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***“The dynamics of drugs in the forests of the
Colombian Amazon”***

19 October 2021



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MAIN TOPICS

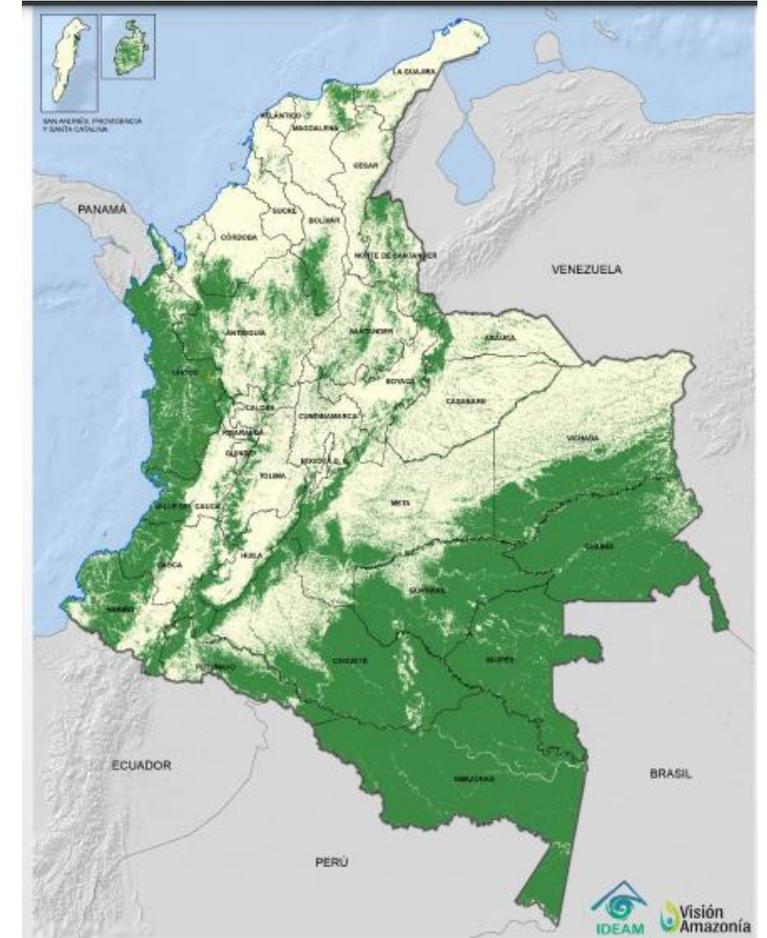
Background

Deforestation and illicit crops in the Amazonian region

Technical cooperation to effectively address deforestation:

Enforcement challenges to face deforestation

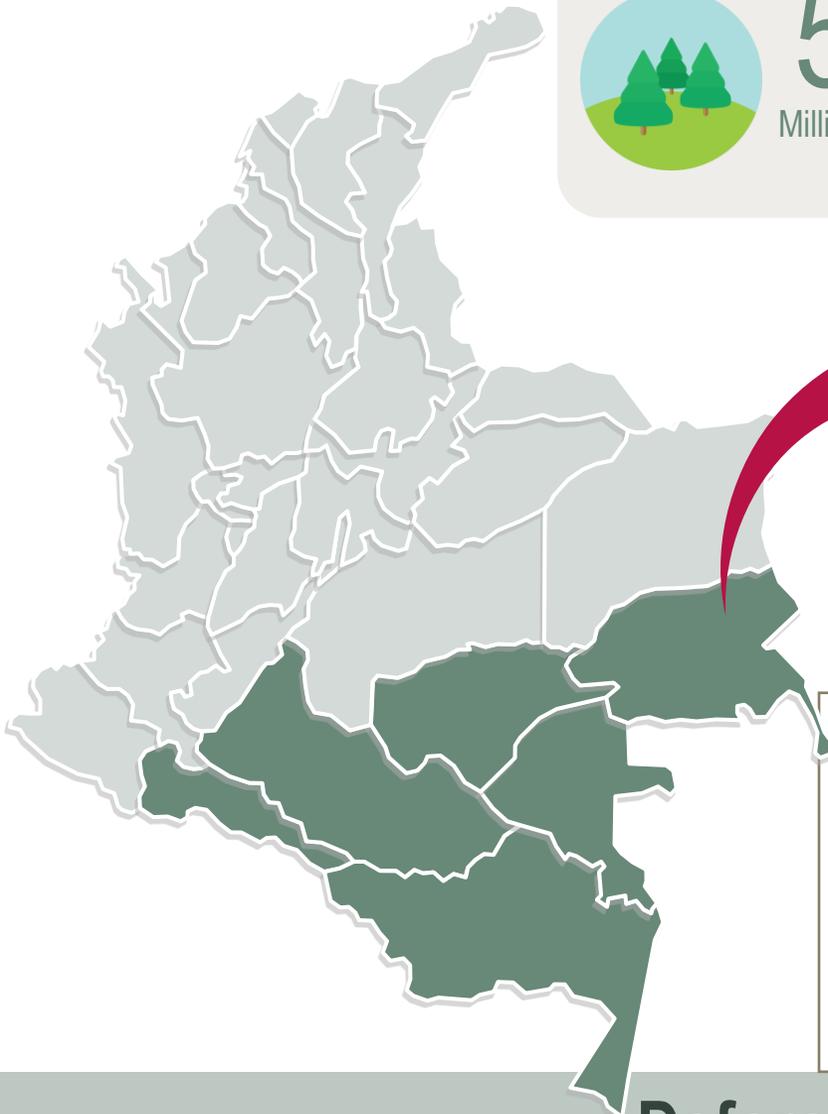
- The Amazon is the region most affected by deforestation since it concentrates 62% of the country's deforestation (Ideam and SMBYC, 2020).
- Illicit crops and the consolidation of coca production centers have resulted in the loss of natural resources and impacted protected areas.
- In specific areas of the country, deforestation has been facilitated by the presence of organized crime networks that are related to illicit economies and activities leading to the destruction of forests and natural resources.



Background

 **59,7**
Million hectares of forest

64% Amazon región affected



Deforestation rates have increased in the last two years, according to official data.

Deforestation is concentrated in the Amazon Region of Colombia. The most affected municipalities are located in the departments of Meta (municipality of La Macarena), Caquetá (municipality of San Vicente del Caguán) and Guaviare (municipality of San José del Guaviare).

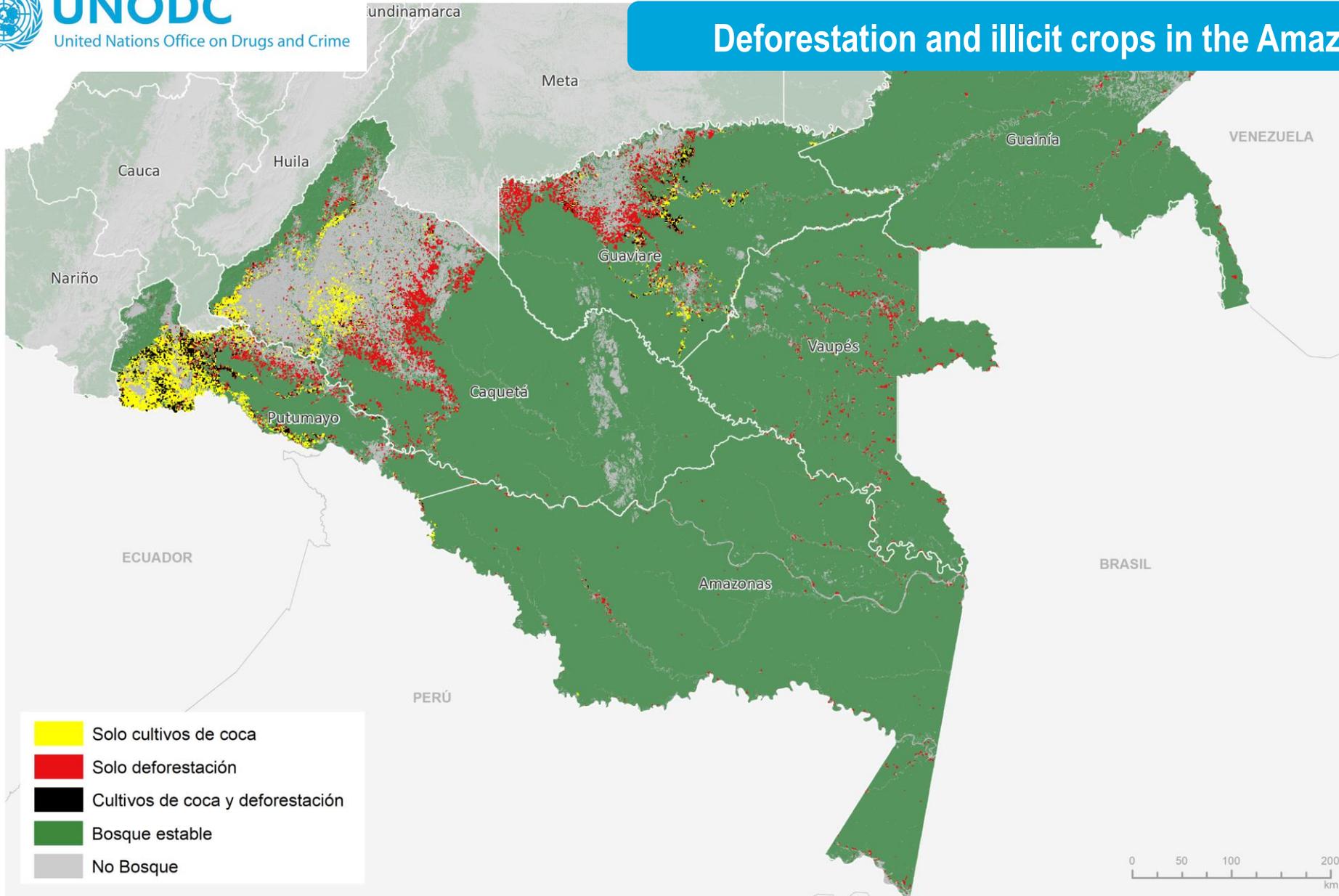
Deforestation rates – Colombia 2019- 2020



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Deforestation and illicit crops in the Amazonian Region, 2019



Official information underlines that the relationship between illicit crops and deforestation is not direct and unique. In the Amazon Region of Colombia, only 11% of the territory shows a coincidence of both phenomena: deforestation and illicit crops. 30% of the illicit crops and 11% of the deforested areas are present in those areas.

That relationship translates into approximately 8,000 ha deforested out of the 71,000 that IDEAM reported in 2019 for that area.



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Dynamics related to deforestation in Colombia



Praderisation



Illicit crops



Unsustainable expansion
of cattle ranching



Illegal mining extraction



Unauthorized
Infrastructure
and roads



Expansion of
agricultural
frontier



Fires



Criminality and
organized crime
activity

Cross-cutting issue: Land grabbing.

Causes and Drivers tend to change over time and there is not a unique cause or direct driver of deforestation. The damage to natural resources, including forest, covers a wide range of legal and illicit dynamics.



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Technical cooperation to effectively address deforestation





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► Main facts 2021



1110

actions developed in administrative, environmental, land, registry and cadastral matters



1488

officials, judicial servants, and communities with enhanced capacities to address deforestation



87

mentors strengthening environmental units of national and local institutions



3

interagency action developed to strengthening institutional capacities of Defense and Security entities



123

actions related to cases and police operations developed for the investigation of environmental crimes



392

officials, judicial servants and civil society sharing experiences with countries and international agencies in best practices to fight deforestation



15

national, regional, and local entities with strengthened capacities to prevent and address environmental crimes



9

preventive, follow - up and intervention actions developed

**More than
1.434.023 ha.
OF SPECIAL ECOLOGICAL
IMPORTANCE IMPACTED
BY THE PROGRAM**

► What do we do?

Addressing environmental crime in line with the

AGENDA 2030

(deforestation, land grabbing, illegal hunting, illegal trafficking of flora and fauna, illegal fishing, pollution, illegal mining, among others),

Enforcement challenges to face deforestation

- Need to strengthen local capacities.
- Capacity building is critical for effective policy implementation.
- Poverty leads to an unsustainable use of resources.
- Combating wildlife and forest crime has not usually been seen as a priority when addressing organized crime.
- Detection, investigation and prosecution of associated illicit financial flows is essential
- Limits of public resources for environmental control and prosecution.