

Rock and Mineral Resources of Ethiopia

The occurrence of metallic minerals in Ethiopia is associated with the Precambrian rocks. The exploitation and search for mineral deposits in Ethiopia has been taking place for the past 2,000 years. the case of gold **production** and **utilization**, which has become part of Ethiopia's **history**, **tradition** and **folklore**. The mining and working of iron for the **manufacture of tools**, **utensils** and **weapons**.

Brief Facts and Current State of Main Minerals in Ethiopia

Gold

Gold has been mined in Ethiopia for quite long time, mainly from **Benishangul-Gumuz (Metekel)** and **Adol**.

primary sources

Lega-dembi.

Secondary gold deposits

Borena (Negele-Yabelo area)

Benishangul-Gumuz (Sherkole

Adola

Shakiso

Kaffa.

Gambella and Illuababora (Akobo River)

Platinum

The Yubdo area in **Wellega**, is the only active Ethiopian Platinum mine and **Tullu Mountain** area in **Sidama**.

Tantalum

Significant deposit of tantalum is found in **southern Ethiopia**. It occurs in **Adola**, more than 17,000 metric tons of world class ore reserve is found.

Gemstones

Quality Opal was first discovered by local people in **Wadla** and **Dalanta woredas**, **North Wello** in Amhara Regional State.

Potash

The potash reserve in the **Danakil** (Dallol Depression) of the Afar region is believed to be significant.

Gypsum and Anhydrite

for the **cement industry**,

very large deposits are known to occur in sedimentary formations of the Red Sea coastal area, **Danakil Depression, Ogaden, Shewa, Gojjam, Tigray, and Hararghe**

Clay

Ethiopia is endowed with industrial clay material. Alluvial clay deposits for bricks and tile, pottery and pipe industry occur in **Adola, Abay gorge, and the Rift Valley lakes region**. **Ceramic clay** for the production of glasses, plates, bricks is found at **Ambo and Adola**. **Tabor ceramic** industry in Hawassa gets most of its raw materials from local sources.

Marble

Crystalline limestone is widespread in the basement rocks of Ethiopia. Marble has been quarried in such localities as **west of Mekelle** and south of **Adwa in Tigray**.

West Hararghe, Benishangul-Gumuz and Gojjam.

Construction stones

Basalt, granite, limestone and sandstone are important building stones. For the surfacing of roads and compaction, basalt, scoria and other volcanic rocks are extensively used. **Mesozoic limestone** is an important raw material for **cement and chalk production**. The earlier cement works at Dire Dawa and the recent ones at **Muger Valley, Abay gorge (Dejen), Tigray (Messebo)** are using similar raw materials from these rock formations.

Top 10 Gold Producing Countries

June 26, 2019



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

Gold is one of the rarest elements in the world, making up roughly 0.003 parts per million of the earth's crust. But how much gold is the world digging up each year and what countries produce the most?

In 2018, global gold mine production was a reported 3,332 tonnes. This figure is up 2 percent from the previous year and is the largest year-over-year growth in the last four years, according to the GFMS Gold Survey 2019. The driving forces behind increase in production came out of operations in Argentina, the U.S., Russia and Mali.

Although production was up in 2018, versus a small decrease of 5 tonnes in 2017, it raises the question I've explored recently – have we reached [peak gold](#)? The idea is that all the easy gold has already been discovered and explorers have to dig deeper to find economically viable deposits. For example, South Africa was once the top gold-producing country by far, digging up [over 1,000 tonnes in 1970](#), but annual output has fallen steadily since. On the other hand, several nations have emerged in the last few years as growing gold producers.



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

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As seen in the chart below, China takes the number one spot of global gold producers by a wide margin, extracting 87 tonnes more than second place Australia. The top 10 rankings remained unchanged from 2017 to 2018, with the exception of Indonesia and Peru switching between sixth and seventh place, respectively. Of the top producers, Indonesia posted the largest annual gain, boosting output by 23 percent.



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

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Below are more details on the top 10 countries with the largest gold production in 2018, beginning with the top producer and top consumer of bullion, China.

1. China – 399.7 tonnes

For many years China has been the top producing nation, accounting for 12 percent of global mine production. However, this is 6 percent lower than 2017 and marks the fourth consecutive year of declines. The downtrend is largely due to tighter environmental policies imposed by the government. For example, stricter control over the use of cyanide at gold mines forced several operations to cut back production.

2. Australia – 312.2 tonnes

Australia, on the other hand, has posted six consecutive years of increases in production, up by 6 percent in 2018. GFMS reports that Newcrest's Cadia Hill mine set a record-high production of 23 tonnes, which is a 38 percent increase from 2017. AngloGold Ashanti production posted a 12 percent increase while Kirkland Lake grew by 21 percent. The minerals industry produces over half of Australia's total exports and generates about 8 percent of GDP.



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

3. Russia – 281.5 tonnes

A massive 83 percent of European gold comes from Russia, which has been increasing its production every year since 2010. Russian output grew by 11 tonnes in 2018, or about 2 percent, as policy makers are focused on growing the industry. Who is the largest buyer of Russian gold? The Russian government, of course, which purchases around two-thirds of all gold produced locally.

4. United States – 253.2 tonnes

American gold output rose by a whopping 10 percent in 2018, marking the fifth consecutive year of growth. Production was supported by higher grades at Newmont's operations in Nevada. In fact, around 78 percent of gold produced in the U.S. is from Nevada.

5. Canada – 193.0 tonnes



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

Canada inched up two spots on the list last year, and has kept the number five spot in 2018 – producing 17 tonnes more year-over-year. In 2017 Toronto-based Seabridge Gold stumbled upon a [significant goldfield](#) in northern British Colombia after a glacier

retreated and is estimated to contain a whopping 780 metrics tonnes. This could be a source of increased output in the coming years.

6. Indonesia – 190.0 tonnes

Indonesia overtook Peru to grab the number six spot. The island nation posted the biggest production increase in 2018 of 23 percent, or 36 tonnes. A high-grade development in the Grasberg open pit operation drove most of the gains, with the giant producing nearly 40 percent of the country's total gold output. The Indonesian government has been restructuring environmental and taxation policies, which were negatively impacting the mining industry for a few years.

7. Peru – 155.4 tonnes

Gold output fell for a third consecutive year in Peru, by 7 tonnes, largely due to crackdowns on illegal mining operations in the La Pampa region and lower grades at existing projects. Mining is a significant portion of Peru's economy and accounts for over 28 percent of the region's total output.

8. South Africa – 123.5 tonnes

Once the top gold-producer in the world by a wide margin, South Africa's gold mines have been slowing every year since 2008, with the exception of 2013 when production rose by a few tonnes. The nation is struggling with rising costs for electricity and labor, with many mines closing due to unprofitability. South Africa is, however, still home to the world's deepest gold mine, the Mponeng mine, extending 2.5 miles underground.

9. Mexico – 121.6 tonnes

Although production fell by 4 percent and for a third consecutive year, Mexico remains a competitive gold source. Output has risen from just 50.8 tonnes in 2008 to over 130 tonnes in 2017, one of the largest increases in a nine year span. Mexico is an attractive place for mining due to a relatively low cost of regulation.



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

10. Ghana – 101.8 tonnes

Ghana is Africa's second largest producer of gold, and could soon beat out South Africa for the top spot, and is also known for its reserves of various industrial minerals. Bullion production rose by just a tenth of a tonne in 2018 and accounts for over 20 percent of the nation's total exports.

5 Top Tantalum-mining Countries

Amanda Kay - November 22nd, 2018



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

Rwanda and the DRC accounted for most tantalum mining in 2017. Find out which other three countries produced significant amounts of the metal last year.

Tantalum is an important component in many modern [technologies](#), and is [used in capacitors](#) for everything from computers to mobile phones.

Despite its importance in the world today, tantalum mining takes place in very few countries. Most tantalum is mined in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), areas known for issues related to conflict minerals. Together they account for around 60 percent of global production.

Nigeria, Brazil and China were the other top countries for tantalum mining in 2017. Read on to learn more about the world's largest producers of the metal; all statistics come from the US Geological Survey's [most recent report on tantalum](#).



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

1. Rwanda

Mine production: 390 MT

Rwanda is the world's biggest tantalum producer, but as mentioned it is associated with conflict minerals issues — it is [an open secret](#) that much of Rwanda's mineral production arrives from countries like the DRC, where conflict minerals are a problem.

For that reason, it is difficult to know how much tantalum is actually produced by Rwandan mines. Better Sourcing is one company aiming to make the [Rwandan tantalum mining industry more transparent](#).

In 2018, it was reported that a Macedonian company, Power Resource Group, had made a \$12-million investment in land towards the construction of a [tantalum refinery](#) in Rwanda. Once complete it will be the country's only mineral refinery.

2. DRC

Mine production: 370 MT

The DRC and Rwanda switched places for tantalum mining in 2017. The DRC wound up in second place last year, producing roughly 30 percent of the world's tantalum. In total, it put out 370 MT for the period.

As mentioned, mining practises in the DRC have a reputation for being being corrupt. Steps have been taken to discourage companies from purchasing tantalum produced unethically in the country, but they have faced challenges.

For instance, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which was designed in part to stop the flow of conflict minerals from countries like the DRC, has been slow to have an impact.

What's more, once in power the Trump administration voiced a desire to repeal some parts of the act. Later on, the Senate approved plans to roll back many of the key rules in the act, essentially rendering it defective. In 2018, the House approved a roll-back bill, and Trump signed it into law.



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

3. Nigeria

Mine production: 190 MT

Nigeria came in as the third-largest tantalum mining country in 2017. The nation is believed to have large [tantalum reserves](#), although the exact figure remains unknown. Much of its tantalum is found in [tantalite ore](#) in the Nigerian states of Nasarawa, Kogi, Osun, Ekiti, Kwara and Cross Rivers.

4. Brazil

Mine production: 100 MT

Brazil is the next-largest tantalum-mining country, and one of only two on the list outside of Africa. Overall, Brazil is home to 34,000 MT of tantalum reserves.

The country's largest tantalum mine is the MIBRA project, owned by Advanced Metallurgical Group (AMS:[AMG](#)). In light of issues facing tantalum from Rwandan and Congolese suppliers, Brazil could become a major source of tantalum for companies around the world in the coming years. In 2017, the country was the largest supplier of tantalum minerals to the US, accounting for 40 percent of imports.

5. China

Mine production: 95 MT

China is another large tantalum producer, and in 2017 its production held steady year-over-year, increasing just 1 MT. Last year, it was the biggest supplier of tantalum metal to US companies, with 23 percent of the metal imported to the US having come from China, according to the US Geological Survey.

That number may be quite different in 2018, after the two countries engaged in a [trade war](#) involving high tariffs for both sides.

Future tantalum mining?

While Australia did not make the top tantalum-mining list last year, it's expected that it will appear on it in 2018. The country has the largest tantalum reserves in the world at 78,000 MT, and in March 2018 the Bald Hill [lithium](#)-tantalum mine in Western Australia commenced production.

This mine is a joint venture between Tawana Resources (ASX:[TAW](#)) and Alliance Mineral Assets (SGX:[40F](#)), and they are eager to take advantage of the country's vast tantalum potential.

Profiling the top five platinum producing countries in the world

FEATURES & ANALYSIS MINING PLATINUM

By NS Energy Staff Writer 04 Oct 2019

Platinum is a precious metal that is part of the six-member family of platinum group metals. Palladium, rhodium, iridium, osmium, and ruthenium are the other members of the group.



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

Platinum mining is an extremely lucrative industry (Credit: Ryanj93/Wikipedia.org)

Part of the platinum group metals, the precious metal is widely used across automotive, medical and electronics industries, along with jewellery production and as an investment in the form of coins and bars.

Platinum is usually found alongside other metals, notably palladium and rhodium, in addition to base metals such as copper, [nickel](#), and chrome.

As the metal is rarely found in isolation, a complex series of physical and chemical processes are employed for its extraction, processing and purification.

The African continent has dominated the world's platinum production over the years with South Africa leading the way.

In 2018, the world's total production of platinum was 160 metric tonnes (mt), with [South Africa](#) being the leading producer of the metal, according to a report published by the US Geological Survey.

However, 2018 saw a decline in platinum production compared with the 199mt in 2017, due to several factors such as low prices for the metal in the market, workforce reduction, and mine-shaft closures.

According to a forecast made by the World Platinum Investment Council, the global platinum demand will see a 9% increase in 2019, with strong investment demand offsetting the decline in demand from automotive and jewellery segments.

Led by increased mining and recycling, the world's total platinum supply is also expected to increase by 4% in the current year against the figures recorded in 2018.

NS Energy profiles five biggest platinum producing countries based on their production in 2018.

1) South Africa – 110mt

South Africa is the world's largest producer of platinum, processing 110mt in 2018. The country's reserves of platinum group metals (PGMs) stands at 63,000mt.

Owing to various factors such as job losses and mine-shaft closures, the country witnessed a sharp fall in production last year compared to the 143mt recovered in 2017. In August 2018, Impala Platinum, one of the leading platinum miners in the world, announced plans to close five shafts at the Impala Rustenburg mine. A significant decline in the US\$ platinum price along with sustained high mining-cost inflation was cited as the reason for the restructuring.

South Africa is home to the Bushveld Complex, which is considered to be the largest resource for PGMs in the world.

Some of the prominent platinum producing mines in the country are the Impala Rustenburg mine, Mogalakwena mine, Marikana mine, Bathopele mine, Khomanani mine, and others.



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

Mo

galakwena Mine, South Africa (Credit: Anglo American Platinum)

2) Russia – 21mt

Russia is the second-largest producer of platinum in the world, with a 2018 production of 21mt. The country's reserves of PGMs are 3,900mt.

A bulk of Russia's production of PGMs comes from Norilsk Nickel's operations, which are primarily based on the Taymyr Peninsula in East Siberia, and those located on the Kola Peninsula.

The Norilsk mining centre in the Russian High Arctic is the main producer of the commodities in the country. Owned 100% by Norilsk Nickel (Nornickel), the Norilsk mining

centre is considered to be the world's largest producer of palladium.

In 2018, Nor Nickel entered into a partnership with Russian Platinum to establish a 50:50 joint venture (JV) to develop disseminated ore deposits located in the Norilsk Industrial District. The JV has a target of producing nearly 70-100 tonnes of PGMs annually from Nor Nickel's Maslovskoe deposit and Russian Platinum's South flank of Norilsk-1 and Bokoni Chernogorskoe deposits.

3) Zimbabwe – 14mt

Zimbabwe stands third among the top platinum producing countries in the world, with a production of 14mt in 2018. The African country recorded similar numbers for its platinum production in 2017. Zimbabwe's reserves of PGMs are 1,200mt.

The country's major platinum mines are the Mimosa mine, Ngezi mine, and the Unki mine.

The Mimosa mine is located in the Midlands Province and is owned by Mimosa Investments, a JV between Implats and Aquarius Platinum. The Ngezi mine is one of the largest resources of platinum in Southern Africa. This Zimbabwean platinum mine is owned by Zimplats and Impala Platinum.

The Unki mine is located in central Zimbabwe in the Midlands Province. It is owned by Anglo American Platinum.

The country's production of platinum is expected to grow further with Karo Resources breaking ground on the Karo Platinum project in July 2018 at Mhondoro-Mubaira.

A large-scale, vertically integrated platinum-group metals mining complex is being built as part of the project in the Great Dyke. The Karo Platinum project is estimated to have an annual production of 1.4 millions of ounces (Moz) of PGMs.



Jinfeng project in Guizhou province. Photo courtesy of Eldorado Gold.

Zim

babwe stands third among the top platinum producing countries in the world

4) Canada – 9.5mt

Canada takes the fourth spot in the list of global platinum recovery, with a production of 9.5mt last year. A significant part of platinum mined in the North American country is a by-product of nickel mining. The country's reserves of PGMs are 310mt. Canada exports the majority of its output to the US.

Ontario's Sudbury Basin hosts a majority of the country's platinum producing mines. Raglan nickel mine in Quebec and the Lac des Iles mine in Western Ontario are the other platinum-producing sites. The country's River Valley in Alberta is the largest undeveloped primary PGM resource.

In June 2019, Sibanye-Stillwater signed an acquisition agreement with Generation Mining (Gen Mining) for the development of the PGM-copper Marathon project in Canada. The deposit is located 10km north of the town of Marathon, Ontario, and on the eastern margin of the Coldwell Complex, which is a proterozoic layered intrusion.

The proposed project includes three open pits, an ore processing plant, tailings and mine rock storage facilities, and a 7km power transmission line. The mine will have a production capacity of approximately 22,000 tonnes per day.

In August 2019, Canada-based mining company North American Palladium (NAP) announced the acquisition of a 51% stake in the Sunday Lake Project from Impala Platinum (Implats). The project is located 25km north of Thunder Bay in Jacques Township, and approximately 60km south of NAP's Lac des Iles Mine operations (LDI).

5) US – 4.1mt

The US is the fifth largest platinum producer in the world, with a production of 3.6mt in 2018. The country owns two platinum producing mines including the Stillwater Mine, located in Nye, Montana, and the East Boulder Mine, which is located by Big Timber, Montana.

The Stillwater platinum/palladium mine is in the Beartooth Mountains, 130km southwest of Billings, Montana. Production at the Stillwater mine commenced in 1986. Located 20km west of Stillwater, the East Boulder project began commercial production in 2002.

In December 2016, South Africa's Sibanye Gold agreed to acquire the Stillwater Mining Company which owns the Stillwater Mine and East Boulder Mine, for \$2.2bn.

The current mineral reserves estimated to sustain the Stillwater West section until 2044 and that of the East Boulder mine until 2056.

9 African Countries With the Richest Gold Mines

1. South Africa

This country is long been known to be the largest producer of gold in Africa. Its operations in gold mining begun in the 1880s when gold was first discovered in Witwatersrand area in the Gauteng Province. This discovery led to a gold rush in the area; as a result many more places were discovered for gold mining. Such mines that followed after include the following.

The East Rand Mine

The gold mine is found in Boksburg, a city located in the eastern part of Johannesburg. It is one of the deepest gold mines in Africa, about 11,700 feet deep. This mine has been operational since 1893 with very high production of gold of about 80,000 ounces per year. But it has experienced some reduction in gold production over the years.

The Tau Tola Mine

The mine is found in Carletonville, yet another high quality gold producing mine. However, the mine is shallower than the East Rand Mine. It is

located in the vicinity of Johannesburg just like the East Rand Mine. It has been conducting mining activities since 1962, producing about 190,000 ounces of gold each year.

The Kloof Mine

The mine is in Westonaria, yet another famous place known for gold mining. But its operations are anticipated to cease by the year 2033 due to some challenges faced with mining in the region. But before that time can come, the mine has a huge potential to continue being among the top gold producing mines.

2. Ghana

This is the country known as Africa's second producer of gold. It equally has a number of mines located in different places which re actively involved in gold mining. Let's look at some of them below.

Taekwa Gold Mine

This is one of the largest gold mines in Africa. Its operations are run by Goldfields. The mine resource capacity of gold for the mine goes up to 15.3 million ounces. And in its reserves, the estimated amount of the resource is about 9.9 million ounces of gold.

Chirano Gold Mine

This mine is operated under open pit mining. It is located in the western part of the country, with an approximate distance of 25 miles to the south of the Bibiani gold mine. Operations of the mine began in the year 2005 by Red Back Mining, which later handed over to a subsidiary company known as Chirano Gold Mine Limited. The gold production of the mine stands at 3,800 kilograms per year.

Nzema Gold Mine

The mine's location is in the southern region of Ghana on the Ashanti Gold Belt. The mine is under the management of Endeavor Mining Company, with its mineral resource standing at about 33.7 million tons of 1.3g/t grade.

Iduapriem Open Pit Mine

The mine is located about 15 miles south of the larger Tarkwa mines in the western part of Ghana. The mining activities are under the two major operations namely, the Teberebie and the Iduapriem operations, respectively.

Obuasi Underground Mine

The mine is found in the Obuasi within the region of Ashanti. It is also important to note that, this mine happens to be among the 10 largest gold mines in Africa. The mining activities date back to 1897, by AngloGold Ashanti. The mine is also regarded as the oldest there is in Ghana, where it concerns gold mining.

The Wassa Open Pit Gold Mine

The mine is run under open pit mining. It is located about 45 miles northeast of Tarkwa, with an estimated distance of about 120 miles from Accra in the Birimian Province. The mine is believed to host about 20 million troy ounces of gold reserves, and has been operational since the early 1990s.

Apart from the mines stated to be active in Ghana, there are several others which are under construction in order to maximise the production of gold in the country. Additionally, small-scale artisanal miners prospect for small amounts of gold all throughout the country. The mineral resources in this country are not just exceptionally rich, but also very vast and cover a large area.

3. Tanzania

Amazingly, this country also hosts a number of gold mines worthy taking note, as it stands a huge potential to continue being among Africa's leading gold producers.

Buzwagi Gold Mine

This gold mine has been the second largest open pit gold mine in the country. It is located in the Shinyanga region on the southeast part of Kahama. Its operations are run by Acacia Mining when it was

commissioned in 2009. And five years later, the mine was able to produce about 719,000 ounces of gold.

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

The mine runs operations through underground mining. Its location is about 40 miles south of Lake Victoria in Shinyanga region. Likewise, the Acacia Mining Plc. also runs its operations. The mine is expected to remain operational up to 2016 due to its gold availability potential.

Geita Gold Mine

This is another famous gold open pit mine. It is located about 15 miles southeast of Lake Victoria in the District known as Geita. The operations of the mine are managed by the company, AngloGold Ashanti while producing reasonable amounts of gold annually.

Golden Prive Gold Mine

This is yet another open pit mine, with its operations being undertaken by Resolute Mining Limited. It is found in the region of Tabora, within Nzanga District. Prospecting activities for the mine began as early as 1989, before the actual official commencement in the year 1999.

North Mara Gold Mine

The gold mining operations are done through open pit and underground mining. The mine is found in the northern part of Tanzania, in Tarime District of Mara region. Its operations were first initiated by Acacia Mining in 2002.

4. Mali

In this country, there are basically three major mines that must be known where it concerns gold mining.

Morila Gold Mine

This mine's location is about 150 miles from Bamako in the south. There are two major operations undertaken in this mine, namely open pit and underground operations, which are managed by Randgold Resources.

The Sadiola Gold Mine

This is an open pit mine located in the region of Kayes. It is jointly managed by three entities namely, AngloGold Ashanti, LamGold and the government of Mali.

Yatela

This is another open pit mine found in the region of Kayes. Its location is about 20 miles north of the Sadiola and its mining activities began in 2001. The mine is also jointly managed by LamGold, AngloGold Ashanti and the government of Mali, respectively.

Mali is definitely poised to grow substantially over the next decades. The mineral resources are vast and have been underexploited.

5. Burkina Faso

This country is also among the countries known to produce gold, in various locations. This is another country with vast gold bearing areas that have not been exploited to any large degree as of yet. Below are some of the major mines that account for most of the current gold production.

Kalsaka Gold Mine Project

The mine is located in the capital city of the country, about 40 miles northwest of Ouagadougou. The mine is believed to have about 6.5 million metric tons of gold, of which the grade is anticipated to be 1.6g/t grams per ton gold, as well as 2.7 metric tons of 1.2g/t gold grade. The mining operations are conducted by Banlaw Africa Limited.

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Youga Gold Mine

It is located about 140 miles to the southeast of Ouagadougou, the capital city. The operations of the mine are jointly managed by the government of Burkina Faso with the shareholding of 10% and the Etruscan Resource, holding the rest of the shares.

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Taparko-Boroum Open Pit Gold Mine

Its location is approximately 150 miles northwest of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso's capital. The mine began its operations in 2007 with production capacity of about 4,400 kilograms of gold per year.

Essakane Gold Mine

The mine is located along the boundary of Sano and Oudalan provinces, which are about 250 miles northeast of the capital city. Its operations commenced in 2010 with a number of expansion projects finishing in 2013.

Inata Gold Mine

This is yet another gold mine operated under a joint venture between the government and Avocet. The mine began its operations in 2009, and its estimated mineral potential can take it up to 2027. The mineral resource for the mine is approximately 4.2 million ounces of gold with an average grade of 1.2 grams per ton.

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6. Zimbabwe

This country has been known for gold mining since the 13th century when the local settlers could extract the mineral from hills within their catchment areas of the kingdom. The following are the mines hosted by the country.

Sabi Gold Mine

The operation of the gold mine is known to have begun in the year 1890. The mine is located in Zvishavane district, Midlands Province in Zimbabwe. Its operations were first acquired by the Zimbabwe Mining Development

Corporation in 1984, and later taken by its subsidiary, Kimberworth Investments. Underhand stopping method has been known to be the major way used to extract gold in this mine.

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Jena Gold Mine

The mine is located in Nkayi of Zimbabwe, a District in Matabeleland on the northern part of the country which is about 75 miles west of Kwekwe town. The mining operations for gold extraction include the shrink stopping method and the underhand benching long hole open stopping method. This mine is known to process about 450 tons of gold ore.

Blanket Gold Mine

This mine happens to be one of Zimbabwe's biggest gold mines. Its location is about 10 miles southwest of the city known as Gwanda, the headquarters of Matabeleland the south Province located about 400 miles from Harare the capital of Zimbabwe. The mine is run by Celedonia Limited, and produces about 45,500 ounces of gold per annum. It is also anticipated that the production is likely to rise to 80,000 ounces by the year 2020.

7. Guinea

This country also can't be left out when one talks about gold mining in Africa. Although the country has few active mines, many others are still developing. Thousands of small-scale miners pan the rivers using primitive methods to recover fine gold. Below are some of the major mines in the country.

The Lero-Karta Gold Mine

The mine carries out its operations in the northern part of guinea. The major method used in the production of gold in this mine is called the heap leach process. The mine is said to produce about 13.7 metric tons of gold of 2.6g/t grade

The Kart Open Pit Mine

This mine is also located in the northern region of guinea, a short distance from the Lero Mine. It is estimated to contain about 185,000 tons of gold with 4.6g/t grade.

The Siguiri Gold Mine

The mine is located within the confinement of Siguiri District in the northeast part of Guinea, the District in which the mine is found, is right on the bank of Niger River, the mine produces an approximate amount of 250,000 ounces of gold per year.

The Kiniero Gold Mine

This mine is located in the central part of Guinea, which is about 350 miles towards the northwest of Conakry. The annual production for the mine stands at about 60,000 ounces of gold, with its resource about 5.07 tons at an average of 3.12g/t grade.

8. Ethiopia

In the country of Ethiopia, not much of gold is produced. However, it is among the top ranking countries striving to increase gold production. Civil unrest over the past decades has limited serious interest by large mining companies to operate within Ethiopia. This is starting to change though, and there is great potential for serious mining in this country in the coming years. Its major active mines include.

Lega Dembi Gold Mine

This mine is located in the southern part of the country in Sidamo Province. The production of gold for the mine stands at 5 tons, per

annum. Its operations are managed as a joint venture between the government and Midroc Company.

Tulu Kapi Gold Project

This one is located in the western part of the country, toward the border with Sudan. The mine's operations are undertaken by Nyota Minerals Limited, producing about 5 tons of gold annually.

The other potential sources of gold in Ethiopia include Sakaro region and Greenstone belts located in the northern and western parts of the country.

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9. Cote d'Ivoire

In this country gold production is equally not as much, but it is ranked among the leading gold producing countries in Africa. It is said that, there are several areas that have not been explored yet for gold mining in this particular country, yet has the potential to produce more gold. Its proximity to Ghana makes many believe that there are likely some large gold deposits that have yet to be found. Below are some active operations in Cote d'Ivoire.

The Tongon Gold Mine

It is located about 34 miles away from the border between Cote d'Ivoire and Mali. It is known as the largest gold mine in the country. It covers about one square mile, owned by Randgold Resources, while carrying out operations through the subsidiary, the Societe Des Mines de Tongon. The mining operations are estimated to run up to 2021.

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The Angovia Gold Mine

This mine is located about 25 miles from the city of Yamoussoukro. The mine is managed by the Cluff Gold which began its operations in 2009, leading to the production of about 20,000 ounces of gold per year.

The Bonikro Gold Mine

This is another gold producing mine, which is located nearly 150 miles northwest of Abidjan, the capital of Cote d'Ivoire. Newcrest are the owners of the mining operations, producing an average of 150,000 ounces of gold annually when it was established in 2008.

10 Countries With The Most Natural Resources

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Natural resources, or [commodities](#), are the raw [inputs](#) that are used to manufacture and produce all of the products in the world. Commodities themselves, which include those extracted from the earth and those that have, yet to be extracted, are worth trillions of dollars. Here are the top 10 countries with the most natural resources and their total estimated value, according to World Atlas.

10: Australia

Australia earns \$19.9 trillion U.S. dollars from mining, and it is number 10 on the list. Australia is known for its large reserves of coal, timber, copper, iron ore, nickel, oil shale, and rare earth metals and mining is the primary industry. Australia is also one of the leaders in uranium and gold mining. The country has the [largest gold reserves in the world](#), and it supplies over 14% of the world's gold demand and 46% of the world's uranium demand. Australia is the top producer of opal and aluminum.¹ The country is about 80% the size of the United States.

9. Democratic Republic of Congo

Mining is the primary industry of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) also. In 2009, the DRC had over \$24 million in mineral deposits including the largest coltan reserve and huge amounts of cobalt. The DRC also has large copper, diamond, gold, tantalum, and tin reserves, and over a million tons of lithium as estimated by the American geological survey. In 2011, according to the latest data, there were over 25 international mining firms in the DRC.

8: Venezuela

This South American country has an estimated \$14.3 trillion worth of natural resources. It is the leading exporter of bauxite, coal, gold, iron ore, and oil. The country's oil reserves are greater than those of the United States, Canada, and Mexico combined. Venezuela is the third largest producer of coal after Brazil and Colombia. It also has the eighth largest reserves of natural gas accounting for 2.7% of the global supply. Venezuela also has the second-largest reserves of gold deposits.

7. The United States

Mining is a primary industry in the United States. In 2015, total metal and coal reserves in the country were estimated to be \$109.6 billion. The United States is the leading producer of coal and has been for decades, and it accounts for just over 30% of global coal reserves and has huge amounts of timber. Total natural resources for the United States are approximately \$45 trillion, almost 90% of which are timber and coal. Other resources include substantial copper, gold, oil, and natural gas deposits.

6. Brazil

Brazil has commodities worth \$21.8 trillion including gold, iron, oil, and uranium. The mining industry focuses on bauxite, copper, gold, iron, and tin. Brazil has the largest gold and uranium deposits in the world, and is the second largest oil producer. However, timber is the most valuable natural resource, and the nation accounts for over 12.3% of the world's timber supplies.

5: Russia

Russia's total estimated natural resources are worth \$75 trillion. The country has the [biggest mining industry](#) in the world producing mineral fuels, industrial minerals, and metals. Russia is a leading producer of aluminum, arsenic, cement, copper, magnesium metal and compounds, nitrogen, palladium, silicon, and vanadium. The nation is the second-largest exporter of rare earth minerals.

4. India

India's mining sector contributes 11% of the country's industrial GDP and 2.5% of total GDP. The mining and metal industry was worth over \$106.4 billion in 2010. The nation's coal reserves are the fourth largest in the world. India's other natural resources include bauxite, chromite, diamonds, limestone, natural gas, petroleum, and titanium ore. India provides over 12% of global thorium, over 60% of global mica production and is the leading producer of manganese ore.

3. Canada

Third on the list of countries with the most natural resources is Canada. Overall, the country has an estimated \$33.2 trillion worth of

commodities and the third largest oil deposits after Venezuela and Saudi Arabia. The commodities that the country owns include industry minerals, such as gypsum, limestone, rock salt, and potash, as well as energy minerals, such as coal and uranium. Metals in Canada include copper, lead, nickel, and zinc, and precious metals are gold, platinum and silver. Canada is the leading supplier of natural gas and phosphate and is the third largest exporter of timber.

2: Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has 20% of the world's oil reserves, second in the world. Oil was discovered here in 1938, and the nation has been a leading oil exporter ever since with its economy depending on oil exports. It also has the sixth-largest natural gas reserves. Overall, the country has about \$34.4 trillion worth of natural resources. Saudi Arabia's other natural resources include copper, feldspar, phosphate, silver, sulfur, tungsten, and zinc. Saudi Arabia is a small country, roughly the size of Alaska.

1: China

China is number one on the list for having the most natural resources estimated to be worth \$23 trillion. Ninety percent of resources are coal and rare earth metals. However, timber is another major natural resource of China. Other resources that China produces are antimony, coal, gold, graphite, lead, molybdenum, phosphates, tin, tungsten, vanadium, and zinc. China is the world's second largest producer of bauxite, cobalt, copper, manganese, and silver. It also has chromium and gem diamond.