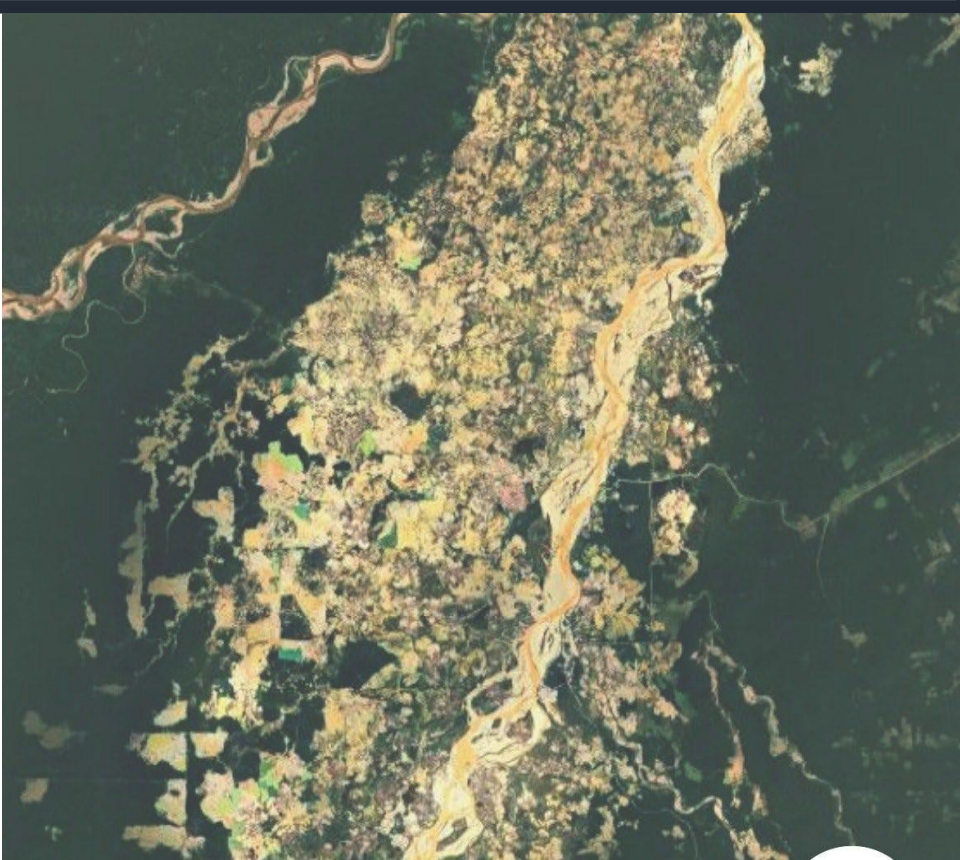


Tackling the Growing Threat of Mercury Contamination to Freshwater Fishes and People



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to CBD COP17

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Global Biotic Mercury Synthesis database*

Taxa Group of Interest to Human Health*	Taxonomic Unit	Sample Size	Percent >Threshold
Tuna (commercial)	Species	(n=9)	67%
Billfish	Species	(n=7)	71%
Sharks	Families	(n=24)	88%
Marine Fish–Mediterranean Sea	Families	(n=35)	69%
Marine Fish–Caribbean Sea	Families	(n=39)	64%
Freshwater Fish–African	Families	(n=16)	19%
Freshwater Fish–South America	Families	(n=30)	53%
Freshwater Fish–Asia	Families	(n=31)	39%
Freshwater Fish–North America	Families	(n=25)	48%
Seabirds–Arctic and Subarctic	Species	(n=20)	30%
Marine Mammals–toothed whales	Species	(n=38)	100%
* Taxa identified by the Minamata Convention: fish, sea turtles, birds, and marine mammals.			

>1,700

Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications.

>588,000

Number of individuals sampled.

>4,100

Unique sampling locations.

139

Number of countries where sampling took place.

Sampling Regions		Fish	Sea Turtles	Birds	Marine Mammals
Continents	Africa		N/A		
	Antarctica		N/A		
	Asia		N/A		
	Australia		N/A		
	Europe		N/A		
	North America		N/A		
	South America		N/A		

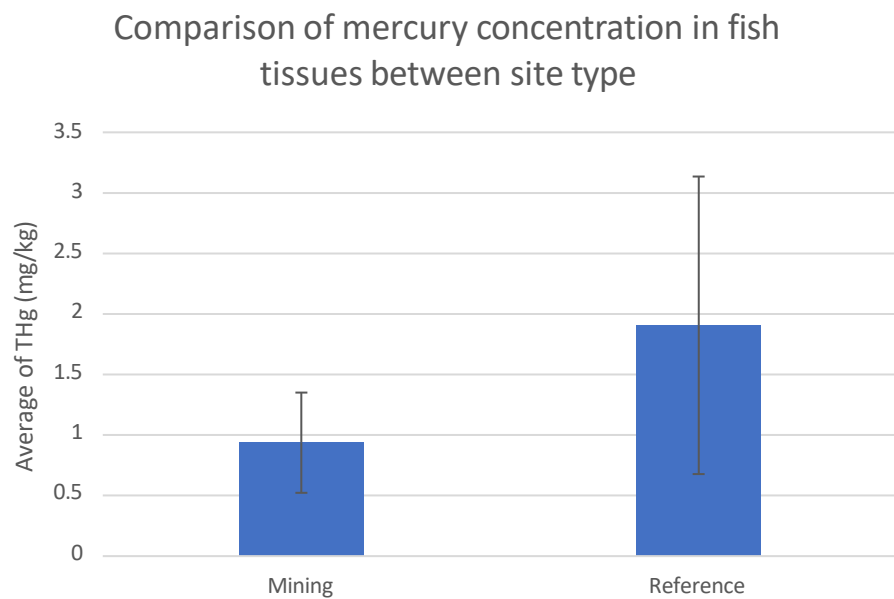
Sampling intensity	
Very High	
High	
Medium	
Low	
Very Low	

*Evers et al. 2024. Global Mercury Concentrations in Biota: Their Use as a Basis for a Global Biomonitoring Framework. Ecotoxicology 33:325–396.

Strategies for reducing the threat of mercury contamination

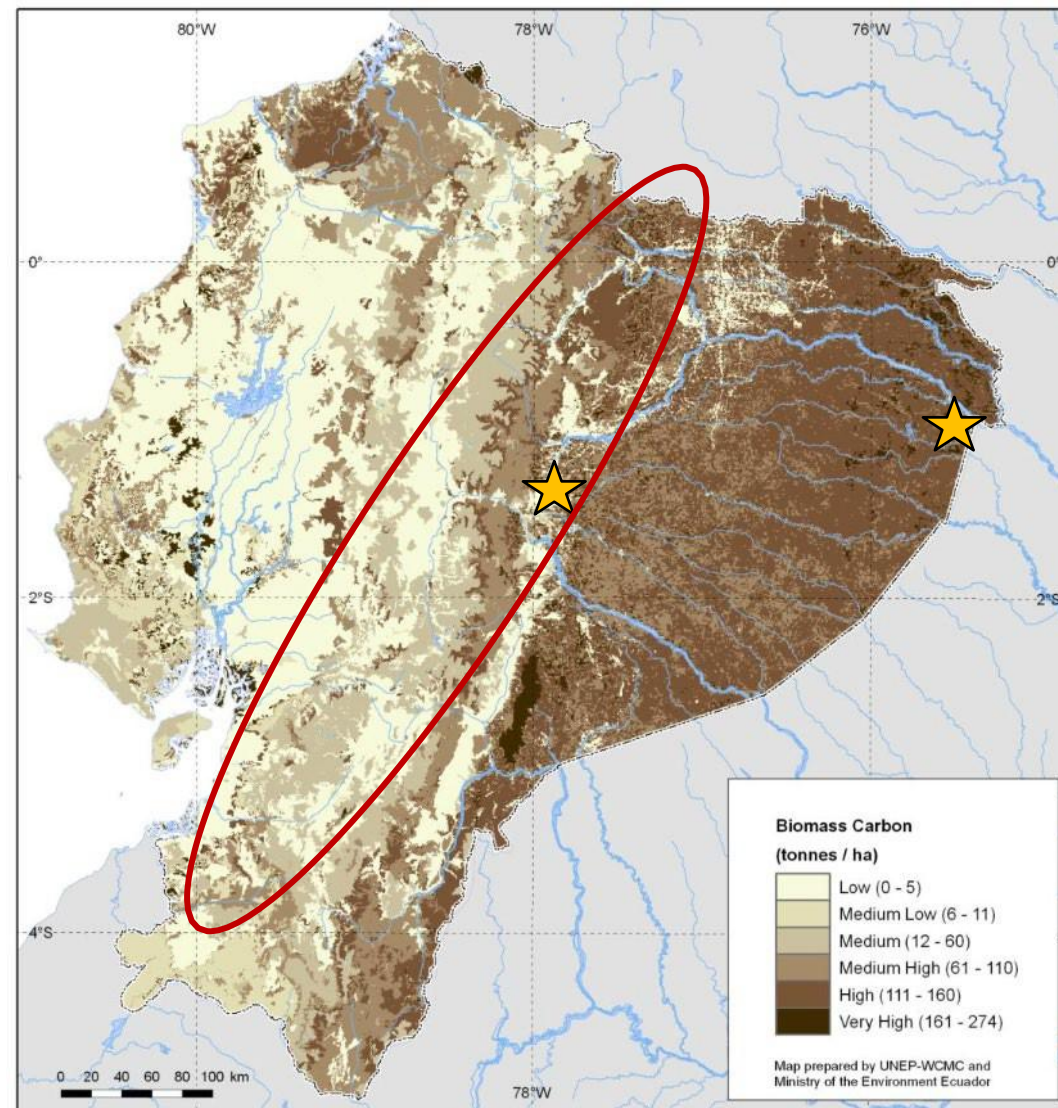
1. Monitoring, mapping, and communicating about risk and sensitivity
2. Community education and outreach around safe fish consumption
3. Reforming the ASGM sector
 - a. Formalization of the sector
 - b. Mercury-free processing techniques
 - c. Supply chain reform
4. Legal action, especially in protected areas
5. Policy – increase compliance with Minamata Convention.





Gold mining zone

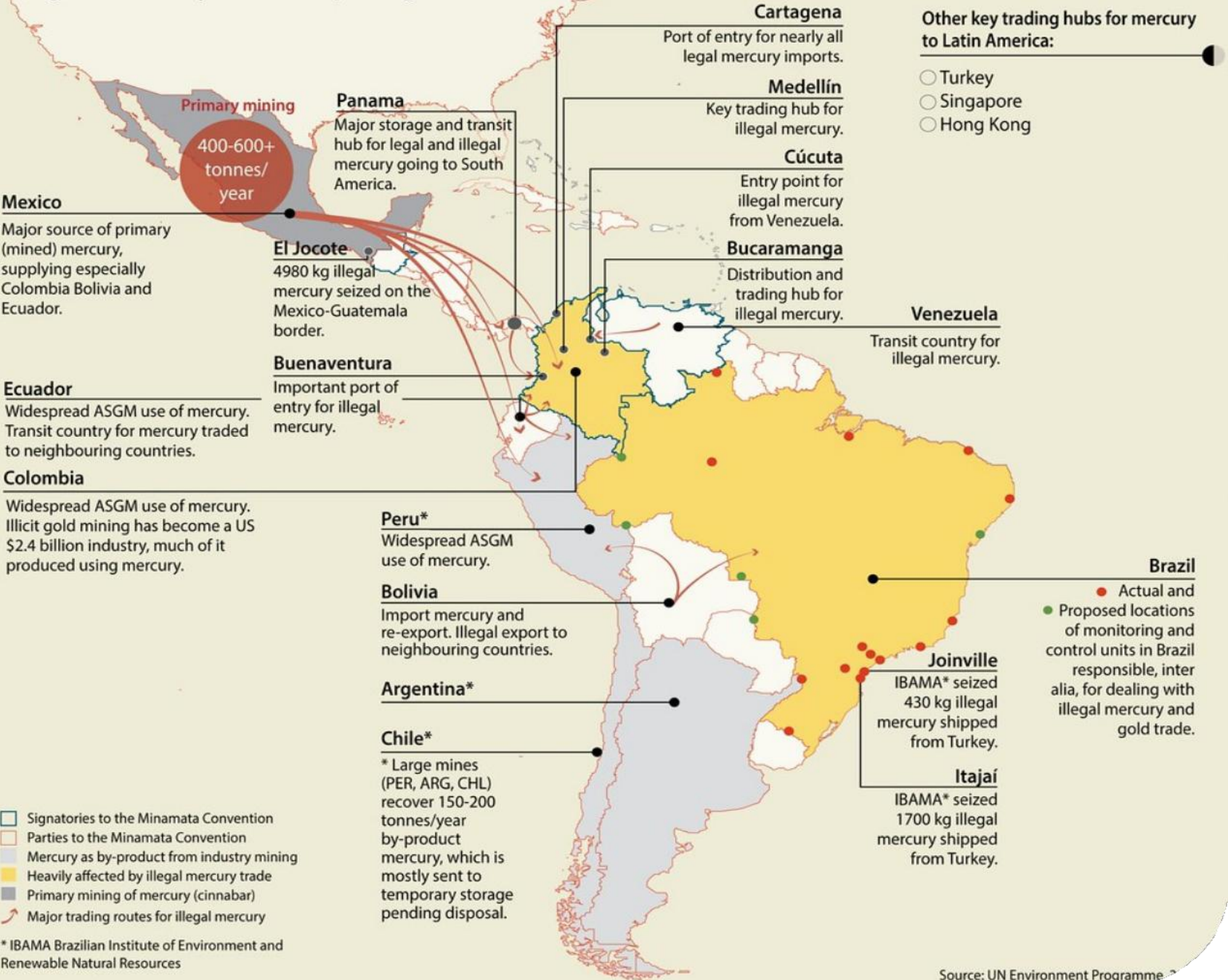
Sampling sites



Map 2: Updated biomass carbon map of the Republic of Ecuador based on vegetation cover data and biomass estimates from national and international sources

Bertzky, M., Ravilious, C., Araujo Navas, A.L., Kapos, V., Carrión, D., Chíu, M., Dickson, B. (2010) Carbon, biodiversity and ecosystem services: Exploring co-benefits. Ecuador. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK

Illegal mercury trade - spotlight on Latin America



THE MERCURY TRADE IN LATIN AMERICA

Mercury and Gold Mining in the Amazon, A Legal Review.

By N. Fromherz, A. Aldous, and C. Ipenza

Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, March 2027

For all countries	Brazil	Colombia	Ecuador	Peru	Bolivia
Research to determine the extent to which administrative and criminal proceedings result in environmental restoration orders; complementary research to determine the extent to which these orders are enforced in practice. Participation in the work of the Andean Mercury Observatory.	Prepare annual public reports on the implementation of IBAMA Normative Instruction No. 26-2024. For example, information on the functioning of the registration and monitoring system, measures taken in cases of violations, and recommendations for future improvements.	Consider filing or supporting lawsuits on behalf of and led by indigenous peoples affected by mercury pollution. There are options for organizations to play a secondary role (providing data, expert scientific witnesses, filing an <i>amicus curiae</i> brief, etc.).	Explore ways to engage with Ecuadorian authorities on the possibility of reducing import quotas (currently up to 1 ton per import license) to better align them with their ban on mercury use in mining.	Support a version of the MAPE Law that requires mercury elimination as a prerequisite for formalization or as a fundamental step during the formalization process.	Consider collaborating with local civil society organizations and indigenous and local communities to encourage the Central Bank of Bolivia to purchase only gold certified as mercury-free.