



2012 Minerals Yearbook

SOMALIA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF SOMALIA

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Somalia, which is an East African country located on the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, produced small quantities of gemstones, granite, marble, niobium (columbium), salt, sand, sandstone, and tantalum in recent years. The mineral industry made a small contribution to Somalia's exports and economy in general. The country also had deposits of feldspar, iron ore, kaolin, limestone, natural gas, quartz, silica sand, tin, and uranium.

Somalia enacted a new constitution and held elections in 2012; however, the civil war continued in Somalia. African Union, Ethiopian, Kenyan, and Somalia's Transitional Federal Government military forces engaged in combat with the Al-Shabab militia in various parts of the country, including the city of Kismayu. In March, Al-Shabab, which was affiliated with Al-Qaeda, also engaged in combat with military forces of the semiautonomous Puntland State in northern Somalia. By the end of September, Al-Shabab controlled only a few towns in central and southern Somalia (Gettleman, 2012; Hassan, 2012; Ibrahim and Gettleman, 2012).

In January 2012, military forces from the self-declared Republic of Somaliland (which maintains a separate regional governing authority) engaged in combat with militias from the self-declared semiautonomous Khatumo State in northern Somalia. Somaliland's declaration of independence in 1991 and Puntland's and Khatumo's declarations of autonomy in 1998 and 2012, respectively, were not internationally recognized (Addis Fortune, 2012a).

Production

Mineral production data continued to be unavailable because of the lack of a fully functioning central Government since 1991 and the conflict that pervaded most of the country. In 2008, niobium and tantalum mining operations by Green African Development AB of Sweden started; it is unclear if production continued after a labor dispute in April 2009 (Indian Ocean Newsletter, 2009).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Private companies produced granite, marble, and sandstone. Gemstone-mining and salt-mining operations appeared to be artisanal or small-scale in nature.

Commodity Review

Metals

Copper and Gold.—Mindesta Inc. of Canada engaged in rock and soil sampling at the Abdul Qadir, the Arapsyo, and the Qabri Bahar properties from September 2011 to July 2012. In November 2012, Mindesta announced plans for further soil sampling (Mindesta Inc., 2012).

Mineral Fuels

Natural Gas and Petroleum.—Horn Petroleum Corp. of Canada and its joint-venture partner explored for petroleum at the Dharoor Valley and the Nugaal Valley onshore blocks in Puntland. In August 2012, the Shabeel North well was reported to be not prospective for hydrocarbons. The companies planned to drill one exploration well each at Dharoor Valley and Nugaal Valley by late 2015 (Range Resources Ltd., 2012).

Genel Energy Ltd. of the United Kingdom held Blocks SL-10B and SL-13 in Somaliland. The company planned to drill its first well in the second quarter of 2014 and its second well in 2015 (Addis Fortune, 2012b).

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