

■ Colombia Launches National Mission to Recover 200 Tons of Treasure from 1708 Shipwreck

Colombia has declared a national mission to recover a shipwreck believed to contain a staggering 200 tons of gold, silver, and emeralds. The treasure, estimated to be worth US \$20 billion in current estimate, is set to be exhumed before the end of President Gustavo Petro's term in 2026. The Spanish ship sank off the coast of Cartagena in 1708 during a battle with the British. Termed the "Holy Grail of shipwrecks," a team of navy divers discovered the wreckage in 2015, lying 3100 feet underwater. Images of the treasure were captured in 2022, setting the stage for an ambitious recovery mission.