



2011 Minerals Yearbook

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND TOGO

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND TOGO

By Omayra Bermúdez-Lugo

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

In 2011, Central African Republic was ranked 11th among the world's leading producers of rough diamond by volume and 12th by value. Mining accounted for about 2.8% of the country's gross domestic product. Clay, gold, and sand and gravel were also produced. Undeveloped mineral resources included copper, graphite, ilmenite, iron ore, kyanite, lignite, manganese, monazite, quartz, rutile, salt, tin, and uranium. On March 2, Central African Republic achieved compliance with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). The EITI is a voluntary global compact established in 2002 that is aimed at strengthening good governance by improving economic transparency and accountability in the mining sector (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, 2011; African Economic Outlook, 2012; Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, 2012).

Production

Diamond and gold production, which was mostly artisanal, came from the regions of Berberati, Haute-Kotto, and Haute-Sangha. During the year, production of diamond increased by 7.3% to 323,575 carats compared with 301,557 carats in 2010. Gold production decreased by 10% to 53 kilograms (kg) from 59 kg in 2010. The Government had not published production data for clay and sand and gravel since 2009 and reported that although these mineral commodities are produced throughout the country by artisanal miners, information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output. Data on mineral production are in table 1.

The Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Resources is the Government agency responsible for the mining sector. Production and trade of diamond and gold are overseen by the Bureau d'Evaluation 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 come from the various diamond exporting companies (collectively known as Bureau d'Achat) operating in the country.

Mineral Trade

Based on Kimberley Process Certification Scheme statistics, a total of 323,472 carats of diamond worth \$60.8 million was exported from Central African Republic in 2011; this indicated an increase of 5.4% compared with diamond exports in 2010 and an increase in value of 22%. Central African Republic's total exports to the United States were valued at about \$6 million compared with about \$5.7 million in 2010; \$3 million worth of these exports was rough diamond. Imports from the United States were valued at about \$12.3 million in 2011 compared with \$10.3 million in 2010; these included

\$3.1 million in drilling equipment and \$212,000 in excavating machinery (Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, 2011; 2012; U.S. Census Bureau, 2012a, b).

Commodity Review

Metals

Gold.—On January 31, AXMIN Inc. of Canada announced the completion of an updated bankable feasibility study (BFS) for its 100%-owned Passendro gold project. The project is located within the company's Bambari concession area about 60 kilometers (km) north of the town of Bambari. The new BFS yielded an updated reserve estimate for Passendro of 23.5 Mt at an average grade of 1.9 g/t gold. Measured and indicated resources, which in 2009 had been estimated to be 31.5 million metric tons (Mt) at an average grade of 2.0 grams per metric ton (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 Passendro Mine was expected to produce about 6,400 kilograms per year (kg/yr) during its first 3 years of operation and to have an estimated mine life of 8.3 years (Axmin Inc., 2011; 2012, p. 2–3).

Industrial Minerals

Diamond.—All diamond production in Central African Republic was mined by artisanal miners from alluvial deposits. By yearend 2011, no primary diamond deposits had been discovered in the country. Alluvial diamond historically had been produced from the Kadéi-Mambéré-Sangha region, which is located in the western part of the country, and from the Haute-Kotto region, which is located in the east. 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. In 2007, the number of artisanal diamond miners in Central African Republic was estimated to range between 60,000 and 90,000. The level of diamond output was reported to vary from year to year based on seasonal changes, political stability, and security within the country. A study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey in 2007 and published in 2010 estimated that a total of 39,000,000 carats of alluvial diamond remained in Central African Republic's main diamond production areas, and that the country's alluvial diamond production capacity could be as much as 840,000 carats per year, or about two-and-one-half times greater than the country's current annual production. As of yearend 2011, there was no industrial diamond production in the country (Chirico, Barthélémy, and Ngbokoto, 2010, p. 7–8, 14, 19–21).

Mineral Fuels and Related Materials

Uranium.—Areva Group of France suspended activities at its Bakouma uranium project as a result of what the company reported as unfavorable market conditions. First production of uranium, which had been expected to begin by 2014 or 2015, was postponed to an unspecified date following the suspension of activities. Optimization studies for the processing of the ore, however, continued at Areva's research center in France. The Bakouma uranium project is located 100 km north of the Bangassou prefecture and 900 km northeast of Bangui. Uranium deposits at Bakouma were mined to a limited extent during the 1960s and 1970s but not at a commercial scale. Inferred mineral resources at the Bakouma project were estimated to be about 5.7 Mt at an average grade of 1.72% U (Areva Group, 2012, p. 72).

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TOGO

In 2011, mining accounted for about 2.8% of Togo's gross domestic product, and Togo was ranked 19th among the world's leading producers of phosphate rock, by volume. Other mineral commodities produced in the country included cement, clinker, diamond, gold, and limestone. Undeveloped mineral resources included bauxite, gypsum, iron ore, manganese, marble, rutile, and zinc. Togo's mineral sector is governed by law No. 96–004/PR of February 26, 1996, as amended by

Act No. 2003–012. As of yearend 2011, Togo had submitted the terms of reference to the EITI International Secretariat for its EITI validation, which was to expire on April 18, 2013. A draft of a new mining code was underway and was awaiting Government approval (African Economic Outlook, 2012; Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, 2012; Jasinski, 2012).

Production

Clinker production increased by 13.3% during the year to 1,201,000 metric tons (t) from a revised 1,060,000 t in 2010, and that of hydraulic cement increased by 54.8% to 1,780,000 t from 1,150,000 t. Diamond production decreased by 26% to 71 carats from 96 carats, gold production increased by 57.6% to 16,469 kg from a revised 10,452 kg, limestone production increased by 16% to 1,923,000 t from a revised 1,656,000 t, and phosphate rock production increased by 24.6% to 866,000 t from 695,000 t. Data on mineral production are in table 1.

Mineral Trade

Based on Kimberley Process Certification Scheme statistics, a total of 207 carats of diamond worth \$41,534 was exported from Togo in 2011. Togo's total exports to the United States were valued at \$30.5 million compared with about \$9.1 million in 2010 but did not include any mineral commodities. Imports from the United States were valued at \$209.7 million in 2011 compared with \$158.3 million in 2010; these included \$74.6 million of crude petroleum, \$33.6 million of petroleum products; \$2.6 million of excavating machinery; \$469,000 of specialized mining equipment; and \$17,000 of drilling and oilfield equipment (Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, 2011; 2012; U.S. Census Bureau, 2012a, b).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities.

Commodity Review

Industrial Minerals

Cement.—Heidelberg Cement AG of Germany was awaiting Government approval to begin the construction of a 1.5 Mt/yr clinker plant. The plant was expected to reduce the amount of imported clinker needed by the company to produce cement at its Lome grinding plant. The plant was to be located in the town of Tabligbo about 80 km northeast of the capital city of Lome (International Cement Review, 2011; Heidelberg Cement AG, 2012, p. 59).

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ²						
Clay ^e	79,000	79,000	NA	NA	NA	
Diamond ^{3,4}	carats	467,711	377,209	311,779	301,557	323,575
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	10 ^e	43	61	59	53
Limestone ⁵		-- ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	--
Sand and gravel ^e		173,000 ⁶	170,000 ^e	NA	NA	NA
TOGO						
Cement: ^e						
Clinker		1,200,000	906,000 ⁶	1,050,000 ⁶	1,060,000 ^r	1,201,000 ⁶
Hydraulic ⁷		996,000 ^r	1,350,000 ^r	1,160,000 ^r	1,150,000 ^r	1,780,000
Diamond ³	carats	17,362	8,787	125	96 ^r	71
Gold ⁸	kilograms	10,159	11,835	12,955	10,452 ^r	16,469
Limestone ⁹		2,400,000 ^e	1,824,000 ^r	1,704,000 ^r	1,656,000 ^r	1,923,000
Phosphate rock, beneficiated product:						
Gross weight	thousand metric tons	750 ^e	842 ⁶	726 ⁶	695 ^r	866
P ₂ O ₅ content	do.	270	303	260	250 ^r	310 ^e

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

¹Table includes data available through October 15, 2012.

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.

⁵As reported by the Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Water Resources, limestone was not produced.

⁶Reported figure.

⁷Estimates (rounded) based on reported production of clinker and exports and imports of cement and clinker.

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 2011

(Metric tons)

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.
Limestone	Ciments de l'Afrique de l'Ouest	do.	2,400,000.
Phosphate rock	Société Nouvelle des Phosphates du Togo	Akoumpe and Hahotue	2,000,000.
Do., do. Ditto.			