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# PROPERTY RIGHTS AND ARTISANAL DIAMOND DEVELOPMENT (PRADD) PROJECT

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT  
(JANUARY-MARCH 2010)



**MAY 2010**

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Cover Photo: PRA Surveyors and community members from Loppo, Central African Republic, trace a participatory community map. Photo courtesy of François Ngbokoto.



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## **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

CAR	Central African Republic
CEMAC	<i>Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale</i>
DCI	Director of Commercialization and Industry
DDI	Diamond Development Initiative
DDS	Diamond Development Standards
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
GoCAR	Government of the Central African Republic
GTZ	German Development Cooperation
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
KP	Kimberley Process
IR	Intermediate Result
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MARP	<i>Méthode Accélérée de Recherche Participative</i> (Participatory Rural Appraisal)
MMEH	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Hydraulics
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PRADD	Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Project
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development (PRADD) project is an element of the support provided by the United States government, through the US Department of State, to the Kimberley Process. The Kimberley Process (KP) was established in 2000 by representatives from the diamond industry, civil society, and major diamond-producing and trading countries with the intent of combating the trade in conflict diamonds. The KP is voluntary but member nations are permitted to trade only with other KP members, thus offering an economic incentive to retain membership as long as non-members bear the cost of being excluded from legitimate trading channels. Currently, there are 74 KP member countries (27 of which are represented through the European Union). All the major diamond-producing and trading countries are KP members. Only those diamonds that are certified as originating from conflict-free areas and sealed in tamper proof containers at the point of export are traded between KP members.

To retain membership, participants are required to adhere to a number of rules, including the enactment of national policies aimed at reducing illicit diamond export and import and the timely submission of trade and production statistics. In order to adhere to these rules, member countries need a system of internal controls capable of regulating and tracking the flow of diamonds from the point of extraction to export. In 2004, the Government of the Central African Republic (GoCAR) enacted a mining code that requires registration with the central government of all production and marketing activities involving alluvial diamonds. The 2004 Mining Code also seeks to protect the rights of artisanal miners based on the adoption of a cooperative approach between industries and artisanal miners to diamond production and marketing. However, the defined regulatory, tracking, and support systems far exceed the implementation and enforcement capacity of the central government. The small-scale and itinerant character of alluvial diamond mining make it particularly difficult for governments to exercise effective monitoring and regulation of this sector, or to improve conditions in an often chaotic environment. Thus, a significant portion of alluvial diamond mining activity remains unregulated and unregistered.

The core problem being addressed by the PRADD project has two dimensions:

- Insufficient monitoring of the diamond industry and a lack of reliable information to ensure the integrity of the KP; and
- Poverty, insecure property rights, and exploitation of artisanal miners and mining area communities.

Regarding the first dimension, one of the most significant obstacles to bringing alluvial diamond-producing countries into the KP has been the inability to capture accurate production data at the mine sites. Concerning the second dimension, artisanal diamond mines often operate under conditions that make them vulnerable to a variety of rent-seekers and predators, with detrimental effects on producers and their livelihoods as well as on national economic growth and the natural environment. Ironically, alluvial diamond-producing areas in Africa are among the poorest in their respective regions, despite millions of dollars of diamond production. The two dimensions of the core problem are linked—the same lack of transparency and ineffective regulatory systems that inhibit information collection also enable those with more power or means to continue to exploit the relatively powerless.

The PRADD project premise is that the increased security of land tenure and property rights aimed at community and extraction groups (and linked to local government contexts), combined with improved

production data, is central to bringing alluvial diamonds into the legal chain of custody and improving the livelihood options of local populations. The fundamental goal of the PRADD project is to achieve a system of control and access (i.e., property rights) regarding alluvial diamonds mined to be exported that is clearly defined, widely recognized, socially accepted, and reliably functioning. Based on the above overarching goal and objectives, PRADD has defined the following five intermediate results (IRs) to be achieved during its pilot phase:

- IR 1 – Customary land and natural resource rights in target areas identified, clarified, and formally recognized;
- IR 2 – System for reliable tracking of production and initial sale information strengthened and appropriated by the GoCAR;
- IR 3 – Benefits of mining activities to local communities increased and food production diversified and intensified;
- IR 4 – Capacity to prevent and mitigate environmental impacts of artisanal mining strengthened; and
- IR 5 – Access and availability of information on artisanal diamond mining to stakeholders increased.

# 1.0 SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER

During this reporting period, PRADD made several notable advancements in the project work plan. Most significantly, a multidisciplinary team comprised of PRADD team leaders, technicians from the Ministry of Mines, and students from the University of Bangui conducted a two-month analysis of customary property rights in Nola, the second project pilot site. As a result of this participatory analysis, the project identified and mapped an additional 1,122 diamond mines, customarily held by 665 small-scale miners. In the next quarter, the project will map the remaining mines identified in Nola and will seek to incorporate approximately 200 new entrants from Boda (the original pilot site) into the Geographic Information System (GIS) property rights database. Furthermore, through lessons learned in the Boda and Nola participatory rural appraisal (PRA) activities, the project will finalize tools, such as the PRADD property rights manual (in progress), for wide-scale replication of the PRADD property rights model.

The project also revitalized its activities in environmental rehabilitation, alternative livelihoods, and mining policy reform and education as previously initiated via short-term technical assistance. The newly hired IR 3 (Economic Development), IR 4 (Environmental Mitigation) and IR 5 (Communications) Coordinators undertook several community-based workshops to promote legal cooperatives and small-scale savings and loans programs, aquaculture (dually a mechanism to mitigate food insecurity and a viable economic incentive to rehabilitate unproductive mine sites), and a comprehensive understanding of the revised Mining Law. As a result of these educational campaigns, the project will begin providing technical support to 29 functional cooperatives/groups; and four additional miners acquired their mining permits in Boda. Of the groups identified, two men's groups have committed to adopting a traditional savings and loan program, known locally as "Kelemba" and they are also interested in obtaining KickStart human-powered water pumps for small-scale gardening.

Lastly, the PRADD project has made a concerted effort to promote ownership and buy-in of the PRADD model and to widely diffuse best practices to beneficiaries, local counterparts, and donor organizations. To this end, the project has been developing partnerships with the national press corps and political authorities who reside in the project zone of intervention to formalize the engagement of the Ministry of Mines to develop national radio and television content; codify preexisting partnerships with organizations such as GTZ, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and the KP Certification Scheme; and promote collaboration with new organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The project also revised its illustrated Mining Code Guide to reflect recent changes in the law, and translated it into Sango, the *lingua franca* of CAR. This guide will be distributed widely to mining cooperatives, partner organizations, and regional offices of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Hydraulics (MMEH).

# 2.0 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER

## 2.1 PROJECT ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

This quarter was marked by several important events that impacted the overall quality of the project administration in both positive and negative terms. The most notable achievement during this period was the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the Ministry of Mines in January 2010. Signature of the MOU had been pending since May 2009 and the project was operating without an appropriate legal framework during this period. The lack of a viable MOU created several operational constraints for the project with the GoCAR, but the bilateral partnership and the technical work plan are on course again.

Another positive outcome during this reporting period was the recruitment of the remaining IR Coordinators. Implementation of the technical plan had been delayed due to the inability of the project to hire the property rights and environmental coordinators—in both cases, the project offered permanent positions to existing public servants, who later were denied an official leave of absence from their government positions, obliging the project to reopen two difficult recruits again. This hiring brought the PRADD team to full capacity, but unfortunately, this was short-lived as it was necessary to terminate the Office Manager for fraudulent activity and one of the Rural Coordinators resigned without notice. A replacement Office Manager candidate has been identified and is in his probationary period with the project and the Rural Coordinator recruitment is underway.

## 2.2 STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

An integral element of effective project management lies in the professional development and capacity building of the local project staff. Recognizing an apparent need, the project facilitated three training sessions to build technical skills of the project coordinators, field office managers, and coordinators. The first training oriented the project staff in the use of Microsoft® Office and of the video projector. The second training addressed MARP (*Méthode Accélérée de Recherche Participative* or PRA) techniques, field data collection, and the use of handheld global positioning system (GPS) units. The third training was targeted at the field office managers to develop technical work plans and accompanying detailed line item budgets for implementation of technical activities in the pilot zones. This training also served to harmonize work plans between the two field offices. In the next quarter, the project will develop additional capacity-building trainings around the use of Adobe® Audition 1.5 to facilitate the production of radio emissions in the pilot zones.

## 2.3 IR 1 – CUSTOMARY LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE RIGHTS IN TARGET AREAS IDENTIFIED, CLARIFIED AND FORMALLY RECOGNIZED

### 2.3.1 DIFFUSION OF PRADD PROPERTY RIGHTS METHODOLOGY

During the pilot phase, the PRADD project successfully developed a model to identify, clarify, and validate existing customary property rights for small-scale miners in one diamond-producing CAR region. The challenge for PRADD in the second phase is to codify the property rights already identified and develop tools for other governments, donor organizations, and partners to replicate the PRADD model. To this end, PRADD organized a multi-stakeholder workshop with 51 participants from the Ministry of Mines and partner organizations to evaluate the impediments to formalizing customary property rights in CAR and present a “how-to” manual outlining the PRADD model for peer review.

The working groups identified several constraints for the formalization of customary property rights including the lack of human capital and material means within the government to better control the industry, lack of knowledge about the Mining Code and its requirements, the elevated costs of permits and legal documentation, and the inaccessibility of MMEH services.

**TABLE 1. CONSTRAINTS AND SOLUTIONS IDENTIFIED FOR THE FORMALIZATION OF CUSTOMARY PROPERTY RIGHTS IN CAR**

Principal Actors	Constraints to Formalization	Possible Solutions to Constraints
Government of Central African Republic/Ministry of Mines, Energy and Hydraulics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Insufficient knowledge of diamond reserves</li> <li>2. Lack of human capital and material means</li> <li>3. Lack of political will to change existing policies</li> <li>4. Lack of concerted proposition for the formalization of rights</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Intensify geological research</li> <li>2. Institutional capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implant satellite offices for MMEH in rural communes to collect payments for legal documentation</li> <li>• Improve infrastructure to facilitate travel to government agencies</li> <li>• Reinforce human resources capacity of the regional MMEH offices</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. No solutions proposed</li> <li>4. Elaboration of mining code/policy targeting small-scale miners</li> </ol>
PRADD	Lack of coordination between MMEH and PRADD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an advisory committee between PRADD and MMEH</li> <li>• Encourage regular communication on PRADD technical approach with MMEH</li> </ul>
Artisans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elevated costs of patents and legal paperwork</li> <li>2. Lack of knowledge about the legal requirements</li> <li>3. Lack of will to legalize</li> <li>4. Administrative burden (time) to acquire</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decrease price of patents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for quarterly payments of patents</li> <li>• Put in place credit unions, savings and loans programs, and micro-credit in diamond-producing areas</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Education Campaign - Intensify state control of non-compliance</li> <li>3. Education Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide direct financing to artisans to pay for permits</li> <li>• Intensify state control of non-compliance</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Simplify administrative process, including</li> </ol>

Principal Actors	Constraints to Formalization	Possible Solutions to Constraints
	legal paperwork	eliminating the prospection authorization

The cost of the mining permit is a particular preoccupation for PRADD, as well as the Diamond Development Initiative (DDI), if customary property rights are to be formalized and legally recognized. During the next quarter, the PRADD project will hire short-term technical experts to conduct a fiscal analysis of the permitting and taxation structure in CAR, and several other African diamond-producing countries, to catalyze a national debate about the how to effectively bring more artisanal miners into the legal chain of custody. Kent Elbow, the principal PRADD technical consultant, will also likely conduct a “sustainability study” during the coming months to take into account the lessons learned and the dialogue generated from this workshop.

### 2.3.2 DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION

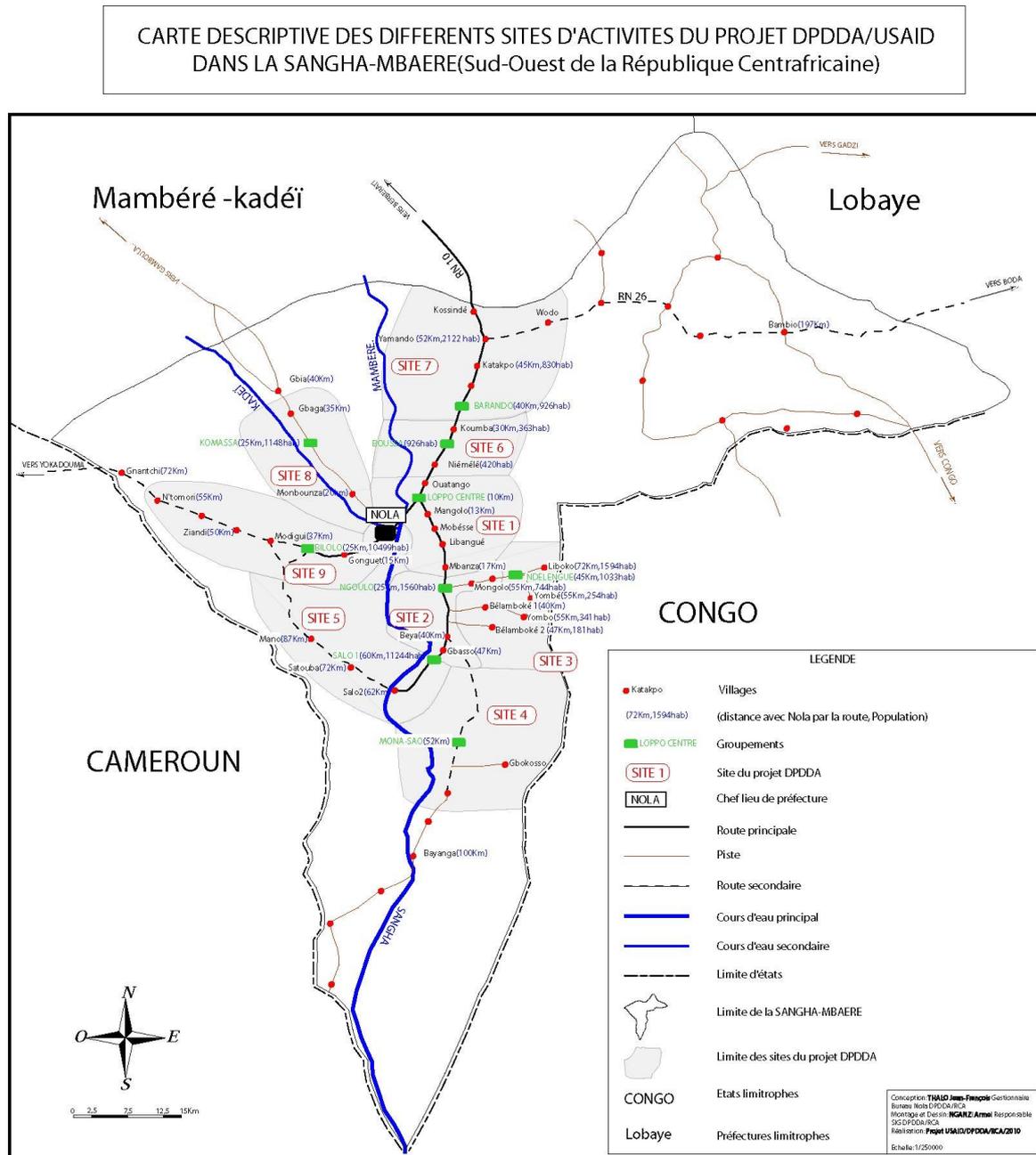
In preparation for the socioeconomic surveys and mapping exercises in Nola, the technical team first reviewed the existing data collection tools, namely the miner and mine plot surveys, to adapt them to the evolving information needs of the project and CAR. PRADD updated the miner survey to quantify the number of artisans actively working in cooperatives and in possession of the legally required documentation (permit, production notebook, prospection authorization, and identity card), to gauge the incentives and disincentives for miners with legal compliance, and to determine the control measures that the Mining Brigade and the Ministry of Mines effectuate regularly in the diamond-producing zones. The mine plot survey incorporates questions related to access, control, delimitation, level of exploitation, and existing public or private land use conflicts of the mine sites. In addition to updating the existing tools, the project created a third survey tool to facilitate mapping of the mines and to have base information for the intended use, such as abandonment, rehabilitation, or extraction of other resources, of expired mines sites.

After revising the data collection tools, PRADD organized a four-day practical training in MARP methodology for nine project staff members (new to the model), 15 field surveyors, three interns and one engineer from the Ministry of Mines, and six community members. Drs. Kent Elbow and Zéphirin Mogba trained the surveyors in techniques for semi-structured interviews, documentary research, participatory rural analysis, historical profiling, community mapping, simple and composite matrices, the “problem tree,” histograms and Venn diagrams. The net objective of this training was to provide theoretical and applied learning in the PRADD property rights model and to integrate a broader range of data collectors into the process to build local and institutional capacity for the replication and expansion of the model in CAR.

### 2.3.3 PRA AND MAPPING IN NOLA

During this reporting period, PRADD exceeded its expectations for the identification of artisanal mining property rights in Nola. A multidisciplinary team comprised of PRADD team leaders, technicians from the Ministry of Mines, and students from the University of Bangui conducted a two-month analysis of customary property rights in two hamlets of Nola, the second project pilot site. Fifteen total surveyors worked in Loppo (Loppo, Watongo, Mangoro and Mbanza) and Ndélengué-SCED (Ngoulo, SCED–Ndélengué, Bélamboké, Mona-São, Béya and Yobè), represented as sites 1 and 3, respectively on the figure below.

**FIGURE 1. DESCRIPTIVE MAP OF THE DIFFERENT ACTIVITY SITES OF THE PRADD PROJECT IN THE SANGHA-MBAERE IN THE SOUTHWEST OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**



As a result of this participatory analysis, the project identified 1,122 diamond mines customarily held by 665 small-scale miners, including 48 women. Of the 1,122 mines identified, the team mapped 636. In Loppo, the data collectors surveyed and mapped the entire watershed for the Makéssé, Mabossé, Mandjanga, Mbanza rivers. In Ndéléngué, the team mapped 100% of the Bélamboké and Ngbahari rivers and approximately 70% of the Ndéléngué River. The project also identified seven densely populated mining camps (Camp-Ernest, Camp-Nganga, Camp-Bondja, Camp-Likendjé, Camp-Boanda, Camp-Enoch, and Camp-Mapondo) along the Ndéléngué, Yobé and Bélamboké Rivers. Mapping and surveying continues in these camps, and in the next quarter the project will work with the WWF to begin appraising environmental degradation along the Yobé River that buttresses against the World Heritage-eligible Dzangha-Sangha National Park.

**TABLE 2. CENSUS OF MINERS SURVEYED**

	Site of Loppo-Mbanza	Site of Ndélengué-SCED
<b>Men</b>	235	382
<b>Women</b>	32	16
<b>Total</b>	267	398

**TABLE 3. RECAPITULATIVE TABLE OF MINE PLOTS IDENTIFIED BY SITE**

	Site of Loppo – Mbanza	Site of Ndélengué-SCED
<b>Mines Identified</b>	437	685

The PRA study confirmed trends already identified in Boda for access to customary property rights in the artisanal mining sector. As with Boda, customary property rights in Nola are most commonly granted through discovery, inheritance, and purchase. Land grants are a rarer occurrence than in Boda, but property rights acquired through collective agreements are common in Nola and nonexistent in Boda. For a limited group of miners, the industrial mining company, SCED, granted “conventions” or agreements to artisanal miners to work specific mines during the mine’s operation. When SCED closed, the artisans retained the rights to these parcels, and in some cases these property rights have transferred through other mechanisms such as inheritance. Another permutation of the typical customary property rights as seen in Boda is shared property rights among land uses. In Nola, it is common for a farmer to willingly divide access and control of his parcel with a small-scale miner, superimposing the land uses and the property rights. Access to customary property rights also confuse themselves in Nola as the same locality could be represented by two different chiefdoms (usually Bantu and Pygmy tribes who cohabit) and mining camps often have different access rights than individual parcels do.

In addition to validating other property rights trends in CAR, the MARP also underscored the negative corollary between the global economic crisis and localized impacts on mining communities. Notably, the historical profile of Loppo confirmed that 2009 marked a massive out-migration of collectors in the zone and the collapse of the local economy. Less disposable income and points of sale for diamonds led to specific impacts in food security, human health, and welfare. For example, Kwashiorkor (an illness commonly seen in malnourished children) first appeared in the mining community in 2009.

A peripheral activity that the project conducted in conjunction with the MARP mapping exercise was to screen the film “More Than A Piece of Paper” in each of the communities to be surveyed. Viewing the film catalyzed more miners to present themselves for the miner census and it opened a dialogue between the miners, the project, representatives from three buying houses, and 29 local collectors, who felt the film marginalized, or even demonized, the role of the collectors in the value chain.

In the next quarter, the project will map the remaining mines identified in Nola and will seek to incorporate approximately 200 new entrants from Boda, the original pilot site, into the GIS property rights database. Furthermore, through lessons learned in the Boda and Nola MARP activities, the project will finalize tools, such as the PRADD property rights manual (in progress) and the Sango version of “More Than a Piece of Paper,” for wide-scale replication of the PRADD property rights model.



**FIGURE 2. DOUI PATERNE, PRADD INTERN/SURVEYOR, MAPS AN ARTISANAL MINE SITE IN LOPPO, CAR.**

### **2.3.4 DIAMOND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP**

PRADD actively seeks opportunities to reinforce collaboration with organizations that share the goals of increasing transparency in the alluvial diamond-mining sector and improving livelihoods in artisanal diamond-mining communities. In that context, over the course of the past six months, the PRADD project has been developing a strong partnership with the DDI. PRADD's contributions to this partnership have included a \$50,000 grant to the KP Civil Society Fund and co-financing and translation of the Guyana Model Manual produced by DDI. PRADD also accepted DDI's invitation to attend a two-day workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa on the dual themes of the Guyana model for monitoring of alluvial diamond production and marketing, and a new initiative called Diamond Development Standard (DDS). The DDS is a type "fair trade" certification scheme proposed by DDI for implementation in CAR and Liberia. Criteria for this certification would draw upon lessons learned and best practices identified by DDI in Guyana and the PRADD project in Guinea and CAR. For each of the respective projects, the absence of armed conflict, validated property rights, and relative ease of entry of artisan miners into the legal chain of custody are critical certification criteria.

In preparation for the Johannesburg workshop, PRADD was asked by DDI to accomplish two tasks: 1) prepare a presentation on choices and issues regarding PRADD's use of database management and spatial technologies for monitoring artisanal miners and mining sites; and 2) organize and conduct a workshop in CAR to inform artisanal miners of the upcoming DDS initiative and collect miners' views and guidance regarding DDS. The stakeholder meetings revealed that, in order of priority, the key criteria for establishing a DDI certification scheme for the artisans were 1) price equity; 2) community rights (development of social infrastructure, respect of historic or sacred sites, etc.); 3) environmental responsibility and human rights (outlawing child labor, principally); 4) human health and safety (for workplace accidents, use of intoxicants while mining, etc.); and 5) community benefits. The artisans did not deem the absence of conflict a prerequisite for the certification scheme. The artisan miners also felt that an international organization, rather than the federal government, civil society or industry, should audit and certify the diamond-producing communities.

Subsequent to the stakeholder meetings, a PRADD representative at the workshop delivered presentations on both of these topics during plenary sessions, and along with his colleagues from CAR, participated actively in all small group exercises and plenary discussions throughout the two days of the workshop. PRADD sponsored participation of three individuals at the DDI workshop: a senior technical advisor, the director of mining promotion for MMEH, and a senior officer of the national union of cooperatives. All members of this three-person contingent agreed that the information shared at the workshop was both rich and pertinent in the context of alluvial diamond mining in CAR. During the workshop, DDI and the representative of MMEH agreed that CAR would be one of two to three countries selected for pilot implementation of the DDS initiative.

## **2.4 IR 2 – SYSTEM FOR RELIABLE TRACKING OF PRODUCTION AND INITIAL SALE INFORMATION STRENGTHENED AND APPROPRIATED BY GOCAR**

### **2.4.1 RESTRUCTURING AND TRANSFER OF THE PROJECT DATABASE**

During the reporting period, the PRADD GIS Specialist undertook three actions to facilitate the transfer of the property rights database to MMEH. Per the recommendations of Ruth Nakitare (ARD's home office GIS Specialist), the GIS Specialist first restructured the database. The specialist also wrote a work plan and training program outline to steer the development of a draft protocol for the transfer of the property rights database to MMEH. The protocol will consider the administrative/logistic and technical aspects of the transfer. The administrative questions that the protocol addresses include:

- Who will have access to the database?
- What department in the ministry will manage the database?
- What is the physical configuration of the GIS laboratory?

- How will the security of the database be ensured?

For the transfer to be viable technically, the project and MMEH must address the ministry's existing human and material needs to autonomously manage the database over a long duration, identify a mechanism to update the data in the registry, and have a consensus of data sharing among stakeholders outside the bilateral agreement. Prior to the transfer of the database, however, the PRADD project will need definitive guidance from USAID as to its expectations for data sharing given the political sensitivities of the database. Furthermore, the project, with USAID, needs to develop possible leveraging opportunities with the Government of Taiwan and GTZ/REMAP to ensure the long-term utility of the property rights database.

## **2.4.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR 2009 MINING CODE**

Since the World Bank and the Central African government revised the Mining Code in 2009, the PRADD project has undertaken a progressive public awareness campaign to inform citizens of the relevant changes. In past quarters, the project distributed copies of the Mining Code to local government authorities and civil society organizations in the major diamond-producing hubs. PRADD also engaged in preliminary dialogues with the MMEH, EITI, and GTZ/REMAP to organize a national education strategy which would bring together diamond cooperatives, buyers, collectors, and control agents to understand the requirements of the new law, particularly with regard to permits, cooperative formation, and environmental protection. The project has coordinated several workshops with project beneficiaries about the changes in the law.

During this quarter, the project educated an additional 515 persons, including four women, about the relevant changes to the Mining Code, insisting on the requirements to be a legally registered miner. Subsequent to these trainings, four additional project beneficiaries acquired their mining permits with the regional mining authority. The illustrated Mining Code Guide, produced in 2007, was also updated, revised, and translated into Sango. The printing and distribution of this guide will be rolled out in June 2010, in conjunction with a public relations campaign for the project. Other PRADD communication tools (the property rights manual, PRADD methodology poster and the guide) will be available for distribution to local stakeholders, regional Directorate of Mines, and KP participants.

## **2.5 IR 3 – BENEFITS OF MINING ACTIVITIES TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES INCREASED AND FOOD PRODUCTION DIVERSIFIED AND INTENSIFIED**

### **2.5.1 AUTO-PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS**

A key component of the PRADD livelihoods strategy is to encourage miners to diversify their economic base with off-mine activities through collective efforts. Building upon earlier trainings, the IR 3 Coordinator organized a three-week training to revitalize and reorient existing community groups with the end objective of developing concrete business plans for income-generating activities. The sub-objectives of the training were to 1) reinforce the understanding of community groups and associations in community organization and business management; 2) develop an action plan to ensure success for a targeted income-generating activity; and 3) aid community groups to better manage community resources, notably the diamond evaluation kits that the project would like to donate and have managed by six artisanal mining communities. This training expounded upon previous trainings by specifically introducing the concepts of conflict mitigation, legal statute, feasibility studies, meeting organization, collection and management of revenue, and auto-promotion of income-generating activities.

In total, the project trained 328 people representing 29 existing community groups in Boda and its environs, in business management and community organization. Each of the 29 groups developed tentative business plans and a business charter, which focused primarily on agricultural development, with a lesser emphasis on fish farming, coffee production, animal husbandry, and soap making. A secondary result of this training was the tacit desire of two artisanal mining cooperatives to employ a

local savings and loan program known locally as “Kelemba” to better coordinate their mining activities and improve their economies of scale. Typically, the “Kelemba” mechanism is reserved for women and is nonexistent in the mining sector, but with increased education, men’s groups understand the added value of savings and loan programs, financial autonomy, and the benefit of pooling financial resources in collective action. These same groups also want to diversify their economic base and are considering procuring KickStart water pumps for small-scale gardening.

The project also donated six coffers to each of the principal pilot zone communities to facilitate collection of the community contribution for the procurement of the diamond evaluation equipment. By publically counting the contents of the safes at regular intervals, the project can help communities attain a savings objective and build local confidence in collective monetary action.

In the next quarter, the IR 3 Coordinator will refine and promote the community-developed business plans in part by identifying funding mechanisms, such as the US Embassy Self-Help Fund, which could provide start-up revenue to develop viable income-generating activities and promote a revolving fund. The coordinator will also push the groups interested in Kelemba to concretely and regularly economize their funds with the end objective of acquiring a patent for the group, to buy mining supplies (such as the KickStart water pump, etc.) or another value-added activity in the mining sector. Lastly, the Community Development Specialist will develop an action plan for the Nola field office to replicate the activities and the trainings done already in Boda on group management and community organization.

## **2.6 IR 4 – CAPACITY TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF ARTISANAL MINING STRENGTHENED**

### **2.6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL REHABILITATION**

Mining, by its nature as an extractive industry, is a very environmentally destructive activity with water pollution, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity among the most common environmental impacts. Although environmental mitigation efforts constitute the core of IR 4 activities, the PRADD technical team has noted that there is little incentive for local communities to rehabilitate expired mines. The lack of incentive is easily explained by the natural regeneration capacity of the mined lands, availability of other arable land for agriculture, and the dictates of a simple cost-benefit analysis.

The corollary between human health/welfare and environmental degradation, however, appears to be the crux for PRADD to encourage small-scale mining communities to rehabilitate their diamond mines. For example, water pollution can lead to waterborne illnesses and the loss of biodiversity can result in an absence of animal protein and malnutrition in a given population. Enabling communities to understand this corollary and take affirmative action to mitigate the negative social and environmental impacts of small-scale diamond mining was the focus of IR 4 technical work during this quarter.

Specifically, the Boda field team conducted a health survey—comprised of informal interviews and data collection at the local clinic—of common diseases that plague artisanal miners. The survey revealed that artisanal miners commonly suffer from pneumonia, malaria, intestinal worms, mumps, hernias, slow-healing wounds, and malnutrition. The project also began preliminary planning to promote fish farming in the three demonstration plots (expired mines) and with established community groups. Preliminary planning included a literature review of the previous environmental consultations conducted and a scoping mission for the new IR 4 Coordinator to target sites for environmental rehabilitation and fish farming activities. The coordinator surveyed mine sites previously identified by the community as needing rehabilitation to quantify the type and extent of the degradation identified.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Although PRADD had previously identified 37 mines sites for rehabilitation, it was necessary to verify the accuracy of these results for strategic intervention—as the list of mines nominated for rehabilitation was compiled in a participatory workshop, rather than with field analysis. It is possible that sites were nominated based upon the promise of donor financing versus actual environmental degradation.

The scoping mission enabled PRADD to develop a participatory strategy for environmental rehabilitation which specifically addresses the cost, incentives, and feasibility of community-led rehabilitation activities. During the same scoping mission, PRADD trained 170 artisans in the Boda pilot zone in the basic concepts of fish farming and three fish farming demonstration plots were selected by the community for development.

In the next quarter, PRADD will hold practical aquaculture trainings in each of the original pilot communities, training community members the rudiments of the physical and human environment required for fish farming (soil and water chemistry, local economy, technical considerations, construction or rehabilitation of a pit, water circulation, species selection, pond maintenance, predator control, etc.).

## **2.7 IR 5 – ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON ARTISANAL DIAMOND MINING TO STAKEHOLDERS INCREASED**

### **2.7.1 MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN**

The communication strategy of the PRADD project has three intended audiences: the international community, the host country government, and the artisanal mining communities. At the international level, PRADD aims to develop a replicable model based on the validation and legalization of customary property rights and to disseminate best practices to other KP participants and stakeholders in the extractive industries. Nationally, the project is developing tools to aid the Central African government in its compliance with the KP, to promote transparency and good governance, and in its national decision-making capacity, particularly with regard to mining policy, natural resource management and land use planning. For the beneficiaries, the project is building local capacity for small-scale miners to receive more direct benefits from their products and to improve their overall quality of life.

At the international level, the project inculcated existing partnerships with WWF, GTZ/REMAP, and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). During the MARP exercise in Nola, three members of the technical team met with the WWF Technical Coordinator for the Dzangha-Sangha Reserve to develop a strategy to educate artisanal miners about the prohibitions of mining within the park limits, exchange data, and develop institutional synergies between the two organizations. The resolutions taken from this meeting were to count, but not validate, the miners operating within the park limits and for WWF to provide a MARP Specialist to accompany the PRADD team in its data collection in Quarter 2.

WWF provided the PRADD team with GIS data for infrastructure and roads, the protected area boundaries, and the localization of mines and mining camps within park boundaries. WWF also offered a complimentary tour of the Dzangha Ndoki salt lick so the PRADD team would be better acquainted with the ecological importance of the reserve and to provide tangible motivation to demobilize artisanal miners from within the park. PRADD helped to troubleshoot the problems with WWF's AO printer, which is now operational and could be used to print PRADD validation maps. In the next quarter, a formal partnership protocol will be developed to outline the terms of the partnership, with the specific goals of joint missions, GIS/GPS data exchange, and use of WWF facilities and equipment.

The project also met again with GTZ to reinvigorate past conversations about HIV/AIDS mainstreaming, environmental protection and rehabilitation, fiscal/tax analysis of mining policies in CEMAC countries, sponsorship of a sophisticated GIS laboratory for the MMEH (more expansive and sustainable than the one computer that PRADD will donate to the ministry for the Property Rights Registry), and to develop an extractive industries platform (which would include industry, EITI, Publish What You Pay, PRADD, GTZ/REMAP, civil society and the Central African government).

At the national level, the project sought to develop linkages across the industry and within government agencies, beyond our principal counterpart agency, MMEH. A new strategy employed by the PRADD project is to identify possible “champions” across the sector who can attest to the project’s approach and successes. Possible champions identified during this reporting period included resident ministers and deputies domiciled in the PRADD pilot zones, MMEH’s press attaché, the Director of Commercialization and Industry (DCI/MMEH), and Director of EITI. Although the presidential election campaigns interfered with several of the proposed activities, the project conducted several preliminary briefing meetings to solidify existing partnerships, and develop new partnerships to better communicate the goals of the project at the local, national, and international levels.

The activities included a meeting with the Minister of Transportation and Civil Aviation (Resident Minister of the Lobaye) to outline the project results to date, a meeting with the MMEH press attaché to explore opportunities for the ministry and PRADD to share radio and television time to develop technical mining content for the public, and the DCI to exchange production and export statistics. In the next quarter, the project will resume dialogue with the deputies and the Minister of Plans (Resident Minister of Sangha-Mbaere) who were unavailable due to political campaigning to present the project successes. The project will also reformulate the partnership proposed by EITI to have less of an accent on PRADD financing EITI field offices, to creating a stakeholder platform that promotes the implication of civil society in the extractive industries. The project will also organize a media day where local journalists will be invited to a special viewing of “More Than a Piece of Paper” and they will receive an overview of the project, education about changes to the Mining Code, and copies of the Sango Mining Code Guide and the Property Rights Manual.

## **2.7.2 MEDIA CAMPAIGN**

For the beneficiaries, the accent of the communication strategy was on awareness building around the goals and objectives of the project and the stipulations of the Mining Code. In preparation for the MARP exercise, the project held an opening ceremony in the field office to publicize the basis for the data collection teams in surrounding communities. Three radio interviews in French and Sango were given to Radio Locale to further develop project objectives and dispel misnomers about PRADD. Miners were encouraged to participate in the MARP and the census through widespread visualization of the film “More Than a Piece of Paper” and through the diffusion of radio slogans linking reinforced property rights with decreased conflict and good citizenry.

In addition to the PRA-specific activities noted above, the project also constructed small community billboards in each pilot community to disseminate information about best practices, pending PRADD activities, etc. In the next quarter, the project will develop fact sheets by theme (environmental rehabilitation, fish farming, income-generating activities, the Mining Code, how to form a cooperative, etc.) and color posters to affix to the billboards to encourage behavior change. The project also secured a 30-minute time slot on the radio broadcast “Kouli Ndouga” to discuss PRADD activities and preoccupations in the mining sector. Radio emissions synthesizing the PRA activities, and debating “what is the mining code?”, and “how to become an artisanal miner” were broadcast. In the next quarter, the project will develop new content for these weekly radio emissions. Finally, the project broadcasted two interviews, in French and Sango, with the Minister of Transportation and Civil Agency to the listening audience in Bangui about the goals of the PRADD project.

# ANNEX I: REPORTS, MAPS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS PRODUCED IN QUARTER 3

Elbow, Kent. March 12, 2010. Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Project Trip Report for Travel to the Central African Republic and South Africa. January 19-February 24, 2010. 52 pgs.

Mainde, Mathias. April 2010. Mission DPDDA du 1ere Février 2010 au 02 Avril 2010 dans la Région de Sangha Mbaere (Rapport Partiel). Ministry of Mines, Energy and Hydraulics. 21 pgs.

Mogba, Zéphirin. March 2010. Etude par l'approche MARP du Secteur Minier Artisanal de Diamant dans le Site de Ndelengue-Yobe dans la Sangha Mbaere. 52 pgs.

Ningua, Jean Paulin. February 2010. Rapport de l'Etude MARP a Loppo. Nola, Central African Republic. 41 pgs.

PRADD. Rapport d'activités: Mission ESD/GPS- Site de Loppo/Mbanza/Ngoulo/SCED-Ndélengué. 15 Février – 2 Avril 2010. NOLA, Central African Republic. 62 pgs.

PRADD. Manuel Pour la Formalisation des Droits de Propriété Légitimes dans le Secteur Minier Artisanal de Diamant. Bangui, Central African Republic. 107 pgs.

PRADD. March 2010. "More Than a Piece of Paper" Sango Translation Video. Spectrum Media/Bonga Bonga Studio.

Ouaba, Hyacinthe. February 2010. Rapport de Mission sur L'Initiative du Diamant de Développement (DDI) à Johannesburg du 22-24 Fevrier 2010. MMEH. 6 pgs.

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