

**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE**

PG. 2

Has the African continent been spared the worst of COVID-19?

PG. 7

Biden's Trump card is good as gold.

PG. 11

Fekola gold mine in Mali to reduce energy costs



AFRICAN MINING COUNTRIES DURING THE LAST QUARTER 2020

**AFRICA'S MINING SECTOR CONTINUES TO THRIVE
AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF COVID-19 AND MAJOR
POLITICAL CHANGES**



AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF COVID-19

HAS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT BEEN SPARED THE WORST OF COVID-19?

Most of us in Europe and elsewhere are now confined or locked down due to the spiralling cases of COVID-19. The African continent has been spared the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic according to the figures. In many countries' life is returning to semi-normal with the re-opening of regional travel, the economy (such as the hospitality sector) and even the organisation of events. How has the African continent been touched so lightly by the pandemic and can the figures be trusted?

The continent has had 1,893,619 cases with 45,433 deaths up to 8th November 2020 according to the [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health](#). Taken into context that is equivalent roughly to the amount of cases in France and slighter lower than the death toll in the United Kingdom. The top six countries in the continent for COVID-19 cases are: South Africa, Nigeria, Morocco, Libya, Egypt and Ethiopia. South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia, Algeria, Angola, and Uganda have recently recorded minor spikes in cases, as restrictions have been relaxed.

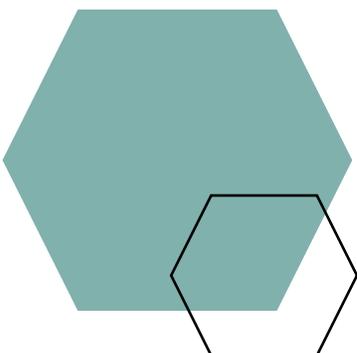
The continent's death rate per capita is quite low compared with other parts of the world. The [World Health Organisation](#) said that the low death rate could be attributed to the African continent having a young population with more than 60% below the age of 25. At the same time the climate means that many people spend more time outdoors than indoors, thus limiting the spread of the disease (as witnessed during the warmer months in Europe, cases dropped). Problems like obesity and type 2 diabetes which contribute to the COVID death rate are also less common in Africa.

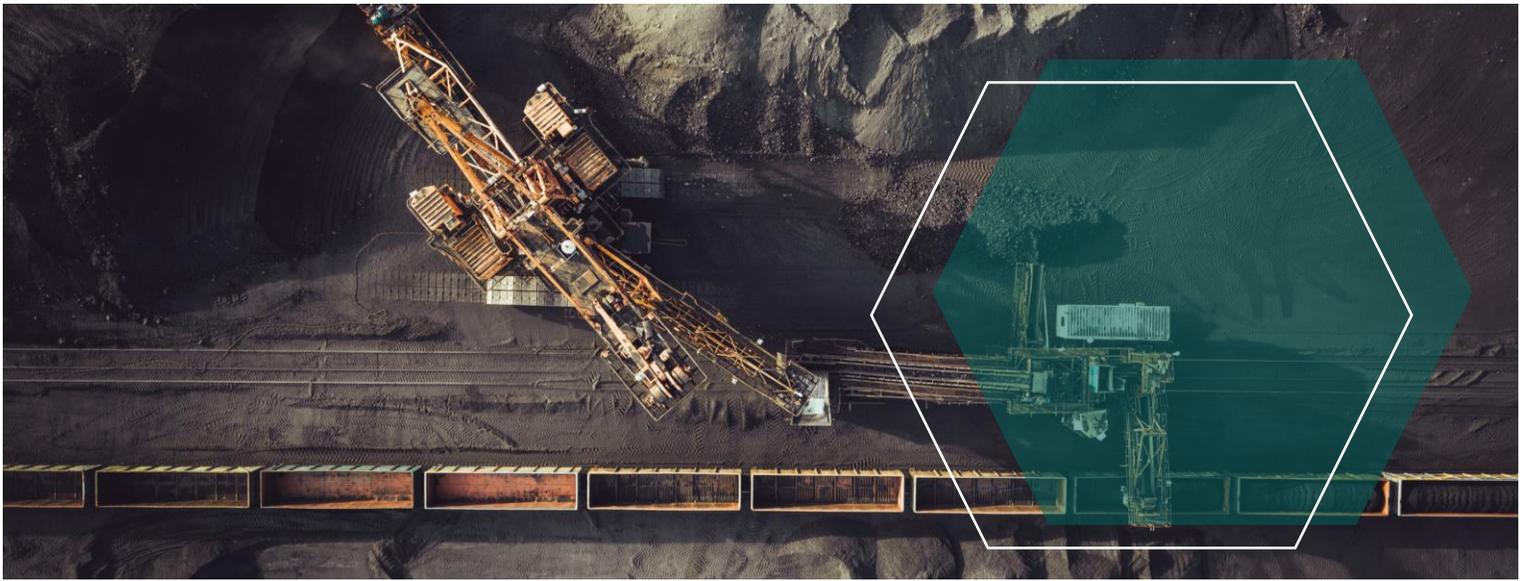
So, if this is the case, why are African countries not included in air bridges to Europe, as surely, they have similar low case numbers to other countries outside of the continent who are afforded the privilege to travel? The main issue seems to be the low testing level in Africa compared to other continents.

TESTING TIMES FOR THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

According to a recent [BBC report](#), ten countries account for 75% of total tests conducted on the continent (South Africa, Morocco, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Cameroon, Rwanda, Uganda and Ghana). In the report it states that South Africa carries out 82 tests per 1000 people, whereas the United Kingdom tests 437 per 1000 people. Africa's most populous nation, Nigeria just carries out 3 tests per 1000 people. Therefore, the lack of confidence in the continent's COVID statistics seems to emanate from lack of tests per capita.

What would be an interesting survey could be to study the amount of deaths on the African continent, pre-COVID for example November 2018 – November 2019 vis a vis November 2019 - November 2020. This could give a clearer figure if the mortality rates have increased due to COVID-19. However, it is good to be optimistic and we all wish that figures stay low and Africa once again proves its resilience.





ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE PLANS ARE KEY TO POST COVID-19 MINING SUCCESS

Most mines have been operating during the pandemic, many governments have allowed mining experts to travel to their countries and borders have been kept open for essential equipment. The major unresolved question is how will COVID-19 impact future mining fiscal policies? Government's worldwide are going to be strapped for cash and in certain countries the mining sector generates the largest contribution to taxes. Will African government's as a result put more pressure on mining operators to fill the revenue gaps?

We have already witnessed aggressive fiscal policies to mining companies in Zambia, due to the forthcoming elections and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, due to the local currency devaluation of 20% caused by the pandemic. The importance of environment, social and governance (ESG) issues post COVID-19 cannot be overemphasized.

How operators make future plans will be crucial to their success or failure, as local populations and governments become more sensitive to repairing fractured economies, with their gaze firmly fixed on the mining companies and if they are making a positive impact on the socio-economic fibre of the country.

Stéphane Brabant, head of the Africa practice, international law firm Herbert Smith Freehills quoted in AME Trade's recent "Shared mining infrastructure report in West Africa":

"Anticipate. Have vision. Don't only comply with the law of today but anticipate the law of tomorrow especially in relation to environment, social and governance criteria (ESG)."

THE EVER-SHIFTING SANDS OF AFRICAN POLITICS?

STUCK IN THE SAND: GUINEA AND COTE D'IVOIRE

The last quarter of 2020 has been momentous politically for several major mining countries. In the Republic of Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire, there have been no shifting sands, the incumbent President's Alpha Conde and Alassane Ouattara, have hung onto power with contested third mandates.

On the 7th November 2020, Guinea's top court declared Alpha Conde as the elected President with no right for Cellou Dalein Diallo, the opposition leader, to appeal. The 82-year-old Conde now starts a new six-year term, he first came to power in 2010 in Guinea's first democratic elections and was re-elected in 2015. Major mining investors will probably be breathing a sigh of relief as huge investments such as the Simandou project will carry on unhindered. However, sporadic violence has dogged the election campaign and it would not be a surprise if further unrest occurs.

Find out about investing in the Guinea Mining Sector by participating at [West Africa's largest mining event Symposium Mines Guinea, which will take place from 11 – 13 October 2021](#)



THE ANTS CAN CARRY AN ELEPHANT (MOSSI PROVERB), COTE D'IVOIRE'S POLITICAL FUTURE IS UNCERTAIN.

On November 3rd, 2020, the electoral commission of Cote d'Ivoire announced that President Alasanne Ouattara had been re-elected for his third team with a massive 94.3% of vote. The result was never much in doubt due to opposition candidates Pascal N'Guessan and Henri Konan Bedie calling their supporters to boycott the voting in the election. Outtara's re-election was subsequently greeted by protests as opposition supporters were tear gassed by the authorities. In addition to this Guillaume Soro, a former ally of Ouattara, announced that he compelled the army to support the opposition leaders. The international community notably the African Union, United Nations and ECOWAS has called for calm and peaceful negotiations. The next few months will determine the political future of Cote d'Ivoire.

ALL CHANGE IN SENEGAL!

President Macky Sall on the 1st November 2020, announced a major overhaul of the government to form a government of political unity. The big surprise was the appointment of opposition leader Idrissa Seck as Prime Minister. Seck finished second in the previous general elections and was a former Prime Minister in the Government of Abdoulaye Wade. Oumar Sarr, former no 2 of Wade's PDS party has become the Minister of Mines and Geology. One of his first tasks will be to organise a Presidential debate on the Senegalese mining code and the [Senegal Mining Conference virtual conference \(SIM Senegal\)](#) which was postponed due to the change of government.

Aly Ngouille Ndiaye, former Minister of Mines and Geology and recently Minister of Interior, a close ally of the President, has been left out of the Government altogether.

Madame Dr Aissatou Sophie Gladima, previously Minister of Mines & Geology has replaced Mouhamadou Makhtar Cisse as Minister of Petroleum and Energy. Madame Gladima is a geology and geophysics professor at the Cheikh Anta Diop University, an expert in ecology, conservation, and water management. She studied with the President of the Republic and is a trusted industry expert to take Senegal's potential to production in the next couple of years.

EVEN A LARGE BOAT CAN OVERTURN (BAMBARA PROVERB), MALI WHAT'S NEXT?

The Malian Armed Forces mutinied on 18th August 2020 when they stormed the military base in Kati. The soldiers detained the President Ibrabim Boubacar Keita, Prime Minister Boubou Cisse and several other senior government figures. The President wishing for no further violence resigned soon after and left the country for medical treatment. The leader of soldiers and the newly formed National Committee for the Salvation of the People, Colonel Assimi Goïta, after negotiations with ECOWAS and the African Union agreed to an 18-month political transition to civilian rule. On the 12th September 2020, Bah Ndaw was named interim President with Goïta appointed Vice President.

On the 25th September 2020, a new government was formed with Lamine Seydou Traoré, an auditor and former Director General of Orange Finances Mobiles Mali SA named as Minister of Mines, Energy and Water.

NEW GOVERNMENT POLICIES TO AFFECT MALI'S MINING SECTOR?

Mali's mining sector is the engine of the economy, representing 75% of export values and contributing 30% of total state taxes. The new government realising that funds need to be raised, have turned their attention quickly to the mining sector. According to [Reuters](#), Mali's government plans to review mining conventions following advice from the country's auditor general. Auditor General Samba Alhamdou Baby was quoted as saying *"The conventions establishing mining companies include clauses which do not always guarantee the protection of the interests of the state. The non-distribution of dividends, the non-payment of certain taxes, to which is added the existence of unjustified loans, all of which deprive the State of financial resources"*.

Mali introduced a new mining code in April 2020, which eradicates mining companies VAT exemption and shortens the period during which they are protected from fiscal changes to 20 years. Mark Bristow, CEO of Barrick Gold Corporation, Mali's biggest foreign investor, who operates the Loulo and Goukoto mines is not concerned by the situation. Having settled a tax dispute with the government last year, he commented according to [Reuters](#) that "I don't see it as a sinister situation at all", pertaining to the changes in the mining convention.

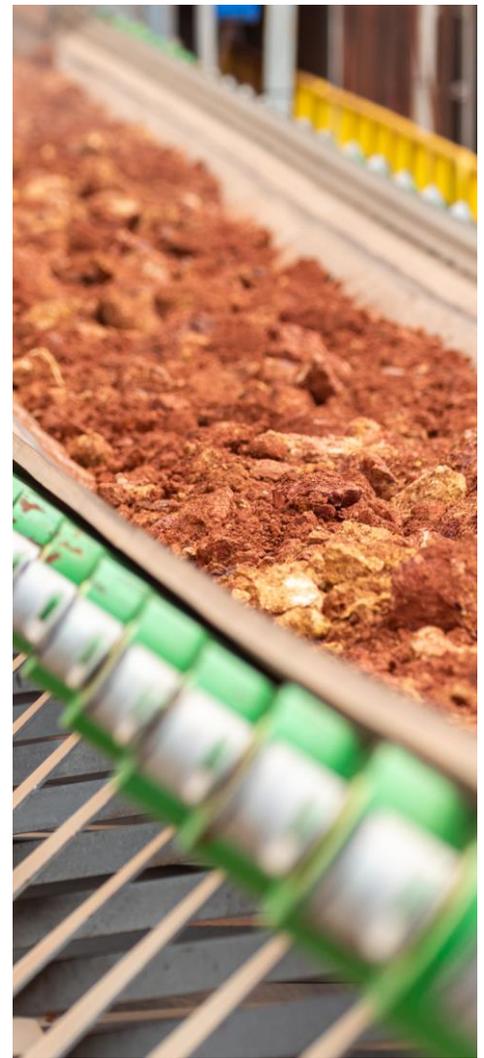
Further information on the Malian mining industry can be found at Mali's leading mining conference [Journées Minières et Pétrolières \(JMP\)](#)

MOZAMBIQUE: SECURITY PROBLEMS IN CABO DELGADO ESCALATE

In August 2020, Islamic State militants seized the Mocimboa de Praia port in the Cabo Delgado region, close to the location of key natural gas projects. The conflict has really intensified this year and many investors are concerned about security risks. Mozambique's neighbours are also worried that it will spread outside of the country's borders. There were 424,202 (October 2020) internally displaced people in comparison with 15,000 at the end of 2018. The Government of Mozambique has requested international assistance to deal with the displaced people.

The Cabo Delgado region is rich in gas and mineral resources. Mining and oil companies will have to work closely with the government to counter the negative impacts that the sector has created such as the resettlement processes and violations of human rights, which are fundamental to the causes of extremism in this region.

Better news is that the \$20bn-plus Mozambique LNG project, operated by Total, has successfully secured up to \$16bn of financing from lending institutions. Exxon Mobil's Rovuma LNG project is at a standstill due to the fact the company has delayed deciding on investment until the end of the year. Find out more about Mozambique's oil, gas, mining and energy sectors at the [Mozambique Mining and Energy Conference 2021 \(MMEC 2021\)](#)





ANGOLA: A DIFFICULT BALANCING ACT BETWEEN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND LOW OIL PRICES

In September 2020, the IMF approved a \$1 billion loan to Angola to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, bringing its expected financial support package to \$4.5 billion over a period of three years. The IMF has recommended that the country pursues structural reforms, privatisation, governance improvement and better legal frameworks. It is hoped that this will act as a catalyst to attract FDI and achieve economic diversification. There is hope for economic improvement with the end of OPEC's production cuts and that investments in the upstream sector will result in increased oil production.

The Government of the Republic of Angola recently announced that it will launch its own diamond exchange before the end of 2021. Angola is the fifth largest diamond producer in the world by value. The exchange aims to monitor the entire flow and marketing chain of Angolan diamonds through a single channel. The national diamond company Endiama is openly seeking international partners to move Angola into the ranks of the top global diamond producers.

Find out more about investing in the Angolan Mining industry by watching the [recording of our webinar on legal and regulatory changes in the Angola's mining sector. Register for direct access.](#)

ETHIOPIA'S MINING ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED IN THE TIGRAY REGION

Sun Peak Metals Corporation have suspended their mining operations in the Tigray region. The Ethiopian government has increased its military offensive in the region. Tensions escalated after an attack by rebels on a government military installation. The Tigray People's Liberation Front had been the dominant force in the Ethiopian politics before President Abiy came to power in 2018. The Liberation front only has control in its home province. The disagreement between the Liberation Front and the Government manifested itself when Tigray decided to hold elections in September, when the government had decided to postpone national polls due to COVID-19. Many of Ethiopia's gold exploration projects are in the region, and it has abundant resources of copper, silver, iron, zinc, lead, nickel and oil shale.

Find out more about Ethiopia's mining sector by downloading the [Ethiopian International Mining Conference report here.](#)

ZAMBIA STRUGGLING TO AVOID A SOVEREIGN DEBT FAULT, WILL THE MINING SECTOR BE THE CASH COW?

Zambia has just missed a payment of \$42.5 million coupon on its Eurobonds last month. The government has asked creditors to delay interest payments until April 2021. So far according to various sources, their request has fallen on the deaf ears of their bondholders. The 30-day grace period associated with the coupon payment expires on the 13 November 2020.

Zambia has seen its external debt rise to nearly \$12 billion this year, paying off the debt has been challenging due to the fact that the kwacha currency has fallen around 30 percent against the dollar since the start of the year. Will the mining sector be targeted to make up the shortfall? Copper miners in Zambia have stalled on \$2 billion of planned investments due to a royalty tax that was introduced last year and make projects unsustainable.

Find out more about Zambia's mining and energy industry by downloading the [Zambia International Mining and Energy Conference's post show report.](#)



BIDEN'S TRUMP CARD IS GOOD AS GOLD

“Gold has climbed 0.60% higher to USD1963.00 an ounce this morning, having broken multi-month trendline resistance at USD1913.40 an ounce last Thursday.

With the US dollar set to sink further over the coming months as the Federal Reserve eases more, the return of the asset price appreciation trade should continue to lift gold. One caveat on this outlook is gold has yet to demonstrate it can withstand an equity sell-off in recent times. Unless gold can break this correlation, an unexpected drop in equities, even in the short-term, could still break bullish hearts and cause gut-wrenching swings in P&L.

Having noted that risk to the underlying bullish picture, the technical picture suggests that gold is on track for more gains this week. Gold has initial resistance at USD1975.00 an ounce, followed by USD2000.00 an ounce. I would expect option and algorithmic stop-losses to lie just above that level. A break of USD2000.00 clears the road for a retest of the August highs around USD2075.00 an ounce, assuming equity markets also remain stampeding bulls”

Source: [fxstreet](#)

ALUMINIUM PRICES SURGE TO AN 18TH MONTH HIGH

“As the aluminium price surges to an 18-month high, alumina market participants are debating how it is influencing the raw material's market direction.

The London Metal Exchange three-month price hit \$1,913 per tonne on Wednesday November 4 - the highest since April 2019 - and closed trading at \$1,908.50 per tonne at the LME 5pm ring kerb.

The aluminium price has been on an upward trajectory over the past month, climbing 8% since October 5” [Source Metal Bulletin.](#)

IRON ORE: 2020'S BEST PERFORMING MAJOR COMMODITY

According to the [Financial Times](#), Iron ore (21% increase) has overtaken gold (19% increase) as the best performing commodity this year. This is due to China's economic recovery and their subsequent increase in imports from Australia and Brazil.



MINING UPDATE PER COUNTRY

WEST AFRICA MINING NEWS

[AME Trade Ltd](#) commissions report on “How West Africa is unlocking economic potential through shared mining infrastructure projects”

West Africa’s world-beating reserves of iron ore and bauxite have put multi-user shared infrastructure projects back on the table. This is one of the highlights of the first ever market intelligence report from AME Trade, a content-led events company promoting trade and investment in emerging African markets.

There are, of course, still numerous organisational and regulatory challenges to overcome. First and foremost, says Ismaël Diakité, Chief Representative & Deputy Managing Director at Winning Consortium Simandou, is the need for a statutory regulatory body to oversee these complex projects.

Malick N’Diaye, Deputy CEO, Guinea Alumina Corporation, who was also interviewed, would welcome a third-party operator. “Managing rail infrastructure should not be part of our business. We are a mining company and ultimately, our goal is to mine and put more bauxite on the ship,” he says.

With a highly qualified and widely respected Minister of Mines & Geology, the Republic of Guinea is leading the charge for multi-user projects. As the report highlights, since 2016, \$25 billion has been invested in the country’s projects, including the giant Simandou iron ore project.

Dan Coberman, Founder and Managing Director, AME Trade: “In Guinea, we are seeing economy-building on a mega-scale. The construction and improvement of roads, development of optical fibre and wireless communication networks will all bring the infrastructure needed to drive activity along their routes – in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and trade,” he says.

The report also details some of the wide-ranging projects planned for the Guinea’s northwest Boke prefecture, as well as case studies from neighbouring Senegal and Liberia.

In the short term, Covid-19 may have put the brakes on, with a likely contraction of GDP of up to 4.3% in 2020, according to the African Development Bank. However, as Stéphane Brabant, head of the Africa practice at international law firm Herbert Smith Freehills, points out: “These are 25-year projects. Of course, there are opportunities for people with a long-term view but sustainable projects have never been more important.”

The report includes interviews and insights from the Ministry of Mines & Geology, Republic of Guinea, SMB Winning Consortium, Guinea Alumina Corporation, Al Rawda Resources, Niron Guinée, MIFERSO, Creativa Consultants and Herbert Smith Freehills.

[To purchase a copy of the report please click here](#)

GUINEA MINING NEWS

PLANS TO BRING BLOCKS 1 & 2 OF THE SIMANDOU IRON ORE DEPOSIT INTO PRODUCTION BY 2025

The SMB Winning Consortium is aiming to bring their Simandou Iron Ore Deposit into production by 2025. The consortium is made up of Winning Shipping (Singapore), United Mining Supply (UMS Guinea), Shandong Weiqiao a Chinese Aluminium producer and the Government of the Republic of Guinea. SMB Winning won the \$14 billion tender in November 2019 to develop the blocks and the associated infrastructure. Infrastructure requirements include 650 km railway (Transguinéen) and a Deepwater port to transport the ore for export.

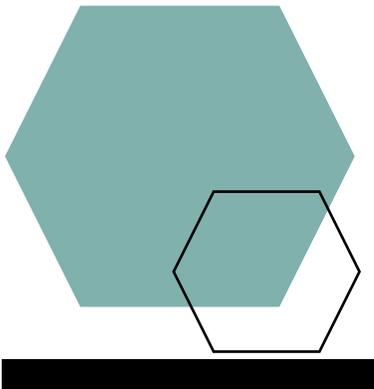
SMB Winning led by the mercurial Fadi Wazni, are currently Guinea's largest bauxite producer (Société Minière de Boké) and have a proven track record in the country. Simandou, located in the pristine south eastern corner of Guinea, is the largest deposit of its kind worldwide containing 2 billion tonnes of high-grade ore. Blocks 3 and 4 are owned by Rio Tinto in partnership with Chinalco and the Guinean government.

NIRON METALS PLANS CROSS BORDER IRON ORE PROJECT

Not far from Simandou is Zogota, the property of Niron Metals (owned by former Xstrata boss Mick Davis). Niron has been granted permission to export ore via neighbouring Liberia, the Liberian port of Buchanan being closer to Zogota. There is already a railway linking the coast to the Yekepa iron mine, owned by mining giant ArcelorMittal. Niron Metals are aware of the future challenges. Jeffrey Ovian, General Manager of Niron Guinée, [commented in AME Trade Ltd's recent shared mining infrastructure report](#): "The key issue for all parties must be respect for long-term investments and commitments, given the large-scale nature of mining projects and the lengthy timescales involved. All parties will also need to ensure that they avoid the introduction of non-realizable expectations, which have the potential to undermine both project economics as well as public support for investments."

WORLD BANK TO CONSIDER \$135 MILLION INVESTMENT IN THE NIMBA IRON ORE MINE

The Nimba Iron Mine is owned by High Power Exploration (HPX), which was founded by mining guru Robert Friedland. The assistance of MIGA and the World Bank would facilitate the mine's exploration phase and with studies construction and operations. The Nimba Iron ore is in the Nimba mountains, a nature reserve and containing a World Heritage Site. Nimba holds roughly one billion tonnes of high-grade iron ore. HPX hopes to produce 20 million tonnes of iron ore/annum.



SENEGAL MINING NEWS

IAMGOLD RESUMES EXPLORATION ON ITS SENALA PROJECT

The Senala project is a joint venture between IAMGOLD corporation and Oriole Resources. A 10 000 m air core drilling programme at the Senala project is due to commence. IAMGOLD is coming to the end of a three-year funding programme to spend up to \$8 million to earn a 70% interest in the project. IAMGOLD needs to spend another \$1 million by the end of February 2021. IAMGOLD have completed 1 300 m of the programme at the northernmost Faré prospect.

Find out in our [SIM Senegal previous Conference Report](#) in French.

RESOLUTE MINING'S MAKO GOLD MINE IN SENEGAL SHOWS PROMISING RESULTS

The Mako Gold Mine acquired by Resolute Mining recently from the Toro Gold takeover, have estimated the mine has a further two years of production (total of 9 years) with a total increase of 39% of gold production (1.24 Moz of gold)

Production over the next half decade will average 140 000 ozpa of gold. In the meantime, Resolute Mining MD and CEO John Welborn has departed and has been replaced by Stuart Gale as interim chief executive.

PLANS ON HOLD FOR MIFERSON FOR STEEL PROCESSING IN SENEGAL

Plans by MIFERSON, Senegal's national mining company in charge of the Falémé iron ore district, to negotiate an agreement to process iron ore into steel in the country are back on track. The deal, which was being negotiated with Turkish steel group Tosyali, faced delays in the wake of the pandemic.

"We had planned to start negotiating an agreement in the first half of 2020 but unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic delayed everything. We expect negotiations to resume as soon as possible." says Amadou Camara, the managing director of MIFERSON

With proven reserves of 630 million tonnes of iron ore, a processing plant and other associated infrastructure development required for export, would help boost other sectors such as agriculture, hydrocarbons, construction and even travel.

Find out more about MIFERSON's plans in our report ["How West Africa is unlocking economic potential through shared mining infrastructure projects"](#) [buy it here](#)





MALI MINING NEWS

MALI LITHIUM BECOMES FIREFINCH

The firefinch is the national bird of Mali and Mali Lithium having acquired the Morila Gold mine have changed their company name and brand identity in line with their new acquisition. Firefinch also owns their Goulamina Lithium Project's open pit mine.

CONTANGO HOLDINGS ACQUIRES THE GARALO GOLD PROJECT IN MALI FOR US\$1 MILLION.

The Garalo permit occupies 62.5 km² in the Sikasso region of southern Mali, 200 km south-east of the capital Bamako and close to the Guinea border.

The permit is surrounded by a number of multi-million ounce gold deposits and the region is home to some of the world's leading gold miners, including AngloGold Ashanti, IAMGOLD, Barrick, B2 Gold, Endeavour Mining and Hummingbird Resources, which has helped to establish Mali as the third largest gold producer in Africa.

FEKOLA GOLD MINE IN MALI TO REDUCE ENERGY COSTS

Wärtsilä has been contracted to design and engineer a cutting-edge 17MW/15MWh energy storage system. The order was placed by B2Gold, a Canadian based public gold-mining company.

The Fekola Mine, which currently relies on conventional liquid fuels for its power, will benefit from Wärtsilä's energy storage and hybrid energy system. The significant cost savings and improved power reliability it offers, were key considerations in the award of the contract. Fekola is the first mine in the region to add both energy storage and solar to their operations.

NIGER MINING NEWS

CMEN-SA GRANTED SALKADMANA 4 COAL EXPLORATION PERMIT

The government has just granted the Compagnie Minière et Énergétique du Niger (CMEN-SA) the Salkadmana 4 exploration permit for prospecting for coal in the department of Tahoua, located in the region.

In detail, this agreement provides for a minimum investment of \$3.5 million by the company over the next 3 years for the work. The future operation of this mine is expected to generate 50 direct and indirect jobs.

The company would also be committed to contributing to the local development of the communes in which it will conduct its activities to the tune of \$4,000 per year and will also participate in the training of agents of the administration of mines and geology, for \$10,000 a year.

NIGER'S GOVERNMENT ADOPT 2020 – 2029 PLAN TO DIVERSIFY ITS MINING SECTOR

The government of the Republic of Niger has adopted a ten-year plan (2020-2029) to diversify the mining industry, until now dominated by uranium. The aim is to increase the contribution of mines to local GDP.

The mining sector has been characterized by industrial exploitation of uranium since 1968, coal since 1980 and gold since 2004.

"This domination persists although Niger has opted for a diversification of its mining production, which resulted in the development of the master plan for geological and mining research in 1992 and the adoption of a mining policy statement in 2001, accompanied by a mining development strategy".

The diagnostic analysis of this sector carried out in 2019 to resolve this situation led to the implementation of this mining policy, the absence of which, according to the government, was the main weakness of this sector.

ECOMOF, RESCHEDULED DUE TO COVID-19, WILL TAKE PLACE IN NIAMEY, REPUBLIC OF NIGER IN SEPTEMBER 2021

Niger will host from 14 – 16 September 2021, the 3rd edition of the forum of mines and petroleum, of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), ECOMOF 2021.

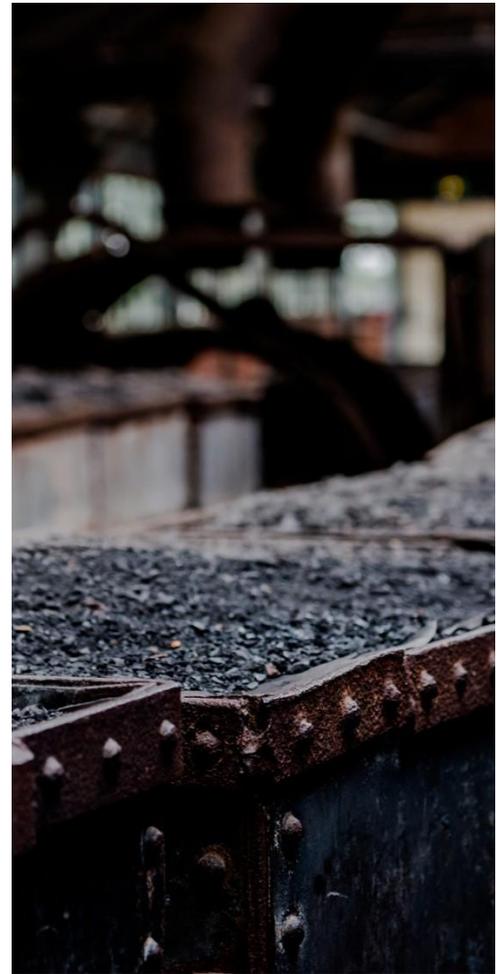
According to the Minister of Petroleum Foumakoye Gado, ECOMOF, which is a biennial cooperation platform, aims not only to promote and develop the geo-extractive sector in the ECOWAS region, but also to highlight the development of technologies as well as "a continuous and inclusive dialogue for the development of the sector."

It is therefore an occasion when the main players in the ECOWAS mining and oil sectors are trying to find solutions to strengthen this industry. It is also a platform for sharing ideas and forging new partnerships.

Foumakoye Gado commented: "West Africa is endowed with abundant geological resources. Notwithstanding all these resources, the sub-region has not been able to derive maximum benefit from the development of ECOWAS member countries. This prompted the Conference of Heads of State and Government to institute the organization of the mining and petroleum forum every two years."

The event was previously scheduled for October 2020 but was rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For further information on how to take part at ECOMOF 2021 please check out the [event website](#).





MOZAMBIQUE MINING NEWS

KENMARE STARTS PROCESSING AT PILIVILI IN MOZAMBIQUE

Titanium producer Kenmare Resources has started production at the Pilivili high-grade zone of its Moma project in Mozambique.

The Wet Concentrator Plant B has started production ahead of schedule, the cost of the installation is estimated at over US\$106 million and will result in the company producing 1.2 million t/yr of ilmenite from 2021 at Moma, a 35% increase on last year. The Moma mine is one of the largest titanium mineral deposits in the world, supplying 10% of global feedstock.

MOZAMBIQUE LAUNCHES ONLINE MINING CADASTRE SYSTEM TO FACILITATE INVESTMENT

The Mozambique Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy contracted the creator of FlexiCadastré, now a Trimble company to work on e-government projects and an online mining cadastre system.

Customers will be able to submit licensing applications online as well as well as making payments, submitting reports, and carrying out renewals. This will result in improved revenue collection for the Government of Mozambique.

ZAMBIA MINING NEWS

ZAMBIAN MINING REVENUES DROP 30% DUE TO COVID-19

According to [Reuters](#), mining companies in Zambia, Africa's No.2 copper producer, have suffered a 30% drop in revenue over the three months from February to April due to the COVID-19 pandemic and this could last for at least 12 months. Mining companies operating in Zambia include First Quantum Minerals, Glencore, Barrick Gold Corporation and Vedanta Resources.

Copper is Zambia's main foreign exchange earner and a key driver of tax revenues. Royalty payments are estimated to have come in at \$60 million to \$65 million over the three months from February to April, around two-thirds of the \$90 million that was predicted.

Falling copper prices has also affected companies' revenues. Costs have also increased for mining companies as they have incorporated COVID-19 safety policies.

ZAMBIA TO DIVERSIFY AND FORMALISE ITS MINERAL RESOURCES FOR TRANSPARENCY & REVENUE GENERATION

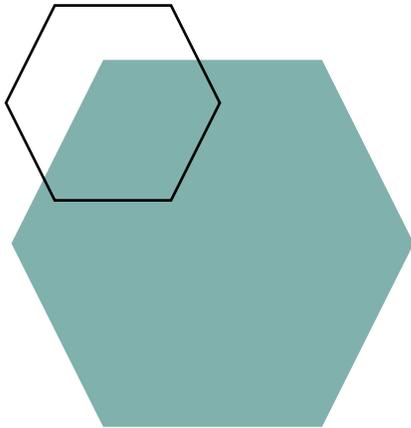
Zambia's government is trying to diversify its mining exports which have relied previously on copper.

The target is to boost the value of gold and gemstone mining to the national economy.

The aim is to formalise the sector and stop the illegal trade of commodities which is undertaken by unregistered artisanal and small-scale miners. Gold processing plants will be built and gold trading centres, which will improve transparency and accountability.

Minister Musukwa, the Minister of Mines and Minerals Development stated in the [Southern Times](#), "Gold and gemstone mining in Zambia have been characterised by the informal artisanal and small scale mining and trading activities resulting in huge losses to the government revenue, environmental degradation, influx of foreign nationals, lack of tangible wealth creation and no impact on poverty reduction,"

To find out more about Zambian mining and energy industries please consult the official [Zambian International Mining and Energy Conference website \(ZIMEC\)](#), we will have new dates announced soon!



ANGOLA MINING NEWS

ANGOLAN PRESIDENT JOÃO LOURENÇO HIGHLIGHTS HOW MINING SECTOR REFORMS ARE YIELDING TANGIBLE RESULTS

In his speech at the National Assembly on the State of the Nation, President João Lourenço announced that Angola has signed contracts with the Anglo-American for the prospecting and exploration of silver, copper, nickel, and platinum. He reiterated that major mining companies were looking to invest in the Angola mining sector due to its recent attractive fiscal and legislative reforms.

A contract was also signed with the Turkish company Tosyali, who are aiming to resuscitate the Cassinga mining project and build a steel plant in Namibe. Angola recently exported its first batch of gold produced in the province of Huíla.

A new headquarters of the Geological Institute of Angola and a Central Laboratory was recently inaugurated for the treatment of mineral samples, guaranteeing that there is enough capacity in country for research eliminating the need to send samples abroad.

Find out more about investing in the Angolan Mining industry by watching the [recording of our webinar on legal and regulatory changes in the Angola's mining sector. Register for direct access.](#)

ETHIOPIA MINING NEWS

MEGADO'S BABICHO GOLD PROJECT SHOWS HIGH POTENTIAL

Babicho is a 132km² exploration licence covering the same prospective north-south trending greenstone belt that hosts the Lega Dembi and Sakaro mines (50km to the south).

Field work by Megado geologists at Babicho confirmed strong evidence of artisanal workings and indications of significant occurrences of alluvial and hard rock gold as part of a major north-south trending shear zone (with outcropping gold-bearing quartz veins).

Previous historic work completed includes:

- Geophysics, geochemical sampling (soil, stream sediment and rock chips) and geological mapping
- Pits / trenching (+1km of trenching), preliminary drilling program (4 holes for 635m)

Remote sensing work by Megado has identified significant spectral anomalies on the Babicho licence coincident with widespread surface gold mineralisation, implying the extensive spectral anomalies and alteration footprints are indicative of gold mineralisation.



FUNDING SECURED FOR KEFI'S TULU KAPI PROJECT, ETHIOPIA'S FLAGSHIP GOLD PROJECT

Kefi Minerals have recently completed the funding consortium for its flagship Tulu Kapi Project and the project timetable for production is maintained as the fourth quarter of 2022. The fund package amounted to about \$221 million.

The project financiers include: the federal government of Ethiopia, regional government of Oromia, Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank and the Africa Finance Corporation as senior project lenders.

Tulu Kapi has probable Ore Reserve of 1.05 million ounces and Mineral Resources totalling 1.72 million ounces of gold; it will be Ethiopia's first commercial gold mine.

Find out more about Ethiopia's mining sector by downloading the [Ethiopian International Mining Conference report here](#).

