



Emeralds in Colombia have been exploited since pre-Hispanic times. The mining activity of this mineral has been concentrated in the departments of Cundinamarca and Boyaca, in the denominated East and West emerald belts.

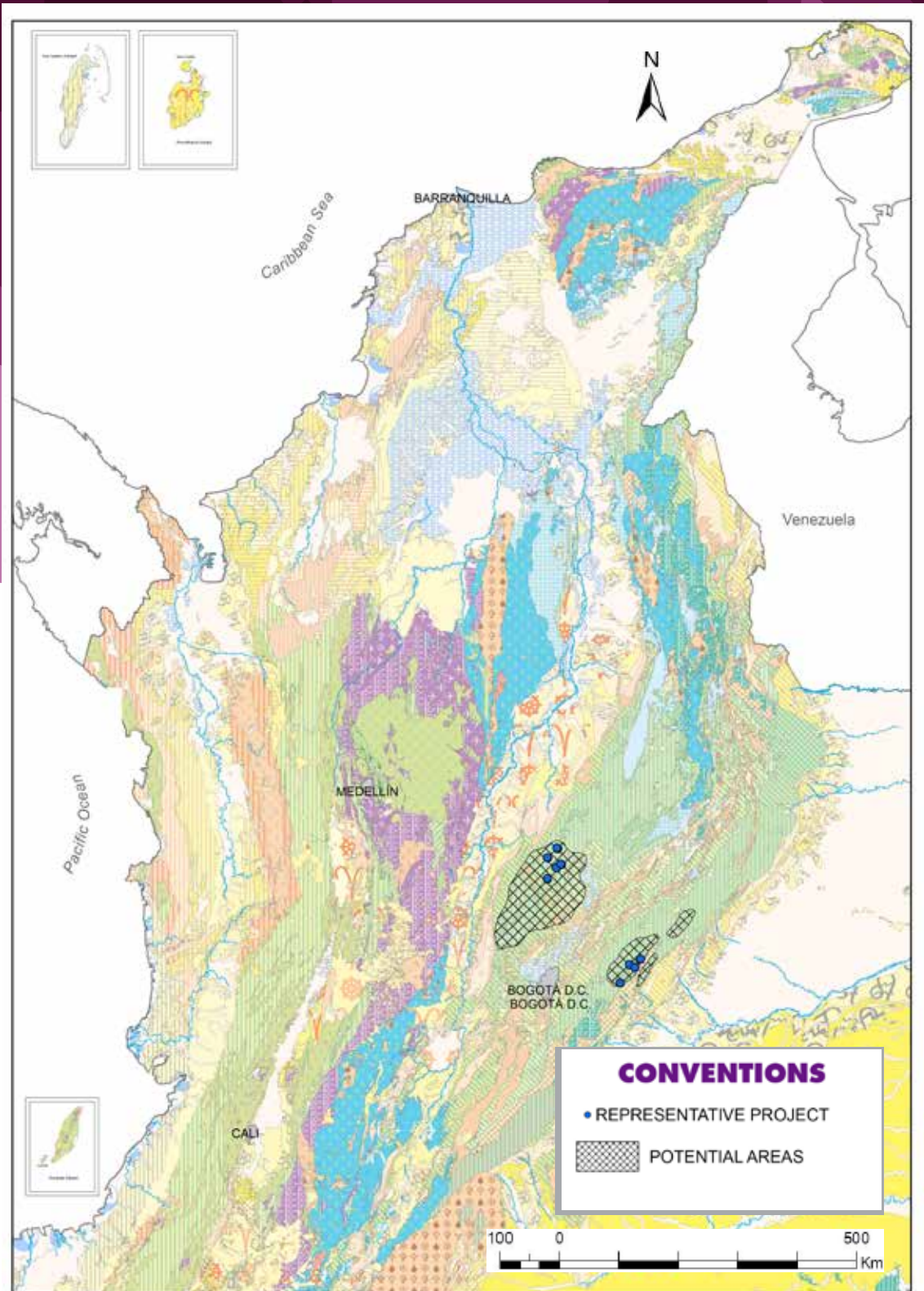
These two belts extend in NE-SW direction in the central part of the western flank of the Eastern Mountain Range, where the mining districts of Chivor, Gachala and Macanal (Eastern Belt) and Muzo, Coscuez, Peñas Blancas, La Palma-Yacoi and La Pita (Western Belt) are located. The most representative mines are Muzo, Cunas, Coscuez, La Pita and Chivor.

Colombian emeralds are associated with veins, hydrothermal hydraulic breccias that affect sedimentary sequences of the formations Paja, Rosablanca and Villeta Group in the Eastern Belt and the formations Calizas del Guavio and Lutitas de Macanal in the western belt (Early Cretaceous age).

Historically, small national companies have developed underground mining operations, however, recently multi-national companies have been investing in local mines to exploit the mineral. Emerald total production during 2014 was 1.5MCarats consolidating Colombia as the second largest producer in the world.

References

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Mapa Geológico Colombiano, 2015 • Mapa de Zonas Potenciales, 2011 • Fuente: Servicio Geológico Colombiano