

NILES E. HELMBOLDT Sr

Niles Helmboldt began his business career in 1965 at Citibank N.A. in New York and Panama. In 1967, he was assigned for five years to The Bank of Monrovia, a wholly owned Liberian subsidiary of Citibank, and was ultimately appointed manager of that bank. Subsequently:

Helmboldt & Company

In 1971 Helmboldt formed Helmboldt & Company, an investment firm that provided debt and equity capital to governments, parastatal corporations and private companies throughout sub-Saharan Africa. After operating independently and focussed on Kenya, Liberia and Zambia, Helmboldt & Company formed Equator Bank.

Equator Holdings Limited

In 1975 Helmboldt founded Equator Bank Limited, with the investment support of Royal Bank of Canada and Hartford National Bank (now Bank of America, N.A.). From 1975 to 1988, Helmboldt was President and Chief Executive Officer and a Director of Equator Holdings Limited, a bank holding company, subsequently owned by Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, incorporated in Nassau, Bahamas. Equator Holdings holds one hundred percent of HSBC Equator Bank Limited and its subsidiaries providing services exclusively in Africa, initially outside of South Africa. Under Helmboldt's direction, Equator financed more than US\$3 billion of undertakings in more than 35 African countries.

AMCL/Euronimba Limited

In 1989, Helmboldt joined with private African and international investors to establish AMCL Limited (AMCL), a mining services and iron ore sales company. AMCL was organised specifically to manage Liberia's Mt. Nimba iron mines and to develop a joint project with the Republic of Guinea to mine that country's Pierre Richaud iron ore deposits, adjacent to Mt. Nimba. Helmboldt signed a ten-year management contract to operate and revitalise Liberia's Mount Nimba Liminco (formerly LAMCO) iron ore mine and successfully operated the concern until early 1994, when Liberia's civil war forced its closure. A Guinean-Liberian joint project, subsequently known as BHPBilliton/Euronimba Limited, may eventually mine and market 12 million metric tons. Helmboldt was Chairman of AMCL and a Director of Euronimba, a partnership including the Governments of the Republics of Guinea and Liberia, BHPBilliton, France's La Source/BRGM, Kuwait, and Sumitomo Corporation, Japan.

Modern Africa Fund Managers, LLC

In 1996, Mr. Helmboldt founded Modern Africa Growth & Investment Company (MAGIC), a US\$105 million direct equity fund, and Modern Africa Fund Managers, LLC (MAFM). He served as Chairman of Modern Africa's Executive and Finance Committees through 2004. In his capacity as a director of Modern Africa, Niles also served as chairman of African Broadcast Network (UK and South Africa), Afsat Communications Limited (UK and Kenya), and Warsun International Telecommunications (USA). He was also an executive director of Cora de Comstar Cellular (Cote d'Ivoire) and a non-executive director of LiquidAfrica (South Africa and Bermuda).

AmLib Holdings PLC

In 2004, Helmboldt joined AmLib United Minerals, Inc. (“AUM”) to assist in raising new funding to enable AmLib to revitalise its gold exploration activity in Liberia following the end of the long civil war and removal of Charles Taylor. Under his supervision, AmLib raised US\$6.4 million of pre-IPO funding in 2006, a further US\$7.25 million pre-IPO funding in 2007, and another US\$10.9 million pre-IPO funding in 2008. Helmboldt became AmLib’s chairman in late 2007 and CEO from February 2008.

Bukon Jedeh Holdings, Ltd.

Bukon Jedeh Resources, Inc. (“BJR”) was formed in 2007 as a Liberian corporation for the purpose of acquiring new gold exploration properties in Liberia, West Africa. The company’s initial acquisition was a 252 km² property in the Bukon Jedeh District of Sinoe County. In October 2007 BJR became a wholly owned subsidiary of Bukon Jedeh Holdings Limited (“BJH”), registered on the Isle of Man (“IoM”). In September 2009, the company received two additional Liberian properties approved by the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy. Helmboldt was chairman of BJH, formerly chairman of Equator Resources, and a director of BJR.

goAfrica Holdings Pte. Ltd. (goAfrica.com)

In late 2014, Helmboldt founded goAfrica, a B2B electronic and mobile eCommerce online service covering Africa. goAfrica planned to provide multiple services to buyers and sellers through state-of-the-art eCommerce and mCommerce trading platforms and directories, combining the very best features of highly successful eCommerce companies. He stepped down as a non-executive Board Member in 2019.

Sahara LLC dba AfricanPriorities

In July 2017, Helmboldt incorporated Sahara LLC to hold AfricanPriorities, an online community and networking platform, mobile apps, and subsidiaries including SmartSkillsTraining.org and Africa54.org. The platforms and mobile apps are resource hubs for Africa’s self-employed, providing skills training, courses, ideas, resources, and tools. In North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, jobs are always scarce; in SSA more than 75%+ of workers are self-employed. He chairs Sahara LLC and is an advisor.

Other Activities

Until its February 1996 acquisition by Banque National de Paris, Mr. Helmboldt was a Director and member of the executive committee of Société Internationale Financière pour les Investissements et le Developpement en Afrique (SIFIDA Investment Company), Geneva. He is a former member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the Bretton Woods Committee, and a former member of the Council of the Overseas Development Council. Currently, Helmboldt is an advisor to Clarity-Ventures, Austin, Texas.

Helmboldt has served as a Director and Vice-Chairman of Operations Crossroads Africa, a Director of the African Medical and Research Foundation (the Flying Doctor) and as a member of the Advisory Council of the African Development Foundation. He has been a member of the Committee on African Development Strategies, a joint undertaking of the Overseas Development Council and the Council on Foreign Relations, and of the Industry and Policy Advisory Council of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Mr. Helmboldt has written a number of articles and has contributed to books on African economic matters. Additionally, he has lectured and spoken extensively on topics relating to Africa.

Mr. Helmboldt is a former Justice of the Peace in East Haddam, Connecticut, a former chairman of the Board of Finance, and a former member of the Board of Education of that town.

Education

Born in 1941, Helmboldt received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and government from Boston University in 1963 and a Bachelor of International Management from the American Graduate School of International Management in 1965 ("Thunderbird"). As an undergraduate he read political economy at the University of Manchester, England during 1961-3.

Mr. Helmboldt is on a perpetual odyssey, splitting time in Connecticut, USA, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and on the road.