

Colombia is the country with the longest history of mining and production of gold in South America. It goes back to pre-Hispanic times, when this metal became the focus of interest for the Spanish conquistadors of the sixteenth century. The official reports of gold production date back to 1931, showing significant increases in the level of gold production since the 80's –from 25.7 Ton in 1985 to 57.15 Ton in 2014, highlighting the 2012 highest production peak in the history with 66.178 Tons.

In Colombia, gold is associated with different types of geological environments, including a distribution of occurrences in almost all of the territory. Due to the geotectonic country conditions, the main gold deposits correspond to porphyry, epithermal, intrusive-related gold, orogenic gold, volcanogenic massive sulfide and alluvial gold.

The gold production comes from deposits found since the twentieth century. Transnational mining companies have developed aggressive exploration programs and found major deposits, increasing the foreign investments for exploration of this metal in Colombia in the last two decades.

Silver is obtained as a subproduct of a gold mining due to its direct association with gold.

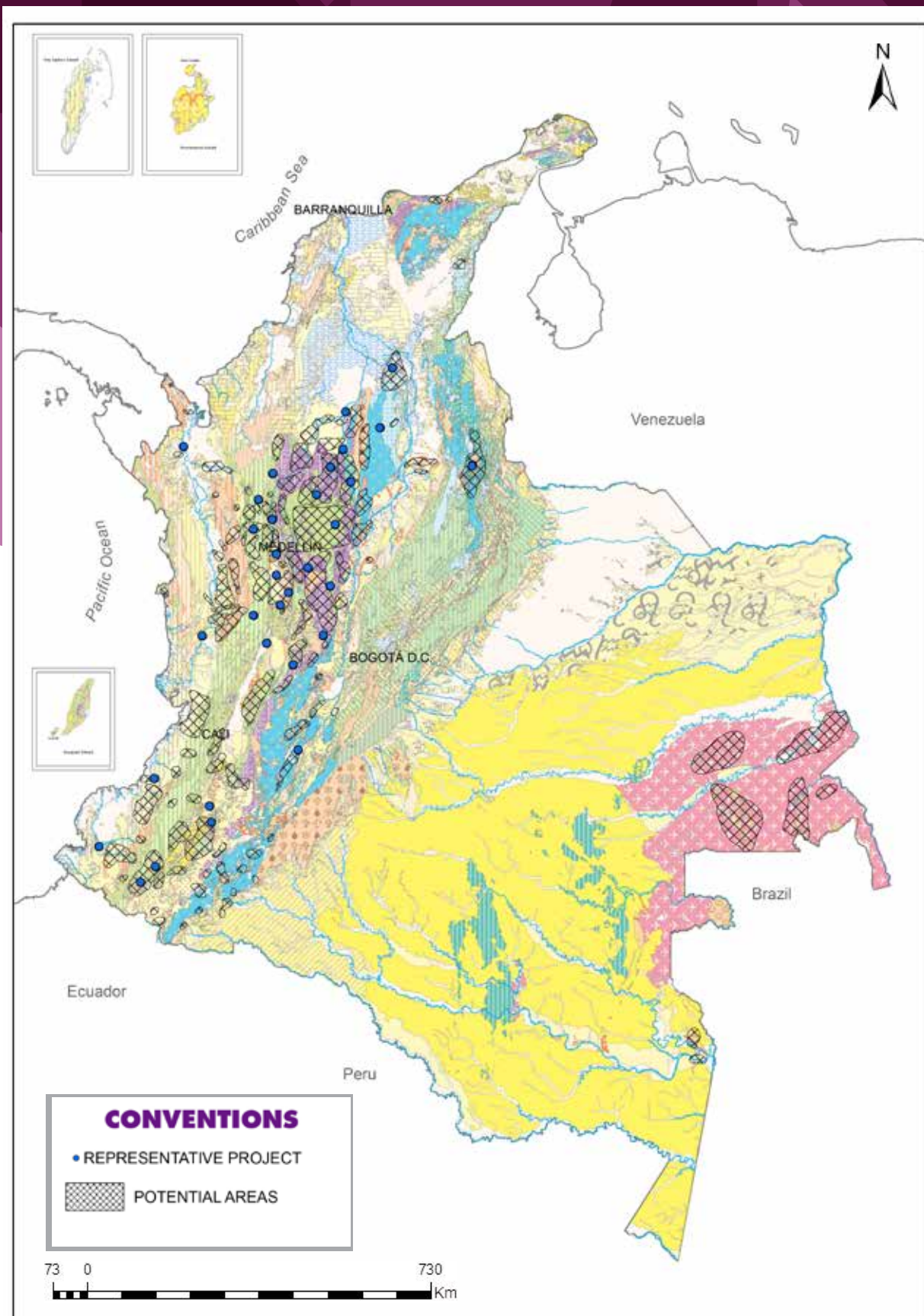
Gold and silver production in 2014 by departments

DEPARTMENT	PRODUCTION Au Troy Ounce	PRODUCTION Ag Troy Ounce
ANTIOQUIA	903.150,47	267.260,13
CHOCÓ	363.871,91	12.710,09
NARIÑO	166.785,84	120,06
CAUCA	138.711,94	2.671,56
BOLIVAR	88.289,31	16.062,88
CALDAS	67.172,83	66.848,93
GUAINÍA	35.974,87	20,60
VALLE DEL CAUCA	23.099,52	52,79
CÓRDOBA	15.974,56	367,63
SANTANDER	8.725,91	789,65
RISARALDA	8.216,18	150,37
TOLIMA	7.968,54	2.374,37
HUILA	3.452,85	254,02
QUINDÍO	1.001,48	—
PUTUMAYO	670,78	—
TOTAL	1.833.066,98	369.683,08
	57,015 Ton	11,5 Ton

References

NATIONAL MINING AGENCY, 2015. National Mineral Production 2014. In <http://www.anm.gov.co/?q=regalias-contraprestaciones-economicas>
<http://www.anglogoldashanti.com.co/saladeprensa/Libros/ELORO.compressed.pdf>
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Mapa Geológico Colombiano, 2015 • Mapa de Zonas Potenciales, 2011 • Fuente: Servicio Geológico Colombiano