Project Update: January 2010

Assessment of the current drivers and location of deforestation in the Madre de Dios region of South-eastern Amazonian Peru revealed that currently it is alluvial gold mining the main cause for increasing deforestation. Deforestation is invading areas close to protected areas, such as the Tambopata National Reserve, where the Environmental Ministry of Peru has proposed to establish *exclusions zones* for the mining activity. Similarly, the NGO iSur, managed by one of the Interoceanica Highway constructor companies, is promoting the establishment of private conservation areas to avoid further deforestation in the same area. Through the development of a spatial explicit model to forecast future deforestation we calculated that these initiatives would reduce the total amount of new deforestation between 2010 and 2035, from ~120K ha in the absence of their projects, and under a "mining scenario", to 92K ha, within their area of interest. A reduction of 28K ha which would be eligible for carbon credits.

