

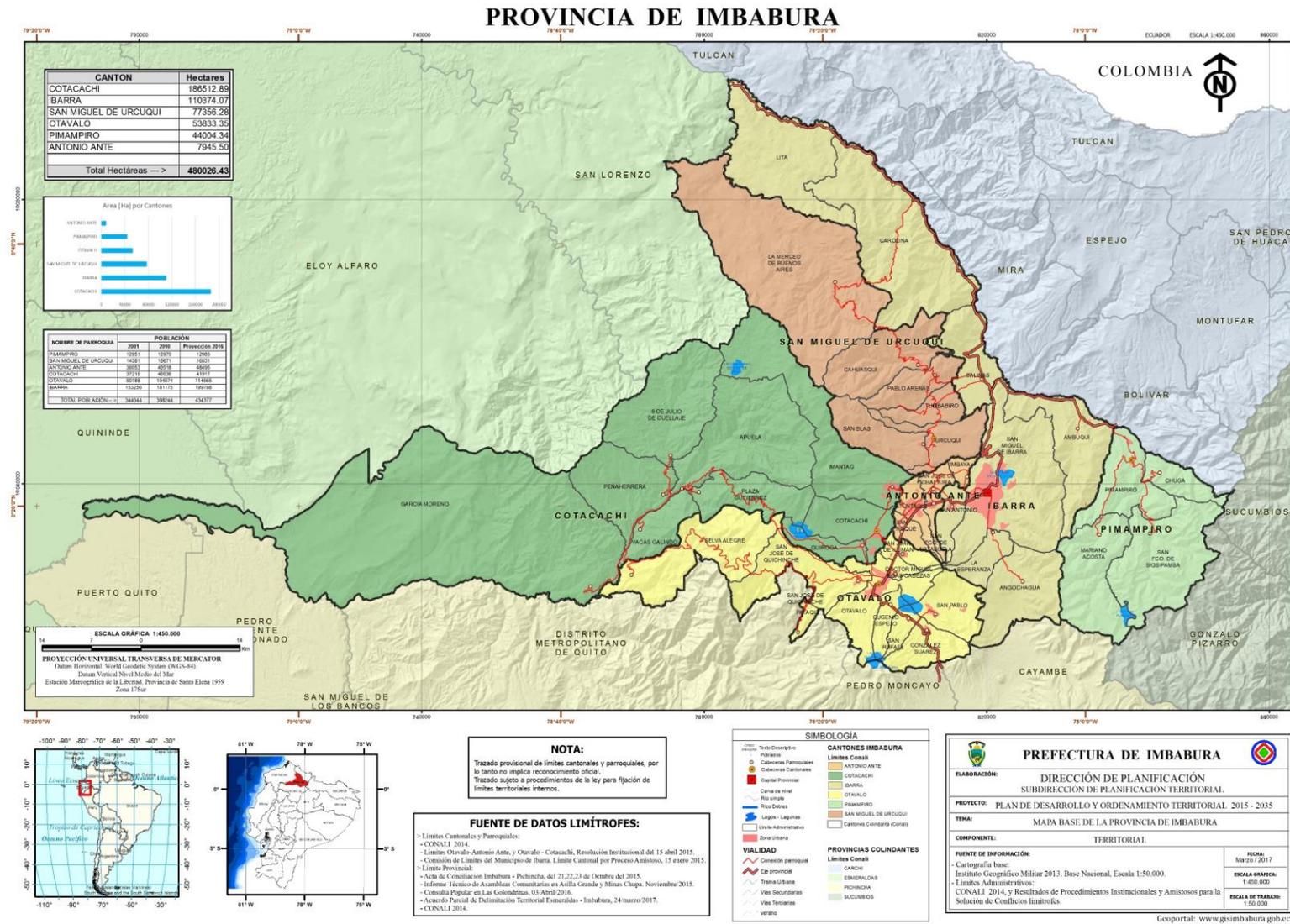
| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</p>  <p>UNESCO Global Geoparks</p> | <p>Applicant UNESCO Global Geopark</p> <p>IMBABURA GEOPARK PROJECT, <i>ECUADOR</i></p> <p>geographical and geological summary</p> |
|---|--|

Location of the aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark:



● Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark

Please replace the map below with a map of the aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark indicating the boundary, cities, general geographic points, as shown in this example.



1. Physical and human geography- 1500 characters

Come to Imbabura, future World Geopark of UNESCO. It is located in South America, in the Republic of Ecuador. This is a beautiful place in the north of the inter-Andean region, and is located between the coordinates 00 ° 07' and 00 ° 52' de North Latitude, and 77 ° 48' and 79 ° 12' of West Longitude. In the national territorial organization, it is part of Zone 1, along with the provinces of Esmeraldas which it limits to the west, Carchi to the north and Sucumbíos to the east, with those who make up the Commonwealth of the North of Ecuador; and they are part of the Border Integration Zone with the departments of Nariño and Putumayo of southern Colombia. To the south, it borders the province of Pichincha.

As soon as you enter Imbabura, you will find rich geological diversity, complemented by a cultural and ethnic heritage characteristic of the area. Here, volcanic complexes, lakes, waterfalls, mines, geological faults, archaeological remains, landscapes with a living culture represented by the millennial Caranqui people, their ethnic groups of Otavalos, Zuletas, Natabuelas plus the Afro-Ecuadorian people, montuvio, Awa and all the diverse locals. These people, with their own cosmovisions, artisan, agricultural expressions, customs and traditions all wait for you.

The surface area of the Imbabura Geopark project is 4,619.03 km². According to official projections, it has approximately 428,355 inhabitants. It is organized in 6 cantons: Ibarra, provincial capital, founded in 1606; Otavalo, Cotacachi, Antonio Ante, Urcuquí and Pimampiro. Its political organization includes 36 rural parishes. The highest peak is in the Cotacachi Volcano at 4939 meters above sea level and the lowest level around 600 meters above sea level in the basin of the Guayllabamba River.

2. Geological features and geology of international significance – 1500 characters

In the territory of Imbabura you will find lakes of volcanic origin, geomorphologies, valleys, páramos and ancestral water sources. The volcanic complexes are from the Quaternary period of continental Ecuador. According to information from the Geophysical Institute of the National Polytechnic School, the Imbabura, Chachimbiro and Cuicocha volcanoes are potentially active; whereas, the volcanoes Pilavo, Parulo, Yanahurcu de Piñan, Pulumbura, Cotacachi, Cubilche, Cushnirumi, Cusin, Fuya-Fuya and Mojanda are considered as dormant or extinct. All of them are constantly monitored for their international scientific interest.

There are thermal outcrops used for tourist activities. According to studies completed by the Electricity Corporation of Ecuador and its Business Unit TERMOPICHINCHA, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the geothermal exploration works in Chachimbiro reached a depth of 2,000 meters. Through this work, they showed temperatures above 200 ° C., an optimal level to take advantage of the earth to generate of clean and renewable energy. In the cantons of Ibarra and Pimampiro, a dynamic interaction of geological faults draws attention to their further study and consideration in the construction of road infra-culmination and risk mitigation for human enhancements.

Mines are mined for the cement industry and quarries for construction material. Copper and gold – among other purchased minerals – must be properly extracted to ensure environmental protection as well as quality of life protection for the people.