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PROPERTY RIGHTS AND ARTISANAL DIAMOND DEVELOPMENT II (PRADD II)



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This report was prepared by:

Tetra Tech
159 Bank Street, Suite 300
Burlington, Vermont 05401 USA
Telephone: (802) 658-3890
Fax: (802) 658-4247
Email: international.development@tetrattech.com

Tetra Tech Contacts:

Mark S. Freudenberger, Senior Technical Advisor/Manager
Tel: (802) 658-3890, Extension 2231
Email: Mark.Freudenberger@tetrattech.com

Ed Harvey, Senior Project Manager
Tel: (802) 658-3890, Extension 2246
Email: Ed.Harvey@tetrattech.com

COVER PHOTO: Miners near Bobi, Côte d'Ivoire, washing colluvial diamond deposits. Photo by Mustafa Cheaiteli.

PROPERTY RIGHTS AND ARTISANAL DIAMOND DEVELOPMENT II (PRADD II) QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

July–September 2014

DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGUIPE	<i>Agence guinéenne de promotion de l'emploi</i> (Guinean Agency for Promotion of Employment)
ASDM	Artisanal and Small-scale Diamond Mining
ASM	Artisanal and Small-scale Mining
BNE	<i>Bureau National d'Expertise</i> (National Evaluation Bureau in Guinea)
CECIDE	<i>Centre de Commerce International et de Développement</i> (Guinean NGO)
CNSS	<i>Caisse nationale de sécurité sociale</i> (National Social Security Institution)
CONADOG	<i>Confédération nationale des diamantaires et orpailleurs de Guinée</i>
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CUA	<i>Club Union Africaine</i> (Ivoirian NGO)
CVGFR	Rural Land Management Village Committee
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
ePORT	electronic Program Observation Reporting and Tracking
ERC	Evaluation, Research, and Communication Project
EU	European Union
GIA	Gemological Institute of America
GIS	Geographic Information System(s)
GPS	Global Positioning System
KP	Kimberley Process
KPCS	Kimberley Process Certification Scheme
LSM	Large-Scale Mining
LTPR	Land Tenure and Property Rights
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MMG	Ministry of Mines and Geology (in Guinea)
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization

PAGSEM	<i>Projet d'Appui à la Gouvernance du Secteur Minier</i> (World Bank-funded Mining Sector Governance Support project in Guinea)
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PRADD II	Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development II
RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
SEEPMP	<i>Service d'évaluation et d'expertise des pierres et métaux précieuses</i>
SGBG	<i>Société Générale des Banques en Guinée</i>
SODEMI	<i>Société de Développement Minier</i> (parastatal mining company in Côte d'Ivoire)
SOW	Scope of Work
STA/M	Senior Technical Advisor/Manager
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNADOR	<i>Union des diamantaires et orpailleurs</i>
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WDDF	Washington Declaration Diagnostic Framework

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The USAID Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Program (PRADD II) supports governments to implement mining best practices in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, and promotes good governance of the mining sector at the international level through the Kimberley process (KP), the international mechanism that prevents rough diamonds from fueling conflict. The program—a \$19 million five-year joint USAID/European Union initiative—is a follow-on project to PRADD, USAID's former flagship mining project that was implemented from 2007–2013 across Central African Republic, Guinea, and Liberia.

The objective of PRADD II is to increase the number of alluvial diamonds entering the formal chain of custody, while improving the benefits accruing to diamond mining communities. Artisanal miners labor under archaic and difficult working conditions and live in extreme poverty, often receiving less than 9% of the retail price of the stones they extract. Poverty prevents miners from acquiring the licenses required to operate within the law, the equipment necessary to increase their gains, and the assets needed to diversify their livelihoods. Not surprisingly, miners often become incentivized to mine quickly, sell fast, and quickly move on to new sites. These practices have devastating economic and environmental consequences, negatively impact export revenues, and prevent compliance with the Kimberley Process.

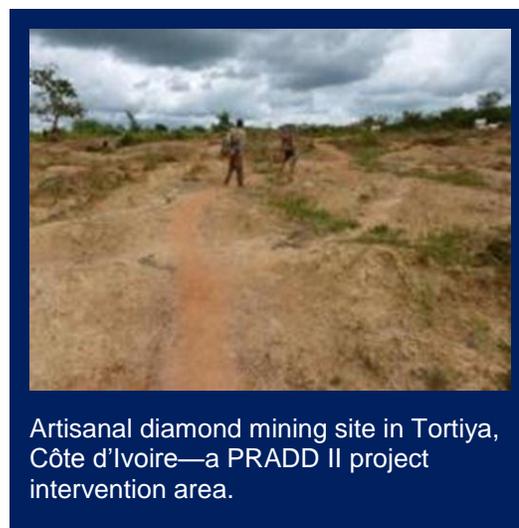
THE PRADD APPROACH

Drawing upon the fields of property rights, economic development, governance, and behavioral change, PRADD II bases its approach on the premise that secure property rights create positive incentives for miners to be good stewards of the land. When artisanal miners' rights to prospect and dig for diamonds are formal and secure, they are more likely to sell through legal channels, enabling the government to track the origin of diamonds and prevent them from fueling conflict. Clarification and formalization of mining claims also helps to clarify the rules governing access, use, and transfer of rights. This appeals to owners of the land, but also to prospective investors.

PRADD further strengthens the diamond value chain by designing alternative systems of financing, equipment, and marketing, which benefits diggers, miners, intermediaries, and exporters. The project introduces complementary livelihoods, including the conversion of exhausted mining sites into agricultural units, and specifically targets women to uptake these livelihoods in an effort to mitigate the environmental damages of artisanal mining while providing diversified income and food security.

At the policy level, PRADD supports governments to improve diamond mining legislation and regulations. In 2013, the project produced the Washington Declaration Diagnostic Framework (WDDF),

Figure 1: PRADD II Côte d'Ivoire site in Tortiya



Artisanal diamond mining site in Tortiya, Côte d'Ivoire—a PRADD II project intervention area.

which helps diamond-producing states translate international best mining practices into action. The Framework was endorsed by the Kimberley Process in November 2013. Finally, PRADD combines local, national, and international communication tools to mobilize civil society groups and change the behavior of artisanal miners and decision makers regarding the trade of rough diamonds. PRADD's goal is to use behavior change communication approaches to alter the way miners view diamond trade and production—from a source of conflict to a powerful tool for development that will contribute positively to national economies, miners, and their communities.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Project II (PRADD II), under Contract No. AID-OAA-I-12-00032/AIDOAA-TO-13-00045, is implemented by Tetra Tech under the Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights (STARR) Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC) and under the auspices of the USAID Land Tenure and Property Rights Division. This Quarterly Report, covering the period from January–March 2014, summarizes activities carried out in Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea during the period of implementation of the PRADD II Inception Plan. The report is divided into three sections corresponding to the overall programmatic structure of the project—advancements in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, and Regional Support to the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS).

2.1. COTE D’IVOIRE

Technical Accomplishments

- Organized the official launch ceremony for PRADD II on July 21 with the participation of the Mining Minister, U.S. Ambassador, USAID and the EU Delegation.
- Distributed electronic weighing scales to registered mining cooperatives as part of the official field launch ceremony led by the KP Permanent Secretary with SODEMI participation.
- Completed the project’s conflict management strategy with the help of a land conflict specialist.
- Advanced on clarifying the path forward in Tortiya with the launch of a USGS-supported land-use / land-cover change study and a legal study on who owns the former concession area.
- Launched the value chain initiative with Catalyst Resources Development Group aimed at identifying new business models for artisanal diamond production and sales.
- Supported the government’s post-embargo transition strategy, notably through assistance on the buying house open house and review of legal texts needed for keeping KPCS compliance.
- Co-organized a rough diamond valuation training with the GIA with participants from the government and mining cooperatives.
- Completed the draft results for the Washington Declaration Diagnostic Framework through a sub-contract with civil society group GRPIE.
- Completed field research for a fish-farming feasibility study led by sub-contractor ANADER and a rice-farming feasibility study led by government partner ONDR.
- Produced the project’s first information bulletin focusing on governance activities which was distributed to hundreds of organizations.
- Completed the training of local officials on the 1998 land law through sub-contractor CUA and supported the establishment of 2 village land management committees in Tortiya.
- Hosted USGS in Abidjan for consultative meetings and trainings with PRADD II, SODEMI and the government on areas of collaboration.

- Completed ePORT training of PRADD II and CUA staff and launched several key data collection forms necessary for monitoring & evaluation.

Administrative Accomplishments

- Worked with CUA to complete the hiring and training of 5 field agents.
- Deployed Tortiya Field Supervisor to Tortiya sub-office after team integration in Séguéla.
- Completed motorcycle training for field agents and signed temporary transfers to CUA for 5 machines.
- Obtained tax exoneration, which paves the way for vehicle registration, expected next quarter.
- Completed recruitment for Livelihoods Coordinator and Communications Coordinator through review of over 1,000 additional CVs.
- Built staff capacity and morale through quarterly internal work-planning retreat.
- Maintained high compliance standards and practices, including update of project procedures.
- Prepared contingency plan for possible Ebola outbreak in Côte d’Ivoire.

2.2. GUINEA

Technical Accomplishments

- Launched legal and institutional analysis of the constraints related to implementing the rural land policy and the land code, particularly the implications on formalizing customary tenure rights in Guinea.
- Launched process to develop and implement a conflict management strategy.
- ASM zone in Forécariah demarcated and Ministerial Order signed to secure the area for ASM activities.
- Ministerial *Arrêté* (A/14/3400/MEMG/SGG of September 2, 2014) was issued by the Minister of Mines to officially declare the 983km² perimeter as reserved for ASM activities.
- Launched support to improve of the ASM Division information management system.
- Launched public awareness campaign in Forécariah, Coyah and Kindia to inform and educate the public on the demarcation of the ASM reserved zone.
- Published three articles in the Ministry of Mines and Geology Quarterly Newsletter (Mininfo) on the overview of the PRADD II project; the aerial photography of the mining sites and the delimitation of the ASM zones.
- Held first national stakeholders’ meeting resulting in an agreement to develop a shared framework for public communication.
- Supported the MMG Communication Unit to improve the quality of the Quarterly Newsletter “Mininfo.”
- ePort training provided to PRADD II staff in Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea.

- Supported ERC/StatView with sensitization and information to conduct the baseline survey.

Administrative Accomplishments

- Completion of staffing pending USAID approval
- Office space in Forécariah secured, procurement for refurbishment underway
- GIS Desktop procured and installed
- MOU between USAID and MMG about the PRADD II project drafted
- TVA Exemption Certificate was secured for the entire life of the project
- Six months office rent was paid

2.3. GENERAL AND REGIONAL SUPPORT TO THE KIMBERLEY PROCESS

- Continued support to the Kimberley Process through Country Director Côte d'Ivoire's planned participation in the November Plenary in China.
- Geological Institute of America training in diamond valuation in Côte d'Ivoire successfully carried out.
- Near agreement on PRADDII contributions to the Mano River Union Action Plan
- New dialogues with the private sector on possible public-private partnership in Côte d'Ivoire.

Figure 2: Map of Diamond Occurrences in Côte d'Ivoire

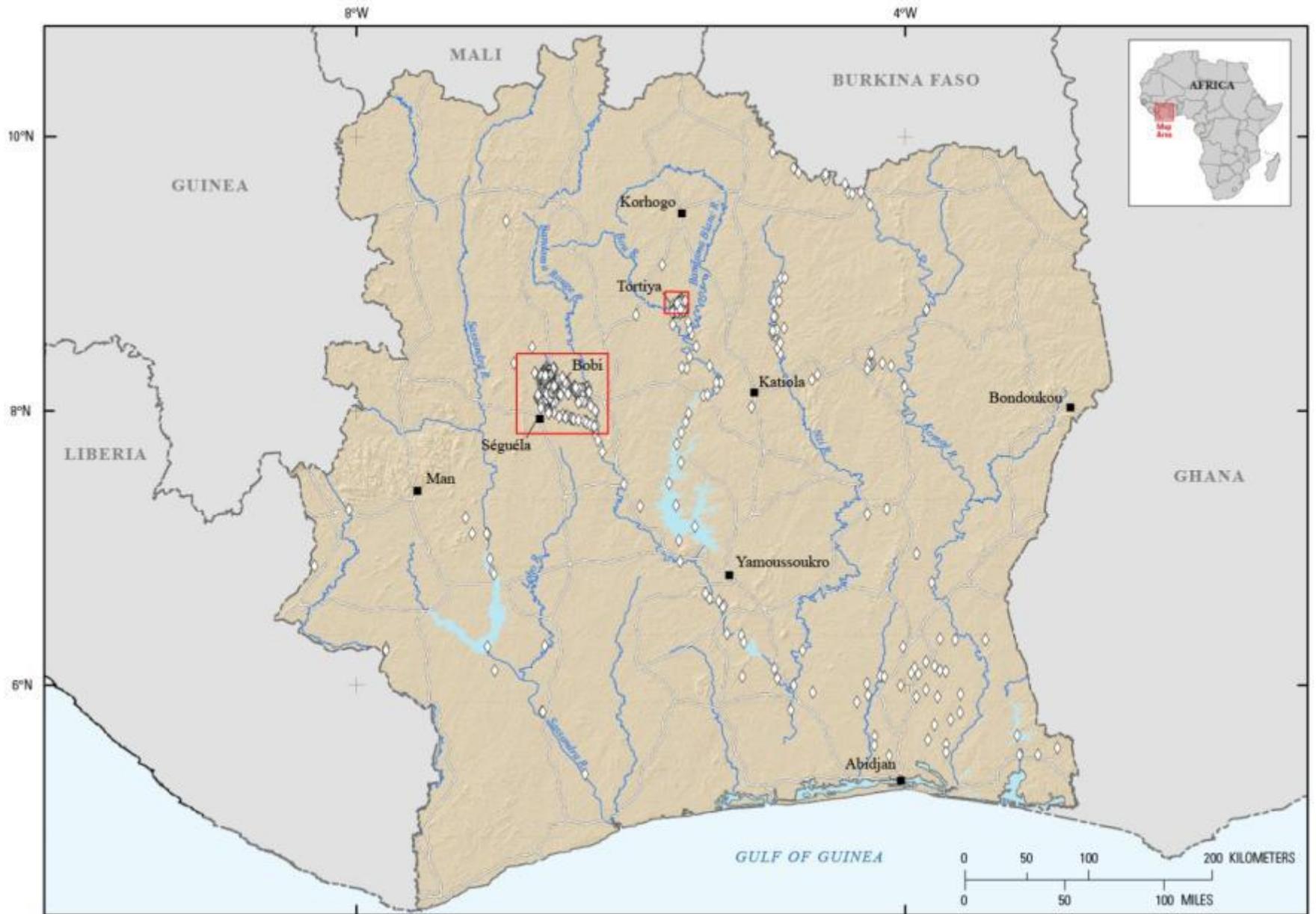


Figure 3: Map of Séguéla Project Sites

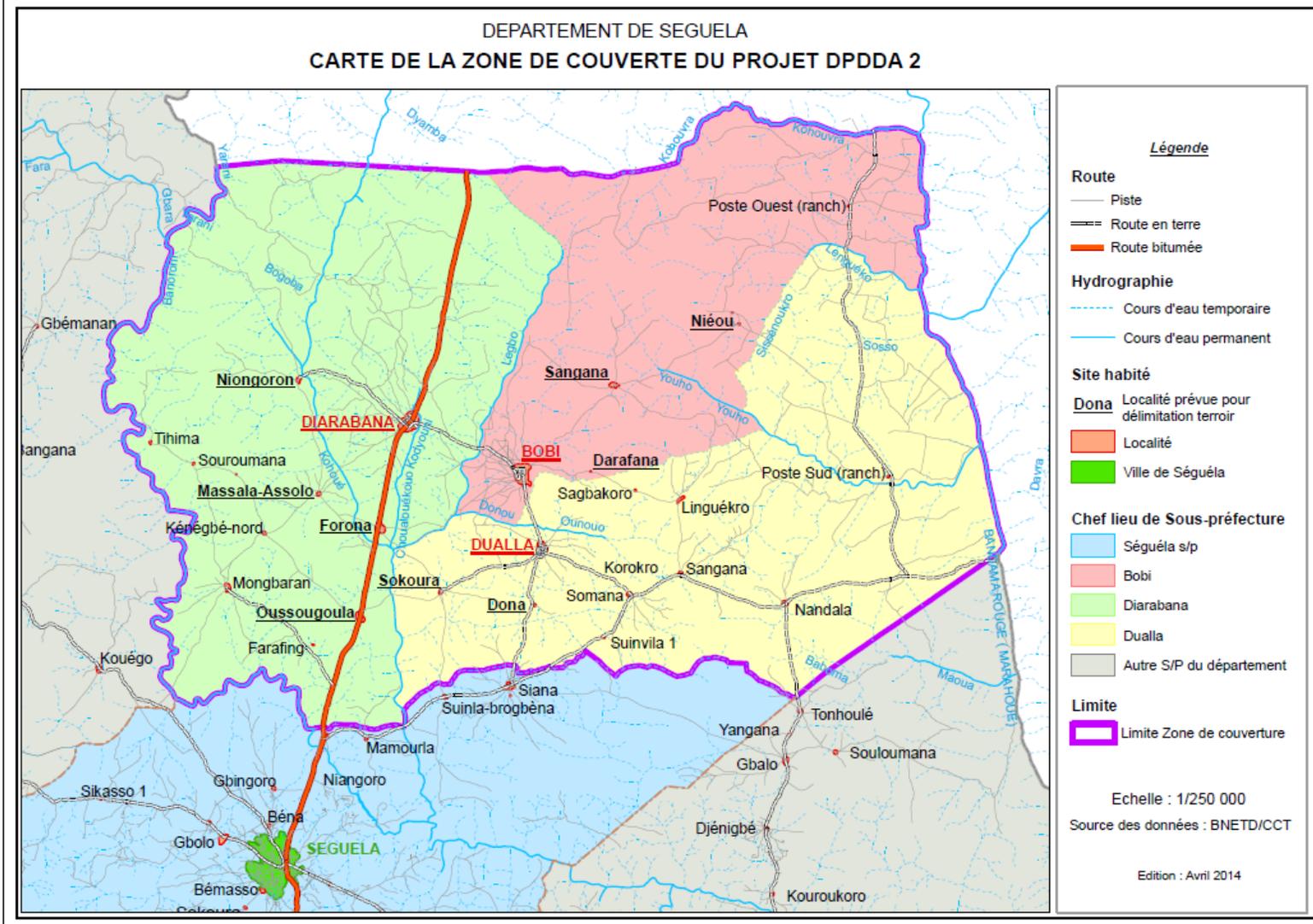
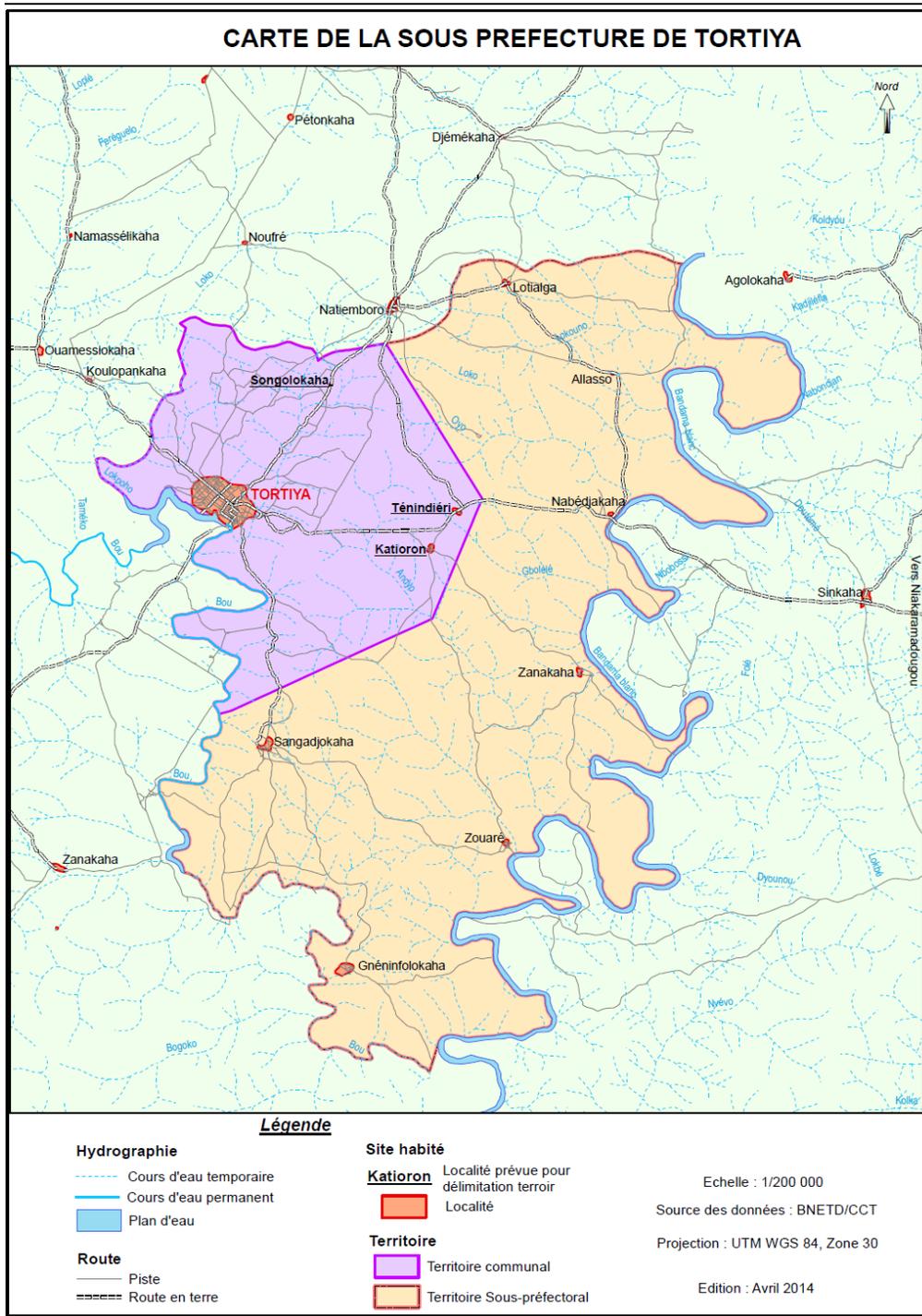


Figure 4: Map of Tortiya Project Sites



3. CÔTE D'IVOIRE

3.1. ACTIVITY 1: CLARIFICATION OF LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

3.1.1. SUB-ACTIVITY 1: SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTING 1998 LAND LAW THROUGH VILLAGE BOUNDARY DEMARCATION IN 15 COMMUNITIES

This quarter PRADD continued to move forward in supporting the government to implement the 1998 land law in diamond mining areas. On July 9, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Interior signed a joint decree officially naming the 15 communities to be demarcated as per the PRADD work plan. Without this legal act, the process would not have been able to start. In addition, PRADD obtained buy-in from SODEMI on its land programming after months of opposition expressed during the work-planning process. It would appear that after consulting its lawyer and listening to PRADD's other government partners, SODEMI realized that it had no legal right to oppose the process. Equally important, however, was PRADD's allaying concerns that villagers would misconstrue the 1998 law as somehow calling into question SODEMI's concessions. After agreeing to draw a sharp distinction in messaging between the land law and the mining law, and promising to involve SODEMI at all steps on the way, PRADD was ready to proceed.

With this green light, PRADD co-organized as part of the CUA sub-contract the training of 20 local officials from the Séguéla and Tortiya areas on the 1998 land law. The training, which took place on July 30 and 31, was a success: the trainer from the Direction of Rural Land was thorough and the participants—mostly sub-prefects—very engaged. Questions they asked during the training included:

- Without an official fee scale for land surveyors, what can be done to ensure that this part of the process is affordable for villagers?
- What's the best way to ensure that CVGFR's are representative of all communities, including "outsiders"?
- What is the Ministry of Agriculture doing to ensure that all paperwork is available at a local level?

PRADD continues to note a high level of interest and support for the project's land-programming, given how central land issues are to the lives of most Ivoirians. USAID Washington's Land Tenure Division observed part of the training as it coincided with a field visit following the project's launch.

Following the training, CUA and PRADD focused on strategy planning and capacity building for the next steps. On strategic planning, the Deputy Country Director and Country Director held several meetings with CUA to refine the roadmap. A careful sequence was identified involving meetings with SODEMI

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Figure 5: Training Local Authorities on 1998 Land Law



PRADD sub-contractor Club Union Africaine organized the training of local authorities from Séguéla and Tortiya on the land law. The training was conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Photo: Arnel Gnako

and the sub-prefects, community meetings to describe the functions and requirements of the land management committees, grassroots meetings with key opinion leaders, community meetings with sub-groups in villages, and support to the sub-prefect for establishing the CVGFRs. By the end of the quarter, Tortiya was well advanced with 2 committees officially established.

On the capacity-building front, CUA's Director of Programs provided training to the new field agents, officially hired this quarter. The Country Director also worked with the CUA field teams during a visit in September to improve technical management tools and continue the orientation process. The Deputy Country Director continues her day-to-day oversight of the CUA sub-contract and the project remains on track to complete the establishment of CVGFRs by the end of the year, as per the USAID and EU work plans. While much work remains and the process is dynamic and unpredictable, PRADD believes that this crucial step can be achieved in time for the pre-delimitation phase set to begin in early 2015.

3.1.2. SUB-ACTIVITY 2: TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO LAND-USE PLANNING IN SÉGUÉLA AND TORTIYA

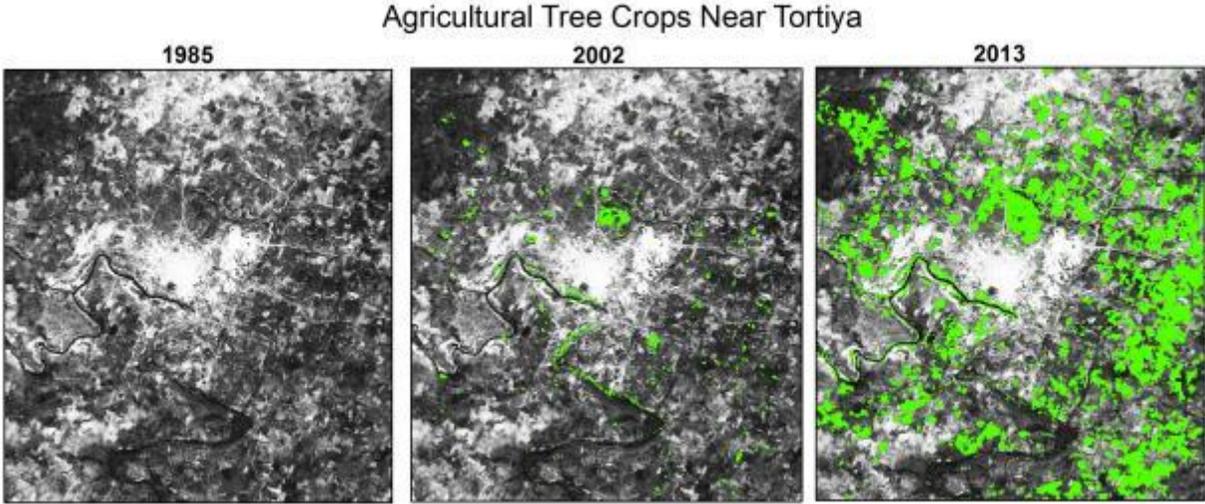
With the lifting of the UN embargo, finding a path forward in Tortiya has become a top priority. Descendants of the SAREMCI mine workers recently formed a cooperative with the open aim of removing or negotiating compensation from cashew farmers who encroached on their former permits, showing to what extent sub-surface rights and surface rights are confused. In addition, the inter-communal conflicts continue to simmer as the sub-prefect attempts to push for a definitive solution to the unhelpful zero-sum game of who is Tortiya's real traditional land chief.

PRADD's strategy could circumvent and maybe even defuse these hot-button issues and have a potentially transformational effect. This quarter the project competitively selected a consultant to conduct a study aimed at answering two questions: (1) What is the legal status of the ex-SAREMCI zone; and (2) What are the legal frameworks possible to clarify rights, including land-use planning. The study is off to a good start with the consultant having completed an initial field assessment and having unearthed some key legal documents, including an expired development plan from the early 1990s and the original decrees that created the company. The consultant also has experience with land-use planning law, and will therefore be able to shed light on what legal framework to apply to a process of clarifying both the overall land rights and specific usage rights.

Preliminary conclusions suggest that the notion that the SAREMCI zone is a mining zone—which means it is state-owned land that can be leased for mining but not owned by individuals or used for agriculture—does not have much support in the law. If this conclusion holds, this information will be critical in making the case to the Ministry of Agriculture to use the 1998 land law as the legal pathway to surface rights clarification, which would not prevent the Mining Ministry from still giving out mining permits. Using the 1998 land law could also, in principle, make the quest for a single land chief for Tortiya irrelevant, since a well-functioning and representative CVGFR could offer a platform to clarify individual claims without recognizing necessarily which chief controls the entire area.

Besides the legal study, PRADD has partnered with the USGS to produce a land-use change study for the former SAREMCI concession using satellite imagery from the 1980s through today. During the USGS visit to Abidjan in August, a USGS change detection specialist devised a work plan with the PRADD GIS Specialist to develop an image classification scheme combined with field verifications. By the end of the quarter, PRADD and the USGS were well advanced in this process, and preliminary results, such as those shown in Figure 6, demonstrate to what extent the ex-SAREMCI area is not a mining zone in practice. This combination of de jure and de facto information should prove helpful in convincing stakeholders that Tortiya must adapt to the reality that it is a multi-use zone.

Figure 6: Land Use Cover Change in Tortiya



Source: Preliminary USGS analysis to be finalized next quarter.

The workshop planned next quarter in Tortiya to present the conclusions of the studies will offer the space to develop a strategy document for the next steps, including the application of the 1998 land law and setting up an appropriate land-use planning platform. While the outcome is uncertain, PRADD II is confident that this approach should open up a pathway to resolving some long-standing issues that risk deteriorating in the coming months without action.

3.1.3. SUB-ACTIVITY 3: DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

PRADD II has taken an inclusive and comprehensive approach to developing its conflict management strategy. Following on the land & conflict diagnostic, the Conflict Management Coordinator led a mission to learn from other organizations, especially humanitarian NGOs like the Norwegian Refugee Council and Search for Common Ground, that have worked on land issues in Côte d’Ivoire. The mission also included a visit to an industrial gold mine. This process was important to gain ideas and propose strategies that are adapted to local realities, and to not reinvent the wheel when it comes to land programming in Côte d’Ivoire. Key lessons were learned in terms of how to set up inclusive land management committees and strategies to formalize land rental agreements between locals and outsiders.

The combination of deep local knowledge from the diagnostic combined with local lessons learned provided a strong basis for an effective mission by the land conflict specialist Jennifer Graham from Tetra Tech’s home office. During the 2-week mission in August, the specialist brought international best practices to the mix, as well as experience in developing a culturally appropriate strategy. The specialist prepared a training session for PRADD II and CUA staff on the basics of alternative dispute resolution and other tools for conflict analysis, prevention and management. After some community discussions, the specialist worked with the PRADD II and CUA team to come up with the strategy. The Conflict Management Coordinator and Deputy Country Director then drafted the document, which was debated at the latest quarterly planning workshop. The document will be discussed further with stakeholders at a validation workshop, and then formally adopted. This process will ensure project ownership over the strategy and full stakeholder buy-in for the proposed interventions.

The document itself is organized as follows: it first provides a succinct analysis of conflict dynamics, typologies and existing management mechanisms based on the land and conflict diagnostic. The strategy focuses on the following conflict types: conflicts regarding limits between villages, conflicts between land-owners and land-users, conflicts between miners and farmers, and conflicts among mining actors.¹ For each major conflict type, the document then offers scenarios for how the conflict could evolve, identifies an approach for resolving the conflict, identifies prevention and resolution tools, and then identifies specific programmatic activities. This analysis will allow the project to remain flexible to respond to dynamic situations while also having a clear idea of what activities will be introduced, at least initially. An indicative list of these particular activities is found in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Proposed Activities Based on Conflict Management Strategy

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the designation of focal points for each CVGFR to record conflicts in a standard notebook and act as a frontline actor for identifying issues before they escalate or are brought before the appropriate traditional and administrative authorities. • Work with sub-prefects and request that they also record in a systematic way different conflicts that are brought to their attention. • Conduct pre-delimitation participatory mapping to identify boundary problems before the official process begins and work with CVGFRs to set up resolution mechanisms like inter-village committees. • Introduce conflict monitoring and recording mechanisms by the mining guards of diamond cooperatives. • Train CVGFR focal points, mining guards and sub-prefects in dispute resolution techniques such as mediation. • Advocate for and implement a standard simplified land rental agreement to formalize arrangements and provide information for potential further applications for customary land tenure certificates under the 1998 land law. • Advocate for the establishment of a monthly local meeting of mining sector actors in Séguéla and Tortiya to share information, introduce a grievance mechanism and increase collaboration.
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3.2. ACTIVITY 2: STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

3.2.1. SUB-ACTIVITY 1: POLICY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR ASM

This quarter GRPIE completed the Washington Declaration Diagnostic Framework (WDDF), the first time the tool has been implemented by a KP Participant. As noted in the last quarterly report, GRPIE was sub-contracted by PRADD II to take the technical lead on the comprehensive evaluation of the artisanal diamond sector in Côte d'Ivoire. Besides completing the diagnostic, PRADD sought to use the process as a tool to strengthen a tripartite framework in Côte d'Ivoire. This bore fruit with a productive and collaborative relationship between GRPIE and the WD focal point.

¹ The strategy leaves aside the farmer/pastoralist conflict, though this will be addressed indirectly through other interventions

The resulting diagnostic is set to be fully adopted by all stakeholders at a mid-October workshop, and then presented at the KP Plenary. At the Plenary, the Country Director will work with GRPIE, DDI and WGAAP to determine an appropriate way so that the Ivoirian exercise can have a positive demonstration effect for other KP participants.

At a national level, PRADD II intends to use the final report from the diagnostic as an indirect lobbying tool to encourage the artisanal gold sector to adopt some of the best practices in diamonds. In addition, PRADD may consider supporting a follow-up diagnostic in several years as a way to assess ways in which Côte d'Ivoire has and has not made progress to address identified weaknesses. The next quarterly report will include the summary scorecard from the diagnostic and key recommendations adopted at the validation workshop.

Besides the Declaration, PRADD II continues to lobby for the adoption of the implementing texts for KPCS compliance, which the project was involved in reviewing. These texts set up a fairly positive ASM policy environment and the project will support its refinement during implementation over the coming years.

3.2.2. SUB-ACTIVITY 2: POLICY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR KPCS COMPLIANCE

This quarter was marked by some advances, but mostly setbacks, in terms of the policy environment for KPCS compliance and the implementation of the post-embargo transition strategy. While the new Mining Code and its application decree, adopted last quarter, were a positive step, the crucial details related to KPCS compliance were relegated to ministerial decrees. These decrees must determine the licensing process for diamond collectors and buying houses, and they must also determine the process for registering miners and collectors, and the process for delivering sales slips notebooks. On the positive side, PRADD has been involved in commenting on these draft texts to ensure KPCS compliance, and for the most part, the reviewed drafts are sufficient. However, the Mining Ministry has moved too slowly and as a result of the absence of these texts, mining worker registration has all but stopped, cooperatives are out of sales slips, not a single collector has received a license and no buying house has been licensed.

Indeed, the lack of texts has been a major impediment towards implementing the post-embargo transition strategy. At the beginning of the quarter, the Ministry hosted the long-planned buying house information event, which successfully brought together a number of interested parties. Prospective buyers included players from Belgium, India/U.S., and South Africa. PRADD made the USGS deposit modeling assessment available, which is the only publically available geological information. Participants were promised within weeks a detailed list of documents needed to apply for a permit. However, by the end of the quarter, neither the texts nor the information document were yet available. PRADD has heard of frustration by both collectors and prospective diamond houses on this slowness, especially since some have already started setting up offices. As a result of the delay, all other parts of the post-embargo transition strategy have been put on hold—with the exception of valuation training capacity (see Sub-Activity 4)—making it unlikely that Côte d'Ivoire will complete the legal chain of custody any time soon.

PRADD has worked openly with the U.N. Group of Experts on these challenges. In addition, at the end of the quarter PRADD sought to inform the Group of Friends (FOCDI) of the issues. PRADD will continue to support as necessary the technical assistance and lobbying process to decrease the risk that Côte d'Ivoire will backslide further.

3.2.3. SUB-ACTIVITY 3: POLICY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR 1998 LAND LAW IMPLEMENTATION

PRADD II has focused this quarter on operationalizing the CUA sub-contract and as a result has devoted little time to policy development support for the 1998 land law. However, next quarter PRADD plans on encouraging the creation of an informal meeting of land actors in CDI, as per the project's work plan. To this end, PRADD has uncovered several new actors in this arena, such as the local think-tank *Audace Institut Afrique*, which is currently running an essay competition for young scholars on how to better implement the 1998 land law. The institute plans more activities on this front in partnership with the German Friedrich Naumann Foundation. PRADD also learned of interest by the French development agency (AFD) on land programming and next quarter PRADD will meet with them. Finally, PRADD reflected with the Tetra Tech Geospatial Unit on how the drones piloted by the USGS with PRADD Guinea could have applications for speeding up the byzantine land surveying process. PRADD continues to position itself as a small but key actor supporting Côte d'Ivoire address its serious land tenure problems and anticipates new collaborations to that end in the coming months.

3.2.4. SUB-ACTIVITY 4: CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR STRENGTHENING KPCS COMPLIANCE SYSTEM

Figure 7: GIA Training Closing Ceremony



The Ivoirian government diamond valuator (left) demonstrates his new valuation knowledge to (from left to right) the KP Permanent Secretary, U.S. Ambassador, Mining Minister and EU Delegation Group of Friends Coordinator.

This quarter PRADD II and the GIA successfully completed their training of Ivoirians in rough diamond valuation and sorting. The week-long course held in Abidjan enabled 8 Ivoirians to obtain certificates, including the official government diamond valuator, a SODEMI agent, a PRADD field agent, 2 customs agents from the airport and representatives from SODEMI cooperatives from Bobi and Diarabana. The closing ceremony was a high-profile affair with participation of the EU Group of Friends Coordinator, U.S. Ambassador, Belgian Ambassador, Canadian Ambassador and other high-level diplomats. The head of the KP's Working Group of Diamond Experts (WGDE) also attended. In his capacity as a senior official at the Antwerp World Diamond Center (AWDC), the WGDE Chair coordinated with PRADD and the KP Permanent Secretary procedures needed for three Ivoirians to go to Antwerp for more in-depth follow-on training and internship to start later this year. The GIA training was perhaps the quarter's most important and positive step towards implementing Côte d'Ivoire's post-embargo transition. Other positive developments included the official nomination of departmental mining directors, thereby freeing up their

budgets which have been blocked since January, as well as the unblocking of the KP Secretariat's budget through the signing of the ministerial decree that officially named the Secretariat's members.

However, due to the situation with the remaining legal texts, the establishment of the legal chain of custody in Côte d'Ivoire has all but stopped, as noted in the figures in Table 2 below. PRADD is ready to support the government in implementing a campaign to register actors and support law enforcement, as per its work plan, but cannot move forward until the Mining Minister completes texts and more importantly, begins signing collector licenses, buying house licenses and artisanal / semi-industrial licenses. Until actors can become licensed and registered, the legal chain of custody is incomplete.

Photo: Micah Clemens

Table 1: Statistics on Diamond-Mining Licensing And Registration²

Quarter	Number of SODEMI Cooperatives	Number of Licensed Artisanal Operators	Number of Licensed Semi-Industrial Operators	Number of Registered Mining Workers	Number of Licensed Collectors	Number of Registered Collectors	Number of Licensed Buying Houses
2013 Q4	9	0	0	2,483	0	198	0
2014 Q1	9	0	0	2,614	0	207	0
2014 Q2	9	0	0	2,655	0	215	0
2014 Q3	9	0	0	2,672	0	216	0

It should be noted that there are 4-5 SODEMI cooperatives that are nearly ready in addition to the 9 that have signed agreements. The remaining cooperatives require their bylaws to be registered, which previously was completed by the Séguéla sub-prefect. PRADD is looking into supporting these cooperatives through drafting the bylaws for them, which is a relatively simple exercise. The following table presents the cumulative production and sales data obtained from the existing cooperatives:

Table 2: Statistics on Diamond Production

Month	Number of Diamonds	Weight (Carats)	Number of Transactions	Value (CFA franc)	Average Diamond Size (Carats)	Average Price Per Carat (USD) ³
2013 Q2 ⁴	190	178.1	49	19,307,800	0.94	\$ 163.27
2013 Q3	373	302.03	106	15,750,000	0.83	\$ 98.80
2013 Q4	129	106.92	49	4,089,500	0.84	\$ 62.83
2014 Q1	203	149.74	72	8,279,500	0.69	\$ 104.71
2014 Q2	334	389.56	112	15,306,500	1.00	\$ 78.39
2014 Q3 ⁵	646	283.85	72	8,466,600	0.39	\$ 60.97
TOTAL / AVERAGE	1875	1380.2	460	71,199,900	0.80	\$ 103.17

The presentation of the data in Table 3 was also modified, mainly, through aggregating data into quarters to facilitate analysis. This quarter PRADD observed a dramatic drop in average carat size and several transactions of hundreds of small stones. PRADD is investigating with the SEEPMP the reason for this. In addition, one observes the same overall average price per carat which is similar to the global average, but is of course low taking into account that most diamonds sold in Séguéla are gem quality. Finally, one

² The presentation of the statistics in Table 2 has been revised from last quarter. First, SODEMI cooperatives have been separated from general artisanal operators. Second, the number of artisanal operators was changed to zero to reflect the fact that while some authorizations were signed by the last Mining Minister though not delivered, the new Minister has indicated he intends to review these. Third, as per the new mining code, the class of semi-industrial operators was added. Finally, the table distinguishes between registered collectors and licensed collectors to reflect the regulatory reality.

³ To simplify comparability over time, an exchange rate of 500 XOF per USD was used.

⁴ Reflects May and June data only. May 2013 was the first month when data collection took place since 2002.

⁵ Reflects July and August only. September 2014 data was unavailable at the time of writing.

observes the basic fact that in almost a year and a half, a production of 1,320 carats was recorded. This low figure is difficult to contextualize without export data or an updated production estimate, but there is little doubt that the vast majority of Ivoirian production continues to go unrecorded at the point of first sale. In addition, given that there are no buying houses, 100% of Ivoirian diamonds are still smuggled. PRADD hopes to support all efforts to rectify this situation in time for the KP review visit planned for early 2015 which aims at assessing the full legal chain.

3.2.5. SUB-ACTIVITY 5: CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR MINING CADASTER AND GEOLOGICAL DATA MANAGEMENT

The key achievement in this sub-activity was hosting USGS experts in Abidjan to discuss areas of collaboration for geological data management with SODEMI and the relevant Mining Ministry authorities. The USGS presented in detail its methodology for assessing diamond production potential and agreed to identify areas around Séguéla, based on an updated topographic model, which may still have artisanal diamond deposits. SODEMI is in principle open to partnering with PRADD and an association of young geologists to complete the necessary field sampling of these sites. The exact shape of this collaboration will become clearer as dialogue with the USGS and negotiation with SODEMI on a general MoU with PRADD advance through the remainder of 2014 and early 2015.

As part of its M&E plan, PRADD also worked out with the USGS a strategy to conduct monitoring annually using satellite imagery of diamond activity, which will allow the project to determine the proportion of active sites inside licensed zones. After testing this approach internally, PRADD envisages training and perhaps equipping government agencies to conduct this kind of exercise. PRADD also remains keen on supporting a more comprehensive reform of the mining cadaster, but has not yet determined the most appropriate way to do so, pending a re-organization of the geological service.

3.3. ACTIVITY 3: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ASM COMMUNITIES

3.3.1. SUB-ACTIVITY 1: IMPROVEMENT OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING TECHNIQUES

Besides training official government diamond valuers, which is crucial for customs enforcement, accurate tax collection and diamond traceability, PRADD's collaboration with the Gemological Institute of America was relevant for the project's livelihoods goals as well. By training a PRADD II field agent, SODEMI field agent and two representatives from mining cooperatives, the project has laid the foundation for a more widespread grassroots training of miners, cooperatives and collectors. This knowledge will in turn help create the conditions for miners to negotiate a fair price for their stones.

PRADD's providing electronic weighing scales and loupes to the cooperatives this quarter was a step in that direction. The scales were first presented to the KP Permanent Secretariat as part of the PRADD launch ceremony, and then in turn presented to the registered cooperatives in a ceremony at the end of July. Because valuation training is often resisted by

Figure 8: Distribution of Diamond Weighing Scales



The head of the Diarabana diamond mining cooperative receives an electronic weighing scale from the Séguéla deputy prefect.

Photo: Moustapha Cheitell

collectors, PRADD sought to emphasize the role the scales will play in improving KP statistics. However, both the government and cooperatives emphasized that the scales will empower miners and end exploitative pricing. PRADD has since observed that active cooperatives are regularly using the scales in their sales. One active cooperative in Bobi has even refused to authorize sales in which the electronic scale is not used. In Diarabana, cooperative leaders noted that on average the weights from the scales are 0.20 carats higher than the manual scales.

While PRADD II views the adoption of these scales as positive, the project is concerned about its relationship with diamond collectors. A PRADD field agent reported having a collector tell him that the project was there to take away his living. As part of the value chain initiative, PRADD will have to take care to not alienate the collectors. In addition, PRADD has proposed to SODEMI that both organizations reflect jointly on how to conduct follow-up trainings and to include collectors in these trainings. PRADD will also work to ensure that miners are not given the impression that knowing the estimated market value of the stone means that they should absolutely gain that price, since collectors must take their margins and recuperate their financing.

As for production techniques, PRADD II has proposed to SODEMI that the two develop a training and demonstration site for improved mining techniques. This proposal will be explored further as part of the MoU negotiation anticipated next quarter.

3.3.2. SUB-ACTIVITY 2: LIVELIHOODS DIVERSIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REHABILITATION

By the end of the quarter, PRADD's sub-contractor ANADER and government partner ONDR had completed their field assessments for converting old mining areas into fish ponds and rice-farming terraces. The process conducted this quarter was thorough: ANADER was competitively selected and a contract negotiated, a pre-field visit was conducted to meet authorities and complete the work plan, meetings were organized with SODEMI to pre-select sites and finally the field research portion was carried out. As for ONDR, PRADD convinced the structure to work with ANADER and covered the expenses related to its feasibility study.

As part of field research PRADD field agents participated and tested the ePORT data collection system. The agents collected GPS coordinates and full characteristics of all sites visited with the ANADER and ONDR teams. This contributed to the process of refining the forms and demonstrating how ePORT can be used to easily produce maps and constitute a database.

Next quarter PRADD will review the final reports for both studies and identify both the pilot sites and design the initial support program. PRADD is moving as quickly as possible in a bid to demonstrate concrete actions to communities before the more abstract delimitation process begins.

3.3.3. SUB-ACTIVITY 3: MINER ORGANIZATION STRENGTHENING AND ALTERNATIVE FINANCING

PRADD II devoted considerable time this quarter to the question of how to take advantage of the embargo's lifting to make the artisanal diamond value chain more efficient and fair. At its essence this is a question of financing, since it is the finance problem that creates the exploitative pricing structures, but PRADD also recognizes that other actions in the value chain can have positive impacts on miner livelihoods. To move towards more concrete actions, PRADD sub-contracted Catalyst Resources Development Group to conduct a scoping study for a more responsible and ethical supply chain in Côte d'Ivoire. After some contracting complications, two top-name experts were selected, mainly, Simon Gilbert and Dr. Gavin Hilson, assisted by Massaran Traoré.

As part of the study, the researchers will conduct field work to better understand the value chain while refining different scenarios for new business models. These scenarios will be presented and debated at a workshop planned for December 2014 with all actors. Whether this will be achieved on time depends on different factors, including the interest and availability of the private sector actors—especially SODEMI—to participate in pilot initiatives ranging from directly financing cooperatives to selling select stones to “fair trade” jewelers. However, the delay in setting up buying houses may be a blessing in disguise, since it gives the project more time to influence the overall value chain before deals are sealed and Côte d’Ivoire’s diamond economy takes shape. Already, it would appear that actors are maneuvering and making alliances, so entering the dialogue before buying houses are fully selected will be essential.

Besides the value chain study, PRADD has proposed as part of its SODEMI MoU negotiations a joint assessment of the mining cooperatives to devise a strategy to strengthen organizational capacity and introduce equipment rental pools. This will be a key point of discussion with SODEMI, who may or may not be willing to accord PRADD a role in organizing cooperatives.

3.4. ACTIVITY 4: PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

3.4.1. SUB-ACTIVITY 1: NATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Figure 9: PRADD II Official Launch Ceremony



As part of the official PRADD II launch ceremony, USAID representative Frank Pichel watches as the KP Permanent Secretary simulates the valuation of a rough diamond.

Photo: Amadou Koné

PRADD II’s official launch ceremony was a key national communication’s event. Due to irreconcilable scheduling issues, the ceremony was not held in Séguéla as planned, but rather in Abidjan so that both the Mining Minister and the U.S. Ambassador could attend. The ceremony was brief and included speeches by the Country Director, KP Permanent Secretary, U.S. Ambassador and Mining Minister. In addition, a representative from USAID Washington attended the ceremony and handed over the diamond valuation equipment to the KP Permanent Secretary as a symbolic gesture of partnership. The event was also widely covered in the press and successfully positioned PRADD in the context of the post-embargo transition strategy and the Group of Friends’ long-term commitment to good governance in the sector.

Concurrent to the PRADD launch ceremony was the launch of PRADD’s first quarterly newsletter. The newsletter is a pillar of the project’s institutional communication and visibility strategy but is also a key programmatic tool as it

raises awareness on certain issues among government partners. Finally, the newsletter can help bring the voices from the field to decision-makers in Abidjan. The first issue focused on the post-embargo transition and the remaining steps, and included interviews with the KP Permanent Secretary, an explanation of the Kimberley Process, a summary of PRADD’s achievements in the quarter and reactions on the lifting of the U.N. embargo from mining communities in Séguéla. PRADD’s next issue, set for release at the end of October, will focus on the project’s land tenure programming.

3.4.2. SUB-ACTIVITY 2: LOCAL COMMUNICATION

PRADD did not have a Communications Coordinator for the majority of the quarter and so the process of drafting the project’s communications strategy has suffered from delays. With the hiring of a new

Coordinator set to occur in mid-November, PRADD hopes to restart the process of developing this key strategy. In the meantime, PRADD's key local communication action this quarter was the organization, with SODEMI and the KP Permanent Secretary, of official meetings with mining communities in Séguéla to officially announce both the lifting of the UN embargo, the beginning of permanent SODEMI field presence and the official launch of PRADD. This approach helped clarify confusion about PRADD's role in the communities, while also presenting a "united front" between the actors.

3.5. CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

3.5.1. ADD-ONS AND COLLABORATION

As noted earlier, USGS visited Abidjan in early August and presented its work while brainstorming with PRADD II on realistic areas of collaboration. This was followed by dialogue between USGS, PRADD and USAID on specific activities for the coming year, including the land-use/land-cover change study for SAREMCI, the development of a map of artisanal deposits around Séguéla and a methodology for field sampling, and the training of the PRADD GIS Specialist on satellite imagery processing, detection of active mining and land-use change methodologies.

PRADD also discussed the possible use in Côte d'Ivoire of the UAV tested in Guinea. SODEMI is very interested in the technology in the context of its exploration activities, and PRADD sees an opportunity to build confidence through a shared training. In addition, PRADD saw potential applications in monitoring and as part of the land programming. Follow-up discussion with USGS shows that for practical reasons, it will not be possible to field-test the device before the end of 2015. This will allow USGS to continue to refine its experimental methodology in Guinea. In addition, it was determined that the UAV at present offers no significant value-added for realizing key objectives compared with alternative methodologies like remote sensing imagery analysis. However, PRADD will continue to reflect with the Tetra Tech Geospatial Unit on potential uses of this innovation as part of land programming where imagery over a small area with extremely high resolution could be useful.

The other collaboration that advanced this quarter was the partnership with Brilliant Earth, Dutch NGO Spark and PRADD on co-organizing a business plan competition for young entrepreneurs aimed at catalyzing economic development in mining communities and leveraging existing PRADD revenue-generating work. The three structures joined USAID for a teleconference at the end of the quarter to discuss the concept and all agreed that it was an exciting opportunity. After Brilliant Earth decides if and how much to contribute to the planned grants, PRADD and Spark will work on developing an MoU and work plan with implementation set for early to mid-2015, as per the PRADD work plan.

3.5.2. GENDER

This quarter PRADD developed, refined and obtained USAID approval for a mission by the PRADD II Gender Specialist to develop gender-specific programming and develop the project's gender strategy. The Country Director, Deputy Country Director and Project Manager worked closely on this task, set for implementation early next quarter as part of a field visit by the Gender Specialist.

3.5.3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The operationalization of PRADD's M&E system was a key achievement of the quarter. PRADD's M&E Specialist conducted a comprehensive training on the ePORT data collection methodology for the project's Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea M&E Coordinators, who then conducted in-depth training for all field staff. In addition, the PRADD M&E Coordinator worked closely with the Country Director to refine the

data collection forms. Forms were field tested and then debated by all staff as part of a day-long capacity-building and planning session as part of the internal planning workshop. Finally, the project launched the tender process for its first household survey, set for implementation next quarter. Beyond the requisite project indicators, PRADD is on track to develop a rich qualitative and quantitative data collection strategy that will allow subsequent analysis that can help evaluation and communication the project's multi-faceted outcomes and impacts over its five years of implementation.

3.6. OPERATIONS

3.6.1. PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

PRADD II's management systems continued to mature this quarter with some fine-tuning of the project procedures. Unlike the previous quarter, the project had no issues with staff compliance with these operational requirements.

The project's quarterly internal planning workshop was held at the end of the quarter to take stock of progress, plan activities week-by-week and build capacity and coordination of all staff. This quarter the workshop focused on monitoring and evaluation in its capacity-building sessions. The M&E Coordinator prepared an interactive workshop on USAID M&E requirements, general M&E principles and the specific PRADD PMP. In addition, PRADD's field agent conducted a mini-training on diamond valuation and the project's Director of Administration prepared a lecture on the components of an organization's work culture. The workshop showed increasing staff ownership of their respective roles.

PRADD II also continued to monitor and prepare for the Ebola outbreak. Because Côte d'Ivoire has yet to have confirmed cases as of this writing, it has felt fewer effects than PRADD Guinea. However, the country remains on high alert and the project has had to reassure consultants reconsidering whether it was safe to travel to the region. In addition, PRADD has developed an Ebola-specific security plan, has conducted training of staff, and has introduced disinfectant at office entrances as most organizations in Côte d'Ivoire are not doing.

Finally, as noted above, PRADD II made advances in its relationship with SODEMI, mainly through going above and beyond in making sure they were invited and involved in every activity. PRADD's inclusion of SODEMI in the GIA training was a key confidence-building measure. At the end of the quarter PRADD completed its first draft of the MoU with SODEMI after a collaborative writing process. PRADD is expecting a difficult negotiation but hopes that the good faith established this quarter will help the project conclude this key agreement before the end of the year.

3.6.2. CENTRAL OFFICE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

The Abidjan office has continued to function effectively. The key challenge this quarter for both offices has been the legal status of the project cars. After its temporary entry permits expired, PRADD decided it was too risky to use the vehicles for inter-city travel, and has hence had to rely on rental cars. At the end of the quarter ARD, Inc. finally acquired its tax exoneration, but because of the expired permits, the project could no longer follow standard import procedures. It worked closely with USAID to propose a solution that involves registering the cars via the U.S. Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. USAID agreed to pursue this strategy which should result in a solution by the end of the year. PRADD recommends that USAID avoids transferring project vehicles between countries in the future, given the operational stresses and high costs associated with this approach.

Other issues dealt with by the Abidjan office included streamlining the payment process for CUA, which was experiencing 2-3 month delays due to the auditing procedure. The resolution of this challenge was

key to ensuring that CUA remained operational. The project also officially switched its bank account from the temporary initial account to a corporate account, a process which took longer than expected but now allows the project to benefit from attractive exchange rates that will save thousands of dollars in project funds each year. PRADD also updated and adjusted its labor contracts after additional legal consultations revealed a need to change the contract type. Next, PRADD has faced some IT challenges in terms of software support and located an on-call service provider. Finally, PRADD concluded year-long open purchase order agreements with several vendors after a competitive bidding process which will help streamline project procurement.

3.6.3. FIELD OFFICES STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

While the Tortiya office opened last quarter, there have been some challenges that were fully resolved this quarter, including acquiring running water, security personnel and office furniture acquisition. As a result, the Tortiya Field Supervisor was officially deployed and now shares office space with the CUA Field Coordinator and two field agents based in Tortiya. A petty cash management system was also instituted. The Country Director and Deputy Country Director visited several times in order to make sure everything was in order.

PRADD II also deployed its 8 new motorcycles to the field, and completed loan agreements with CUA for 5 of them. However, because most users did not have motorcycle licenses, PRADD contracted a company to provide training and acquire licenses as quickly as possible. All PRADD and CUA staff completed the motorcycle driving and safety training, and are now regularly practicing to build experience and increase safety. PRADD expects the staff to acquire their licenses next quarter, though the administrative process could take longer.

In the Séguéla office, PRADD completed training of its new accountant and administrative assistant, who have adapted well to PRADD's standards and work culture. In addition, the project added guard services to the CUA office, which despite being right next door, requires basic safety due to the presence of high-value project equipment. Finally, the project modified the Séguéla office working hours to allow staff to travel to Abidjan on Friday afternoons to spend the weekend with their families. This change also helped ensure that the project adapted to local working hours which tend to start early and where Friday, due to Islamic influence, is generally not a work day.

Figure 10: PRADD Motorcycle Training and Deployment

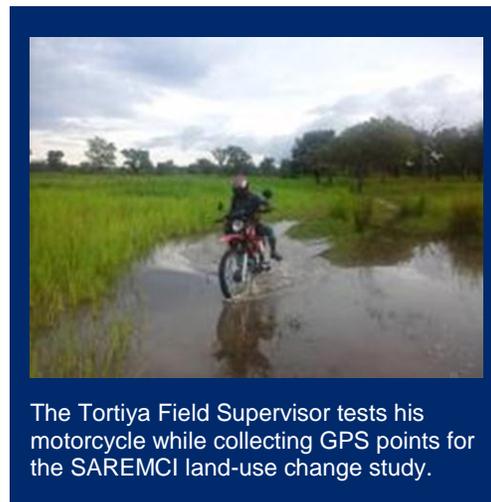


Photo: Ernest Koné

Figure 11: PRADD II Team Photo



Photo: Hotel La Madagasc Staff

3.7. STAFFING

This quarter PRADD experienced less turn-over than in previous quarters. The Communications Coordinator resigned due to another opportunity, and the GIS Specialist completed his leave of absence due to a new technical consulting firm he is building. As noted in the last quarterly report, PRADD succeeded in negotiating with the GIS Specialist, whose deep knowledge of the land law will prove invaluable, to accept a change of status from employee to consultant to allow him to work with PRADD on a part-time, project-based basis. PRADD submitted a rate approval request at the beginning of the quarter but has yet to receive Contracting Officer approval. PRADD is working with USAID to complete this process and quickly as possible.

Meanwhile PRADD re-advertised the positions of Communications Coordinator and Livelihoods Coordinator due to a poor applicant pool, and sifted through 500 CVs and conducted around 20 interviews. As a result of this process, PRADD selected its new Livelihoods Coordinator at the end of the quarter, a young agronomist with a superior analytical ability when it comes to PRADD's value chain work. PRADD was also in the final stages of contract negotiation with a new Communications Coordinator, who has accepted an offer to join PRADD in mid-November. The Livelihoods Coordinator, who requires USAID rate approval, will join PRADD in mid-October.

PRADD Côte d'Ivoire Local Staff List

Employee	Title	Location
Kangah Kouakou Alphonse	Director Of Administration	Abidjan
Adigun Florentin	Finance Director	Abidjan
Bakayoko Brahima	National Policy Coordinator	Abidjan
Kouame Amenan Armande Manuella	Operations Assistant	Abidjan
[TBD]	Communications Coordinator	Abidjan
Konda Mahamadi	Driver	Abidjan
Kouakou Faustin	Driver	Seguela
Gouagoua Gbadja Samuel	Conflict Management Coordinator	Seguela
Adou Carlos	Field Agent - Seguela	Seguela
Yao Kouakou Richard	GIS Specialist	Abidjan
[TBD]	Community Livelihoods Coordinator	Seguela
Koffi Aya Honorine	Field Agent - Seguela	Seguela
Goli Oupoh Auguste-Patrice	Financial Assistant	Seguela
Kpan Emile	Tortiya Field Supervisor	Seguela
Andjembe Marcelle Sanou	M&E Coordinator	Abidjan
Batte Aymar Anselme	Administrative Assistant	Seguela

Figure 12: Map of Diamond Mining Areas in Guinea

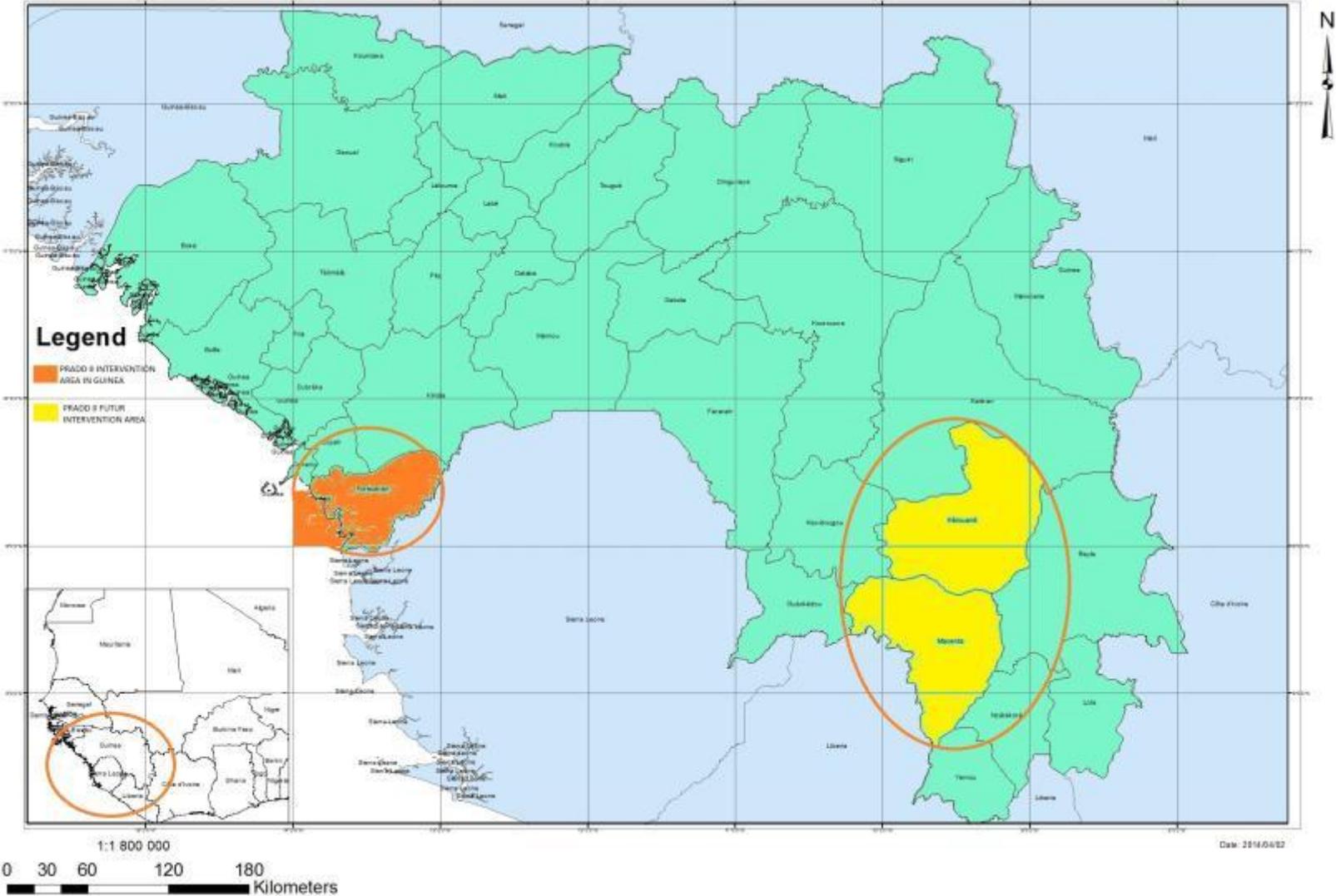
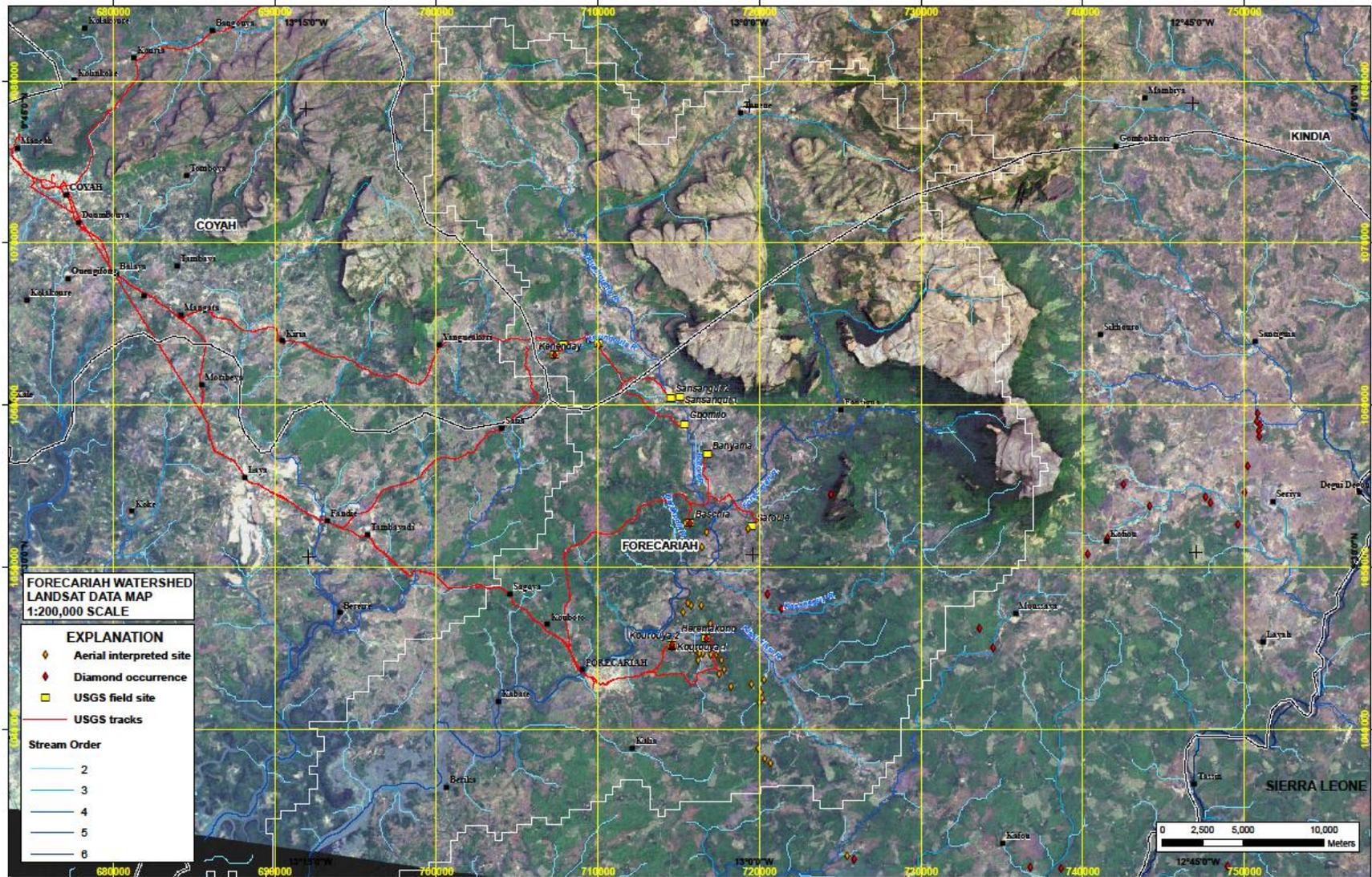


Figure 13: Map of Forécariah Sites



4. GUINEA

This past quarter was impacted very seriously by the Ebola outbreak in the West African countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Following the restriction of international travels recommended by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PRADD II was unable to bring into Guinea any of the international consultants lined up to provide technical assistance during the quarter. The activities previously planned for these consultants were either postponed to the next quarters or assigned to local consultants who in turns, were difficult to find.

Given the dimension of the outbreak, the Country Director was advised to develop a contingency plan in case an

evacuation was ordered by USAID. This plan was drafted and submitted to the appropriate authority at the USAID Mission. In addition, due to many flights being cancelled and airlines suspending their services to the Ebola affected countries, Tetra Tech found it necessary to purchase a fully refundable contingency ticket for the Country Director in case an evacuation is ordered.

In addition to the Ebola outbreak, the delay by USAID in approving the proposed project field staff, the heavy rainy season and the need to launch field activities only after the ERC baseline impact evaluation, translated into few field activities. But, this was expected at the outset and hence most of our efforts were devoted to Conakry based-activities.

Public outreach and communication at both the local and national levels were the major activities carried out during this period.

4.1. ACTIVITY 1: CLARIFICATION OF LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

The *Service national des ressources foncières rurales* (Rural Land Resources Service—RLRS) of the Ministry of Agriculture is mandated to improve the policy, legal, and regulatory framework for rural land tenure, especially with regard to constraints related to the implementation of the 1992 National Land Code (*Code foncier et domanial—CFD*). This service lacks the necessary skills and resources to carry out its mandate. However, the service is committed to coordinate and engage other actors (Ministries of Mines, Environment, Decentralization, Justice, Finances, and Urban Planning) and other technical and financial partners to launch and promote national dialogues on ways to improve rural land tenure security. During the last quarter, PRADD II continued liaising with the representatives of this National Service along with staff of the Ministry of Mines and Geology to launch activities to foster dialogues on how to formalize customary land tenure rights. Given the impact of the Ebola outbreak, the expected objectives were not accomplished but efforts were made to launch some of these activities. Below is a summary of what was accomplished during this period.

Figure 14: Country Director Introductions



Photo
Djomba Mara

4.1.1. SUB-ACTIVITY 1: CAPACITY BUILDING ON LAND TENURE AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

The seminar on land tenure and property rights that was planned to be organized during the month of September did not take place due to the impact of the Ebola outbreak on international travel and health and safety. Meetings were held between the PRADD team and the Director of the Rural Land Resources Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and his staff to discuss the alternatives around organizing the land tenure course previously scheduled in early September with national experts. The Director suggested that the course be postponed instead until the time permits for the international STTA to make the trip to Guinea. He also insisted that the original plan of holding the seminar outside of Conakry (either in Kindia or Forécariah) be maintained in order to achieve the expected objectives. It is important to note that the Director of the RLRS finally said that our planned seminar is not the only activity that suffered from the Ebola impacts. Several activities planned during that period by the Ministry of Agriculture for the country side were also postponed until further notice.

4.1.2. SUB-ACTIVITY 2: FORMALIZING CUSTOMARY SURFACE RIGHTS

Legal and Institutional Analysis: In the previous quarterly report, PRADD noted the need to reinvigorate the debate around the 2001 Rural Land Policy Directive and Land Code to seek innovations and resources to foster the pilot process of formalizing customary rights in Forécariah. The consultants Marc Dawson and Yacouba Camara were hired during this past quarter to kick off this process. The consultants compiled and reviewed background literature from various sources available in Conakry both in paper and electronic format. At the time of this report, the consultants were completing a draft of the literature review on issues related to the implementation of the Rural Land Policy Directive as they relate to the National Land Code. The consultants are preparing a road map including steps to formalize customary rights. This synthesis constitutes the first of the six deliverables scheduled to complete this review process. The two consultants worked remotely and exchanged by email and Skype calls for this task.

Including Landowners in the ASM Revenue Sharing Scheme: During this past quarter, a series of dialogues took place between the PRADD II project and the staff of Directorate of Mines on the need to share some of the revenues generated by the ASM activities with customary landowners. The new mining code of Guinea recognizes customary rights and sets up provisions to compensate landowners. The Directorate of Mines is supportive of this provision. To be able to accomplish this objective, the Head of the ASM Division noted the need to revise the joint ministerial *Arrêté 3578/MF/MMG/SGG/ 26 Juin 1996* that defines the revenue sharing scheme between the Prefecture (40%), the Sub-Prefecture (20%) and Rural Commune (40%). As of the writing of this report, PRADD is working with the ASM Division to locate a copy of the joint *Arrêté* between the Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Mines and Geology, and the General Secretariat of the Government. A copy may be in the National Archives.

4.1.3. SUB-ACTIVITY 3: IDENTIFYING RESOURCE-BASED CONFLICTS AND ALTERNATIVE MECHANISMS OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION

As a way of launching the process of developing conflict management mechanisms, PRADD hosted 19 participants, including stakeholders and practitioners, over two days to reflect on conflicts that occur in the artisanal mining sector and strategies to resolve them. Participants represented the Government (Ministries of Agriculture and Decentralization), civil society organizations (CECIDE, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding--WANEP, and the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development—ACORD), CONADOG and UNADOR, and five communities of the project site. The two day workshop identified several sources of conflicts in the ASM sector as well as institutions and mechanisms that are in place to resolve them. In addition, participants analyzed the weaknesses of these mechanisms and

formulated recommendations for the use of the existing mechanisms to design and implement alternative conflict prevention and management strategies. As of the writing of this report, the draft document on the strategies is being completed by the Land Tenure Coordinator. PRADD II is planning to work with CECIDE in the next quarter to implement this strategy.

4.2. ACTIVITY 2: STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

4.2.1. SUB-ACTIVITY 1: CONFIRMING THE SIX SELECTED SITES FOR PRADD II INTERVENTION IN FORÉCARIAH

This activity was completed during the previous quarter. In this past quarter, all of the activities undertaken by the project covered all of the six selected sites of the project

4.2.2. SUB-ACTIVITY 2: DEMARCATING RESERVED ZONES FOR ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE DIAMOND MINING

As scheduled in the work plan, the boundary demarcation of the area dedicated to the ASM activities was launched this past quarter during the height of the rainy season in July. Before the field visit, extensive preparatory work was carried out by the joint PRADD II and MMG team to identify the geographic coordinates of 60 points on a topographic map of 1:200,000 and on the two sheets (C28 XI and C28 XII of 1:200,000) of Conakry East and Seroumba Ouest map. The determination of this exclusive ASM mining area was primarily derived from field studies carried out by the MMG indicating where non-registered artisanal mining is currently being carried out. This corresponds quite well with data provided by the

Figure 15: Boundary Demarcations in ASM Zone



Boundary demarcation of the ASM Reserved Zone.

Photo A. Sow

Table 4: Geographic coordinates of the 4 corners of ASM zone

Points	Latitude	Longitude
A	9°37'40"	13°10'00"
B	9°37'40"	12°50'00"
C	9°22'30"	12°50'00"
D	9°22'30"	13°10'00"

USGS to the PRADD II team.

Four corner points (see table below) with geographic coordinates located in the Prefecture of Forécariah, Coyah and Kindia were provided by the Directorate of Mines to serve as reference to conduct the demarcation process. The total area of the demarcated zone is 983km².

The purpose of the demarcation is to define a zone exclusively reserved for artisanal diamond and other gems mining in conformity with the mining code and the ministerial *Arrêté no. A/2009/4130/MMEH/SGG* authorizing artisanal diamond and other gems mining and marketing in the Prefectures. Therefore, it allows the national Directorate of Mines to secure sub-surface rights of the area that will be parceled and allocated to individual diamond miners. The

demarcation will also enable the Directorate of Mines (with support from the PRADD Program) to work

with the customary landowners to clarify and secure their surface rights over the alluvial plains used for ASM activities inside the reserved zone.

Between July 13—25, a joint team of the MMG (both at the national and prefecture level) and PRADD carried out the physical demarcation of the boundaries of the site. Activities included an awareness campaign and public outreach in all of the communities located in and around the site; location of GPS coordinates of 30 out of 60 planned points; and the establishment of physical markers made of cement blocks of all of the points (See photo 15).

On September 2, 2014, the Minister of Mines and Geology issued a Ministerial *Arrêté* (A/14/3400/MEMG/SGG of September 2, 2014) to officially declare the 983km² perimeter as reserved for ASM activities. This official document secures the site from overlap with industrial mining.

The table below includes a summary of all of the geographic coordinates and their locations identified and marked.

Table 5: Geographic coordinates of the demarcated ASM Zone

Date	Points	Geographic Coordinates		Locations		
		Lat.	Long.	Prefecture	Sub-Prefecture	District or village
15/07/014	FORC14	9°22'30"	13°04'33"	Forécariah	Kaliah	Kalémodiagbé
	FOR C13	9°22'30"	13°04'6,6"	Forécariah	Kaliah	Military Camp Kalako
	FOR C17	9°22'30"	13°09'6,6"	Forécariah	Kaliah	Kalémodiagbé
16/07/014	FOR C16	9°22'30"	13°08'46,2"	Forécariah	Kaliah	Kalémodiagbé
	FOR C18	9°22'30"	13°09'43,6"	Forécariah	Kaliah	GBéréka/ M'MahCamaraya
	FOR C15	9°22'30"	13°06'44,2"	Forécariah	Kaliah	Koumbalyabe
17/07/014	FOR C3	9°22'30"	12°53'39,6"	Forécariah	Moussayah	Dansayah/ Daresalam
	FOR C2	9°22'30"	12°52'39,4"	Forécariah	Moussayah	Tinèkhouré
18/07/014	FOR C	9°22'30"	12°50'00"	Forécariah	Moussayah	Condéyiré/ Ganyah
	FOR C1	9°22'30"	12°51'00"	Forécariah	Moussayah	Mokania
	FOR B13	9°22'53,8"	12°50'00"	Forécariah	Moussayah	Ganyadi/ Tonèkhouré
	FOR B11	9°25'55,5"	12°50'00"	Forécariah	Moussayah	Simmey France
19/07/014	FOR B8	9°28'47,2"	12°50'00"	Forécariah	Moussayah	Fodéa
	FOR B9	9°27'53,8"	12°50'00"	Forécariah	Moussayah	Ganyah
	FOR B1	9°36'19"	12°50'00"	Forécariah	Sikhourou	Mawondyeh
	FOR D6	9°28'56,4"	13°10'00"	Forécariah	Allassoya	Sagoyah
	FOR D4	9°26'56,4"	13°10'00"	Forécariah	Allassoya	Katagbé

20/07/014	FOR D5	9°28'03"	13°10'00"	Forécariah	Allassoya	Sagoyah/ Herico Prime Minister's Plantation
21/07/014	COY A	9°37'40"	13°10'00"	Coyah	Wonkifon	Yenguiakhory
	COY D13	9°36'49,8"	13°10'00"	Coyah	Wonkifon	Guolonga
22/07/014	FOR C11	9°22'30"	13°01'50,2"	Forécariah	Kaliah	Dembayah
	FOR C7	9°22'30"	12°58'27,2"	Forécariah	Kaliah	Bokaria
	FOR C8	9°22'30"	12°59'00"	Forécariah	Kaliah	Bokaria
	FOR C9	9°22'30"	12°59'26,4"	Forécariah	Kaliah	Bokaria
23/07/014	KIN A5	9°37'40"	13°05'23,1"	Kindia	Mambia	Bramaya
	KIN A4	9°37'40"	13°05'53,4"	Kindia	Mambia	Yembetah
	COY A2	9°37'40"	13°07'31,9"	Coyah	Wonkifon	Laminayah
	COY A1	9°37'40"	13°08'49,9"	Coyah	Wonkifon	Kenendé
24/07/014	FOR D7	9°29'40,8"	13°10'00"	Forécariah	Allassoya	Dandayah/ Madina
	FOR C12	9°22'30"	13°03'23,7"	Forécariah	Kaliah	Wani

Source: the PRADD/MMG team's field report

The two maps below (Figure 18 below) show the proposed demarcation plan and the points that were completed during the month of July.

Due to the high rain fall and the subsequent over flow of the rivers in the region as well as the lack of bridges and access road for cars, the team could not complete the demarcation of the entire 60 points targeted. Indeed, roads were so poor that one of the vehicles drowned in the Yanguiyakhori river for half a day! The team managed to pull it out of the water and hire a mechanic to provide proper repairs. PRADD and the Directorate of Mines are planning to complete the demarcation after the rainy season, during this next quarter.

4.2.3. SUB-ACTIVITY 3: SUPPORTING USGS MAPPING, SURVEY, AND MODELING ACTIVITIES

The aerial photography of the six sites by the USGS quadcopters of the project was completed during the previous quarter. In this past quarter, the USGS continued processing the images that were taken for geological modeling. PRADD II provided additional topographic maps to the USGS team to support the process. STA/M Mark Freudenberger, COR Frank Pichel, and State Department Elizabeth Keefe visited the USGS in Reston to review advancements. It is anticipated that the USGS team will complete the preparation of the maps during the next quarter.

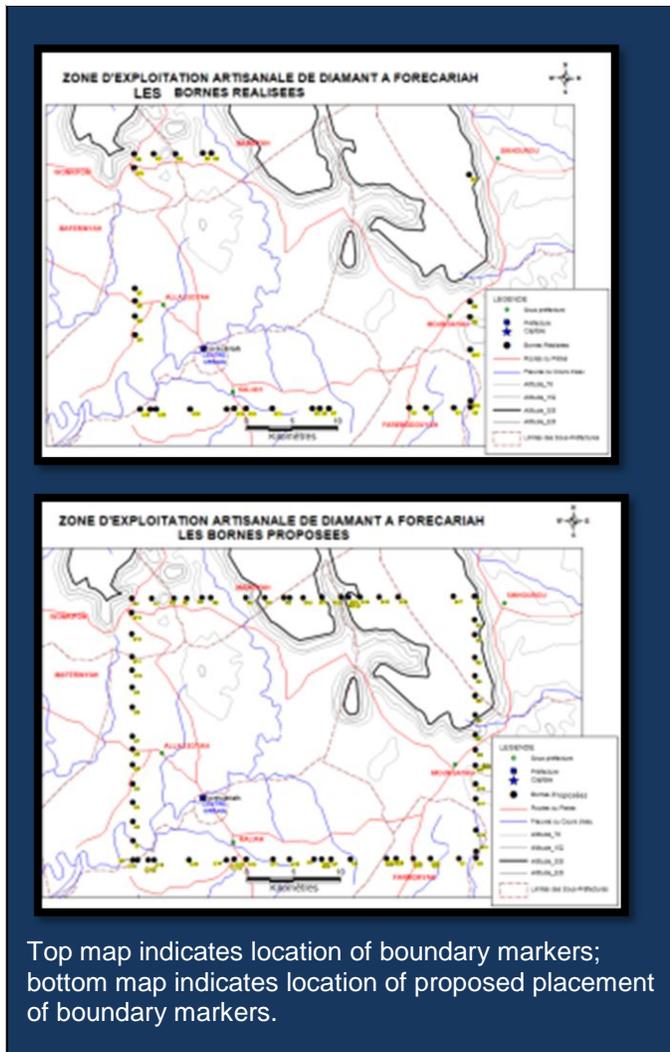
4.2.4. SUB-ACTIVITY 4: ESTABLISHING A DATABASE FOR THE SIX SELECTED PRADD II SITES

This sub-activity has not started. It is scheduled to start after the baseline survey.

4.2.5. SUB-ACTIVITY 5: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MINISTRY OF MINES AND GEOLOGY TO ADMINISTER AND MONITOR DIAMOND PRODUCTION

To support the Ministry of Mines and Geology in strengthening its presence in the ASM field of Forécariah, PRADD II and the Directorate of Mines agreed during the work planning process that a team of three young professionals (*cadres d'encadrement*) be deployed in Forécariah on an experimental basis to be trained and work with the PRADD II field team and the Prefecture Director of Mines and set up a regional coordination office of the ASM activities. This staff will be in charge of administering the parcels and controlling and monitoring production in compliance with the KP. During the past quarter, the Directorate of Mines worked with the PRADD team to select three young professional civil servants presently based in Conakry for field deployment. Detailed draft terms of references for each of these individuals were developed. The key roles of each one of them is to work with the PRADD II team to complete the aerial and geological data collection and analysis (in collaboration with the USGS); orient and administer the parceling operations on diamond bearing sites; develop production traceability system, and monitor production in compliance with the KP. In addition, PRADD and the Directorate of Mines agreed that this experimental approach be used as learning process for these young professionals to gain skills on geospatial data development and management, on promoting improved mining technique (SMARTER mining), on conflict resolution, land rehabilitation, and organizational development. As of the writing of this report, Tetra Tech is working with USAID to meet the administrative requirements to provide monthly stipends to these individuals once deployed in Forécariah.

Figure 16: ASM Delineations in Forécariah



4.2.6. SUB-ACTIVITY 6: IMPROVE ASM INFORMATION MANAGEMENT WITH THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

A national consultant specialized in archiving and database development was identified during the quarter to provide training and technical assistance to improve the archiving system of the Artisanal Mining Division of the Directorate of Mines. During the writing of this report, all of the background documentations of the consultant had been gathered, rate negotiated and the entire dossiers submitted to the Home Office for review and submitted to USAID for approval. PRADD II expects an approval to come on time in order to undertake this very important activity during the next quarter.

4.2.7. SUB-ACTIVITY 7: SUPPORT THE RE-INVIGORATION OF THE KIMBERLEY PROCESS SECRETARIAT

As a way of undertaking this important support, PRADD II and the KP Permanent Secretariat held a series of discussions to develop terms of reference for a national workshop to foster a dialogue on strengthening the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in Guinea. This workshop is aimed at improving the internal chain of custody for better compliance with the Kimberley Process requirements. Specific objectives of the workshop include: i) analyzing institutional and operational constraints of the Guinea KP system in drawing lessons on how the national committee of the KP is structured and is functioning; and ii) providing recommendations for institutional and legal reforms and measures necessary to strengthen the internal control, in compliance with the KP. Participants to the workshop will include the KP secretariat, the BNE, the Directorates of Mines and Geology, the Customs, the Anti-fraud Brigade, the Police, the Gendarmerie and CECIDE.

The workshop did not take place during the last quarter due to a number of reasons. One reason was that the KP Focal point had a busy travel schedule, which kept her from having time to organize the meeting. A second reason was that during the past quarter, the Managing Director of the *Bureau national d'expertise* lost her husband and was therefore confined to a home-based mourning for four and a half months. Given the key role of the BNE in supporting structural changes in the formal chain of custody, it was necessary to postpone the workshop. For these reasons, agreement was made between the project and the MMG representatives to schedule the workshop during the next quarter.

4.3. ACTIVITY 3: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ASM COMMUNITIES

This entire activity has not taken off yet due to the delay in approving the selected candidate for this position.

4.3.1. SUB-ACTIVITY 1: SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN MINING COMMUNITIES

This sub-activity did not take place this past quarter pending the ERC impact evaluation

4.3.2. SUB-ACTIVITY 2: PROMOTING IMPROVED MINING TECHNIQUES AND LAND REHABILITATION

This sub-activity is scheduled to start after the baseline survey and when the Ministers of Mines and Geology and Ministry of Finance issues a joint order to re-authorize ASM activities after the farming season.

4.3.3. SUB-ACTIVITY 3: SUPPORTING TRAINING IN DIAMOND VALUATION

This sub-activity was scheduled during this past quarter but it was postponed due to international travel restrictions because of the Ebola outbreak. PRADD II will include it in the next quarter with the hope that the Gemological Institute of America team will be amenable to travel to Guinea and deliver the training. The successful training held in Côte d'Ivoire indeed is inspiration for continuing efforts to bring the GIA to Guinea.

4.3.4. SUB-ACTIVITY 4: EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

This sub-activity did not take place this past quarter due to the delay in approving the selected Livelihood Coordinator who was scheduled to undertake it. This said, PRADD II Guinea looks with great interest at the value chain custody being carried out by Catalyst Resources Development Group in Côte d'Ivoire. Many of the findings may inform the debate in Guinea.

4.4. ACTIVITY 4: PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

4.4.1. SUB-ACTIVITY 1: DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH STRATEGY

To get this sub-activity launched, PRADD II Guinea started by identifying a regional consultant to travel to Conakry to develop a communication strategy for the project but due to international travel restrictions, this first option could not come through. As a second option, the project identified a national consultant who has developed a communication strategy for UNDP. But given the busy schedule and delayed travel plans of this individual between Guinea and France, there was a delay in collecting all of his required background information, obtain an approval from USAID, sign a consulting agreement, and develop the strategy. At the writing of this report, all of this documentation was gathered, daily rate negotiated and files submitted for approval by the Home Office and then USAID. This consultant, once approved, will prepare the strategy in collaboration with the field staff and our project stakeholders.

4.4.2. SUB-ACTIVITY 2: LOCAL COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS

As support to the Governance component's activities of the project, public outreach and awareness campaigns were held during the month of June in Forécariah, Coyah and Kindia to inform and sensitize the communities about the boundary demarcation of the ASM zone. Around 20 locations (sub-prefectures, districts and sectors) were reached during the sensitization campaign. Targeted audiences included prefecture and sub-prefecture authorities and technical staff, local elected officials, traditional and religious authorities, customary land owners, women, youth and artisanal miners. The team reached out even to the Prime Minister to inform him about the demarcation as one of the geographic coordinates fell in his farm field.

Three mechanisms of public communication were implemented: 1) meetings with authorities at the prefectures and at the Communes; 2) public awareness campaign and information with the communities; and; 3) airing of radio messages (in French and Soussou) ten times through the Bamboo FM local radio station. This package of public communication tools allowed a smooth completion of the demarcation exercise.

4.4.3. SUB-ACTIVITY 3: NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ON ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING SECTOR

Publication of Articles on PRADD: to increase its public outreach and communication work at the national and institutional levels, PRADD II prepared a series of articles and published them in the Ministry of Mines and Geology's quarterly newsletter (Mininfo—Issue no 42, September 2014). These articles touched on the issues of aerial photography at the ASM sites jointly conducted by PRADD II and the USGS team; a compilation of testimonies of local communities about the aerial mapping exercise; and a brief summary about the PRADD II project. The Ministry of Mines and Geology's communication unit usually prints and distributes 1,000 copies. Copies of this issue have been sent to USAID via the Home Office.

Following the publication of these articles in the newsletter, the communication unit of the ministry and PRADD held a series of discussions to review the quality and the content of the newsletter. Both parties agreed that there is a need to improve both the quality and the content of the newsletter. Based on this assessment, PRADD communication Coordinator prepared a technical note including work to be conducted and software to be procured in order to produce a better quality newsletter. Based on the content of this technical note, the project worked with the communication unit to identify a service provider; purchase appropriate software (CS in Design); install the software on the Communication Unit's desktop computer and provide training on the use of the software. As of the preparation of this quarterly report, the Service provider is preparing an improved newsletter template.

National Communication and Public Outreach:

PRADD II successfully organized its first national stakeholders' meeting this past quarter. Fourteen (14) high level representatives from the Mining Committee of the Parliament, the National Council for Communication (CNC), various Directorates of the MMG, the Rural Land Resources Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, CONADOG, and CECIDE gathered at the PRADD office to have a face-to-face discussions. The meeting allowed participants to set up a framework for public communication and outreach on PRADD activities; share experiences on public outreach from various entities; and formulate suggestions and recommendations to collaborate with the project in disseminating information at the local and national level. All of the participants were pleased to take part in such an educational and collaborative meeting. Following a speech given by the Director of the Rural Land Resources Service on land tenure issues, the representative of the Anti-fraud Brigade confessed that before the beginning of the PRADD Program, each one (referring to the staff of the Ministry of Mines versus the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture) was ignoring the other. But thanks to the project, they are now having ongoing face-to-face discussions and exchange on rural land tenure and property rights issues and benefit-sharing schemes. The representatives of the CNC strongly recommended the importance of reaching out to the public to inform them about the work the project is doing to support the Ministry. It was agreed that these types of meetings continue on a quarterly basis with a diverse audience on themes that are of interest to the project. Following the meeting, PRADD II produced a special bulletin summarizing the discussions during the meeting and shared the electronic version of this bulletin with all of the participants. In the next quarter, PRADD II will be holding similar events on a topic that will be determined based on the activities scheduled in the work plan.

Figure 17: Key Stakeholder Meeting



Hon. Mrs. Cross of the Parliament, Mr. Bérété Dir. of Mines, Mr. Barry Dir. of Land Resources.

4.5. CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

4.5.1. ADD-ONS AND COLLABORATION

Contribution to the drafting of the KP application decree: A team composed of staff of the Ministry of Mines and Geology and the Natural Resources Governance Institute representative prepared a first draft of the Kimberley Process application decree as one of the supporting regulations of the Mining Code. This draft was shared with PRADD II for comments and suggestions. Following a careful review of the draft by the PRADD Guinea team and the CDI Country Director, the project drafted a letter to the

KP Focal Point suggesting that the completion of this draft includes the recommendations of the KP review team and the outcome of the planned KP national committee workshop. The focal point was very supportive of this suggestion. At the writing of this report, the KP review team's report has regrettably still not been made available to the public. As mentioned above, the KP national committee workshop has pushed to the second half of November 2014.

Liaison with PAGSEM: Several meetings with PAGSEM took place this past quarter to coordinate on the development of the project and the ministry's communication strategies. The scope of work for both strategies were shared and reviewed by the two projects for coordination. It was concluded that when consultants are hired, the two programs should facilitate coordination between the two experts. PRADD II has learned that a group of consultants from Burkina Faso was selected to develop the communication strategy for the Ministry. But these consultants have not yet started their assignment.

Outreach and Public Communication to support the Impact Evaluation: In the M&E section below, more details are provided on the collaboration between the PRADD and ERC projects to complete the questionnaires, provide training to StatView enumerators, and implement the baseline survey.

Given the current situation with the Ebola crisis, USAID, Tetra Tech ARD and Cloudburst found it necessary to develop a special public outreach and communication action plan to support the impact evaluation. Based on this agreement, PRADD II prepared and implemented in close collaboration with StatView a public awareness and sensitization program covering national, regional and local level stakeholders.

The project and StatView reached out and provided detailed explanation on the impact evaluation strategy to the National Director of Mines, the national representatives of the two unions (CONADOR and UNADOR), the Prefect of Forécariah and his staff, the sub-prefects and elected officials of all of the sub-prefectures in Forécariah and Kindia involved in the impact evaluation, the local leaders of the union in Forécariah and Kindia. All of these stakeholders approved the process and promised full support. In addition, a radio message was prepared by the project to be aired by the Bamboo local radio station of Coyah. Plans were also made to organize a round table discussion at the radio station.

4.5.2. GENDER

A scope of work for the Gender Strategy specialist was developed. She was scheduled to travel to Guinea to carry out an assessment, provide training and develop the gender strategy of the project. But due to the Ebola outbreak and the resulting fears around international travel to Guinea, her mission was cancelled. Therefore, no progress was made during this past quarter on mainstreaming gender in the program. But, since most of the field activities were on hold due to the same crisis, there may be an opportunity to catch up next quarter. Hopefully, even from afar, the Gender Specialist can provide insights and support to developing an in-country gender strategy.

4.5.3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

ePort Training for the Project Staff in Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea: The M&E Coordinator participated in an ePort training in Abidjan and field demonstration in Séguéla along with the CDI M&E Coordinator and team. The training was provided by the PRADD Regional M&E Specialist who was trained in the use of this technology last May in Burlington, Vermont. As recommended by USAID, the M&E Coordinator of Guinea was trained as trainer in Côte d'Ivoire in order to deliver similar training to the Guinea project staff. Back in Conakry, the M&E Coordinator reviewed the tools that were used in CDI and developed and delivered a three day (August 20—22) staff training. Given that the field staff has not yet been hired

another training session will be scheduled for the remaining team. This training will also be extended to the *cadres d'encadrement* of the MMG.

Preparation of the KAP study: As indicated in the intervention strategy of the project, the baseline study is an activity reserved to the ERC project. The study on knowledge, attitudes and practices of people in communication was therefore integrated into the global baseline study. To this end, the project staff contributed to the development of the KAP questionnaire for inclusion in the overall questionnaire of the baseline assessment. The results of this study will be included in the definition of the overall communications strategy for the project. At the writing of this report, the enumerators had completed the training on conducting the survey and filling out and translating the questionnaire, and conducting the pre-test before their deployment in the field.

Coordinate with ERC to conduct the baseline survey: The presence of the Ebola virus in Guinea did not allow the ERC team to travel to Guinea to work closely with StatView to complete the preparation of the baseline and conduct the survey. This situation requires the involvement of the PRADD Program staff to work with StatView for the preparation and implementation of the impact evaluation. The PRADD team has provided technical and logistical support to the entire process so far.

Assist in finalizing the questionnaire for the impact study: The project reviewed and commented on four questionnaires received from ERC for data collection. The review included suggestion on changing some questions, deleting some, adding some, changing the language and adapting it to local realities and providing correct spelling of some local names. In addition, the team's contribution also consisted of adding the Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices (KAP) section in the questionnaire.

Participate in the training of the enumerators for the impact evaluation: The training of teams to be deployed in the field was held at the StatView office in Conakry. There were 20 participants (4 are women), 7 supervisors (with one woman) and two field managers. During the training session, PRADD II presented an overview of the project including the objectives, the KPCS, the project activities and achievements so far, the M&E plan and the importance of the impact evaluation for the project.

The training session, which was scheduled for a week was extended to three weeks including the field pre-testing session. The weeks of September 20—26 and September 27--October 4 were spent on reviewing and understanding the household survey questionnaire and the focus group guide. The week of October 6, 2014 was spent conducting the pre-test and the reviewing the remaining tools.

Table 6: Diamond Production Data for Guinea

The project team also participated and contributed in the pre-test exercise of HHS and focus group questionnaire in the Rural Commune of Wonkifong (in Coyah Prefecture) and subsequent debriefing on the results of this pre-test questionnaire at StatView. Comments were provided to improve the methodology and provide further training to the enumerators on the use of the questionnaires.

Months	Total ASM production
July 2014	10,614.13 Carats
August 2014	7,221.44 Carats
September 2014	6,854.11 carats

Production data: M&E Coordinator visited the ASM division to gather statistics for July through September 2014. Below is the summary table of this data set.

4.6. OPERATIONS

Below is a summary of activities accomplished during the last quarter.

4.6.1. PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Quarterly Work Planning Process: Following the approval of the annual work plan and the PMP in May, the PRADD II team gathered during two days to develop a work plan for the quarter (May—September) period. The decision to extend the plan to September was to cover the pre-baseline entire period as the activities were less intense in the field. From October 2014, PRADD II will be developing a similar work plan for the next quarter (October 2014–January 2015).

4.6.2. CENTRAL OFFICE

PRADD II central office is still at the same location in Coleah Lanseiboundji and is fully functioning with good internet access, water and electricity supply. The landlord tried to increase the rent at the end of the first year contract (October 2014) but he was advised by the project not to do so because the budgeted amount cannot be changed at this moment and given the impact of the Ebola on the economy, there is no justification to increase the rent at this time. He agreed to postpone until next year.

4.6.3. FIELD OFFICE

The field office has not been set up and staffed yet. PRADD II selected one field site coordinator and three field agents. Documentations was sent to USAID for approval on August 18th, and fortunately, at the time of submission of this report, approval had been provided. Staff contracts will now be signed and appropriate training will be provided prior to staff deployment into the field. Field staff will receive tailored training on precautions to take against Ebola. That said, we hope that field staff will indeed agree to work in Forécariah, one of the epicenters of Ebola.

On the other hand, following a request made by the project to the Ministry of Territorial Administration via the Ministry of Mines and Geology, the Prefecture of Forécariah has made one building available to the PRADD Program to refurbish and use as office space. The official letter has been received. PRADD II is in the process of hiring a construction engineering firm to assess the building, design a renovation plan and monitor the construction. During the next quarter, PRADD II will select a construction company to refurbish the building. This building, once refurbished, will be used by the PRADD field staff, as well as the Prefecture Director of Mines and his staff. At the end of the project, the building will be transferred to the Prefecture Directorate of Mines.

4.7. STAFFING

Below is the list of the current staff of PRADD II Guinea.

PRADD II Guinea Local Staff List

No.	Names	Position
1	Bocar Thiam	Country Director
2	Keletigui S. Camara	Director of Administration
3	Marlyatou Bah	Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator
4	Aissatou Bobo Bah	Director of Finances
5	Djomba Mara	LTPR Coordinator
6	Abdourahamane Sow	GIS Coordinator
7	Souleymane Diallo	Communication Coordinator
8	Mata Kann	Operational Assistant
10	Telly Sock	Driver
11	El Hadj Mahmoudou Sano	Liaison MMG
Below is the list of additional staff to be hired:		
1	Abdoulaye Conté	Livelihood Coordinator
2	Djeinabou K. Barry	Field Site Coordinator
3	Mamadou Adama Mara	Field agent
4	Fatoumata Mansaré	Field agent
5	Mamadou Aliou Diallo	Field agent

5. GENERAL AND REGIONAL SUPPORT TO KPCS

5.1. TESTING AND REFINEMENT OF WASHINGTON DECLARATION DIAGNOSTIC FRAMEWORK

5.1.1. PARTICIPATION IN WDDF FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS

As noted in the Côte d'Ivoire section, PRADD has sought to test and follow-up on the WDDF through funding its piloting in Côte d'Ivoire under a sub-contract with GRPIE. The PRADD Country Director has coordinated closely with the U.S. Kimberley Process delegation to maximize the impact of this key exercise through a presentation at Plenary. At the end of the next KP Plenary, PRADD's next steps to support the WDDF should become clearer after discussions with the WGAAP, DDI and others.

5.1.2. SUPPORT TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND GUINEA WDDF

For PRADD's support to the WDDF in Côte d'Ivoire, please see the Côte d'Ivoire section where this is described in detail under the governance activities heading.

As noted previously, PRADD II Guinea follows this advancement with interest and hopes to launch the same process in Guinea once the KP Focal Point returns to work.

5.2. MANO RIVER UNION AND WEST AFRICAN HARMONIZATION INITIATIVES

5.2.1. CONTRIBUTIONS TO MRU REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOLLOW-UP

Follow-up contributions to the MRU Regional Action plan have been put on hold pending negotiations on the MoU with the Regional Approach technical team. In addition, the Ebola situation in the region has been a factor behind lack of action in this area. The Côte d'Ivoire Country Director has remained involved in drafting and revising the document MoU, and while PRADD expects signature soon, the Ebola crisis in the region shows no sign of abating in the near future.

5.2.2. LIAISON TO MANO RIVER UNION TECHNICAL TEAM FOR ACTION PLAN FOLLOW-UP

PRADD has not played this role pending negotiation on the MoU with the Technical Team.

5.2.3. REGULAR REPORTING ON MRU REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOLLOW-UP

PRADD has not played this role pending negotiation on the MoU with the Technical Team.

5.3. CONTRIBUTIONS TO KIMBERLEY PROCESS MEETINGS

5.3.1. PARTICIPATION IN KIMBERLEY INTERCESSIONAL AND PLENARY IN CHINA

The Côte d'Ivoire Country Director will attend the KP Plenary in Guangzhou, China in November, 2014. The Country Director will assist and/or coordinate with relevant stakeholders on the following issues:

- Delays in Côte d'Ivoire's implementation of the transition strategy, including providing feedback or advice to the Ivoirian delegation on their presentation to WGM
- Timing of the KP review visit in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 2153
- The KPCS suspension of the Central African Republic
- The next steps in promoting the Washington Declaration Diagnostic Framework, including assisting Ivoirians in their presentation of the process to the WGAAP
- The MoU between PRADD and the Regional Approach technical team, including next steps in light of Ebola epidemic.

The Côte d'Ivoire Country Director will also continue to network with delegates and effectively represent PRADD as a major contribution of the US and EU to strengthening the Kimberley Process.

5.3.2. ENGAGEMENT IN MRU PLENARY/INTERCESSIONAL AND SIDE-EVENTS ON REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

Due to the lack of an MoU with the Technical Team, PRADD has not pursued initial plans to organize a side-event at the KP Plenary with GIZ to discuss the Regional Approach Action Plan. The Ebola situation has also made it uncertain if MRU participants would even be able to get flights to attend. As PRADD expects the signing of the MoU soon, this may open the way for PRADD to help advance the regional approach action plan implementation process, though as noted the Ebola situation may have long-term repercussions on the initiative.

5.3.3. PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATORY DIALOGUES FOR KP MEETINGS

The PRADD II Côte d'Ivoire Country Director provided a briefing to senior U.S. State Department officials considering the situation and strategy to adopt in the Central African Republic, which is still suspended from the KP. The Country Director gathered the latest information from the ground via the former PRADD CAR DCOP and provided analysis based on PRADD's experience and knowledge in that country. As noted, the Country Director will continue to support the U.S. and EU as needed during the KP Plenary as KP participants consider if CAR is ready to a partial or full lifting of the ban.

5.4. SELECTION OF THIRD PRADD II COUNTRY

5.4.1. INVOLVEMENT IN DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE PRADD II THIRD COUNTRY

The PRADD II Senior Technical Advisor/Manager discussed with USAID's Land Tenure Division on several occasions possibilities of support for PRADD-like activities in a third country. Very little advancement on this issue is likely until the KP sessions in Angola next year and determination of opportunities in West Africa in light of the Ebola crisis.

6. CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

6.1. PARTNERSHIPS

6.1.1. UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

See PRADD II Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea sections.

6.1.2. GEMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

The PRADD/GIA training in rough diamond sorting and diamond valuation was, as in PRADD CAR, a resounding success. It was perhaps the most major achievement this quarter in terms of supporting Côte d'Ivoire post-embargo transition strategy. See Côte d'Ivoire section for more details. Due to Ebola concerns, the GIA had to suspend its training in Conakry.

In addition to the valuation training, the GIA has been in dialogue with PRADD on other areas of collaboration, including the development of a rough pricing guide, the development of visual training materials appropriate for illiterate populations and other ideas.

6.1.3. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH RETAIL AND WHOLESALE DIAMOND BUYERS

PRADD II's partners on the direct marketing initiative were integrated fully into the scope of work for the value chain scoping study in Côte d'Ivoire. As part of this, the Catalyst Resources Development Group consultants will reach out to each partner and obtain initial information and input that could lead to innovative initiatives in Côte d'Ivoire.

In addition, as noted in the Côte d'Ivoire section, PRADD pitched the idea of the young entrepreneur business plan competition to Brilliant Earth, with whom PRADD has sought to collaborate with in the Central African Republic. While a final decision is pending, chances are good that PRADD will formalize a partnership on this next quarter.

5.1.4. INTERNSHIPS

No internships this quarter. Former Humphrey Fellow Armel Nganzi has successfully transitioned to a position with Tetra Tech in the Congo.

6.2. GENDER STRATEGY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Gender Strategy is being designed at the time of this Quarterly Report submission in for PRADD II Côte d'Ivoire by Gender Specialist Hadji Djiakité. Lessons from this process and experience will be

useful for the similar exercise in Guinea. However, travel restrictions to Guinea are indeed hindering the scheduled gender strategy preparation process and gender sensitivity training. The PRADD II team will be exploring options for advancing preparation of the Guinea strategy through remote support by the Gender Specialist combined with use of internal staff resources such as those of the M&E specialist Marlyatou Bah.

6.3. MONITORING PRADD II PERFORMANCE

6.3.1. SUPERVISION OF M&E SPECIALIST TASKS

Figure 18: PRADD II M&E TRAINING



Photo: Honorine Koffi

In August 2014, the PRADD II Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Ramy Razafindralambo provided hands-on training to the country M&E Coordinators to establish a monitoring and evaluation system that fulfills the requirements outlined in the PRADD II Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) and USAID ADS standards. Based on the training of trainers approach, the two M&E Coordinators have trained in total 22 agents and technical staff in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, in basic M&E systems and electronic Program Observation, Reporting, and Tracking (ePORT) system. The ePORT database is currently up and running and received timely data from the field agents and M&E coordinators on implemented activities such as the workshop training in the 1998 land law for local authorities in Côte d'Ivoire, the GIA training on diamond valuation, etc. Indicator data produced in this quarterly report were extracted from the ePORT database.

Electronic forms created under ePORT were particularly useful to inventory the mined-out sites appropriate for fish farming and agricultural activities in CDI. In anticipation of coming field activities (e.g. inventory of miners and active mining sites), the M&E Coordinator continued to review the electronic forms with the field staff during the PRADD II planning workshop in CDI. Led by the Country Director and the M&E Coordinator, the ePORT implementation is making good progress in CDI and the technical staff has taken great interest in using the tablets to collect various data useful for monitoring. Proposed changes to the forms will be harmonized by the M&E Specialist with the Guinea context to keep consistency and integrity of the ePORT database across countries. Once the field agents in Guinea are hired, they will be also provided training in M&E and ePORT systems by the Guinea M&E Coordinator to follow up the M&E plan implementation in Guinea.

The ePort system has also been used to generate base maps from which data points can be attached for electronic data bases. Figure 19 below is an ePORT data base showing sites visited and the chosen pilot sites. Around each site, empirical data, pictures, and narratives can be captured and stored in an electronic data base for use by all within PRADD II for monitoring and analysis.

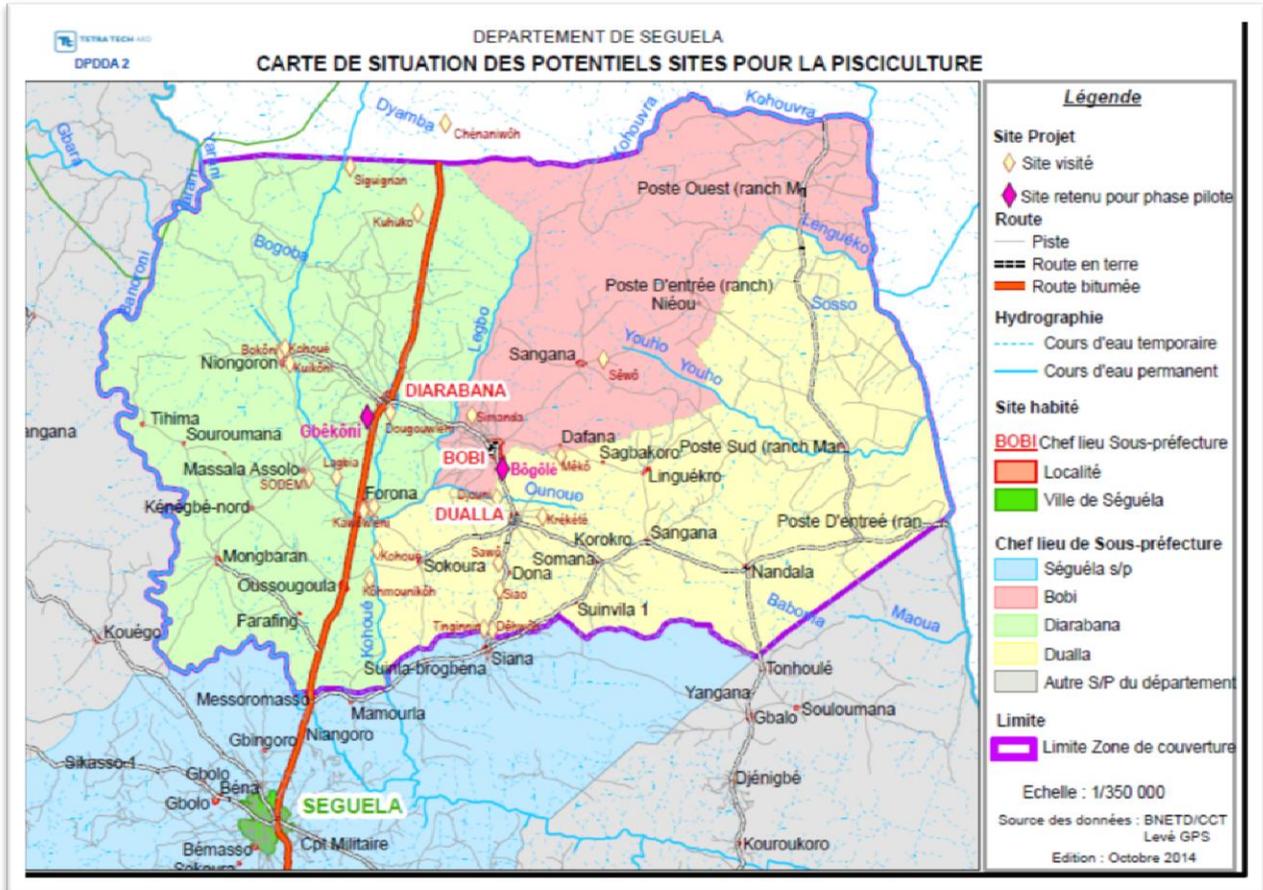
6.3.2. PREPARATION AND COORDINATION OF WEEKLY UPDATES

The PRADD II Weekly Updates continued to be prepared by the field and Home Office team for dissemination every Friday afternoon.

6.3.3. PREPARATION AND COORDINATION OF PRADD II REPORTING

The PRADD II reporting continues to be coordinated by the Home Office team of the STA/M Mark Freudenberger and the Project Manager Ed Harvey.

Figure 19: Map Generated by ePort



6.4. IMPACT EVALUATION

The Evaluation, Research, and Communication (ERC) project is mandated to carry out the Impact Evaluation for PRADD II Guinea. As reported above, this exercise is on target despite the immense hurdles caused by the Ebola crisis. Thanks to the concerted cooperation between ERC and PRADD II, the impact evaluation should be carried out in the assigned villages reasonably on schedule.

The PRADD II Côte d'Ivoire team will carry out a programmatic impact evaluation baseline using the ERC surveys as a foundation. Support from ERC for using their surveys is very much appreciated.

7. PROJECT SPECIFIC INDICATORS

Indicator/Year	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	Total 2014
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Number of improvements in laws and regulations affecting property rights of the urban and rural poor enacted with USG assistance	0	0	0	1						1
Number of households who have obtained documented property rights as a result of USG assistance	0	0	0	0						0
Person hours of training completed by government officials, traditional authority, or individuals related to land tenure and property rights supported by USG assistance (disaggregated by sex)	0	372	0	912						1284
<i>Côte d'Ivoire</i>	0	12	0	592						604
<i>Men</i>	0	12	0	541						553
<i>Women</i>	0	0	0	51						51
<i>Guinea</i>	0	360	0	320						680
<i>Men</i>	0	264	0	320						584

Indicator/Year	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	Total 2014
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<i>Women</i>	0	96	0	0						96
Number of previously existing land and natural resource-based conflicts resolved in areas receiving USG assistance for land conflict mitigation	0	0	0	0						0
Number of people attending USG-assisted facilitated events that are geared toward strengthening understanding and awareness of property rights and resource governance-related issues (disaggregated by sex)	6	214	0	47						261
Côte d'Ivoire	0	58	0	27						85
<i>Men</i>	0	48	0	24						72
<i>Women</i>	0	10	0	3						13
Guinea	6	156	0	20						176
<i>Men</i>	5	130	0	20						150
<i>Women</i>	1	26	0	0						26



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ANNEX A: PROGRAM

European Commission

PROGR

Service for Foreign Policy Instruments

Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development (PRADD) II

Supporting the Kimberley Process in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea

OVERVIEW

The Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Program (PRADD II) supports governments to implement mining best practices in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, and promotes good governance of the mining sector at the international level through the Kimberley Process (KP), the international mechanism that prevents rough diamonds from fueling conflict. The program—a \$19 million five-year joint USAID/European Union initiative—continues the artisanal mining work USAID implemented from 2007–2013 in Central African Republic, Guinea, and Liberia.

The objective of PRADD II is to increase the number of alluvial diamonds entering the formal chain of custody, while improving the benefits accruing to diamond mining communities. Artisanal miners labor under archaic and difficult working conditions and live in extreme poverty, often receiving less than 9% of the retail price of the stones they extract. Poverty prevents miners from acquiring the licenses required to operate within the law, the equipment necessary to increase their gains, and the assets needed to diversify their livelihoods. Not surprisingly, miners often become incentivized to mine quickly, sell fast, and swiftly move on to new sites. These practices have devastating economic and environmental consequences, negatively impact export revenues, and prevent compliance with the Kimberley Process.



PRADD II, Sabine Jiekak

Active artisanal diamond mining Bobi, Côte d'Ivoire in June, 2014 after lifting of the UN Security Council Embargo.

THE PRADD APPROACH

Drawing upon the fields of property rights, economic development, governance, and behavioral change, PRADD II bases its approach on the premise that secure property rights create positive incentives for miners to be good stewards of the land. When an artisanal miner's rights to prospect and dig for diamonds are formal and secure, they are more likely to sell through legal channels, enabling the government to track the origin of diamonds and prevent them from fueling conflict. In addition, the formalization of extracting perimeters stimulates the land market, which appeals to prospective investors.

PRADD further strengthens the diamond value chain by designing alternative systems of financing, equipment, and marketing, which benefits diggers, miners, intermediaries, and exporters. The project introduces complementary livelihoods, including the conversion of exhausted mines into agricultural use, and specifically targets these livelihood opportunities to women in an effort to mitigate the environmental damages of artisanal mining while providing diversified income and food security.

At the policy level, PRADD II supports governments to improve diamond mining legislation and regulations. In 2013, the project produced the Washington Declaration Diagnostic Framework, which is an assessment tool that help diamond-producing states translate international best mining practices into action. The Framework was endorsed by the Kimberley Process in November 2013. Finally, PRADD II combines local, national, and international communication tools to mobilize civil society groups and change the behavior of artisanal miners and decision makers regarding the trade of rough diamonds. The goal is to use behavior change communication approaches to alter the way miners view diamond trade and production: from a source of conflict to a powerful tool for development that will contribute positively to national economies, miners, and their communities.

PRADD IN COTE D'IVOIRE

Côte d'Ivoire emerged from a decade-long civil war in early 2011, but its diamonds—which played a role in sustaining the conflict—remained on the world's blacklists until April 2014 when the UN Security Council embargo on diamond exports was lifted. Now the challenge is to implement the process for tracking diamond production and exports while strengthening other internal controls. Even though the systems put in place are now regarded as some of the most advanced in the world, the government of Côte d'Ivoire needs to move rapidly to re-start the monitoring systems so that diamond diggers, middlemen, and exporters can start to receive earnings through legal exports. PRADD II provides technical assistance to government to help relaunch the export system and internal controls.

The Ivoirian land governance framework demonstrates advanced land tenure legislation, which acknowledges and seeks to formalize customary land rights. PRADD II has reviewed the practical implementation of that law throughout the country and will assist artisanal mining communities in delineating their village limits, bringing them closer to achieving state-recognized surface rights. The PRADD II program has set up field offices in the diamond mining areas of Séguéla and Tortiya to facilitate field activities.

In September 2014, the Geological Institute of America led a successful training in diamond valuation for government officials, mining cooperatives, and PRADD II staff. Over the coming months, PRADD II will carry out an in-depth assessment on ways to introduce ethical diamond production and exports and launch its program of environmental rehabilitation around mined-out diamond pits to increase livelihood diversification.

PRADD IN GUINEA

PRADD II resumes artisanal mining work by USAID in Guinea after the 2009 coup d'état forced the closure of the previous project. Since that time, new mineral deposits and alluvial diamonds have been discovered across the country, and the mining sector is now one of the country's biggest revenue sources. The PRADD II project worked with the U.S. Geological Survey to launch geological modeling of potential diamond mining sites using innovative new technology. Despite the Ebola crisis, PRADD II has continued to advance project implementation, and for the first time ever, an Artisanal Mining Zone was created by government decree in the diamond-rich areas of Forécariah. PRADD II will lead policy dialogues to recognize customary tenure in diamond mining areas. Baseline impact evaluations are underway and field activities will be launched at the end of the rainy season in late October.

PROPERTY RIGHTS AND ARTISANAL DIAMOND DEVELOPMENT II: QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
(JULY–SEPTEMBER 2014)

PRADD AND THE KIMBERLEY PROCESS

Since 2008, PRADD has been providing technical support to the annual Kimberley Process, advancing the notion that development of artisanal mining communities will lead to greater compliance, traceability, and legal exports of alluvial diamonds. PRADD II supported the March 2014 Regional Harmonization and Enforcement workshop under the auspices of the KP and the Mano River Union. Negotiations continue to support the Mano River Union Action Plan – an regional initiative to tackle policy harmonization around diamond exports and reduction in cross-border diamond smuggling.

PRADD played a central role in developing the Washington Declaration Diagnostic Framework, an official KP assessment tool that measures progress in artisanal diamond mining governance. The tool has been tested successfully in Côte d'Ivoire by a coalition of government, civil society, and the diamond industry. Initial results will be presented at the Kimberley Process Plenary session in November 2014.

ANNEX B: SNAPSHOT



SNAPSHOT

Partnership with Gemological Institute of America empowers Ivoirian diamond miners, government

Training and distribution of weighing scales helps miners get a fair price and the government its fair share of taxes

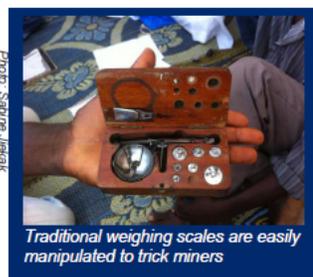


Photo: Sabine Jarzak

Traditional weighing scales are easily manipulated to trick miners



Photo: Barbara Estayano

Mining cooperative members and government valuers learn the state-of-the-art in rough diamond valuation

Telling Our Story
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

The GIA's famous "four C's"—color, clarity, cut and carat (weight)—help millions of consumers choose engagement rings each year, but for an artisanal diamond miner, that knowledge can be the difference between earning a piece of bread or a new house.

Since a diamond of the same weight can cost pennies or millions, buyers often exploit the lack of knowledge—and use inaccurate weighing scales—to cheat miners of a fair price.

Through its Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development (PRADD II) program, USAID is helping empower miners in Côte d'Ivoire through training and the distribution of accurate electronic weighing scales to cooperatives.

"We've noticed at least a 0.2 carat difference between the old scales and the new scales," said Fofana Abou of the Diarabana cooperative." In nearby Bobi, villager leaders have banned all sales that do not use the new scales.

Through a unique partnership with the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), PRADD offered a world-class rough diamond valuation training to six cooperative members. PRADD is working on simplified follow-up trainings to reach more miners.

The GIA training also included Côte d'Ivoire's customs officials. Before the decade-long civil war, authorities calculated taxes using a per-kilo rate, leading to a major loss in tax revenue that could have otherwise been used for social development projects.

"Thanks to these new techniques, we can now better collect taxes when exporting diamonds," said Commander Tia of the Ivoirian Customs service at the training's closing ceremony.

Accurate diamond valuation is also an essential part of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, since a diamond's value is like a "fingerprint" used to trace stones. In addition, accurate valuation can be a tool to detect money laundering.

“The GIA training in Côte d’Ivoire is an essential part of the country’s transition from the U.N. embargo,” said Mark van Bockstael, chair of the Kimberley Process Working Group on Diamond Experts, who attended the closing ceremony. The government of Belgium plans on funding an internship for Ivoirian valuers in Antwerp in the coming months.

PRADD played a key support role in getting the UN diamond ban lifted in April 2014, and its activities aim at strengthening Kimberley Process compliance and improving the lives and livelihoods of small-scale miners.

The USAID Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Program (PRADD II) supports governments to implement mining best practices in Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea, and promotes good governance of the mining sector at the international level through the Kimberley Process, the international mechanism that prevents rough diamonds from fueling conflict. The program—a \$19 million five-year joint USAID/European Union initiative.

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U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523
Tel: (202) 712-0000
Fax: (202) 216-3524
www.usaid.gov