

## DIAMOND PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA FACT SHEET

**Angola****Angola at a glance**

Angola is situated on southern Africa's Atlantic coast, bordering Namibia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. A former colony of Portugal, with a current population of 12.3 million, Angola gained independence in 1975. The country failed to find stability following independence and was thrown into several civil wars between two opposing factions - UNITA and MPLA – for the next 27 years. The conflicts, which cost up to 1.5 million lives, ended in 2002. Angola is making significant progress towards long-anticipated elections.

Much of Angola's infrastructure was damaged during the civil war and remains so today, with subsistence agriculture providing the main livelihood for half of the population.

Portuguese is the official language of Angola. Average life expectancy is 37 years and the country has a high prevalence of infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS, typhoid, malaria and hepatitis. A particular issue for the country is land mines, laid during the civil war, which continue to blight the countryside. In addition to diamonds, Angola has a range of other natural resources including petroleum, iron ore, phosphates, copper, feldspar, gold, bauxite and uranium. Oil production and its supporting activities contribute about half of Angola's GDP and 90% of exports.

**Angola and diamonds**

Diamonds were first discovered in Angola in 1912. For the next 40 years, the industry was exclusively based on alluvial diamond mining (mining that extracts diamonds from deposits of sand, gravel and clay, which have been naturally transported by water erosion and deposited along either the banks of a river, the shoreline or on the bed of the ocean) and was operated as a monopoly by the Diamontes de Angola, Diamang, a joint Portuguese - Belgian producer. Other companies operating in Angola include Catoca, De Beers and Luo.

**Angola and conflict diamonds**

During the civil war in Angola, rebel groups traded diamonds to fund armed conflict (known as conflict diamonds). In response, the UN applied sanctions to ban the rebels' trade in conflict diamonds. Today, conflict diamonds are no longer traded in Angola. Angola is a participant of the Kimberley Process, a unique joint initiative by government, the diamond industry and non-governmental organisations, to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the legitimate diamond supply chain. As a member of the Kimberley Process, customers can rest assured that the diamonds mined in Angola are from conflict free sources.

**Botswana****Botswana at a glance**

Botswana is located in southern Africa bordering Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

Botswana, formerly called Bechuanaland, gained independence from Britain in 1966. It has a population of 1.8 million, even though it is a similar size to France which has a population of 64 million. Botswana has a dynamic economy due to four decades of sustained civilian leadership, progressive social policies and significant capital investment. Mineral extraction, principally diamond mining, dominates the economy, though tourism is a growing sector.

English is the official language of Botswana although 78% of the population speak Setswana. Botswana is now a middle-income country with a per capita GDP of \$11,000 in 2006. Botswana has high rates of HIV/AIDS infection, but it also has progressive and comprehensive programs for dealing with the disease. Average life expectancy is 51 years.

#### **Botswana and diamonds**

After geologists discovered diamonds in Botswana in 1967, the De Beers Botswana Mining Company was launched in 1969. The Orapa Mine and the Jwaneng pipe, the richest diamond mine in the world, followed. The Government of Botswana increased its shares in the company to 50% by the time the Letlhakane Mine opened in 1975. The De Beers Botswana Mining Company was rebranded to Debswana Diamond Company (Pty) Ltd.

The Debswana mines have boosted economic growth in Botswana through direct foreign exchange, government revenues from diamonds (33% of GDP), taxes, employment and improved infrastructure in remote areas. In 2006, 34.3 million carats of diamonds were produced. Other companies exploring in Botswana include African Diamonds plc and Firestone.

#### **Botswana and conflict diamonds**

Diamonds have never been used in Botswana to fund conflict. Botswana is a founding member and participant of the Kimberley Process, a unique joint initiative by government, the diamond industry and non-governmental organisations, to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the legitimate diamond supply chain. As a member of the Kimberley Process, customers can rest assured that the diamonds mined in Botswana are from conflict free sources.

#### **Central African Republic**



#### **Central African Republic at a glance**

Central African Republic is situated in central Africa, bordering Cameroon, Chad, Sudan, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo. A former French colony, Central African Republic gained independence in 1960. After three decades of misrule, civilian rule was established in 1993.

In March 2003, President Ange-Felix Patasse's civilian government, which was plagued by unrest, was overthrown in a coup lead by General François Bozize. Presidential elections held in 2005 affirmed General Bozize as president.

Central African Republic has a population of 4.4 million with more than 70% of the population living in rural areas. Average life expectancy is 43 years. The official language of Central African Republic is French, while Sangho and other tribal languages are common. The economy relies on subsistence agriculture and forestry, with other major industries including uranium, diamonds, gold, oil, textiles and hydropower. Central African Republic has high rates of HIV/AIDS infection, as well as hepatitis A, typhoid fever, malaria and meningitis.

#### **Central African Republic and diamonds**

Diamonds were discovered in Central African Republic in the 1960s in the north eastern region of Boungou River. Major exploration was undertaken throughout the 1990s. However, in 2003 the Central African Republic Government suspended all mining permits to allow it to verify that the permit holders were up to date with their taxes and that permits were still in order.

At present, all diamond production within Central African Republic comes from alluvial deposits (diamonds occurring in deposits of sand, gravel and clay, which have been naturally transported by water erosion and deposited along either the banks of a river, the shoreline or on the bed of the ocean). These deposits are mined by artisanal miners (small-scale digging by individuals, families and communities using basic equipment, such as sieves and pans).

Artisanal mining occurs throughout Central African Republic. In 2002, Central African Republic's diamond production was estimated at more than US\$60 million.

### **Central African Republic and conflict diamonds**

Central African Republic is a participant of the Kimberley Process, a unique joint initiative by government, the diamond industry and non-governmental organisations, to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the legitimate diamond supply chain.

### **The Democratic Republic of Congo**



### **The Democratic Republic of Congo at a glance**

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is situated in central Africa, northeast of Angola. A former colony of Belgium with a population of 65.8 million, the DRC gained independence in 1960. Within weeks of independence, the country fell into civil war with Colonel Joseph Mobutu seizing power and proclaiming himself the president. He nationalised the economy and changed the country's name to Zaire.

President Mobutu was overthrown in a subsequent civil war in 1997, which killed four million people, and the country was reverted to being called the Democratic Republic of Congo. The civil war ended when the warring factions involved signed the Lusaka Accord in 1999. A new constitution was then adopted by the National Assembly in 2005.

The end of the war in 1999 led to a resurgence of the mining industry, which accounts for most of the Democratic Republic of Congo's exports. The economy is expected to improve since a new government was installed after elections took place in July 2006.

The official language of the Democratic Republic of Congo is French. Average life expectancy is 57 years and the country has a high prevalence of infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS, typhoid, malaria and hepatitis. Natural resources include diamonds, copper, crude oil, coffee and cobalt.

### **The Democratic Republic of Congo and diamonds**

The first significant diamond find in the Democratic Republic of Congo was in 1912 in the Tshikapa region. The Belgian Société Minière du Beceka, later known as Sibecka, started to mine these deposits in 1919. Following independence, President Mobutu began to acquire mining right shares for the state until they became fully government owned in 1973.

Artisanal mining (small-scale digging by individuals, families and communities using basic equipment, such as sieves and pans) has prevailed in the DRC, encouraged by new laws in 1981 that forced the Société Minière du Bakwanga (MIBA) to open up the majority of its yields to artisanal diggers. Companies mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo include SouthernEra Diamonds and BHP Billiton.

### **The Democratic Republic of Congo and conflict diamonds**

During the civil war in the DRC, rebel groups traded diamonds to fund armed conflict (known as conflict diamonds). In response, the UN applied sanctions to ban the rebels' trade in conflict diamonds. Today, diamonds are no longer used to fund conflict in the DRC. The DRC is a participant of the Kimberley Process, a unique joint initiative by government, the diamond industry and non-governmental organisations, to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the

legitimate diamond supply chain. As a member of the Kimberley Process customers can rest assured that the diamonds mined in the DRC are from conflict free sources.

## Ivory Coast



### Ivory Coast at a glance

Ivory Coast is located in western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Ghana and Liberia. Ivory Coast was a French colony until it obtained independence in 1960.

The development of cocoa production for export, and foreign investment made Ivory Coast one of the most prosperous of the tropical African states. In December 1999, a military coup overthrew the government and since then civil war has plagued the country. The central government still has no control over northern regions and tensions remain high.

The official language of Ivory Coast is French and it has a population of over 18 million. Average life expectancy is 49 years. Ivory Coast is among the world's largest producers and exporters of coffee, cocoa beans, and palm oil. Consequently, the economy is highly sensitive to fluctuations in international prices for these products and weather conditions. Roughly 68% of the population is dependent on agriculture. Political turmoil has damaged the economy, with fear among Ivoirians (citizens of Ivory Coast) spreading, foreign investment shrivelling, French businesses and expatriates fleeing, travel within the country falling, and criminal elements gaining ground.

### Ivory Coast and diamonds

Diamonds were first discovered in Ivory Coast in 1927, in the central region of Seguela. Further diamond deposits were discovered and a state owned company began mining. In 1978, due to the depletion of reserves, low return and low production, the Ivory Coast Government decided to suspend formal mining.

During the 1990s following a drop in the price of cocoa the government decided to again focus on the mining sector. The new interest in diamond mining coincided with the wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone and affected Ivory Coast's diamond exports, which rose exponentially. Foreign investment companies withdrew due to the political situation. There is currently no official exploration or mining being carried out in Ivory Coast.

### Ivory Coast and conflict diamonds

Ivory Coast remains under a UN Security Council Resolution (renewed on 31 October 2007) prohibiting the import and export of diamonds. The country is a member of the Kimberley Process but the Government, in alignment with the UNSC Resolution, has itself suspended all official exports of rough diamonds to help support its efforts to restore social stability and ensure systems are in place to meet the KP requirements. The Kimberley Process is the process developed to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the legitimate diamond supply chain and provides an assurance that diamonds are from conflict free sources. The Government of Ivory Coast is working closely with the Kimberley Process Secretariat and the UN to successfully overcome various challenges and establish a positive solution.

## Liberia



### Liberia at a glance

Liberia is situated in western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between the Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone. The country, which has a population of 3.2 million, was embroiled in civil war from 1989 to 2003, destroying much of its economy. A new female president, the first in Africa, was elected in 2005 with the UN Mission in Liberia providing

support. Some of the businessmen who fled the country during the conflict have now returned to set up new ventures.

English is the official language of Liberia, but there are 20 other ethnic group languages. Average life expectancy is 40 years, with a 6% HIV/AIDS prevalence. In addition to diamonds, the country's resources include iron ore, timber, gold and hydropower.

### **Liberia and diamonds**

Artisanal mining (small-scale digging by individuals, families and communities using basic equipment, such as sieves and pans) has been used to source diamonds in the Kpo Range of Liberia since the 1950s.

UN sanctions were imposed on Liberia in 2001 following reports that diamonds from Sierra Leone were being smuggled into Liberia by the rebel group Revolutionary United Front (RUF). On 27 April, 2007 the UN Security Council lifted a more than three-year-old ban on diamond imports from Liberia, applauding the government's cooperation with the Kimberley Process.

### **Liberia and conflict diamonds**

Rebel groups in Liberia traded diamonds to fund armed conflict during the civil war, between 1989 and 2003. As a result UN sanctions were imposed by the UN. Following the lifting of the UN Security Council Resolution on diamonds, Liberia was formally admitted to the Kimberley Process on 4 May, 2007.

## **Namibia**



### **Namibia at a glance**

Namibia is located on the west coast of southern Africa bordering Angola, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa.

South Africa occupied the country during World War I and controlled it after World War II. In 1966 the Marxist South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) guerrilla group fought for independence naming the country Namibia. South Africa finally relinquished control in 1988 due to UN interaction. Namibia won its independence in 1990 and has been governed by SWAPO ever since. The country's current population is 2.1 million.

The Namibian economy is heavily dependent on the extraction and processing of minerals for export. Mining of minerals accounts for 20% of GDP. Namibia is the fourth-largest exporter of non-fuel minerals in Africa, the world's fifth-largest producer of uranium, and a producer of large quantities of lead, zinc, tin, silver, and tungsten. English is the official language of Namibia and average life expectancy is 43 years.

### **Namibia and diamonds**

Diamonds were discovered in the Namib Desert in April 1908 near Lüderitz, when Zacharias Lewala, a former worker from the Kimberley diamond fields, found a diamond by the railway.

Diamond Fields International and De Beers both mine for diamonds in Namibia. The Namdeb Diamond Corporation (Pty) Limited, Namibia's largest diamond company, is split equally between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and De Beers Centenary AG, a company of De Beers. It employs approximately 3200 people, making it the largest employer in Namibia after the government. Namdeb has continued to recover diamonds, generating employment and playing a central role in building the social and physical infrastructure of Namibia. In 2006, Namdeb produced 2.08 million carats.

### **Namibia and conflict diamonds**

Diamonds have never been used in Namibia to fund conflict. Namibia is a participant of the Kimberley Process, a unique joint initiative by government, the diamond industry and non-

governmental organisations, to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the legitimate diamond supply chain. As a member of the Kimberley Process, customers can rest assured that diamonds are from conflict free sources.

### **The Republic of Congo (Congo Brazzaville)**



### **The Republic of Congo**

The Republic of Congo is situated in western Africa on the South Atlantic Ocean, bordering Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon. A former colony of France, the Republic of Congo gained independence in 1960. A period of Marxism followed until a democratically elected multi-party government took control in 1992. The Marxists regained power after a civil war in 1997, leading to instability in the nation until rebel groups signed a peace agreement in 2003. The war displaced many people and created a humanitarian crisis, which is still a problem today.

The economy in the Republic of Congo is based mainly on oil, but export levels were damaged by the civil war. The country's other natural resources include diamonds, petroleum, uranium, copper, gold and natural gas.

The official language in the Republic of Congo is French, but others include Lingala and Monokutuba. The current population is 3.8 million, with 70% living in and around the capital, Brazzaville. Average life expectancy in the Republic of Congo is 53 years and there is a high prevalence of infectious diseases such as malaria, hepatitis A and typhoid.

### **The Republic of Congo and diamonds**

The Republic of Congo does have some small diamond deposits; however there is currently no official diamond exploration or mining being carried out.

### **The Republic of Congo and conflict diamonds**

In 2004, the Republic of Congo was investigated by the Kimberley Process - the process developed to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the legitimate diamond supply chain. The Kimberley Process found that the Republic of Congo could not account for the origin of large quantities of rough diamonds that it was officially exporting. Consequently, the Republic of Congo was removed from the Kimberley Process participants list and is under UN sanctions to prohibit it from trading in diamonds.

## Sierra Leone



### Sierra Leone at a glance

Sierra Leone is situated in western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Guinea and Liberia. A former British colony with a current population of 6.1 million, Sierra Leone gained independence in 1961. Between 1991 and 2002, Sierra Leone descended into civil war, but when this ended it became a democratic country. Ernest Bai Koroma became president following elections in September 2007.

The economic and social infrastructure of Sierra Leone is not well developed. Nearly half of the population survive by subsistence agriculture, although alluvial diamond mining (mining that extracts diamonds from deposits of sand, gravel and clay, which have been naturally transported by water erosion and deposited along either the banks of a river, the shoreline or on the bed of the ocean) accounts for nearly half of the country's exports and is the most significant source of hard currency earnings.

English is the official language of Sierra Leone but only 35% of its citizens are literate. The average life expectancy is 40 years and AIDS/HIV affects 7% of the population. In addition to diamonds, the country also has several other natural resources – titanium ore, bauxite, iron ore, gold and chromite.

### Sierra Leone and diamonds

Diamonds were first discovered in Sierra Leone in 1930. In 1935 the first marketing contract was set up between the Diamond Corporation and the Sierra Leone Selection Trust Ltd.

The Government Diamond Office of Sierra Leone opened in 1959 and managed all diamonds produced under the Alluvial Diamond Mining Scheme. A year later, the Diamond Corporation (Sierra Leone) agreed to provide technical assistance to the Sierra Leone Government in the search for mineral deposits. Conflict disrupted the industry when rebels attacked diamond mining operations in Sierra Leone in 1994.

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council banned both direct and indirect imports of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to member states.

Since the end of the civil war in 2004, the diamond industry has provided technical assistance and training to Sierra Leone's Ministry of Mines in setting up the Government Diamond Office. Companies diamond mining in Sierra Leone include Koidu Holdings and African Diamonds plc.

### Sierra Leone and conflict diamonds

During the civil war in Sierra Leone, rebel groups traded diamonds to fund armed conflict (known as conflict diamonds). In response, the UN applied sanctions to ban the rebels' trade in conflict diamonds. Today, conflict diamonds are no longer traded in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is a participant of the Kimberley Process, a unique joint initiative by government, the diamond industry and non-governmental organisations, to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the legitimate diamond supply chain and provide an assurance that the diamonds mined in Sierra Leone are from conflict free sources.

## South Africa



### South Africa at a glance

South Africa is situated in southern Africa straddling both the South Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. South Africa borders Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho. South Africa has a population of 44 million.

When the British seized the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa in 1806, Dutch settlers (the Boers) trekked north to found their own republics. The discovery of diamonds (1867) and gold (1886) spurred wealth, immigration and further subjugation of the native inhabitants. The Boers were defeated by the British in the Boer War (1899-1902). A Union of South Africa was created in 1910 by the British and Boer populations. Apartheid was introduced by the National Party in 1948. This was abolished in the 1990s when black majority rule was introduced.

IsiZulu is the most common language in South Africa, closely followed by IsiXhosa. English is generally understood across the country and is most commonly used in official and commercial life. However, it is only spoken by approximately 8% of the population as a native language. The HIV rate in the population is 21.5% and average life expectancy is 42 years.

South Africa is rich in natural resources and has strong financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors. However, the country still has high unemployment and economic problems from the apartheid era, especially poverty and little economic empowerment among disadvantaged groups.

### South Africa and diamonds

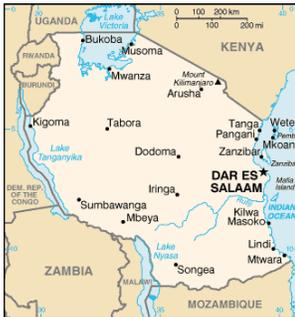
In 1867, a 21 carat diamond was found near the Orange River, followed by alluvial diamonds between the Vaal and Orange Rivers. This led to the unearthing of an 83 carat stone in 1869. By late 1870 there was a diamond rush. Source areas were identified in Kimberley, leading to giant open quarries by 1872.

Cecil Rhodes, developed the first major diamond mine in the country in Kimberley in 1888, which was the first mine for the De Beers Group – now the world's largest mining company. Other companies mining diamonds in South Africa include BHP Billiton and Firestone.

### South Africa and conflict diamonds

Diamonds have never been used in South Africa to fund conflict. South Africa is a founding member and participant of the Kimberley Process, a unique joint initiative by government, the diamond industry and non-governmental organisations, to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the legitimate diamond supply chain. As a member of the Kimberley Process, customers can rest assured that the diamonds mined in South Africa are from conflict free sources.

## Tanzania



### Tanzania at a glance

Tanzania is located on the east coast of Africa, bordering Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya.

In 1964, after independence, the main-land part of the country, Tanganyika merged with Zanzibar, the island off its east coast, and formed Tanzania. The first democratic elections were held in 1995. Zanzibar's semi-autonomous status and popular opposition have led to two contentious elections since 1995, which the ruling party won, despite international observers' claims of voting irregularities. Tanzania has a population of 39.4 million.

## FOR MEDIA USE

Kiswahili or Swahili is the official language of Tanzania. English is the official language used for commerce, administration, and higher education and the average life expectancy is 50 years.

The Tanzanian economy depends heavily on agriculture, which accounts for almost half of GDP, provides 85% of exports, and employs 80% of the work force. Topography and climatic conditions, however, limit cultivated crops to only 4% of the land area.

### **Tanzania and diamonds**

Tanzania has produced diamonds for decades, with most production from the Williamson Diamonds Mine at Mwadui where production started in 1925. The mine was managed from the early 1970s to 1994 by the Tanzanian Government. Companies mining in Tanzania include De Beers and Douglas Lake Minerals.

### **Tanzania and conflict diamonds**

Diamonds have never been used in Tanzania to fund conflict. Tanzania is a founding member and participant of the Kimberley Process, a unique joint initiative by government, the diamond industry and non-governmental organisations, to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the legitimate diamond supply chain. As a member of the Kimberley Process, customers can rest assured that the diamonds mined in Tanzania are from conflict free sources.

### **Additional sources of information**

Diamond Facts [www.diamondfacts.org](http://www.diamondfacts.org)

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