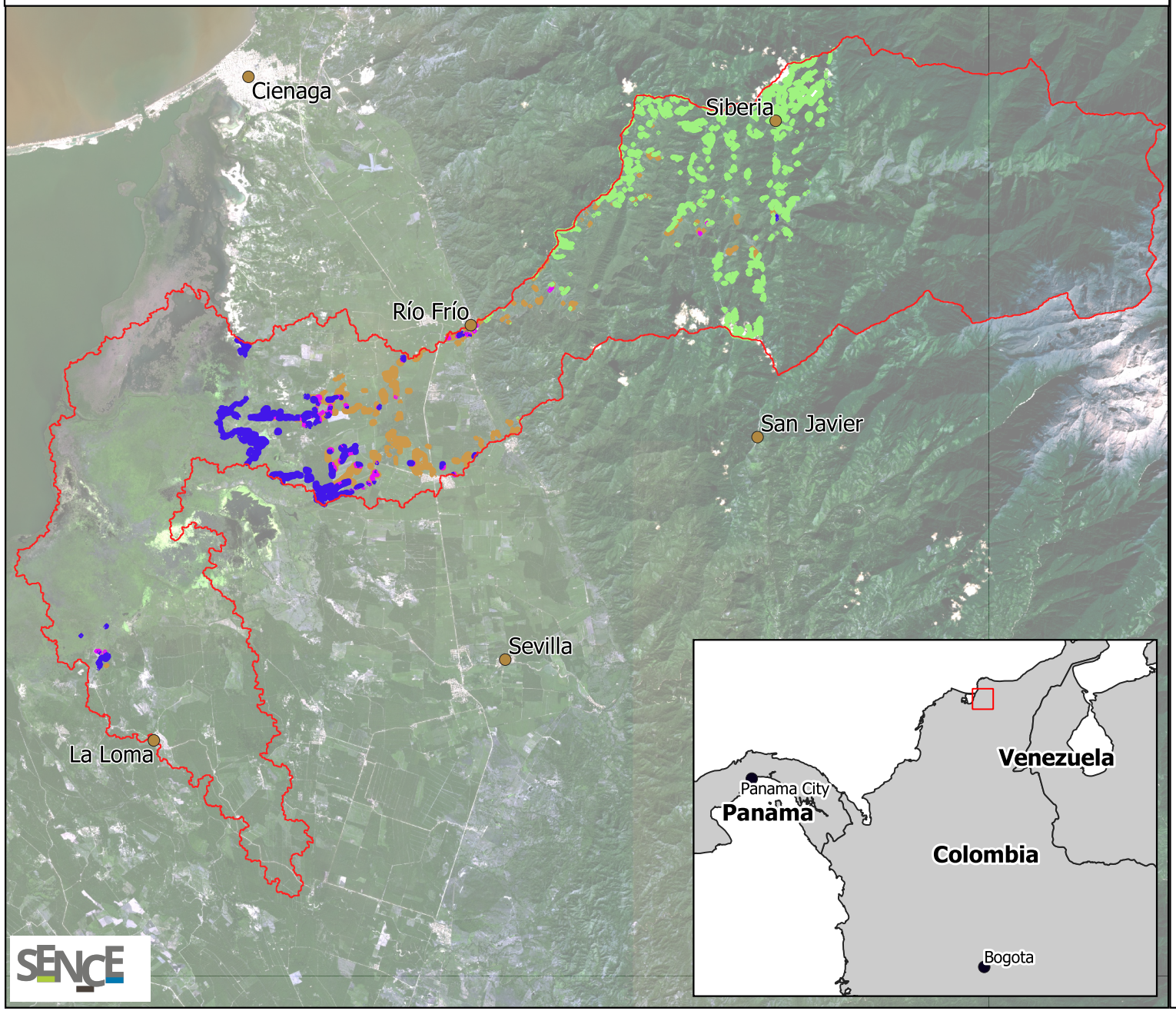
13. Opportunities to deliver multiple ecosystem services: ecological connectivity and surface water regulation

Ecosystem services: Regulation of overland flow.
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 grassland, wetland or woodland ecological networks to enhance biodiversity, while simultaneously enhancing the level of surface water regulation.

What the service is:
Biodiversity is a supporting service which underpins many other ecosystem services such as soil quality, pollination and food provision. Surface water regulation is a form of natural flood management, which manages the sources and pathways for flood waters.

Why is it important:
Surface water regulation and biodiversity are important ecosystem services in their own right. However, identifying places which provide high levels of multiple ecosystem services can help to inform the decision-making process when prioritising areas for land management action, in order to provide best value-for-money.

How the map was created:
This map is derived by combining information from two other ecosystem service maps in this series: "Opportunities to enhance surface water regulation in the Rio Frio catchment (Map 2)" and "Opportunities to strengthen ecological networks (Map 11)". It identifies places that could be restored to support the ecological networks, and which currently provide relatively low surface water regulation.

Legend

- Grassland opportunity
- Grassland or Wetland opportunity
- Wetland opportunity
- Woodand opportunity

0 3 6 9 12 15 km

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Sentinel-2 image: European Space Agency - ESA