# THE CULTURAL ADVENTURES OF SIERRA LEONE, MINING, AND BEYOND

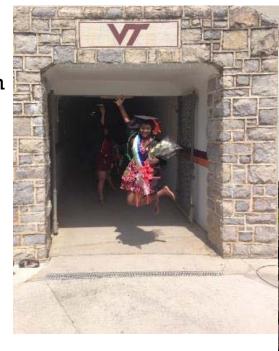
BY:

RUBY B. JOHNSON
MINING ENGINEER
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE



# **BIOGRAPHY**

- Born in Freetown, Sierra Leone
  - Came to United States at age 12
- Middle and High School education in Maryland, USA
- BSc. in Mining Engineering from Virginia Tech
  - Minor in Women's Studies Leadership
- Miss Sierra Leone USA 2012
- Miss Earth Maryland 2015





#### MISS EARTH MARYLAND 2015

- Personal Platform
  - Bridging The Gap: Miners and Environmentalists Must Work Together for Mother Earth!
- Fox 45 Morning News <a href="http://foxbaltimore.com/morning/miss-earth-maryland-2015">http://foxbaltimore.com/morning/miss-earth-maryland-2015</a>

 Winner of "Beauties for a Cause" award at national Miss Earth USA 2015 pageant

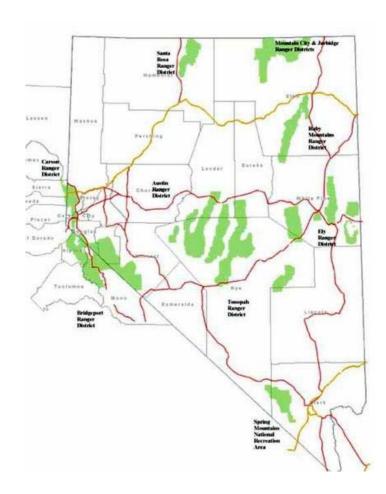




# USDA FOREST SERVICE

- Caring for the Land and Serving People
- Hired under USFS recent graduate program
- Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
  - Largest national forest in the lower 48 states with 6.3 million acres
  - Duty station: Elko, Nevada





### MINERALS AND GEOLOGY MANAGEMENT

- Manages energy and mineral resources into development, production, and reclamation
- Categories of minerals
  - Locatable: gold, silver, barite
  - Leasable: oil, gas, coal, geothermal
  - Mineral materials/salable: sand, gravel
- Abandoned mine lands
  - In 1995, USFS using Bureau of Mines data determined 38,991 total abandoned mine sites
  - 34%: arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc
  - Human and environmental impacts
- Cave and karst resources
  - Over 2,200 caves on NFS lands
  - Protect and maintain biologic, geologic, mineralogical, paleontological, hydrologic, cultural, educational, scientific, and recreational values
- Groundwater
  - Responsibility to water resource on National Forests and Grasslands
  - Sustaining groundwater-dependent ecosystems to support biodiversity



# **PROJECTS**

- Revegetation bond release for Jerritt Canyon mine, the largest gold mine in the U.S. on National Forest Service lands
- Big Springs gold mine
- Halliburton's Ann Barite mine
- Experience with locatable minerals, leasable minerals, and minerals materials
- Bond reviews for exploration projects and large mines in Nevada and Idaho

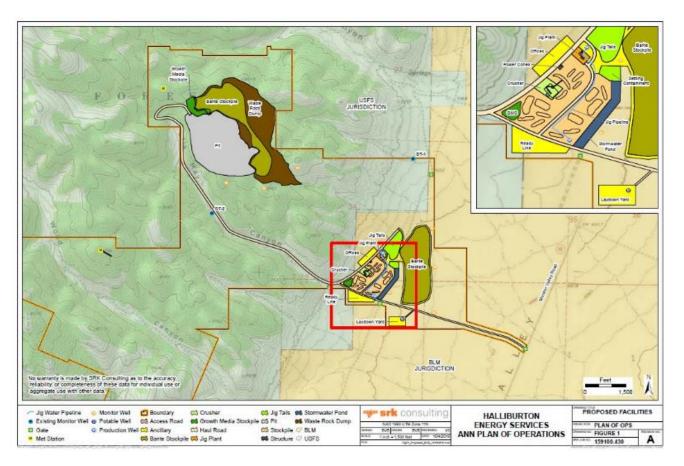


# JERRITT CANYON GOLD MINE: SSX-STEER MINE AND EXPLORATION ROADS RECLAMATION





# HALLIBURTON'S ANN BARITE MINE





#### SIERRA LEONE

- Democratic nation in West Africa
- Capital City: Freetown
- Situated on the Man Craton of the Southern West African Shield
- The Archean granitic shield contains elements of early sedimentary and mafic formations and a group of supracrustal greenstone belts with banded ironstone and detrital sediments
- Top 10 diamond-producing nation
- Other minerals
  - World's largest deposits of rutile
  - Bauxite, iron ore, gold
- Annual diamond production: \$250 million-\$300 million
- Kono District, Eastern Province
  - Koidu Town is the 4th largest city; ~275 miles from Freetown
  - Recent discovery of 706-carat diamond in Kono District







# MISS SIERRA LEONE USA 2012









# CROWN FOR A CAUSE

- Personal Platform
  - Advocate for recruitment and retention of girls/women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields in Sierra Leone and United States
- Blogging











#### KOIDU LIMITED

- Formerly Koidu Holdings S.A.
- Diamond mining project
  - Hard rock kimberlite operations
- Privately owned by BSG Resources Limited (BSGR) through its subsidiary OCTÉA Limited.
- 2 projects: Koidu Kimberlite Project (KKP) and Tonguma (Tongo) Project
  - Kimberlite clusters of pipes and dyke zones
- 25-year mining lease signed in 1995
  - 1,211 acres
  - 2 small kimberlite pipes
    - No. 1 Pipe ("K1"); No. 2 Pipe ("K2")
  - 4 kimberlite dyke zones
    - 4 small blows were discovered



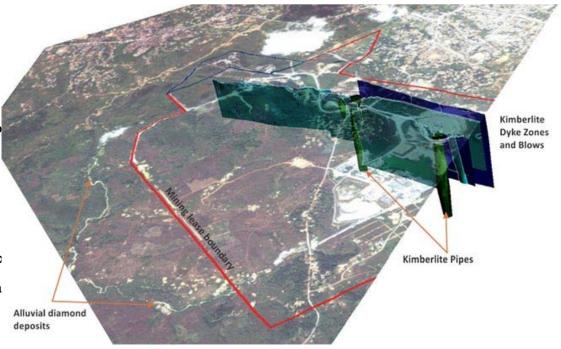






#### WHAT IS KIMBERLITE?

- Type of igneous rock that sometimes contains diamond
- Named after the town of Kimberley in South Africa
  - Kimberlite was first recognized in the late 1800s as a primary source of diamond
- Relatively rare and occur in continental areas as small intrusions (dykes, sills and plugs) and as volcanic pipes
- Range in age from about 45 million to in excess of 2 billio years
- Depending on its mode of formation, kimberlites can be highly variable in appearance and mineral content
- Usually dark rocks that contain high concentrations of olivine and an unusual suite of minerals that are very important for their exploration and evaluation
- Commonly, diamonds are liberated from their original ho rock and dispersed within the kimberlite
  - Sometimes occurs as inclusions contained within fragmen of mantle rocks in the kimberlite



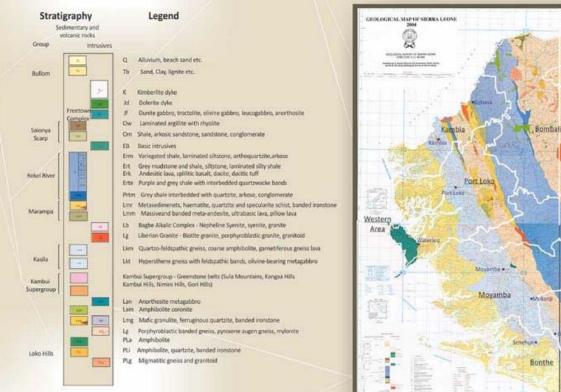


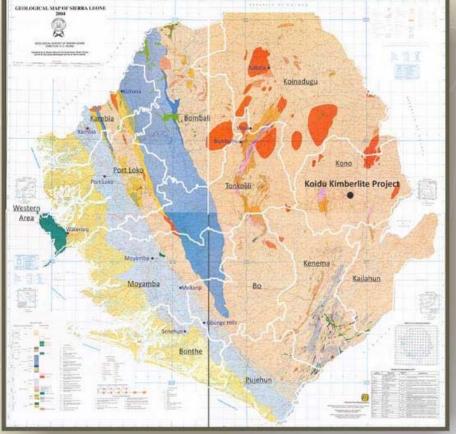




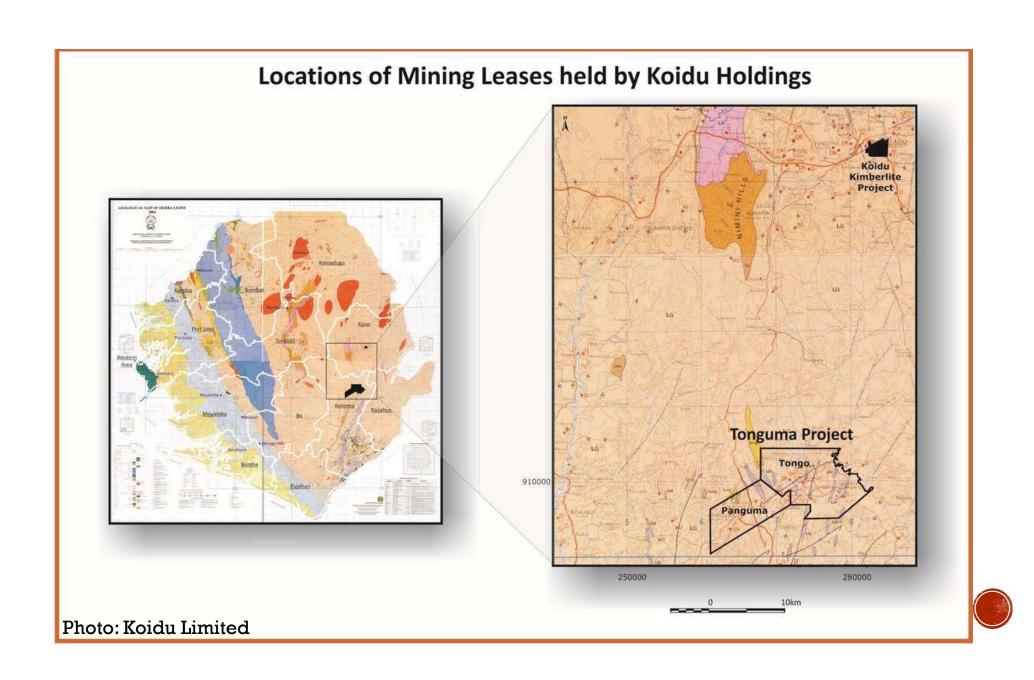
#### Geological Map of Sierra Leone Showing the location of the Koidu Kimberlite Project











#### KOIDU LIMITED

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment ("ESIA") completed by Digby Wells
  - Identified certain areas that would be affected by the relatively small-scale operation envisaged at the time
  - Over the 7 years following the completion of the initial ESIA and commencement of the resettlement program, the mine experienced various difficulties in managing the impacts of the operation on these communities
  - Compounded by the need to accommodate a national road that passes between the 2 kimberlite pipes, while at the same time maintaining security, access control and a safe working environment in line with international norms for the diamond industry
- EIA License issued by the Environment Protection Department prior to commencement of operations in 2003.







### THE INTERNSHIP

- 8-hour work day
- Mine planning and development meetings
- Worked in various departments
  - Surveying
  - Drilling and blasting (conducted blasts twice a week)
  - Load/haul
  - Dewatering
  - Community development
- Safety practices







# THE INTERNSHIP

- 983 permanent employees
  - 91.4% are Sierra Leoneans
- Worked with several expatriate employees
- First woman to work in the mine on the site
- Poor road conditions











# IN THE COMMUNITY

- Clinic visits
- Engaging with the Community
- Community leaders















# IN THE COMMUNITY

- The People of Kono
- Food and Lifestyle
- Culture and Pastimes











#### **QUESTIONS???**

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