

In 1985, C.V.G. founded TECMIN Co., a company devoted to mineral exploration. Based on geological data, C.V.G. has obtained 5 years exploration permits for several gold regions of prime exploration potential. Apart from TECMIN, there are other exploration companies working in the region, mostly Canadian, such as Major Drilling, Forage St Lambert, Bradley Bros, Advanced Drilling, Heath & Sherwood and geological and geophysical Consultants like Val d'Or Geophysics, Aerodat, Bercha and others.

Since the most recent gold rush started in 1991, large areas have been uncovered mostly by illegal miners known as "Garimpeiros" but in some cases better capitalized local mining concerns.

The Garimpeiros primarily use pumps and monitors to convey the ore material to recovery plants. When the Garimpeiros experience more consolidated ore such as quartz veining and or saprolitic conditions, they use hammer mills prior to sluicing and amalgamation. Only in the last four years has there been any concerned effort either by the owners or the government to fully monitor the mining operations.

Since world wide attention has been focused on the Kilometro 88 Gold District and El Callao Gold District in the Guayana region, the government authorities have adopted new environmental regulations in order to protect Venezuela's ecological system. For further information on environmental regulations please get in touch with: Dr Luis R. Padron, Director General, Environment Protection, Ministry of Environment, Torre sur, piso 19, Centro Simon Bolivar, Caracas, Venezuela.

#### V. PRIVATE CONCESSIONS

Legal mining activities are under way in some of the 367 concessions ( including CVG and M.E.M ) so far granted throughout the Venezuelan Guayana territory. In the past, mining methods in many of those concessions were primitive and their recovery rates usually very low.

Foreign companies are currently acquiring rights by either staking out new claims or joint venturing with the owners of existing claims. About 20 big foreign companies and joint ventures are very active now. These include: RTZ Mining and Exploration (England), Placer Dome (Canada), L.B Mining (U.S.A), Ivanhoe Capital Corporation (Canada), Goldfields ( South Africa), Home Stake ( U.S.A), Mineral Ecological Technology ( England), Monarch ( England), Carson Gold ( Canada), Queenstake Resources (Canada), Cristallex International (Canada), Bolivar Goldfields ( Canada), Venezuelan Goldfields ( Canada), American Barrick (U.S.A), International Kengate ( Canada), Cassandra Resources (Canada), Echo Bay Mines ( Canada), Gold Reserve Corporation ( U.S.A), Great Lake Minerals ( Canada), Bema Gold Corporation ( Canada), Boule Mining ( U.S.A), Antilles Resources LTD, (U.S.A), YellowJack Resources ( Canada) and others. (See Appendix)