



2011 Minerals Yearbook

BURUNDI

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF BURUNDI

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In 2011, Burundi accounted for about 2% of the world's production of tantalum. The country also mined small amounts of gold, limestone, niobium (columbium), peat, sand and gravel, tin, and tungsten. Burundi was not a globally significant consumer of minerals. Mining accounted for about 1% of Burundi's gross domestic product (World Bank, The, 2011, p. 50; Papp, 2012).

Production

Cement production restarted in 2011. Peat mining increased by an estimated 14%. The output of most other minerals, which had increased in 2010, was estimated to have remained nearly unchanged in 2011 (table 1).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Artisanal mining employment in industrial minerals mining was estimated to be about 10,000 workers in 2009 (the latest year for which data are available); gold, 4,000 workers; niobium, tantalum, and tin, 2,000 workers; and tungsten, 1,600 workers. Privately owned Comptoir Minier des Exploitations du Burundi S.A. (COMEBU) also mined niobium, tantalum, and tin. State-owned Office National de la Tourbe was Burundi's only peat producer (Midende, 2010, p. 51; World Bank, The, 2011, p. 48).

Commodity Review

Metals

Cobalt, Copper, and Nickel.—In 2011, resources at the undeveloped Musongati nickel-cobalt-copper deposits were estimated to be about 250 million metric tons; grades were estimated to be 1.31% nickel, 0.17% copper, and 0.08% cobalt in a previous assessment. Burundi Mining Metallurgy Ltd. (a subsidiary of Kermas Group of the United Kingdom) planned to start mining at Musongati in 2014 and to reach the full capacity of 50,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) by 2019. The project was estimated to cost about \$1.5 billion and to require power consumption of between 100 and 150 megawatts of capacity (African Mining, 1998; Africa Mining Intelligence, 2011).

Gold.—Flemish Gold Ltd. of Canada held the Gakere, the Giterani, and the Muhwazi projects in northern Burundi and the

Tora-Kabezi project in western Burundi. In 2011, Flemish Gold explored at Muhwazi; the company planned a drilling program for 2012.

Niobium (Columbium) and Tantalum.—COMEBU mined columbite-tantalite at Kabarore in Kayanza Province, and artisanal miners, at various sites in Kayanza, Kirundo, and Ngozi Provinces. Based on COMEBU's exploration in 2003 and 2004, columbite-tantalite reserves at Kabarore were estimated to be about 4,400 metric tons (t) (Midende, 2010, p. 48, 53).

Industrial Minerals

Cement.—In February 2011, Burundi Cement Co. (BUCECO) started production at its new cement plant in Cibitoke Province. The plant had a capacity of 100,000 t/yr; BUCECO planned to produce 35,000 t in 2011 (Waerp and Arnoldson, 2011).

Burundi's cement demand was estimated to be nearly 350,000 t in 2011. In 2010, cement prices were estimated to be about \$350 per metric ton in Burundi compared with \$120 per metric ton in Kenya and \$130 per metric ton in Tanzania. Burundi's cement prices were also substantially higher than neighboring landlocked countries with high power and transportation costs, such as Rwanda (about \$300 per metric ton) and Uganda (nearly \$200 per metric ton) (Renaissance Capital LLC, 2011, p. 9, 35; Waerp and Arnoldson, 2011).

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TABLE 1
BURUNDI: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^e
Cement		--	--	--	--	35,000
Gold, mine output, Au content ^e	kilograms	750	750	750	750	750
Niobium (columbium) and tantalum, ore and concentrate:						
Gross weight	do.	51,550	91,300	24,400	67,400	68,000
Nb content	do.	10,000	17,900	4,800	13,200	13,300
Ta content	do.	9,140	17,800	4,800	13,100	13,200
Peat		7,489	9,764	11,352	13,111	15,000
Tin, mine output:						
Gross weight		5	96	20	29	30
Sn content		2	40	8	12	12
Tungsten, mine output:						
Gross weight		455	393	248	337	340
W content		144	125	79	107	108

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through January 10, 2013.

²In addition to the commodities listed, brick clay, limestone, and sand and gravel were produced, but available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2
BURUNDI: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2011

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Cement		Burundi Cement Co. (BUCECO)	Plant in Cibitoke Province	100,000
Gold	kilograms	Artisanal miners	At least 35 sites in Bubanza, Cibitoke, Kayanza, Kirundo, Muyinga, and Ruyigi Provinces	750 ^e
Niobium (columbium) and tantalum, columbite-tantalite ore and concentrate		Comptoir Minier des Exploitations du Burundi S.A. (COMEBU)	Kabarore in Kayanza Province	6 ^e
Do.		Artisanal miners	Various sites in Kayanza, Kirundo, and Ngozi Provinces	85 ^e
Peat		Office Nationale de la Tourbe (ONATOUR)	Buyongwe, Gisozi, Gitanga, and Matana	20,000
Tin, cassiterite ore and concentrate		Comptoir Minier des Exploitations du Burundi S.A. (COMEBU) and artisanal miners	Various sites in Cibitoke, Kayanza, Kirundo, Muyinga, and Ngozi Provinces	100 ^e
Tungsten, wolframite ore and concentrate		Artisanal miners	At least 10 sites in Kirundo and Muyinga Provinces	670 ^e

^eEstimated. Do. Ditto