

Nickel production in Colombia is exploited by a single operation, the Cerro Matoso mine, located in the department of Cordoba (Caribbean Coast), with a production of approximately 41,000 Tons in 2014. This deposit was discovered in 1940, but the project only went into production during the 80s, and since then, it has continuously developed exploration activities that have extended the lifetime of the mine.

The nickel exploited in Colombia is from lateritic soils generated from ultramafic rocks (Cretaceous age). In these soils, metal enrichment is present due to the transformation of the peridotites into saprolites rich in iron and nickel, during the weathering process. Other known deposits, not exploited, associated with the same type of rocks from the same age, are found in Planeta Rica and Ure, north and south of Cerro Matoso. There are also manifestations of nickel associated with lateritic soils from ultramafic rocks in Morro Pelon, Ituango and Medellin, in the Antioquia department.

Although, there is no new discoveries of nickel deposits in the recent decades in Colombia; there is a potential of lateritic nickel deposits associated with ultramafic rocks in the Western Mountain Range of Colombia.

## References

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