



2012 Minerals Yearbook

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND TOGO

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND TOGO

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Mining did not play a significant role in the economy of Central African Republic. The only minerals of economic importance were diamond and, to a lesser extent, gold. In 2012, the country was ranked 12th amongst the world's leading producers of rough diamond by volume and 10th in terms of value in dollars per carat. Less than 100 kilograms (kg) of gold were produced annually in the country, and although clay and sand and gravel were also produced, information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output for 2012. International companies explored for gold, petroleum, and uranium resources. Other undeveloped mineral resources included copper, graphite, ilmenite, iron ore, kyanite, lignite, manganese, monazite, quartz, rutile, salt, and tin (table 1; Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, 2013b).

Central African Republic has struggled with political instability since its independence from France in 1960. In December 2012, a coalition of rebel groups known as Séléka launched an offensive attack against the Government and seized several towns, including the strategic diamond mining town of Bria, which is located in the eastern part of the country. Séléka is formed by members of the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace (CPJP), the Democratic Front of the Central African Republic (FDPC), and the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR) rebel groups, who have been in conflict with the Government since the mid-2000s. By yearend, because of the security situation following the rebels' seizure of these towns, exploration for gold and uranium was suspended. The U.S. Embassy in Bangui also temporarily suspended its operations in the country (U.S. Department of State, 2012; BBC News, 2013).

Production

Diamond and gold production, which was mostly artisanal, came from the regions of Berberati, Haute-Kotto, and Haute-Sangha, which were located about 300 kilometers (km) southwest, 660 km northwest, and 290 km southwest of the capital city of Bangui, respectively. During the year, production of diamond increased by 13% to 365,917 carats compared with 323,575 carats in 2011. Information on gold production was not available for 2012 and was estimated to be about 55 kg. Although clay and sand and gravel are produced throughout the country by artisanal miners, the Government has not published production data for these commodities since 2009, and information from other sources was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output (Chirico, Barthélémy, and Ngbokoto, 2010, p. 7; Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, 2013a, b). Data on mineral production are in table 1.

The Ministère des Mines, du Pétrole et de l'Hydraulique is the Government agency responsible for the mining sector. Production and trade of diamond and gold are overseen by the Bureau d'Évaluation et de Contrôle de Diamant et d'Or (BECDOR). BECDOR maintains the country's diamond and gold production database and assesses the value of diamond parcels that are to be exported from the country.

Mineral Trade

Based on Kimberley Process Certification Scheme statistics, a total of 371,917 carats of diamond worth \$62.1 million was exported from Central African Republic in 2012; this indicated a 15% increase in the volume of diamond exports compared with those of 2011 and a 2% increase in value. Central African Republic's total exports to the United States were valued at about \$4 million in 2012 compared with about \$6 million in 2011; \$1.2 million worth of these exports was rough diamond. Imports from the United States were valued at about \$8.5 million in 2012 compared with \$12.3 million in 2011; about \$1.2 million of these imports was drilling equipment. The main export partners in 2012 included Belgium, which received 31.5% of Central African Republic's total exports; Congo (Kinshasa), 8.6%; Indonesia, 5.2%; and France, 4.5%. The main import partners included the Netherlands, which accounted for 19.5% of Central African Republic's total imports; Cameroon, 9.7%; France, 9.3%; and the Republic of South Korea, 8.7% (Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, 2013a, b; U.S. Census Bureau, 2013a, b; U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2013).

Commodity Review

Metals

Gold.—AXMIN Inc. of Canada announced the shutdown of gold exploration activities after rebels occupied the company's mining camp near Ndassima village on December 21. AXMIN, which was in the process of securing financing to develop the Passendro gold project, reported that rebels en route to the town of Bambari seized food, medical supplies, and vehicles from the Ndassima mining camp premises. The company also reported that the occupation of the camp was carried out without violence and that staff on duty were not injured. The Ndassima village is located about 400 km east of Bangui, and the Passendro project is located about 60 km north of the town of Bambari. Bambari is located about 300 km northeast of Bangui (AXMIN Inc., 2012).

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) was considering investing \$50 million in the Passendro project. A bankable feasibility study, which was completed in 2011 by SENET (PTY) Ltd. of South Africa, yielded an updated

reserve estimate for Passendro of 23.5 million metric tons (Mt) at an average grade of 1.9 grams per metric ton (g/t) gold. Measured and indicated resources, which in 2009 had been estimated to be 31.5 Mt at an average grade of 2.0 g/t gold by SRK Consulting Ltd. of the United Kingdom, were revalidated in 2011. The total inferred mineral resource was also revalidated and remained at 21.7 Mt at an average grade of 1.6 g/t gold. Once in operation, the Passendro Mine was expected to produce about 6,400 kilograms per year of gold during its first 3 years of operation and to have an estimated mine life of 8.3 years (AXMIN Inc., 2011; International Monetary Fund, 2012, p. 9).

Industrial Minerals

Diamond.—In late December, Séléka rebels captured the town of Bria, which is located in the Haute-Kotto region in eastern Central African Republic. The Haute-Kotto region is one of the country's two main diamond mining areas. A report published by the International Crisis Group in 2010 warned of the possibility of rebel groups taking control of the diamond fields of Haute-Kotto, and indicated that, at the time, the Government lacked the institutional capacity to monitor the country's diamond mining areas. The report also highlighted that, although there seemed to be no historical correlation between diamond mining and insurgency in Central African Republic, widespread poverty in mining communities and the prevalence of illegal diamond trading and smuggling networks in the northeast presented rebel groups with an opportunity to make a profit to finance their activities and perpetuate hostilities. The report also cautioned about the potential for diamond to feed the cycles of poverty and conflict in Central African Republic in the same way they did in Liberia and Sierra Leone during the 1990s and early 2000s (International Crisis Group, 2010, p. i, 1, 15–19, 23; BBC News, 2012; Tacy Ltd., 2012).

All diamond production in Central African Republic was mined by artisanal miners from alluvial deposits. Alluvial deposits are found in the vicinity of the Mambere and Lobaye Rivers in the southwest, which extend into the northern part of the Republic of the Congo [Congo (Brazzaville)] and eastern Cameroon, and along the Kotto River in eastern Central African Republic, which extends into the Democratic Republic of the Congo [Congo (Kinshasa)]. As of yearend 2012, no primary diamond deposits had been discovered in the country. Before the country's independence in 1960, production ranged between 75,000 and 100,000 carats per year. From 1961 through the early 1970s, diamond production ranged between 100,000 and 450,000 carats per year. The level of diamond output was reported to vary from year to year based on seasonal changes, political stability, and security within the country. In 2007, a study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey in collaboration with Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières and Central African Republic's Direction Générale des Mines estimated that a total of at least 39 million carats of alluvial diamond remained to be mined from Central African Republic's main diamondfields. The country's annual alluvial diamond production capacity was estimated to be 840,000 carats (Chirico, Barthélémy, and Ngbokoto, 2010, p. 7–8, 14, 19–21; International Crisis Group, 2010, p. 1).

Mineral Fuels and Related Materials

Uranium.—In September, Areva Group of France announced the indefinite suspension of operations at its Bakouma uranium project, which is located about 900 km northeast of the capital city of Bangui. Operations were reportedly suspended as a result of the drop in the global price of uranium following Japan's Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011, technical difficulties, and the uncertain security situation in Central African Republic. On June 25, armed men attacked and looted Areva's mining facilities at Bakouma. None of the company's 170 employees were reportedly hurt during the incident, but computer equipment and food were reportedly stolen from the company's mining premises. Areva's mining operations in West Africa have been targeted by extremist groups in the past. The most recent of these incidents took place in September 2010 when elements of the Al-Qaeda global militant Islamist organization kidnapped one of Areva's employees and his wife in addition to five other foreign national contractors near the town of Arlit in Niger. Before announcing the suspension of operations, Areva had planned to start production of uranium at Bakouma by 2014. Inferred mineral resources at the Bakouma project were estimated to be about 5.7 Mt at an average grade of 1.72% uranium. Uranium deposits at Bakouma were mined to a limited extent during the 1960s and 1970s but not at a commercial scale (Roger, 2010; Areva Group, 2012a, b; Nuclear Power Daily, 2012; Panika, 2012).

Outlook

Continued hostilities in Central African Republic between the Government and the Séléka rebel group are likely to hinder the prospect of further developing ongoing gold and uranium projects, at least in the short run. This was evidenced by the decision of mining companies AXMIN and Areva to temporarily shut down their respective mining operations in Bakouma and Bambari. The successful development of these or any future mining projects will depend on the country's ability to restore political stability.

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TOGO

Historically, mining has not played a significant role in the economy of Togo. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, however, estimates that the continued growth in Togo's economy since 2007 has been driven in part by improvements in the so-called secondary (industry) sector (which included the extractive industries) and by investments in construction, mining, and public works. In 2012, the output of Togo's secondary sector increased by 13% and contributed 2.5% to the gross domestic product compared with a 0.9% contribution in 2011. The mineral sector was dominated by cement, gold, and phosphate rock production and, to a lesser extent, by the production of diamond. Togo was among

the world's top 20 producers of phosphate rock, by tonnage of output in 2012. The country also produced more than 1.5 Mt of limestone, which was used locally in the production of cement, and about 40,000 metric tons (t) of iron ore. Undeveloped mineral resources included bauxite, gypsum, ilmenite, manganese, marble, rutile, and zinc. Law No. 96–004/PR of February 26, 1996, as amended by Act No. 2003–012, provided the legal framework for the mineral sector (African Economic Outlook, 2013; Jasinski, 2013).

Production

Hydraulic cement production increased by 38% during the year to 1,604,600 t from a revised 1,159,600 t in 2011, and that of phosphate rock, by 28% to 1.1 Mt from 866,000 t. Diamond production increased significantly to 456 carats from 71 carats in 2011. Data on mineral production are in table 1.

Mineral Trade

Based on Kimberley Process Certification Scheme statistics, no diamond was exported from Togo in 2012. In 2011, however, a total of 207 carats of diamond worth \$41,534 was exported from the country. Togo's total exports to the United States were valued at \$51.9 million compared with about \$30.5 million in 2011; this included \$46 million worth of petroleum products. Imports from the United States were valued at \$370.6 million in 2012 compared with \$209.7 million in 2011; these included \$72.5 million of crude petroleum, \$191.2 million of petroleum products; \$5.3 million of excavating machinery; \$435,000 of specialized mining equipment; \$595,000 of nonferrous metals, and \$785,000 of drilling and oilfield equipment (Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, 2013a, b; U.S. Census Bureau, 2013a, b).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities.

Commodity Review

Metals

Manganese.—Ferrex plc of the United Kingdom explored for manganese at the Nayega deposit, which is located about 600 km north of the capital city of Lome. Nayega—a residual manganese deposit comprising lateritic and saprolitic mineralization—is accessible by a main road that connects the deposit to the deepwater Port of Lome. An initial Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) Code-compliant resource estimate for Nayega yielded an indicated resource of 7.3 Mt of manganese ore at a grade of 14.7% manganese. A definitive feasibility study for Nayega was scheduled to be completed by the third quarter of 2013. Ferrex held an 85% interest in the Nayega deposit through Société Générale de Mine, which is a Togolese company (Ferrex plc, 2012a–c).

Cement.—HeidelbergCement AG of Germany began construction of a 1.5-million-metric-ton-per-year (Mt/yr)-capacity clinker plant in the city of Tabligbo, which is located about 80 km from the capital city of Lome. The company also announced that it had begun the construction of a 200,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) cement grinding facility in the city of Dapaong, which is located about 600 km north of Lome. Limestone to supply the clinker plant was to be sourced from HeidelbergCement’s own limestone deposits in Togo. Clinker would be processed to cement at the company’s grinding mills in Togo and also at its other grinding mills in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Ghana. The two new plants were expected to be commissioned by 2015 and to employ about 200 people at the plants and about 1,300 locally (HeidelbergCement AG, 2012; 2013, p. 59).

Dangote Cement plc of Nigeria was in the process of building a cement import terminal and bagging plant at Lome with a capacity to process about 500,000 t/yr of cement. The terminal and plant were scheduled to be commissioned by the first half of 2013. Togo imported clinker to meet its domestic demand for cement; the country’s installed cement production capacity was 1.7 Mt/yr (Dangote Cement plc, undated).

Outlook

Togo’s economy is estimated to grow by 5.3% and 5.5% in 2013 and 2014, respectively (African Economic Outlook, 2013). The mineral sector is likely to play an important role in such growth as the cement sector continues to expand and new mineral resources, such as manganese, are developed. Potential also exists for the further development of the country’s diamond, gold, iron ore, and phosphate rock resources as well as for that of other industrial minerals. Togo’s effort to bring the mineral sector in line with international standards of transparency—by participating in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative—is also likely to attract foreign direct investment to the sector in the near future, which could have a positive effect on the economy.

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TABLE 1
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND TOGO: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country and commodity | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 ^e | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ² | | | | | | |
| Clay | 79,000 ^e | NA | NA | NA | NA | |
| Diamond ^{3,4} | carats | 377,209 | 311,779 | 301,557 | 323,575 | 365,917 ⁵ |
| Gold, mine output, Au content | kilograms | 43 | 61 | 59 | 53 | 55 |
| Sand and gravel | | 170,000 ^e | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| TOGO ⁶ | | | | | | |
| Cement: | | | | | | |
| Clinker | | 906,000 | 1,050,000 | 1,060,000 ^e | 1,201,000 | 1,200,000 |
| Hydraulic ⁷ | | 1,264,502 ^r | 1,178,781 ^r | 1,185,153 ^r | 1,159,606 ^r | 1,604,608 ⁵ |
| Diamond ³ | carats | 8,787 | 125 | 96 | 71 | 456 ⁵ |
| Gold ⁸ | kilograms | 11,835 | 12,955 | 10,452 | 16,469 | 16,500 |
| Iron ore | | NA | NA | NA | 40,912 | 40,000 |
| Limestone | | 1,824,000 ⁹ | 1,704,000 ⁹ | 1,656,041 ^r | 1,923,189 ^r | 1,900,000 |
| Phosphate rock, beneficiated product: | | | | | | |
| Gross weight | thousand metric tons | 842 | 726 | 695 | 866 | 1,110 ⁵ |
| P ₂ O ₅ content | do. | 303 | 260 | 250 | 310 ^e | 400 |

^eEstimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. ^rRevised. do. Ditto. NA Not available.

¹Table includes data available through July 12, 2013.

²In addition to the commodities listed, Central African Republic produced quartz crystals, but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Reported by Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

⁴Production is approximately 70% to 80% gem quality.

⁵Reported figure.

⁶In addition to the commodities listed, Togo also produced clay, marble, and sand and gravel, but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

⁷Series revised based on reported cement production by La Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

⁸May include artisanal gold production from neighboring countries; however, information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output that originated from these countries.

⁹As reported by the Ministry of Mines for limestone quarried for cement production.

TABLE 2
TOGO: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2012

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Commodity | Major operating companies and major equity owners | Location of main facilities | Annual capacity |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cement | Société de Ciments du Togo S.A. (CIMTOGO) (Heidelberg Cement AG, 93.59%) | Grinding plant in Lome | 700,000 cement. |
| Do. | West Africa Cement S.A. (WACEM) | Tabligbo, 60 kilometers northeast of Lome | 400,000 cement; 1,200,000 clinker. |
| Do. | Fortia Cement S.A. (Diamond Cement) | do. | 600,000 cement. |
| Gold kilograms | WAFEX (Togolese private interests) | NA | 10,400. |
| Do. do. | SOLTRANS (Togolese private interests) | NA | 6,000. |
| Iron ore | MM Mining S.A. (Togolese private interests) | Bangeli, Kara region | 41,000. |
| Limestone | Ciments de l'Afrique de l'Ouest | do. | 2,400,000. |
| Phosphate rock | Société Nouvelle des Phosphates du Togo | Akoumape and Hahotue | 2,000,000. |

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.