

# Ecosystem Services

A link between conservation and people

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## Our vision

The Nature Conservancy envisions a world where the connection between people and nature is valued so that the places and natural systems that sustain all life endure for future generations. We all depend on nature for clean air and water, a stable climate and bountiful harvests.

## The problem

Unfortunately, two thirds of the services provided by nature are degraded or at risk of collapse. The Conservancy works to ensure that natural resource decisions are informed by our science and practical experiences on how to sustain nature and the services that contribute to human well-being.

## Our approach

Ecosystem services can provide the link between conservation and people. The Conservancy works to support biodiversity conservation through increase in sources of funding, influence policy making towards favoring natural ecosystems conservation, and obtain broader support from cooperation agencies, government, donors, and general population.

## How does the conservancy do it?

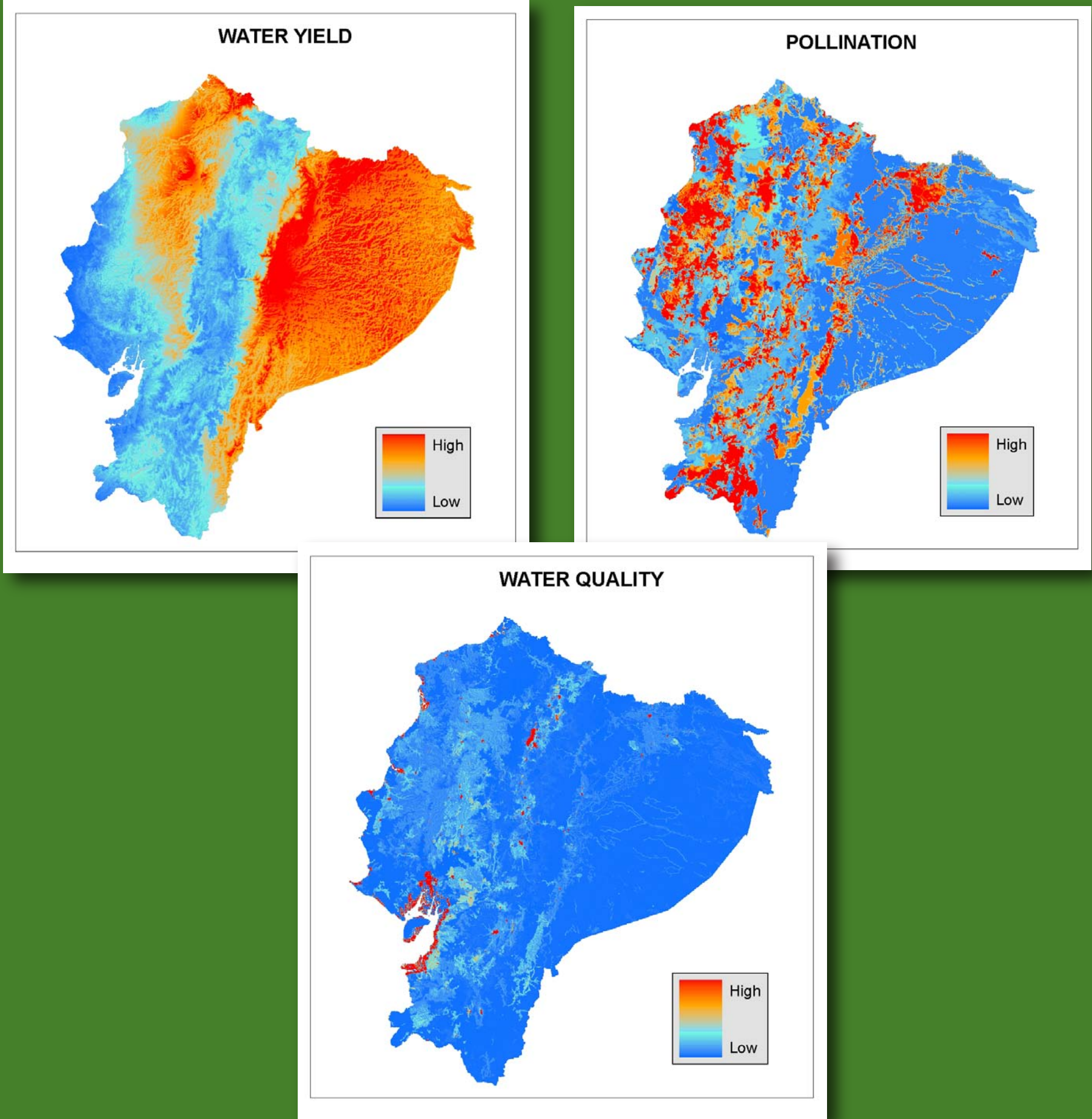
Influence policy making:

*Ecosystem services policy:*  
The Nature Conservancy is providing technical assistance for the development of an ecosystem policy for Colombia lead by the Ministry of Environment.

*Decision support system:*  
In collaboration with the Natural Capital Project, TNC is generating ecosystem services maps using InVEST- Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services & Tradeoffs at a national level in Colombia and Ecuador. These maps will be integrated in a decision support system for the Ministry of the Environment in Colombia and for the National Planning Agency in Ecuador. The maps will be used to avoid impacts, such as the construction of mega-infrastructure, on prioritized areas for ecosystem services and biodiversity.

*Avoid, reduce and compensate impacts of infrastructure projects:*  
The Nature Conservancy has signed an agreement with the Ministry of the Environment in Colombia to provide technical assistance and information to avoid, minimize and establish compensation measures and trade-offs including environmental services components, for the development of a pilot case to explore and exploit coal.

Figure 1: Ecosystem services maps for Ecuador



## Working with others

The Conservancy teamed up with partners in the region to asses how ecosystem services contribute to development objectives such as poverty alleviation. Thus, the Conservancy supported a situation analysis in the Amazon Basin to define a series of priorities for research and capacity building, to contribute improving the understanding of how ecosystem services and conservation can help preventing and alleviating poverty in the region. Although the analysis is still on the way, the preliminary results indicate that there is a direct correlation between ecosystems' health, the goods and services they provide and an improvement of human wellbeing.

Figure 2: Biodiversity and poverty maps

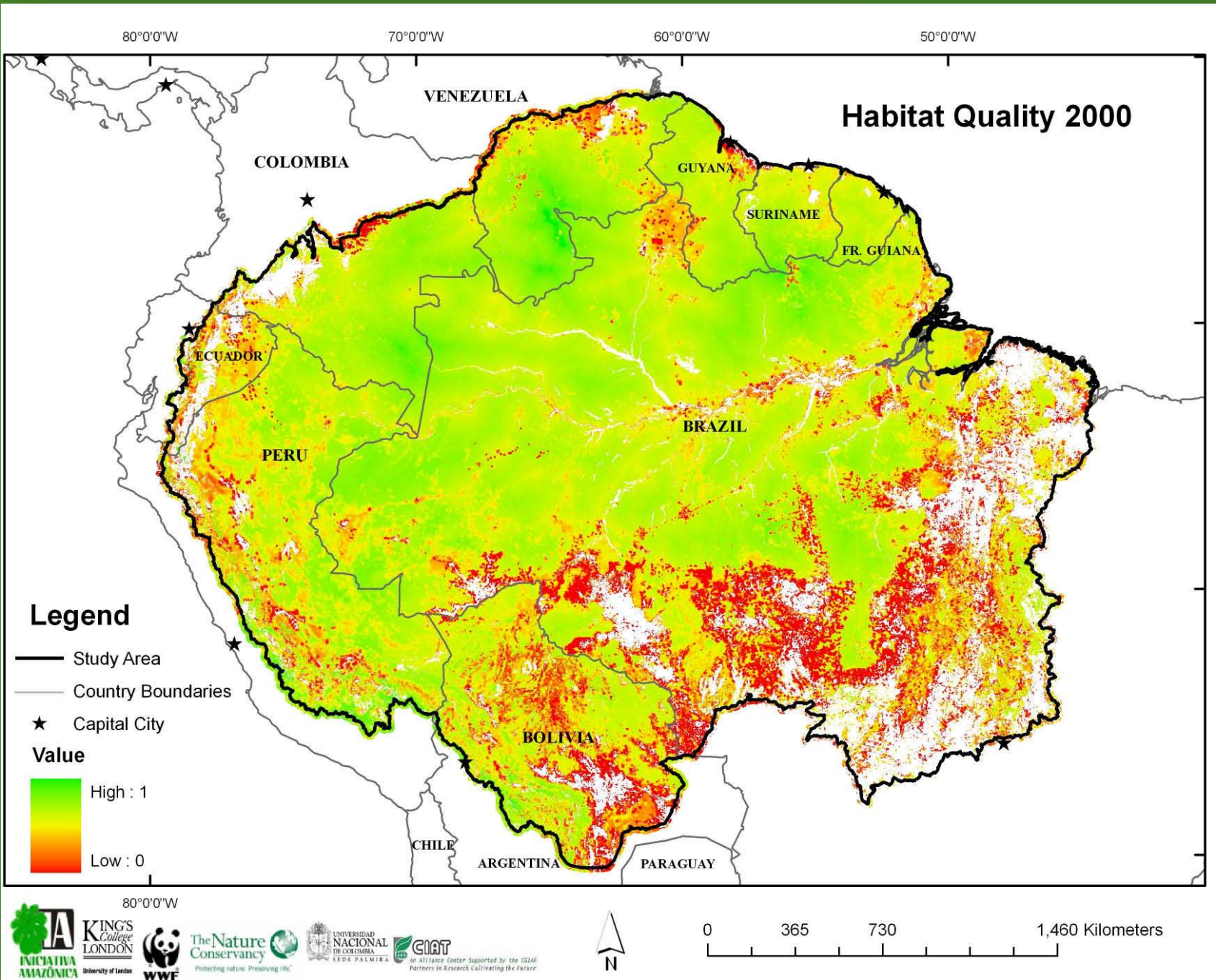
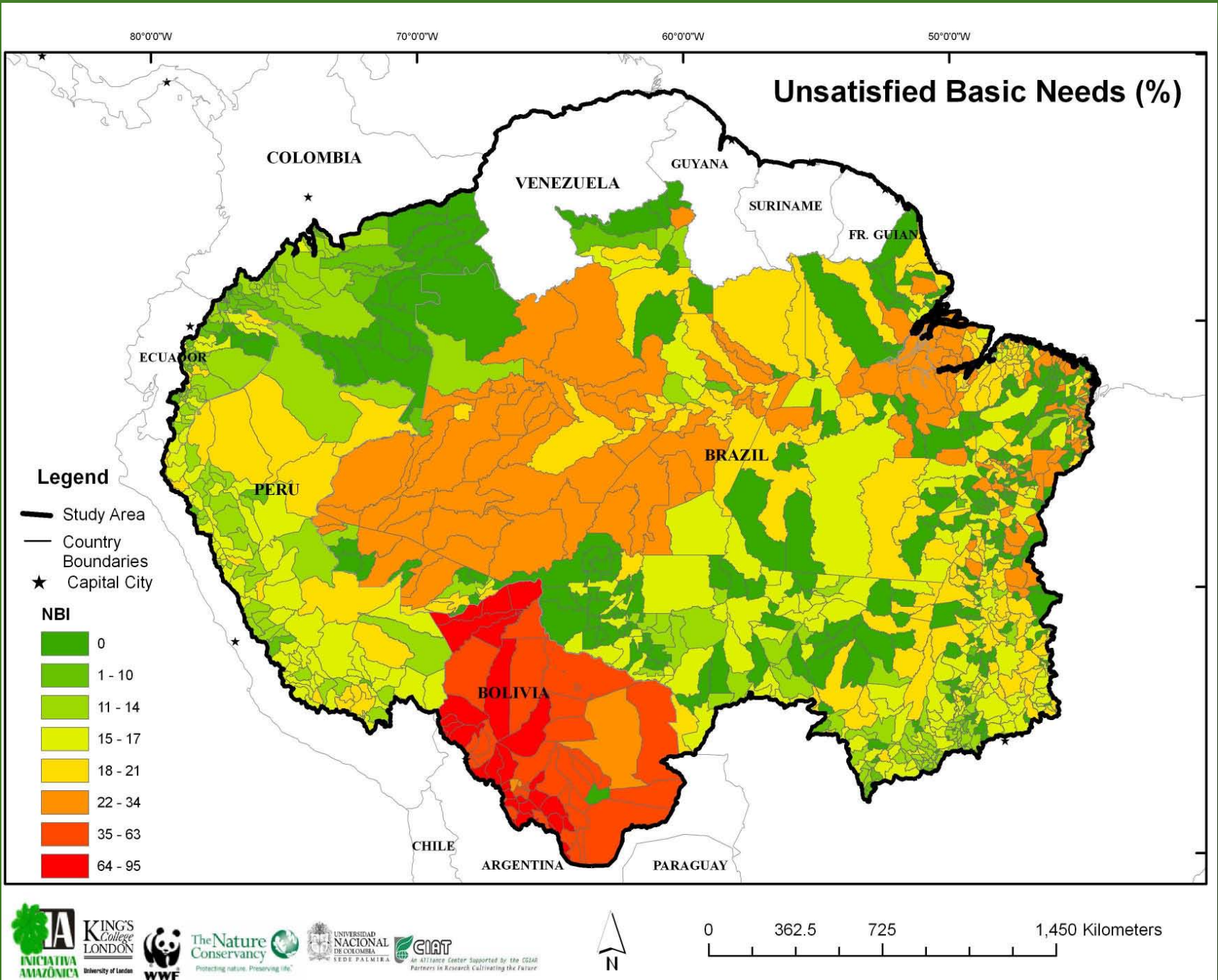


Figure 3: Results of stakeholder consultation in amazon basin

