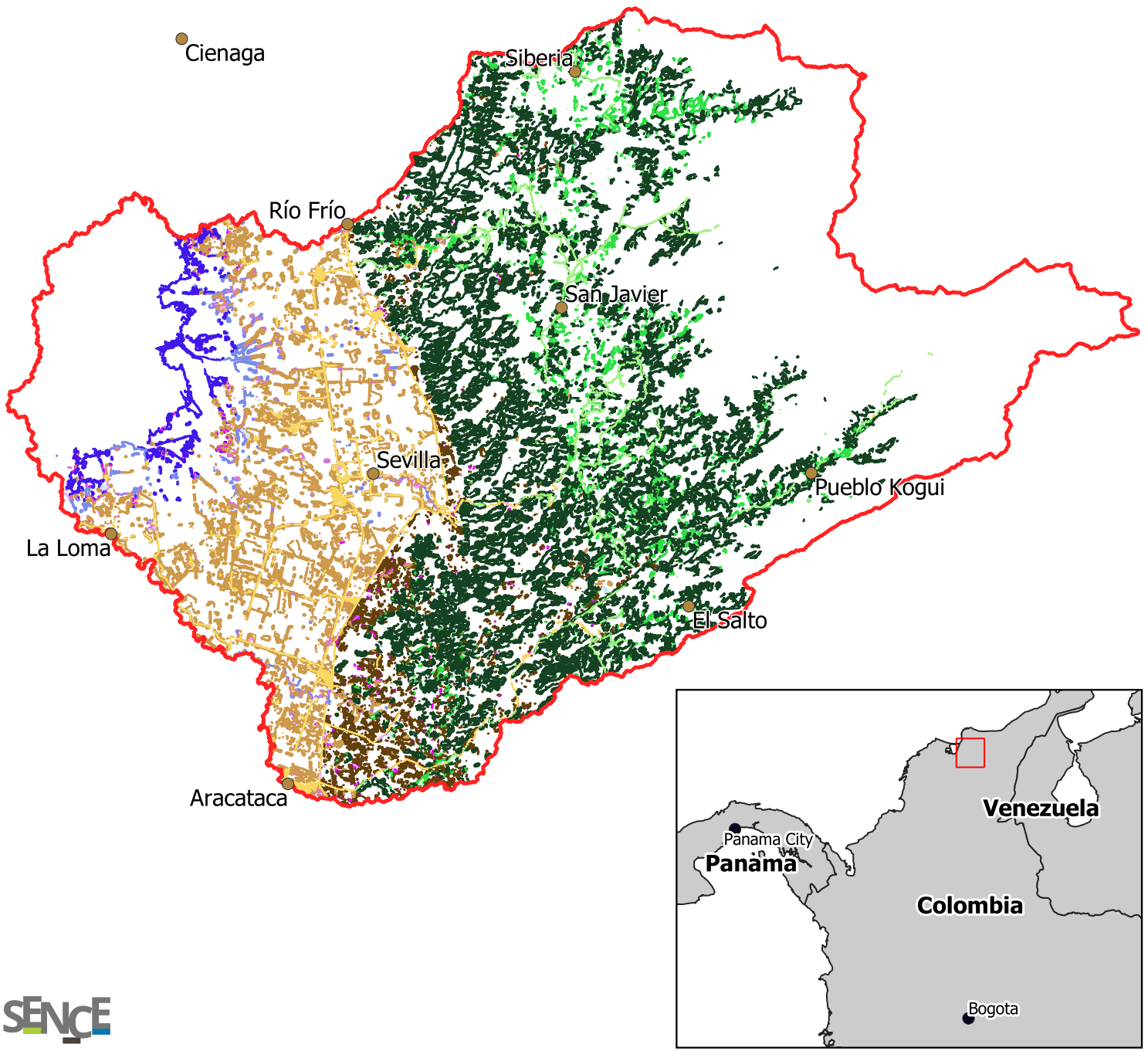
# 11. Opportunities to strengthen ecological networks

*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 is quicker, less labour intensive and less costly from the dense scrub vegetation.

**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 in close proximity to existing source habitat; these areas are most likely to be effective at supporting existing populations. Habitats and land use within this proximity zone 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 always chosen. In other places, where restoration to either grassland or wetland is possible, this is indicated.

## Legend

Ease of restoration

- Grassland opportunity: High
- Grassland opportunity: Medium
- Grassland opportunity: Low
- Grassland or Wetland opportunity: High
- Grassland or Wetland opportunity: Medium
- Grassland or Wetland opportunity: Low
- 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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