

## The DRC Mining Sector

Mining is a vital commercial sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with **80 percent of the nation's exports consisting of mining products**. Partnerships between domestic and foreign companies are common in this industry, and contribute significantly to employment opportunities for communities in the vicinity of mining operations. To support development in these areas, the government is rebuilding the nation's infrastructure at an unprecedented rate, with new roads, schools and hospitals under construction – promoting additional employment and stimulating further commercial activity.

In order to ensure good governance and oversight in the mining sector while encouraging investment, the DRC adopted several key reforms and laws in recent years. Of note, implementation of the 2002 Mining Act over 13 years has resulted in a significant increase in mining activity. In 1997, there were only 7 operational mining companies in the DRC; by 2015 there were a total of 35 such companies. Since the implementation of the 2002 law, the DRC has established processing and metallurgical units for commodities such as copper, cobalt, tin ores and other natural resources. The DRC has also established trading shops for the nation's precious and semi-precious minerals.

The government is considering revisions to the 2002 Mining Act that are intended to harmonize it with the Constitution, comply with international requirements, and further improve the business climate in the DRC.

**The Ministry of Mines is pursuing a threefold strategy to further develop the mining sector in the DRC**, in which it is working to:

- **Discover new deposits.** With only 15 percent of the DRC's land area explored thus far, the government has established Zones for Geological Research (ZRGs) possessing highly significant geological indices that are available for in-depth exploration and research.
- **Add more value to the products of mining endeavors.** In order to further this goal, the government has welcomed and encourages the establishment of local processing entities and the development of factories for cutting diamonds and other precious stones.
- **Promote investment in basic infrastructure.** Electrical power plants around the country are being rehabilitated or constructed in order to bolster energy capabilities. The DRC government also welcomes the utilization of methane gas from Lake Kivu and alternative solar and renewable energy sources. Several promising oil blocks are available for exploration in the DRC's East, West and Central basins.

Recent studies of proven resources signal considerable potential for development in the following sectors:

### BASE METAL COMMODITIES

- Copper: Approximately 75 megatons in proven reserves; 1.06 megatons produced in 2014
- Cobalt: Approximately 6 Mt in proven reserves; 76,500 tons produced in 2014
- Zinc: Approximately 7 megatons in proven reserves; 12,700 megatons produced in 2014

### TIN AND RELATED MATERIALS

- Stannic Oxide: Approximately 800,000 tons in proven reserves; 7,250 tons produced in 2014
- Coltans: Approximately 30 megatons in proven reserves; 1,140 tons produced in 2014
- Wolframite: Approximately 400,000 tons in proven reserves; 16 tons produced in 2014

### OTHER

- Diamonds: Approximately 700 million carats in proven reserves; 15 million produced in 2014
- Gold: Approximately 750,000 kg in proven reserves; 24,000 kg produced in 2014