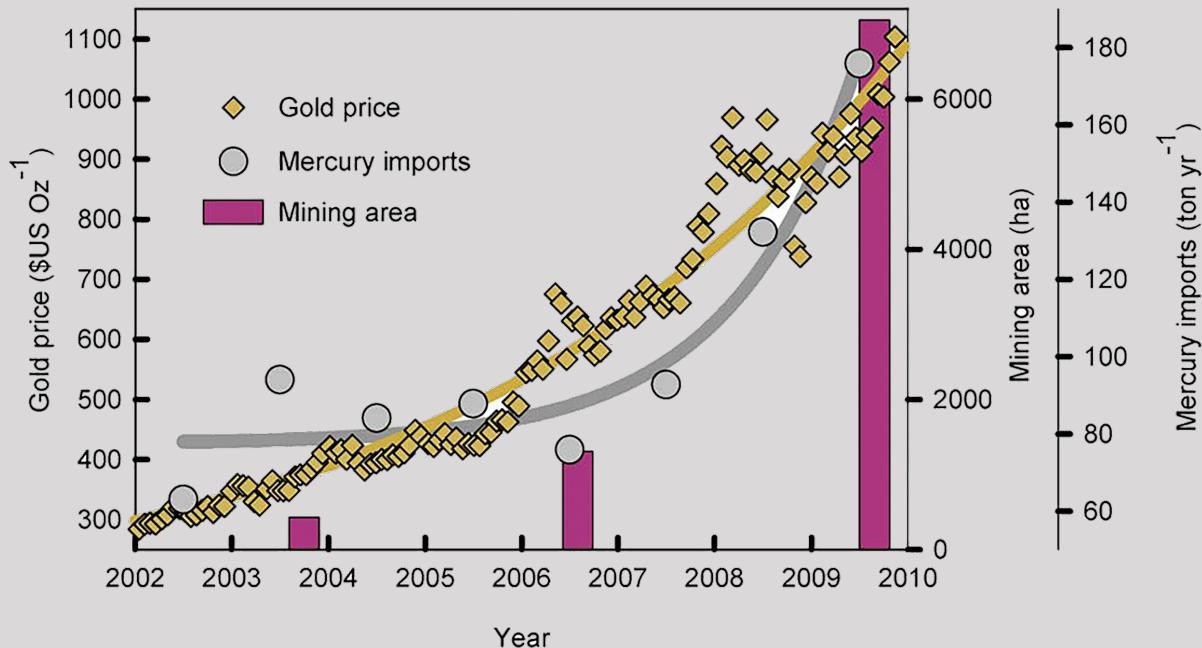
PHOTO: A SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINE IN ANTIOQUIA, COLOMBIA. KATHLEEN HURLEY, APRIL 2016.

DISTRIBUTION



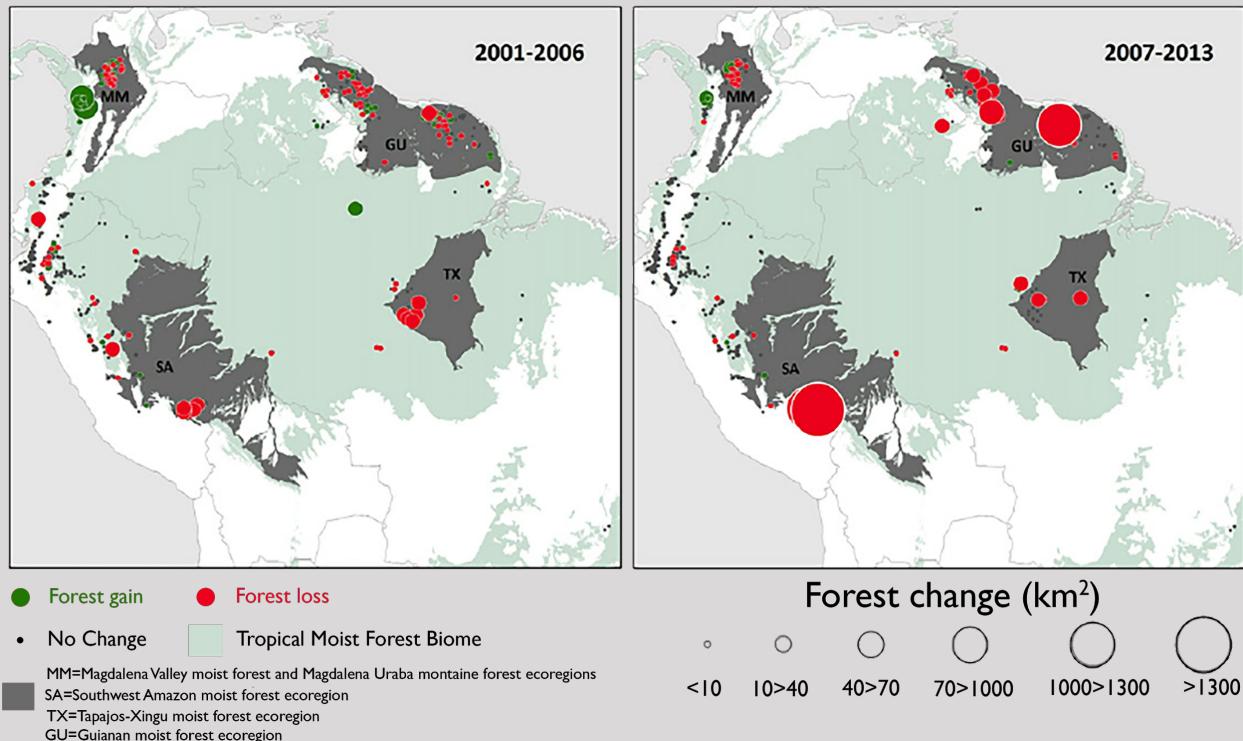
Map showing presence of ASGM in major ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots in target countries. Most of these ecosystems have been degraded and no longer cover the full extent of the area depicted. Data source: USGS, 2017c.

Trends and Drivers



Changes in gold prices, forest area converted to mining in the Madre de Dios region, and Peruvian mercury imports 2002-2010. (Swenson et al., 2011)

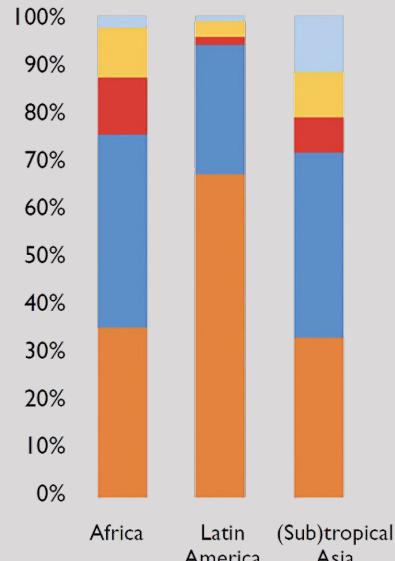
Impact in South America



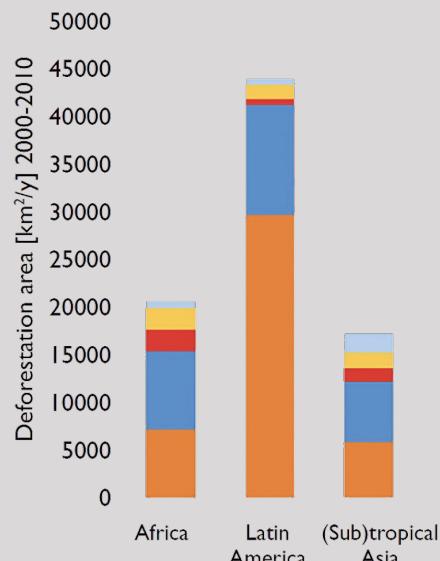
Maps showing distribution of small-, medium-, and large-scale gold mining sites with significant changes in forest cover from 2001-2006 and 2007-2013 in northern South America. Source: Alvarez-Berrios and Aide 2015.

Relative Impact on Deforestation/Degradation

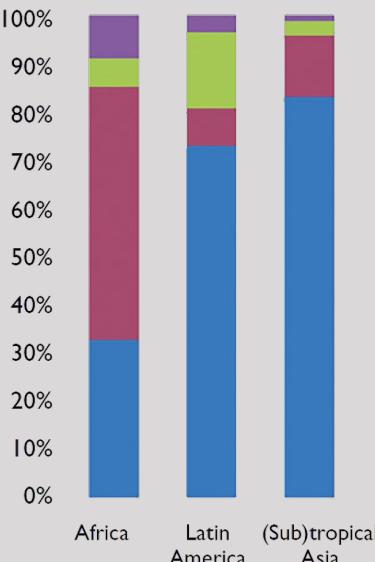
a) Proportion of deforestation drivers



b) Area proportion of deforestation drivers



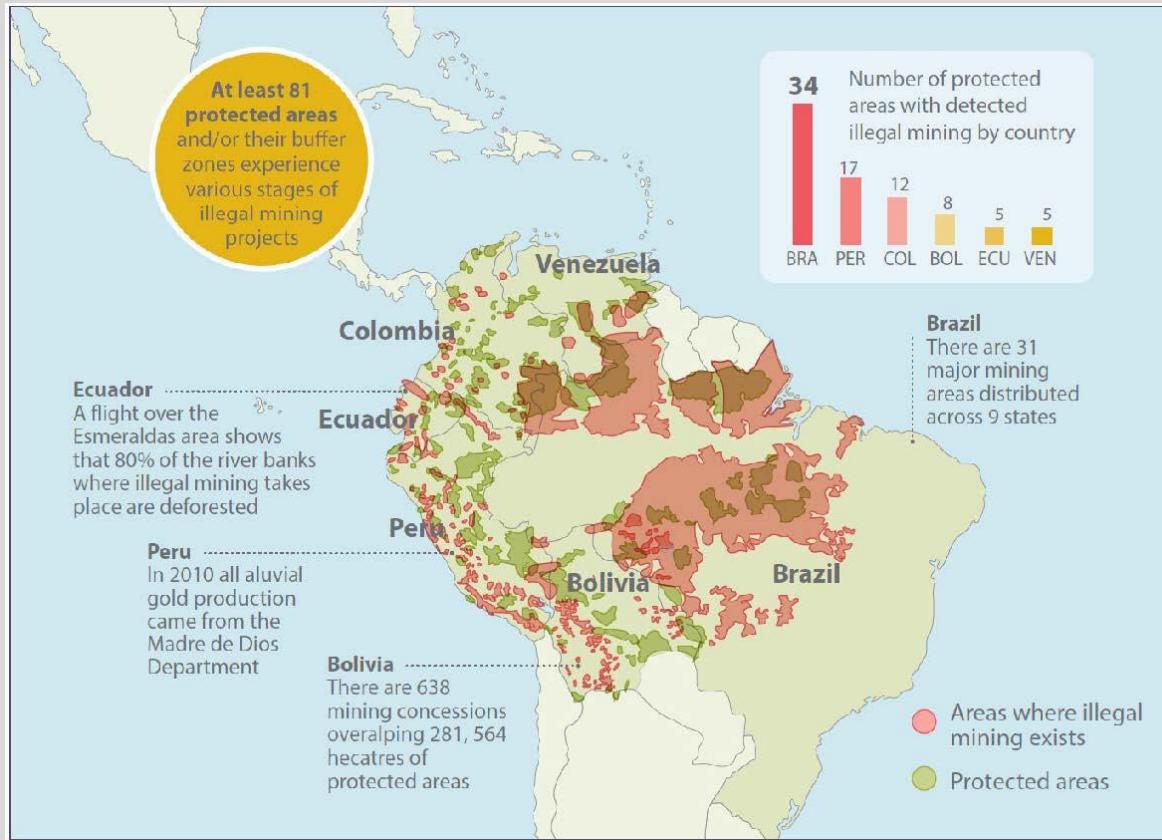
c) Proportion of forest degradation drivers



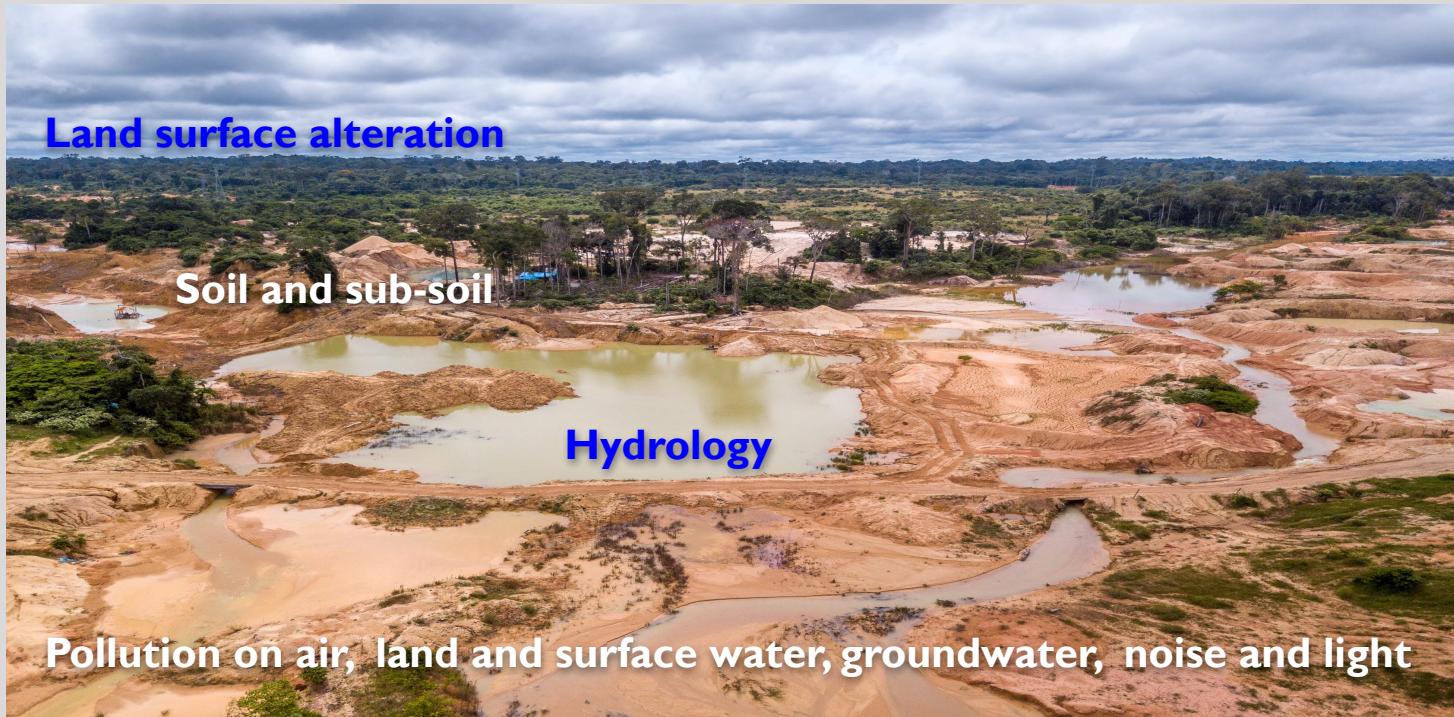
- Urban expansion
- Infrastructure
- Mining
- Agriculture (local/subsistence)
- Agriculture (commercial)

- Livestock
- Uncontrolled fires
- Fuelwood charcoal
- Timber logging

Illegal Mining in Protected Areas



Multiple Biophysical Impacts and Stresses Documented



Beatriz Torres, Regional Amazon Environment Specialist, USAID/Peru





2/1/21

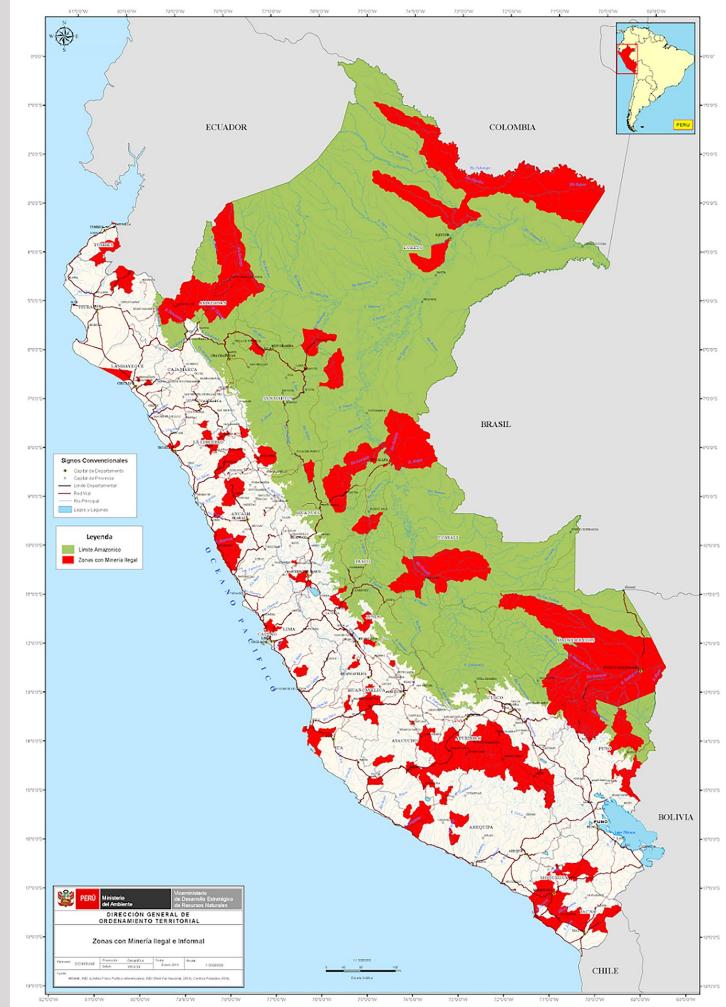
LAC ENVIRONMENT LEARNING

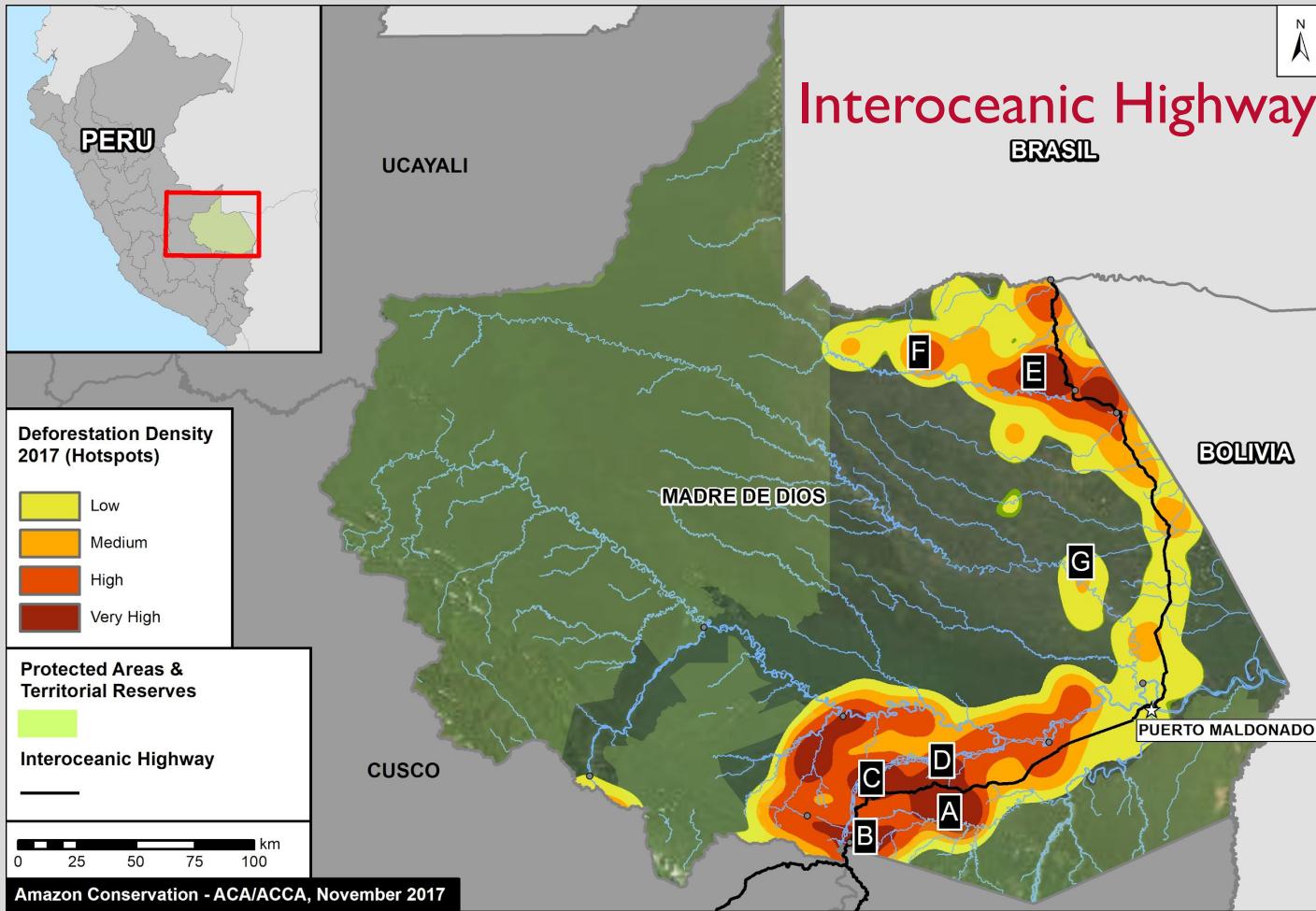
An astronaut aboard the International Space Station (ISS) took this photograph of numerous gold prospecting pits in eastern Peru
24 dec 2020

<https://scitechdaily.com/>

Photo: Nikon D5 digital camera using a 400 millimeter lens

Administrative Districts with Illegal and Informal Mining in Peru

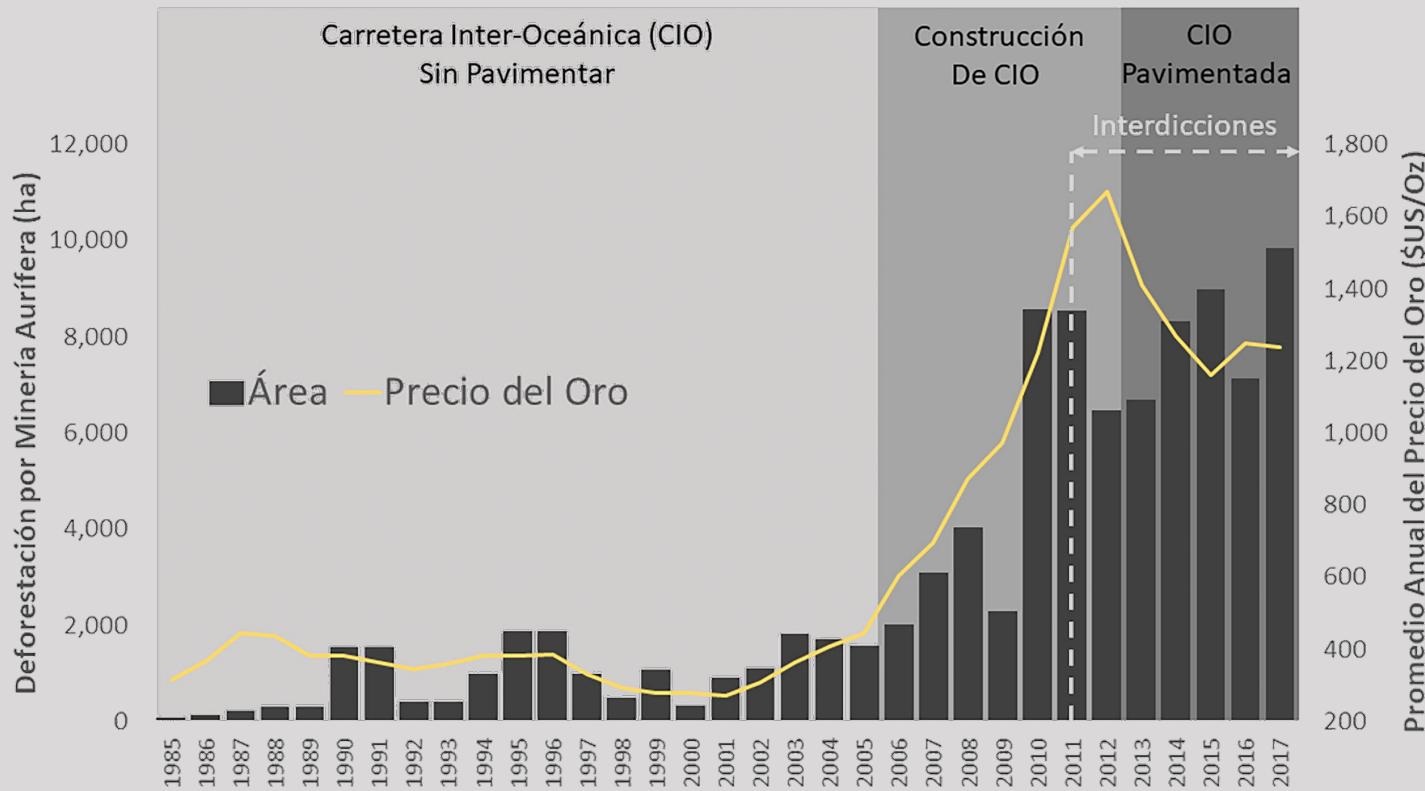




Complex Scenario

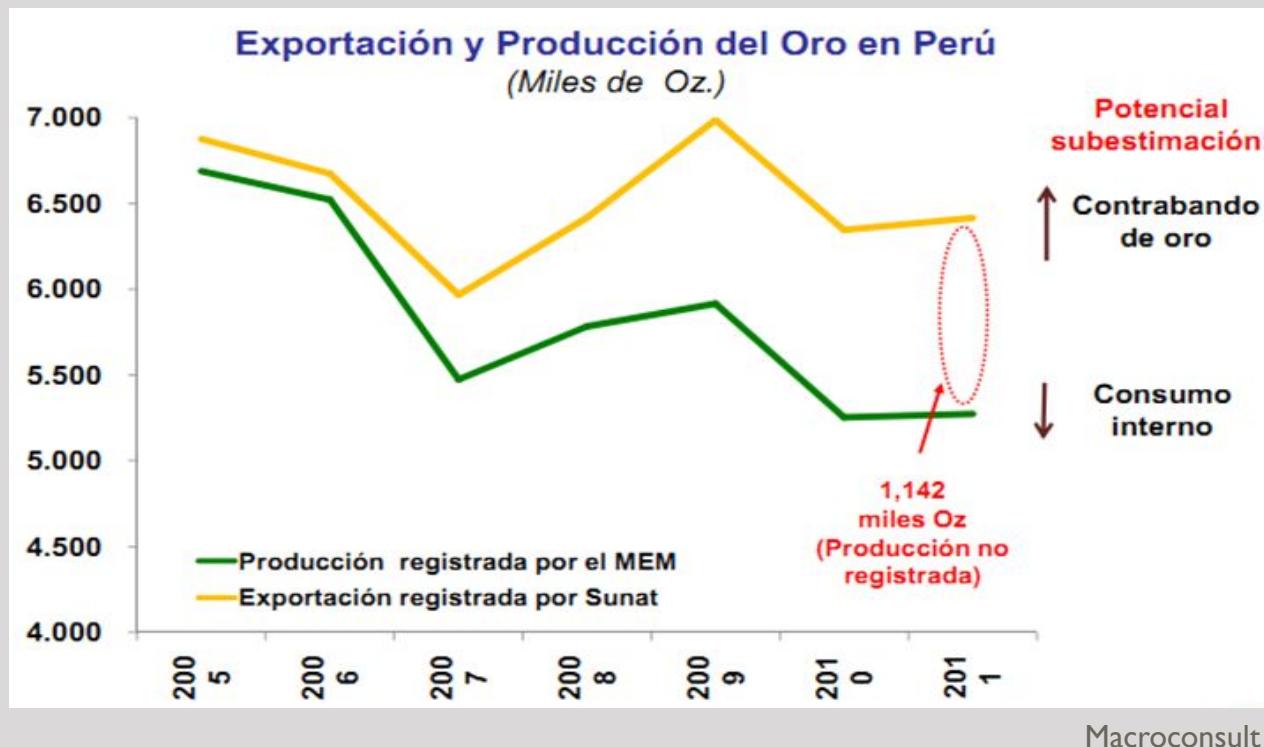


Drivers: Price of Gold, New IIRSA Road...



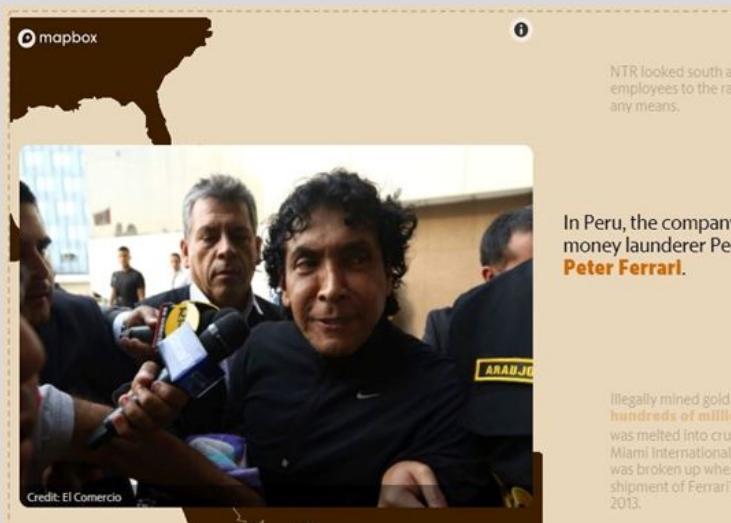
Money Laundering: Legal Mining and Export Companies...

Dimensión de la minería ilegal de oro: aproximación macro



Macroconsult

Money Laundering: Transnational Criminal Organizations



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 16, 2018

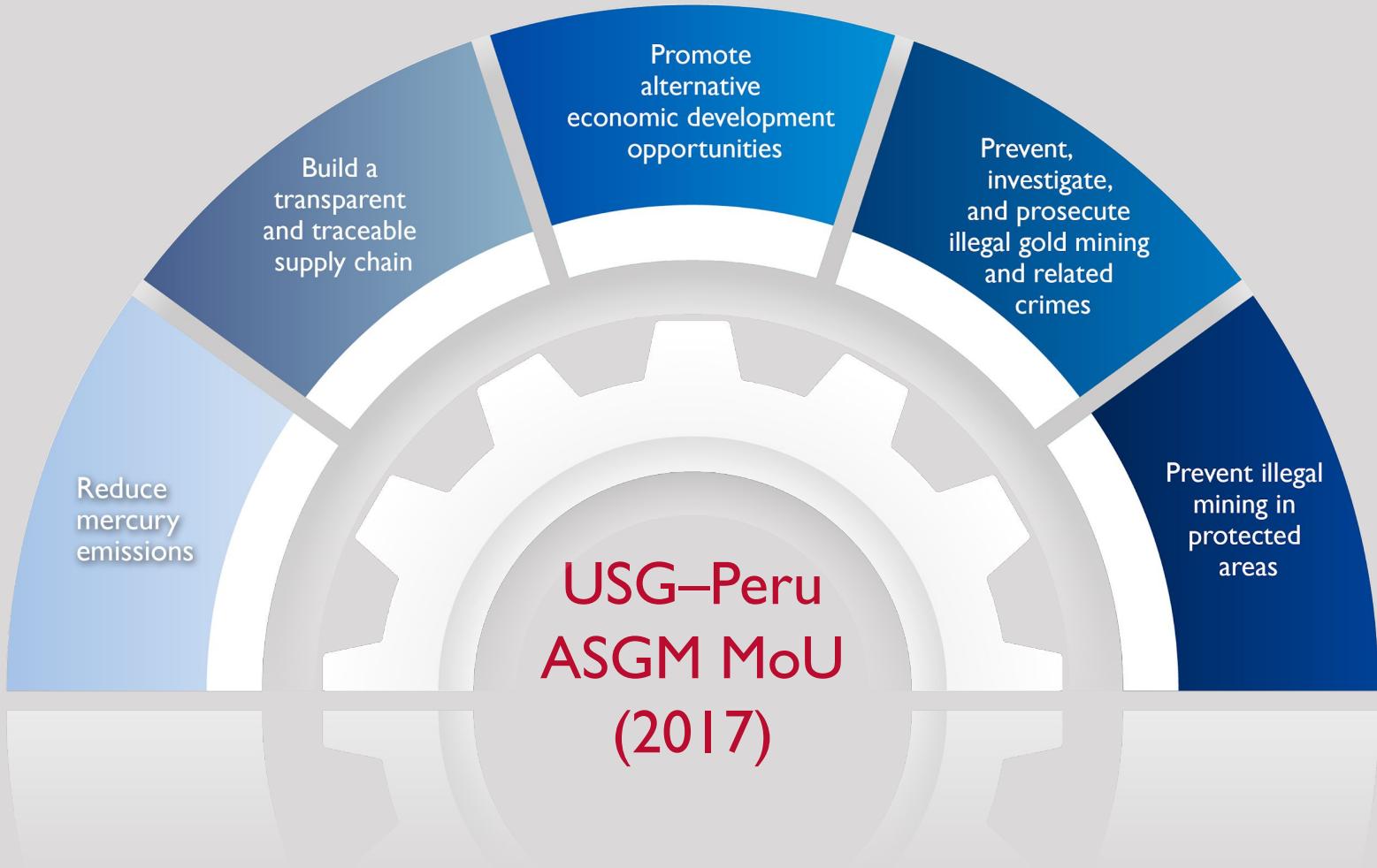
U.S. Gold Refinery Pleads Guilty to Charge of Failure to Maintain Adequate Anti-Money Laundering Program



Social Impacts



What are we doing?



USAID Strategic Approach

1. Support and promote legality (e.g., formalization)
2. Collaboration and strengthening GOP capacities (national and subnational)
3. Alliances with civil society (CSO, academia, IPs).
4. Forging collaboration with other cooperation agencies and private sector.
5. New technologies (satellite monitoring units, drones) & innovation
6. Enhancing visibility of issues and increasing awareness (media)
7. Education (school and university levels)

USAID Interventions



CENTRO DE INNOVACIÓN
CIENTÍFICA AMAZÓNICA



Capital Humano y Social

PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENHANCED
ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH (PEER)

SERVIR  AMAZONIA

Prevent (Prevent and Reduce Environmental Crimes)

- National legal framework
- Formalization
- Capacity building
- Support decision making



USAID PREVENT PROJECT

The Peruvian Amazon is one of the world's most biodiverse and culturally rich ecosystems. Yet environmental crimes like illegal logging and mining, and trafficking of endangered species, increasingly threaten biodiversity. USAID works with the Government of Peru and civil society to address this complex challenge.

The Prevent Project works with the Government of Peru and civil society to improve the enabling conditions to prevent and combat environmental crimes, thereby reducing these crimes and negative impact within and around protected areas and forest and indigenous lands.

HOW DOES THE PROJECT WORK?

Prevent will work with Peruvian environmental justice officials and government institutions to build capacities and institute necessary reforms to reduce environmental crimes. Through a systems approach, the project will tailor solutions to local realities to optimize targeted interventions.

The project will use data and technology to accelerate the engagement of local and indigenous communities in monitoring to reduce environmental threats. Through an intensive public outreach strategy, Prevent will promote active participation from civil society, media, activists and the business sector to strengthen advocacy and information dissemination. All project interventions will incorporate gender equity and social inclusion, private sector resource mobilization, civil society engagement, and sustainability.

Government of Peru: Operation Mercury (2019)

Goal: “eradicate illegal gold mining for good”



Phase I: Military and Police Interdictions (15 days)



MINISTRA DEL AMBIENTE RESALTA PLAN DE CONSOLIDACIÓN EN LA PAMPA

Invertirán S/ 500 millones para el desarrollo de Madre de Dios

Recursos se destinarán a proyectos de acuicultura, agricultura, turismo y otros, señala.

Phase II: Consolidation “Recovered Areas” (6 months)

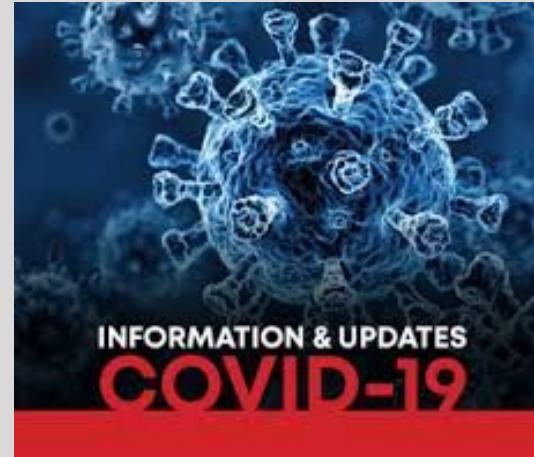


Many ceremonies with authorities



COVID-19

- Mining has not stopped in Madre de Dios
- Impacting protected areas and Indigenous lands
- “Creative approaches” (delivery of mining supplies)
- GOP funding prioritized the sanitary emergency



Good news: 400 interdictions by environmental prosecutors, police and military

What else can be done?

- Due diligence and certificate of legal origin at port of entry
- Follow the money (laundered)
- Promote champions to raise consumer awareness
- Publish commercial advisories advising buyers
- Identify priority areas for reforestation and conservation in Madre de Dios, promote sustainable development and connectivity (in progress)



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Thanks!