



# 2014 Minerals Yearbook

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## COMOROS

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF COMOROS

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Comoros is an archipelago of islands in the Indian Ocean that is located between Madagascar and Mozambique. The real gross domestic product (GDP) of Comoros was estimated to have increased by 3.2% in 2014. Mineral commodity output in Comoros included small quantities of common building materials for domestic consumption. In 2014, cement was imported primarily from Pakistan; petroleum products from, in order of amount imported, Turkey, France, and China; and steel bars from Turkey. The African Development Bank (AfDB) has undertaken a number of projects aimed at upgrading the energy sector in Comoros. Along with the AfDB programs, financing of \$41.6 million for an 18-megawatt powerplant to be built in the capital city of Moroni was extended by the Export-Import Bank of India. These projects will help to improve the reliability of the energy sector, leading to improvement in Comoros' infrastructure; an increase in imports of construction materials, such as cement and steel, will be required for such projects (Export-Import Bank of India, 2013; African Development Bank Group, 2014; United Nations Statistics Division, 2015; World Bank, The, 2015, p. 14).

In 2014, Comoros demarcated 40 blocks for petroleum operations. As of the end of 2014, six of the blocks were licensed for exploration. In December 2013, Comoros entered into a production-sharing agreement with the joint-venture of Safari Petroleum, PLC of the United Kingdom (25%) and Western Energy Production, LLC of the United States (75%). The consortium plans a number of exploration studies and projects, including drilling an ultra-deepwater exploration well for three deepwater blocks (38, 39, and 40). The 2013 petroleum production-sharing agreement with the joint venture of Discover Exploration Comoros B.V. (60% working interest), which was a subsidiary of Discover Exploration Ltd. of the United Kingdom, and Bahari Resources Ltd. of Kenya (40% working interest) was

ratified by the National Assembly of Comoros in March 2014. The exploration program covered under this agreement has acquired seismic data that suggests that proven gas deposits in Mozambique may extend into the Comoros deepwater Blocks 35, 36, and 37 (Centurion, LLP, 2015; Discover Exploration Ltd., 2015; Offshore, 2015).

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