

# MINING

## REVIEW AFRICA

### MINING IN CENTRAL AFRICA

From exploration start-ups  
to well-established majors

Delivering critical  
**PIPES & PUMPS**  
infrastructure across Africa

**COMMINATION**  
Ground-breaking  
technology changes

**ELB**

**DIVERSITY  
STRATEGY**

kicks into gear

### PERSONALITY P8

“No matter who you are or where you come from you can make a difference, especially as a woman in a male-dominated industry” **Tiguidanke Camara**, chairman and CEO of Tigui Mining Group and Camara Diamond & Gold Trading Network

**EXTRA**

Special Environment &  
Sustainability industry  
report P45





## FRONT COVER

During South Africa's commodity downturn ELB Engineering Services' forward-thinking business strategy has developed to meet the mining industry's evolving needs and now focuses on market adaption, industry diversification and the establishment of new partnerships and technologies

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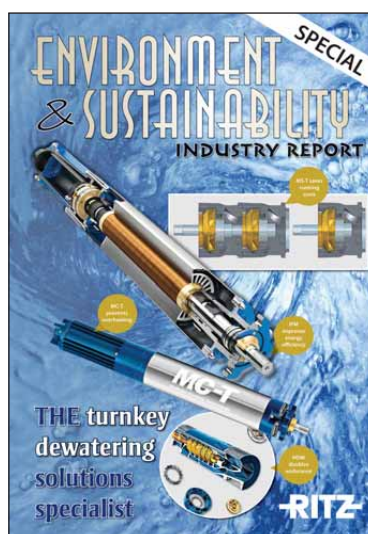


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## ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY | INDUSTRY REPORT



## FRONT COVER

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# YOUR *inspirational* page turner

If I could theme this particular issue of *Mining Review Africa*, I would theme it **'INSPIRATION'**.

**T**his was not my or Chantelle's intention, nor did I realise it until our page plan design for the issue was complete. Nonetheless, the magazine is full of inspirational messages and mining activities that are sure to make you smile or brighten your day.

## An inspirational woman

My personality of the month stands out in particular – Ms Tiguidanke Camara – who not only shared with me her amazing journey since growing up in Guinea, but also uplifted my own spirits after reminding me of my significant role and contribution to the mining industry as a female.

A Guinean native and former international model turned mining entrepreneur, Camara is quickly becoming one of the mining sector's greatest role models, especially for women. Her passion and her story, to positively improve the lives of communities in Africa through her company's mining projects in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa, is inspirational and impressive considering she has no formal mining education.

This is one amazing lady and I encourage you to read her story and share it with your female colleagues. She is proving that women have a role to play in this industry and honestly can make a difference.

## Inspirational explorers

Our mining in Central Africa feature showcases inspiration in a different light but is equally fulfilling to read. Chantelle and I both had the opportunity to talk to two companies who are neither junior nor major – they are explorers – early-stage, Greenfield explorers. It has been ages since I last spoke with a company who isn't frantically trying to raise cash or get its project into construction and development, but is rather spending its time evaluating a prospective area and determining its potential mining value. It is so easy to forget our basic, core mining roots.

Burey Gold and Tekton Minerals are our modern day Vasco da Gamas and Bartolomeu Dias of the mining sector – exploring uncharted territory, intent on making major new discoveries. In fact, both companies appear to have done so already. In many cases, some of the world's largest deposits, owned by some of the world's largest mining companies, were discovered by 'simple' explorers.

**“It has been ages since I last spoke with a company who isn't frantically trying to raise cash or get its project into construction and development, but is rather spending its time evaluating a prospective area and determining its potential mining value”**

Randgold Resources and AngloGold Ashanti's DRC-based, 600 000 ozpa Kibali gold mine was discovered by Burey, as was Tiger Resources' 25 000 tpa Kipoi copper project. With such successful discoveries under its belt, the company believes it is well on track to revealing its next major deposit, also in the DRC. Considering it is located just 30 km from Kibali, it is likely that Giro could be the 'next big' gold mine in the country.



Taking time to remember the past at the Kimberley big hole, claimed to be the largest hole excavated by hand. Laura Cornish, Editor, **Mining Review Africa**

Tekton Minerals has ventured further north into Chad. Like me, you may ask yourself what lucrative deposits are lying dormant in a country which doesn't really feature on Africa's mining radar. A number of high grade gold deposits is the answer. Drilling to date has revealed gold veins ranging in grade from 15 g/t to nearly 20 g/t, along with a significant tailings resource which could see the company quickly enter a cash-generating phase with a small processing plant. This is definitely a company worth keeping an eye on.

## Inspirational commitment to sustainability

It is not hard to find inspiration when writing about community upliftment, the environment and their sustainability – from a mining perspective.

The mining sector has a 'bad rap' when it comes to the environment. It carries more than a century of bad legacy issues in South Africa and somehow, no matter what preventative actions or contributions towards sustainability initiatives our mines take, it isn't enough.

In spite of this, I am inspired by their commitment to change and their devotion to environmental protection. It is no easy task either – mines must work with local governments together to provide the best for their people and their natural landscapes. The challenges in doing so are obvious. Meeting the needs and desires of multiple stakeholders with different agendas seems almost impossible yet it has been done and can be done and there are fantastic examples to prove it.

At the end of the day it's the effort and unwavering dedication that counts, in my opinion. As long as our mines are trying they are on the road to success. Let's not forget the hundreds of new schools, hospitals/clinics, infrastructure, etc. that Africa has to show for a mine's presence.

The DRC's Tenke Fungurume copper mine is a prime example. The billions and billions of dollars the operation (through its owners Freeport-McMoRan and Lundin Mining) is spending on community and environment projects is overwhelming and admirable.

Before I go, our pipes and pumps and comminution features are not to be missed. Technologies and innovation continue to take centre stage in these two mining fields and staying abreast of interesting and exciting developments is always inspirational.

*Laura Cornish*



# TIGUIDANKE CAMARA

# Inspiring Africa's *up and coming* mining women

**TIGUIDANKE CAMARA**, a Guinean native and former international model turned mining entrepreneur, is quickly becoming one of the mining sector's greatest role models, especially for women. Her passion and her story, to positively improve the lives of communities in Africa through her company's mining projects in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa, is inspirational and impressive considering she has no formal mining education, writes **LAURA CORNISH**.



**A**lthough Camara first pursued a career in modelling in the United States in her teenage years, her heritage and connection with Guinea and its mining sector ultimately saw her return to her industry, "intent on changing the landscape of the mining field, as a woman, and broadening the sector further".

Today, she is the chairman and CEO of mining companies Tigui Mining Group (TMG) and gold and diamond exploration business Camara Diamond & Gold Trading Network (CDGTN), founded respectively in 2012 and 2009. Having just turned 40, she is also one of the youngest women mining executives and one of the few women mine owners in Africa.

Through TMG, the holding company, Camara is also pursuing a gold exploration project in partnership with a local cooperative in Odienné in Côte d'Ivoire.

Camara started modeling as a teen, rose to fame in the United States as a model in the 90s and later became a fashion entrepreneur before switching to mining

## Reconnecting with her roots

"I have always been interested in mining. I was born and raised in Guinea and knew from an early age what mining was and its contribution towards the country. In my country, it represents approximately 90% of total exports and I firmly believe that the exploitation of mineral resources is one of the key drivers for the economic development of Africa," Camara shares.

During her modelling and fashion industry years, Camara developed and retained a close relationship with numerous diamond and gem

jewellers. "I realised my aspiration to reconnect with the mining sector through those relationships," she reveals.

CDGTN was born shortly afterwards, registered in the United States and then in Guinea in 2009. TMG was incorporated in December 2012. Through partnerships and alliances, its strategic purpose is to acquire and developing natural resources that have economic value and potential for future growth.

## Learning the ropes and making a difference

"Recognising that I did not have enough mining-related knowledge, I

surrounded myself with knowledgeable people, including a very experienced local geologist, who have guided me to make the right decisions regarding my licence acquisitions, protocol and plans of action. My own commodity research assisted my decision-making and choices as well," Camara reveals. "Coming from a fashion background, I had to acquire mining industry-specific knowledge to negotiate and progress in the sector."

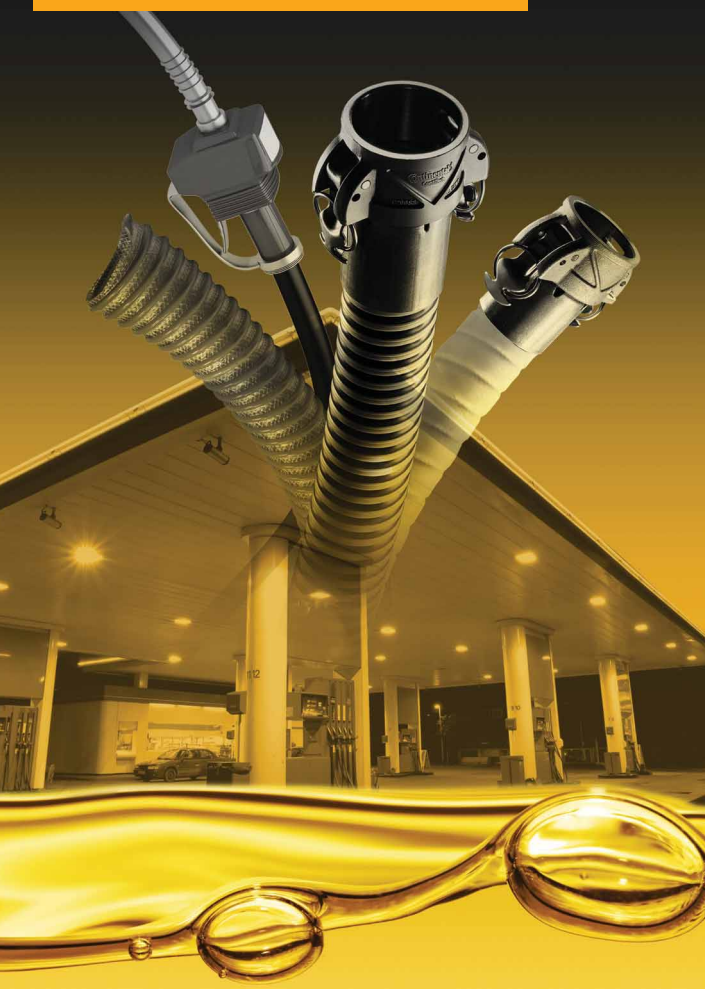
Having grown up in Guinea, Camara has used this to her advantage, leveraging her relationships with local communities, governments, and investors to promote sustainable business ventures as well as encourage a new generation of women in the mining industry.

"Our goal is to become a natural resources conglomerate with heavy mineral production. As an African woman-owned mining company, we want to be a key player in the industry – similar to any major multinational company. Our main focus is on expanding in West Africa but also to develop anywhere in the world where mining offers a positive influence and impact on people's lives."



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Tiguidanke Camara's age when she acquired 28% of shares in a mining joint venture



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**ContiTech**



Camara at the TMG mining assets with a member of her team in Guinea in 2013

### Developing significant gold and diamond projects in Guinea

TMG owns three diamond and associated mineral exploration licences totalling 280 km<sup>2</sup> in the region of Kerouane-Macenta.

It also owns an additional five semi-industrial gold and associated mineral exploitation permits across 76 km<sup>2</sup> of the Birimian Belt in Siguiri, northeast Guinea, including the Siguiri gold project. "These are highly prospective areas and rich in minerals," Camara affirms. Her company has also secured funding for the Siguiri project.

**“Recognising that I did not have enough mining-related knowledge, I surrounded myself with knowledgeable people, including a very experienced local geologist, who have guided me to make the right decisions”** Tiguidanke Camara

CDGTN has been actively exploring the gold region post the completion of a desk top technical review but not at present. "All activity is on hold because of the Ebola crisis. Our assets are located in the forests – areas which have been heavily exposed to the virus. The situation has however largely settled and we expect to be back on the ground by the end of 2015."

This has not put a stop to Camara's mining movements. Not only is she working on social aspects of the Siguiri project but she has also been evaluating projects in Côte d'Ivoire which she started in 2014.



Camara during TMG's company presentation at the Mining Indaba Investment Discovery Forum in 2014



### Economic empowerment for women

Camara is intensively driven by her desire to uplift local communities – particularly the women. “We are introducing and implementing our Agro-Mine programme, which will be used to develop sustainable agriculture opportunities for women within our areas of exploitation.”

The programme aims to assist women in marketing and diversifying their production to generate more income. “We have also strategically partnered with agricultural companies to offer training in food security, food hygiene and income generation. The goal is for them to achieve financial independence.”

### Being a woman in a man’s world – in Africa

Women still face discrimination in the mining industry but according to Camara, it is less severe. “I see a new trend developing as women become more organized in the field. Through associations, we are doing a lot to empower our gender. This is the reason why I am a member of Women in Mining International (WIM) and the co-founder of the branch in Guinea, WIM Guinea.”

She insists on the importance of the individual effort and a self-starting attitude to



Camara at the TMG mining assets with her team in Guinea in 2013

succeed. “The reason you will get this job is not because you are a woman but because you have the skills and the expertise. With knowledge and professionalism, as a woman you can get into any industry.”

Camara has faced challenges since starting her mining businesses, but being a woman isn’t one of them. “There are factors beyond your control that make it difficult to establish a mining company

in Africa. I started my companies at the height of the 2008 economic crisis, making fund raising extremely difficult. Moreover, Guinea was undergoing a political transition, from a coup to a legitimately elected government. The economic climate was very unstable but despite all this, my journey has been successful and this success will continue to grow,” she concludes. **MRA**

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