







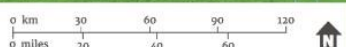
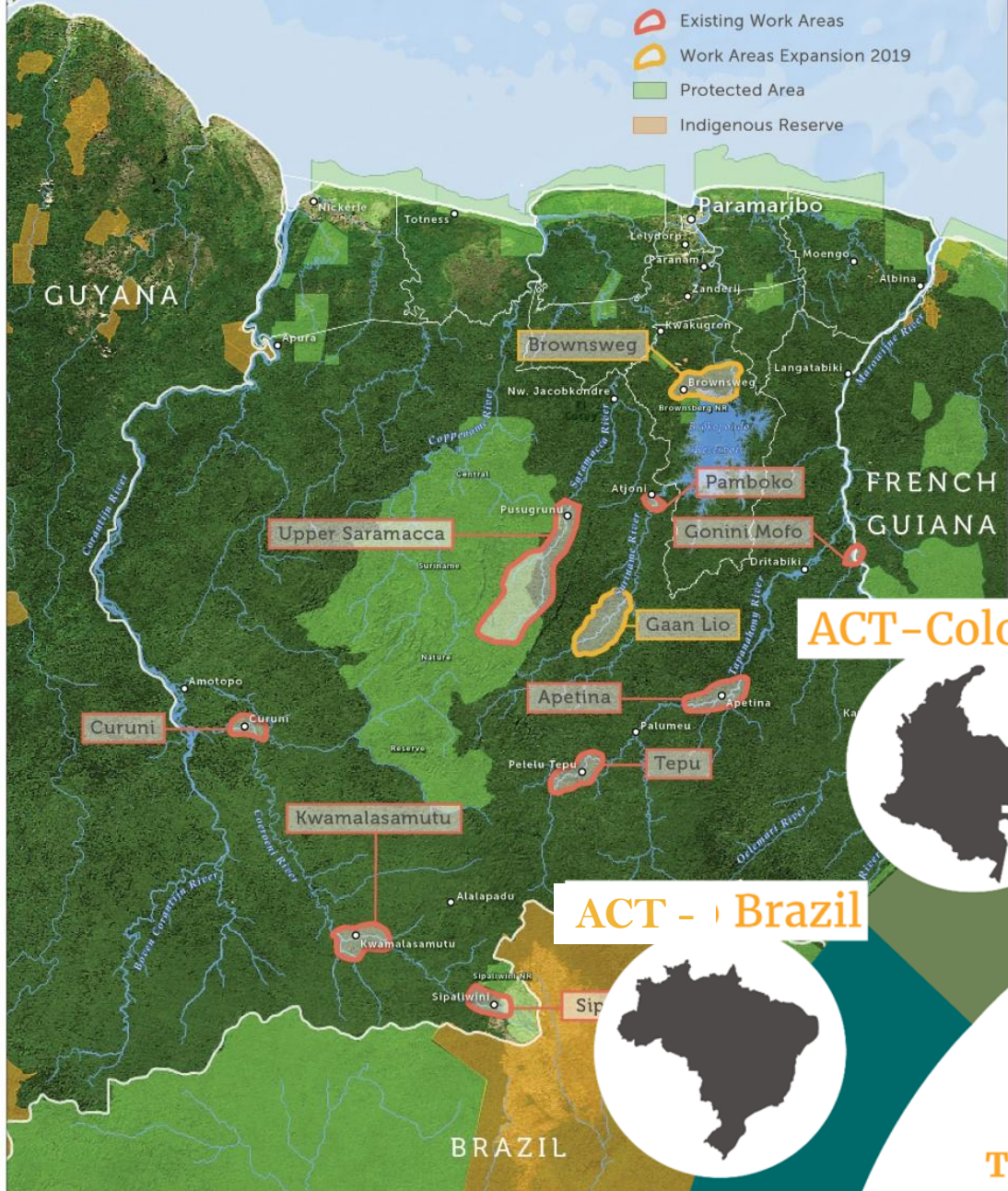
RENFORESAP: REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
STRATEGIES AGAINST THE THREATS FROM ILLEGAL GOLDMINING IN THE
PROTECTED AREAS OF THE GUIANAS

12TH - 14TH OF FEBRUARY 2020



ACT-SURINAME: SCOPE OF WORK 2019

-  Existing Work Areas
-  Work Areas Expansion 2019
-  Protected Area
-  Indigenous Reserve



THE ACT FAMILY

ACT-United States



ACT-Suriname



ACT-Colombia



ACT - Brazil



ACT-Europe



The Amazon Conservation Team partners with indigenous people to protect the rainforest.



Land & Resource Management: Ethno-cultural mapping, monitoring of resources (rangers & apprentices and other resource persons)



Communities' secure & sustainable livelihoods:

Food security, value chain development, access to electricity and clean water.



Internal Governance: Oral history, traditional knowledge preservation, traditional clinic, empowerment of community, holistic planning



External Governance: Support land rights process, networking for rangers recognition, gain support for holistic planning and collaborate with GoS for field projects.

Amazon Gold Rush: Gold Mining in Suriname



Suriname's vast and ancient rainforests remain one of the world's best-kept natural secrets, but the global demand for an age-old mineral threatens to destroy them.

Record high gold prices over the past decade have triggered a massive gold rush across the country and the Amazon at large, resulting in the destruction of thousands of hectares of rainforests and the contamination of major rivers with highly toxic materials.

Caught in the middle of this environmental devastation are indigenous and Maroon (contemporary descendants of formerly enslaved Africans) communities, whose livelihoods are increasingly tied to participating in mining activities within their territories, with detrimental consequences for their well-being.



FOREST COVER

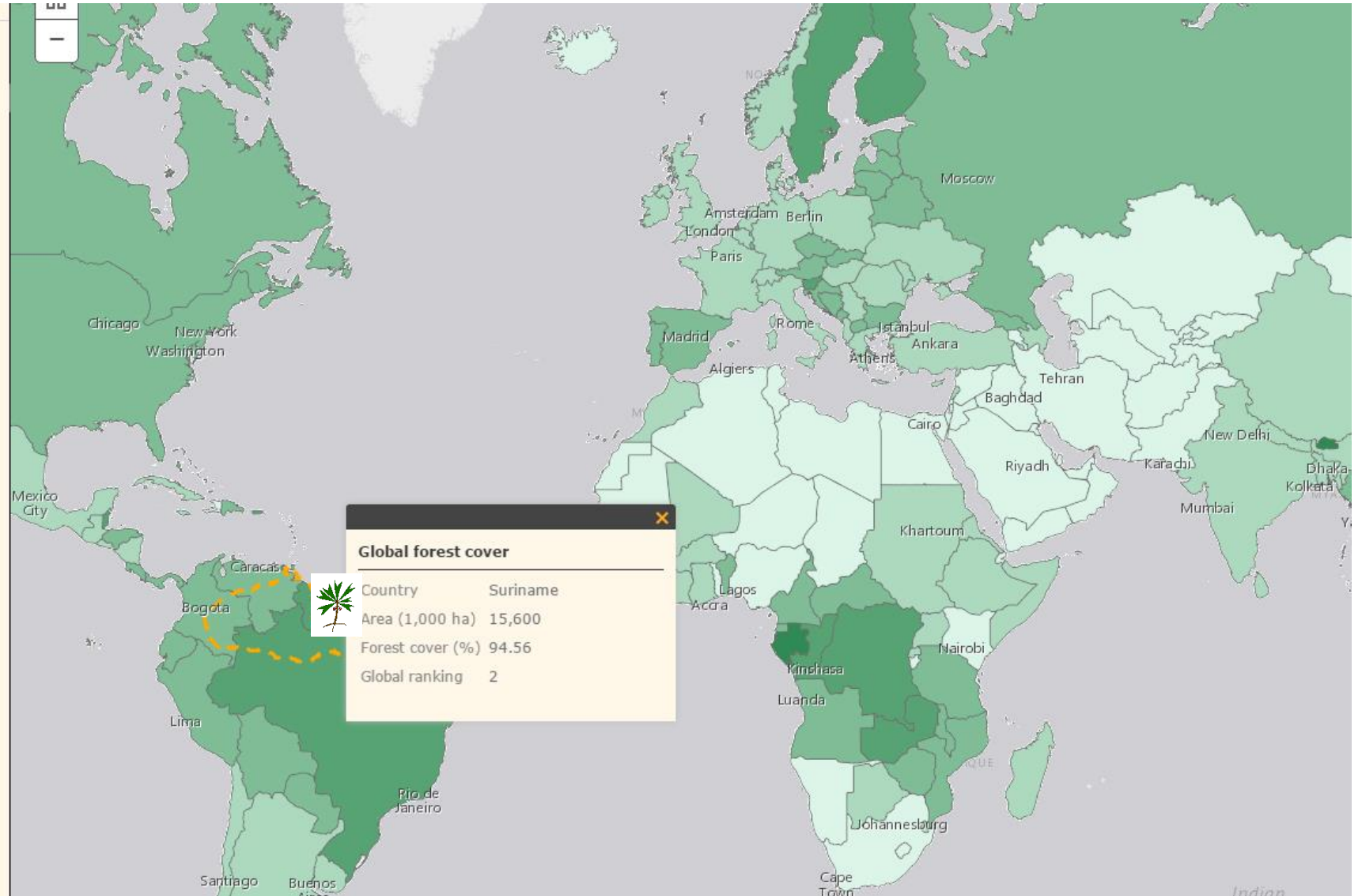
AMAZON GOLD RUSH Gold mining in Suriname

Biodiversity and forest cover



Suriname's verdant rainforest, near the indigenous village of Tepu on the Tapanahony River.

Located in the highly biodiverse Guiana Shield region (shown here in orange outline), Suriname is among the most forested countries in the world. In 2012, Suriname's land that is classified as forest encompassed 95% of the country's entire area, globally surpassed only by its neighbor French Guiana. Suriname's pristine rainforest harbors numerous unique species, such as the famed [blue poison dart frog](#) and the [Guianan cock-of-the-rock](#).



GOLD PRODUCTION

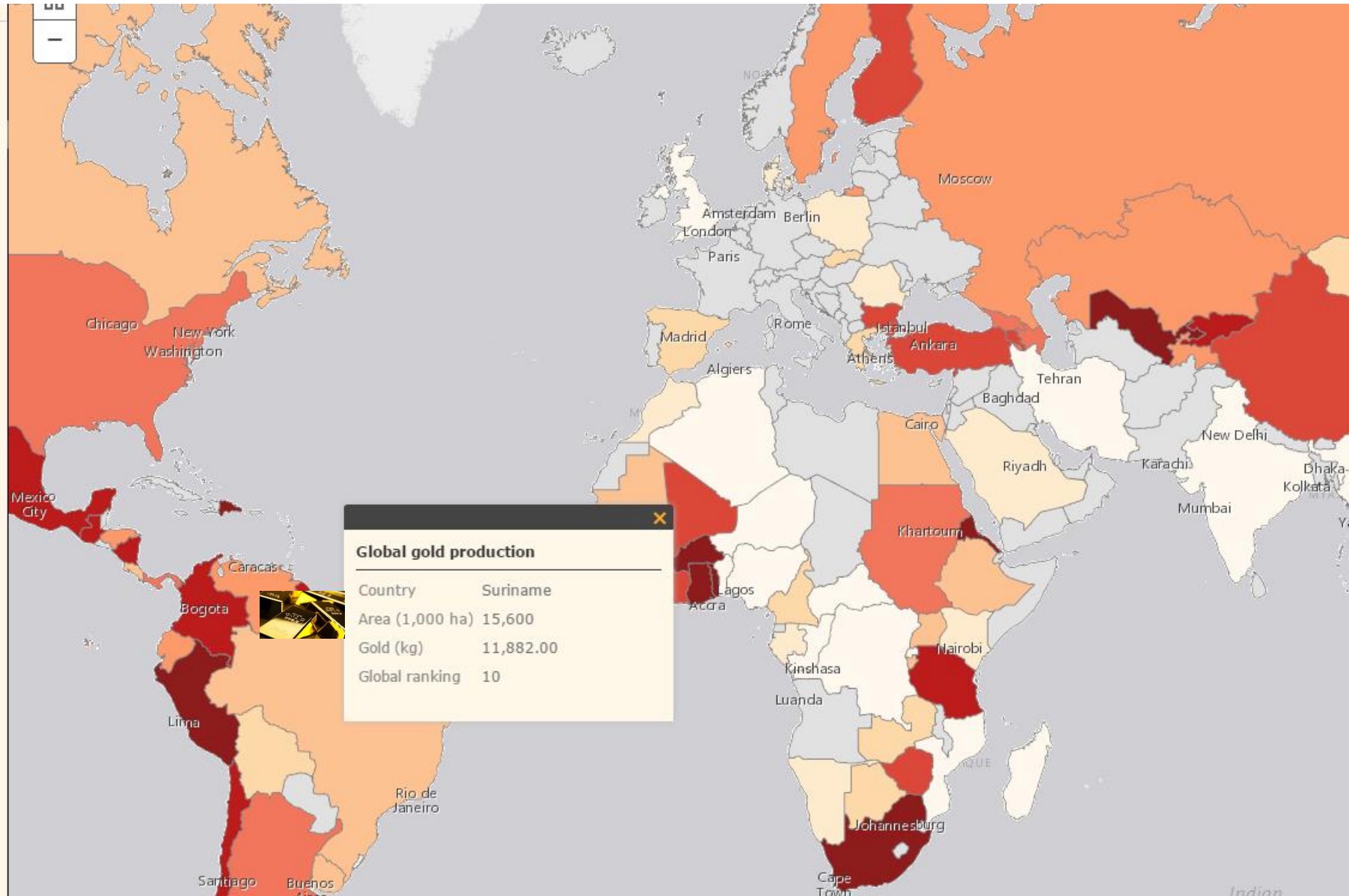
Worldwide gold mining production



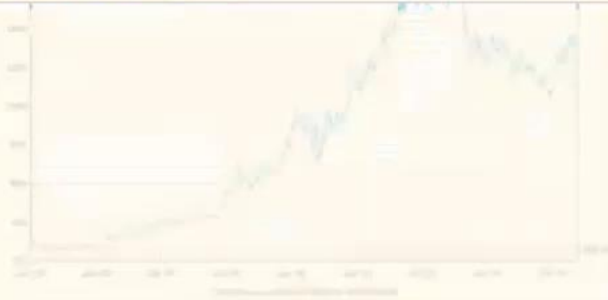
As one of the world's smallest countries, Suriname's annual rate of total gold production doesn't compare to that of larger countries like South Africa, China, Russia, or Peru. But in rate of production relative to area, **Suriname actually ranks 10th globally.**

Furthermore, these statistics from the USGS do not include estimations for illegal small-scale gold mining, which is more challenging to measure and constitutes the majority of gold mining activity in Suriname (Heemskerk 2010 provides some figures on small-scale gold mining production: [link](#)). This means that the actual gold production rate is much higher than represented here, and that much of it is taking place without adequate health and environmental regulations.

Global gold production in recent years has been driven by a sharp increase of international market prices for the mineral. The following chart provides London Metal Exchange prices for gold in USD/oz from 2000 until today



Amazon Gold Rush: Gold Mining in Suriname



Data source: USGS (2012 gold production, [link](#))

Description of mining process

Two different kinds of gold mining are prevalent in Suriname: artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), and industrial operations.

Small-scale gold mining



Gregory © 2010 DigitalGlobe, Landsat, U.S. Geological Survey



Amazon Gold Rush: Gold Mining in Suriname

Measuring the rate of deforestation caused by gold mining

ACT is using remote sensing technologies to monitor and analyze gold-mining activity in Suriname. Our goal is to continue to generate accurate and time-sensitive spatial data for mining activity across the Guianas. This swipe map uses our data to visualize the total extent of gold mining in 2000 (orange), and in 2014 (red). Use the swipe tool and bookmarks (top left) to explore particular areas of interest.



Processed, unrefined clumps of gold. Source: Chemservice ([link](#))

The data was generated through a supervised classification of the University of Maryland's [Global Forest Change](#) dataset, which compiles forest cover loss across the entire globe at a 30m² pixel resolution. Using this data, we are able to rapidly generate accurate figures on the total extent of gold mining activity to estimate and monitor the expansion of the threat. The following chart shows a strong correlation between the increase of the global per-ounce price of gold, calculated expansion of gold mining in Suriname.

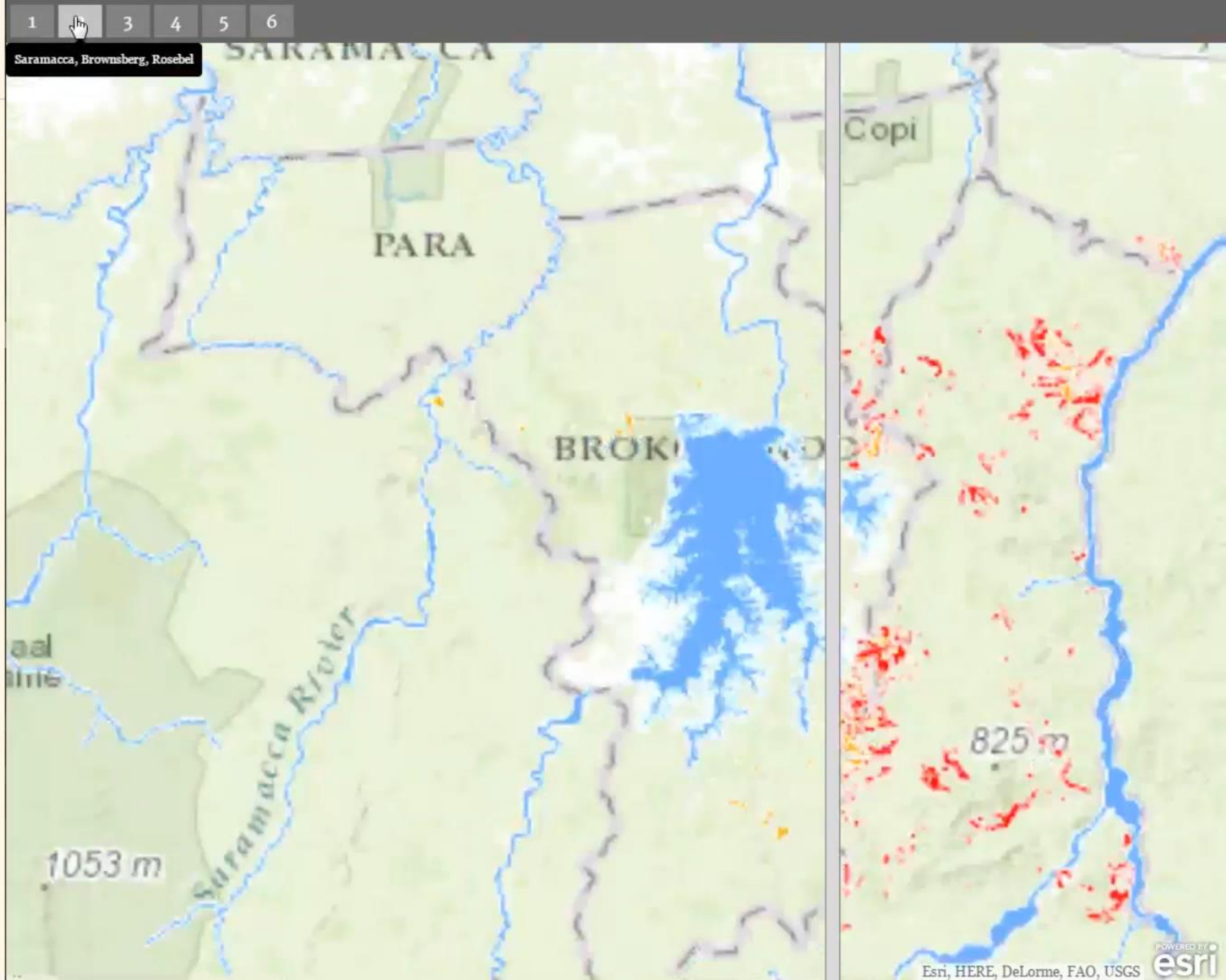


Figure 3. Main mining regions in East Suriname

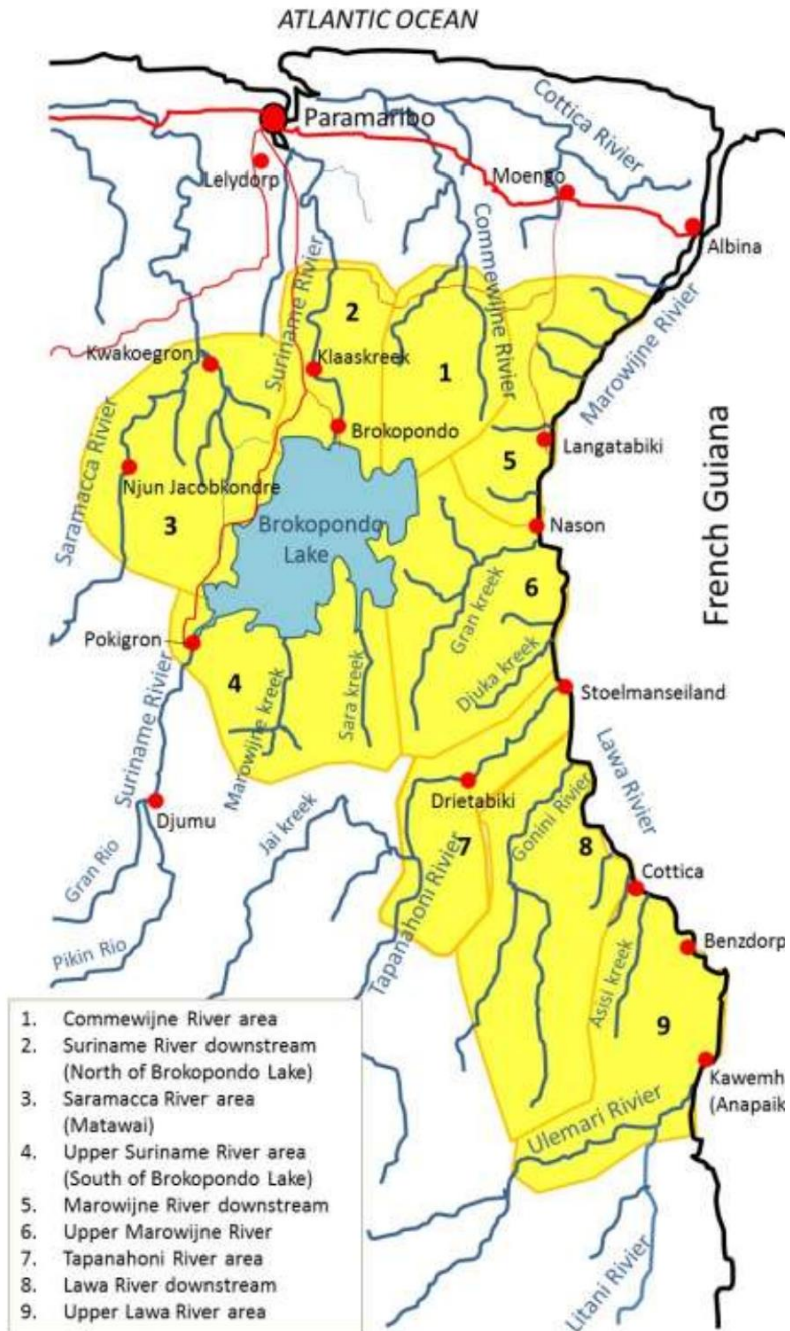
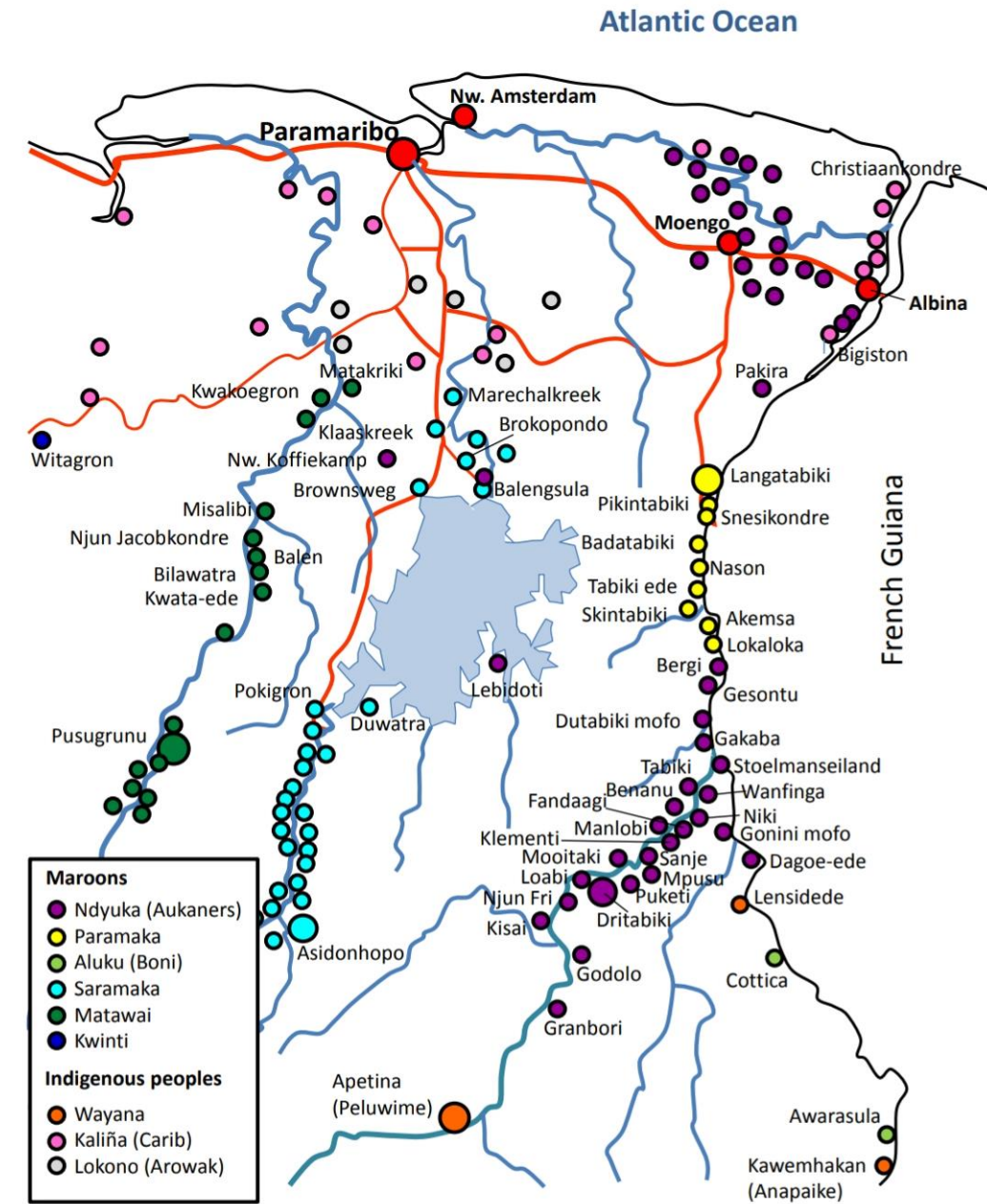


Figure 4. Location of interior villages by ethnic affiliation



Source: M. Heemskerk 2009





FOR MORE,
PLEASE VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.AMAZONTEAM.ORG/MAPS/SURINAME-GOLD/](https://www.amazonteam.org/maps/suriname-gold/)

Thank you

Katia Delvoye

February, 2020

