



# THE BATTLE OF THE AMAZON HOMELAND

The Amazon rainforest holds a lot of the world's resources. It is one of the biggest biodiversity hotspots and home to a lot of endemic species. Deforestation is a major issue in the Amazon rainforest. Nearly 20% of it has already been destroyed.

Deforestation in the Amazon region has led to the loss of many plant and animal species that are important to the traditional livelihoods and food systems of indigenous communities.

## MAIN ISSUES

Deforestation directly affects and reduces the forest natural resources and ecosystem services which threatens the food security of indigenous communities such as the Kayapo people.

- Damage of habitat, diminish levels of biodiversity and food sources, degradation of soil, pollution of rivers and soils
- Less rain and moisture can lead to drought and fires
- Reduction of biodiversity results in loss of species in an ecosystem which can affect others who rely on it

## CONSEQUENCES ON INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

- Loss of land and resources threatens food security and livelihoods
- Menace to health due to loss of important medicinal plants
- Cultural disruption through loss and destruction of traditional lands and resources
- Increased violence against indigenous communities defending their land

## MAIN DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION

- Gold mining
- Oil drilling
- Soy production
- Illegal loggers
- Possible railway

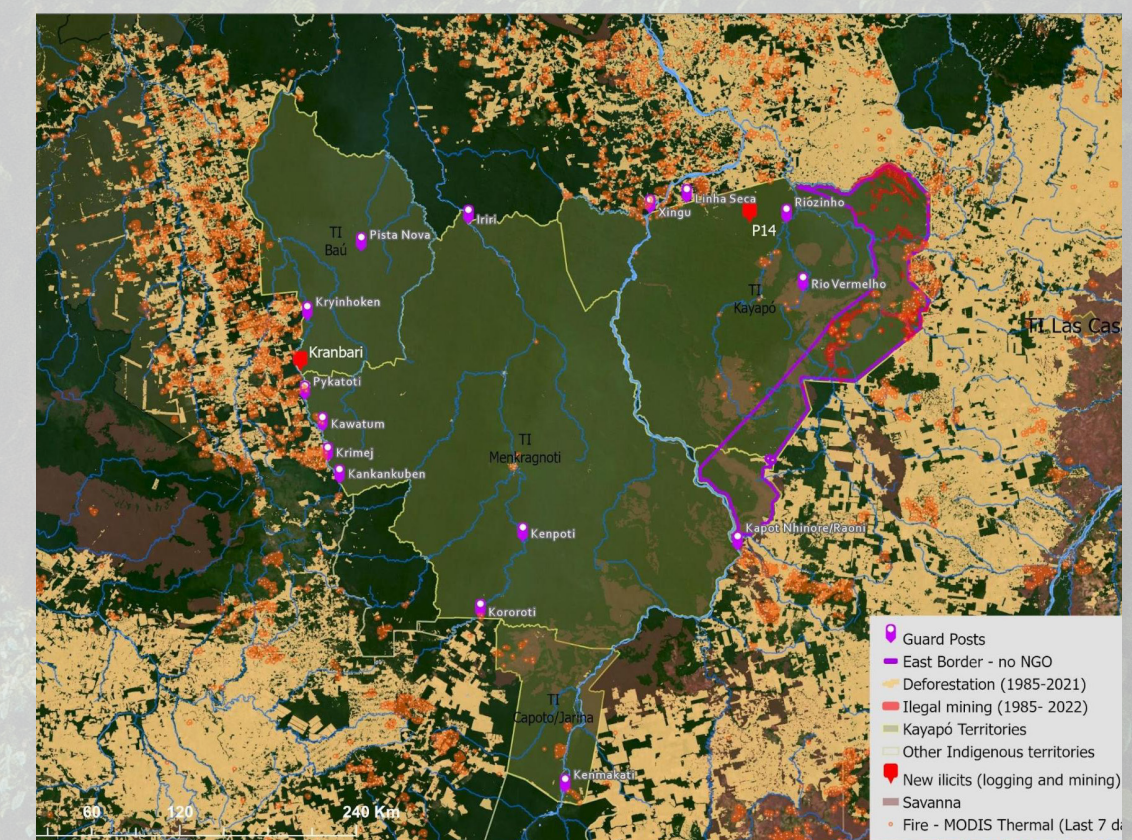


Fig 1: The extent of deforestation and illegal activity in and around the Kayapo territory. (Photo @ <https://bit.ly/44tVijp>)

## THE KAYAPO PROJECT

- A project to protect the wildlife habitats, promote sustainable livelihoods, and support conservation initiatives
- The goal is to create long-term solutions that benefit both the environment and the local people through land protection, sustainable development, and knowledge exchange

## RELEVANCE TO LIFE ON LAND AND OTHER SDG

Deforestation of the Amazon poses a great threat to life on land. By developing sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation practices, indigenous communities are not only preserving their culture and traditional knowledge, but also contributing to the achievement of several of the SDGs.



Fig 2: The Kayapo people rely on the surrounding nature for food and other resources. (Photo @ Simone Giovine)

By Mathea Oceana, Andrea Knutsen, Ingrid Guttormsen, Verena Seelos



SCAN ME