

# PROTECTED AREAS NEED ONGOING SUPPORT

Protected areas are one of the most effective, time-tested strategies in conservation — lands and waters protected by law that conserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and provide vital benefits for people and nature. But just because an area is ‘declared’ protected doesn’t make it so. Restrictions can be tempered, boundaries shrunk, or sites eliminated entirely through legal changes. This phenomenon is known as **Protected Area Downgrading, Downsizing, and Degazettement (PADDD)**.

The bottom line? Establishment of a protected area is not the end of the story.  
The work is just beginning when these areas are declared.

## DOWNGRADE



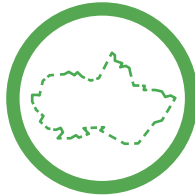
**A DECREASE IN LEGAL RESTRICTIONS**  
on the number, magnitude or extent of human activities within a protected area.

## DOWNSIZE



**A DECREASE IN SIZE**  
of a protected area as a result of excision of land or sea area through a legal boundary change.

## DEGAZETTE



**A LOSS OF LEGAL PROTECTION**  
for an entire protected area.

## WHERE IS PADDD HAPPENING?



### THE UNITED STATES ENACTED 269 PADDD EVENTS

between 1892 and 2018 and proposed 737 events between 1944 and 2017.

The United States government downsized Bears Ears National Monument by 4,657 square kilometers (85%) in 2017 — the largest reduction to protected lands in US history — opening lands to mining exploration.



### THE 9 COUNTRIES THAT SHARE THE AMAZON ENACTED 440 PADDD EVENTS

between 1961 and 2017 and proposed 67 events between 1991 and 2017.

Brazil is an emerging hotspot of PADDD; the primary cause of PADDD in Brazil is hydropower dam construction in the Amazon.



### 73 COUNTRIES ENACTED MORE THAN 3,700 EVENTS

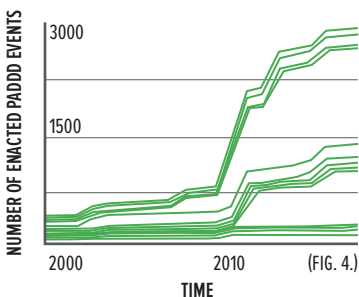
between 1892 and 2018, affecting an area the size of Mexico.

24 countries have proposed more than 800 events.

## WHEN?



### 78% OF PADDD EVENTS WERE ENACTED SINCE THE YEAR 2000



## WHY?



### 62% INDUSTRIAL-SCALE RESOURCE EXTRACTION/DEVELOPMENT

### 28% LAND CLAIMS AND LOCAL RESOURCE USE

### ONLY 1.7% CONSERVATION PLANNING

8.2% multiple or other causes

## SO WHAT?



### PROTECTED AREAS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO SAFEGUARD SPECIES AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

Protected areas are one of the most effective conservation strategies. Scaling back protections for industrial-scale extraction and development compromises these objectives.

For more information visit [paddtracker.org](https://paddtracker.org)