



# 2012 Minerals Yearbook

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## BURUNDI

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF BURUNDI

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In 2012, 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 less than 1% of Burundi's gross domestic product in 2012 (African Development Bank Group, 2013, p. 116; Papp, 2013).

By December 15, 2012, the Government of Burundi planned to implement a system established by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to certify and trace domestically mined cassiterite, columbite-tantalite, and gold because of the reported use of minerals mined in the Democratic Republic of the Congo [Congo (Kinshasa)] that transited through Burundi to fund military operations. Congolese armed groups reportedly engaged in the illegal taxation of artisanal miners to fund their operations in Congo (Kinshasa). The Government issued 90 mining licenses that were in compliance with the ICGLR system in 2011. Possible obstacles to full implementation of the ICGLR system included civil unrest in Burundi and the lack of Government funds and personnel (Africa Mining Intelligence, 2012).

## Production

In 2012, cement production increased by 104%. In 2011, niobium (columbium) and tantalum production increased by 145% each; tin, 83%; and tungsten, 56%. Peat mining decreased by 39% 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 were available); gold, 4,000 workers; niobium, tantalum, and tin combined, 2,000 workers; and tungsten, 1,600 workers. Muyinga Province accounted for about 33% of the artisanal miners employed in mining metals; Kayanza Province, 27%; Cibitoke Province, 24%; Kirundo Province, 10%; Ruyigi Province, 5%; and Bubanza Province, 1%. Privately owned *Comptoir Minier des Exploitations du Burundi S.A.* (COMEBU) also mined niobium, tantalum, and tin. State-owned *Office Nationale de la Tourbe* (ONATOUR) 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 230 million metric tons. In a previous

assessment, grades were estimated to be 1.31% nickel, 0.17% copper, and 0.08% cobalt. Burundi Mining Metallurgy Ltd. (BMM) (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 require power consumption of between 100 and 150 megawatts (MW) of capacity (Africa Mining, 1998; Africa Mining Intelligence, 2011; *Metal Bulletin*, 2013).

BMM planned to build a new hydroelectric power station to supply Musongati. At the end of 2012, BMM had not received the mining license to start construction of the mine; approval was on hold until the Government completed its new mining code (*Metal Bulletin*, 2013).

**Niobium (Columbium) and Tantalum.**—In 2011, Burundi's production of columbite-tantalite increased to 165,782 kilograms (kg) from 67,365 kg in 2010 (table 1). COMEBU mined columbite-tantalite at the Kabarore Mine in Kayanza Province. Artisanal miners also produced columbite-tantalite at four sites in Kabarore Commune (Midende, 2010, p. 48, 53).

### Industrial Minerals

**Cement.**—In 2012, Burundi Cement Co. (BUCECO) produced 70,500 metric tons (t) of cement at its plant in Cibitoke Province compared with 34,500 t in 2011. BUCECO planned to produce at the plant's full capacity of 100,000 t/yr in 2013; the company was considering an increase in capacity to 200,000 t/yr. Burundi imported all its cement requirements prior to the opening of the plant in 2011. Cement imports were 142,364 t in 2011 compared with 156,989 t in 2010 and 67,077 t in 2007 (Burundi Cement Co., 2013; *Banque de la Republique du Burundi*, undated, p. 85).

### Mineral Fuels

**Peat.**—ONATOUR produced peat at Buyongwe, Gisozi, Gitanga, and Matana. In 2011, output decreased to 8,000 t from 13,111 t in 2010 because of difficulties in recovering payments from its customers. The Government planned to complete a new peat-fired power station with a capacity of 200 MW by 2015 (East African Community Secretariat, 2012, p. 46; *Banque de la Republique du Burundi*, undated, p. 14).

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TABLE 1  
 BURUNDI: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity <sup>2</sup>		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 <sup>3</sup>
Cement		--	--	--	34,500 <sup>r</sup>	70,500 <sup>3</sup>
Gold, mine output, Au content <sup>c</sup>	kilograms	500 <sup>r</sup>	500 <sup>r</sup>	300 <sup>r</sup>	300 <sup>r</sup>	300
Niobium (columbium) and tantalum, ore and concentrate:						
Gross weight	do.	83,854 <sup>r</sup>	44,207 <sup>r</sup>	67,365 <sup>r</sup>	165,781 <sup>r</sup>	170,000
Nb content	do.	16,412 <sup>r</sup>	8,700 <sup>r</sup>	13,200 <sup>r</sup>	32,400 <sup>r</sup>	33,000
Ta content	do.	16,400 <sup>r</sup>	8,600 <sup>r</sup>	13,200 <sup>r</sup>	32,400 <sup>r</sup>	33,000
Peat		9,764	11,352	13,111	8,000 <sup>r</sup>	8,000
Tin, mine output:						
Gross weight		50 <sup>r</sup>	28 <sup>r</sup>	29 <sup>r</sup>	52 <sup>r</sup>	50
Sn content		21 <sup>r</sup>	12 <sup>r</sup>	12 <sup>r</sup>	22 <sup>r</sup>	21
Tungsten, mine output:						
Gross weight		608 <sup>r</sup>	333 <sup>r</sup>	328 <sup>r</sup>	515 <sup>r</sup>	520
W content		194 <sup>r</sup>	106 <sup>r</sup>	105 <sup>r</sup>	164 <sup>r</sup>	165

<sup>c</sup>Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. <sup>r</sup>Revised. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through February 10, 2014.

<sup>2</sup>In 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.

<sup>3</sup>Reported figure.

TABLE 2  
 BURUNDI: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2012

(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	300 <sup>e</sup>
Niobium (columbium) and tantalum, columbite-tantalite ore and concentrate				
Do.		Comptoir Minier des Exploitations du Burundi S.A. (COMEBU)	Kabarore in Kayanza Province	6 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		Artisanal miners	Various sites in Kayanza, Kirundo, and Ngozi Provinces	160 <sup>e</sup>
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	55 <sup>e</sup>
Tungsten, wolframite ore and concentrate		Artisanal miners	At least 10 sites in Kirundo and Muyinga Provinces	610 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. Do. Ditto