

AfricaMaVal

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Pan-African inventory of existing ore processing and refining capacities

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Summary

The inventory of industrial mineral processing units operating in Africa, stored in conveniently structured datasets and, if possible, with economic information on the involved markets, will designed to be an instrument to assess the extension of the value chain of each type of ore, installed on the African continent. Where the information is available, each mineral processing unit will be characterized in detail, taking into consideration the adopted technological solutions and its potential for flexibility concerning the processing of different ores of a certain type. Depending on the geographic proximity and regional metallogeny, the possibilities of using existing industrial units to carry out preliminary pilot tests, enabling the development of new processing projects, will be evaluated.

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D1.3 – Pan-African inventory of existing ore processing and refining capacities

WP1 - Task 1.3

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

Acronym	Description
CRM	Critical Raw Materials
ECRM	Extended Critical Raw Materials
WP	Work Package
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WMS	Web Map Service
WFS	Web Feature Service
GDS	Geographic Data Services

Executive Summary

Work Package (WP) 1 is designed to show the current African Critical and Strategic Raw Materials (CSRM), the available sites for mining and mineral processing and placing this information in the hands of the European political and industrial decision makers to focus on diversifying EU supply chains. The WP deals on an Africa-wide scale while also addressing the regional and local levels via its identification of possible and existing mineral and mining clusters (Task 1.1), ore processing and refining capacities (this task; Task 1.3), as well as artisanal and small-scale mining and processing developments (Task 1.4).

This report aims to provide an AfricaMaVal GIS geodatabase showing the Processing Facilities distribution in Africa. The data is divided into plants, smelters, refineries, and concentrators.

The final geodatabase is released as a WMS (Fig. 4) containing the attributes deemed necessary for the information being delivered (Table 1).

The distribution of the various processing facilities in Africa are mostly concentrated within the mining and mineral producing countries (e.g., South Africa, DRC, Zambia, Morroccos and Zimbabwe; Fig. 1).

Keywords

AfricaMaVal geodatabase, Extended Critical Raw Materials, mineral processing facilities, mineral refining facilities, WMS.



1 Introduction statement for WP1

This work package is designed to unravel the current knowledge about African ECRM, the available sites for mining and mineral processing and placing this information in the hands of the European political and industrial decision makers. This will contribute to several anticipated project outcomes, with a focus on diversifying EU supply chains while also outlining possible sustainability. The WP deals on an Africa-wide scale while also addressing the regional and local levels via its identification of possible and existing mineral and mining clusters, ore processing and refining capacities, as well as artisanal and small-scale mining and processing developments.

WP1 is divided into four tasks, namely:

- Task 1.1 provides the base for the subsequent work in this WP, constructing a database of existing known CSRM deposits in Africa Completed.
- Task 1.2 acknowledges the heterogeneity of some of the datasets and will perform a predictive assessment to reveal hidden trends Task underway.
- Task 1.3 will perform an analysis of the existing ore processing and refining capacities to understand the outlet points of pre-concentrates of the ECRM the focus of this report.
- Task 1.4 integrates and combines the findings of all previous tasks into one final report. Dialogue with African and EU partners is variably integrated into individual tasks and supplements dialogue and outreach activities performed in other work packages (WPs 3, 5, 7) as well as through individual country case studies Task underway.

1.1 The concept of ECRM

Minerals and metals defined as strategic to be addressed by the AfricaMaVal project comprise the ones included in the European Critical Raw Materials (CRM) list, the minerals that are used in the Li-battery manufacturing and electric mobility society in general, the minerals needed by the decarbonization targets of the Energy Intensive Industries (EII), the minerals and metals which energy transition and low-carbon technologies are dependent on, and the metals required by the electronics and high-tech industry (Frame, 2018).

This extended critical raw materials (ECRM) to be included and targeted in the AfricaMaVal project are: Antimony (Sb), Baryte, Bauxite, Beryllium (Be), Bismuth (Bi), Borate, Cobalt (Co), Copper (Cu), Fluorspar, Gallium (Ga), Germanium (Ge), Hafnium (Hf), Indium (In), Lithium (Li), Magnesium (Mg), Manganese (Mn), Natural graphite, Nickel (Ni), Niobium (Nb), Coking coal, Phosphate rock, Phosphorus (P), Silicon metal (Si), Scandium (Sc), Strontium (Sr), Tantalum (Ta), Tin (Sn), Titanium (Ti), Tungsten (W), Vanadium (V),



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HREEs-Heavy Rare Earth Elements: (Dysprosium-Dy, Erbium-Er, Europium-Eu, Gadolinium-Gd, Holmium-Ho, Lutetium-Lu, Terbium-Tb, Thulium-Tm, Ytterbium-Yb, Yttrium-Y),

<u>LREEs-Light Rare Earth Elements:</u> (Cerium-Ce, Lanthanum-La, Neodymium-Nd, Praseodymium-Pr, Promethium, Samarium-Sm),

<u>PGM-Platinum Group Metals:</u> (Iridium-Ir, Palladium-Pd, Platinum-Pt, Rhodium-Rh, Ruthenium-Ru).

1.2 Objectives of Task 1.3 of WP1

The aim of task 1.3 within WP1 is to, where possible, extract the inventory of industrial mineral processing units operating in Africa, stored in conveniently structured datasets and, if possible, with economic information on the involved markets.

2 Source of data used

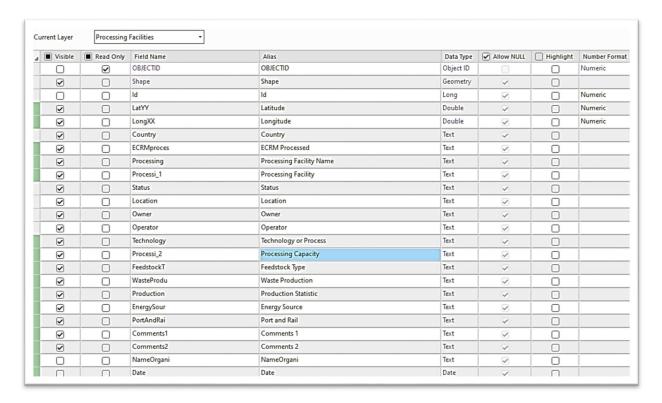
All data was compiled from freely available on-line datasets (e.g., USGS; Padilla & al., 2021 and other bibliography presented at the end of the report), mining company websites and "in-house data" from the various contributing consortium partners. Verification and validation were undertaken using S&P Global data (S&P Capital IQ Pro DB, 2023). Additionally, internal consortium intelligence on the subject was used.

2.1 Type of data

The data displayed in this data set consists of the following items (Table 1).



Table 1. The complete attributes reference table for AfricaMaVal - Processing Facilities database



3 Data confidentiality

All data used is considered non-confidential by all contributing partners.

For this reason, the AfricaMaVal team agreed that there are two possible ways to make this data available:

- Web Feature Service (WFS) A WFS service is a specification of a format that provides geographic data in vector format, i.e., information is communicated in the form of vectors and attributes that describe them. These Geographic Data Services (GDS) can be used using a GIS program or application (Geographic Information System) compatible with these standards, free (e.g., Quantum GIS, gvSIG, uDig), or commercial (e.g., ArcGIS, Geomedia, AutoCAD Map). In this format, the dataset can also be used to update and manipulate the data. Hence, a more secure method, namely WMS was used to display and deliver the data.
- Web Map Service (WMS) The WMS specification is a standard that makes it possible to provide geographic information in the form of georeferenced images over the Internet. The



WMS

for a mineral occurrences map is typically read-only, meaning that it can only be used to view the data specified before.

3.1 Data management and visualization

Managing and visualising the AfricaMaVal data can be undertaken using, for example, a geological data portal such as LNEG's Geoportal.

LNEG's GeoPortal (https://geoportal.lneg.pt) is LNEG's integrated services infrastructure to support the management and visualization of spatial data, which aims to provide, in a web environment, the georeferenced information related to the different institutional activities of the National Laboratory of Energy and Geology.

This tool also allows implementing and securing data services (WMS and WFS) in accordance with internationally established technical specifications by organizations related to spatial data.

The GeoPortal consists of four main components:

- Metadata Catalogue: a service for research and consultation of institutional metadata, which allows to know the existence and availability of the geographical information of the LNEG;
- Online Databases: a set of applications that allow access and consultation of information on various institutional themes;
- Map Viewer: LNEG mapping and spatial information visualization and analysis service, which also allows the overlay and spatial analysis of geographic data from different sources (maps, geoscientific data, orthophotomaps, etc.).
- Cartography Download: Space for the provision of cartography following the open data policy.

These four components allow the user to search for spatial information made available by the Institution, to consult and analyze them (as queries or map services) or to download official maps.

3.2 Analysis of results

In the obtained database a total of 215 entries are available. An Analysis by country indicates that South Africa contains the largest number (27.44%) of processing facilities (*s.l.*; Concentrator, Plant, Refinery and Smelter; see below) and the least are spread through Mozambique, Algeria,



Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda and Togo (0.47%). Figure 1 shows the statistical representation of the number of African processing facilities.

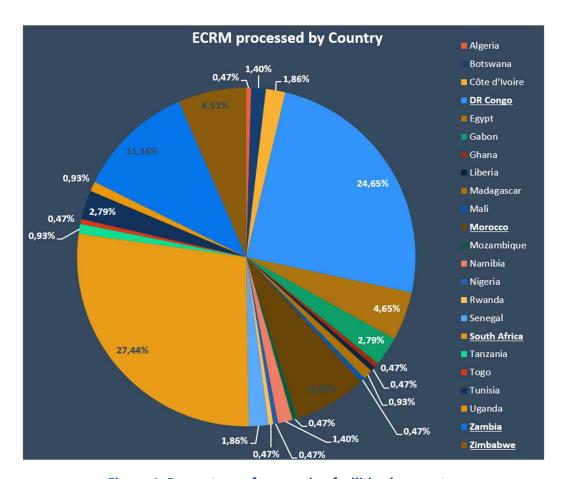


Figure 1. Percentage of processing facilities by country

The types of processing facilities are divided into 4 main types (Fig. 2):

- 6 Concentrators (2.82%),
- 117 Plants (53.99%),
- 45 Refineries (21.13%), and
- 47 Smelters (22.07%).

In general, the main differences between these processing facilities lie in their specific functions and industries of application. A "plant" is a general term for various industrial facilities, while a "smelter" focuses on extracting metals, a "concentrator" enhances the concentration of valuable minerals within raw ore and a "refinery" mostly deals with refining petroleum or chemicals.

However, the term refinery is the location where the concentration of metal/s and purity is increased.

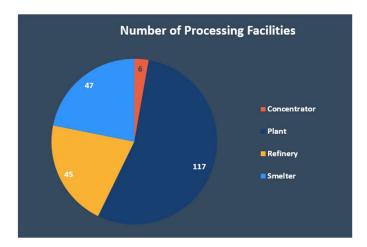


Figure 2. Total number of main types of processing facilities

Of the total elements processed, copper (37.21%), phosphate rock and cobalt (12.56%), manganese (10.70%) and PGM (8.84%) lead the way (Fig. 3).

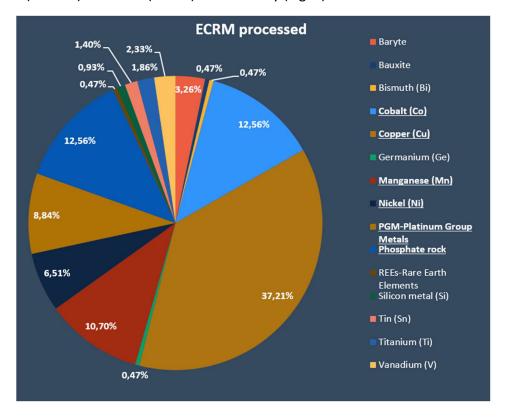


Figure 3. Percentage of ECRM processed in African processing facilities



In terms of processed elements by processing facility Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5 show the variation of processed elements per country obtained within the African countries' dataset. The table is divided into the main processing facilities and the subsequent ECRM processed by country.

Table 2. Processing facility: Plant data

		Count by
Country	ECRM processed	Country
Algeria	Copper (Cu)	1
Côte d'Ivoire	Manganese (Mn)	4
	Cobalt (Co)	11
DR Congo	Copper (Cu)	21
Dit congo	Germanium (Ge)	1
	Tin (Sn)	1
	Baryte	1
Egypt	Copper (Cu)	2
Едурі	Manganese (Mn)	1
	Phosphate rock	6
Gabon	Manganese (Mn)	6
Ghana	Manganese (Mn)	1
Liberia	Baryte	1
Mali	Phosphate rock	1
	Baryte	5
Morocco	Cobalt (Co)	1
	Nickel (Ni)	1
	Phosphate rock	7
Mozambique	Bauxite	1
Nigeria	Copper (Cu)	1
Senegal	Phosphate rock	4
	Cobalt (Co)	1
	Copper (Cu)	1
	Manganese (Mn)	6
South Africa	Phosphate rock	1
	Silicon metal (Si)	2
	Titanium (Ti)	1
	Vanadium (V)	4
Tanzania	Nickel (Ni)	1
Togo	Phosphate rock	1
Tunisia	Phosphate rock	6
Uganda	Cobalt (Co)	1
Zambia	Cobalt (Co)	2



	Copper (Cu)	6
Zimbabwe	Cobalt (Co)	1
	Nickel (Ni)	2
	PGM-Platinum Group Metals	2
	Phosphate rock	1

Table 3. Processing facility: Smelter data

Country	ECRM processed	Count by Country
	Cobalt (Co)	1
Botswana	Copper (Cu)	1
Dotswana	Nickel (Ni)	1
	Cobalt (Co)	1
	Copper (Cu)	9
DR Congo	Tin (Sn)	1
Namibia	Copper (Cu)	1
Rwanda	Tin (Sn)	1
	Copper (Cu)	5
	Manganese (Mn)	2
	Nickel (Ni)	2
	PGM-Platinum Group Metals	8
	Titanium (Ti)	3
South Africa	Vanadium (V)	1
Tanzania	Copper (Cu)	1
	Bismuth (Bi)	1
	Cobalt (Co)	1
Zambia	Copper (Cu)	6
Zimbabwe	PGM-Platinum Group Metals	1

Table 4. Processing facility: Refinery data

Country	ECRM processed	Count by Country
DR Congo	Copper (Cu)	7
	Cobalt (Co)	1
Madagascar	Nickel (Ni)	1
Morocco	Cobalt (Co)	1
	Cobalt (Co)	2
	Copper (Cu)	5
	Manganese (Mn)	3
South Africa	Nickel (Ni)	5



	PGM-Platinum Group Metals	6
Uganda	Cobalt (Co)	1
	Cobalt (Co)	1
Zambia	Copper (Cu)	6
	Cobalt (Co)	1
	Copper (Cu)	3
	Nickel (Ni)	1
	PGM-Platinum Group	
Zimbabwe	Metals	1

Table 5. Processing facility: Concentrator data

Country	ECRM processed	Count by Country
DR Congo	Copper (Cu)	1
Namibia	Copper (Cu)	2
South Africa	REEs-Rare Earth Elements	1
Zambia	Copper (Cu)	1
Zimbabwe	PGM-Platinum Group Metals	1

4 Overview of the final database

4.1 Database view

The final AfricaMaVal Mineral processing facilities geodatabase web service (Fig. 4) will be disseminated via:

- WMS List of Web Map Services (WMS) that allow the visualization of maps dynamically.
 The address made available must be consumed in a GIS application compatible with the integration of WMS services.
- The WMS of the AfricaMaVal Database can be found at the following address:

https://sig.lneg.pt/server/services/Projects/AfricaMaVal/MapServer/WMSServer?



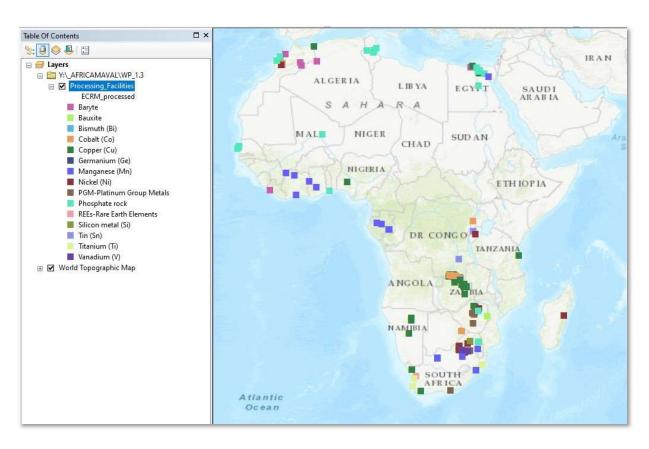


Figure 4. Overview of AfricaMaVal GIS geodatabase showing the Processing Facilities distribution

Conclusions

For ease of management, the AfricaMaVal GIS Mineral processing facilities geodatabase is presented as a WMS that can be easily updated should new data become available.

The distribution of the various processing facilities in Africa are mostly concentrated within the mining and mineral producing countries (e.g., South Africa, DRC, Zambia, Morroccos and Zimbabwe; Fig. 1). New potential mineral extraction projects will benefit from a closer proximity to the processing facilities within each country. Therefore, depending on the geographic proximity and regional metallogeny, the possibilities of using existing industrial units to carry out preliminary pilot tests, enabling the development of new processing projects, will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, the type of processing facility and the mineralurgical and metallurgical processes active in each processing facility needs to be similarly evaluated depending on the type of deposit, main mineralogy, accessory mineralogy, grain size and mineral liberation factors.

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