

11.0 DRILLING

Because the Mada deposits are secondary, which represent the decomposition products of bedrock, they present the data-generation issues which are typical of laterites: sampling of intermixed material which ranges from very soft to very hard, and which varies greatly in metal grade from one particle to the next, especially in the ferricrete breccia lithologies.

Geovic has described the methodology of collecting and handling samples in great detail, based on Geovic Cameroon procedures and on systematic analysis of various sampling and sample-processing methods.

No drilling has been conducted at Mada. All samples have been obtained by developing pits or shafts of a nominal 1.25 meter diameter.

11.1 *Sample Openings*

All of the sampling at Mada has been by pitting. Between 1995 and 2003, 322 pits were dug in the broader Mada area, including a few on the nearby plateau. Previous Figure 7-3 shows the location of the pits. Mada was referred to as "Kongo" in the earlier reports, and what is now called the Rapadjombo plateau was initially included in the Mada statistics.

TABLE 11-1
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Mada Project, Cameroon
Sampling Pits

MADA	No. Pits
Mada area total	329
Pit used in resource calculations	296

Only 13 percent of the Mada pits were logged as penetrating the entire profile, reaching bedrock (e.g., schist, quartzite, or serpentinite), and only about 1 percent of the pits within the Mada deposit intersected basement serpentinites. Many of these 13 percent reached schist outside the ultramafic Mada body and serve to delineate the limits of the Mada deposit. A small portion of the pits dug in the early years did not have the lithology logged and were not assayed.