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ARTISANAL MINING AND PROPERTY RIGHTS UNDER THE STRENGTHENING TENURE AND RESOURCE RIGHTS II (STARR II) IDIQ QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT April I – June 30, 2019



Contract Number: 7200AAI8C00087
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Photo: Artisanal Diamond Mining site in Bekondi, Boda that participated in the AMPR Knowledge, Aptitude and Practice -KAP Survey. Photo by: Francis Togo.

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ARTISANAL MINING AND PROPERTY RIGHTS TASK ORDER UNDER THE STRENGTHENING TENURE AND RESOURCE RIGHTS II (STARR II) IDIQ QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT April 1 - June 30, 2019

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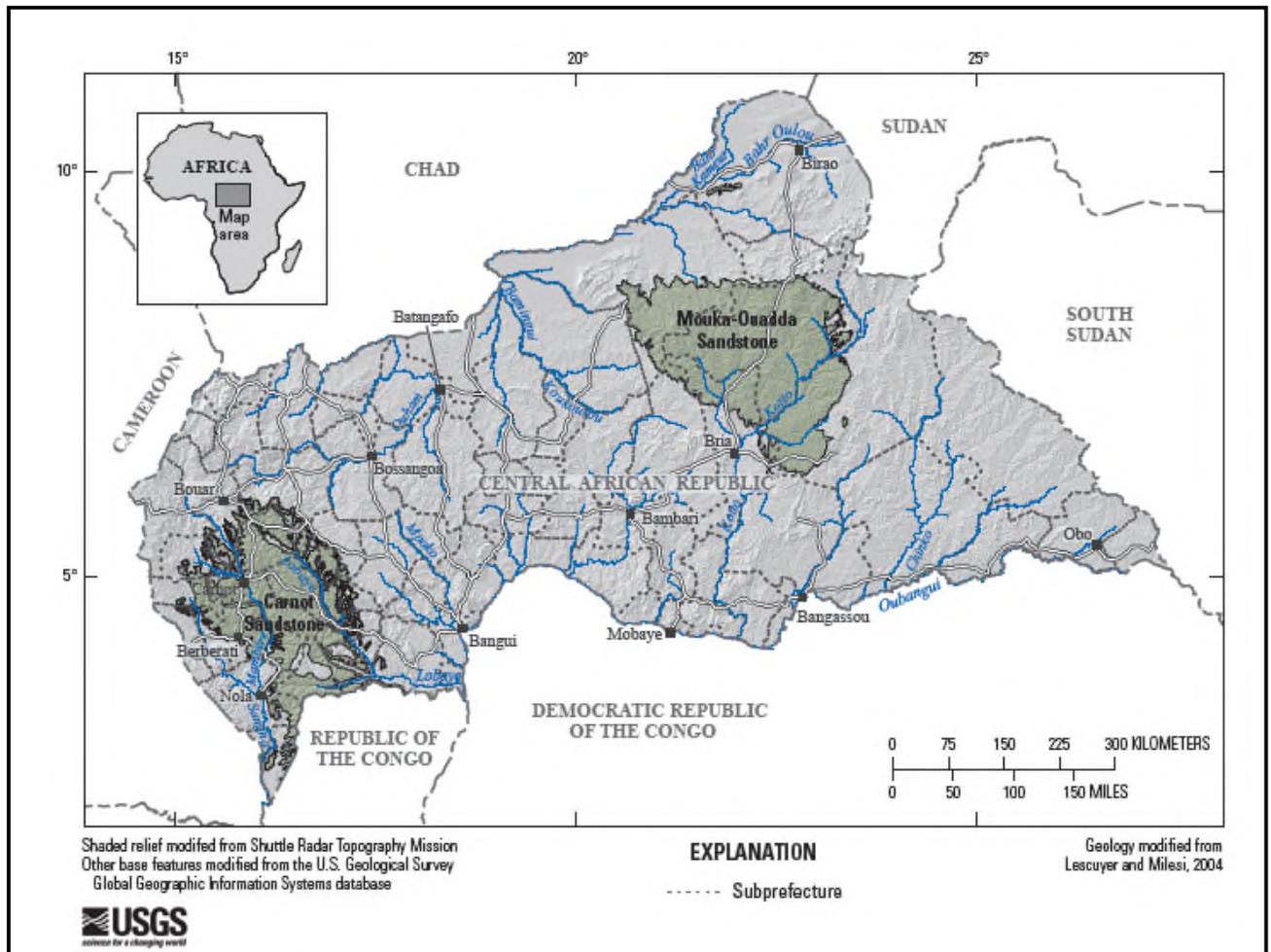
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ALS	<i>Antenne Locale de Suivi</i> (KP monitoring committee at commune level)
USAID AMPR	Artisanal Mining and Property Rights
ASM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining
BECDOR	<i>Bureau d'Évaluation et de Contrôle de Diamant et d'Or</i>
CEL	Communication, Evidence and Learning project
CLPR	<i>Comité Local de Paix et Réconciliation</i> (local peace-building committee)
CLS	<i>Comité Local de Suivi</i> (KP monitoring committee at zone level)
COP	Chief of Party
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DDL	USAID Development Data Library
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
E3/LU	Land and Urban Office in the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment
EU	European Union
FACTS	Foreign Assistance Coordination and Tracking System
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FNEC	<i>Fédération Nationale des Eleveurs Centrafricains</i>
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GoCAR	Government of the Central African Republic
GPS	Global Positioning System
IDIQ	Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity
IPIS	International Peace Information Service
IR	Intermediate Result
LRG	Land and Resource Governance
LTPR	Land Tenure and Property Rights
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
KP	Kimberley Process
KPCS	Kimberley Process Certification Scheme
KPPS	Kimberley Process Permanent Secretariat

M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MHANR	Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR
MMG	Ministry of Mines and Geology
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
OF	KP Operational Framework for CAR
OU	Operating Unit
PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheets
PM	Project Manager
PRADD	Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development
SODEMI	<i>Société pour le Développement Minier en Côte d'Ivoire</i>
SOO	Statement of Objectives
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
STARR II	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights II
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNCMCA	<i>Union nationale des coopératives minières de Centrafrique</i>
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WB	World Bank
WGAAP	KP Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production
ZEA	<i>Zone d'Exploitation Artisanale</i>

Figure 1: Geological Map of Central African Republic



USAID AMPR implements field activities in the southwest part of the country in locations over the Carnot Sandstone, the location of alluvial deposits of diamonds. While gold is mined throughout, most deposits are on the northwestern fringes of this geological formation.

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Artisanal Mining and Property Rights (USAID AMPR) project supports the USAID Land and Urban Office in improving land and resource governance and strengthening property rights for all members of society, especially women. It serves as USAID's vehicle for addressing complex land and resource issues around artisanal and small-scale mining in a multidisciplinary fashion with a focus primarily on diamond and less so on gold production in the Central African Republic (CAR), as well as targeted technical assistance to other USAID Missions and Operating Units in addressing land and resource governance issues within the artisanal and small-scale mining sector. The project builds upon activities and lessons from the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development (PRADD I and II) projects. The USAID AMPR contract was signed on September 28, 2018 and will run initially for three base years and with two optional years. Most project activities will be carried out in the CAR.

Objective 1 builds capacity for implementing Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) requirements. To launch the initiative, the USAID AMPR team will conduct a gap analysis and identify recommendations to stem the tide of rapidly expanding rough diamond smuggling and remove barriers to implementing the KP Operational Framework (OF). USAID AMPR will then support miner education and awareness-raising and implement capacity-building measures such as logistical support for local KP Focal Points and the strengthening of Local Monitoring Committees. USAID AMPR will also design the conceptual framework for piloting decentralized artisanal mining zones (ZEAs) with innovations for local revenue management, while also examining lessons learned and opportunities for miner parcel certification.

Objective 2 strengthens social cohesion and economic development in diamond mining communities. USAID AMPR will build upon lessons learned from PRADD II and expand local structures and processes for fostering peace and reconciliation. USAID AMPR will support the expansion of local Peace and Reconciliation Committees (CLPRs) and support them logistically to monitor and resolve conflicts and conduct peace-building activities. USAID AMPR will continue PRADD II efforts to foster coordination between the government ministries responsible for mining and peace-building. USAID AMPR will also launch livelihood support activities for women as part of a comprehensive Gender Action Plan aimed at promoting their economic and social inclusion.

Objective 3 focuses on understanding the artisanal gold supply chain. USAID AMPR will work with its two sub-contractors IPIS and RESOLVE to implement a baseline assessment of gold and launch an interactive online map of artisanal gold mining sites. USAID AMPR will also organize a workshop to present results from the study and facilitate training and discussion aimed at moving towards a national gold action plan.

Objective 4 responds to USAID Operating Unit requests for technical assistance with respect to understanding the linkages between ASM and development issues.

The USAID AMPR project will implement its activities in close coordination with other donors, especially the World Bank and the European Union, who both have activities in the sector. The project will foster synergies and avoid duplication through local coordination but also participating in regular calls between the donors.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This quarterly performance report describes achievements realized under USAID's Artisanal Mining and Property Rights Project (USAID AMPR) in the Central African Republic (CAR) between April 1 and June 30, 2019. Throughout the quarter, the project implemented successfully its Work Plan requirements that focus on carrying out various studies and developing strategies intended to inform the design of subsequent project activities. AMPR also conducted several trainings for government stakeholders, civil society partners, field agents, and the key beneficiaries, notably, the *Comité Locales de Paix et de Réconciliation* (CLPR) and *Antennes Locales de Suivie* (ALS). AMPR expanded its relations with local and international actors working on conflict minerals, pastoralism, and peace and reconciliation. The project team met with Enabel, the Belgian cooperation agency mandated to carry out an EU-funded good governance project for the mining sector in CAR. Together the meeting explored strategies for coordination and information sharing, especially on the support for the Kimberley Process Secretariat in the Central African Republic, AMPR also met with the Central African Federation for Herders (*Fédération Nationale des Eleveurs Centrafricains*) (FNCE), with whom they discussed the increasing incidents of armed pastoralism, and proposed measures to address this problem before it undermines further security in the KP compliant zones.

The USAID AMPR project strengthened strategies to improve the participation, coordination and communication with key project stakeholders, notably the Ministry of Mines and Geology (MMG) and the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation (MHANR). AMPR shared the technical aspects of the weekly reports with a wide array of stakeholders, involved the technical officers of both ministries in developing terms of references for field missions, and undertook joint field missions. After every mission, AMPR organized meetings to restate the findings, and obtain feedback from the technical officials of both ministries. In June 2019, AMPR agreed with the MMG to establish a joint technical coordination committee comprised of all AMPR project components coordinators and selected experts of the MMG. The committee started reviewing all studies and strategies developed by AMPR in order to propose concrete interventions that could be considered under the AMPR year two Annual Work Plan. These initiatives were welcomed by both ministries. AMPR continued the interface with senior officials of the US Embassy and USAID in Bangui. Several meetings were organized to brief the officials, and to explore their views in relation to the various interventions carried out by the AMPR project. AMPR management was invited to attend several social events organized by the US Ambassador in Bangui. Below are the highlights of the progress realized under each component.

Objective 1: Assist Government of the Central African Republic to Improve Compliance with Kimberley Process Requirements to Promote Licit Economic Activities

- Completed a rigorous and participatory diamond fraud diagnosis on the root causes of smuggling and ways to improve the enhanced monitoring mechanisms required under the Kimberley Process Operational Framework. A draft report was shared with key stakeholders for feedback including USAID, the World Bank and the US Embassy in Bangui. The final report from the diagnosis, summarizing the fieldwork, observations and the recommendations adopted by all stakeholders at the national workshop, was shared with USAID for final approval.
- Former PRADD II Deputy Country Director in Côte d'Ivoire Sabine Jiekak was recruited by the end of June 2019 by AMPR to carry out the Land Certificate Study. She will travel to Bangui in early July 2019 to undertake a study on the impact, relevance/utility and weaknesses of PRADD I certificates of customary land tenure delivered to nearly 3,000 miners between 2007 and 2012.

- Specialist in local revenue management, Sébastien Pennes was recruited by AMPR at the end of last quarter to carry out a study on whether a decentralized revenue management model might work in the mining zones in Carnot, Berberati and Nola. The study focused on whether the SODEMI model of Côte d'Ivoire might be applicable to CAR. The study findings concluded that the model is not transferable. However, a number of other recommendations will inform the AMPR project in developing a workable system to be piloted in one of two local communities covered by the project in CAR in the years to come.
- AMPR launched the first phase of the Knowledge, Aptitude and Practice (KAP) survey in early April with a representative sample of mine claim holders (341). The study focused on the artisanal miner or *chef de chantier*, drawn from active mining sites in select priority zones of Boganangone, Carnot, Gadzi, Nola, Boda, Sosso-Nakombo and Dede-Makouba. Through the Component II sub-contract with IPIS, the AMPR team also included a form for mapping diamond sites as well as gold. This initiative is right on schedule despite the difficulty of reaching gold mining sites in the middle of the rainy season.
- Communication specialist, Souleymane Ouattara, who prepared the Communication Strategy for the PRADD II project in Guinea worked with the field office team this past quarter to design a comprehensive AMPR project communication strategy that includes key strategies, messages, and tools. The strategy was presented for approval to USAID, but after commentary, it will be subsequently revised by the field office team.
- Worked closely with the World Bank Natural Resources Project mining component team to put in place a policy to support the Kimberly Process Focal Points, the field agents recruited by KP secretariat itself. The Focal Points benefited from various technical training organized by the project and participated in relevant field activities like the collection of data for the Component III gold site mapping initiative. Tetra Tech presented a proposal for a \$1 million single-source contract to carry out field support to cooperatives in one to two sites, but final negotiations over the contract terms were still underway at time of quarterly report writing.
- Discussions initiated with the US Ambassador in Bangui, the Political and Economic Officer and the USAID Development Program Specialist on the importance of setting up a Friends of CAR. Relevant documentation of the proposed structure for the Friends of CAR was shared with the US Embassy officials for their review and to provide input.

Objective 2: Strengthen Community Resilience, Social Cohesion, and Responses to Violent Conflict in the Central African Republic

- Participatory assessment of Local Peace and Reconciliation Committees (CLPR) and the Kimberley Process Local Monitoring Units (ALS) in the pilot sites of Balégo, Yamalé, Bania, Wapo, Nassolé and Nandobo now in place for the roadmap spelling out the strategies and actions needed to strengthen the CLPR set up under PRADD II.
- Project team worked closely with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation (MHANR) to establish new CLPRs in the sub-prefectures of Carnot and Gadzi. This included supporting the process of voting for members, carrying out initial training for members, and setting up a monitoring system.
- Supported in partnership with MHANR and the MMG, the preparation of the Annual CLPR Action Plans in the 6 pilot CLPR sites of Berberati region, Balégo, Yamalé, Bania, Wapo, Nassolé and Nandobo.
- Consultant Sabine Jiekak worked closely with the project team to complete a diagnostic on the role of women in the diamond mining sector. This included a literature review and a

participatory field research phase to identify the gender dynamics and opportunities to support women's economic empowerment with a focus on promising livelihoods and an entrepreneurial/value chain approach in Nola, Gadzi, and Boganagone.

- Consultant Sabine Jiekak worked with the field team to design the project's Gender Action Plan with a focus on mainstreaming gender dynamics into all activities. The plan includes the AMPR strategy for gender mainstreaming, the findings from the gender diagnostic, and the proposal for specific activities to promote economic and social inclusion of women.
- Organized the first technical consultative meeting on armed pastoralism and transhumance between the MMG, MHANR, Ministry of Livestock and the General Secretary of FNEC (*Fédération Nationale des Eleveurs Centrafricains*). The meeting discussed strategies for monitoring, documenting and reporting violent attacks by the armed pastoralists.
- Supported thanks to the collaboration with the CLPR and the ALS, the establishment and signing of a joint declaration with the KP monitoring committees and anti-fraud police (USAF) to commit all actors to jointly fight fraud in the Berberati region, and share in a timely fashion information on security and violent incidents in the compliant zones of Balégo, Bania, Yamalé, Wapo, Nassolé and Nandobo.

Objective 3: Increase Awareness and Understanding of the Opportunities and Challenges of Establishing Responsible Gold Supply Chains in the Central African Republic

- IPIS completed the first cycle of field missions required to collect detailed information on 201 mining sites. IPIS carried out a debriefing workshop and prepared for the second cycle of data collection. Throughout the process, IPIS conscientiously downloaded for review draft questionnaires, shared results of a first round of data analysis and interpretation, worked with the local sub-contractor on data cleaning, and uploaded the initial dataset into the IPIS database.

Objective 4: Improve USAID Programming through Increased Understanding of Linkages Between ASM and Key Development Issues

- Carried out in Ghana a rapid artisanal gold mining assessment combined with a field visit in the Wassa Amenfi West District and the Asankrangwa Stool chieftaincy. This assessment identified options for US government programming in the gold sector.
- Finalized the ASGM Ghana scoping mission report. Shared with the World Bank, US Embassy Accra and the USAID ILRG project team.
- Technical Deputy / Component 4 Coordinator attended the OECD Responsible Minerals Forum in April 2019, where he moderated a panel discussion on diamonds and the new Responsible Jewelry Council's standards. He also participated and presented on best practices in mining cooperatives at the KP Intersessional and provided technical assistance to the US Delegation.
- Technical Deputy participated in the Kimberley Process Intersessional in Mumbai, India where he gave a well-received presentation on lessons learned from mining cooperatives and especially focused on examples from PRADD II.

The field office is now fully operational despite severe electricity black-outs. Key accomplishments include completion of recruitment for all the local employees, signing of long-term contracts with the majority of the team, in-country registration, new bank account, and procurement of all computer, internet, and communication equipment for the field office team and community organizers. The project awaits tax exoneration to purchase vehicles and some other in-country equipment and supplies, but administrative procedures are underway.

3. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

3.1. OBJECTIVE I: ASSIST GOCAR TO IMPROVE COMPLIANCE WITH KIMBERLEY PROCESS REQUIREMENTS TO PROMOTE LICIT ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.1.1. INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1.1: IMPROVE LEGAL, POLICY, AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CONFLICT-FREE DIAMOND PRODUCTION AT DOMESTIC AND REGIONAL LEVELS

3.1.1.1. Activity 1.1.1: Strengthen Regional Coordination to Halt Illicit Mineral Exports

Description: This activity aims at building upon efforts which began in 2016 to implement a strategy to combat diamond smuggling, notably through land that borders CAR. Government stakeholders have acknowledged that smuggling has reached unprecedented levels, however they argue that the drivers and pathways to smuggling are attributed less toward coordination issues with other countries and more toward the reduced activities of Buying Houses and lax airport controls. As such for the First Year Work Plan USAID AMPR will facilitate a rigorous and participatory process, including visits to key borders like the Kenzo-Gamboula crossing with Cameroon, to identify root causes for the uptick in smuggling and more generally identify ways to improve the enhanced monitoring mechanisms required under the KP Operational Framework. USAID AMPR will then organize a national workshop to debate conclusions and adopt recommendations that the project can then support through activities and advocacy.

Results: The AMPR team completed the multi-stakeholder diagnostic on the effectiveness of internal controls and counter-smuggling measures, with a focus on border areas and obstacles to the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. The study was conducted jointly by the project's technical specialists, government technicians and AMPR Consultant Ali Bah, an Ivorian diamond buyer. Mr. Bah's participation as a consultant was a success, and it enabled frank meetings with smugglers and buying houses plus lively and productive discussions with the CAR government team on the weaknesses in their legal and institutional monitoring systems. This approach aimed at not just uncovering key factors but building consensus at a technical level about strategies and changes that need to be considered by the government and international stakeholders. The draft diagnostic report was completed in late April, following a multi-disciplinary restitution workshop. The restitution workshop took place on April 18, 2018 in Bangui, and included various stakeholders in the diamond supply chain, including collectors, buyers, members from the Ministry of Mines and Geology, local and administrative authorities, major traders and civil society. The diagnostic report recommends that a serious debate take place on the viability of the Operational Framework, with a focus on the requirement for remote verification of parcels each month prior to export. In addition, the report recommends that an examination on what to do with diamonds seized by the CAR government or other countries is necessary for effective law enforcement.

The report also points out that for the CAR government, leaders should take advantage of the current moment to rethink their supply chain system, especially with respect to the way artisanal miners are licensed, the way data is collected and utilized and the institutional role of the Permanent Secretariat. With respect to the supply chain, further consultations with buying houses and outside experts are needed to reassess fees and taxes, the types of actors allowed to export, and the organization of the supply chain. More broadly, CAR could benefit from an extensive dialogue on the mining sector, especially as semi-industrial and gold mining become more prevalent. As summarized by the AMPR Deputy Technical Advisor, in the fraud diagnostic study, the dialogue will help build buy-in for reform, generate technical ideas and most importantly restore the social fabric of the supply chain, which at the end of the day is not

about stones but about people—their lives, their livelihoods and broader well-being. The smuggling of rough diamonds therefore touches on fundamental governance issues in CAR and should be viewed as a priority and an opportunity to contribute to the broader process of peace-building and economic support.

A draft version of the fraud diagnostic report was submitted to USAID by the contractual deadline, and a copy of the same shared with the MMG and the World Bank, a partner of the CAR government that is supporting the formalization of the ASM sector. The MMG reviewed the draft report and highlighted some recommendations that needed to be reworded to reflect the advances of the ministry in dealing with some of the concerns raised in the report. AMPR specialists will work with the SPPK and the MMG experts to develop a roadmap that will identify the key interventions, major steps and milestones to assist GoCAR to improve compliance with KP requirements to promote licit economic activities. A roadmap will not only help structure donor coordination and leverage support of local diplomats, but it will also be a way to garner political buy-in for reform and increase the CAR government's credibility with the KP. Priorities for the next quarter include finalizing the report, drafting a road map and building a broad-based buy-in for the recommendations.

3.1.1.2. Activity 1.1.2: Support Ministry of Mines and Geology Internal Reforms

Description: This activity aims at contributing to regulatory and institutional reform efforts supported by the World Bank. At the time of this quarterly report, the World Bank project was not fully operational. USAID AMPR will seek to participate in policy and reform discussions, and will contribute where appropriate, especially with respect to the KP and ASM. Moreover, the report on implementing the KP Operational Framework (see Activity 1.1.1) will consist of recommendations for specific reforms, such as with respect to law enforcement and data collection and management. USAID AMPR will make sure that these and all other similar recommendations are shared with, and integrated into, a broader reform process, should it begin in the first year.

Results: No results can be reported this quarter because the World Bank Natural Resource Project and the artisanal mining component have not yet become operational.

3.1.1.3. Activity 1.1.3: Integrate ASM Considerations into the Mining Code

Description: This activity aims at actively participating in the World Bank-led Mining Code revision process with respect to ASM policy. At the time of this quarterly report, the WB efforts had not yet begun, and there was still uncertainty on if and how the 2009 Mining Code will be revised. As such USAID AMPR will liaise closely with the MMG cabinet, World Bank and others to determine appropriate avenues to participate if and when the process starts. Thanks to diagnostics and workshops foreseen in the work plan, including those about smuggling (see Activity 1.1.1) and adapting the Cote d'Ivoire SODEMI model for village-based revenue management (see Activity 1.2.3), USAID AMPR will be well positioned to offer specific suggestions for improving the legislative framework based on these processes. With respect to the study tour to Côte d'Ivoire foreseen under this activity, USAID AMPR will wait and see if this will be necessary, as the work planning consultations showed widespread understanding and enthusiasm for the SODEMI model, thanks in part to the screening of documentary films produced by PRADD II, and a visit to Côte d'Ivoire by a regional mining director from Boda, who is now a key advisor at the MMG.

Results: The World Bank informed the AMPR team that work on the Mining Code will commence sometime over the next couple of years but not in the immediate future. The World Bank indicated that they wanted to learn more about the local realities and need for change before launching a policy dialogue process. AMPR advanced with the preparation of a lexicon of technical terms in the French and

Sango languages to help inform revisions to the Mining Code. The lexicon of technical terms should help resolve the inappropriate use of technical words in both languages in the current code.

3.1.2. INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1.2: EXPAND FORMALIZATION OF LAND AND RESOURCE RIGHTS IN ARTISANAL DIAMOND MINING COMMUNITIES

3.1.2.1. Activity 1.2.1: Assess PRADD I ASM Formalization Process

Description: This activity aims at taking stock of the PRADD I certificates of customary land tenure delivered to nearly 3,000 miners between 2007 and 2012, as well as identifying any follow-up activities for USAID AMPR. Through the upcoming consultancy for the next quarter with land tenure specialist Sabine Jiekak, USAID AMPR will organize a study on the certificates which will assess their impact, their relevance/utility and their weaknesses. The study will include focus group discussions with certificate holders but will also delve into the legal issues surrounding them, such as if they are valid proof of ownership in case of court disputes. Indeed, one challenge in PRADD I was the lack of a legal basis for rural land certification, and the study will determine if this is still the case or if the regulatory framework for rural land has evolved. USAID AMPR will then organize a workshop to present and debate the conclusions of the study, including if and how USAID AMPR should revive support to individual miners' land rights formalization in subsequent work plan years.

Results: AMPR recruited consultant Sabine Jiekak, former PRADD II Deputy Country Director in Côte d'Ivoire at the end of June 2019. The consultant is to arrive in Bangui in early July 2019 to carry out an assessment with the MMG and Ministry of Agriculture, to evaluate the benefits and costs of Certificates obtained by ASM miners to inform future formalization initiatives. The consultant will draft the study methodology and terms of reference that will be validated by government stakeholders, conduct fieldwork, write the literature review, and organize a national workshop to restate the study findings and recommendations.

3.1.2.2. Activity 1.2.2: Support Land Formalization in Artisanal Mining Communities

Description: This activity aims at implementing recommendations from the study foreseen under Activity 1.2.1 as well as initiating collective land formalization through pilot ASM mining zones foreseen in the mining code called ZEAs. While ZEAs are typically used in other contexts like the DRC for reserving secondary deposits for ASM, they can also be used to formalize a partnership between communities and the government such as the SODEMI model in Côte d'Ivoire. Consultant Sebastian Pennes carried out the study as noted below in Activity 1.2.3. Discussions will be held during the Year II work planning process to determine how to take account of his recommendations and especially to the concept of putting in place ZEA.

Results: This is not a scheduled work plan activity for this year but will be part of work planning discussions in July and August, 2019.

3.1.2.3. Activity 1.2.3: Pilot System for Taxing Diamond Revenues for Community Development

Description: This activity follows from Activity 1.2.2 in implementing the ZEA approach in at least two pilot zones, notably with respect to the revenue management aspects of the SODEMI model in Côte d'Ivoire. As per the USAID AMPR contract, the project is designed to focus in the first year on developing and building consensus around the model(s) to pilot. The question of revenue management is particularly tricky as indicated in the consultancy report prepared by Sebastian Pennes. As such, after the preliminary concept was reviewed in May 2019, USAID AMPR's field teams will need to reassess how to move forward on this activity which was initially designed to conduct a process of dialogue and

awareness-raising in target communities with respect to revenue capture and utilization. USAID AMPR had hoped to begin implementing the pilots by the end of the first year, but now the strategy will need to be revised.

Results: AMPR recruited consultant Sébastien Pennes, a specialist in local revenue management, to carry out a study to examine whether a decentralized revenue management model might work in mining zones in Carnot, Berberati and Nola. Mr. Pennes organized consultative meetings with various stakeholders in Bangui and carried out field visits with the AMPR Compliant Zone Extension Specialist, Hervé Pounou, a mining geologist involved in the PRADD project since 2011. The central question of the study was to enquire whether the SODEMI (*Société pour le Développement Minier en Côte d'Ivoire*) model, grounded on a co-management regime of mining zones governed by mining authorities and local customary authorities that worked in northern Côte d'Ivoire might be transferred to the southwestern Central African Republic despite very different socio-economic contexts. The study concluded that:



Figure 1: Hervé Pounou AMPR Expansion Specialist facilitating discussions with the artisanal miners in Mbaiki on revenue management Photo by: Landry Roselin Asseni

- The model of local governance based on participative management by a local community and mining authorities, as inspired by the Ivorian experience, is premature for the time being in southwest Central African Republic. The minimum requirements to comply with the core components of the “SODEMI model” are not present in the visited communities.
- The main obstacle seems to be around the difficulties of implementing a tax-levying system for all miners. Several deeply engrained economic and cultural factors are at play which impede a self-taxation system. Rather than trying to fit the Ivorian model to the CAR context, it may turn out that miners would be more willing and at times eager to set up informal associative structures (*groupements*) inspired by their experience in agriculture.
- The key SODEMI elements of production declaration, tax levying, monitoring and a basket fund would be acceptable within the boundaries of one or more groups composed of freely associated members.
- Decentralized governance in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector is quite a difficult challenge. Despite the interests of the USAID AMPR project to experiment with a model built on many principles of the SODEMI experience in Côte d'Ivoire, experiences in Ghana, Kenya and the Philippines show how decentralization in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector is not necessarily conducive to formalization and economic competitiveness vis-à-vis the illegal diamond and gold chain of custody. In many cases, forced decentralized governance models can envenom an informal yet legitimate economy due to the local predation and corruption that emerges within these structures. Given the present dynamics in the Central African diamond and gold sector, it may be much more appropriate to nurture and support local *groupements*.

AMPR will consider the conclusions of the study during the Year II work planning discussions, while continuing the technical and consultative process with the various stakeholders, to establish pilot new models, that if successful will improve KP compliance and local development outcomes.

3.1.3. INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1.3: INCREASE AWARENESS OF KIMBERLEY PROCESS REQUIREMENTS, INCLUSIVE OF ALL POINTS IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN SUCH AS GOVERNMENT ACTORS, BUYING HOUSES, COLLECTORS, PIT OWNERS, AND DIGGERS

3.1.3.1. Activity 1.3.1: Conduct KAP Surveys in Compliant and Priority Zones

Description: This activity aims at periodically measuring knowledge, attitudes and practices of miners in order to assess the effectiveness of awareness-raising activities and discern key trends. The first KAP survey was conducted during the first months of the project with a representative sample of mine claim holders, i.e., the artisanal miner or *chef de chantier*, drawn from active mining sites in select compliant and priority zones. The questionnaire allowed each respondent to be assigned a score on their level of knowledge of the KP and Mining Code, which will form the baseline for the indicator measuring KP knowledge improvement. The project aimed to harmonize the questionnaire and data collection process with related activities, such as the sampling of active mine sites to estimate real production (see PMP) and the development of an interactive online GIS for active gold and diamond mining sites (led by IPIS, see Activity 3.3).

Results: The project launched the first Knowledge, Aptitude and Practice (KAP) survey at the beginning of May 2019, in the zones of Boganangone, Carnot, Gadzi, Nola, Boda, Sosso-Nakombo and Dede-Makouba. The AMPR team completed a representative sample of mine claim holders using a questionnaire that allowed each respondent to be assigned a score on their level of knowledge of the KP and Mining Code. The initial findings of the study indicate that many artisanal miners confuse the artisanal card (patent) as a document that secures their land rights over the sites. Findings also indicate that agriculture and ASM of diamonds are the main sources of revenue in the surveyed communities; most of the mine sites are acquired through inheritance rather than through purchase; and artisanal miners

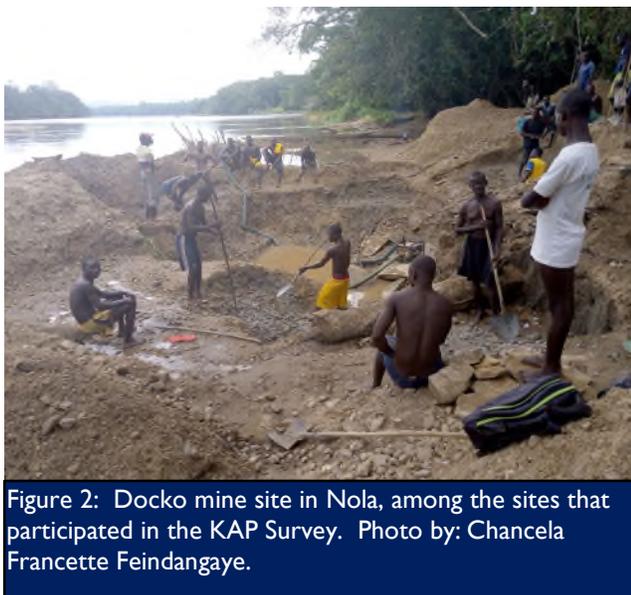


Figure 2: Docko mine site in Nola, among the sites that participated in the KAP Survey. Photo by: Chancela Francette Feindangaye.

pay for the patent after finding diamond in the sites. Results also indicate that artisanal miners argue that they cannot use their money for agriculture to pay for a patent for mining diamonds; and almost half of the respondents have heard about the Kimberly Process, but not all can define nor explain its role. The prices of the patent vary greatly, from 20,000 to 50,000 FCA in various sites. More than 1/3 of the artisanal miners said that “diamonds comes from God,” while more than half responded that diamond comes from small “*marigot*” streams. In Sassele, Gadzi, and Bouli-Carnot, the artisanal miners were reluctant to share information because they feared that the details of their sites will be shared with mining companies that may displace them from the sites. At the end of the reporting period, the AMPR technical team was completing the data analysis and drafting the report to be shared with USAID for review and approval.

3.1.3.2. Activity 1.3.2: Develop a Communications Strategy

Description: This activity is intended to develop and implement a grassroots communications strategy to increase knowledge and application of KP procedures by all actors across the supply chain. AMPR draws upon results from PRADD I and II, as well as the first KAP survey, to develop a comprehensive

strategy. The project will implement this strategy starting in Year II including the translation / adaptation of videos from PRADD I and II, the production of videos and interactive community theater scripts, and the training of KP Focal Points and USAID AMPR field agents. An intensive grassroots communications campaign will be timed for before the 2020 dry season and the period when most miners acquire their licenses (*patentes*).

Results: Souleymane Ouattara, a Communications specialist who developed the Communication Strategy for the PRADD II project in Guinea, was recruited as an AMPR Communications Consultant. Mr. Ouattara held consultative meetings with stakeholders in Bangui including Communication Focal Points of the MMG & MHANR, NGOs, civil society, and publication and communication agencies. Mr. Ouattara also carried out field visits in the mining zones in Boda with the AMPR Component I&3 Coordinator, Prosper Yaka-Maïdé. The communication strategy proposes communication pathways to prevent fraud and smuggling around diamonds and promote social cohesion. The strategy is based largely on a situational assessment and analysis of factors contributing to diamond fraud and smuggling that was carried out in Bangui and Boda in April and May 2019. The communication strategy proposes systematic approaches and behavioral models of change that could guide the AMPR project to design and implement communication activities that encourage sustainable social cohesion and behavior change against fraud.

The strategy recommends focusing on the information needs of the artisanal mining community pertaining primarily to generating a better knowledge of the content in the agreements signed between the State and the mining companies to reduce conflicts between these actors. It also recommends addressing knowledge gaps around the Kimberley Process and the Operational Framework, the AMPR project and other similar projects (World Bank, European Union), the roles and attributions of the local Kimberley Process Monitoring Committee, and AMPR products and services.

Guided by the findings, the communication strategy of the USAID AMPR project will focus on social and mining sector dialogue, inspired in part by NGO Indigo's participatory action research method used by PRADD II in Cote d'Ivoire. The objective is to focus on building hope and vision. In addition, the project may look at supporting a national mass communication campaign aimed at reducing the culture of impunity around corruption and smuggling, including social media campaigns, billboards, radio spots, and others.

3.1.3.3. Activity 1.3.3: Introduce Innovative Incentives for Diamond Pit Owners, Diggers, Collectors, Cooperatives, and Buying Houses to Comply with the KPCS

Description: This activity aims at incentivizing formalization and behavior that is KPCS-compliant through conditional technical assistance to miners, communities and buyers. In the first year, AMPR planned to conduct trainings on the use of hand augers in select communities. The demonstrations and trainings will help build trust with miners and communities. In addition, AMPR will consider carefully as part of the ZEA pilot concept note how to introduce conditionalities, like having access to equipment rental pools for only those miners who obtain their worker cards as required by law. The project will also harmonize activities with the anticipated World Bank project to support mining cooperatives. For example, technical and material assistance will be made contingent on the purchase of licenses, the issuance of mining worker cards, and reporting compliance required by the Mining Code and the Kimberley Process.

Results: Not a scheduled work plan activity for this quarter. This activity will commence in Year II following the field placement of Community Organizers. But, the Community Organizers are expected to be sent to the field at the end of September at the latest.

3.1.4. INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1.4: STRENGTHEN CAPACITY OF GOCAR TO MANAGE AND EXPAND KP-COMPLIANT ZONES EFFECTIVELY

3.1.4.1. Activity 1.4.1: Strengthen Kimberley Process Permanent Secretariat

Description: This activity aims to support the Kimberley Process Permanent Secretariat (KPPS), in close collaboration with other donors. Building upon recommendations formulated under PRADD II, AMPR will support for the years to come the KPPS but also work with other donors to agree to sustainable solutions to issues like the salaries of KP Focal Points. For the first work plan, USAID AMPR intended identify key needs and issues as part of the diagnostic and workshop on the KP OF (see Activity 1.1.1), as well as ongoing discussions with the World Bank, who have agreed to support some costs related to KP Focal Points. Per discussions with the World Bank Project Manager for support to the Ministry of Mines and Geology, the USAID AMPR will cover the per diem costs for no more than 14 Focal Points in Year I of the project, and some motorcycle driver and motorcycle rental costs until the World Bank mining support project motorcycles are provided to the Focal Points. USAID AMPR will not pay the fuel costs of motorcycles. A Memorandum of Understanding spelling out the respective donor and KPPS support to the Focal Points will set forth these arrangements. In addition, this Memorandum will spell out the other anticipated functions of the Focal Points and USAID AMPR support related to data collection and management, such as trainings on data analysis.

Results: Throughout the quarter, the AMPR project implemented the policy to support Focal Points and Kimberley Process Secretariat field agents. The policy was agreed upon in the previous quarter during the AMPR meeting with the World Bank. The Focal Points benefited from various trainings organized by the AMPR project. Below is the summary of the trainings and field missions where the Focal Points have been involved.

#	Activity Type	Activity Description
1	Training	Kimberly Process and the KP operational framework
2	Training	Traceability system in the production and commercialization of brut diamond
3	Training	Practical training on the use of the GPS
4	Training	Cartography of artisanal mining sites and data collection using ODK tools
5	Field Mission	Data collection to map artisanal mining sites in Western CAR
6	Field Mission	Data collection for the Knowledge, Aptitude and Practice (KAP) survey in Western CAR.

The AMPR project is unable to financially support the KP Secretariat with further material support until the Ministry of Mines and Geology resolves a long-standing problem, the failure of the government to recognize the legal standing of the Kimberley Process Secretariat. This conditionality requires further follow-up with the ministry but also with the World Bank's new project supporting the mining sector.

3.1.4.2. Activity 1.4.2: Reinvigorate the Friends of CAR

Description: This activity seeks to adapt a successful model of technical-diplomatic coordination used in Côte d'Ivoire whereby PRADD II and other partners worked with top diplomats to liaise with senior government officials. The approach helped create synergies between diplomatic missions and technical partners, while also proving invaluable when sensitive political or institutional issues negatively affected project implementation. USAID AMPR has broached the idea with local diplomats in Bangui who are enthusiastic in principle. Given that the Friends concept would need to be led by diplomats, USAID AMPR will follow up with the new U.S. Ambassador to see if there is interest.

Results: The AMPR team met with the US Ambassador, the Political and Economic Officer and the USAID Development Program Specialist in CAR to discuss the importance of setting up a Friends of CAR platform successfully used in Côte d'Ivoire under PRADD II. During the various meetings held in April and May 2019, the US Embassy officials expressed interest in the idea and requested documentation on the structure of the proposed Friends of CAR. The US government officials were provided a draft terms of reference for the Technical and Financial Committee of donors and partners of the MMG. Further follow-up will continue with the US government officials in Bangui on this key issue.

3.1.4.3. Activity 1.4.3: Support the Ministry of Mines and Geology Donor Coordination Unit

Description: This activity aims at promoting coordination and synergy between different donors working in the mining sector in CAR. During Year I work planning and project launch, the MMG reiterated its desire for coordination, and for a central role of the government. It is unclear at this point if the MMG will create a formal coordination unit or whether donors will be convened from time to time. USAID AMPR will adapt based on the MMG's directives and may provide some logistical support for such meetings (such as catering) but will urge the Ministry to take the lead on convening and funding the meetings.

Results: The Minister of Mines and Geology has yet to sign terms of reference for the appointment of members of the technical and financial committee in charge of the coordination of programs and projects for the mining and petroleum sectors of the CAR. The creation of the coordination committee is likely to be delayed until the full commencement of the World Bank project. The intention is to link the committee to the WB process of creating a forum where the public, private, and civil society could debate mining policy reforms. AMPR will continue to provide technical support to the Ministry of Mines to find a more suitable and satisfactory formulation for all parties.

3.1.4.4. Activity 1.4.4 Support Targeted USAID AMPR Interventions

Description: This activity aims to support capacity-building and other in-kind contributions to the Government of the Central African Republic to strengthen KPCS compliance following a gap analysis of other donors' contributions. As USAID AMPR is the first project underway, it is yet unclear how exactly other projects' activities will align. The team has been in close contact with the World Bank and has contributed thoughts to the European Union project terms of reference, which will ideally lead to complimentary activities and little or no duplication. For example, USAID AMPR and the World Bank, in concert with USAID, have discussed a joint cost-sharing approach to supporting the logistics and salaries of KP Focal Points. Similar discussions may become necessary with the EU once their project is launched. USAID AMPR will continue to be collaborative, proactive and flexible.

Results: AMPR supported the participation of the KPPS in the regional workshop for the KP Permanent Secretaries, held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, in April 2019. The meeting discussed the regional fraud dimensions for artisanal brut diamonds, and the measures to curb fraud and smuggling. The meeting agreed to develop a regional "blacklist" for actors involved in fraud and include their details in World Customs Organization (WCO) databases for smuggling enforcement. AMPR project welcomes this proposal of reaching out to better understand law enforcement coordination mechanisms including the UN Office on Drugs and Crime-UNODC, Interpol and the WCO, which reinforces the AMPR smuggling study recommendation, for the necessity to organize sting operations and catch low-hanging fruit with some outside support.

3.2. OBJECTIVE II: STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, SOCIAL COHESION, AND RESPONSE TO VIOLENT CONFLICT IN CAR

3.2.1. INTERMEDIATE RESULT 2.1: SUPPORT INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ESPECIALLY BETWEEN DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC GROUPS TO RESOLVE CONFLICT OVER LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

3.2.1.1. Activity 2.1.1: Evaluate Peace and Reconciliation Committees

Description: This activity aims at building continuity with PRADD II under which 6 *Comité Local de Paix et Reconciliation* (CLPR) (Peace and Reconciliation Committees) were established in Berberati, though time was limited to support their work. To learn from the PRADD II experience and prepare for an expansion of committees and a strengthening of their capacity, the first activity of this component will be a joint MMG-MAHRN evaluation of the committees, examining in particular their actions and how they are perceived in their communities. To improve linkages with the KP OF, the same diagnostic will include an examination of the CLS and ALS committees established in compliant zones at the sub-prefecture and commune levels. The results of the diagnostic will be presented at a national workshop during which time next steps will be determined.

Results: The report on the diagnostic of the CLS and ALS committees in the pilot sites of Balégo, Yamalé, Bania, Wapo, Nassolé and Nandobo was completed and submitted to USAID in April 2019, along with the principle observations, conclusions and recommendations of the national validation workshop. The results of this evaluation show that the CLPR and the ALPR play a key role in resolving conflicts at the local level. While it is sometimes difficult to assign direct causality to the actions of these two institutions with regards to the reduction of conflicts, it is positive that the committee members see their value. The evaluation raises the pressing issue of how government will support the recurrent costs of these institutions. However small the recurrent costs may be, the committees lack the funds to cover even the most basic costs.

Unfortunately, the successes the committees achieve in resolving conflicts are not reported to the central government due to the weak administrative linkages between remote villages and the capital city of Bangui. Over time, the volunteers serving on these committees may become discouraged and disillusioned unless motivation is maintained through improved governmental recognition of their role or through some form of compensation, be it monetary or through skill-building. While this evaluation raises these thorny questions, it is clear that the MHANR will replicate the CLPR throughout the country. Yet, for these structures to become sustainable over time, some sort of direct cost recovery is required at the local level, a subject of deep interest to the AMPR project through its initiatives to support decentralized revenue management in diamond mining communities.

In terms of the identified gaps, the evaluation did not invest the time and the financial means to integrate into the study the perspectives of all the social strata of the villagers served by the CLPR and ALS. We do not yet know yet how different social categories perceive the strengths and weaknesses of CLPRs and ALS. This gap at some point needs to be filled through a more rigorous participatory evaluation of the perceptions of different segments of the local populations. A Knowledge Attitude and Perceptions (KAP) survey combined with Focus Groups will generate this information. Yet, with the hope of identifying project implementation priorities, AMPR preferred to generate preliminary indications of programmatic orientations in order to better guide project implementation.

3.2.1.2. Activity 2.1.2: Expand Support to CLPR's

Description: This activity aims at increasing the number of and support to CLPRs. USAID AMPR intends to build upon the initial successes realized through PRADD II, which encouraged the formulation of Local Pacts to document community agreements. In the first work plan, USAID AMPR will likely expand CLPRs to cover all three sub-prefectures where the project works. In addition, USAID AMPR will identify and train Focal Points in each CLPR who will record and monitor conflicts, as well as actions and activities led by the CLPRs to promote their resolution. In addition, USAID AMPR will work with each CLPR, both new and old, to identify an action plan for the year, and the project will provide some logistical support to implement their activities. USAID AMPR will also look to maximize synergies between the CLPR and the ALS committees. At the same time, the project will work with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation (MHANR) to identify other donors to support the strengthening of the CLPR being set up not only in the diamond mining areas of the southwest, but throughout the country.



Figure 3: Participants in the CLPR elective assembly in Ndinguiri, Gadzi. Photo by Zéphirin Mogba

Results: In May 2019, AMPR conducted a joint field mission with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation and the Ministry of Mines and Geology to constitute elective assemblies of the CLPRs in the sub-prefectures of Carnot and Gadzi. During the mission, the staff from the MHANR coordinated with the local authorities and other stakeholders to constitute elective assemblies of the CLPR representatives. The table below summaries the zones where the new CLPRs were established.

Sub-Prefectures	Pilot Zones	CLPR	Participants Per Zone	Total Participants
CARNOT	Toutoubou	7	145	251
	Mboula Yanguéré	7	106	
	Bouli	-	-	
GADZI	Ndinguiri	7	144	510
	Djomo	7	161	
	Gadzi	7	95	
	Guen	7	110	

The planned activities in Bouli, located 70 km from Carnot were cancelled because of a broken bridge. The elective assembly of the CLPR of Bouli will be organized in the future, subject to accessibility of the zone. The activities for Zaoro Songou were also cancelled, due to the deadly attacks by the armed elements of SIDIKI's rebel group 3R (Return, Reclamation and Reconciliation), which led to multiple

deaths and the displacement of many people from the village. In the meantime, a local coordination committee was established in Carnot town, to monitor and coordinate social cohesion activities in the other non-accessible zones. The joint mission with the MHANR and MMG to constitute the elective assemblies in Nola Sub-Prefecture is scheduled for July 2019.

3.2.1.3. Activity 2.1.3: Continue Social Cohesion Engagements in Diamond Mining Communities

Description: This activity aims at designing and implementing social cohesion support including but not limited to activities involving the CLPRs. In the first work plan, USAID AMPR will execute its logistical and programmatic support for the individual CLPR action plans (see Activity 2.1.2). This may include activities like community service or community theater, and/or trainings on dispute resolution. In addition, USAID AMPR anticipates filming some of the community meetings leading to the establishment of CLPRs, and then producing several short videos for use in social dialogue sessions, similar to the approach used by PRADD II sub-contractor Indigo in Cote d'Ivoire. USAID AMPR will also develop a concept note on the Local Pacts, which under PRADD II were developed for several communes, documenting community decisions and positions on sensitive issues. USAID AMPR will take stock of the initial pacts and then develop a methodology to implement them more widely. This will avoid redundancy and create synergies with other activities, such as the ZEA management and zoning plans.

Results: Dr. Zéphirin Mogba, USAID AMPR Component II coordinator and the representatives of the MMG and the MHANR facilitated the drafting of the Annual Action Plans for the six CLPR of the Berberati region. The work planning conducted in May 2019 in Berberati saw the participation of 42 CLPRs and 18 ALS from the 6 pilot CLPR sites namely Balégo, Yamalé, Bania, Wapo, Nassolé and Nandobo. The plans propose a wide range of activities like strengthening the capacity of CLPR and ALS actors in conflict prevention associated with pastoralism; methods to prevent conflict, techniques of mediation and social dialogue, and ways to organize the Peace and Reconciliation day.



Figure 4: A House of a Muslim Collector that was transformed into a community Health Center in Ndinguiri, Gadzi. Photo by: Zéphirin Mogba

The action plans are structured into two parts, namely, crosscutting interventional needs in all the CLPRs, and then, specific interventions per CLPR pilot site. Among the complex cross-cutting issues is the mediation for the return of the properties of Muslim collectors who were forced to leave the zone during the crisis of 2013. The following case is illustrative of the problems CLR confront.

In Ndinguiri, a house of a Muslim collector was transformed into a Health Unit. An international NGO (names withheld) equipped the house as a clinic and continues to provide medical supplies. The Muslim owner returned in 2018 and he wants his house back. For the community, this is the only functioning Health Unit that they are now relying on. Similar cases exist in the region, where properties of Muslim collectors are occupied by private businesses or transformed for community services. The CLPRs lack the competence to mediate such complex situations. The action plan encourages the respective Ministries to work with CLPRs to inform and train the communities, and jointly develop resolutions and mechanism to ensure the safe return of properties to their rightful owners. The draft action plans will be submitted for approval to USAID in early July 2019.

3.2.2. INTERMEDIATE RESULT 2.2: PROMOTE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT IN ASM COMMUNITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF BROAD-BASED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

3.2.2.1. Activity 2.2.1: Consolidate and Compliment Learning

Description: This activity aims at using PRADD lessons learned and international best practices in designing a strategic and sensitive approach to social and economic inclusion of women. As part of the process of identifying activities and developing the Gender Action Plan, USAID AMPR will analyze these lessons and practices, and conduct participatory fieldwork with women in ASM communities. In this way the project will build upon past activities and experiences.

Results: In April, 2019 Dr. Julie Roselyne Betabelet, AMPR Women's Social and Economic Empowerment Specialist and the representatives of the MMG carried out gender and economic activities diagnosis in Nola, Gadzi, and Boganagone region to determine if socio-economic conditions are similar for women in these areas, or whether the gender strategy must be tailored to the specificities of each locality. The diagnosis also identified the levels and methods of women's access to the means of production, notably land, inputs, technical support and financial resources, and the causes of disparities between men and women with regards to access to the means of production in the mining zones. According to the findings of the diagnosis, the 2013 political crisis in the CAR led to a weakening of investments in the artisanal diamond mining sector, which affected particularly women. Declines in the artisanal mining sector translated to reductions of employment opportunities for women involved in transporting and washing gravel or selling food and services to miners. As a result of the crisis, inequalities seemed to have grown between men and women. Women lost previously hard-earned autonomy in the sector and through ancillary economic activities.

In general, some women are directly performing the same roles as men in mining (digging, washing and transporting gravel and financing the opening of mine sites). Women exclusively provide catering/food services in artisanal mining sites. Women are therefore a significant workforce in the ASM sector. Women are engaged in other diverse economic activities in the KP zones, mainly: subsistence agriculture, small trade, keeping small livestock, fish farming, marketing of products (caterpillars, mushrooms, snails, freshwater shrimps), production and marketing of palm oil especially in Nola (Bilolo, Ziendi, Salo) and managing restaurants. The key findings will guide the selection of the sites and the types of women entrepreneurship activities available for USAID AMPR project support.

ACTIVITY 2.2.2: DEVELOP GENDER ACTION PLAN

Description: This activity aims at developing a comprehensive strategy for promoting women's economic and social inclusion, with a particular emphasis on land tenure dynamics and complimentary livelihoods. The activity will be completed in the first work plan year led jointly by an external consultant, the Component 2 Coordinator and the women's livelihoods activities coordinator. The team will first conduct a gender mainstreaming training for USAID AMPR staff as part of a broader capacity-building effort in participatory research methods. A series of participatory exercises in the field will complement the literature review, including focus group discussions and value chain analysis for existing women's livelihoods. The resulting plan will outline both the conceptual framework for USAID AMPR but also concrete livelihoods and awareness-raising activities to begin in the first work plan year.

Results: The project Gender specialists completed the USAID AMPR Gender Action Plan (GAP) that provides an overview of the gender situation in the CAR artisanal mining communities. The GAP identifies the main inequalities between men and women in the project intervention areas, examines opportunities for integrating gender considerations into each intermediate outcome of the project, and proposes a range of activities to promote women's empowerment. The plan is guided by a Theory of

Change which influences the principles guiding implementation of the AMPR project, which states that: If the constraints faced by women in artisanal mining villages are reduced and their economic power improved through increased incomes, then women will gain more respect in their communities, and will play a greater role in decision-making and hence in community decisions on conflict management, economic development and land rehabilitation as women seek to protect and defend their economic interests.

The Gender Action Plan examines the main findings of the gender analyses of the various intermediate outcomes of the USAID AMPR project intervention zones of Carnot, Gadzi and Nola. It makes recommendations for integrating gender dimensions into program activities. The plan also spells out specific approaches and activities to strengthen the role of women in the ASM mining sector while augmenting their social inclusion in resource governance institutions. Propositions are spelled out to increase the economic activities of women in other sectors, such as agriculture and entrepreneurship in order to build on the presence of ASM mining, which is an economic engine in these areas. The plan presents some mechanisms for monitoring gender mainstreaming and suggests ways to build team capacity for periodic gender analysis and evaluation of the Gender Action Plan. The GAP, which has been approved by USAID, will be used as a strategic tool to promote the social and economic empowerment of women to ensure broad social and economic inclusion of women in artisanal mining communities in the next three years of the USAID AMPR project.

3.2.2.2. Activity 2.2.3: Support Income and Rural Livelihood Diversification

Description: This activity aims at providing training and field support for rural livelihood diversification among women. The precise activities will be defined as part of the Gender Action Plan, including those that will be implemented in the first work plan year. By investing in participatory and rigorous field and desk research, USAID AMPR will be able to identify activities that cohere with an overall strategy and which have the maximum chance of sustainability and success.

Results: Priorities to be developed in next quarter.

3.2.2.3. Activity 2.2.4: Establish Women's Innovation Fund

Description: This activity aims at providing technical and material support to women entrepreneurs and cooperatives engaged in viable economic activities. Business skills training will be combined with in-kind support to boost productivity. In the first work plan year, the Gender Action Plan will identify potential entrepreneurs (including women miners), value chains and existing women's business groups. The plan will propose a series of steps and strategies, including business skills training and financing. It is unclear if the innovation fund, which will consist of in-kind financing through material support, will be launched in the first year. The GAP will determine if there are enough entrepreneurs that are ready, or if the first year will focus on capacity-building and planning, which would take place concurrently with Activity 2.2.3 focusing on livelihood diversification activities with less structured women's economic groups.

Results: Not a scheduled work plan activity for this quarter.

3.2.3. INTERMEDIATE RESULT 2.3: STRENGTHEN COOPERATION BETWEEN GOCAR MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ON SOCIAL COHESION AND KIMBERLEY PROCESS COMPLIANCE

3.2.3.1. Activity 2.3.1: Develop Inter-Ministerial Agreements to Promote Peace and Social Cohesion

Description: This activity aims at building upon efforts under PRADD II to foster collaboration and coordination between the Ministry of Mines and Geology and the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation. At this stage it is unclear if a renewed agreement will be necessary before being able to expand the CLPRs. The Component 2 and Components 1&3 Coordinators will confer closely with government stakeholders to see if formal agreements are needed. Otherwise, USAID AMPR will continue PRADD II practice of having joint missions and activities to foster collaboration between the ministries, such as the diagnostic of the CLPRs in January (see Activity 2.1.1).

Results: AMPR organized a technical consultative meeting on pastoralism and transhumance that was attended by representatives of the MMG, MHANR, Ministry of Livestock and the General Secretary of FNEC (Fédération Nationale des Eleveurs Centrafricains). The May 7, 2019 technical meeting, chaired by Dr. Zéphirin Mogba, USAID AMPR Component II coordinator, was intended to develop inter-ministerial coordination at the national, regional and local level in monitoring, documenting, reporting and responding to violent incidents and attacks by the armed pastoralists in the KP compliant mining zones. The meeting discussed the growing seasonal movements into transhumant pastoralist zones in Chad, Sudan and Cameroon in the mining zones leading to violent confrontations; and the absence of a national legal framework on the governance of agropastoral movements in the Central African Republic.



Figure 5: Photos above. Horse of herders. Presence of these horses brings fear to sedentary communities as evidence of pastoralist “invasions.” Photo by: Consolation Sinaka

The meeting recommended the creation and implementation of the local pastoral and transhumance platforms in the KP compliant zones, who will work with the CLPR and APS to address the inherent and increasingly militarized transhumance before they undermine KPCS compliance. The meeting also proposed to invite other actors including Search for Common Ground, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Public Security and MINUSCA in the next planning meeting scheduled in July 2019.

3.2.3.2. Activity 2.3.2: Improve Coordination of Approaches to Peace and Reconciliation in Diamond Mining Communities

Description: This activity aims to avoid duplication of effort among different NGOs and other actors working to promote peace and reconciliation. In the first work plan year, USAID AMPR will focus on building coordination and synergies at the local level, notably through clarifying mandates and roles of the local KP (CLS / ALS) and CLPR committees, identifying and joining existing coordination mechanisms (like the security coordination meetings led by the sub-prefects), and liaising with other NGOs active in the project’s intervention areas. At the national level, USAID AMPR will rely on its government partners to lead coordination amongst donors and other actors.

Results: AMPR and representatives of the MHANR and MMG conducted field mission in April 2019, to assess the prevailing peace and security situation in the new sites of Gadzi, Carnot, Nola and Boganangone. The findings of this assessment enabled AMPR and the two ministries to better understand the crosscutting concerns faced by both the CLPRs and ALSs. The findings guided the development of the Annual Action Plans for the CLPRs by proposing cross-cutting approaches in the execution of activities to create synergies between social cohesion activities, economic diversification and strengthening of good mining practices. Consequently, on May 20, 2019, in Berberati, CLPR, ALS and anti-fraud police (USAF) signed a joint declaration that commits them to timely share information and jointly act to resolve reported incidents of fraud, insecurity and social cohesion.

3.3. OBJECTIVE III: INCREASE AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBLE GOLD SUPPLY CHAINS IN CAR

3.3.1. Intermediate Result 3.1: Research and Communicate Recommendations for Policy, Legal, And Institutional Reforms at the National And Regional Levels to Key Stakeholders

3.3.1.1. Activity 3.1.1: Conduct Artisanal Gold Sector Diagnostic to Assess Market Readiness

Description: This activity is intended to gather and communicate basic information about ASM gold mining in CAR in order to enable discussions and analysis on how to align CAR’s growing gold production with national and international laws and norms. USAID AMPR sub-contractor IPIS, leads a diagnostic study to assess the ASM gold economy while also setting up an interactive mapping system (See Activity 3.1.3). The diagnostic consists of desk and field-based research to understand the production and financing systems, as well as the regulatory framework. Results are to be presented and discussed at a national workshop. USAID AMPR plans to design the workshop in such a way as to build linkages with other donors (notably the EU) and move towards a national action plan. For example, the OECD/EU may conduct a training on the new conflict minerals legislation, and USAID AMPR’s second sub-contractor for Component 3, RESOLVE, will then share experiences from CBRMT in the DRC. Combined with the study results, the workshop will then create the space for discussions for an action plan.

Results: The Gold Sector Diagnostic advanced well this past quarter. Following the recruitment of enumerators and a comprehensive four-day training¹ held in Bangui in late March 2019, IPIS field teams conducted their first field deployment in order to map artisanal mining sites in Western CAR. Five focal points from the Kimberley Process as well as five members from civil society organizations were teamed up and completed 132 mining sites questionnaires, and 6 AMPR field agents completed 69 mining sites questionnaires in the Kimberley Process compliant areas, for a total of 201 questionnaires.

<i>Areas covered by IPIS (May 2019)</i>	<i>Areas covered by AMPR (May 2019)</i>	<i>Areas to be covered by IPIS (June & July 2019)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nana-Mambéré (Baoro) Ombella-M’Poko (Yaloke, Bossembélé) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobaye (Boda, Boganangone, Yawa) Sangha-Mbaéré (Nola) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ouham (Bossangoa) Nana-Mambéré (Bouar, Abba, Babua)

¹ For more information about the training, please visit IPIS website: <http://ipisresearch.be/2019/05/new-project-mapping-artisanal-small-scale-mining-sites-central-african-republic>

Areas covered by IPIS (May 2019)	Areas covered by AMPR (May 2019)	Areas to be covered by IPIS (June & July 2019)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ouham-Pendé (Bocaranga, Bozoum, Bossemptele) • Lobaye (Mbaiki) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mambéré-Kadéï (Berberati, Carnot, Guen, Sosso-Nakombo) 	

IPIS teams for data collection were first deployed from April 20 to May 10, 2019. During their mission they were monitored by IPIS focal point Jean-François Thalo, based in the AMPR Bangui office, who could constantly track their position and communicate with them through the IRIDIUM satellite network using the InReach Garmin devices. This helped ensure constant support and strengthen their security on the ground.

Debriefing and qualitative research

From the 4th to the 14th of June, Alexandre Jaillon (IPIS researcher and project coordinator) and Guillaume de Brier (IPIS researcher) conducted a field mission to Bangui and Bozoum.

In Bangui they held a debriefing workshop with the five IPIS teams of enumerators to share and exchange feedbacks on the first field mission as well as to collectively analyze and interpret the first quantitative results. The initial results indicate 132 compiled questionnaires covering 1,944 *chantiers* and 39,989 workers (including 12,984 women and 4,811 children). Most of the mapped sites are gold (118 out of 132) and 14 out of 132 are diamond. 16 sites are controlled by armed group groups. The negative environmental effects generated by the artisanal mining, notably water and forest degradation have been reported on almost all the mapped sites.

In Bozoum, Jean-François Thalo, Alexandre Jaillon and Guillaume de Brier visited four mining sites to test the hypothesis and to validate quantitative information through discussion and interviews with miners and members of the local community. This mission was facilitated on the ground by representatives of the Ministry of Mines: Jean Bruno Passi (Chef de service prefectoral des mines) and Joseph Nadjal (Commandant d’unité des mines de Bozoum à la Brigade minière).



Figure 2: Areas covered by IPIS teams (dark blue) and AMPR teams (pink) in May 2019 as well as areas to be covered in June 2019 by IPIS teams (light blue).

Activity 3.1.2: Facilitate Gold Sector Action Plan

Description: This activity aims at fostering technical discussions that build on the gold sector diagnostic and which leads to an action plan, to be supported by other donors. USAID AMPR anticipates working towards this action plan during the first work plan year, but the exact timing for completion will depend in part on other donors, notably the EU, as well as the level of buy-in from the government. The workshop planned in the latter part of 2019 to present the gold diagnostic results, ideally in association with an EU/OECD/RESOLVE training, will be key. RESOLVE will work alongside the EU project to support the government and private sector in developing the action plan. USAID AMPR will also identify any linkages with the World Bank project supporting mining cooperatives, some of which may be involved in gold, and which may be good candidates for piloting responsible sourcing initiatives.



Results: The next quarter the gold sector diagnostic and the feedback workshop will occur in November, 2019 with the purpose of developing the Gold Sector Action Plan. The assessment will analyze alignment and/or gaps within CAR’s artisanal gold sector with international expectations, particularly: 1) systems to enable due diligence meeting international market and stakeholder expectations, and 2) conditions for CAR gold producers, traders and exporters for engagement with the legitimate, international buyers; and 3) provide recommendations to amplify positive attributes and address key gaps to support the “market-readiness” of the supply chain actors in the gold sector in CAR to engage in international markets. This assessment will be a companion to IPIS’ in-country work and reporting, as well as an input for the gold action plan.

3.3.1.2. Activity 3.1.3: Develop Interactive Map of Diamond and Gold Site Locations

Description: This activity aims at replicating the mine site monitoring and interactive real-time mapping interface developed by IPIS in the DRC, as well as building on their conflict mapping work in CAR. Based on work plan discussions, USAID AMPR will move up this activity to year one, given its utility in developing the gold diagnostic and action plan. Starting in April, IPIS researchers will deploy to collect data in gold mining areas, concurrently with KP Focal Points for diamond mining areas, in the locations specified in the table above. AMPR also suggested the interactive map could be useful for the KP Operational Framework, should the MMG agree to integrate diamond data into the mapping interface. In order to foster these synergies, IPIS/USAID AMPR will organize a workshop with the government next quarter.

Results: This quarter IPIS put in place the groundwork to produce interactive, online maps of diamond and gold site locations. The interactive map, which will be publicly accessible, will include geographical coordinates for each mine site; the main characteristics of the sites (type of exploitation, number of sites, management and registration of the site); local dynamics concerning artisanal mining (number of workers, role of women, presence of children and armed groups); estimated production; the role of state services (presence, recording of production); details regarding the processing and trade of ores, as well as trade and export routes.

3.4 OBJECTIVE IV: IMPROVE USAID PROGRAMMING THROUGH INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF LINKAGES BETWEEN ASM AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 4.1: ASSIST RELEVANT USAID OPERATING UNITS TO ASSESS THE LINK BETWEEN ASM AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Activity 4.1.1: Prepare Outreach Documents

Description: This activity aims at preparing communication and outreach materials targeting USAID Operating Units on themes related to ASM and development. USAID prepares briefs on the USAID AMPR project to be shared with operating units. This activity is intended for USAID AMPR to prepare documents during the work plan year should a need arise.

Results: The Project Manager prepared a summary of the AMPR project for LandLinks but approval has not yet occurred.

Activity 4.1.2: Conduct Diagnostic of ASM Needs and Opportunities

Description: This activity aims at using desk research and limited consultations to create a global issue brief on key issues and opportunities in countries with USAID programming and where ASM is widely practiced. During work plan consultations, USAID determined that such a brief is not needed at this time, but as with all Component 4 activities, USAID AMPR will remain responsive to USAID requests.

Results: The ASGM Ghana scoping mission report was finalized and shared with the US Embassy Accra, the World Bank, and the USAID ILRG project team. The Burkina Faso ASGM desk review was also completed, with 12 stakeholder interviews by telephone and a review of relevant documentation. The report has not yet been reviewed/approved by USAID. USAID approved the Scope of Work for the summary of best practices in gender and ASM but due to other USAID assignments (ILRG Project in Ghana and land certification assessments for USAID AMPR) the consultant has not yet completed the outreach document.

Activity 4.1.3 Provide On-Call Technical Assistance

Description: This activity aims at providing expertise and assistance to USAID Operating Units as needed. At the time of work plan preparation, there were several possible activities, but none had been confirmed. The Technical Deputy is to work with the PM and USAID to respond to any requests through organizing STTAs or other activities.

Results: USAID AMPR is standing by on any follow-up technical assistance needed by the US Embassy in Accra, and next quarter will also receive feedback on the Burkina Faso ASGM assessment. At the KP Intersessional, government officials from Togo and Guinea expressed interest in technical assistance, and USAID AMPR advised them to liaise with the appropriate USAID missions. Meanwhile as per COR instructions, Tetra Tech pursued discussions with Levin Sources on their proposal to USAID to pilot a responsible diamond sourcing initiative in Liberia. The proposal is being revised as a scope of work as part of an anticipated sole-source sub-contract to be executed in the Second Annual Work Plan. The

initiative will also consider Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana as possible sourcing countries for the initiative, which will provide valuable information on possible models for ASM sourcing through a test export and a detailed quantitative and qualitative analysis of the results.

4.1 INTERMEDIATE RESULT 4.2: STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND UNDERSTANDING OF USAID OPERATING UNITS AND PARTNERS ON THE LINK BETWEEN ASM AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Activity 4.2.1: Participate in International Forums on ASM Issues

Description: This activity aims at participating in key international forums as a way to remain abreast of international trends and issues that will affect USAID AMPR implementation as well as contribute to international best practices. In 2019, the Technical Deputy was slated to attend the KP Intersessional to support the U.S. delegation as needed, follow the activities of the CAR KP Monitoring Team, report on USAID AMPR activities to assist GoCAR. In addition, the Technical Deputy was asked to work with DDI to present on best practices for cooperatives management, a request made to USAID by WGAAP and included in the final 2018 KP communique.

USAID AMPR was also asked to attend the OECD Responsible Minerals Forum in April, 2019 represented by the Technical Deputy. USAID AMPR will monitor other events and propose attending them to USAID as needed. For example, the World Bank may organize regional ASM conferences in Africa, and the EU will likely support a follow-on artisanal diamond mining forum like the one organized in Zambia in 2018. USAID AMPR will assess the utility of attending such conferences on a case-by-case basis, and/or whether to fund the participation of key local stakeholders (like artisanal miners). USAID will review these proposals as they emerge.

Results: The Technical Deputy / Component 4 Coordinator attended the OECD Responsible Minerals Forum in April, 2019, where he moderated a panel discussion on diamonds and the new Responsible Jewelry Council's standards. The Technical Deputy / Component 4 Coordinator also participated in the KP Intersessional in Mumbai, India, as part of the US KP Delegation. The Coordinator presented on best practices in diamond mining cooperatives and participated in bilateral meetings and deliberations on the situation in CAR and the CAR Operational Framework. Even though the smuggling diagnostic has not yet been released publicly, its conclusions began influencing the discussion, with the US Delegation initiating a discussion on possible changes to the Operational Framework, including switching to a notification rather than a pre-approval system for rough diamond exports.

Activity 4.2.2: Share Knowledge on Linkages between ASM and Development Issues

Description: Similar to Activity 4.1.3, this activity aims at serving USAID Operating Units with specific knowledge needs with respect to ASM. This could include organizing presentations or trainings on ASM for missions or implementing partners or conducting diagnoses on ASM dynamics in the context of land tenure, agricultural, conservation or other projects.

Results: The Technical Deputy / Component 4 Coordinator presented on best practices in mining cooperatives at the KP Intersessional and was asked by the Working Group on Alluvial and Artisanal Production (WGAAP) to further reflect upon and develop guidelines for diamond mining cooperatives, in collaboration with the Diamond Development Initiative (DDI). The WGAAP Chair also requested assistance on designing the forthcoming second Artisanal Diamond Mining Forum, anticipated in the fall in Accra, Ghana. The Coordinator prepared a preliminary concept note focused on opportunities and threats posed by lab-grown diamonds in relation to artisanal production. The WGAAP Chair also voiced

an interest in conducting a study on the economic impact of artisanal diamond mining as a way to better communicate about the positive dimensions of ASM diamonds and mitigate growing negative marketing against ASM diamonds, notably from lab-grown diamond retailers. In addition, per COR request USAID AMPR prepared to financially support the Conference on Land Policy in Africa to be held in November in Abidjan, and also submitted 3 papers to the Scientific Committee for potential review. USAID AMPR will also help facilitate a master class on pastoralism. Finally, USAID AMPR was requested to anticipate preparing Country Profiles for the USAID Land Links website as part of the Second AWP.

The Project Manager developed a Master Class curriculum for the Land Policy on Africa (CLPA-2019) now scheduled for November 25-29, 2019 on “Examining Linkages Between Climate Change, Land and Resource Governance and Transformations in Transhumance Pastoralism.” Three other paper abstracts were prepared entitled, “The Capture of The Commons: Militarized Pastoralism and Struggles for Control of Surface and Sub-Surface Resources in Southwest Central African Republic,” (Mogba and Freudenberger) “Clarifying and Documenting Customary Land Rights of Small Holder Cocoa Farmers to Increase Carbon Storage and Mitigate Deforestation in Ghana,” (Antwi and Freudenberger) and “The Interaction Between Surface And Sub-Surface Rights In Mining Communities: Addressing Contradictions and Leveraging Community-Government Partnership For Good Governance” (DeJong). At the time of writing, the conference organizers rejected the papers by Antwi and Freudenberger and DeJong, but had not communicated whether the Mogba paper and the Master Class were accepted.

Activity 4.2.3: Publish Research in Peer-Reviewed Publications and for Various Portals

Description: This activity aims at positioning USAID AMPR as a thought leader on ASM through the preparation of academic and generalist communication and research products. Given USAID AMPR’s decision to front-load the first-year work plan with intensive field activity implementation, the project will place less emphasis on this activity than in subsequent years. However, in the latter part of 2019 the project will actively identify blogs or other communications pieces that can convey key findings and developments.

Results: The Technical Deputy / Component 4 Coordinator was approached by a graduate student of ASM expert Gavin Hilson on co-publishing a paper on the SODEMI model of ASM-LSM cohabitation in Cote d’Ivoire. The paper will be based on the paper presented at the 2018 Land and Poverty Conference and produced under USAID PRADD II. USAID AMPR will submit an RFA to the COR to use billable time to prepare the publication of this paper, which will bring the SODEMI model and USAID AMPR thought leadership to an academic audience.

The Project Manager prepared with a team at Tetra Tech a paper financed by the firm on “Climate Change, Land and Resource Governance, and Violent Extremism: Spotlight on The African Sahel.” This white paper referred to the innovations around Local Pacts and the roles of the Peace and Reconciliation Committees.”

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

4.1 INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

AMPR witnessed the increased involvement of women in the project activities. During the mobilization of elective assemblies for the new CLPRs in Carnot and Gadzi, the AMPR Women's Social and Economic Empowerment Specialist Dr. Julie Betabelet and the Director of National Reconciliation at the MHANR, Ms. Lydie Yahoumbi, encourage the communities to elect as required by ministry regulations women representatives for the CLPR. Currently, 15 of the 42 members of the CLPR in Carnot and Gadzi are women. Women were elected as presidents of the CLPRs of Toutoubou in Carnot and Ndinguiri, making them the first ever elected as leaders of the CLPRs in the KP compliant zones.



Figure 9: The Mayor congratulating the elected members of the Mboula Yanguéré CLPR, in Carnot. Photo by: Zéphirin Mogba.

4.2 COORDINATION, COLLABORATION, AND INFORMATION SHARING WITH USAID MISSIONS AND OTHER USAID PARTNERS

AMPR held consultative meetings with donors and international agencies that support the GoCAR. In April 2019, technical meetings were held with European Union delegation in Bangui to discuss the 1.5 million Euro EU project for CAR to be implemented by Enabel. Enabel awarded a contract to consultant Sebastian Pennes to oversee the implementation. AMPR held preliminary discussions with Pennes on coordination and collaboration, and broad technical orientations for that project. The project will focus on the governance issues in the ASM sector with a focus on the KP. In May, AMPR met with the international consultant for the Red Sand Mineral, which received funding from the US government to carry out environmental impact assessments in the mining sector under the REDD + program. The meeting explored how USAID AMPR activities affect the environment and discussed the possibility of working together to deal with negative effects associated with artisanal mining. The findings of the study will guide GoCAR in developing a five-year project to address climate change impacts in the CAR from 2020 to 2024.

Enhancing Planning and Communication with the Government stakeholders: AMPR has continued the PRADD II initiative of sharing the technical components of the weekly reports with the Ministers and senior officers of the MMG and MHANR. The coordinators of field missions held debrief sessions at the MMG, to share the key findings and recommendations with senior ministry officials. All the USAID AMPR Component Coordinators ensured that the TORs for field missions are jointly prepared with the technical services of the respective ministries. In June 2019, a joint AMPR and MMG Work Plan Technical Committee was set up to lead the consultative process of drafting the AMPR project year 2 Annual Work plan. The committee consulted the technical officers at different levels of the MMG and MHANR, reviewed and summarized the various AMPR consultancy reports findings and recommendations. This consultative process will ensure the technical buy-in from the respective leadership. Interventions have improved the coordination, planning and information sharing, as the project transits from the start-up phase to full implementation phases.



Figure 10: USAID AMPR Joint Technical Planning Meeting with the MMG Experts. Photo by Benjamin Ndongo.

Monthly Coordination Call: AMPR technical staff continued to participate actively in the USAID monthly coordination calls designed for sharing updates and improving coordination on the interventions implemented by the AMPR project. AMPR provided progress updates for the planned interventions and the related challenges per project component. The calls also discussed the role of USAID in the gold sector, emphasizing that AMPR's initiatives should be focused on diamond mining and not on gold. AMPR compiles and shares the notes of the monthly call.

4.3 OFFICES

The USAID AMPR program headquarters in Bangui is functioning well and has all the necessary furniture, IT equipment and supplies. The security company BCAGS (*Bureau Centrafricain de Gardiennage et de Surveillance*) introduced handheld metal detection scanners and under-vehicle inspection mirrors to strengthen the access and control measures at the office. AMPR implementing partner IPIS was provided office space within the AMPR offices on a cost sharing basis. Office space has been also reserved for the World Bank project which is expected to start project activities in the next quarter. Given the unavailability of some IT equipment in country, the project purchased computer hardware in the US and visiting project staff have brought equipment with them to Central African Republic. Each Community Mobilizer has been provided with a laptop, a smart phone and a GPS Tracker to enhance communication, security and data collection.

In April and May, the AMPR project witnessed constant power cuts at the office. These power cuts were put in place by the Ministry of Energy to reduce the overload on what was meant to be a special line for the president. The field office, in coordination with Home Office, secured USAID's approval to purchase eco-friendly rechargeable batteries as an alternative power source. In June, AMPR met the Senior Directors of ENERCA, the public power supplier and requested special consideration to be returned to the special land line, explaining that AMPR is a project supporting the Ministry of Mines and Geology. At the end of June, the power-cut to the office had reduced to approximately one day per week.

4.4 STAFFING

The project successfully completed the recruitment of all key employees: six Community Mobilizers, one Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning specialist and an Administrative Assistant. AMPR completed the enrollment of the local employees with the National Social Security agency as required by CAR labor law. Local employees signed long term contracts that came into effect on June 1, 2019. The AMPR project extended the duration of consulting agreements for four employees pending USAID's request for approval of rate increase.

Laura Gallup replaced Virginia Spell as Deputy Project Manager, effective May 31st. Virginia Spell, who had been with Tetra Tech for five years, has moved on to a new career. AMPR ended the contract of Eric Dalengere as a regional coordinator in Berberati because one of the field agents has the skills to manage those responsibilities.

In April, the AMPR Chief of Party Maxie Muwonge completed the COP training at the Tetra Tech Home Office in Burlington, Vermont. He also held meetings with USAID and the State Department in Washington DC. In June, AMPR Director of Administration and Finance, Linca Tuyisenge participated in the annual Tetra Tech all-staff meeting in Burlington, Vermont. She was selected by Tetra Tech as the best performing international staff of the year. She gave a presentation about her experience in managing finance and administrative roles in challenging field environments.

4.5 SECURITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The security situation in the Central African Republic remained unstable, characterized by several manifestations in the Capital, Bangui, with several violent incidents reported in the interior of the country, some in zones near the areas covered by the AMPR project. In May 2019, AMPR cancelled a planned evaluation in Bozoum due to the killing of over 39 civilians in the nearby Ouham-Pendé region. This incident was reportedly carried out by the 3R armed group and led by General Sidiki Abbas. In terms of risk, the most eminent danger was the deteriorating condition of the roads in the interior of the country following the start of the rainy season. Joint AMPR and government counterpart missions got stuck en route to their destinations due to the poor state of the roads and broken bridges. In order to access some zones covered by the project, the team had to use small canoes. These incidents risked staff safety and led to the delay, extension and/or cancellation of field mission trips.



Figure 11: Top Left, A rented vehicle stuck on the Gadzi road during a mission of the AMPR team. Photo by: Delphin Kogoro; Bottom Left; a broken bridge along Nola road that blocked the passage of the rented vehicle during a mission of the AMPR team. Photo by: Consolation Sinaka; Right, Project team crossing Mbaéré river in Nola using a non-motorized canoe. Photo by Consolation Sinaka

Some project activities were cancelled for security related factors largely beyond the control of the management team. To mitigate risk, the AMPR project began drafting a Security and Risk Vulnerability Action Plan. The draft security plan spells out measures that must be employed by project staff and include: restrictions for traveling at night, the necessity for Mission Orders from the Ministry of Mines and Geology, traveling with USAF and other Ministry of Mines escorts, equipping all vehicles with vehicle tracking systems, wearing personal location beacons (GPS Tracking devices) while traveling in the field, and flying expatriate staff to Berberati, Carnot, and Nola by MINUSCA or other charter flights. In addition, AMPR is in discussion with the International Red Cross to offer in-country Hostile Environment and Awareness Training (HEAT) to all AMPR project staff; and the project is finalizing discussions with BCAGS security service provider to provide fire safety training to all staff. These trainings are scheduled to take place in the next quarter.

5. PROJECT-SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

TABLE I. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR [AND TYPE]	REPORTING FREQUENCY	BASE-LINE	COUNTRY	YTD Progress	Y1 Target	Notes on Progress
Objective I: Assist GoCAR to improve compliance with KP requirements to promote licit economic opportunities.							
1	Percentage of estimated rough diamond production that is legally exported from CAR	Annually	TBD ²	CAR		15%	Report out in December, 2019
2	Percentage of diamond-mining sub-prefectures authorized by the Kimberley Process to export rough diamonds	Annually	16% ³	CAR		25%	Report out in December, 2019
3	Number of licensed artisanal miners	Annually	1,000 ⁴	CAR		2,000	Report out in December, 2019
4	Number of diamond buyers (collectors and buying houses) making purchases with official purchase slips	Annually	200 ⁵	CAR		250	Report out in December, 2019
5	Percentage of artisanal miners in project intervention zones with basic knowledge of KP and Mining Code	Annually	TBD	CAR		N/A	Report out in December, 2019
6	Number of specific pieces of land tenure and property rights legislation or implementing regulations proposed, adopted, and/or implemented positively affecting property rights of the urban and/or rural poor as a result of USG assistance (Standard F Indicator EG.10.4-1)	Annually	0	CAR		N/A	Report out in December, 2019

² In 2018 several estimates of actual production were proposed based on USGS analysis and a study by UNDP/UNICEF. These studies estimate that the percentage of actual production exported legally is between 1 and 15%. USAID AMPR will execute its estimation methodology for 2019, and if the adopted methodology allows comparison to the 2018 baselines proposed by other actors, those levels will be used.

³ USAID AMPR estimates that 32 of the country's 72 sub-prefectures have diamond mining. At present 5 out of 32, or 16%, are compliant zones under the KP OF.

⁴ This figure is an estimate based on available government data for the number of miners registered in 2018. Because this data is not fully centralized in Bangui, but remains in the provinces, it is not possible for an exact figure. USAID AMPR will work on improving the consolidation of data in Bangui.

⁵ The baseline figure shows the approximate number of registered dealers (collectors and buying houses), not the number of *active and legal* dealers. At present the government's data does not allow easy disaggregation of the number of actors versus the number of actors who are legally purchasing, a distinction that USAID AMPR capacity-building will make possible.

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR [AND TYPE]	REPORTING FREQUENCY	BASE-LINE	COUNTRY	YTD Progress	YI Target	Notes on Progress
Objective 2: Strengthen community resilience, social cohesion, and response to violent conflict in CAR.							
7	Number of villages having formalized and strengthened their natural resource management capacity	Annually	0	CAR		N/A	Report out in December, 2019
8	Number of groups trained in conflict mediation/resolution skills or consensus-building techniques with USG assistance (Standard F Indicator DR.3.1-2)	Annually	0	CAR	12 CLPRs	N/A	6 CLPRs of Berberati, 2 of Carnot and 4 of Gadzi, trained in May 2019
9	Number of USG supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation among key actors to the conflict (Standard F Indicator PS.6.2-3)	Annually	0	CAR	7	N/A	1 Training of the CLPRs in Berberati; 6 mobilization and sensitization meetings in the zones of the new CLPRs.
10	Number of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance (Standard F Indicator GNDR-10)	Annually	0	CAR	15	N/A	15 women were voted as members of the new CLPRs in Carnot and Gadzi.
11	Number of consensus building forums (multi-party, civil/security sector, and/or civil/political) held with USG Assistance (Standard F Indicator DR.3.1-3)	Annually	0	CAR		N/A	Report out in December, 2019
12	Number of disputed land and property rights cases resolved by local authorities, contractors, mediators, or courts as a result of USG assistance (Standard F Indicator EG.10.4-3)	Annually	0	CAR		N/A	Report out in December, 2019
13	Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (Standard F Indicator EG.3.2-1)	Annually	0	CAR		N/A	Report out in December, 2019
Objective 3: Increase awareness and understanding of the opportunities and challenges of establishing responsible gold supply chains in CAR.							
14	Number of gold mining sites integrated into the interactive mapping system	Annually	0	CAR	201	N/A	132 sites mapped by IPIS; 69 mapped by AMPR community mobilisers. These will be integrated into the interactive map.
Objective 4: Improve USAID programming through increased understanding of linkages between ASM and key development issues.							

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR [AND TYPE]	REPORTING FREQUENCY	BASE-LINE	COUNTRY	YTD Progress	YI Target	Notes on Progress
15	Number of activities benefitting USAID Operating Units aimed at improving the understanding of linkages between ASM and key development issues	Annually	0	Global		N/A	Ghana gold assessment carried out this quarter. Final report out in December, 2019

ANNEX I: SNAP SHOT

Joint Declaration Against Fraud in Berberati:

Following the AMPR organized training on maintaining a conflict tracking register, which took place in Berberati on May 20, 2019, the CLPRs, ALS and USAF signed a joint declaration to fight fraud in the Berberati compliant zones of Balégo, Bania, Yamalé, Wapo, Nassolé and Nandobo. During the training conducted jointly by Dr. Zéphirin Mogba, USAID AMPR Component II coordinator and the representatives of the Ministry of Mines and Geology (MMG) and the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation (MHANR), the CLPRs, ALS and USAF participated in identifying factors that destabilize peace and social cohesion.



Figure 1: USAF agents that participated in the training and committed to work jointly with CLPRs and ALSs to fight fraud.

The actors identified fraud and smuggling among the key factors. The participants noted that there was lack of coordination between government actors to address fraud. The representatives of the two ministries reminded the CLPRs and ALS that they should assist government in dealing with factors that undermine peace in the KP compliant zones. The conference participants decided to sign a joint declaration that commits them to timely sharing of information on cases of fraud and illicit diamond trading; carrying out joint information and outreach around fraud and contraband; facilitating a network of informants armed with appropriate communication means (telephones, credit...) to enable them report suspected cases of fraud; and maintaining confidentiality around the shared information and the informants.

The joint declaration was shared with all the local authorities in Berberati, the Kimberley Process Secretariat, and with the ministers of Mines and Geology and Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation. The Minister of Mines and Geology welcomed the initiative and requested that the Joint Declaration should be replicated in other Kimberley Process compliant zones. Similarly, the director of the MHANR pledged support. AMPR will provide technical support for the implementation of the Declaration and monitor progress. If the Declaration does indeed help to reduce fraud, the project will expend resources to support expansion in other compliant zones.

ANNEX 2: LIST OF MEDIA

The USAID AMPR project produced no media this quarter.

ANNEX 4: PROJECT STAFF

TABLE 2. PROJECT STAFF

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ANNEX 5: DATA

No data was generated this quarter.

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