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| U.S. | EUROPE | ASIA |
|----------|----------|--------------|
| STOXX 50 | 2,011.26 | +16.25 0.81% |
| FTSE 100 | 5,157.65 | +28.03 0.55% |
| DAX | 5,135.46 | +63.13 1.24% |



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| Gold | 1,825.80 | +0.69% | EUR : USD | 1.3615 | -0.4701% | Nasdaq | 2,495.09 | +1.10% | Dow | 11,061.10 | +0.63% | S&P 500 | 1,162.27 | +0.70% | FTSE 100 | 5,157.65 | +0.55% |
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Rio Tinto's Murowa Eclipsed by Mbada as Zimbabwe's Biggest Diamond Miner

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By Godfrey Marwanyika and Brian Latham - Sep 12, 2011 1:10 PM GMT+0300

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Rio Tinto Plc (RIO)'s Murowa diamond mine has been eclipsed as Zimbabwe's largest gem producer by Mbada Mines (Pvt) Ltd. after the closely held miner increased output, according to its chairman, Robert Mhlanga.

Mbada, based in the capital, Harare, is producing more than 150,000 carats a month from its operations at the Marange diamond fields in eastern Zimbabwe, he said in an interview in the city on Sept. 7. That compares with 250,000 carats a year at Murowa, according to the company's [website](#).

"Our vision is to be the leading gem producer globally," Mhlanga said. [De Beers](#), which vies with [Russia's](#) Alrosa as the world's largest diamond miner, aims to produce to about 35 million carats this year, the company, a unit of Anglo American Plc, said on July 26. A carat is a fifth of a gram.

Mbada is one of four companies mining diamonds at Marange, where [Human Rights Watch](#) has accused Zimbabwean authorities of killing local villagers and illegal miners. In 2008, more than 200 people were killed when security forces seized the Marange fields, according to the New York-based group. Zimbabwe's government has rejected the accusations.

Rapaport Group's RapNet Diamond Trading Network, the world's biggest, in November banned its members from dealing in gems from Marange because of reports of "severe" human rights violations in the area.

In January, Zimbabwe was given permission to hold two diamond auctions this year by the [Kimberley Process](#), an international body set up to control the sale of conflict gems, Deputy Mines Minister Gift Chimanimikire said.

Annual income from the Marange field could rise to \$2 billion if the country is allowed to export gems freely, Mines Minister [Obert Mpofu](#) said, according to a report in the state-controlled Herald newspaper in October last year.

Mbada's Mhlanga declined to say how many diamonds are currently being produced at the Marange fields.

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