

# Onchocerciasis in Latin America

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ISID-NTD Neglected Tropical Diseases Meeting  
Session Prospects for Elimination: What will it take?  
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# Onchocerciasis Elimination Program for the Americas (OEPA)

Headquartered in Guatemala and sponsored by The Carter Center, OEPA is the technical and coordinating body of a multi-national, multi-agency coalition that was created in response to the 1991 Resolution XIV of XXXV Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization calling for the elimination of all onchocerciasis morbidity from the Americas by the year 2007.

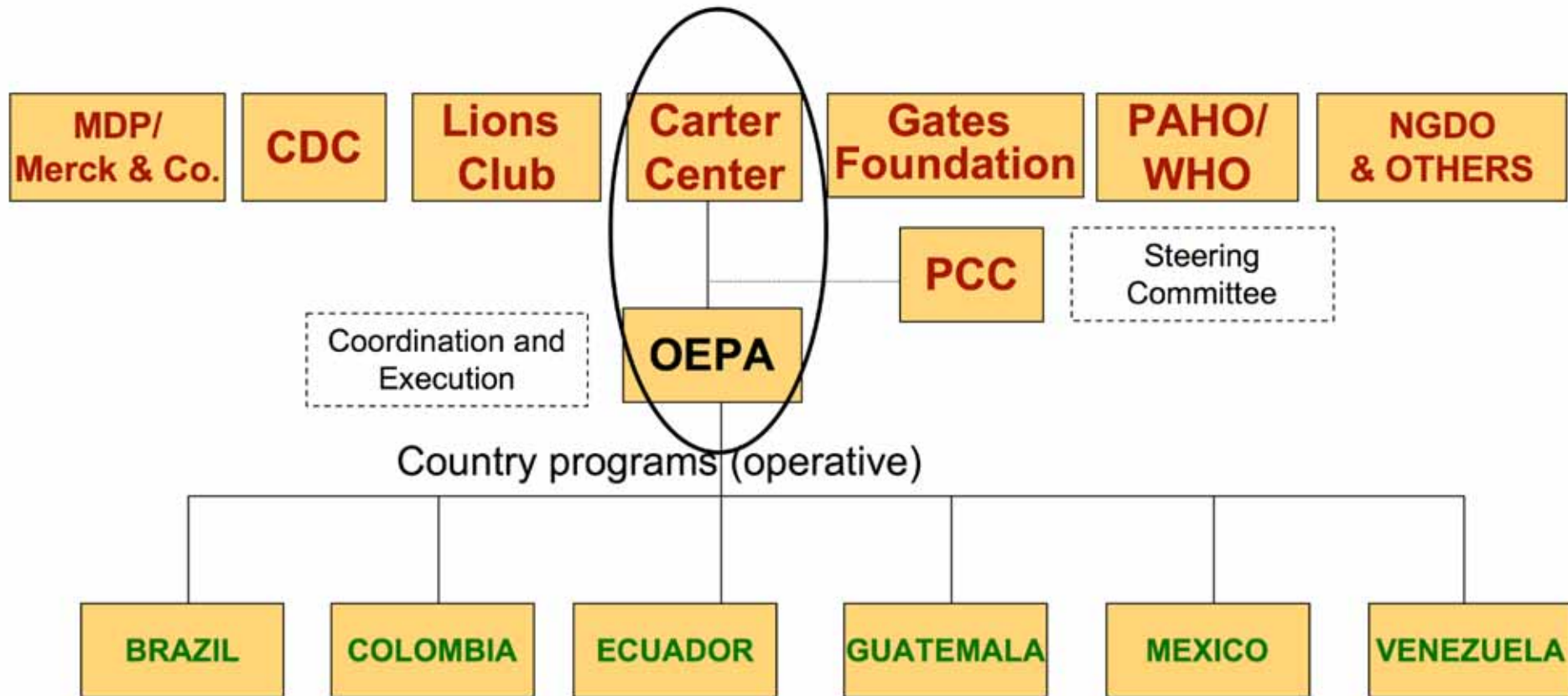


In 1993, **Onchocerciasis** (river blindness) was endemic in 13 foci distributed among 6 countries in WHO's Region of the Americas: Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Venezuela.

The Onchocerciasis Elimination Program for the Americas (OEPA) is a regional public-private partnership that includes the endemic countries, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), The Carter Center, the Lions Clubs International Foundation and local Lions clubs in the countries, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The Gates Foundation, several universities, The Mectizan Donation Program and Merck & Co.



# Partnership Organization Chart



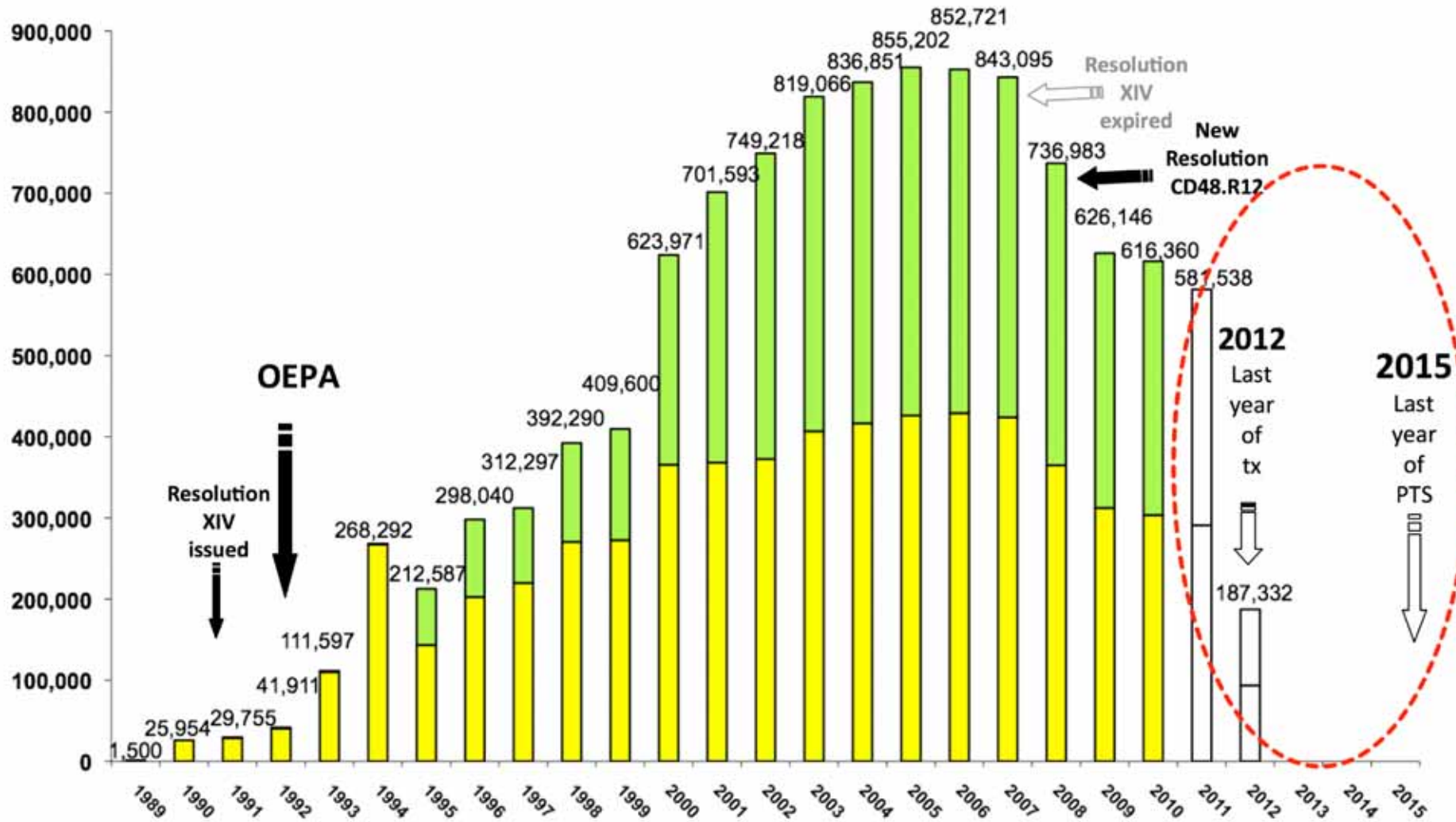
## The strategy of OEPA

The goal of the initiative is to provide MDA at least twice per year with Mectizan<sup>®</sup> (ivermectin) to a minimum of 85% of the eligible population within all endemic communities.

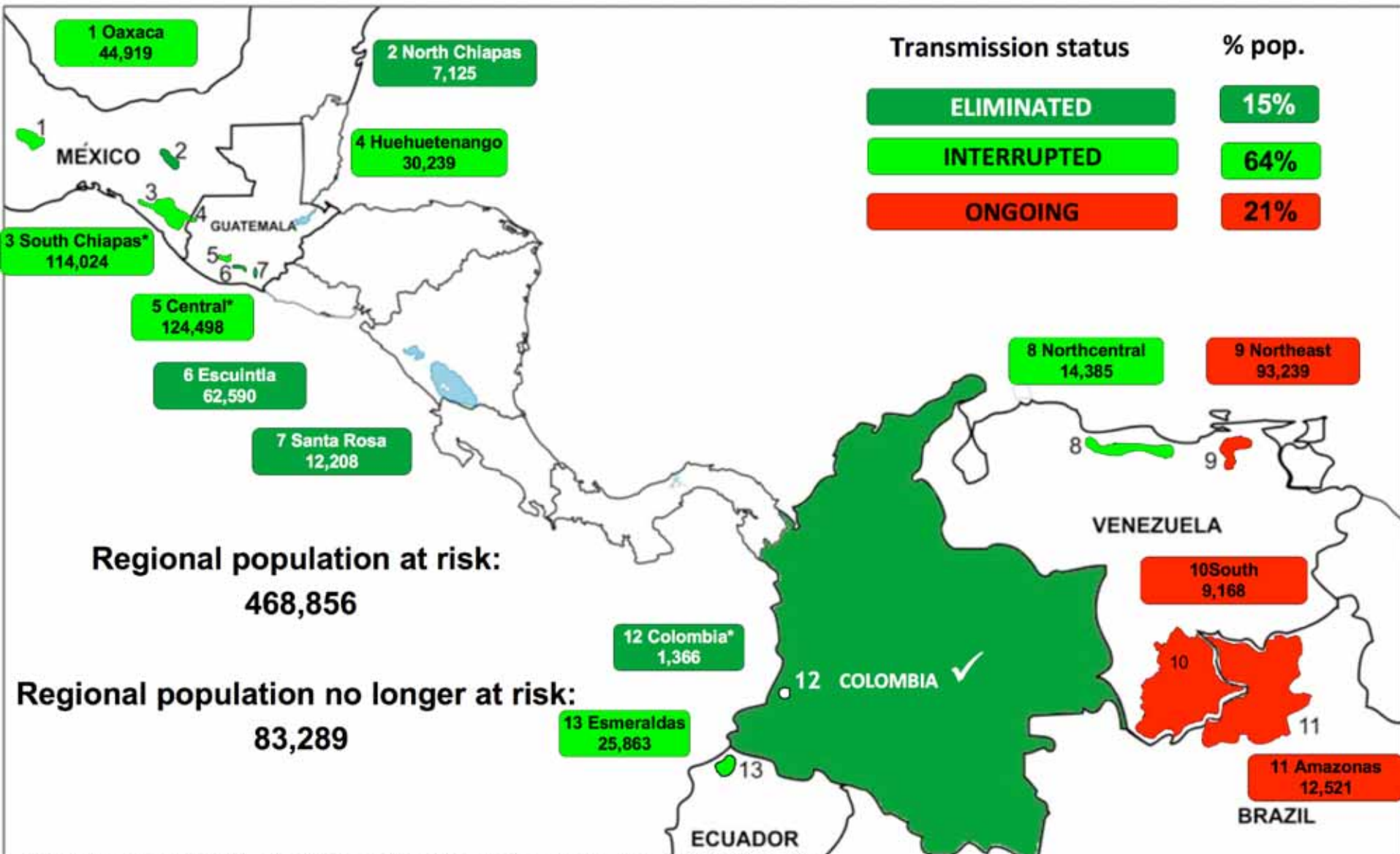
OEPA is now operating under a new 2008 resolution by PAHO's Directing Council that calls for the regional elimination of ocular morbidity caused by onchocerciasis and the interruption of transmission of the parasite by 2012.



# History of Mectizan® treatment in the Americas and projection from 2011-2015



# Geographic distribution and transmission status of onchocerciasis in the Americas 2011



\*pending approval by the ministries of health of Colombia, Mexico, and Guatemala.



## Current situation of ocular morbidity and transmission of onchocerciasis within the Americas region 2011

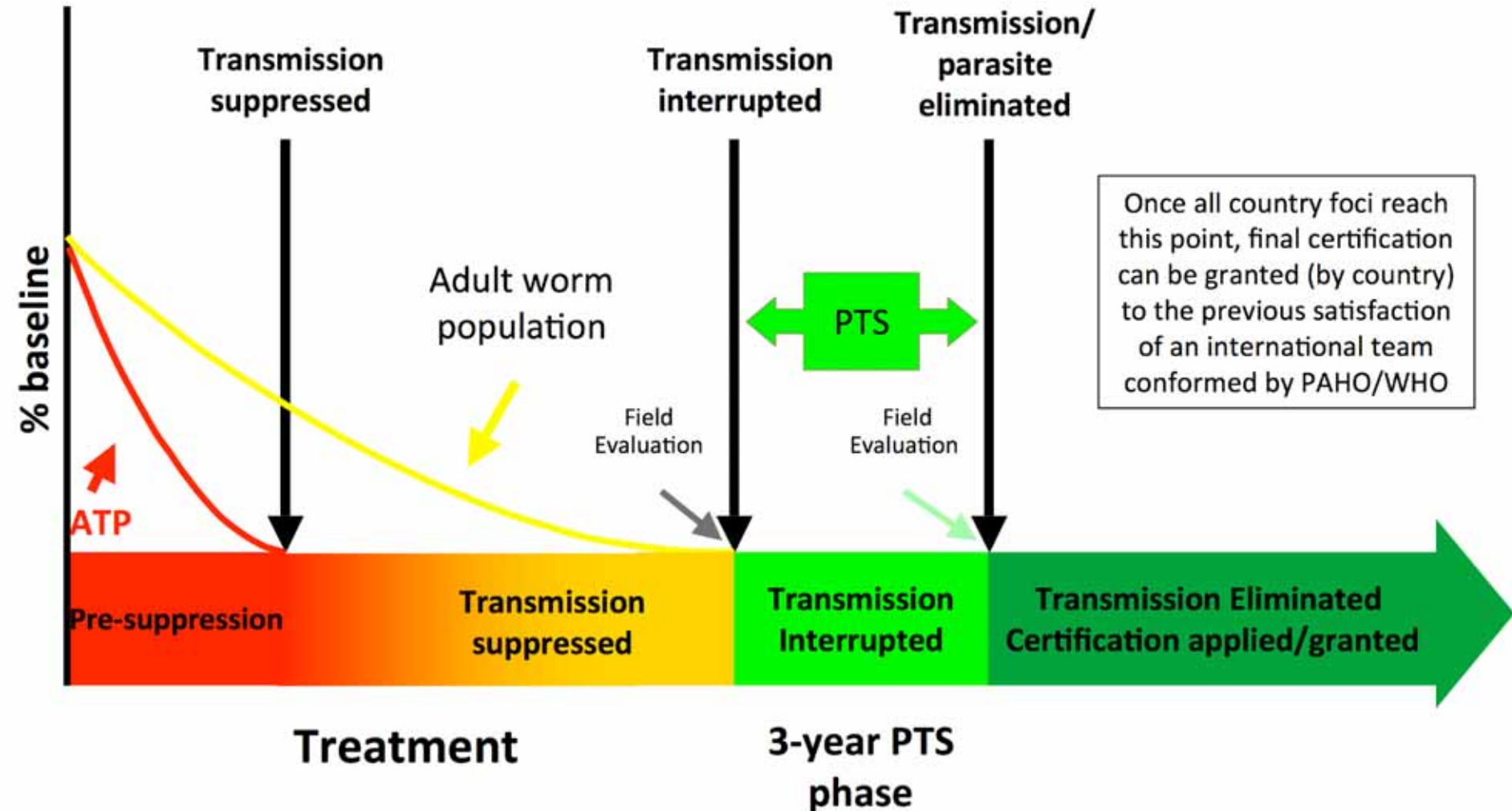
Focus	Has blindness been eliminated?	Has ocular morbidity disappeared?	Transmission status
Santa Rosa, GU	Yes	Yes	Eliminated in 2010
Escuintla, GU	Yes	Yes	Eliminated in 2010
North Chiapas, MX	Yes	Yes	Eliminated in 2010
Lopez de Micay, CO*	Yes	Yes	Eliminated in 2010
Huehuetenango, GU	Yes	Yes	Interrupted in 2008
Oaxaca, MX	Yes	Yes	Interrupted in 2008
Esmeraldas, EC	Yes	Yes	Interrupted in 2009
Northcentral, VZ	Yes	Yes	Interrupted in 2010
South Chiapas, MX*	Yes	Yes	Interrupted in 2011
Central, GU*	Yes	Yes	Interrupted in 2011
Northeast, VZ	Yes	No	Ongoing
Amazonas, BR	Yes	No	Ongoing
South, VZ	Yes	No	Ongoing

\*pending approval by the ministries of health of Colombia , Mexico and Guatemala. The Mexican and Guatemalan Programs should complete treatment distribution in 2011.





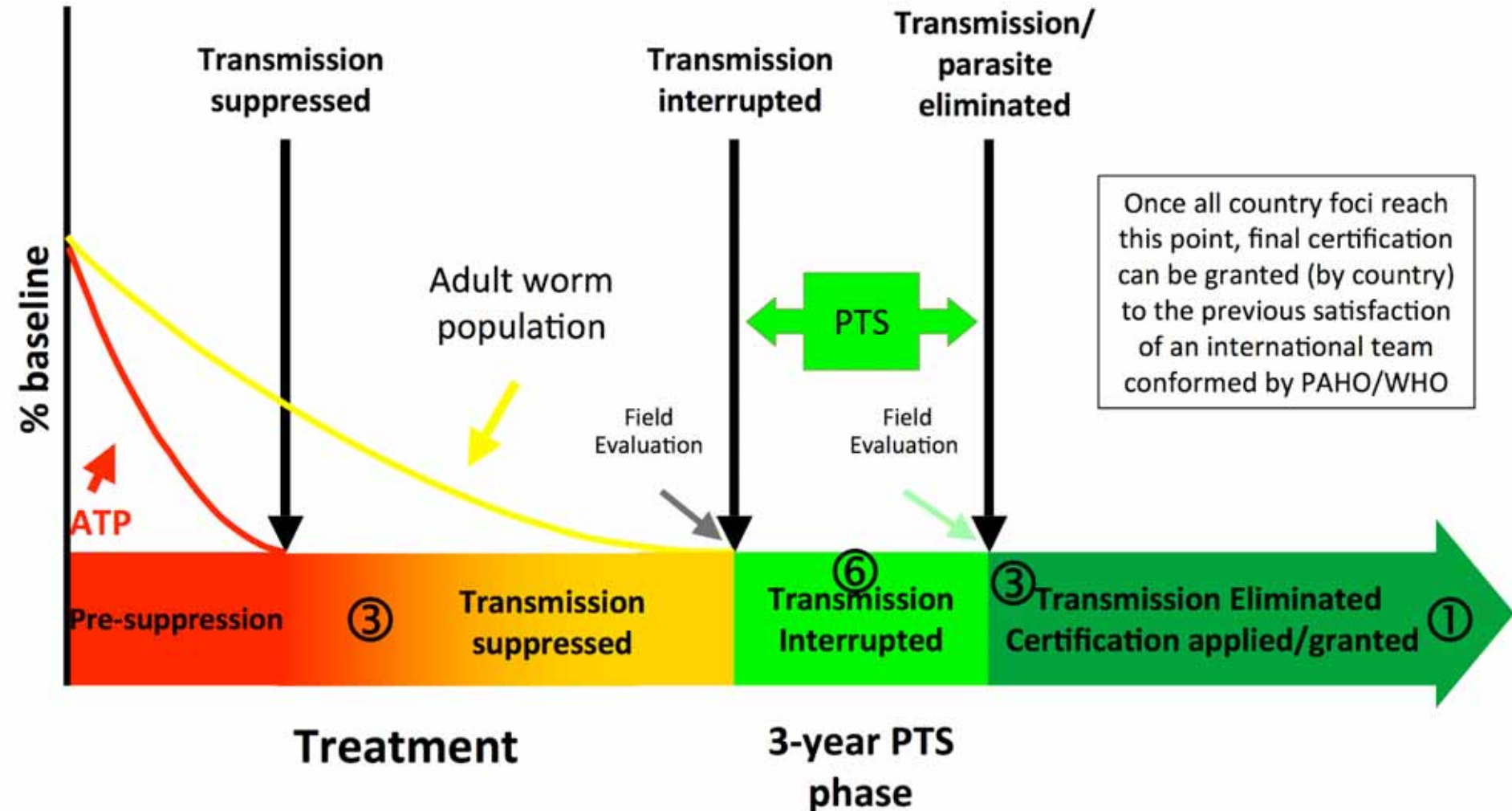
# The process of Certification of Elimination of Onchocerciasis



ATP: Annual Transmission Potential  
PTS: Post-treatment Surveillance



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## Regional population at risk, no longer at risk, under PTS and eligible for treatment in 2011

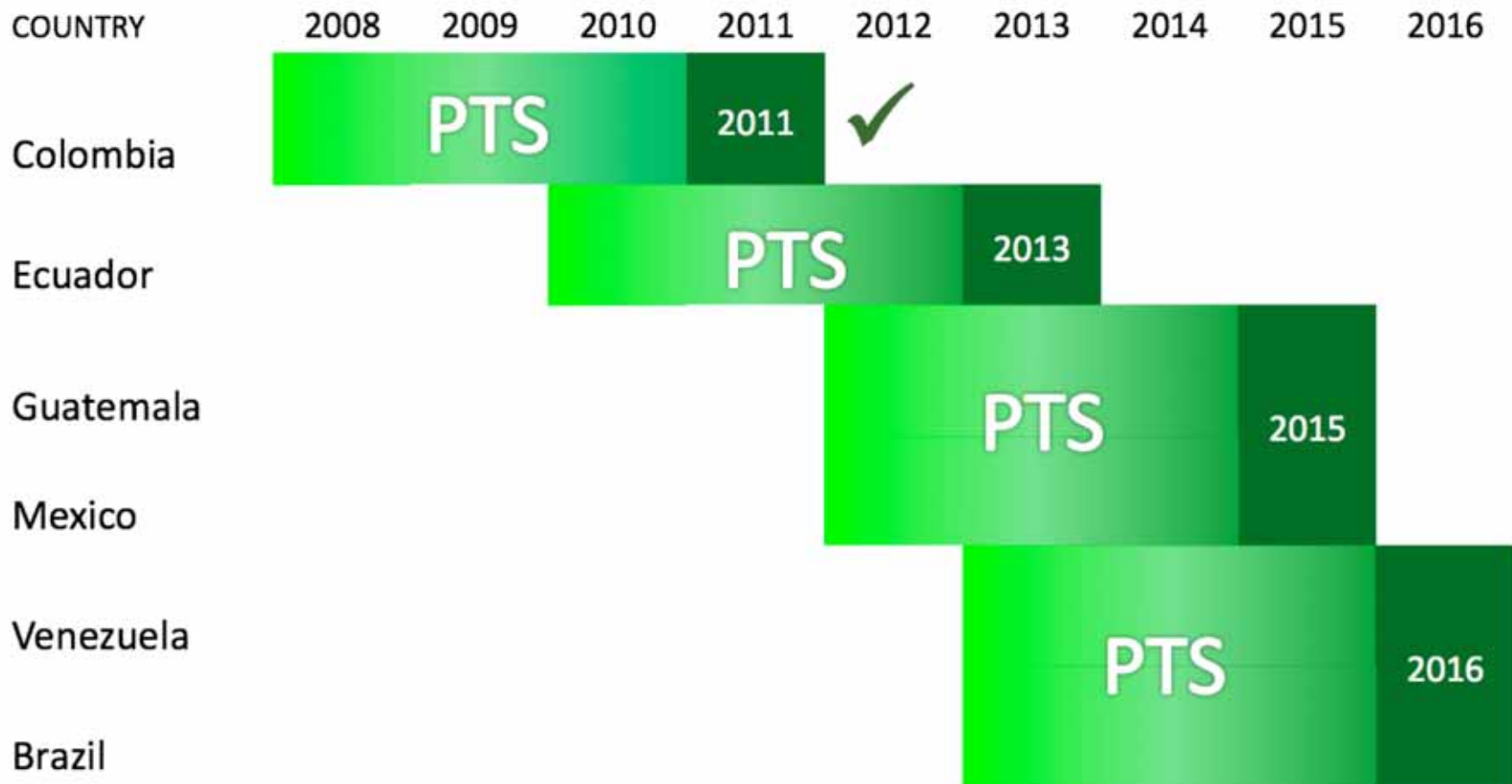
Focus	Endemic communities	Population at risk	Population no longer at risk	Population under PTS	Population eligible for treatment	Transmission Status
Escuintla-GUA	117		62,590			Eliminated
Santa Rosa-GUA	37		12,208			Eliminated
North Chiapas-MEX	13		7,125			Eliminated
Lopez de Micay-COL*	1		1,366			Eliminated
Esmeraldas-ECU	119	25,863		25,863		Interrupted
Huehuetenango-GUA	43	30,239		30,239		Interrupted
Oaxaca-MEX	98	44,919		44,919		Interrupted
Northcentral-VEN	45	14,385		14,385		Interrupted
South Chiapas-MEX*	559	114,024			106,615	Interrupted
Central-GUA	321	124,498			112,388	Interrupted
Amazonas-BRA	22	12,521			9,839	Ongoing
Northeast-VEN	465	93,239			86,567	Ongoing
South-VEN	10	9,168			7,668	Ongoing
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>468,856</b>	<b>83,289</b>	<b>115,406</b>	<b>323,077</b>	

\*pending approval by the ministries of health of Colombia , Mexico and Guatemala. The Mexican and Guatemalan Programs should complete treatment distribution in 2011.

PTS: Post Treatment Surveillance



# Projected years to request the certification of elimination of onchocerciasis, by country



■ Dark green marks the year when WHO certification could be requested by the endemic country.

