



2009 Minerals Yearbook

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern portion of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. In 2008, the country was estimated to be the world's 11th ranked producer of nickel; however, by December of that year, Xstrata Nickel of the United Kingdom announced that the shutdown of its Falconbridge Dominicana C. por A. (Falcando) nickel mining and processing operation in Bonao, which began in August 2008, would continue and that the facility would be placed on care-and-maintenance status because of poor market conditions and high operational costs. The company had commenced a feasibility study to implement a conversion of the operation's energy source from oil to a more economical alternative. The mining and quarrying sector had not exceeded 1% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) since 2000, and the contribution of mining to the GDP of the Dominican Republic in 2009 decreased to about \$61.6 million from about \$159.5 million in 2008, or by about 61%. In 2009, the production of refined petroleum products contributed about \$18.5 million to the GDP compared with about \$20 million in 2008 (Banco Central de la República Dominicana, 2010b; Xstrata plc, 2010).

Production

Data on mineral production are in table 1. As a result of the closure of the Falcando operation, nickel production, including mine output and metal in ferronickel, was zero in 2009. (Production volumes recorded in 2008 were also significantly reduced by the closure because the operation had begun to shut down in August of that year.) Despite the facility's current status, Xstrata reported that the deposit had identified resources that could be produced for 20 years (without specifying production estimates for that period of time) and that future operation of the facility was feasible (Xstrata plc, 2008).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities.

Mineral Trade

In 2009, the Dominican Republic exported about 620 metric tons (t) of ferronickel valued at about \$4.1 million compared with 52,225 t valued at about \$492 million in 2008. In 2009, the Dominican Republic imported about 9.3 million barrels (Mbbbl) of crude oil valued at \$592.8 million compared with 12.5 Mbbbl valued at \$1.2 billion in 2008. Other raw material imports included \$84.8 million worth of coal compared with \$67.9 million in 2008 and \$360.4 million worth of iron and

steel compared with \$751.3 million in 2008. Included among imported consumer goods were combustible fuels valued at about \$2 billion, which included 9.5 Mbbbl of liquefied petroleum gas valued at \$384 million, 8 Mbbbl of diesel oil (\$565 million), 7.6 Mbbbl of fuel oil (\$420.3 million), 5.8 Mbbbl of natural gas (\$88.3 million), 5.3 Mbbbl of gasoline (\$372.1 million), and 6,250 barrels (bbl) of aviation fuel (\$737,000) (Banco Central de la República Dominicana, 2010a).

Commodity Review

Metals

Copper.—In 2009, GlobeStar Mining Corp. of Canada reported production from its wholly owned Cerro de Maimon copper, gold, and silver open pit mine, which is located in Bonao. The mine is composed of a massive sulfide ore body and an overlying oxide deposit; production from each sector of the deposit was processed through separate plants. Copper was recovered from sulfide ores with associated gold and silver. By yearend, the company had processed 415,000 t of sulfide ore to produce 46,200 t of copper concentrate, which contained about 11,500 t of copper, 173 kilograms (kg) of gold, and 450 kg of silver (GlobeStar Mining Corp., 2010, p. 3-4).

Gold.—The Pueblo Viejo gold project, which is located in Cotui, was a joint venture between Barrick Gold Corp. (60%) and Goldcorp Inc. (40%), both of Canada. Barrick Gold reported that the project was expected to commence production in the fourth quarter of 2011 and that the processing plant's capacity had been expanded to 24,000 metric tons per day (t/d) from 18,000 t/d. The company reported that the project had an expected mine life of more than 25 years and that the mine's total reserves were nearly 700,000 kg (100% basis), which would result in almost 400,000 kg of proven and probable reserves for Barrick Gold and more than 270,000 kg of proven and probable reserves for Goldcorp (Barrick Gold Corp., 2010, p. 60).

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HAITI

Haiti occupies the western part of the island of Hispaniola. The country had at times produced cement, clays, limestone, marble, marine salt, sand and gravel, and other construction materials. There were also known deposits of chromite, copper, gold, iron ore, lead, manganese, silver, sulfur, tin, and zinc. Although Haiti possesses similar economic mineral deposits as the Dominican Republic, which had developed a relatively more prosperous mining industry, political and economical instability had precluded significant private sector investment and development activity in Haiti into the early to mid-2000s. By 2008, however, Eurasian Minerals Inc. had reported that the mineralized zone in Haiti was one of the most prospective, though not well-explored, mineral belts in the world (Eurasian Minerals, Inc., 2008c).

The Institut Haïtien de Statistique et d'Informatique (Haitian Statistical Institute) (IHSI) estimated that the real GDP growth rate in Haiti for 2009 was 2.9% compared with 0.8% in 2008, which was the same year that Haiti was stricken by four damaging hurricanes and experienced food and fuel price riots, and the world economies were experiencing a global recession. The positive growth in 2009 was attributed to an improved business climate brought on by political stability and strengthened private and public sector partnerships. Consumption and demand were reported to have grown by 3.9% and 3.2%, respectively, in 2009 compared with 2008; the growth was attributed to the Government's efforts to repair and rebuild infrastructure damaged by hurricanes, private sector growth among such industries as construction and tourism, as well as a slight growth in the funds sent to Haiti from Haitian emigrees (Institut Haïtien de Statistique et d'Informatique, 2009).

In February 2009, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved \$36.6 million in financial assistance to Haiti through a program called the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (a lending program for low-income countries) to mitigate the negative effects caused by the hurricanes and global economic downturn. An immediate disbursement of \$35.8 million was to be received by Haiti. On June 30, 2009, the Board announced that it would grant \$1.2 billion in debt relief to the country, reportedly to free up money for the Government to spend on health, education, and fighting poverty (International Monetary Fund, 2010a, b).

Government Policies and Programs

In 1997, KGW Resources Inc. and St. Genevieve Resources Ltd., both of Canada, signed an agreement called the Mining Convention with the Government of Haiti that reportedly set out guidelines for future exploration work at the Blondin, the Douvray, the Faille-B, and the Morne Bossa copper and gold properties. It seems that by late 2000, however, these projects were on care-and-maintenance status. In 2002, KGW Resources reported that it still held interests in Haitian properties but that

no work was being conducted on those properties. In 2004, political violence escalated in Haiti until its President resigned and fled the country. An interim Government was installed; organized elections for President and Prime Minister were held in February 2006, and renewed activity in Haiti's potential mining industry began to develop (KWG Resources, Inc., 2002).

The Mining Convention was approved on March 9, 2005, and on March 9, 2006, St. Genevieve Resources was issued a prospecting permit that covered 50 square kilometers (km²) of the Faille-B gold project. Under the Mining Convention, St. Genevieve Resources was to pay the Haitian Government about \$1.8 million for data accumulated by the Government on the minerals in the area covered by the Mining Convention. The sum was to be paid after a positive feasibility study was presented to the Bureau of Mines and Energy [Bureau des Mines et de l'Énergie] by September 2007. Also, St. Genevieve Resources was to conduct an estimated \$2,200,000 worth of research on the property before March 2008. A royalty of 2.5% was established on all minerals produced, which was to be paid to the Government on a quarterly basis (St. Genevieve Resources Ltd., 2007, p. 4-12).

Production

Data on mineral production are in table 1.

Structure of the Mineral Industry

In the late 1990s, KWG Resources (70%) and St. Genevieve Resources (30%) had established a joint venture in the Douvray and the Blondin copper properties (later known as Douvray-Blondin and then SOMINE) in northern Haiti, which had then been reported to have total combined estimated copper reserves of about 245 Mt grading 0.56% copper. At that time, the two companies also shared interests in the Faille-B gold property, which was located southeast of the Blondin property and had estimated gold resources of 552,000 t grading 12.8 grams per metric ton (g/t) for the deposit's upper 150 meters (m). During 2006, St. Genevieve Resources reportedly retained a company called Diagnos Inc. of Canada (a software corporation) to identify strategic targets for drilling at the Faille-B deposit, and retained Canada-based RSW Beroma Inc., which was known for its installation and marketing of gold processing units for small- to medium-sized deposits, to undertake a feasibility study. St. Genevieve Resources reported that the estimated cost to bring the Faille-B deposit to a subsequent (unspecified) stage of development was \$420,000. By the end of 2006, St. Genevieve Resources held a 51% interest in the Faille-B gold property, but reported difficulties in developing their Haitian assets because of economic and political problems in the country and because the company was struggling to finance the development of its Emerald Isle Mine in Arizona (the company reported that a market correction in May 2006 had negatively affected the prices of metals for which they were exploring). In March 2008, Ascendant Copper Corp. of Canada completed its acquisition of St. Genevieve Resources. In July 2008, Ascendant Copper changed its name to Copper Mesa Mining Corp. By December 2009, it was announced

that Copper Mesa would be delisted from the Toronto Stock Exchange (St. Genevieve Resources Ltd., 2007, p. 4-12; Redorbit.com, 2008; Tradingmarkets.com, 2010).

KWG Resources also had held a 70% interest in two other properties; the Grand Bois copper, gold, and silver deposit and the Morne Bossa gold deposit. KGW Resources and the Société Minière Citadelle S.A. had formed a joint venture for the Morne Bossa; however, the property had not been developed and remained on care-and-maintenance status into the 2000s. At yearend 1999, the Grand Bois resources totaled 4.6 million metric tons (Mt) grading 1.9 g/t gold, and an open pit heap-leach operation had been proposed pending the completion of a positive feasibility study, which reportedly had begun in 1996. The two properties had been the subject of a study conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Haiti's Bureau des Mines et de Ressources Energetiques from 1973 through 1989. It was then determined that Grand Bois had reserves of 4.73 Mt grading 2.0 g/t of gold. In January 2009, the Grand Bold was wholly acquired by Eurasian Minerals, Inc. of Canada from Société Minière Citadelle S.A. Another property that had received attention at that time in Haiti was the Casseus gold and silver project, which was wholly owned by the Haitian Government. The Government had sought an investor for that property along with the Sedren underground mine, which was a producing operation in Gonaives in the late 1960s, both of which became later known as the Meme property (Eurasian Minerals, Inc., 2009).

In May 2005, the Société Minière du Norde-Est (SOMINE), a Haitian subsidiary of SIMACT Alliance Copper Gold Inc. (SIMACT) of Canada, gained the mineral rights to the Douvray-Blondin copper and gold property and, in 2006, the company was issued a prospecting permit for four areas east, south, and southeast of the Douvray, which was to expire in 2008 (Majescor Resources, Inc., 2009b).

In 2006, Eurasian Minerals acquired projects in Haiti, including La Miel and La Mine gold properties followed by the Treuil copper property in 2007. By March 2007, the company held a total of six exploration permits that covered more than 500 km² in the north of Haiti. La Miel consisted of four exploration permits covering about 324.5 km² on a 35-kilometer (km)-long segment of terrain similar to and on trend with the Pueblo Viejo gold and silver deposit in the Dominican Republic. It was described as having high-sulfidation epithermal alteration and associated gold mineralization that was initially defined by the UNDP work in the early 1980s. La Mine property is located approximately 50 km west of the port city of Cap Haitien and hosts epithermal and porphyry-style mineralization and was also identified and sampled by the UNDP. The Treuil exploration license was located south of and adjacent to La Mine property (Eurasian Minerals, Inc., 2007a, p. 9-10).

In April 2008, Eurasian Minerals and Newmont Mining Corp. of Canada Ltd. announced the signing of a joint-venture agreement for gold exploration in northeastern Haiti. Funding for the exploration alliance was to be supplied by Newmont Mining (75%) and Eurasian Minerals (25%). The joint venture was to have allowed Newmont Mining to earn a 65% participating interest in La Miel in or before 6 years from the effective date of the agreement by either completing a feasibility

study to identify at least about 93,000 kg (reported as 3,000,000 troy ounces) of gold or by solely funding the first \$30 million in expenditures (Eurasian Minerals, Inc., 2008a, b).

In December 2008, the Bureau of Mines and Energy of Haiti granted Eurasian Minerals 27 exploration licenses that covered 230,560 hectares (ha) in northern Haiti, which brought the company's total exploratory land holdings to 281,858 ha and covered approximately one-half of the Massif du Nord metallogenic belt in Haiti. The new property acquisitions were covered by the company's regional exploration agreement with Newmont Mining. The regional-scale copper, gold, and silver mineralized belt was described as an early Cretaceous island arc assemblage located along the northern margin of the Caribbean tectonic plate; it hosted Eurasian Mineral's La Miel, La Mine, and Champagne projects, as well as the company's Pueblo Viejo deposit in the Dominican Republic (Eurasian Minerals, Inc., 2008c).

In April 2009, Majescor Resources Ltd. of Canada announced that it would acquire 10% of SIMACT, which held 66.4% of SOMINE and would have the option to acquire the other 90% of the company. The terms of the option included, among other items, a payment of \$200,000 to SIMACT, of which \$25,000 had already been paid by Majescor, and requirements for Majescor to (1) complete \$600,000 in exploration work, (2) pay related expenses on the SOMINE property within 8 months following the execution of the agreement, and (3) purchase all remaining SIMACT shares and securities (Majescor Resources, Inc., 2009a).

Mineral Trade

Haiti did not export any significant quantities of mineral products in 2009. Exports of textiles (the country's principal export item) increased by 10% compared with those of 2008. In the first 6 months of 2009, Haiti imported \$169.83 million worth of mineral fuels, including 1.51 Mbbbl of gasoil valued at \$97.89 million, 9.92 Mbbbl of gasoline valued at about \$37.25 million, 314,000 bbl of kerosene valued at \$20.39 million, an unknown volume of bituminous coal valued at \$6.39 million, 98,700 bbl of liquid petroleum gas valued at \$4.02 million, 5,060 bbl worth of lubricants and other unspecified products valued at \$1.98 million, and 39,060 bbl of fuel oil valued at \$1.92 million (Institut Haitien de Statistique et d'Informatique, 2009; Banque de la République d'Haiti, 2010).

Commodity Review

Metals

Copper, Gold, and Silver.—In May and June 2007, Eurasian Minerals released trench results for La Miel project. A 15-km² area with epithermal alteration and anomalous copper, gold, and silver assays had been identified at the project's Savane la Place (SLP) prospect. The gold mineralization was hosted within brecciated rhyodacitic pyroclastic volcanic rocks. Trench results included 72 m grading 1.9 g/t gold, 150 m grading 1.03 g/t gold, and 243 m at grades that ranged from 1.71 g/t to 3.93 g/t gold. At La Mine, the company delineated an altered copper,

gold, and silver system with dimensions of 1.7 km along strike and 500 m vertically. The company reported that the Treuil property hosted two copper porphyry prospects and that it would have multiple gold and silver epithermal and porphyry copper targets. The geology of Treuil was described as consisting of a north-south trending zone of quartz-diorite porphyry intrusions hosted in Cretaceous-aged andesitic volcanic rocks, calcareous siltstone, and mudstones. The copper mineralization was reported to occur as chalcopyrite with secondary copper sulfides and disseminated copper carbonates, stringers, and fracture fillings, mainly in the quartz diorite porphyry unit (Eurasian Minerals, Inc., 2007a-c).

In October 2008, Eurasian Minerals announced a high-grade copper and silver discovery at the Champagne prospect of the Treuil project and reported exploration results that included 14 m grading 19.15% copper and 140 g/t silver within a corridor of copper and silver showings extending 1,275 m in length. The mineralization was reported to occur in a series of subparallel zones composed of copper veins and copper mineralized wall rocks. In the same report, the company announced that exploration work on the La Mine license confirmed the presence of copper, gold, silver, lead, and zinc mineralization at the Colombo, La Cour, and the Planto prospects (Eurasian Minerals, Inc., 2008a).

Two of the licenses awarded to Eurasian Minerals and Newmont Mining in 2008 totaled 18,600 ha and were centered across the historic Meme copper and gold mine. The Meme Mine was an underground operation active mainly during the 1960s that produced about 2 Mt of ore grading 2.0% copper. Copper and gold mineralization was described as being associated with three small intrusions within a northwest-trending structural zone. The Meme Mine is located at the southeast end of the trend. Eurasian Minerals reported that the 1989 United Nations summary indicated that the Meme Mine hosted a historic resource of 1.5 Mt grading 2.0% copper and 2.0 g/t gold. That estimate did not meet resource reporting standards, so was not being treated as a resource estimate, but was still considered relevant to exploration planning (Eurasian Minerals, Inc., 2009).

In December 2009, Eurasian Minerals reported drill results from the Grand Bois property, which it had acquired in January 2009 from the Société Minière Citadelle SA for \$250,000 cash and the issuance of 338,877 common shares of Eurasian Minerals. The drill program was designed to confirm historic drill results and a noncompliant gold resource as well as to test for additional zones of gold and copper mineralization. The Grand Bois gold deposit was described as a roughly circular, poorly consolidated tabular body of mineralized and oxidized volcanic rock covering an area of about 300 m by 350 m. The results included uncapped oxide intercepts, including 28.40 m grading an average of 20.45 g/t gold and 21.40 m grading an average of 10.19 g/t gold. In addition, the drilling returned significant copper intercepts below the oxide gold zone, including 54.50 m grading an average of 0.44 % copper (Eurasian Minerals, Inc., 2009; Marketwire.com, 2009).

In July 2009, Majescor Resources announced preliminary results from ground prospecting and historic data that defined a 10-km-long by 3.8-km-wide northwest-trending copper

corridor within which lie the Blondin and the Douvray copper and gold prospects, the Faille-B gold prospect, and a series of recently discovered copper showings in the southeast extension of the Douvray. These showings are located in an area known as Dos Rada where grab samples assayed maximum values of up to 18.60% copper, 6.99 g/t gold, and 142 g/t silver. Drilling of historic prospects was planned. In October, the company reported the discovery of a massive quartz vein hosting up to 20% copper-bearing minerals located 1.3 km southeast of the Douvray prospect, which it called the Grosse Veine and which produced maximum assay values of 5.80% copper, greater than 10 g/t gold (final assay results were still pending), and 23 g/t silver. The company had also confirmed the presence of a minimum 650-m-long by 300-m-wide copper-bearing zone (the Ti-Toro zone) (Majescor Resources, Inc., 2009a).

Outlook

In 2010, Xstrata plc is likely to continue to investigate options for converting the Falcando ferronickel mine and processing facility in the Dominican Republic to a more economically viable power alternative. The previous operation required piping crude oil 80 km from Santo Domingo, refining the oil onsite into naphtha, diesel, and fuel oil to run the 200-megawatt thermal powerplant, as well as meeting the energy demands of the metallurgical plant where mined ore was dried and fed into shaft furnaces for calcination before being smelted in electric furnaces for subsequent casting. It was unclear what type of energy alternatives were being considered; however, as any substitute energy supply would have to be constant and reliable, as shutdowns of a nickel operation are enormously expensive, and able to meet the large energy demands of the facility. Given the island location, the possible alternatives are limited. Natural gas pipelines from another country are not feasible, and importing enough liquid natural gas to run the facility and rebuilding the infrastructure to do so does not seem likely. The Dominican Republic does have numerous hydroelectric facilities; however, those resources have been insufficient to meet domestic demand in the past. Xstrata does have some of the largest quantities of coal of any company in the world, but the obvious environmental concerns of utilizing such large quantities of coal might preclude that option. If nickel prices were to rebound and the rebalancing of petroleum prices that took place in 2009 (compared with the surge in international petroleum prices in 2008 when the operation began to shut down) remained somewhat constant, then perhaps the facility could be restarted with traditional methods. There is, however, no sure way to determine a secure economic future with a reliance on petroleum, and there was no definite indication as to Xstrata's plan for alternatives.

Several mining projects were at or were approaching the prefeasibility stage in the Dominican Republic in 2009, and the Pueblo Viejo project was scheduled to come online in late 2011. The company reported that the \$7.2 billion project is expected to create 1,000 direct and 2,500 indirect jobs once operations begin, in addition to 425 current employees and 900 current contractors. Interest in Haiti's mineral resources was rising and was expected to continue because the country's mineral

resources were, in a sense, still up for grabs, and because it will likely be the mining industry that is promoted to elevate the country from its severe economic and social turmoil. Eurasian Minerals was completing exploration at the end of 2009, and there was no reason to think that, if some degree of political stability were maintained, the country's mineral resources would not continue to be recognized, explored, and developed.

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TABLE 1
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^e
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC					
Bauxite	534,555	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cement, hydraulic	2,778,708	3,776,798	4,100,000	4,000,000	3,000,000
Clay ^e	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000
Copper, mine output, Cu content	--	--	--	--	11,500
Gold, mine output, Au content	--	--	--	--	173
Gypsum	370,143	355,641	350,000	350,000	175,000
Iron and steel:					
Ferroalloys, ferronickel	61,057	76,659	84,005	84,000	84,000
Steel, crude ^c	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Lime ^e	100	100	100	100	100
Limestone ^e	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Marble	6,060	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Nickel, Ni content:					
Mine output, laterite ore	53,124	4,096,216	4,062,530	31,300 ^r	500
Metal, Ni contained in ferronickel:					
Smelter	28,668	29,675	29,130	18,782 ^{r,2}	20,000
Shipments	26,183	31,977	30,231	20,000	20,000
Petroleum, refinery products: ^c					
Liquefied petroleum gas	500	500	500	500	500
Gasoline, motor	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Kerosene	100	100	100	100	100
Jet fuel	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900
Distillate fuel oil	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900
Residual fuel oil	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600
Total	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Salt, marine ^e	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Sand and gravel ^e	13,300	13,300	13,300	13,300	13,300
Silver, mine output, Ag content	--	--	--	--	450
HAITI^e					
Cement	290,000	290,000	290,000	290,000	290,000
Sand and gravel:					
Gravel	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000
Sand	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Stone, marble	131	131	131	131	131

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. ^rRevised. do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through May 31, 2010.

²Reported figure.

TABLE 2
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2009

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Bauxite	Sierra Bauxita Dominicana S.A.	Pedernales region	NA
Copper	GlobeStar Mining Corp.	Bonao	24,000
Gold	do.	do.	24,000
Nickel	Falconbridge Dominicana C. por A. (Xstrata plc, 85.3%; Government, 10%; Franco-Nevada Corp., 4.1%; private interests, 0.8%)	do.	29,000
Petroleum, refinery	Refinería Dominicana de Petróleo S.A. (Government, 50%, and Shell International Petroleum Company Ltd., 50%)	Haina Port	34,000
Silver	GlobeStar Mining Corp.	Bonao	24,000

NA Not available. do ditto.