



# 9<sup>th</sup> CASM CONFERENCE

An Opportunity For Rural Development

The Liberian Experience

Maputo, Mozambique

PRESENTED BY

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*Focal Point*

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**MINISTRY OF LANDS, MINES & ENERGY**

***Republic of Liberia***



# Location





# ***Introduction***

- Small country on West African coast (111,000 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Independent republic since 1847, previously a US colony
- Rich in natural resources; Iron Ore, Diamonds, Gold, Bauxite
- Highly prospective and under explored
- Investment highly encouraged





# Population

- Estimated population 3.4 million (2004)
- 2.7% population growth rate per annum (2004)
- Majority of population consists of 16 ethnic groups
- Government based on Anglo-American law
- 40% traditional, 40% Christian, 20% Islamic
- Official language is English
- Capital city is Monrovia





# *Investment Opportunities*

- Numerous mineral occurrences being mined by artisans
- Investment and mining laws are globally competitive
  - 100% repatriation of profits
  - No currency exchange restrictions
- New mines expected in gold, diamonds and Iron Ore





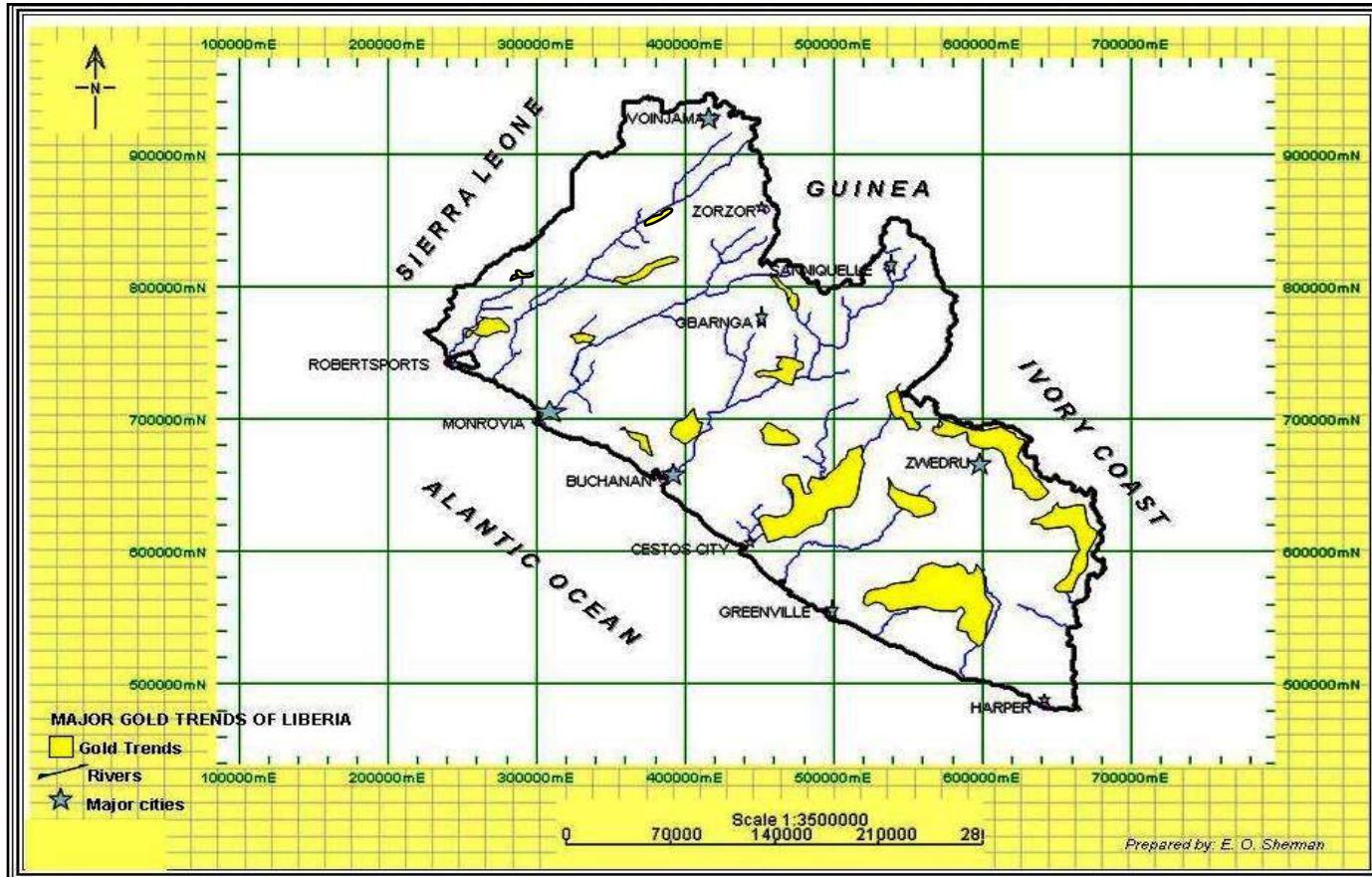
# ***Liberia's Mineral Potential***

- 30% contribution to GDP
- 70s-80s worlds 5th exporter of iron ore
- Challenge of restoring mining industry largely inactive since civil war in 1989
- Previous and current exploration have revealed the vast mineral potential





# Major Known Gold Deposits





# *Diamond Potential*







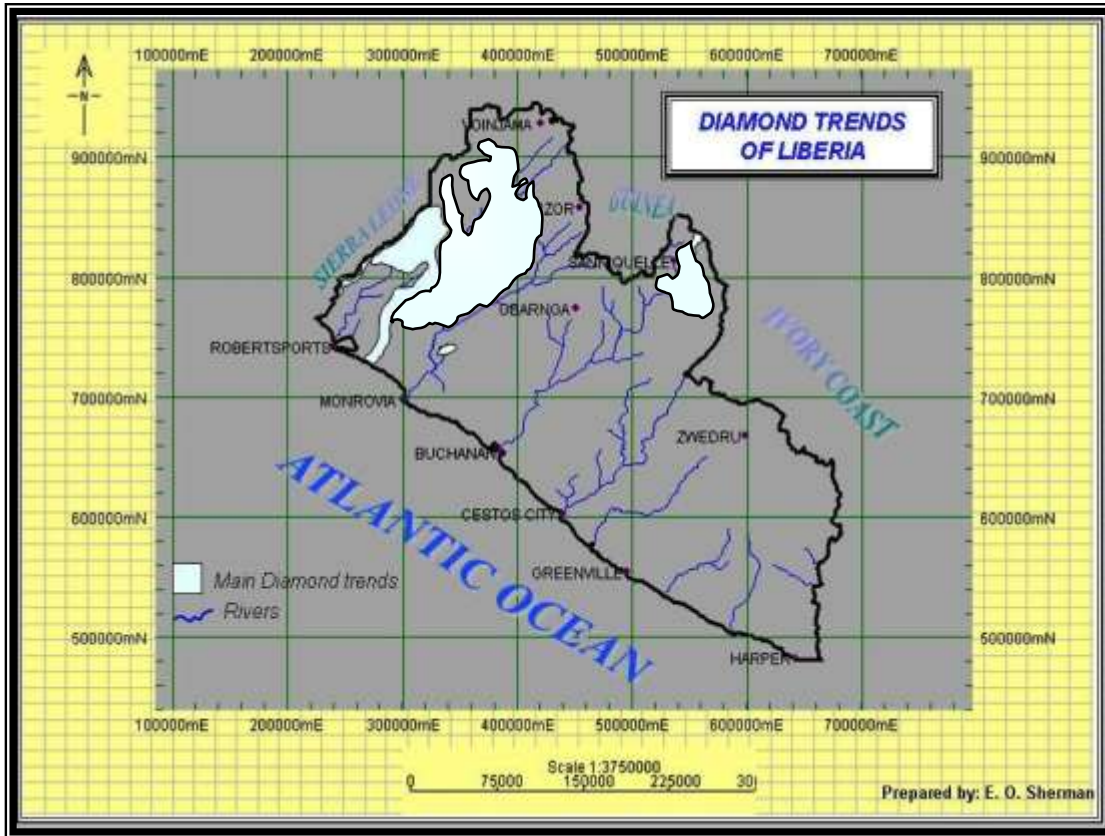
# *Diamond Potential*

- Alluvial diamonds mined widely in Northern and Western Liberia
- Highly prospective Archaean craton
- Kimberlite dykes and pipes suggest primary source
- Recent discovery of cluster of diamondiferous pipes at Weasua





# Diamond Map



- The Nimba trend along the Yah river basin and the western Liberian trend along the Lofa, Gbeya and Mano river basins are the two main diamond mining trends in Liberia
- Several kimberlites dykes and a few pipes have been discovered in the western trend

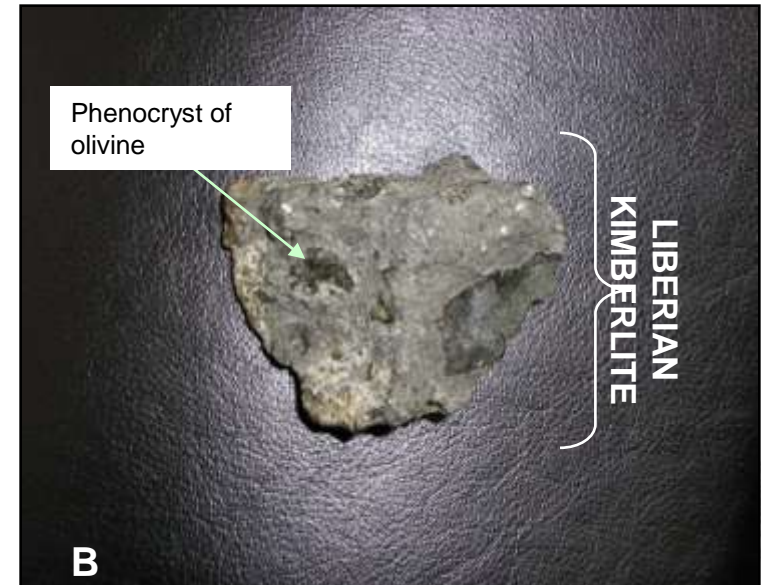




# Discoveries

Kimberlites have been discovered in the western part of the country.

- Mano River Resources (Bea and Kpo areas)
- Western Mineral Resources
- Diamond Fields International





# Rebels and Diamonds

- During the civil war rebel factions captured diamond mining areas
- Diamonds produced by combatants were used to support the war
- To exert more control and authority over resources, the country was divided into rebel domains





# UN SANCTIONS

- As a result the UN imposed sanctions on Liberia in 2001 and was required to comply with the UN Resolutions governing the sanctions regime.
- Government has fulfilled the requirements and the embargo was lifted in April 2007.
- Compliance with the Kimberley Process Certificate Scheme is in progress.
- Mining Cooperatives are being organized for effective and efficient monitoring of diamond production, sales and export.





## **DIAMONDS FOR DEVELOPMENT (D4D)**

- The concept of “Diamonds for Development (D4D)” has been introduced so that a portion of proceeds from diamond production will be returned to community of origin of diamonds for development purposes.  
The Government of Liberia with the UNDP is undertaking and developing the D4D program to assist the artisanal miners in Liberia through mining cooperatives.
- A Regional Mining Conference was held in Monrovia in June 2006 to foster regional collaboration and cooperation in the Mano River Countries plus La Cote d’Ivoire.
- Countries and organizations experienced in alluvial diamond production were invited to the Monrovia Conference.





# Liberia and the KPCS

- A new modern building has been constructed next to the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy to capture all diamonds produced in Liberia for evaluation, taxation and export using the KPC Certificate





# Liberia KPCS Center







# KPCS Awareness



**Meetings held with mining stakeholders even in the most remote locations**



**But to get there!**





# Images of progress in Liberia



**President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf opens Tubmanburg Government regional diamond office in May 2007**



**Dramas to reinforce KPCS processes currently taking place**





# Liberia and the KPCS

- For internal control on diamond production, the Ministry has trained 67 Mineral Inspectors and 47 Mining Agents
- Trained personnel are assigned in the 35 mining districts to create KPCS awareness and monitor illicit mining





# Liberia and the KPCS

- Ten Regional Offices have been established to be manned by trained personnel
- Function of Regional offices:
  - Track diamonds from the mine to the KPCS center in Monrovia





# Liberia and the KPCS

- Use vendor forms/receipts for tracking
- Ensure that only licensed miners can operate mines
- Ensure that only licensed buyers can purchase minerals
- Make periodic reports to the KPCS center





# Images of progress in Liberia

- 10 Regional Offices Staffed
- **KPCS Center (Monrovia)**
- All operational in protecting the chain of custody





# Liberian Certificates

 **Republic of Liberia**  
**MINISTRY OF LAND, MINES AND ENERGY**  
 CERTIFICATE NUMBER: **RL 000000**  
**KIMBERLEY PROCESS CERTIFICATE**

The rough diamonds in this shipment have been handled in accordance with the provisions of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for rough diamonds.


Country of Origin (mining) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Parcels \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name and Address of Importer \_\_\_\_\_

HS Classification	Carat	Value (US\$)
7102.10		
7102.21		
7102.31		

This certificate is issued in accordance with the United Nations Sanctions (Kimberley Process) Regulations 2004

Issuing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Issuing Officer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Issuing Officer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Issued on \_\_\_\_\_ Expires on \_\_\_\_\_

Official Stamp

 **Republic of Liberia**  
**KIMBERLEY PROCESS CERTIFICATE**  
**IMPORT CONFIRMATION**  
 CERTIFICATE NUMBER: **RL 000000**  
 It is hereby certified that the rough diamonds in the shipment exported from \_\_\_\_\_  
 Were accepted for import into \_\_\_\_\_  
 by \_\_\_\_\_  
 on \_\_\_\_\_  
 And that the import has been checked and verified in compliance with the provisions of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for rough diamonds

HS Classification	Carat	Value (US\$)
7102.10		
7102.21		
7102.31		

Signature of Authorising Officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stamp of Importing Authority



# Child labour



**Two  
orphans  
helping  
a  
relative**







# Local dwellers mining





# Artisans vs Mega Companies

- There has always been a problem of coexistence between small scale miners and big mining companies.
- The artisans are usually removed from their mining properties when large scale operations commence.
- This usually results to unending conflicts in the mining sector.





# Artisans vs Mega Companies

- To resolve this issue, the Government of Liberia has developed policies for coexistence by allowing artisans to continue operations in exploration areas until production lots are declared by large scale mining companies.
- At such times the small scale miners are paid for areas taken from them and employed by the mega companies.
- This has brought much peace between artisans and large scale companies.





THANK YOU ALL!

CASM Conference  
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