

The development of the above fields will require an overall investment of US\$10.5 billion and will increase the national production of crude oil from 454,000 BPD in 1994 to 1 million BPD in the year 2000.

With the privatization process, currently under way in Colombia, the role of the state oil company Ecopetrol is rapidly changing to become the governmental organization in charge of overall sectoral planning, contracting, administering and monitoring sectoral activity. This has resulted in offering larger participation in development and operation to the private industry.

Projects

The government's plan for implementation, mainly by private operators and investors, is to assure crude oil self-sufficiency via exploration and production, development and use of natural gas reserves, further modernization of refineries and consolidation of an efficient transportation network system.

The figures below, indicate the level of investment projected in the Colombian oil and gas sector in 1997:

Projected investment plan 1997 (US\$ millions)

Exploration and production	1,088.8
Refining	268.2
Transport	204.1
Natural gas	62.4
Others	34.5
Total	1,658.0

Source: Ecopetrol

Exploration and production

Targets for 1997 include drilling of 23 to 30 exploratory wells and approximately 1,300 kms of seismic run, mainly in Los Llanos (the southern plains), the slopes of the Eastern Mountain Range and the Middle Magdalena Valley basins. Production is expected to reach 723,000 BPD by the end of the year 1997.

Cusiana - In 1993, the association of British Petroleum, Triton, Total and Ecopetrol, announced the commercial exploitation of the Cusiana and Cupiagua fields with reserves of 2 billion barrels of crude oil. The development of this huge reservoir, prompted the expansion of the Bosconia - Coveñas pipeline, due for completion in mid 1997. This became the first project to be undertaken within the new concept of accepting private participation in transport of hydrocarbons under the build, own, operate and transfer - BOOT system.