Supplemental Figure Captions

Figure 1. Plan del Cerro Mineral de Azogue nombrado Guacán, distante 4¼ leguas de la Ciudad de Cuenca según la más correcta observación, formado de orden del Sr. Governador Yntendente D. José Antonio de Vallejo. (Map of the Mineral hill of Cinnabar named Guazun, 4¼ leagues distant from the city of Cuenca according to the most correct observation, done at the order of the Governor D. José Antonio De Vallejo.) Archivo General de Indias, MP-PANAMA, 225 -1 - Imagen Núm: 1/1.

The letters in the scrolls on both sides refer to specific features, such as the mines and their ventilator shafts (lumbreras). This map also notes that the earliest mines are the highest on the hill. Apparently as each mine became exhausted, the Spanish dug another one below to follow the cinnabar deposits. Presumably any Precolumbian cinnabar mine would be the highest, although this has yet to be investigated archaeologically.

Figure 2. The same view of part of the Loma Guashon on October 4, 2016. The mine openings are obscured by the modern eucalyptus plantation. The arrows point to El Boquerón and to its lumbrera. Photo: Lynn Hirschkind.

Figure 3. El Boquerón, the last of the mines to be excavated, 1799. Photo: KB

Figure 4. Inside the ventilation and light shaft (lumbrera) of the El Boquerón mine about 40m from the opening. Photo: KB

Figure 5. The Department of Cultural Patrimony of Azogues plans to develop the Cerro Guashon mines as a tourist attraction and have put up this sign pointing to the road which leads to the mines and, ultimately, to the top of the hill. Photo: KB