



ALIANZA POR LA
MINERÍA RESPONSABLE

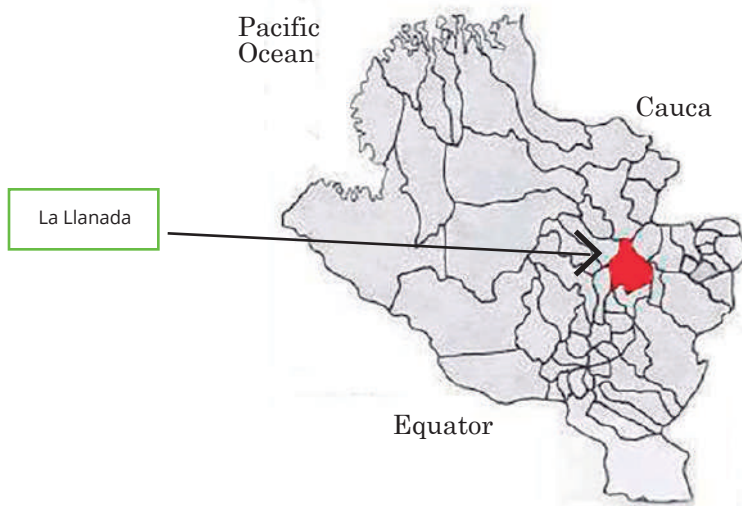


MINING COMMUNITY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA LLANADA

Nariño, Colombia

The municipality of La Llanada is located in the northwestern part of the department of Nariño, 140 kilometers from the city of San Juan de Pasto and at an altitude of 2,300 meters above sea level. The municipality has slightly more than 5,813 inhabitants, of whom 85% live in rural areas and the rest in the municipal capital ¹.

1. Plan de desarrollo del municipio de La Llanada 2016-2019 – "Un Gobierno de Calidad, con Sentido Social"- y la información suministrada por el DANE 2015



HISTORY OF THE MUNICIPALITY

The first peoples to mine this region were the Abades, an indigenous community that is now extinct. From the last record of them in 1530 until 1930 there was no mining in the region. The land was sold to Canadian companies, which mined exclusively, without involving the local community, until the end of World War II.

In the 1960s and '70s the local population informally resumed mining activities, taking advantage of some of the techniques they had learned from the Canadians. In order to work more formally and safely, in 1977 they created a co-op: Cooperative of the Mining District of La Llanada, shortened to Coodmilla Ltda.

In 1990 it was granted operating licenses, which gave members of the cooperative the right to exploit the mines and generate an income for their families and other members of the La Llanada community. Traditionally, this village has had high levels of informal mining, mining-related diseases, social problems, and lack of opportunities and access to education.



ARTISANAL MINING IN THE MUNICIPAL ECONOMY

La Llanada is a municipality founded fundamentally upon mining. Mining generates development in the municipality, since it is the greatest source of income and direct and indirect employment, both at the urban and rural level.

Precious metals are mined on a small scale in the Andean zone mainly in underground gold mines, with some artisanal alluvial operations.

As of 2017, approximately 80% of the municipality's mining organizations have become affiliated with the Coodmilla cooperative in order to formalize their work. The cooperative owns 100 mining fronts where 165 associates are working, of whom 11 are women, and 56 workers.



A COOPERATIVE THAT'S PROGRESSIVE ABOUT RESPONSIBLE MINING

Coodmilla has used neither cyanide nor mercury in ore processing for the past 30 years. Moreover, in 2004 local authorities built a mercury-free processing plant that the cooperative can make use of, making Coodmilla exemplary at the global level.

The feasibility analysis of La Llanada municipality as a possible pilot site for the CAPAZ project began with the relationship that ARM had built with Coodmilla during its process to become a Fairmined certified mining organization, which included only 10 working groups.

Ensuring that the other working groups in the cooperative are legally in compliance with labor, safety, and protection conditions in the mine; environmental protection; and mineral traceability, however, remains both a challenge and opportunity. Obtaining direct access to the market under the Market Entry Standard is an opportunity for these organizations and their member miners to begin adopting better practices and incrementally take the steps towards entering a more demanding certification system. Seven small mines have committed to start improving their mining practices, motivated by the incentive that they can obtain better commercial conditions within the short term.

The strong motivation and alignment of regional and local institutions that have collaborated with ARM in past capacity-building efforts for miners was one of the reasons why the Nariño department was selected. ARM has been in ongoing contact with authorities and institutions, including the mining division of the Nariño departmental government, the local office of the National Mining Agency (ANM, for its abbreviation in Spanish), the University of Nariño, and the mayors and mining secretaries for the municipalities involved (La Llanada, Los Andes Sotomayor, and Santa Cruz de Guachaves). An additional reason is that Coodmilla is well known for its experience and has been a standard-bearer for other municipalities.