

INTERCOR, an Exxon subsidiary, has a 50% stake in the biggest coal mine in Colombia, El Cerrejón, with the state-owned company CARBOCOL. The mine is in fact the second largest open pit mine in the world with estimated reserves of 1.6 billion tons.

E) Mapping and Cadastral Services

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The Institute's budget has grown considerably in the last 10 years as the government has placed more emphasis on cartographical and cadastral services. IGAC has roughly 1,200 employees and is by far the largest public contractor of geomatics services. The institute's budget was US\$ 40 million last year and US\$ 20 million of the budget was invested in hardware, software and the out-sourcing of services. Last year the institute contracted out services and provided work for approximately 500 temporary employees. Over the years Canada has developed a good relationship with IGAC. In early 1997, GlobeSar conference was put on at IGAC by the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing to help train IGAC's employees on interpreting RADARSAT remote sensing images.

IGAC is responsible for providing agrology services for the whole country. This year it will be starting the first stage of an erosion study. The first stage of the study will be completed in-house, however over the four year length of the study there will be opportunities for contractors. The study will analyze the erosion of the soil over a 57 million hectare region, which is roughly half the territory of Colombia. IGAC is also interested in developing more income generating business and in the future hopes to generate 20% of its budget. It is interested in strengthening its digitalization department and will provide other government institutions with technical advice on conducting environmental studies and other various industrial studies.

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