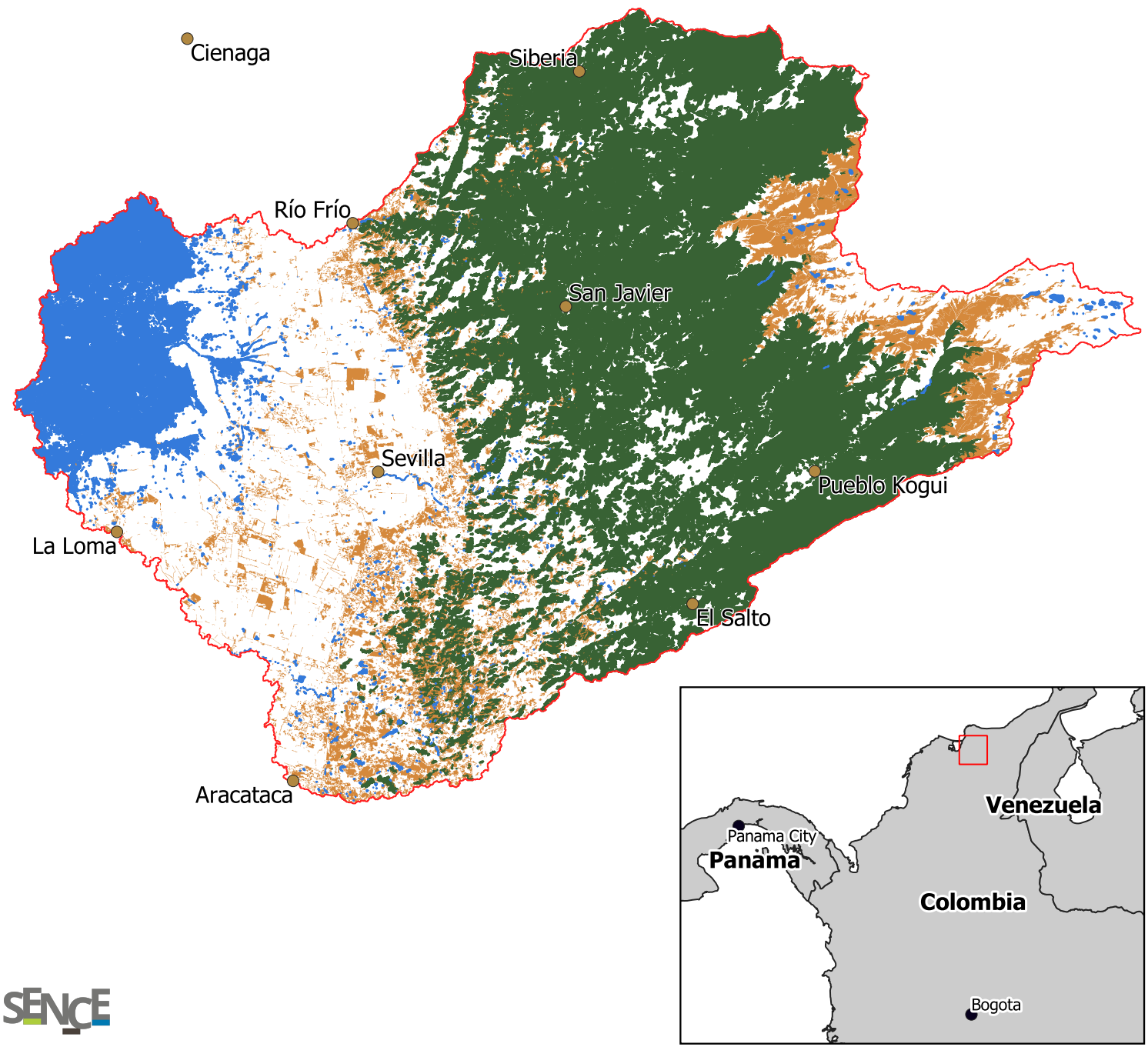
6. Places with habitat of key importance for biodiversity

Ecosystem services: Population maintenance & genetic diversity.



How to interpret the map:
The map shows existing areas of natural or semi-natural grassland, wetland or woodland that are important for supporting biological and genetic diversity. Areas of disturbed woodland are not included as they are likely to be less diverse than undisturbed woodland.

What the service is:
The map shows areas of natural or semi-natural vegetation, that are likely to support populations of a wide range of species, and high overall biodiversity. Biodiversity is a supporting service which underpins many other ecosystem services such as soil quality, pollination, food provision and surface water regulation.

Why it is important:
These habitats are core components of the ecological networks, which facilitate gene flow between species populations and increase ecological resilience to disturbances such as land management and climate change. Natural and semi-natural habitats function as a complete system and so generally provide a higher level of ecosystem services than less natural and structurally diverse habitats. Loss of these habitats would reduce the ecological resilience, and have an impact on related ecosystem services, such as the ability of land to regulate surface water runoff, and habitat for pollinators.

How the map was created:
The habitat classes were generated using Sentinel 1 and Sentinel 2 satellite imagery. The map has been created at the strategic scale and is indicative at a field level. Field visits should be undertaken before any specific management decisions are taken.

Legend

- Wetland habitat
- Woodland habitat
- Grassland habitat

0 5 10 15 20 km

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