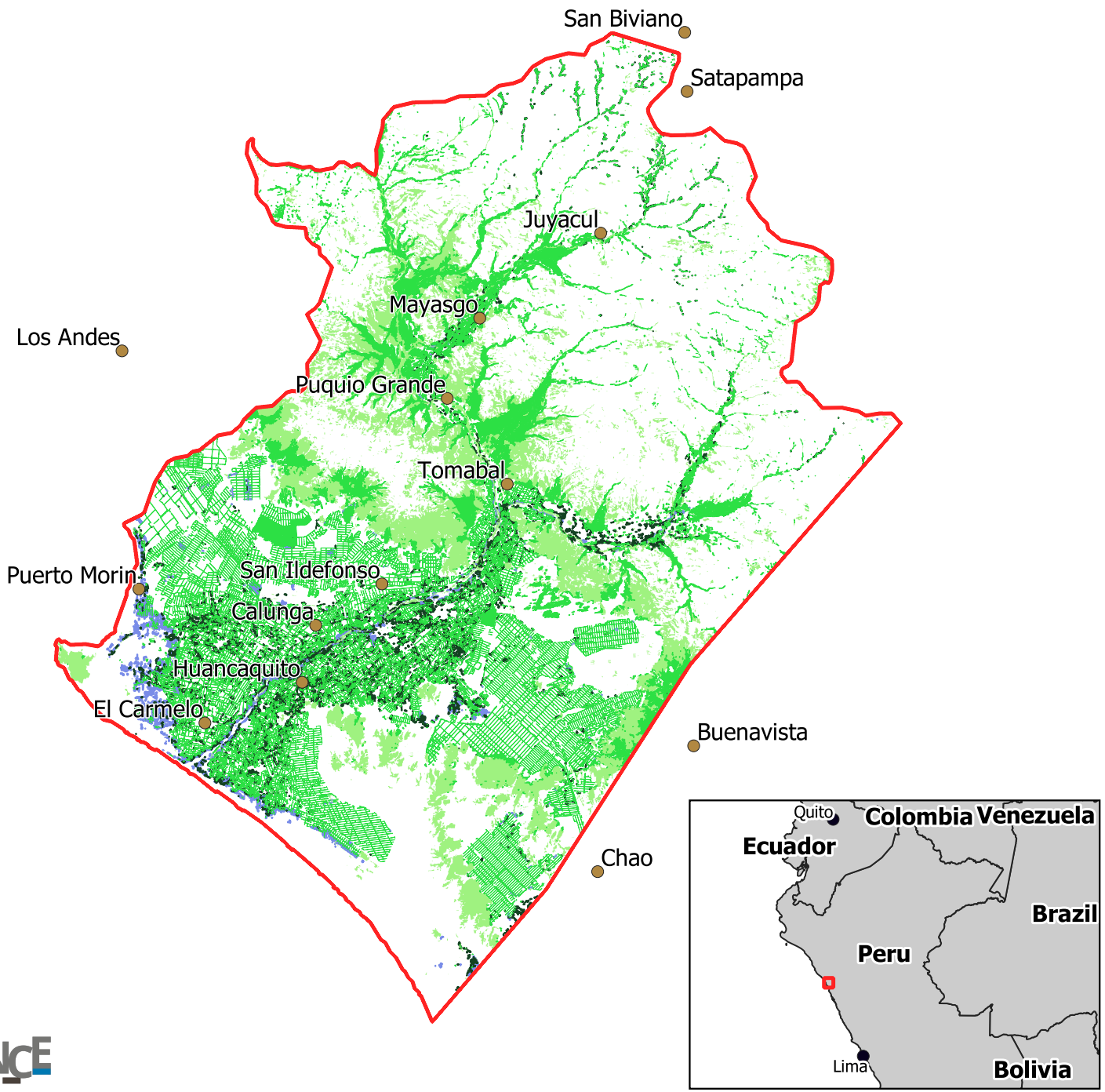
10. Opportunities to strengthen ecological networks

Ecosystem service: Population maintenance & genetic diversity.



How to interpret the map: The map shows places where it should be possible to restore or create new habitat to strengthen the existing ecological networks, to enhance biological and genetic diversity. Places in darker shades are areas where habitat restoration/ creation are expected to be most easily implemented and more successful. For example, developing a woodland from an area of dense scrub or bare ground may be a suitable choice in both places, but restoration is quicker, less labour intensive and less costly from the dense scrub vegetation, and on shallower slopes.

What the service is:
Biodiversity is a supporting service which underpins many other ecosystem services.

How the map was created:
This map considered all places where the existing habitat type could be enhanced to strengthen ecological networks. However, places in close proximity to existing source habitat are most likely to be effective at supporting existing populations (shown in Map 11). Field margin areas were mapped through analysis of Sentinel-2 imagery, and used to refine the opportunity selection within the permanently cropped areas. Habitats and land use were assessed as to the ease with which they could be restored to support the ecological networks. Where restoration to woodland was possible, this option was chosen, except in cases located in close proximity to existing source wetland habitat; in these places, the wetland option was chosen.

Legend

Ease of restoration

- Wetland opportunity: High
- Wetland opportunity: Medium
- Wetland opportunity: Low
- Woodland opportunity: High
- Woodland opportunity: Medium
- Woodland opportunity: Low

0 5 10 15 20 km

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Derived data created by JNCC and Environment Systems Ltd.
Maps created by Environment Systems Ltd (2019).
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