

# Kibali Gold Mine

GROWING WITH THE DRC





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RESEARCH BY JOSEPH PHILIPS



**T**he Kibali goldmine in the Haut-Uélé province of the northeast Democratic Republic of Congo is no ordinary mine. With 812,152 ounces produced in 2021, the combined open pit and underground gold mine is officially the sixth biggest in the world. Now into its

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13th year, the gold mine is still considered to have an enormous upside: In addition to an exploration prospect pipeline that continues to expand, its business plan seems set to continue for at least another 10 years. Business Excellence decided to take a closer look.

**No Ordinary Mine**

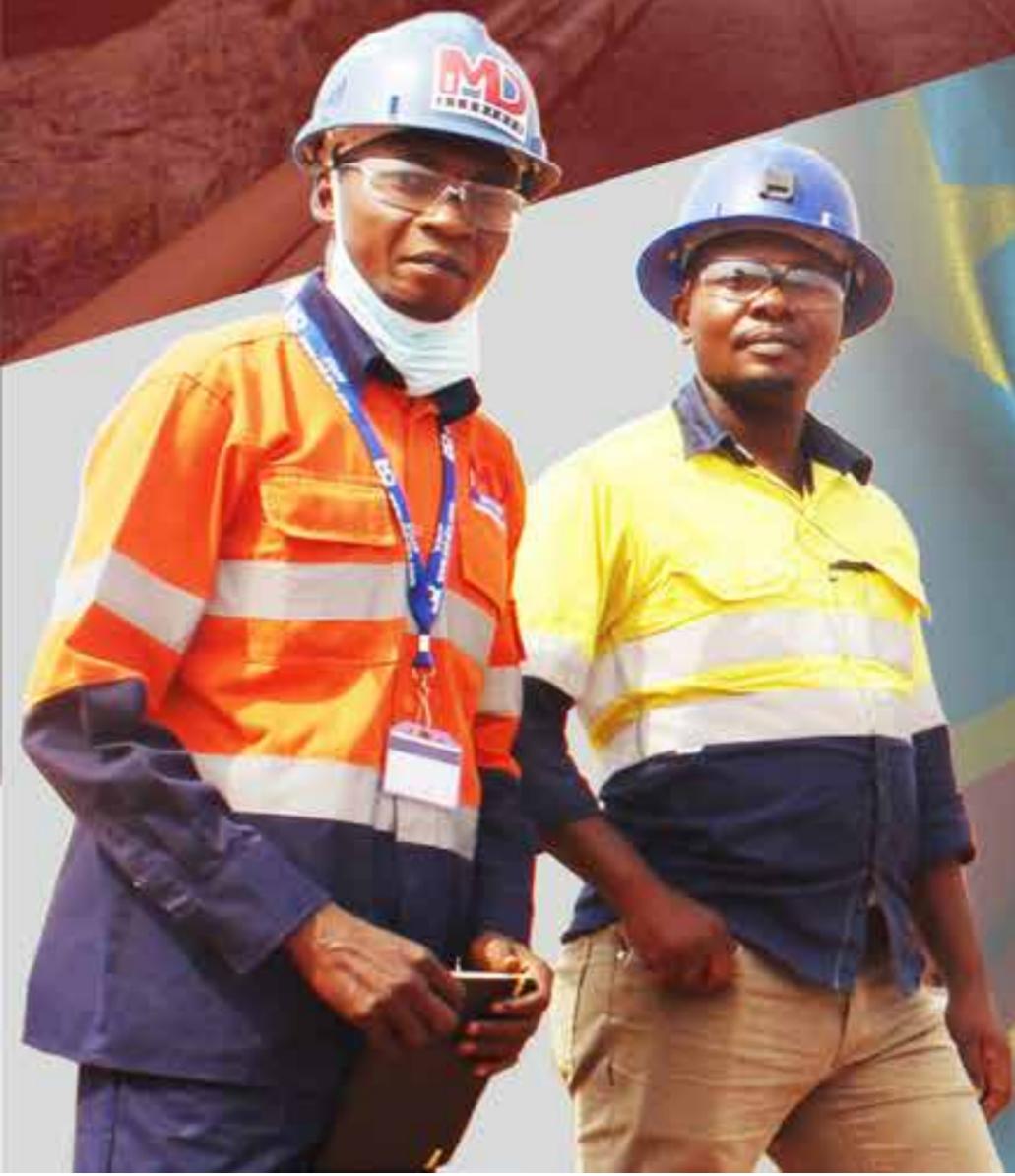
Situated adjacent to the town of Doko and 210 kilometres from Arua near the DRC's

**Barrick Gold estimates that the mine has been directly responsible for in-country investment in excess of \$4.2 billion**

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oil and gas logistics and other sectors ...

MD SERVICES (Sarl), is a 100% Congolese company, registered under the laws of the Democratic Republic of Congo and operating in the field of Local and Expatriate Personnel Outsourcing and all associated labour broking services.



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## MD SERVICES SARL

MD SERVICES SARL, IS A 100% CONGOLESE COMPANY, REGISTERED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AS A LABOUR BROKING SERVICES PROVIDER IN THE MINING, CEMENT, CONSTRUCTION, GAS, LOGISTICS AND HYDROCARBON SECTORS.

▶ MD SERVICES Sarl is therefore specialized in:

- Recruitment, placement and management of local and expatriate staff;
- Immigration outsourcing services and other relevant documents for expatriates;
- Supply of Personal Protective Equipment "PPE";
- Any other services relating to personnel management.

MD SERVICES Sarl has established itself as a major player, for many companies operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo especially in the mining, cement, construction, gas, logistics and hydrocarbon sectors (upstream and downstream). With its range of clients, the company has developed a real relationship



and lasting trust.

By way of illustration, MD SERVICES Sarl successfully supports major mining projects in the DRC, carried out by the large world-renowned firms such as the KIBALI GOLD MINE Project, one of the branch of the multinational BARRICK GOLD as well as TENKE FUNGURUME MINING project (TFM), the IVANHOE MINES project (Kamoa Project), and so on.

MD SERVICES Sarl also continue to assist big companies like BOART LONGYEAR, OREZONE DRILLING and many others in their drilling work at all stages of mining projects as well as in other services related to mining activities.

For this year, MD SERVICES Sarl has set the following main objectives:

Attract and support the maximum possible number of investors in the DRC in general and in particular, those working in the mining sector, the reason for its attendance to multiple international conferences;

Expand its activities in other countries of the continent such as UGANDA, SOUTH AFRICA, MAURITIUS and the big island of MADAGASCAR to get open up to the world.

It is for such a reason that MD SERVICES Sarl, on the side-lines of the "Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, PDAC 2020", an international mining conference that brings together all the major economic operators and decision-makers in this sector, has organized on the 4th of March 2020 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Toronto, a business meeting which gathered several mining operators of the



world not only in a purpose to connect them to different business opportunities in The DRC, but to reassure them also about a better support in Human Resources Management.

Through this occasion and for the first time in this context and for the prouddness of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Didi MUDOGO, a Congolese operator and the Managing Director of MD SERVICES Sarl, has taken the initiative to raise the country's Flag very high by organizing a business lunch in order to discuss the available opportunities offered by the DRC, a country with a highly mining vocation. During that lunch meeting, several DRC officials and experts spoke on the subject, as well as BARRICK CEO, Dr. Mark BRISTOW, who emphasized the importance for multinationals to work with local entrepreneurs not only for their emergence, but also because no project can establish itself and prosper effectively in the host countries without the involvement of local entrepreneurs.

The vision that MD SERVICES Sarl sets itself is to bring together as much as possible all the major investors of the world and thus

attract them more to come and invest their capital in The DRC in order to create more business opportunities for local entrepreneurs, the availability of employment for the Congolese people in order to contribute to the emergence of the DRC.

After Mining Indaba 2023 in Cape Town in South Africa, MD SERVICES Sarl is inviting you to Canada for DRC business breakfast that will take place at PDAC 2023 with a purpose to gathering mining operators, investors and companies from the different corners of the world.

Venue: FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK HOTEL IN TORONTO;  
Date: Tuesday 7th March 2023  
Time: 7h30 to 9h30

You will discover what the Democratic Republic of the Congo can offer to the attendees as business opportunities.

RSVP:  
Email: [info@md-drc.com](mailto:info@md-drc.com), [victoria@bawnmarketing.com](mailto:victoria@bawnmarketing.com)  
to secure your attendance





# INNOVATING FOR PERFORMANCE



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Normet can provide a range of battery electric underground equipment solutions including charging, lifting & installation, spraying and logistics.

The SmartDrive product family provides high productivity with decreased operating costs. For more information or to contact your local representative, please visit [www.normet.com](http://www.normet.com)

- Zero local emissions  
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- More speed & higher performance
- Increased safety  
Less noise
- Improved energy efficiency  
Lower operating expenses

border with Uganda, Kibali is co-owned by AngloGold Ashanti (45%), Barrick Gold Corporation (45%), and Société Minière de Kilo-Moto (SOKIMO) (10%), a state-owned gold mining company. To date, Barrick Gold estimates that the mine has been directly responsible for in-country investment in excess of \$4.2 billion. And with policy that encourages local participation at levels as well as its continuous investment in region that figure should more than double in the next 10 years.

This extension of the mine's life begins with the addition of the 11,000 Lode to the underground operations. The discovery of this Lode at the beginning of 2022, is located above the base of the existing shaft infrastructure. Now almost a year into its life, it continues to deliver positive results, unlocking additional value for the main, and remains open down plunge. It is indicative of the success of the ongoing exploration work being conducted by the mine's owners.

This ongoing exploration work is happening across several fronts. Drilling is currently underway at the Mengu Hill, Agbarabo, Rhino, Zambula, and Makoro targets, all of which are showing potential as additional underground and open pit satellites. However, it would be amiss to only report on the size and scale of the Kibali mine. Equally as important, are the industry-setting standards being set by the operations.

### Operational Excellence

The considerable energy required to power Kibali is sourced from its three state-of-the-art hydropower stations, supported by new backup battery technology. This is one of the contributing factors to the mine's 14001 environmental accreditations, another of which is its development of a new pump system, which was installed with the specific aim of reducing the mine's freshwater consumption.





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The management team at Kibali also announced at the end of 2021 that its long-held plans to build a cyanide destruction plant were now underway. The work, which will reduce cyanide concentration in Kibali’s dams and improve its plant recoveries, is expected to help Barrick and its partners in Kibali to achieve International Cyanide Management Institute (ICMI) accreditation when delivered a little over a year from now.

**Socioeconomic Impact**

Figures from the World Bank show that 2022 will mark the 20th successive year of positive economic growth for the DRC - a remarkable statistic, given that this period

**Did you know?**

Barrick estimates that the mine has been responsible for around \$4.2 billion in direct investments in the country over its lifetime

took in the global financial crisis, which saw a steep downturn in mineral prices and overall economic output, and the Covid-19 pandemic (more of which later). Indeed, when Barrick Gold acquired Kibali in 2009, the DRC’s GDP was US\$18.6 billion. In 2021, the figure was \$53.96 billion.

These figures show, thankfully, Kibali is just part of a much bigger success story. But it is an important one. Barrick estimates that the mine has been responsible for around \$4.2 billion in direct investments in the country over its lifetime. The mine invests in everything from exploration to road projects, staff development, equipment replacement, and of course, a series of environmental and social projects.

On the socioeconomic side, however, Kibali’s impact can particularly be seen in the DRC’s previously undeveloped northeast - now a genuine hub of economic activity. Here, Kibali has been highly active in partnering with and mentoring local entrepreneurs, enhancing local communities, and upgrading essential infrastructure. Hiring and training at all levels of the organization from local villages has also been hugely impactful: 94% of Kibali’s workforce, including its management, are Congolese nationals.

It is now also driving the employment of women in the traditionally male-dominated mining industry through targeted recruitment campaigns and development programs designed to equip them for rewarding careers at all levels of the organisation.

**The Covid-19 Response**

The team behind Kibali was also not slow about responding to the threat of Covid-19 as the pandemic reached the DRC. As well as outlining a detailed support program for the country, Barrick announced a \$1.5 million financial commitment to counter the pandemic and its effects. The government recognized that Barrick was the first of any large company in the country to make a substantial financial commitment to countering Covid.

Barrick’s contribution was extremely valuable: As a company that already has extensive experience in dealing with ebola, it maintains a dedicated workforce of health workers and doctors to administer treatment, materials, and advice. The \$1.5 million commitment was also above

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and beyond the investment in critical equipment, totaling about \$1.4 million, already made by Barrick at an earlier stage of the pandemic.

**Strategic Supply Chain Partners**

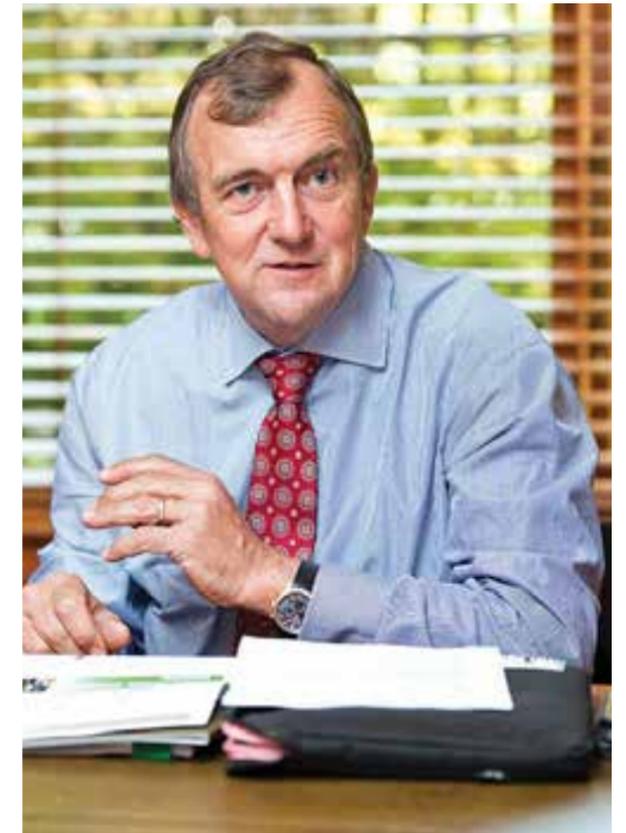
With three of the world's top 10 mines in its portfolio, Barrick is a name that easily attracts high-caliber supply chain partners. Examples of these include heavy equipment and machinery industry giant Caterpillar, which collaborated with Tractafric - a Moroccan company - to install 7.5 MW of battery energy storage at Kibali. Elsewhere, many of Barrick's partners on the ground in Kibali are a who's who of African mining and drilling companies. These include Amazon Drilling DRC, a drilling specialist and earthworks contractor, Redrilza Drilling Services, SGS Minerals RDC, a local branch of the international mining firm, a Zambian drilling company, Epoch Resources (Pty) Ltd, a

South African engineering consultant, and Inter Oriental Builders (IOB), a civil engineering company.

On the technology side, MineARC Systems is responsible for controlled technology and safety at the mine and its operations; American Mine Door developed the considerable mine doors at the plant, and ORICA, did some dedicated work on the mine's infrastructure. Transport and logistics are provided by Tradecorp Logistics and Bollore Transport & Logistics DRC. Finally, Barrick has developed a strong partnership with the local staff recruitment firm, MD Services SARL.

**Environmental impact**

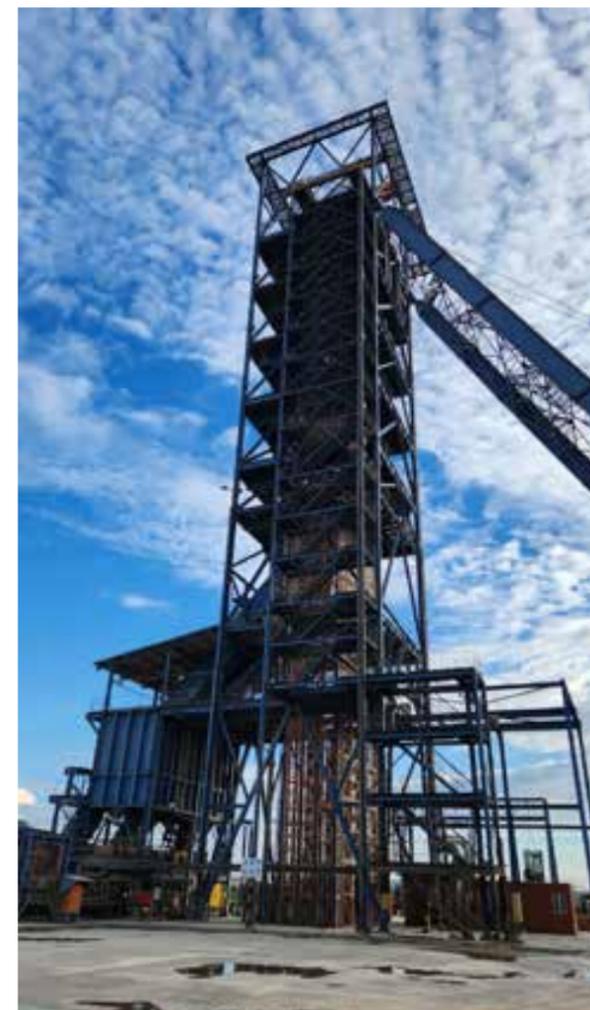
Kibali is not only Africa's largest gold mine, but also a global leader in sustainability initiatives, biodiversity programmes, and clean energy, according to Barrick





president and CEO Mark Bristow. Barrick also continues to invest in Africa's biodiversity by reintroducing 76 white rhinos to the Garamba National Park, a critical step in the long-term plan to protect this endangered species. This investment has also resulted in an increase in the park's giraffe population.

Local sustainability projects include the development of a world-class aquaponics farm and the establishment of a vocational and technical training centre to promote community capacity building. Following the government's approval, the implementation of the cahier des charges mechanism has begun. This will be in



addition to the mine's current commitment to invest 0.3% of revenue in community projects identified through consultation with the mine's community development committees.

Kibali also continued to lead the group's clean energy drive, concentrating on power from three continuously upgraded hydropower stations and new backup battery technology.

### Outlook

Barrick may have created a blueprint for other mining companies entering Africa to work from: International expertise,



local upskilling, government cooperation, and world-class technology. With the progressive Congolese government on its side and a prosperous partnership in place with AngloGold Ashanti, it seems like the sky is the limit for what Barrick and the operations at Kibali can achieve.

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