

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



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President of the Republic of Liberia

NATIONAL INVESTMENT PROJECT

LIBERIA GOLD REFINERY

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National Investment Project of Liberia

USD 2.5 Billion | 50-100 tonnes/year | ~1,000 jobs

Promoter: Invest Africa Connect
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Problem Statement

Massive export of raw gold, informal artisanal mining, fiscal losses, environmental damage and social conflicts.

Proposed Solution

Creation of the Liberia Gold Refinery (LGR): a national refinery with a capacity of 50 to 100 tonnes/year, LBMA certified (99.99% purity).

Strategic Objectives

- Sovereignty over gold resources
- Creation of ~1,000 direct jobs
- Retention of added value at national level
- International traceability and certification

KEY FIGURES

USD 2.5 Bn
Total Investment

50-100 T/year
Refining Capacity

18-28%
Internal Rate of Return

36 months
Implementation Timeline

INVEST AFRICA CONNECT

Platform connecting international investors
and African entrepreneurs

MISSION

Facilitate access to financing for African businesses and offer investors reliable and profitable opportunities.

SERVICES

- Project marketplace
- Investment platform
- Economic analysis
- Networking events

EXPERTISE

- Energy & infrastructure
- Digital transformation
- Cybersecurity
- Pan-African projects

MINING SECTOR CONTEXT

The mining sector represents 17% of Liberian GDP with USD 1.16 Bn in exports in 2023

GOLD PRODUCTION

- Major projects: Dugbe, Ndablama, Weaju
- Significant artisanal production
- Largely untapped potential
- Near-total export of raw gold

INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

- Mandatory local refining
- New environmental laws
- Formalization of artisanal sector
- Modernized regulatory framework

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Massive illegal exports
- Environmental damage
- Social conflicts
- Significant fiscal losses

JUSTIFICATION AND NATIONAL INTEREST

Why Liberia must invest in local refining of its gold

VALUE ADDITION

Local transformation of raw gold to capture added value instead of exporting unprocessed raw material

EMPLOYMENT

Creation of ~1,000 direct jobs and thousands of indirect jobs in the gold value chain

SOVEREIGNTY

National control over strategic resources and significant increase in fiscal revenues

INTEGRATION

Positioning Liberia as a regional refining hub in West Africa (ECOWAS)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Liberia Gold Refinery (LGR)

Capacity: 50 to 100 tonnes/year

Location: Special Economic Zone or Port of Monrovia

Target Certification: LBMA (99.99% purity)

Processes: Wohlwill (electrolysis) and Miller (chlorination)

Model: Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Maximize local value
2. Increase fiscal revenues
3. Formalize artisanal mining
4. Certify Liberian gold (LBMA)
5. Enforce environmental standards
6. Eliminate mercury use

MARKET STUDY & POSITIONING

OPPORTUNITIES

- Rising global gold demand
- Favorable government reforms
- No refinery in West Africa
- ECOWAS regional hub potential

COMPETITION

- Ghana (existing refineries)
- Guinea and Mali (ongoing projects)
- LGR advantage: PPP + traceability
- Unique ethical positioning

KEY PARTNERS

- Ministry of Mines and Energy
- National Investment Commission
- LEITI (transparency)
- Local artisanal cooperatives

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY

REFINING PROCESSES

- Wohlwill (electrolysis): 99.99% purity
- Miller (chlorination): 99.5% purity
- Assay laboratory and certification
- Advanced security systems

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Secure industrial building
- Analysis laboratory
- Water treatment systems
- Stable energy supply

HUMAN CAPITAL

- Metallurgical engineers
- Laboratory technicians
- Security personnel
- Continuous training programs

IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

- Energy supply stability
- Strict environmental management
- Skilled workforce training
- Required technology transfer

FINANCIAL STUDY & PROFITABILITY

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

Total Investment: USD 2.5 billion (CAPEX + OPEX)

Revenue Sources:

- Refining fees (1.5-2.5% margin)
- By-products (silver, copper)
- Assay and certification services
- Trading margins

Taxation: 25% corporate tax

PROFITABILITY INDICATORS

IRR: 18 to 28%

NPV: Positive over 15-20 years

Break-even: Year 4

Assumptions:

- Initial capacity: 10 tonnes/year
- Gold price: USD 2,200/oz
- Progressive ramp-up

FINANCING MODEL

BOOT MODEL

Build-Own-Operate-Transfer

- Construction by private partner
- Operation for 15-20 years
- Progressive transfer to the State
- MIGA guarantees against political risks

Concession: 15 to 20 years before transfer

CAPITAL STRUCTURE

Capital Distribution:

- 60-70%: Private investors
- 20-30%: Liberian State
- 10%: Local cooperatives

Financing:

- 60-70%: Debt (AfDB, IFC)
- 30-40%: Equity

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PHASE 1

Feasibility studies
Legal structuring
PPP tender

PHASE 2

Artisanal sector
formalization
Regulatory
framework
Stakeholder
training

PHASE 3

Engineering and
construction
Technology
partnerships
Equipment installation

PHASE 4

Commissioning
LBMA certification
Production ramp-
up

RISK MANAGEMENT

SUPPLY & FINANCIAL

- Illicit trade and smuggling
- Volume guarantees
- Gold price volatility

Mitigation: strengthened legal framework, long-term purchase agreements

TECHNICAL & CERTIFICATION

- LBMA compliance
- Technology mastery
- Equipment maintenance

Mitigation: technical partnerships, continuous training, audits

ENVIRONMENTAL & HEALTH

- Effluent pollution
- Toxic waste management
- Worker health and safety

Mitigation: ISO standards, waste treatment, PPE

SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE

- Community inclusion
- Transparency (EITI)
- Political risks

Mitigation: social dialogue, MIGA guarantees, reporting

CONTACT

INVEST AFRICA CONNECT

LYNX AFRICA COMPAGNY

Project led by Invest Africa Connect & Lynx Africa Compagny