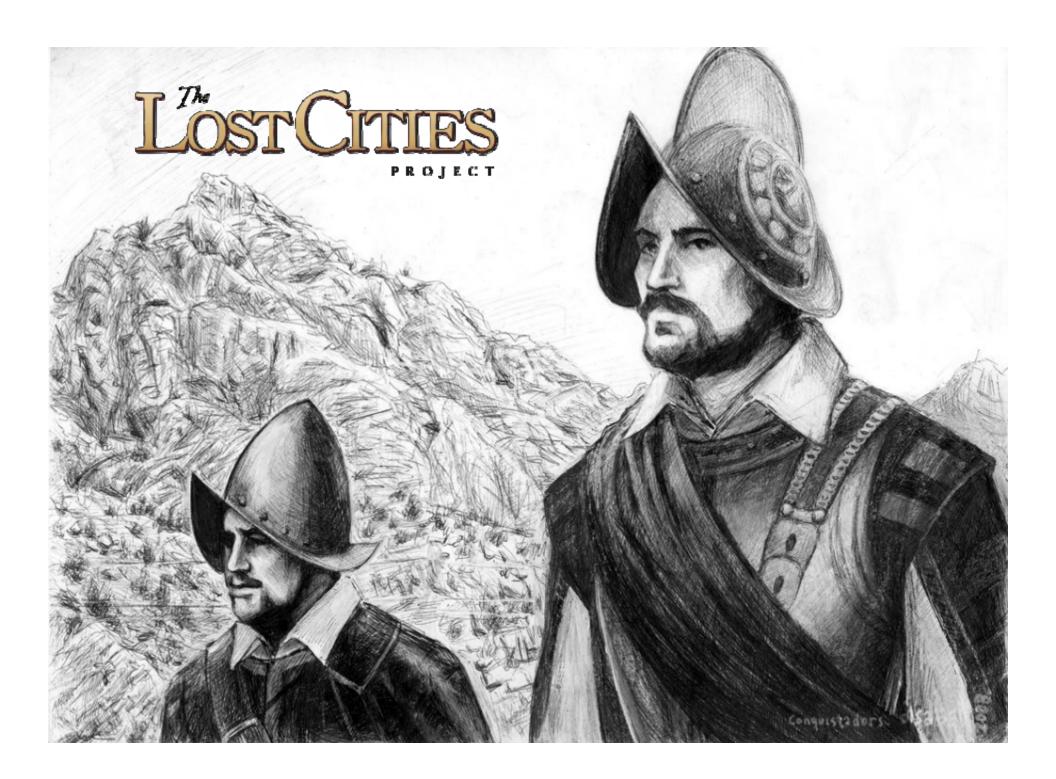


# AURANIA

Presentation by Dr. Keith M Barron, Chairman and CEO

Aurania Resources Ltd.

www.Aurania.com



## Keith Barron back on the hunt for riches of Ecuador's Lost Cities

GOLD | Fruta del Norte finder zeroes in on ancient gold camps

BY TRISH SAYWELL tsaywell@northernminer.com

The remarkable story of Aurelian Resources and its discovery of Fruta del Norte — a blind gold deposit the company's geologists found in the Cordillera del Condor in southeastern Ecuador — is one for the history books.

The narrative begins with Keith Barron, an exploration geologist who cofounded Aurelian in 2001, listed the company on the TSX Venture Exchange in 2003, and, along with Stephen Leary and Patrick Anderson, discovered the multimillion-ounce gold deposit in 2006, selling it two years later to Kinross Gold (TSX: K; NYSE: KGC) for \$1.2 billion.

Perhaps less well known is that at the time of the discovery, Barron had been looking for two famous gold-mining areas in the country, which historic Spanish documents and maps from the 16th and 17th centuries referred to as "Sevilla del Oro" and "Logrono de los Caballeros."

The quest began somewhat serendipitously in 1998, when Barron, on a field leave from a job in Venezuela, happened to enroll in a Spanish language school in Quito, Ecuador's capital city. To immerse himself in the language, Barron lived with a local family, the head of which was a history professor,



Keith Barron reading a letter by Columbus, at the General Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain. PHOTO COLUMNIES MEDIA BASICIA

"IT'S AN INCREDIBLE THING TO HANDLE A DOCUMENT WRITTEN IN 1627. IT HAS MENTIONS OF GOLD FROM ALL OVER THE SPANISH EMPIRE, AND I WISH I HAD ANOTHER LIFETIME TO TRACK THEM ALL DOWN."

VIITH RAPPON



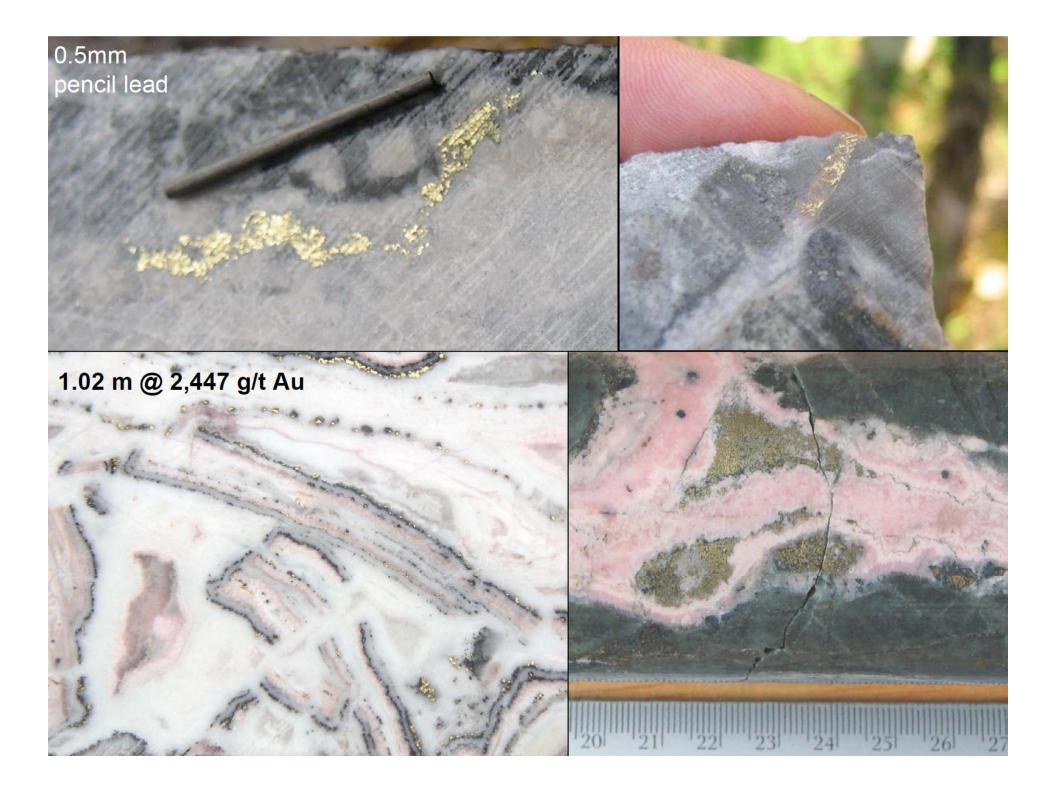
This map titled "The Gold Regions of Peru" was produced by Flemish cartographer Abraham Ortelius in 1574 and references storied gold-mining centres Logrono and Sevilla del Oro in modern-day Ecuador. AURINA STORIAGE



History professor Octavio Latorre, who has helped Keith Barron in search for

he and his colleagues found intensely altered breccias in outcrop near Alto Machinaza, and for the next five years explored the Aurelian concessions in the Cordillera del Condor, finding Fruta del Norte in March 2006.

Fruta del Norte made Barron a wealthy man and he eventually moved to Switzerland, but he and Latorre continued their hunt for



#### A Gold Bug on the Trail Of the Conquistadors

 A geologist hopes to locate mines in Ecuador that have been dormant for centuries



Inside a Vatican library, Keith Barron leans over a 17th century tome bound in red leather. "The country is the richest in gold in all the indies," reads one passage. "The natives are cannibals and very warlike, and devastated the city of Logrofio de los Caballeros, massacring the Spaniards and burning the churches."

Barron, a geologist, amateur historian, and professional gold hunter, is on a mission. Ecuador's two "Jost cities of gold" exist only in legend and in fragments of old texts such as this, which was written by a Spanish priest traveling through the region a half-century after the settlements were destroyed. Spain eventually gave them up for lost after dispatching more than 30 expeditionary missions to reclaim them. Barron and a team of researchers have spent years sleuthing around the Vatican library, the immense General Archive of the Indies, in Seville, Spain, and in small churches and other document repositories scattered throughout Latin America. With the aid of colonial-era chronicles and maps, they've narrowed their search to the Cutucu mountains, 230 miles south of Quito.

Buried somewhere in this lush jungle range lie. the ruins of Logrono and Sevilla del Oro, two of the empire's most prodigious 16th century mining towns where, according to accounts at the time, laborers using primitive methods managed to extract about 4,100 troy ounces of gold in a single year. (A troy ounce of the precious metal is worth \$1,262 at today's prices.) Barron is betting old-fashioned gumshoe cities by that name in Ecuador today. Like all maps

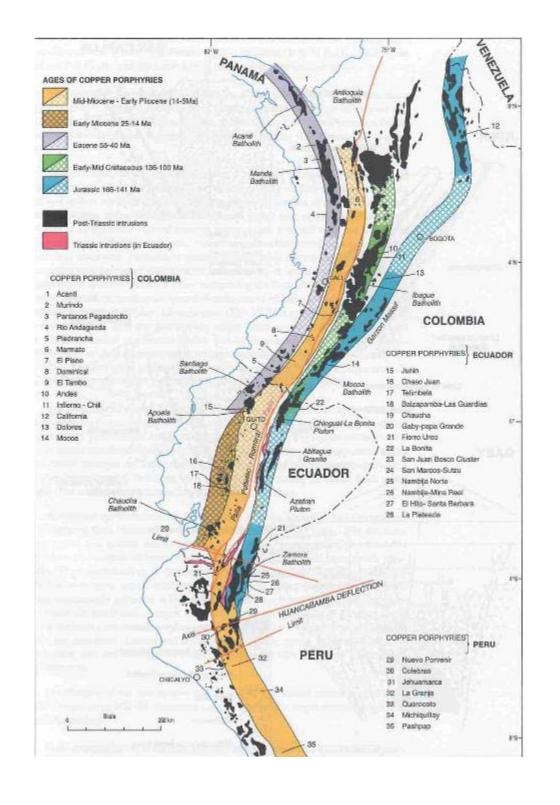
techniques coupled with modern aerial surveys will lead him to tunnels, piles of rocks, musket bullets, horseshoes, or even the bells that tolled when the cities were under attack from indigenous tribes. "If we find the cities, we find the gold," he says.

That is, if you buy into Barron's story-and people do. The Canadian geologist has raised more than \$5 million from some of the biggest names in mining. including Rob McEwen, founder of Goldcorp Inc., the world's No. 3 gold producer. They're backing Barron's search through his publicly traded Torontobased company, Aurania Resources Ltd., and their enthusiasm stems from his previous success in finding a big Ecuadorean gold deposit.

Until recently, many in the industry viewed Ecuador as a backwater, Barron held a different view, dating to a friendship he struck up with Octavio Latorre, a history professor and map collector, on a trip to Quito to learn Spanish in 1998. That's when Barron first heard of the existence of a 16th century map called the Peruviae Auriferae Regionis Typus, or the Gold Regions of Peru.

The copy he purchased in 2012 for \$15,000 shows the location of seven gold mining cities in Ecuador and Peru dating from the time of the Incas. Four still exist today; a fifth, Nambija, was rediscovered in 1981 when a group of boys hunting wild boars stumbled into its ruins. The original Logrono and Sevilla have never been located, though there are

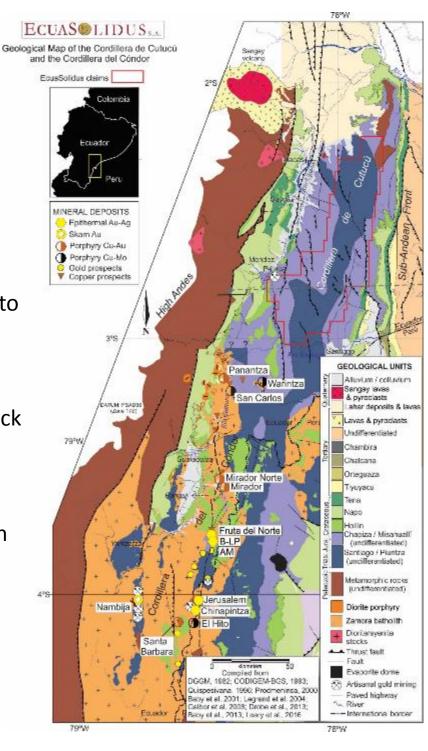




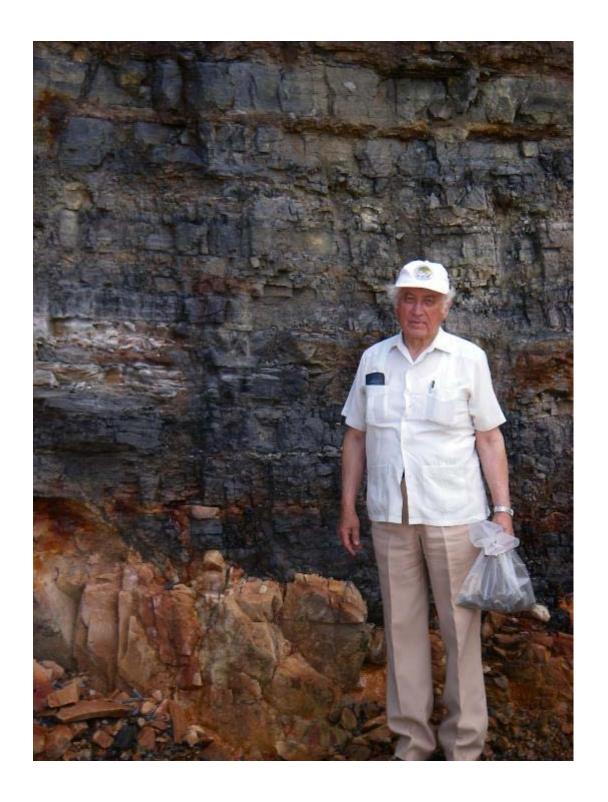
Santiago and Chapiza
Formations (purple
units) are
volcanic/sedimentary
and equivalent in age to
the Jurassic copper
porphyries

Santiago is the host rock to FDN

Hence the staking methodology has been to grab as much as possible of the favourable host units



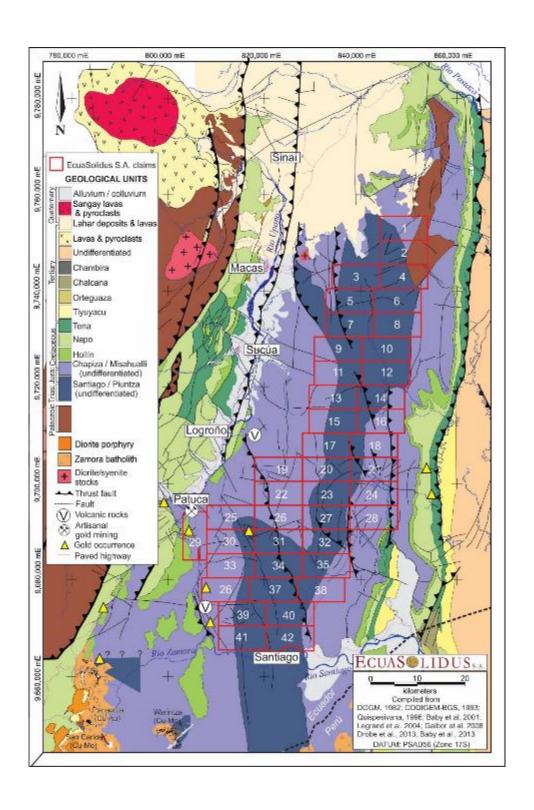
Professor Latorre in 2008 on a visit to the Cutucu



### **The Lost Cities - Historic Data**



LOGROÑO IS CONSIDERED IN CONTEMPORARY WRITINGS AS THE RICHEST GOLD MINE IN THE SPANISH EMPIRE



Caprodela cui de Seulla reloro en la provincia de Macas tamps of course iso ceasing section will at mette ette in condado Enta prong. el Macar trer ra de Montana, garranefas to enditer para is well a ciudad, etta in paramo damado fina quees Como decir ma persa fries e enel as dos laganas muy Cinor This que falen della el mo corre al celle, pafando cerca de Ris bamba, y Le daman el Rio de Chambo, y cortando la corre Hera buelue ou corrience a lelle, hatenst te muy candaloss aguen los in hor Illas primeras promincias Laman Corino, y los delas segundas led Parota, 2 180 leg. se ja macim. Setunia conelgran Rin de de dana de ambas parces ay algunes provencias aunque con pora gence - el atro Corre Rumbo serecto alche, y pasa por Junet ela cuisas de femble del oro I Se llama Opano, acerta esa cuisas buelus que Corrience algur y papa por la prome selo dibaros Latierra mos orca se oro, que ay en todo Las intras, y ellor Gon omny careberry guerreror, y he Il logrono delos Canalleros matanos los Espanotes, y quemando la fray, todo Causado del mal Gomisono, les cuid y afrancios, que Lot superiores a algunos velmos del a oga chidada jesta proris

Original 1627 Document from the Apostolic Library, Vatican



Santiago River (for eground) and Youpi River on Ecuador-Peru

## **Operation Safe Border:**

#### The Ecuador-Peru Crisis

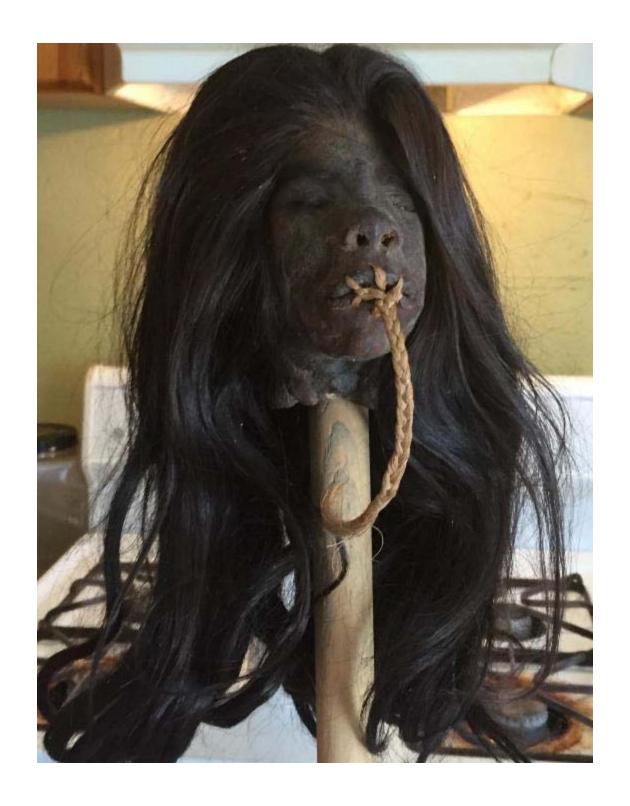
By GLENN R. WEIDNER

In January 1995, the hemisphere was shocked by an outbreak of fighting between Ecuador and Peru over a long-festering border dispute. During a six-week period, more than 100,000 men were mobilized, fleets were deployed, air forces capable of striking the respective capitals of each protagonist were reposi-

Colonel Glenn R. Weidner, USA, is commander of the U.S. Military Group-Honduras and served as commander of the U.S. Contingent, Military Observer Mission, Ecuador-Peru.

tioned, and both sides suffered as many as 300 casualties in fierce combat in the upper Cenepa Valley.









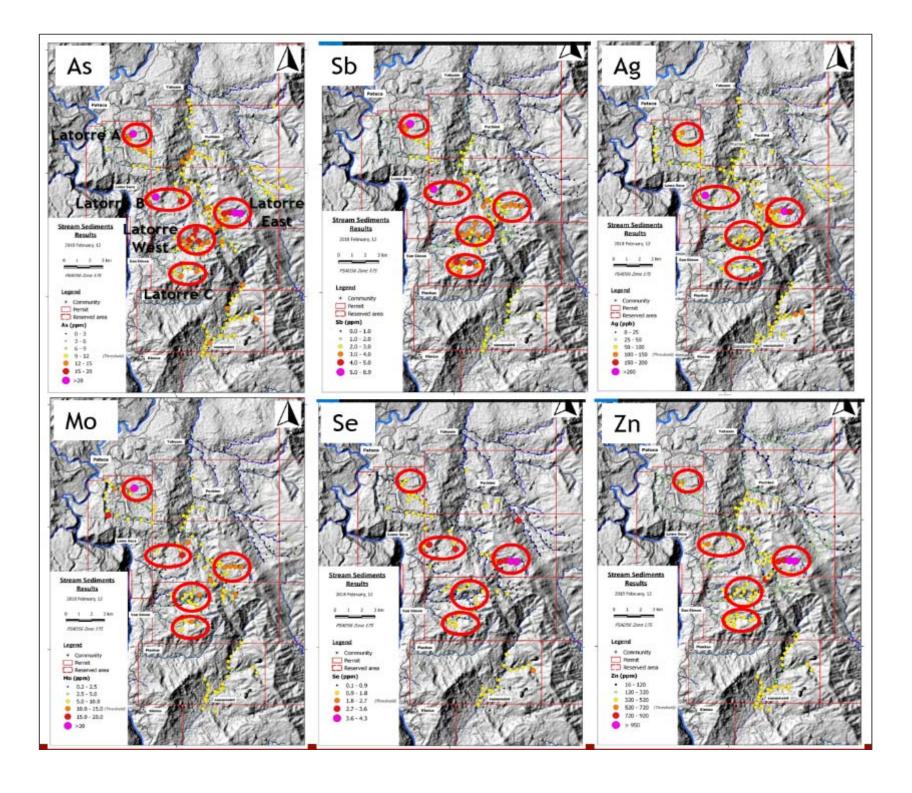










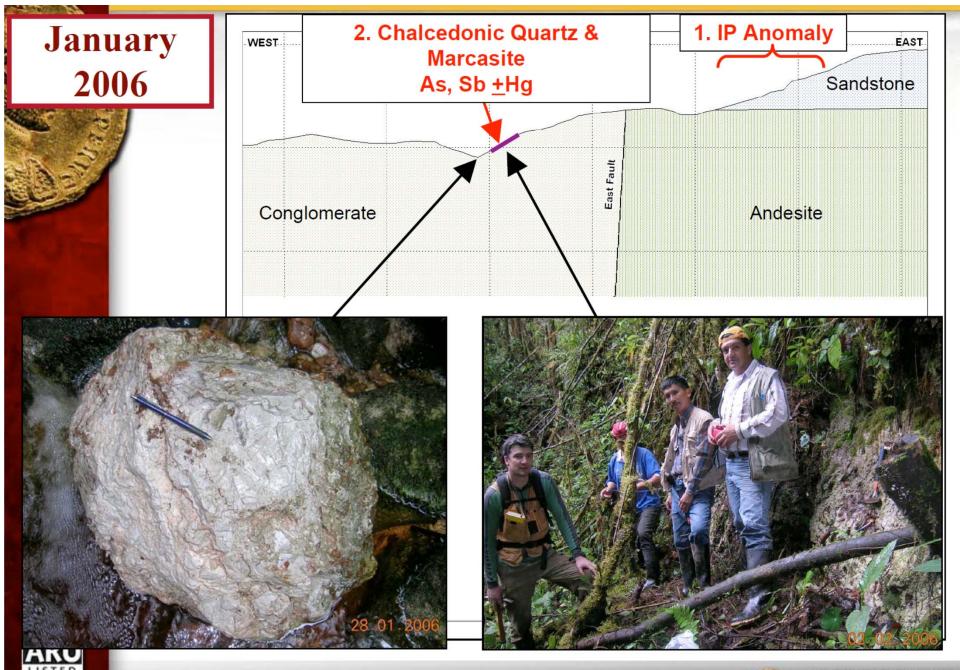




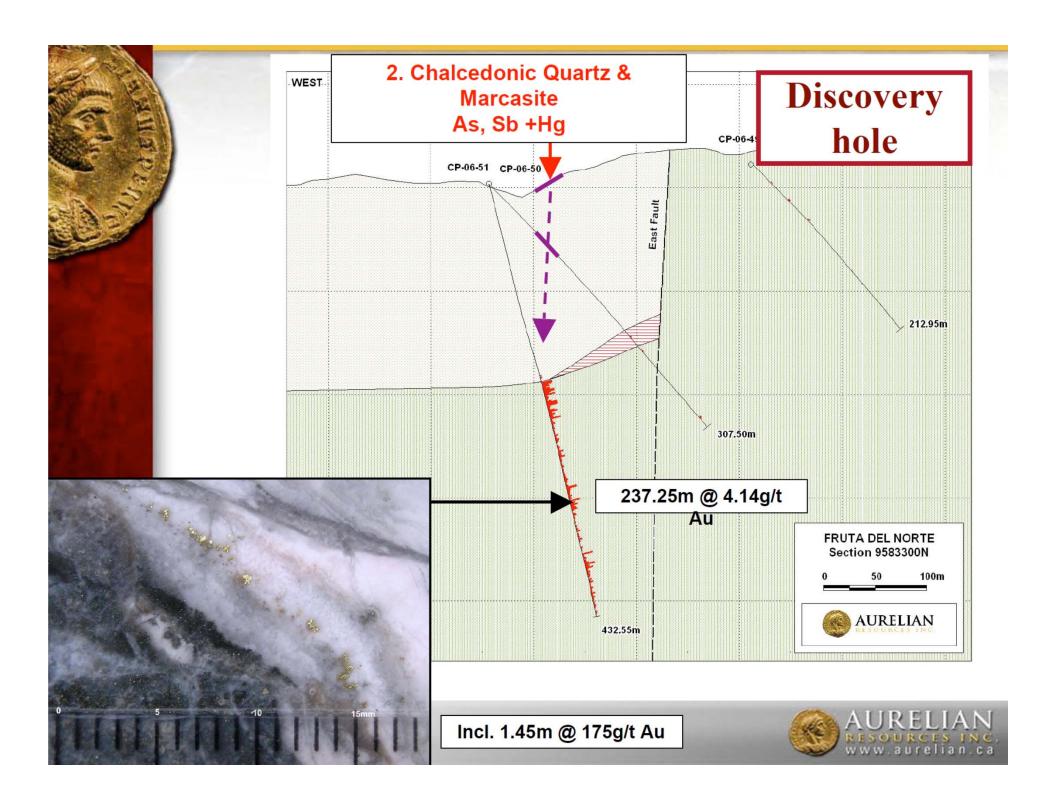


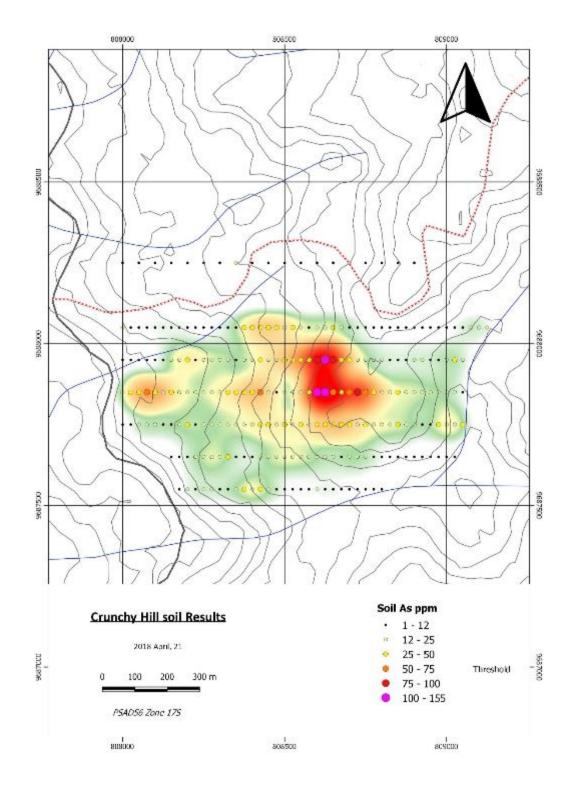


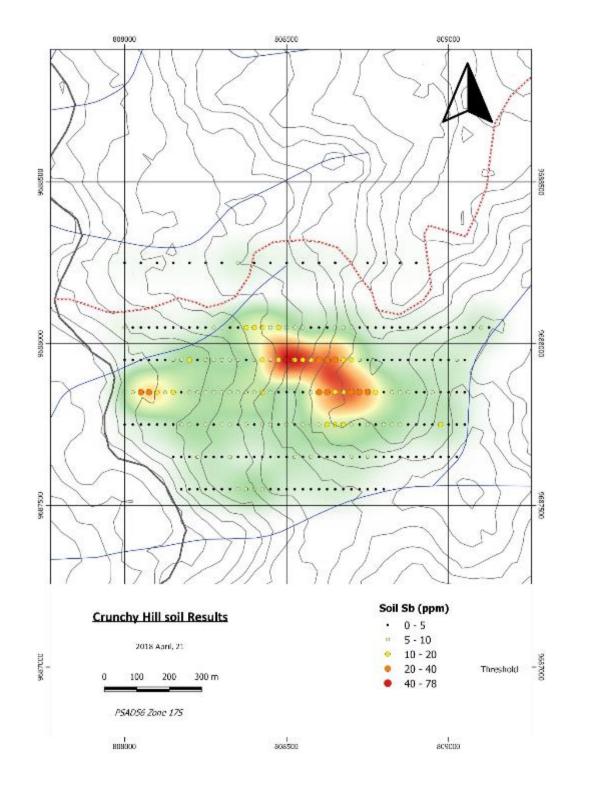


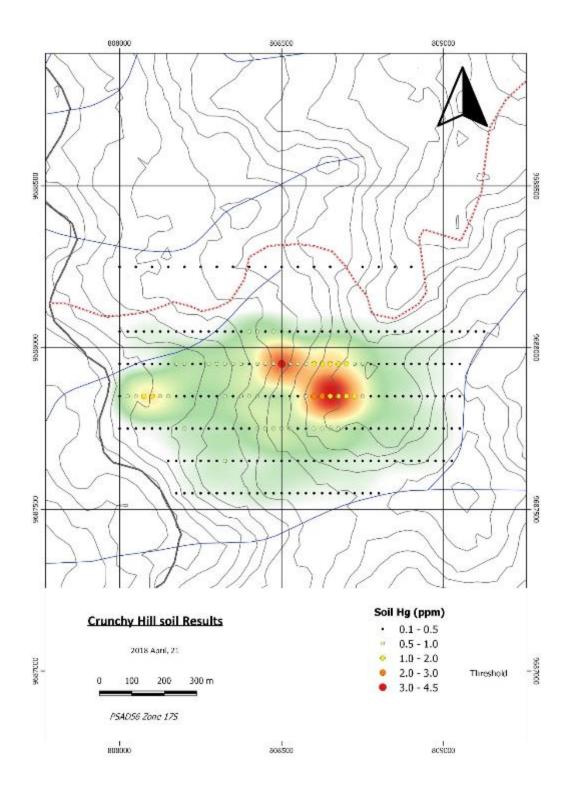


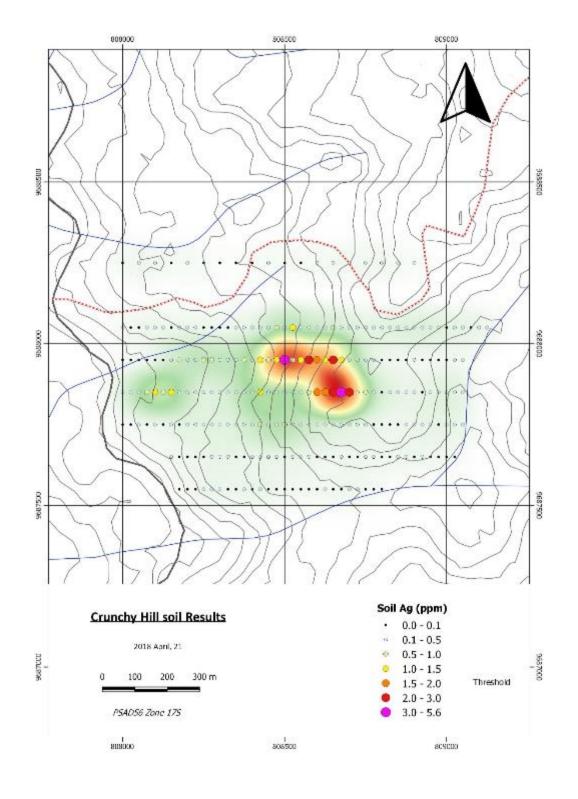














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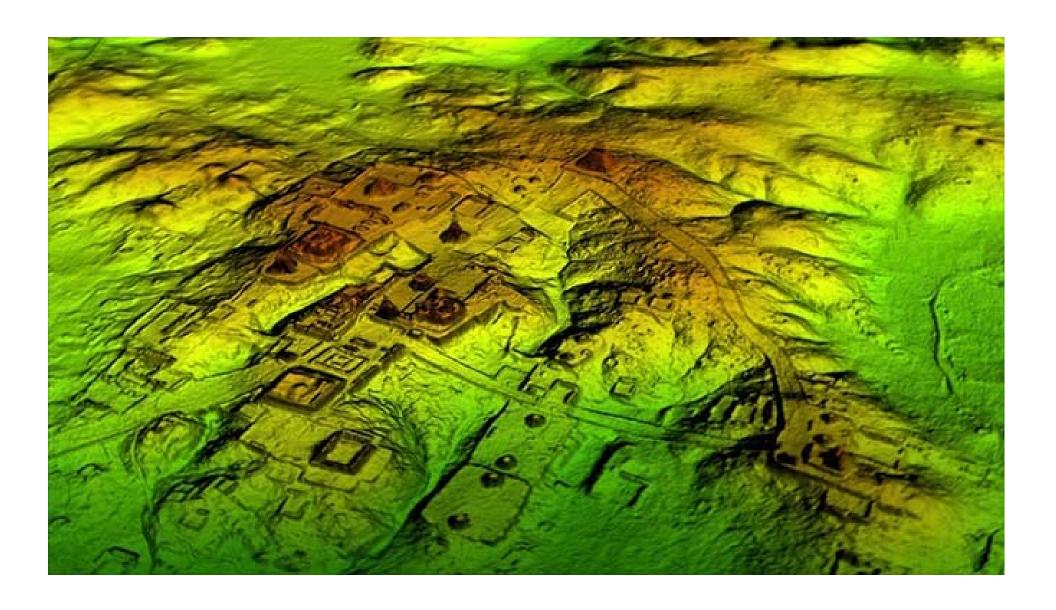


# Laser survey of Guatemalan jungle reveals thousands of complex structures, roads built by ancient Maya

The survey uncovered the hidden ruins of a complex and advanced Maya civilization that used a network of roads to connect more than 60,000 homes, temples and a fortress used during warfare







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