

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

TOGO

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Agriculture, phosphate mining, and regional trade continued to dominate Togo's economy. Output of phosphate rock continued its rebound from the strike-depressed production volume of 1993. In recent years, phosphate production and exports have accounted for 20% to 30% of export earnings, 10% to 13% of Government revenues, and 6% to 10% of the gross domestic product, respectively. The 100% Government-owned phosphate producer, Office Togolaise des Phosphates (OTP), remained Togo's largest foreign exchange earner and one of Togo's largest employers.

Law No. 96-004/PR was the Mining Code of the Republic of Togo. The code, promulgated during 1996, replaced a number of laws ranging from the 1924 licensing decree through Decision no. 008/MIMREH/MFE of 1979. Also during 1996, the Government proposed to divest 40% of its interest in OTP in 1997.

OTP operated the phosphate mines clustered around Hahotoe and Akoumape. The company's treatment plant and export terminal were at Kpeme, about 30 kilometers (km) from the mines. OTP recovered 1 metric ton of exportable phosphate rock for each 2 tons of raw ore processed at the Kpeme plant. Exports were shipped primarily to Canada, the Philippines, and South Africa. OTP was examining joint-venture beneficiation opportunities. The company was interested in building value-added phosphoric acid and fertilizer plants in Togo to process its phosphate instead of exporting rock.

In recent years, OTP experienced a decline in phosphate rock exports to its traditional Western European markets. European fertilizer producers were reducing the cadmium content of products generated from phosphate imports to less than 15 parts per million (ppm). Togo's high-grade (36% P_2O_5) phosphate ore averaged 40 to 50 ppm of cadmium (Phosphorus & Potassium, 1995).

Industry sources estimated that Togo had phosphate reserves of approximately 260 million metric tons (Mt), or about 130 Mt of exportable rock (U.S. Department of State, 1996). Besides phosphate rock for export and limestone for cement, exploitation of minerals in Togo was negligible. There was some artisanal recovery of diamond and gold.

Scancem International, a Norwegian/Swedish joint venture, increased its equity interest in Ciments du Togo (Cimtogo), a joint venture with the Government to 75% in mid-1996. Cimtogo, formerly a 50-50 joint venture, operated a 600,000-ton-per-year cement factory in Lomé. The plant used imported clinker.

The Government encouraged local and international participation in exploitation of its natural resources, but

development of large-scale projects will require additional exploration and significant infrastructure improvements. The iron ore deposit near Bassar, which averages more than 40% iron, mainly as magnetite, has been studied periodically by the local Bureau National de Recherches Minières (BNRM) and most recently in conjunction with France's Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM) (Mining Magazine, 1984). In the past, the BNRM and BRGM exploration teams had sampled gold anomalies east of Bassar and had investigated diamond indications on the Akposso Plateau and in the surrounding alluvial basins, about 50 km north of Kpalimé. The exploration teams also had located chromite, rutile, and uranium mineralization in the northwestern part of the country. A number of smaller-scale mineral occurrences were known and were cited by the Government as potential artisanal or semi-industrial operations included aggregate, attapulgit, bentonite, brick clay, diamond, dolomite, glass sand, gold, limestone, marble, peat, phosphate, rutile, and dimension stone (Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Water Resources, 1995). In addition, the Ministry had documented barite, bauxite, garnet, gypsum, kaolin, kyanite, manganese, and monzanite occurrences.

Most of Togo's mineral requirements were imported through the Port at Lomé. Togo had long been a regional trade center, and its highway network facilitated trade between Lomé and Benin, Burkina Faso, and Ghana. All of the developed mineral deposits were accessible by the railway that connected Lomé with the cities of Aného, Blitta, and Kpalimé. Exploitation of the iron, manganese, and phosphate deposits in the northern part of the country would require transportation improvements. Togo was expected to benefit from increased natural gas availability when the proposed West African Gas Pipeline from Nigeria to Ghana is constructed across southern Togo.

Togo's mineral economy is expected to continue to be dominated by the phosphate industry well into the next century. New industry attracted to the country by the Government's economic policies could provide an important economic buffer during periods of low phosphate prices. However, even with optimistic growth projections, the industrial sector is not diverse enough to isolate Togo from economic slowdowns when phosphate prices are low.

References Cited

- Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Water Resources, 1995, Togo mineral resources—Guide for mining investment in Togo: Lomé, Togo, 75 p.
Phosphorus & Potassium, 1995, The Cadmium Issue: Phosphorus & Potassium, no. 195, Jan.-Feb. 1995, p. 27-33.

U.S. Department of State, 1996, FY 1996 Country Commercial Guides (Gopher Archive Collection): (Accessed June 23, 1997 via the World Wide Web at URL http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/business/com_guides/)

Major Source of Information

Ministère des Mines de l'Énergie et des Ressources
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TABLE 1
TOGO: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 2/	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 e/
Cement e/ 3/	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
Iron and steel, semifinished e/ 4/	--	--	500	500	500
Phosphate rock, beneficiated product:					
Gross weight	2,083	1,794	2,149	2,570 r/	2,731 5/
P2O5 content e/	760	540	800	930 r/	980

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Includes data available through June 23, 1997.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, Togo presumably produced a variety of crude construction materials (clays, sand and gravel, and stone) but output is not reported, and available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output levels.

3/ Produced from imported clinker.

4/ Iron rod production from semifinished metal.

5/ Reported figure.