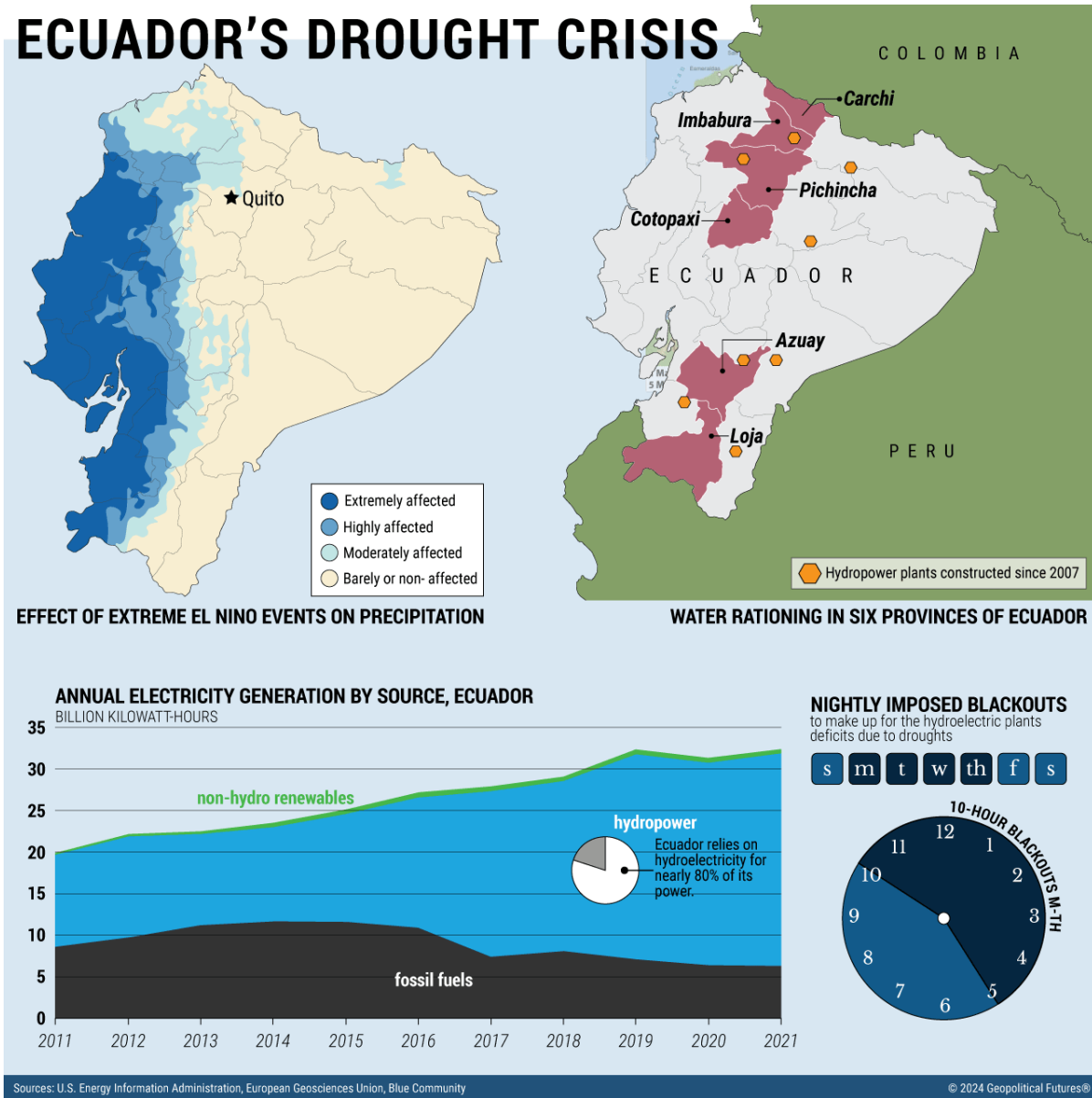


# Ecuador's Power Crisis

by Geopolitical Futures - September 20, 2024

## ECUADOR'S DROUGHT CRISIS



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Ecuador is grappling with a 1,000-megawatt energy shortfall due to poor maintenance of existing dams, failure to secure new power generation contracts and the worst drought in 61 years. In

response, the government imposed nationwide blackouts from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., Monday through Thursday; implemented teleworking for the public sector; carried out preventive maintenance at hydro plants; and tightened security due to gang violence.

More than 78 percent of Ecuador's electricity comes from hydroelectric sources, but the drought has slashed their capacity. The largest plant, on the Coca River, has a 1,500 MW capacity but faces issues, including cracks in its turbine manifolds. The drought, worsened by El Nino and deforestation, has depleted reservoirs, while unsustainable farming practices further degrade soil and reduce water retention.

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