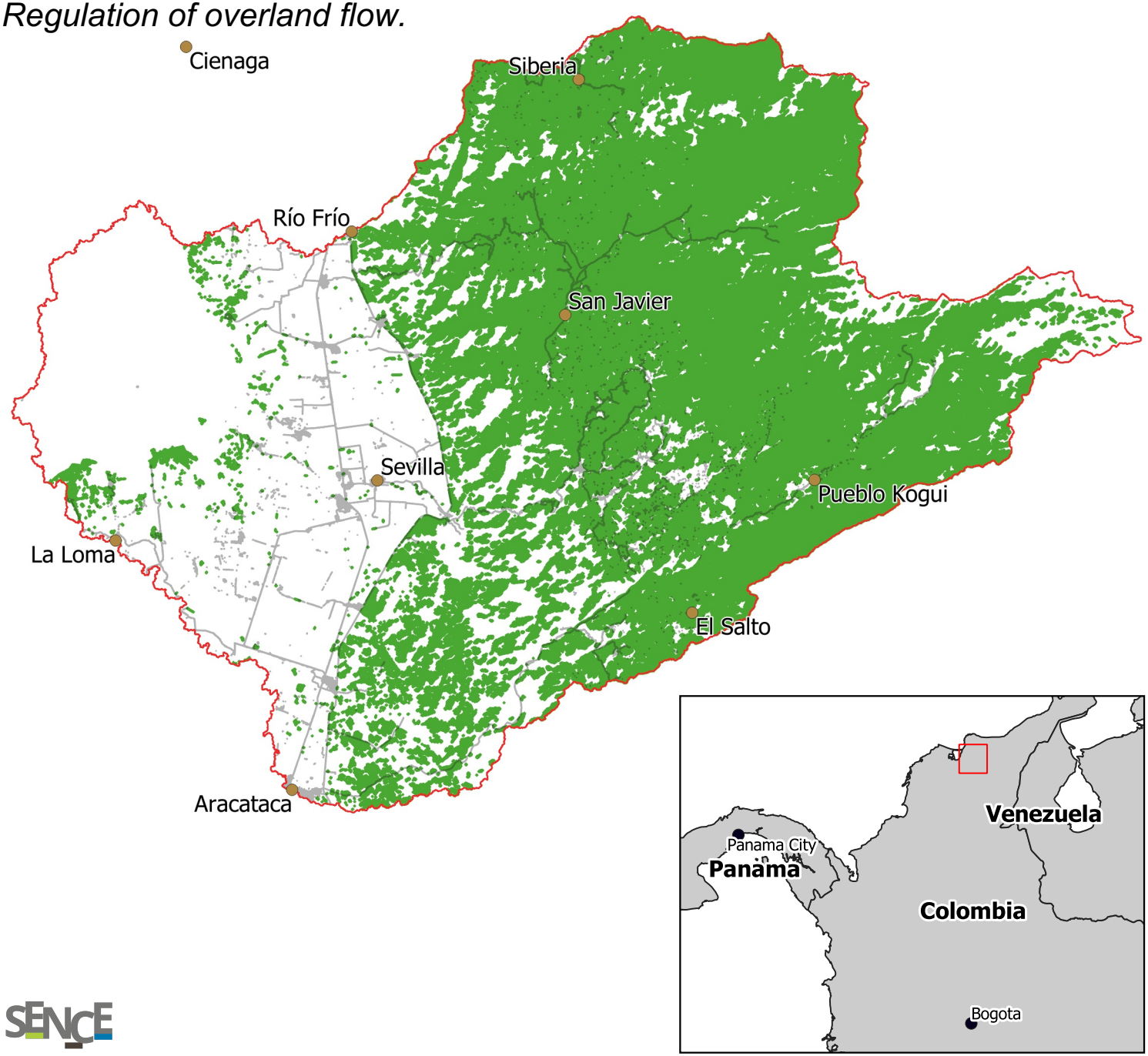
# 7. Places delivering multiple ecosystem service benefits: key areas for biodiversity and surface water regulation

*Ecosystem services: Population maintenance & genetic diversity. Regulation of overland flow.*




**How to interpret the map:**
The map identifies areas of source habitat (grassland, woodland, wetland) which coincide with areas providing high surface water regulation.

**What the service is:**
Source habitats function as the core of ecological networks. The structure and naturalness of the vegetation in these areas provides high biodiversity value. These vegetation characteristics combine with characteristics of the soil, geology and slope and together they provide high levels of surface water regulation. 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, where hydrological and morphological processes, together with the habitat features, work together to manage the sources and pathways for flood waters.

**Why it is important:**
Surface water regulation and biodiversity are important ecosystem services in their own right. However, places providing high levels of multiple ecosystem services could be considered more valuable than those providing a single ecosysterm service. The protection of places of high biodiversity value that also provide high levels of natural flood management is likely to be a good investment.

**How the map was created:**
This map was derived by combining information from two other ecosystem service maps in this series: “Ability of the land to moderate surface water runoff” (Map 1; areas with highest levels of provision) and “Places with habitat of key importance for biodiversity” (Map 6).

## Legend

- Areas important for both biodiversity and surface water regulation
- No multi-benefits
- Roads and urban

0 5 10 15 20 km

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