



Multinational Andean Project: **map:gac** Geoscience for Andean Communities

August 2005

GOAL 2: TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE TO DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

MAP:GAC Executive Council Meets in Bogotá, Colombia.

The mid-year meetings of the Executive Council of the Multinational Andean Project: Geoscience for Andean Communities (MAP:GAC) took place in Bogotá, Colombia, Aug. 3 - 4. MAP:GAC, a project within the Global Opportunities Program, involves the Geological Surveys of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.

The focus of the meetings was to review recent progress, share experiences, and develop strategies that will ensure the sustainability of the results and relationships that have been achieved through the Project. It is believed that the most effective manner in which to do this will be through the Iberoamerican Association of Geological and Mining Surveys (ASGMI), of which Canada has been a non-voting member since 2003. ESS continues to be a catalyst in fostering this important international strategic alliance. ASGMI met following the Executive Council on August 5th, and a follow-up meeting has been scheduled for January 2006 in Quito, Ecuador.

The meetings also included a workshop by Canadian consultant Dr. Ian Thomson and Margarita de Castro, from On Common Ground Consultants, entitled "Geological Surveys: Mineral Exploration and Sustainability". The workshop explored the role of geological surveys in supporting mineral exploration and mine development, creating public acceptance for these activities, and the relationship of geological surveys to sustainable development. As a general conclusion it was recognized that an expanded role for geological surveys in providing information and education to communities on mineral resources and mine development is appropriate.

These multinational meetings and workshops continue to raise awareness of Canadian values throughout the Americas by showcasing Canadian excellence in the area of earth sciences for sustainable development, thereby contributing to the outcomes of GOP.