

AMAZON MINING WATCH

PANORAMA

Issue 2 · Quarterly Report · January – June 2026
Dispatch on gold mining impacts across the Amazon — summary edition

KEY LINKS

Official web edition	https://panorama.amazonminingwatch.org/issue-2/
Official full report (PDF)	Panorama-Issue-2-January-June-2026.pdf
Previous edition	Panorama – Issue 1
Interactive map	Amazon Mining Watch geovisor
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AT A GLANCE

~36,000 ha	1.149 M ha	9 / 9	30% · 15%
new gold-mining area, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative mining footprint in the Amazon	Amazonian countries with new mining	of new mining in Protected Areas · Indigenous Territories

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Independent summary written in its own words. For the original text and Planet satellite imagery, see the official report.

SECTION 1

ABOUT PANORAMA

Panorama is a dispatch from Amazon Mining Watch (AMW), a platform led by [Amazon Conservation](#), [Earth Genome](#) and the [Pulitzer Center](#) that uses AI to detect gold-mining scars anywhere in the Amazon basin. This issue covers Q1 and Q2 of 2026 and reports on:

- regional trends of gold mining-driven deforestation;
- new incursions into Protected Areas and Indigenous Territories never mined before;
- sites where mining had stopped and has returned;
- areas where mining-driven forest loss is persistent and accelerating.

With gold prices rising, fast and consistent basin-wide detection can support coordinated enforcement across borders.

SECTION 2

REGIONAL TRENDS OF GOLD MINING-DRIVEN DEFORESTATION

Mining expanded in all nine Amazonian countries, adding about 36,000 ha and bringing the cumulative footprint to 1.149 million ha. Around 30% of the new expansion (10,872 ha) fell inside Protected Areas and 15% (5,502 ha) inside Indigenous Territories. Colombia added the least, but illegal mining along the Pure River is an emerging concern (see [MAAP #245](#)).

Country	New mining area (ha)	Tier
Brazil	12,700	Top 3
Peru	8,100	Top 3
Guyana	7,700	Top 3
Suriname	2,900	Middle
Venezuela	2,600	Middle
Ecuador	650	Middle
Bolivia	560	Middle
French Guiana	490	Middle
Colombia	134	Lowest

SECTION 3

AREAS HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS ISSUE

Click an area name to jump to its details, or *Open* to view it on the interactive map.

#	Area	Country	Category	New (ha)	Map
1	Yawi Indigenous Territory	Ecuador	New incursion	79	Open
2	Arawak – Maroa Traditional Territory	Venezuela	New incursion	11	Open
3	Rio Novo National Park	Brazil	Persistent / accelerating	350	Open
4	Amaná National Forest	Brazil	Persistent / accelerating	300	Open
5	Tapajós Environmental Protection Area	Brazil	Persistent / accelerating	1,200	Open
6	Tambopata National Reserve	Peru	Persistent / accelerating	786	Open
7	San José de Karene	Peru	Persistent / accelerating	716	Open
8	Kotsimba	Peru	Persistent / accelerating	109	Open
9	Guarayo Original Indigenous Campesino Territory	Bolivia	Persistent / accelerating	19	Open
10	Imataca Forest Reserve	Venezuela	Persistent / accelerating	1,160	Open
11	Canaima National Park	Venezuela	Persistent / accelerating	55	Open
12	Amazonien de Guyane National Park	French Guiana	Persistent / accelerating	74	Open

SECTION 4

NEW INCURSIONS ON PROTECTED AREAS OR INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES

Areas with no mining detected since 2018 where scars appeared in the last two quarters — new and very likely illegal incursions. Two cases were found.

1. Yawi Indigenous Territory

ECUADOR · INDIGENOUS TERRITORY

Shuar-Achuar center with 2,729 ha of protective forest in the upper Nangaritza basin (Zamora Chinchipe), recognized in 2006. It overlaps the Upper Nangaritza River Basin Protection Forest, covered in [MAAP #243](#) (case 2).

Mining update: Mining entered the territory in 2025 and kept expanding in 2026.

79 ha	—	—
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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2. Arawak – Maroa Traditional Territory

VENEZUELA · INDIGENOUS TERRITORY

Indigenous area under traditional use.

Mining update: Mining entered between late 2024 and early 2025 and continued into 2026.

11 ha	—	—
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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SECTION 5

RESURGENCE OF MINING IN PROTECTED AREAS AND INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES

This category tracks sites where mining had paused for three quarters (possibly after enforcement operations) and then reappeared. **No areas qualified in this period.**

SECTION 6

PERSISTENT AND ACCELERATING MINING DEFORESTATION

Among the many areas still affected, ten were highlighted for the persistent and growing nature of mining. Where marked, clearing has increased for four consecutive quarters (Q3 2025 – Q2 2026).

3. Rio Novo National Park

BRAZIL · PROTECTED AREA

Strictly protected park created in 2006 in Pará (Tapajós basin); an ecological corridor under pressure from the BR-163 highway.

350 ha	4,568 ha	Yes
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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4. Amaná National Forest

BRAZIL · PROTECTED AREA

Sustainable-use unit created in 2006, managed by ICMBio in Pará (Tapajós basin); allows sustainable forest management and research.

300 ha	14,440 ha	Yes
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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5. Tapajós Environmental Protection Area

BRAZIL · PROTECTED AREA

Large sustainable-use area created in 2006 along the Tapajós River (Pará); allows private land and economic activity and buffers nearby parks and forests.

1,200 ha	103,900 ha	—
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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6. Tambopata National Reserve

PERU · PROTECTED AREA

Established in 2000 (Supreme Decree 048-2000-AG) as an IUCN Category VI area; protects lowland rainforest of exceptional biodiversity. Detailed analysis in [MAAP #241](#).

786 ha	—	Yes
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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7. San José de Karene

PERU · INDIGENOUS TERRITORY

Native Community affiliated with FENAMAD, the federation representing Indigenous peoples of the Madre de Dios basin, where much of southern Peru's illegal mining is concentrated. See [MAAP #208](#).

716 ha	8,808 ha	—
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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8. Kotsimba

PERU · INDIGENOUS TERRITORY

Another FENAMAD-affiliated Native Community in Madre de Dios. See [MAAP #208](#).

109 ha	4,196 ha	—
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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9. Guarayo Original Indigenous Campesino Territory

BOLIVIA · INDIGENOUS TERRITORY

Ancestral land of the Gwarayu people in Santa Cruz, with over one million titled hectares between the Amazon and the Chiquitania; threatened by clearing, fires and land grabs.

19 ha	59 ha	—
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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10. Imataca Forest Reserve

VENEZUELA · PROTECTED AREA

Created in 1961, about 38,000 km² across Bolívar and Delta Amacuro in the Guiana Shield. Shelters threatened wildlife, protects Orinoco and Essequibo headwaters, and overlaps ancestral lands of several Indigenous peoples, including Pemón territory.

1,160 ha	45,620 ha	—
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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11. Canaima National Park

VENEZUELA · PROTECTED AREA

Created in 1962, expanded in 1975 to 30,000 km²; UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994, co-managed with Pemón communities. Protects the tepuis, the upper Caroní basin and Angel Falls. Mining concerns were raised at the [48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee](#).

55 ha	2,477 ha	Yes
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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12. Amazonien de Guyane National Park

FRENCH GUIANA · PROTECTED AREA

According to MAAP #225, a major carbon sink with some of the highest carbon stocks among Amazonian protected areas.

74 ha	3,109 ha	Yes
new, Jan–Jun 2026	cumulative footprint	4 quarters of increase

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SECTION 7

CONCLUSION

Mining-driven deforestation keeps spreading into Protected Areas and Indigenous Territories, pointing to a deepening crisis. Consistent, data-based monitoring is key to measuring the problem and promoting accountability; AMW and partners will continue publishing quarterly and annual updates.

Methodology

The detector is a neural network trained on hand-labeled examples in Sentinel-2 imagery (12 visible and infrared bands). Multi-month median composites reduce clouds and shadows, and the network scans the whole region in overlapping patches, shifting half a patch at each step.

Acknowledgments and partners

The report was made possible by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, with support from the partners below.

Organization	Role	Website
Amazon Conservation	AMW partner	www.amazonconservation.org
The Earth Genome	AMW partner	www.earthgenome.org
Pulitzer Center	AMW partner	pulitzercenter.org
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	Funder	www.moore.org
MAAP – Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project	Referenced analyses	www.maaprogram.org/gold-mining-pure-colombia

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