



# USAID ARTISANAL MINING & PROPERTY RIGHTS (AMPR)

Promoting legal, responsible diamond and gold supply chains and strengthening social cohesion in the Central African Republic (CAR).

## BACKGROUND

Legal and responsible artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) supply chains can promote peace and stability and provide livelihoods for men and women. However, the ASM sector remains largely informal and rife with criminal activity and corruption. The majority of ASM diamond and gold exports flow through illegal channels, depriving governments of revenues, with diggers and miners suffering from conflict and violence. The Central African Republic is particularly dependent on the artisanal mining economy. Expansion of compliant zones for diamond exports and strengthening the legal trade is needed to help rebuild the country’s economy and reduce violence.

## OVERVIEW

Launched in 2018, USAID’s Artisanal Mining and Property Rights (AMPR) project builds on a long history of USAID investment in responsible sourcing in the CAR through the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development (PRADD) projects. AMPR supports the establishment of legal, responsible supply chains and strengthens peace in artisanal mining areas in CAR, and provides technical assistance to USAID missions through four objectives:

1. Assist government of CAR to improve compliance with Kimberley Process requirements to promote licit economic activities
2. Strengthen community resilience, social cohesion, and responses to violent conflict

### Key Contract Facts

**Countries:** Central African Republic  
**Issues:** Artisanal and Small-scale Mining, Conflict  
**Duration:** 2018 to 2021  
**Funding:** \$9,900,000

3. Increase awareness and understanding of the opportunities and challenges of establishing responsible gold supply chains
4. Improve USAID programming through increased understanding of linkages between artisanal and small-scale mining and key development issues

## **APPROACH & ACHIEVEMENTS**

**I. IMPROVING KIMBERLEY PROCESS COMPLIANCE.** A multilateral trade regime established in 2003, the Kimberley Process (KP) aims to stem the flow of conflict diamonds. AMPR seeks to improve CAR's compliance with the KP through national and regional coordination, diplomacy, awareness raising, policy reform, formalization, institutional strengthening, and targeted technical and material assistance. Achievements to date include:

- Conducted a rigorous cross-border study of smuggling and fraud in CAR's mining sector
- Drafted a road map for strengthening diamond supply chain governance, including regulatory and institutional changes.
- Developed a grassroots communications strategy to increase knowledge and application of KP procedures by all actors across the supply chain
- Initiated direct engagements with the World Bank to contribute to regulatory and institutional reform efforts of the Ministry of Mines and Geology.

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***The Kimberley Process (KP) is a multilateral trade regime established in 2003 with the goal of preventing the flow of conflict diamonds. The core of this regime is the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) under which States implement safeguards on shipments of rough diamonds and certify them as "conflict free".***

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**2. STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION.** In cooperation with CAR's Ministry of Humanitarian Action and its network of Community Peace and Reconciliation Committees, AMPR is supporting inclusive community dialogue to resolve conflict over land and natural resources; strengthening committees, enhancing the role of women in artisanal mining, and facilitating inter-ministerial collaboration. Illustrative achievements:

- Conducted an assessment of Peace and Reconciliation Committees (CLPR) in compliant zones
- Developed a Conflict Registry for committees to gather data and monitor conflict cases
- Conducted research to inform an action plan for combating armed pastoralism
- Consulted with stakeholders, including representatives of women's groups to develop a Gender Action Plan and identify economic diversification activities for women

**3. UNDERSTANDING RESPONSIBLE GOLD SUPPLY CHAINS.** Applied research on CAR's gold supply chain aims to point to strategies to align CAR's growing gold production with national and international laws and norms. Progress to date includes:

- Completed a diagnostic study to assess the ASM gold economy
- Developed an interactive web map of 322 gold and diamond mining sites
- Conducted a market readiness assessment
- Trained key stakeholders on the principles of due diligence and the Code of Risk Mitigation for Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining for Formal Trade (CRAFT)

**4. IMPROVING ASM PROGRAMMING.** In addition to its CAR-focused work, AMPR is assessing links between ASM and development issues; facilitating knowledge sharing and improved understanding of ASM in development; participating in international forums; and demonstrating thought leadership through academic articles. Illustrative activities to date:

- Contributed to successful adoption of limited changes to CAR’s Operational Framework
- Produced a brief on USAID’s ASM activities and presented in USAID ASM webinar
- Researched gold supply chains in Ghana and Burkina Faso
- USAID AMPR implements field activities in the southwest part of the country over the Carnot Sandstone, the location of alluvial diamond deposits. While gold is mined throughout, most gold deposits are on the northwestern fringes of this geological formation.

## GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

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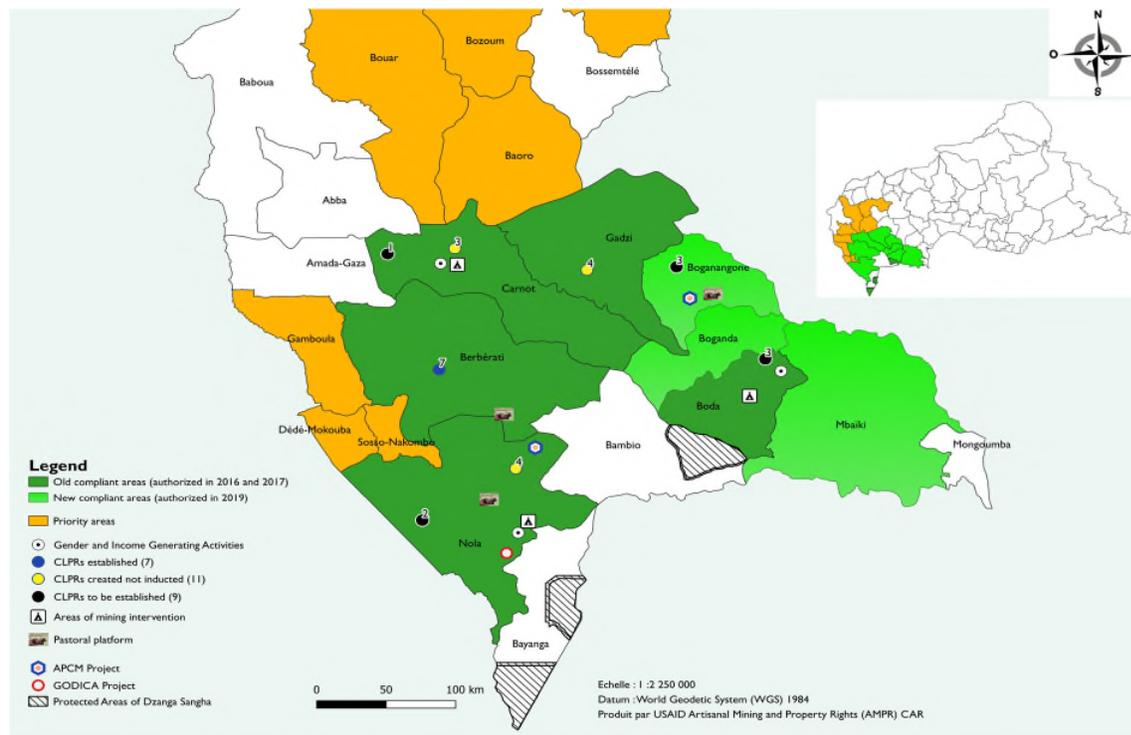


Figure 1. AMPR Implementation Area.

## CONTACT

AMPR is a Task Order under the Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights (STARR) II Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quality Contract, managed by E3’s Land and Urban Office in Washington.

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