

CIMRI

NOT FOR CIRCULATION

Center for Inter-American Mineral Resource Investigations:

A focal point for the exchange
of minerals information
on Latin America and
the Caribbean

**Technology Transfer
and Training**

**Cooperative Mineral
Resource Investigations**

Research

**Mineral Information
Exchange and Outreach**

U.S. Department of the Interior
Geological Survey

Technology Transfer and Training

The USGS has considerable experience with regional mineral-resource assessments and data management to assist government's planning and industry's mineral exploration. CIMRI is working to transfer much of this expertise to Latin American countries.

CIMRI staff, along with the Minerals Information Office (MIO), train and advise Latin American government



agencies on the use of the Mineral Resource Data System (MRDS), a database that contains basic information on mineral occurrences world-

wide. Agencies that acquire MRDS are able to add mineral-deposit data in their own country as well as use the system's information retrieval capabilities.

Scientists from CIMRI and other branches of the USGS provide short courses, lectures, and one-on-one field training for mineral-resource investigations. CIMRI also hosts visiting Latin American scientists, enabling them to collaborate with USGS specialists and to gain experience with the latest equipment and investigative techniques.

Cooperative Mineral Resource Investigations

CIMRI works with government mineral-resource agencies in Latin America on projects that range from regional mineral-resource assessments to topical studies such as mineral-deposit and district studies, development of exploration techniques, mineral-deposit modeling, and mineral-resource data collection.

Regional mineral-resource assessments are necessary for efficient land-use planning and provide a basis for industry's mineral exploration programs. Information generated by these projects includes geologic and geophysical maps, mineral-occurrence data, mineral-deposit models, and evaluations of the mineral resources of the areas surveyed.

Center for Inter-American Mineral Resource Investigations

The Center for Inter-American Mineral Resource Investigations (CIMRI) of the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Office of Mineral Resources serves as a focal point for the exchange of minerals information on Latin America and the Caribbean. The USGS, through CIMRI, seeks to develop cooperative relations among organizations and individuals interested in the mineral resources of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Since 1897, the USGS has conducted numerous cooperative geologic and mineral-resource projects in Latin America, has helped found the national geologic agencies of many Latin American countries, and has contributed its expertise to many development projects. Established in 1989, CIMRI is part of a continued USGS commitment to assist in the development of geosciences in the Americas.

Latin America is an important source of minerals for the U.S. and world economies. The minerals industry accounts for a significant portion of the economic output and exports of many Latin American countries and holds great promise for future expansion.



Wallace Estill and G.E. Lewis on horseback. Upper Aloy Valley, Chimborazo, Ecuador, 1946.

In 1990, President Bush announced the *Enterprise for the Americas* initiative. Acknowledging that Latin American nations are "... looking to the power of the free market to help this hemisphere realize its untapped potential for progress..." the President challenged the United States to respond in three ways: by expanding free trade; increasing private investment in Latin America; and helping reduce Latin America's outstanding debt. CIMRI is responding to this challenge by expositions and exchange of information on opportunities for developing Latin America's mineral potential—a potential that will figure prominently in the future economic advancement of that region.

Research

USGS scientists at CIMRI conduct research on mineral resources in Latin America and the Caribbean. Much of that research is directed at regional studies of the Andes, the South American shield, and the Caribbean. This interdisciplinary research yields products useful to the exploration and management of Latin America's mineral resources.

CIMRI personnel engage in topical studies, often in cooperation with individual researchers in Latin America. Recent cooperative projects include studies on the mineral resources of alkalic igneous terranes in Argentina; ophiolites in southern Chile; polymetallic vein systems in Bolivia; platinum in ultramafic rocks in Venezuela, Uruguay, and Argentina; metallogeny of the Guayana shield in Venezuela; and controls on mineralization in Mexico.

Mineral Information Exchange and Outreach

CIMRI collects and disseminates information on the mineral resources of Latin America. Much of this information is archived for public inspection. These archives include maps, files, reports, bibliographies, computerized databases, and many related materials in the Tucson office. CIMRI professionals are available to respond to public inquiries.

The Minerals Information Office works closely with CIMRI in the dissemination of information. Designed for public out-

reach, the MIO staff can access minerals data using MRDS and extensive bibliographies on compact disc and can refer individuals to mineral experts throughout the U.S. Government.

Members of the CIMRI staff actively participate in mining conventions, scientific symposia, and other public forums.





Location and Resources

CIMRI is located in Tucson, Arizona, close to the U.S.-Mexico border. Tucson is home to the University of Arizona as well as several mining companies active in Latin America. CIMRI is housed in the historic Corbett building close to downtown Tucson.

CIMRI is composed of more than a dozen professionals with broad expertise in the geosciences, including specialists in economic geology, industrial and metallic mineral deposits, mineral economics, geophysics, geochemistry, remote sensing, and computer-based data and image processing. Each professional works closely with other specialists within the USGS, thus providing ready access to expertise of USGS scientists and those of other agencies.

Facilities in Tucson include a map and report archive and basic equipment for geologic research. CIMRI staff have access to more specialized research facilities through the USGS and the University of Arizona.

Relation to Other Institutions

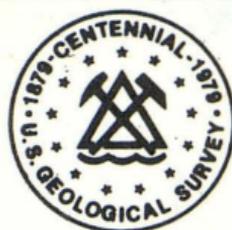
The USGS Office of International Geology, which facilitates all USGS international activities, works closely with CIMRI. CIMRI regularly receives information on Latin American mineral resources from the Departments of State and Commerce, individual embassies, and the Bureau of Mines. CIMRI staff participates in the training of Regional Resource Officers for the State Department prior to their placement in embassies. CIMRI collaborates with other U.S. Government agencies on projects where special expertise is required, such as an environmental remediation course taught by the U.S. Forest Service in Venezuela.

The co-located USGS-Minerals Information Office and the USGS/Arizona Geological Survey Earth Science Information Center work in close cooperation with CIMRI. These offices provide minerals information and publications to the public for Latin America and the southwestern U.S.

The USGS and the University of Arizona share expertise and facilities. Close relations between CIMRI and other universities have resulted in collaborative research projects, sometimes in cooperation with industry.

Members of the CIMRI staff work closely with industry to improve their own mineral-resource data and activities. Typically, CIMRI staff respond to dozens of requests every month for minerals information from mining professionals—many by visitors to our archives.

Agreements between the USGS and counterpart agencies in Latin America enable CIMRI to contribute to a mutual understanding of Latin America's mineral-resource endowment. With its wide-ranging contacts, CIMRI fosters regional cooperation in solving minerals-related problems in the Americas.



Contacts

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CIMRI offices and archives
and the Tucson MIO are open
weekdays from 8 AM to 4 PM,
except on Federal holidays.

