

ARTISANAL MINING AND PROPERTY RIGHTS UNDER THE STRENGTHENING TENURE AND RESOURCE RIGHTS II (STARR II) IDIQ

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 1– JUNE 30, 2020



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Photo: AMPR Training in Soapmaking for Training of Trainers (TOT) in Loppo, Nola Subprefecture. Photo by Sonek Langate.

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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 I – JUNE 30, 2020

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	African Development Bank
AFPE	Action for Promotion of Entrepreneurship
ALS	<i>Antenne Locale de Suivi</i> (Kimberley Process Monitoring Committee at the Commune Level)
AMPR	Artisanal Mining and Property Rights
APCM	<i>Appui à La Professionnalisation des Coopératives Minières de la République Centrafricaine</i> (Support to the Professionalization of Mining Cooperatives in the Central African Republic)
ASM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining
CAR	Central African Republic
CLPR	<i>Comité Local de Paix et Réconciliation</i> (Peace and Reconciliation Committee)
CLS	<i>Comité Local de Suivi</i> (Kimberley Process Monitoring Committee at the Zone Level)
CNSPK	<i>Comité National de Suivi du Processus de Kimberley de la République Centrafricaine</i> (Central African Republic Kimberley Process National Monitoring Committee)
COP	Chief of Party
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CTRE-RCA	<i>Comité Technique, de Réflexion et d'Echange de la République Centrafricaine</i> (Technical Reflection and Exchange Committee for the CAR Extractive and Mining Sector)
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ENC	<i>Elie Numerique Centrafrique</i>
EU	European Union
FACA	<i>Forces Armée de la Centrafrique</i> (CAR Armed Forces)
GoCAR	Government of the Central African Republic
GODICA	<i>Renforcement de la Gouvernance dans les Secteurs de l'Extraction Artisanale du Diamant et de l'Or en République Centrafricaine</i> (Reinforcing Governance in the Artisanal Diamond and Gold Mining Extraction Sectors in the Central African Republic)
IDIQ	Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity Contract
IGA	Income-Generating Activities
IPIS	International Peace Information Service
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
KP	Kimberley Process
KPCS	Kimberley Process Certification Scheme
KPPS	Kimberley Process Permanent Secretariat
LOP	Life of Project

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
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPFAS	<i>Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme, de la Famille et de la Protection de l'Enfant</i> (Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Family, and Child Protection)
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
PGRN	<i>Projet de Gouvernance des Ressources Naturelles</i>
PRADD	Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development
RCA	<i>République Centrafricaine</i> (Central African Republic)
RJDH	<i>Reseau de Journalists de Droit de l'Homme</i> (Network of Journalists for Human Rights)
SCED	<i>Société Centrafricaine d'Exploitation Diamantifère</i> (Central African Society of Diamond Exploitation)
SMARTER	Sustainable Mining by Artisanal Miners
SODEMI	<i>Société pour le Développement Minier en Côte d'Ivoire</i> (Society for Mining Development in Côte d'Ivoire)
SOW	Scope of Work
STARR II	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights II Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity Contract
TOR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
ZEA	<i>Zone d'Exploitation Artisanale</i> (Artisanal Mining Zones)

I.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Artisanal Mining and Property Rights (AMPR) project supports the United States Agency for International Development (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 (ASM) in a multidisciplinary fashion. The project focuses primarily on diamond and, to a lesser extent, 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 ASM sector. AMPR builds upon activities and lessons from the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development (PRADD I and II) projects. The AMPR contract was signed on September 28, 2018, for an initial base period of three years; the project is now in its second year. The present report summarizes progress during Quarter 3 of AMPR's second year of project implementation. Activities center on the four objectives in AMPR's Year 2 Work Plan, as outlined below.

Objective 1 strengthens CAR's capacity for implementing Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) requirements. To launch the initiative, the AMPR team conducted a gap analysis and identified recommendations to stem the tide of rapidly expanding rough diamond smuggling and to remove barriers to implementing the Kimberley Process (KP) Operational Framework (OF). AMPR is supporting miner education, awareness-raising, and implementing capacity-building measures such as logistical support for local KP Focal Points and the strengthening of local monitoring committees. AMPR is designing the conceptual framework for piloting decentralized artisanal mining zones (*Zones d'Exploitation Artisanale*, ZEAs) with innovations for local revenue management, while also examining lessons learned and opportunities for miner parcel certification.

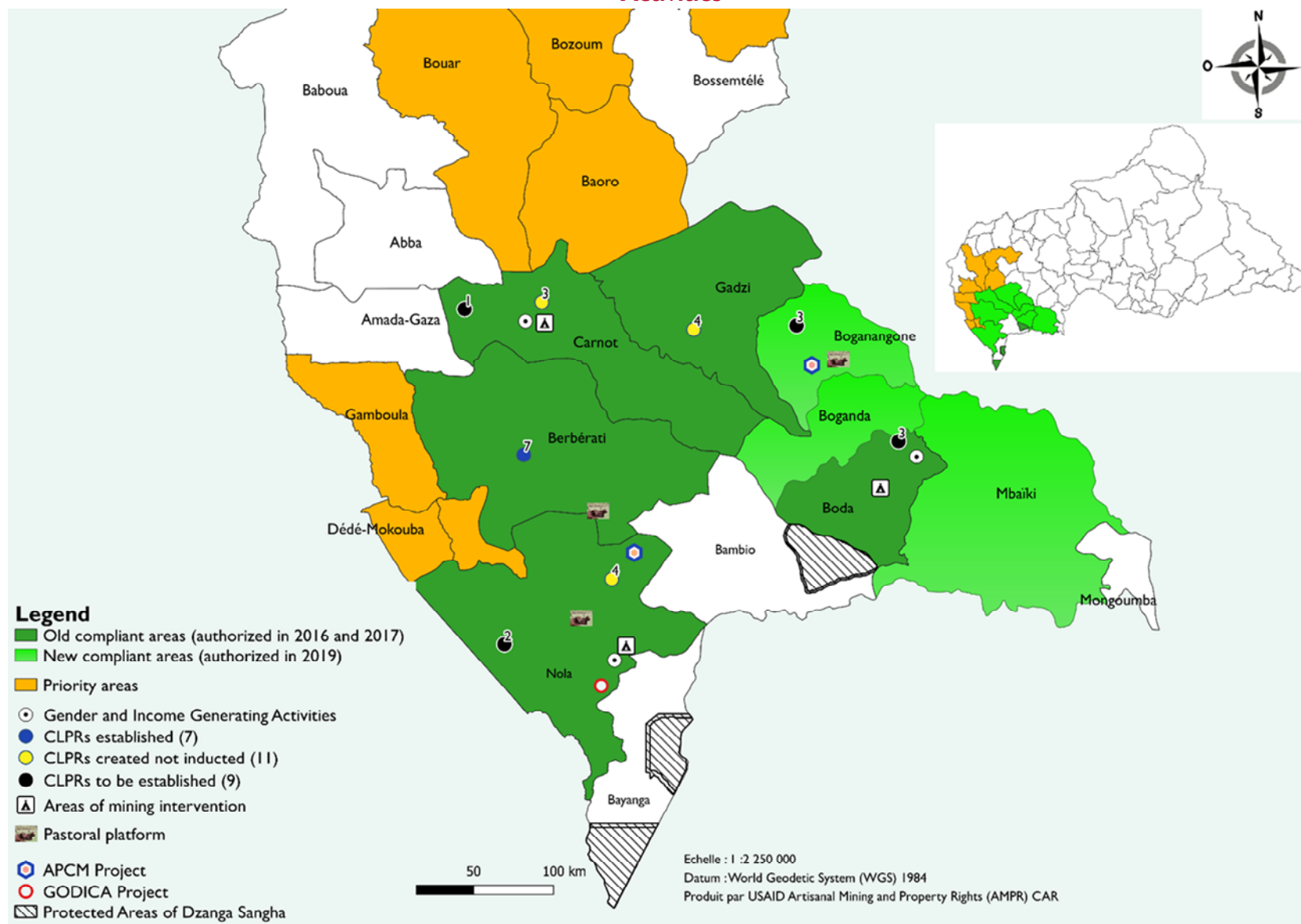
Objective 2 strengthens social cohesion and economic development in diamond mining communities. AMPR is building upon lessons learned from PRADD II and expanding local structures and processes for fostering peace and reconciliation. AMPR will support the expansion of local peace and reconciliation committees (*Comités Locaux de Paix et Réconciliation* [CLPRs]), as well as their efforts to monitor and resolve conflicts and conduct peacebuilding activities. AMPR is continuing efforts to foster coordination between the government ministries responsible for mining and peacebuilding. AMPR will also launch livelihood support activities for women as part of a comprehensive Gender Action Plan aimed at promoting the economic and social inclusion of women.

Objective 3 focuses on understanding the artisanal gold supply chain. AMPR, in partnership with the International Peace Information Service (IPIS) and RESOLVE, implemented a baseline assessment of gold and created an interactive online map of artisanal gold mining sites. AMPR organized a workshop to present results from the study and facilitate training and discussion aimed at moving toward a national gold action plan.

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

The AMPR project is implementing activities in close coordination with other donors, especially the World Bank and European Union (EU), both of whom have activities in the sector. The project will foster synergies and avoid duplication through local coordination but also participate in regular calls between donors.

Figure 1: Geological Map of Southwestern Central African Republic and Artisanal Mining and Property Rights (AMPR) Field Activities



2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This quarterly performance report describes achievements realized under USAID's AMPR project in the Central African Republic (CAR) between April 1 and June 30, 2020. The implementation of project activities during this quarter was challenging due to the Government of the Central African Republic (GoCAR) COVID-19 guidelines restricting movements between the capital Bangui and the provinces as well as restricting large gatherings due to the increase in cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in CAR. GoCAR had confirmed 3,745 COVID-19 cases at the end of the reporting period, of which, 3,205 were local transmissions. AMPR management in Bangui, nonetheless, successfully coordinated the implementation of activities through its regional offices. The AMPR Chief of Party (COP) held regular consultative meetings with senior leadership of the Ministry of Mines and Geology (MMG), including meetings with the Minister, the Kimberley Process Permanent Secretariat, (KPPS), and the *Chargé de Mission* to discuss AMPR activities in light of evolving COVID-19 guidelines. MMG senior officials supported AMPR's integration of COVID-19 awareness-raising in its communications and outreach engagements. Achievements are summarized below.

Objective 1: Assist the Government of the CAR to Improve Compliance with KP Requirements to Promote Licit Economic Activities:

- The MMG validated the Action Plan for Strengthening Diamond Supply Chain Governance (*Plan d'action pour le renforcement de la chaîne légale du diamant centrafricain*). This action plan was drafted by AMPR and reviewed and endorsed by the MMG during a working retreat in Boali. MMG's participants, including the Minister of Mines and members of the National Committee for Official Texts reviewed the plan line-by-line, and reworked the French and the format before validating. By validating the proposed regulatory and institutional changes, the MMG demonstrated commitment to leading this reform.
- The project provided technical and logistical support to the MMG in the drafting of a decree for the formal nomination of the KPPS and *Chef de Service* for KPPS.
- The project analyzed technical reviews of the CAR Mining Code conducted by the African Development Bank (ADB) and provided technical analysis and feedback to the MMG.
- AMPR drafted the strategic implementation plan for the *Société Centrafricaine d'Exploitation Diamantifère* (SCED)-Ndélégué pilot decentralized artisanal mining zone (ZEA) in Nola subprefecture. The plan encompasses revenue generation, management, technical assistance, and land tenure clarification.
- AMPR video subcontractor, *Elie Numerique Centrafrique* (ENC), completed scripts for training videos on the Kimberly Process for monitoring committees, peace and reconciliation committees, and pastoralism. ENC also translated and dubbed into Sango training videos on valuation and Sustainable Mining by Artisanal Miners (SMARTER) mining techniques.
- The project completed and printed a lexicon of artisanal mining terms in French and Sango.
- AMPR communications subcontractor *Réseau des Journalistes pour les Droits de l'Homme* (RJDH) completed scripts to produce 20 radio programs (30-minute duration) on the KP and ASM for local and national diffusion.

- AMPR trained the *Comité Local de Suivi* (CLS) of Boganda and M'Baïki on the use of the AMPR-developed meeting agendas and reporting tools. Six of the eight CLS in the KP compliant zones are trained to date.
- The project supported the organization of quarterly information, sharing and coordinating meetings under the auspices of the sub-prefecture in the compliant zones of Berberati, Boda, Boganda, Carnot, Nola, and M'Baïki.
- The project provided technical input to the reporting template for evaluating KP priority zones and participated in the evaluation mission for the KP priority zones of Abba, Bouar, Baoro, and Sosso-Nakombo.
- AMPR drafted a scope of work (SOW) for training relevant government technicians on techniques for analyzing and compiling statistics to aid in fraud detection.
- The project provided technical support to the MMG in drafting a Ministerial decree for the Technical Reflection and Exchange Committee for the CAR Extractive and Mining Sector (CTRE-RCA).
- Finally, AMPR represented USAID AMPR in MMG-convened COVID-19 donor coordination meetings with the World Bank's *Projet de Gouvernance des Ressources Naturelles* (PGRN) and the EU-funded *Renforcement de la Gouvernance dans les Secteurs de l'Extraction Artisanale du Diamant et de l'Or en République Centrafricaine* (GODICA).

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

- The Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation (MHANR) validated the "*Evaluation des activités de promotion de la cohésion sociale: Résumé exécutif des conclusions et recommandations*," a summary of research findings of AMPR consultant Olivier Karana on the evolution of conflict dynamics, and the role of CLPR's and AMPR's social cohesion strategy.
- The project developed scripts for a short educational video on the roles and lessons learned by the CLPRs in dealing with social tensions around land, property, housing, and pastoralism for institutional communication and training purposes.
- AMPR regional offices conducted biweekly visits to each CLPR to monitor and collect data from the conflict and activity registers.
- AMPR provided technical support to MHANR to develop a protocol for the collection, analysis, transmission, and digitization of CLPR activity reports.
- AMPR partner Concordis drafted a study report on pastoralism and transhumance, which identifies key issues, knowledge gaps, and lessons learned on addressing violent conflicts related to pastoralism in the southwest of CAR.
- AMPR subcontractor Action for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship (AFPE) continued training for 21 livelihoods groups on agricultural production, working effectively as associations, village savings and loans, basic literacy, and continued technical assistance in setting up demonstration sites.

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

- AMPR is working with subcontractor RESOLVE to develop guidelines for the CAR government and other technical partners to support the development of a national artisanal gold mining action plan.

Objective 4: Improve USAID Programming through Increased Understanding of Linkages Between Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining and Key Development Issues:

- AMPR participated in periodic international teleconferences organized by the World Bank and the ASM Delve Database on the impact of COVID-19 on the ASM sector.¹
- The project finalized USAID's Gender Issues in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Sector Issue Brief.
- Finally, AMPR drafted an SOW for possible technical assistance to the USAID Colombia Mission related to their artisanal gold sector.

COVID-19: AMPR Interventions and the Impact in CAR:

- AMPR organized a press conference for the CAR Minister of Mines to address mining sector actors on COVID-19.
- The project designed, printed, and distributed 1,000 MMG brochures on COVID-19 risks in the mining sector and mining communities.
- The project supported the airing of community radio debates on COVID-19 in the mining communities in southwest CAR, reaching more than 20,000 listeners.
- AMPR trained mining communities in Carnot and Nola on techniques for making water filters using local materials.
- AMPR organized a soap-making Training of Trainers (TOT) course for 21 AMPR-supported women's groups in Boda, Carnot, and Nola.
- AMPR assisted in designing an MMG COVID-19 poster on COVID-19 risky behaviors in the mining sector and communities.
- The project co-convened six biweekly teleconference discussions on COVID-19 considerations and implications on ASM in CAR with USAID AMPR implementing partners Concordis, Levin Sources, and representatives from GODICA and the World Bank.
- Finally, AMPR published a blog on USAID's LandLinks on AMPR COVID-19 interventions entitled, "*Mobilizing to address COVID-19 in vulnerable diamond and gold mining communities.*"²

¹ Delve is a, "A Global Platform for Artisanal & Small-Scale Mining Data, implemented by Pact and the World Bank in collaboration with international partners, including USAID AMPR, which is contributing a CAR profile. See delvedatabase.org.

² <https://www.land-links.org/2020/06/mobilizing-to-address-covid-19-in-vulnerable-diamond-and-gold-mining-communities/>

3.0 PROJECT ACTIVITIES

This quarterly report presents descriptions and results of each activity in AMPR's approved Annual Work Plan for the period of April–June 2020. These descriptions and results are presented below and organized by objective, intermediate result and activity.

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 builds upon efforts that began in 2016 to implement a strategy to combat diamond smuggling, especially for countries that border CAR. Government stakeholders have acknowledged that smuggling has reached unprecedented levels; however, they argue that the drivers and pathways to smuggling are attributed less to coordination issues with other countries and more to the reduced activities on the part of buying houses and lax airport controls. As such, AMPR will facilitate a rigorous and participatory consultative process, including visits to key border areas like the Kenzo-Gamboula crossing with Cameroon, to identify root causes for the uptick in smuggling and identify ways to improve the monitoring mechanisms required under the KP Operational Framework. AMPR will then organize a national workshop to debate conclusions and adopt recommendations that the project can then support through activities and advocacy.

Results: In May 2020, AMPR participated in a working retreat in Boali with representatives of the MMG, KPPS, GODICA, and the National Commission for Reviewing Official Texts. Retreat participants reviewed the Action Plan Towards Strengthening the Legal Chain of Custody of Diamonds from the Central African Republic (*Plan d'action pour le renforcement de la chaîne légale du diamant centrafricain*). Drafted by AMPR's Technical Deputy/Component 4 Coordinator, Terah DeJong, the Action Plan integrates recommendations from AMPR's May 2019 Fraud Diagnostic (*Rapport Diagnostic Sur La Contrebande des Diamants en République Centrafricaine [RCA]*³) and priorities of MMG and its partners. Participants adapted the text of the *Plan d'Action* into a format for official national documents of the MMG. The final Action Plan and summary of activities supported by donors were shared with partners of the MMG. AMPR and GODICA agreed on coordinated support for related activities on the KPPS.

Cross-border mission with Cameroon: Cameroon's Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT) acknowledged receiving the formal request from the CAR Minister of Mines and Geology for a cross-border mission with Cameroon to share results from the May 2019 Fraud Diagnostic (*Rapport Diagnostic Sur La Contrebande des Diamants en RCA*) and to identify opportunities for cross-border coordination. Due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, the activity is pending. CAR MMG is in contact with their Cameroonian counterparts regarding this activity.

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

Description: This activity aims to contribute to regulatory and institutional reform efforts supported by the World Bank. AMPR will seek to participate in policy and reform discussions and will contribute

³ <https://land-links.org/document/rapport-diagnostic-sur-la-contrebande-des-diamants-en-republique-centrafricaine/>

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, data collection and management. AMPR will ensure such recommendations are integrated into a broader reform process.

Results: AMPR provided technical support to the MMG in designing the decree for the formal nomination of the KPPS and *Chef de Service* for KP, and Terms of Reference (TORs) detailing their different roles and lines of supervision based on the new CAR KP structure. The decree nominates 12 *Chefs de Services* for KP to be deployed in four Regional Mining Divisions covering the zones below:

Table 2: Mining Divisions and Deployment Zones Under New CAR KP Structure

Mining Division	Deployment Zones
Region 1	Boda, Boganagone, and Boganda
Region 2	Carnot, Gadzi and Nola
Region 3	Abba, Baoro, and Boaur
Region 6	Bakouma, Gambo, Mobaye
Regions 4 & 5	No appointments due to security concerns

The decree was presented to the Minister of Mines for review and endorsement of nominated *Chef de Services* for the 12 proposed zones.

3.1.1.3 Activity 1.1.3: Integrate ASM Considerations into the Mining Code

Description: The purpose of this activity is to participate actively in the World Bank-led Mining Code revision process with respect to ASM policy. At the time of this quarterly report, the World Bank efforts had not yet begun this process, and there was still uncertainty if and how the 2009 Mining Code would be revised. As such, AMPR plans to liaise closely with the MMG cabinet, World Bank, and others to determine appropriate avenues for participation if and when the process starts. AMPR will be well-positioned to offer specific suggestions for improving the legislative framework based on the diagnostic process and workshops proposed in the Work Plan, including those related to smuggling (see Activity 1.1.1) and adapting the Cote d'Ivoire *Société pour le Développement Minier en Côte d'Ivoire* (SODEMI) model for village-based revenue management (see Activity 1.2.3). Regarding the study tour to Côte d'Ivoire foreseen under this activity, AMPR will wait to determine whether this will be necessary; 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 (now a key advisor to the MMG).

Results: The MMG is intending to form a committee of its technical and financial partners to review the African Development Bank's analysis of the CAR Mining Code. In the meantime, AMPR's technical experts are analyzing ADB's input and providing technical analysis and feedback to the MMG.

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 to take stock of the PRADD I certificates of customary land tenure delivered to nearly 3,000 miners between 2007 and 2012 and identify any follow-up activities for AMPR. Consultant Sabine Jiekak carried out a study in August 2019 that assessed the impact, relevance/utility,

and weaknesses of mining claims certificates issued by PRADD I. The study included focus group discussions with certificate holders and delved into the legal issues surrounding them (e.g., if they are valid proof of ownership in case of court disputes). The study combined background documentation and legal analysis of the land formalization context in mining areas with semi-structured interviews of 125 selected artisanal miners in eight villages, which included both certificate recipients (64 total, including seven women) and non-recipients, as well as local mining authorities in Boda and Nola. The study team interviewed villagers not part of the PRADD I certification scheme (Bomandoro) as a control site and the two intervention villages of Mboulaye 2 and Mboulaye 3. Initial findings were presented and discussed in a reflection workshop with the main stakeholders of the different government institutions involved in land management at the national level on options for the formalization of property rights in artisanal mining areas.

The study recommended that mining claims certification processes initiated by PRADD I be integrated into a general approach to the management of mining claims and within the ZEAs. The physical, customary, and geographic information on the formalization document will lead to better administration of the ZEAs by recognizing existing spaces with competitive claims and facilitating the monitoring of diamond production in the ZEAs compared with the Mining Administration's declared production.

Results: The activity was completed, and subsequent steps will be carried out under Activity 1.2.2.

3.1.2.2 Activity 1.2.2: Support Land Formalization in Artisanal Mining Communities

Description: This activity aims to implement recommendations from the study conducted under Activity 1.2.1 and initiate collective land formalization through pilot ASM ZEAs foreseen in the Mining Code. While ZEAs are typically used in other contexts like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (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. The project team will hold discussions during the Year 3 work-planning process to determine how to address these recommendations, especially the concept of putting in place ZEAs.

Results: In June 2020 AMPR finalized the implementation plan for piloting decentralized artisanal mining zones (*Programme Pilote de Mise en Place de Zones d'Exploitation Artisanale en RCA*). The strategic document proposes an approach to pilot ZEAs as a way to improve the formalization of production and trade, promote local development, reduce land conflicts among miners and improve environmental management. The report provides orientations for a pilot in the Nola subprefecture of *Société Centrafricaine d'Exploitation Diamantifère* (SCED)-Ndelengue stemming from several consultative field missions with the communities of SCED organized by AMPR in partnership with MMG, the Ministry of Habitat and Urbanism, and the University of Bangui to explore the feasibility of establishing a pilot ZEA. Due to security concerns, the consultation process in Sangouma / Sama II in Carnot subprefecture was put on hold. The consultations will be conducted next quarter, subject to improved security.

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. Per the 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 review of the preliminary concept in May 2019, AMPR's field teams need to reassess how to move forward on this activity as it was initially designed to initiate a process of dialogue and awareness raising in target communities with respect to revenue capture and utilization. AMPR had hoped to begin implementing the pilots by the end of Year 1 but will now need to revise its strategy.

Results: This activity is being planned in conjunction with the sales slip digitization and fraud detection training. AMPR is consulting with stakeholders on a SOW on what this pilot activity will entail. The training on fraud detection would only be undertaken after gathering initial data in this pilot sales slip digitization exercise. As such it is unlikely that this activity will begin before the next work plan year. The pilot will unlikely be carried out until the COVID-19 situation allows normal operation of the regional mining directorates.

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 Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Surveys in Compliant and Priority Zones

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

Results: No activities are planned for this year. The next KAP survey will be conducted in Year 3.

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 is drawing upon results from PRADD I and II, as well as from the project's first KAP survey to develop a comprehensive strategy. The project will implement this strategy starting in Year 2 to include translation and adaptation of videos from PRADD I and II, production of videos and interactive community theater scripts, and training of KP Focal Points and AMPR field agents. An intensive grassroots communications campaign will be scheduled to begin before the 2020 dry season and the period when most miners acquire their licenses (*patentes*).

Results: AMPR video subcontractor, *Elie Numerique Centrafrique* (ENC) is producing a series of videos. This quarter the videos focused on soapmaking, pastoralism conflicts and CLPRs. In support of GoCAR's COVID-19 prevention strategies, ENC, is producing a training video on soapmaking. To that end, ENC documented AMPR's recent training for livelihood groups in soapmaking techniques using locally available materials and documented Concordis-led seminars on pastoralism and peacebuilding. Additionally, ENC drafted scripts for the five videos to be produced next quarter:

1. Motivations and challenges around non-registered actors like *débrouillards* and *coxeurs*, including their relationship with the *Unité Spéciale Anti-Fraude*;
2. The role of women in the diamond/gold supply chain;
3. Mining-related challenges including labor dynamics, exploration, mechanization, and working conditions;
4. Financing and the relationship between miners, buyers, and cooperatives; and

5. The relationship between communities and miners, including semi-industrial mining companies and the role of communities in managing their resources for development.

Translation of PRADD II Côte d'Ivoire videos: ENC completed translation into Sango of the 12 diamond valuation training videos, and the SMARTER mining techniques training videos produced by PRADD II Côte d'Ivoire. The AMPR technical team reviewed the translated videos to ensure standard ASM vocabulary was accurately captured in the Sango version. In the next quarter, the translated videos will be distributed as sensitization materials to the MMG in Bangui and the Regional MMG offices in the KP Compliant Zones. AMPR Regional Offices will distribute the videos to the ASM mining cooperatives and artisanal diamond miners in the field on thumb drives and, when feasible, hold viewings of the videos.

Finalization of the Lexicon of Key ASM Terminology: AMPR technical team completed the review of the lexicon of terminology frequently used by artisanal miners in the small-scale diamond and gold mining sectors in CAR. The Tetra Tech ARD home office communications unit helped in designing the lexicon in a dictionary format. AMPR has ordered the printing of 500 copies and will begin distributing these in the next quarter to ASM actors and partners in Bangui and the regions. The lexicon will enable ASM actors in CAR to be more familiar with terms used in the supply chains and their meanings. It is anticipated that the lexicon will be integrated into the revised Mining Code, which will be enhanced by referring more precise definitions of artisanal mining lexicon utilized within the CAR context.

Nagbata Magazine Radio Programs: AMPR subcontractor Network of Journalists for Human Rights (RJDH), in coordination with the MMG technical team, developed content for radio programs to be aired as part of the popular Nagbata Magazine. Each segment is 30-minutes in length and centers on a specific theme related to the KP and artisanal diamond or gold mining. The sketches for the content were reviewed and approved by both AMPR and MMG technical teams. RJDH conducted field missions to start production and audio recording of the relevant actors. Up to 20 radio emissions are planned to be completed by the end of the next quarter. RJDH developed agreements with the community radios in Nola, Berberati, and Bayanga to support broadcasting of Nagbata Magazine radio shows.



Photo 1: Interviews with the artisanal miners in Carnot Sous-Prefect. Photo by Benjamin Ndongo.

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 intends to incentivize formalization and KPCS-compliant behavior 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 how to introduce conditionalities, such as having access to equipment rental pools for only those miners who obtain their worker cards as required by law. AMPR will also harmonize activities with the World Bank *Appui à La Professionnalisation des Coopératives Minières de la République Centrafricaine* (APCM) 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 KP.

Results: This activity will be implemented as part of the action plans for the pilot ZEAs in SCED-Ndelengue, Nola subprefecture, and Sangouma/Sama II in Carnot subprefecture (see Activity 1.2.2).

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 KPPS in close collaboration with other donors. Building upon recommendations formulated under PRADD II, AMPR will support the KPPS in identifying sustainable avenues for the KPPS Focal Points. AMPR will cover the per diem costs for no more than 14 Focal Points in Year I and defray some motorcycle driver and rental costs. It is hoped that the World Bank will subsequently provide motorcycles to the Focal Points. AMPR will not pay the fuel costs associated with the motorcycles. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) spelling out the respective donor and KPPS Focal Point support will outline these arrangements. In addition, this MOU will detail the other anticipated functions of the Focal Points and AMPR support related to data collection and management, such as trainings on data analysis.



Photo 2: Sous-Prefect of M'Baïki chairing the CLS meeting in M'Baïki. Photo by Benjamin Ndongo.

Results: Under the auspices of the respective sub-prefects, AMPR provided technical support to the CLS in the KP compliant zones of Berberati, Boda, Boganda, Carnot, Nola, and M'Baïki to help them conduct their second quarterly information-sharing and coordination meetings. AMPR and EU GODICA coordinated the training of Boganda and M'Baïki committees, bringing the total to six of the eight CLS in the KP compliant zones trained on the use of the AMPR meeting agenda and reporting templates. The CLS drafted their second quarterly reports on the KP compliance of their zones and submitted them to the Central African Republic Kimberley Process National Monitoring Committee (CNSPK) for review. The final reports will be shared with the key stakeholders as well as technical and financial partners of the MMG. The templates improve the collection and reporting of standardized and quality information from the KP-compliant zones.

Evaluation of KP priority zones: AMPR provided technical support to the MMG and KPPS to develop a reporting template for evaluating the KP priority zones. AMPR participated in a joint mission with the CNSPK, MMG, KPPS, and GODICA to evaluate the KP priority zones of Abba, Bouar, Baoro, and Sosso-Nakombo. The team drafted detailed reports for the four zones compiled using a reporting template developed with technical input of AMPR. The team reported great interest and support of the subprefectures, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA), civil society, and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that enabled a successful mission. A synthesis report and the four detailed reports for the evaluated zones, as well as an application for the zones to be declared compliant, will be submitted by the KPPS to the KP Secretariat next quarter.

MMG data management capacity support: Planning for this activity is underway. The MEL Coordinator and COP held multiple work sessions with the *Directeur des Données, de la Régulation et du Suivi de la Commercialisation de la Direction Générale des Mines*. The counterpart drafted a SoW that includes training and capacity support for sales slip digitization. The Technical Deputy reviewed the SoW and determined

it needed reformulating to align with the project's standards and regulations. This is a high priority for the next quarter so that this pilot initiative can get underway before the end of the work plan year.

3.1.4.2 Activity 1.4.2: Reinvigorate the Group of 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, dubbed a "Group of Friends." 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. AMPR has broached the idea with local diplomats in Bangui, who are interested in this concept.

Results: The Minister of Mines and Geology signed a ministerial decree creating a Technical Reflection and Exchange Committee (CTRE-RCA) for the Mining and Extractive Sector Partners in CAR. The decree proposes two structures: 1) a Steering Committee chaired by the Minister that will quarterly convene ambassadors, MINUSCA, and technical and financial partners to discuss developments in the CAR mining sector; and 2) a Technical Secretariat to implement the Steering Committee's recommendations and propose action points for their validation. AMPR reviewed the draft decree and provided technical input based on the experience of supporting donors and diplomatic coordination. AMPR will support the MMG to organize the first Steering Committee meeting once the COVID-19 situation and guidelines permit.

The need for a separate coordination mechanism among diplomats may be negated if donors attend these quarterly meetings. AMPR Technical Deputy/Component 4 Coordinator will work with the United States Ambassador and other stakeholders to verify the need to continue with the Group of Friends of CAR meetings.

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

Description: This activity aims to promote coordination and synergy among 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. AMPR will adapt based on the MMG's directives and may provide some logistical support for such meetings, but it will also urge the Ministry to take the lead on convening and funding the meetings. These meetings, if convened, will be organized virtually during this period of restricted movement related to COVID-19.

Results: AMPR has participated in several technical coordination MMG COVID-19 Task Force meetings with the EU GODICA and the World Bank PGRN to develop COVID-19 awareness-raising and outreach strategies to support the MMG and mining communities. The in-country project managers in Bangui meet regularly, sometimes weekly, to develop, discuss, plan, and implement COVID-19 cost-shared, joint interventions to avoid duplication of effort and expense.

3.1.4.4 Activity 1.4.4: Support Targeted AMPR Interventions

Description: This activity aims to support capacity building and other in-kind contributions to the GoCAR to strengthen KPCS compliance following a gap analysis of other donors' contributions. As AMPR is the first project underway, it is 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 EU project TOR, which ideally will lead to complementary activities and little to no duplication. For example, 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 GODICA is launched. AMPR will continue to be collaborative, proactive, and flexible in this activity.

Results: The World Bank APCM (*Appui à la Professionalisation des Coopératives Miniers*) project was set up with the intent of collaborating closely with the AMPR program and especially around synergies associated with mining cooperatives. The two-year APCM project tests and refines strategies to strengthen artisanal miner associations like pre-cooperatives and cooperatives in two sites in the southwest. Unlike the AMPR project, advancements in the field were severely hampered by security concerns in the Boganangone site and World Bank and government restrictions on the movement and placement of field staff. APCM received approval from the World Bank to restructure the project since working relations with a civil society partner did not work out as well as to hire a new team of Community Mobilizer staff who will hopefully be fielded once travel restrictions are lifted. The project continued to prepare training materials designed to strengthen miner cooperatives in the quarter.

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 will build continuity with PRADD II, under which six CLPRs were established in Berberati, albeit with limited available time 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-Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation (MHANR) evaluation of the committees. In particular, this evaluation will examine the committees' actions and how they are perceived in their communities. To improve linkages with the KP Operational Framework, the same diagnostic will include an examination of the CLS and *Antenne Locale de Suivi* (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.



Photo 3: MHANR and AMPR workshop to validate CLPR study. Photo by Arnold Minang.

Results: AMPR summarized and translated into French the rigorous and participatory evaluation of the model of peacebuilding committees (CLPRs) conducted by Karana Olivier. The summarized French report, *Evaluation of Peacebuilding Committees and Conflict Dynamics in Southwestern CAR*, was submitted to the MHANR for their feedback. Senior officials of the MHANR validated the report during a workshop organized by AMPR in June 2020. Workshop participants recommended the use of conflict resolution mechanisms to address tensions and potential security challenges linked to tensions between herders and farmers and relations with transhumant pastoralists from Chad, Niger, Nigeria, and Sudan. The Director of National Reconciliation expressed the commitment of the MHANR to strategically reorient the CLPR mission to focus on local level coordination of peace and social cohesion organizations.

3.2.1.2 Activity 2.1.2: Expand Support to CLPRs

Description: This activity aims to increase the number of and support to CLPRs. AMPR intends to build upon the initial successes realized through PRADD II, which encouraged the formulation of Local

Pacts to document community agreements. In Year 1, AMPR will likely expand CLPRs to cover all three sub-prefectures where the project works. In addition, 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. 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 CLPR activities. AMPR will also look to maximize synergies between the CLPR and the ALS committees. At the same time, the project will work with the MHANR to identify other donors to support the established CLPRs' strengthening—not only in the diamond mining areas of the southwest but throughout the country.

Results: AMPR Technical Advisor on Social Cohesion, Dr. Zephirin Mogba, in consultation with the technical team of the MHANR are developing a template for reporting CLPR activities and training the CLPRs on the use of conflict and activity registers to record information. The MHANR, with technical support from the AMPR Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) officer, is also developing a protocol for the collection, analysis, transmission, and digitization of CLPR activity reports and disaggregation of data on conflicts related to pastoralism, farmers, artisanal miners, and violence by rebel groups. The MHANR, with support of AMPR, will train CLPRs on the use of these tools in the next quarter.

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

Description: This activity's purpose is to design and implement social cohesion support, including activities involving the CLPRs. In Year 1, AMPR provided 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. 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 subcontractor Indigo in Cote d'Ivoire). AMPR will also develop a concept note on the Local Pacts, which were developed under PRADD II for several communes, to document community decisions and positions on sensitive issues. 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: AMPR partner Concordis drafted a study report on pastoralism and transhumance, *Pastoralism in Transition: Economic and Social Relations between Livestock Herders, Farmers, and Miners in Southwestern CAR*. The report presents findings on the evolution of herding patterns, livestock ownership and herders, transhumance routes, challenges faced by herders, social and economic relationships, competition for natural resources, and cattle rustling as well as perceptions of herders' roles in diamond smuggling, conservation challenges, perceptions of security and conflict mechanisms, evolving relationships between herder and settled populations, and related recommendations.

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 Complement Learning

Description: This activity aims to use PRADD lessons and international best practices in designing a strategic and sensitive approach to the social and economic inclusion of women. As part of the process of identifying activities and developing the Gender Action Plan, 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: There were no activities scheduled in the Work Plan for this quarter. The field team continues to apply the principles and practices of the Gender Action Plan.

3.2.2.2 Activity 2.2.2: Develop Gender Action Plan

Description: This activity aims to develop a comprehensive strategy for promoting women's economic and social inclusion, with a particular emphasis on land tenure dynamics and complementary livelihoods. The activity will be completed in Year 1, led jointly by an external consultant, the Component 2 Coordinator, and the Women's Livelihoods Activities Coordinator. The team will first conduct a gender integration training for 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 AMPR and concrete livelihoods and awareness-raising activities to begin in the first Work Plan year.

Results: This activity was completed in Year 1, and USAID has approved the related deliverable. Activity 2.2.3 below provides information on this initiative's impacts.

3.2.2.3 Activity 2.2.3: Support Income and Rural Livelihood Diversification

Description: This activity aims to provide 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 as detailed in the Year 1 Work Plan. By investing in a participatory and rigorous field and desk research, AMPR will be able to identify activities that cohere with an overall strategy and that have the maximum chance of sustainability and success.

Results: AMPR subcontractor Action for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship (AFPE) continues to support 21 livelihoods groups in Carnot, Nola, and Boda to increase the social and economic inclusion of women in mining areas. AFPE is providing women's and mixed-gender groups training in agricultural techniques, basic marketing and value-added strategies for their products, group savings and credit practices, and management strengthening, as well as encouraging their entrepreneurial spirit. AFPE completed training for the 451 members of the 21 groups on sustainable farming, garden site selection, garden preparation, sowing, crop protection techniques, harvesting, and conservation techniques.



Photo 4: AFPE Technical Training for Members of Loppo group in Nola. Photo by Ava Passy.

The groups have started planting their gardens, which range from two to five hectares, as the rainy season begins, using their acquired farming best practices. AMPR provided the groups with gardening tools and AFPE coordinated with the Regional Directors of the Ministry of Agriculture and the United Nations (UN) Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to secure seeds to plant 60 hectares. To respect GoCAR COVID-19 guidelines, each group developed a working roster for not more than ten members working on rotation. Other income-generating activities like pisciculture and small-scale businesses did not start due to the COVID-19 restrictions.



Photo 5: Camp-Ngoum Livelihoods group, in Boda, working in their garden. Photo by Junior Delphin.

These activities will be started next quarter, subject to GoCAR revision of COVID-19 restrictions. EU GODICA finalized contract discussions with AFPE to implement that project's income-generating activities. GODICA favors working with the same partner to maximize impact, especially for common activities with AMPR such as pisciculture.

3.2.2.4 Activity 2.2.4: Establish Women's Innovation Fund

Description: This activity aims to provide 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 Gender Action Plan will determine if there are enough existing entrepreneurs or if the first year will focus on capacity building and planning, to take place concurrently with Activity 2.2.3, focusing on livelihood diversification activities with less-structured women's economic groups.

Results: There were no scheduled Work Plan activities 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 to build upon PRADD II efforts to foster collaboration and coordination between the MMG and the MHANR. At this stage, it is unclear if a renewed agreement will be necessary before being able to expand the CLPRs. Components 1, 2, and 3 Coordinators will confer closely with government stakeholders to determine whether formal agreements are needed. Otherwise, AMPR will continue the 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 held a workshop with the MHANR to discuss the draft protocol for collaboration regarding project support for the CLPRs. The protocol reflects the inclusion of key recommendations stemming from the recent evaluation of the CLPRs. The MHANR proposed modifications that are being reviewed by AMPR technical and management teams. It is anticipated the protocol will be signed in the next quarter, subject to agreement on the terms.

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

Description: This activity's intention is to avoid duplication of efforts among different Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other actors working to promote peace and reconciliation in the CAR. In Year 1, 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, AMPR will rely on its government partners to lead the coordination among donors and other actors.

Results: The activity will be undertaken next quarter, subject to GoCAR lifting the travel ban to the interior of the country or may be held virtually if feasible.

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 intends 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. AMPR subcontractor IPIS is leading 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 and the regulatory framework. Results are to be presented and discussed at a national workshop. AMPR plans to design the workshop in such a way as to build linkages with other donors (notably the EU) and move toward a national action plan. For example, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/EU may conduct a training on the new conflict minerals legislation, and AMPR's second subcontractor for Component 3, RESOLVE, will then share experiences from the USAID Capacity Building for Responsible Minerals Trade Project in the DRC. Combined with the study results, the workshop will then create the space for discussions for an action plan.

Results: This activity was completed in Year 2, and the related deliverable was approved by USAID.

3.3.1.2 Activity 3.1.2: Facilitate Gold Sector Action Plan

Description: This activity aims to foster technical discussions that build on the gold sector diagnostic and will lead to an action plan to be supported by other donors. AMPR anticipates working toward this action plan during Year 1, but the exact timing for completion will depend in part on other donors (notably the EU) and 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 *Agence Belge de Développement* (ENABEL) to support the government and private sector in developing the action plan. AMPR will also identify any linkages with APCM-supported mining cooperatives, some of which may be involved in gold, and that may be good candidates for piloting responsible sourcing initiatives.

Results: The CAR government has been focused this quarter on responding to the COVID-19 crisis, and as such, there have not been opportunities to follow up on the possibility of a gold mining action plan. A forthcoming report by RESOLVE will offer guidance in the development of an effective plan.

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

Description: This activity aims to replicate the mine site monitoring and interactive real-time mapping interface developed by IPIS in the DRC and to build on their conflict mapping work in CAR. Based on work plan discussions, AMPR moved this activity to Year 1, 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. 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. IPIS/AMPR will organize a workshop with the government next quarter.

Results: This activity was completed in Year 2 and the related deliverable was approved by USAID.

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

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

3.4.1.1 Activity 4.1.1: Prepare Outreach Documents

Description: This activity aims to prepare communication and outreach materials targeting USAID Operating Units on themes related to ASM and development. Should USAID request them, AMPR will prepare such documents during the work plan year.

Results: AMPR finalized the USAID Gender Issues in ASM Brief in May 2020. The brief was distributed widely as a part of the USAID webinar on Gender in ASM convened on May 27, 2020.⁴

3.4.1.2 Activity 4.1.2: Conduct Diagnostic of ASM Needs and Opportunities

Description: This activity aims to use 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.

Results: During Work Plan consultations, USAID determined that such a brief is not needed at this time; yet as with all Component 4 activities, AMPR will remain responsive to USAID requests.

3.4.1.3 Activity 4.1.3: Provide On-Call Technical Assistance

Description: This activity aims to provide 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/Component 4 Coordinator is to work with the AMPR Project Manager and USAID to respond to any requests, through organization of short-term technical assistance or other activities.

Results: In April 2020 AMPR received feedback on the options paper prepared for the USAID Colombia Mission related to engagement with their artisanal gold sector. Technical Deputy/Component

⁴ See <https://www.land-links.org/event/webinar-digging-deeper-into-artisanal-small-scale-mining-gender-womens-economic-empowerment/> for information on the webinar and see <https://land-links.org/issue-brief/gender-issues-in-the-artisanal-and-small-scale-mining-sector/> for the gender issue brief

4 Coordinator Terah DeJong subsequently drafted a SoW for possible Component 4 activities. While it is unlikely that AMPR will be able to engage in significant activities due to budget ceilings, the project will remain ready to assist in any way possible. With respect to the Levin Sources sub-contract on the pilot responsible sourcing of diamonds from CAR, AMPR informed USAID of the likely postponement of this activity to next year due to an internal issue with Levin Sources as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

3.4.2.1 Activity 4.2.1: Participate in International Forums on ASM Issues

Description: This activity aims to participate in key international forums as a way to remain abreast of international trends and issues that will affect AMPR implementation, as well as contribute to international best practices.

Results: AMPR did not participate in any in-person international forums this quarter due COVID-19. Physical meetings of both the OECD Responsible Minerals Forum and the Kimberley Process Intersessional were canceled. However, AMPR has remained actively engaged in virtual international forums where possible. The Technical Deputy participated in periodic international teleconferences organized by the World Bank and the ASM Delve Database on the impact of COVID-19 on the ASM sector. The Technical Deputy briefed the team of international specialists on the situation in CAR and the activities undertaken by the project. In addition, the AMPR Project Manager convened biweekly web-based calls of stakeholders focused on CAR, co-facilitated with the Technical Advisor of the EU GODICA project. The calls have been useful for sharing ideas and information on the situation across CAR-focused partners. The Technical Deputy has also remained active in the ASM Delve Steering Committee, helping design the methodology for a global survey of artisanal miners currently underway in a dozen countries, including CAR. In these ways, AMPR has remained engaged as a convener and thought leader despite the travel restrictions.

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

Description: Similar to Activity 4.1.3, this activity aims to serve 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, agriculture, conservation, or other projects.

Results: The AMPR COP and Technical Deputy participated in an interview with a USAID Rule of Law Advisor on lessons learned from AMPR on programming aimed in part at promoting good governance and combatting organized crime. The Technical Deputy also continued drafting a CAR country profile focusing on ASM for the ASM Delve database although publication has been delayed due to the focus on COVID-19 impacts.

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

Description: This activity aims to position AMPR as a thought leader on ASM through the preparation of academic and generalist communication and research products. Given AMPR's decision to front-load the first Work Plan year 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: For progress with respect to the pastoralism study and possible peer-reviewed publication, see Intermediate Result 2.2. The Technical Deputy completed the academic paper on community-led resource management in Côte d'Ivoire, drawing upon PRADD II fieldwork presented at the 2018 Land and Poverty Conference. The paper was co-authored with a Ph.D. student and submitted to the journal Resources Policy for peer review.

3.4.3 COVID-19 AND AMPR INTERVENTIONS

In April 2020, AMPR shared with the USAID COVID-19 Task Force its proposed integration of COVID-19 messaging/tasks. Progress on these activities is summarized in this section.

3.4.3.1. COVID-19 Activities Implemented in Support of the MMG

USAID AMPR is a member of the informal Ministry of Mines and Geology (MMG) COVID-19 Task Force established in April 2020. To date, AMPR has coordinated and implemented the following activities in support of the MMG in coordination with the World Bank PGRN and EU GODICA:

- *Press Conference:* AMPR organized a press conference for the CAR Minister of Mines and Geology (MMG) to address mining sector actors on the likely impact of COVID-19 on the mining sector and to work together in developing responses to mitigate the spread of the pandemic in the CAR mining zones. It was broadcast nationally in French and Sango by television, radio, and written press.
- *MMG COVID-19 Brochures:* AMPR designed and printed 1,000 MMG COVID-19 brochures on risk behaviors in the mining sector and communities, which were distributed to key mining sector actors, notably, private sector, trading houses, civil society in Bangui and the Kimberly Process compliant zones in southwest CAR.
- *MMG COVID-19 Poster:* AMPR assisted in designing the MMG COVID-19 poster on the risk behaviors in the mining sector and communities and coordinated with the World Bank mining project to print 200 copies that were distributed to key mining sector actors.
- *Community Radio Debates:* AMPR, in coordination with its communication local subcontractor, Réseau des Journalistes pour les Droits de l'Homme (RJDH), conducted 40 interviews with artisanal miners and local authorities in southwest CAR on questions and concerns on COVID-19. These were debated by the sub-prefects, Regional Director of the MMG, and Ministry of Health. The debates were rebroadcast seven times on local radio stations reaching more than 20,000 listeners.



Photo 6: Nola Subprefecture and Regional Mining and Health Officers in Nola debating COVID-19 concerns on radio Kuli-Ndounga. Photo by: Benjamin Ndongo.

- *ASM & COVID-19 in CAR*: AMPR co-convened six biweekly teleconference discussions on COVID-19 considerations/implications on ASM in CAR with participants from World Bank, Levin Sources, and Concordis. Discussions centered on COVID-19 impacts on a) artisanal mining, b) pastoralism, b) ASM projects, c) international marketing and commercialization, and d) security in CAR.
- *Artisanal water filters*: The project trained mining communities in southwestern CAR on techniques for making water filters using local materials and developed training posters on the documented techniques to facilitate training in other diamond and gold mining communities in CAR.
- *Local soap production*: AMPR organized a soapmaking Training of Trainers (TOT) course for 21 AMPR-supported women's groups in southwest CAR. These trainings were filmed to produce video capsules on soap production to facilitate training in other communities.
- *COVID-19 Blog*: Project staff wrote a blog post that summarized USAID AMPR COVID-19 interventions entitled, "Mobilizing to Address COVID-19 in Vulnerable Diamond and Gold Mining Communities" published on LandLinks.⁵



Photo 7: A soap-making Training of Trainers (TOT) for Bossoui group, Boda. Photo by: Sonek Langate.

⁵ <https://www.land-links.org/2020/06/mobilizing-to-address-COVID-19-in-vulnerable-diamond-and-gold-mining-communities/>

4.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

4.1 INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

The AMPR Component IIB Coordinator for Gender and Income-Generating Activities (IGA) held several consultative meetings with the Gender Focal Points for the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Social Affairs (MPFAS) and MMG. The meetings focused on the implication of the two ministries in the project's gender activities guided by the AMPR Gender Action Plan. Participants proposed the creation of a communication framework between the two ministries and AMPR to share information on progress and challenges, and to discuss gender orientation based on the national gender framework. A tripartite mission is planned for July 2020 to assess progress of ongoing AMPR gender activities; to introduce AMPR to the regional structures of the MPFAS; and to enhance coordination at the local level.

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

Enhancing Coordination with MMG

Partners: The AMPR COP participated in several planning meetings with representatives of MINUSCA, PGRN, GODICA, CNSPK, KPPS, and MMG to strengthen KPPS coordination. This quarter the group reviewed reporting templates, CLS quarterly reports, and MMG policy documents. By increasing understanding of planned activities for the various projects supporting the Ministry, the meetings resulted in enhanced information sharing and coordination of MMG partners.



Photo 8: Representatives of AMPR, MINUSCA, PGRN, GODICA, CNSPK, KPPS and MMG reviewing the reporting template for the KP priority zones. Photo Alexis Nambengba.

Periodical Meetings with the Minister of Mines: AMPR COP met with the CAR Minister of Mines and Geology to discuss progress and challenges faced by the project for the last 15 months. The meeting, also attended by the KPPS, reviewed AMPR's achievements, and highlighted actions points for interventions. To ensure the Minister remains informed of AMPR's activities, it was agreed to convene periodic meetings to share updates on progress and discuss priorities of the Ministry.

USAID Partners' COVID-19 Coordination Calls: AMPR participated in a USAID/Kinshasa and USAID/Central Africa regional call on COVID-19 communications and messaging. Over 44 participants from different USAID implementing partners in the DRC and CAR presented their respective COVID-19 related interventions and communications strategies.

4.3 OFFICES

AMPR's offices in Bangui and in the regions continue to be utilized by project staff in accordance with strict social distancing, hand washing, and sanitation measures. No external guests are permitted in the office and, to the extent feasible, staff are encouraged to work from home. Measures are outlined in a COVID-19 Contingency and Response Plan which is regularly updated as the situation evolves.

The zone in which the AMPR Bangui office is situated continues to face extensive power outages. The project is researching the possibility of purchasing a generator for the office. Regional offices rely on generators, which can present challenges given the distance to gas stations.

Internet connectivity in Bangui returned to normal following the end of a strike at Moov Centrafrique. There are still disruptions, especially with the arrival of the rainy season. In regional offices, the internet is still a challenge, especially in Nola and Boda, where reliable connectivity is only experienced late at night, which does not allow the field staff to send emails promptly. As a solution, the AMPR Project team utilizes other means of communication such as WhatsApp, SMS, or regular calls.

4.4 STAFFING

A number of transitions are underway with AMPR project personnel. First, following the resignation of the former Component 2B Coordinator for Gender and IGA Diversification in January 2020, the AMPR project hired and onboarded Guy Mesmin Sesengue. The newly recruited Component 2B Coordinator previously worked with World Vision in CAR on similar themes across the country. He brings vast experience to support the AMPR livelihoods subcontractor, AFPE, the AMPR-supported women and mixed groups, regional office staff, and the MMG in implementing alternative IGAs and AMPR's Gender Action Plan.

Second, AMPR is in the midst of finalizing its recruitment to replace three Community Mobilizers. Third, after the tragic passing of the Component I Coordinator, the project made a call for applications and expects to hire the best candidate available during the next quarter. The SOW for the position was discussed with the senior leadership of the MMG, given the close coordination and liaison that the expert will undertake with the Ministry. Finally, Project Manager Dr. Mark Freudenberger resumed his full-time status following a short sabbatical.

4.5 SECURITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Sidiki Abass, leader of the 3R rebel group in CAR and a signatory to the Khartoum Peace Agreement, is understood to have returned to reorganize his 3R group to assert themselves and show force. Security in northwestern CAR is worrisome as Sidiki's 3R group stages attacks on the population, positions, and convoys of CAR Armed Forces (FACA) and MINUSCA. FACA and MINUSCA have launched joint military operations to counter 3R and restore peace in the affected regions. While AMPR does not have activities in the northwest, the potential for this to destabilize other regions and impact artisanal mining merits monitoring of the situation.



Photo 9: Community members rescuing a vehicle transporting AMPR field staff along Boda-Nola road
Photo by Ava Passy.

Following the start of the rainy season, many roads used by the project field teams have deteriorated and are very difficult to traverse even with a 4X4 Landcruiser. This has slowed some operations and led to the suspension of others in areas where the road conditions are the worst. As a mitigation measure, the AMPR Security Focal Point always verifies the status of roads with other international organizations.

The CAR Ministry of Health confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on March 14, 2020. As of June 30, the country had 3,745 cumulative confirmed cases, which includes 787 recoveries and 47 deaths. As part of the project's COVID-19 Contingency and Response Plan, AMPR management has purchased small 1.5KVA generators for national staff to support their work from home to enable social distancing within the AMPR offices. The AMPR project also purchased emergency 'safe heaven' kits for residences of

expatriate staff in the case of an emergency that requires sheltering in place. The items include basic medical supplies, essential hygiene products, and non-perishable food.

GoCAR issued COVID-19 mitigation measures including closing the Bangui airport (with exceptions for humanitarian, medevac, and technical stops); banned gatherings of more than 15 people; imposed a self-quarantine of 21 days for any person entering CAR from a location with local transmission of COVID-19; and restricted movements outside of Bangui, with exceptions for aid, humanitarian and technical partners using their institutional vehicles. This resulted in a cooking gas shortage for two months due to the reduction of public transport between CAR and Cameroon. Gas became available again in mid-June with a daily limit of 10 cylinders sold per gas station. AMPR management has encouraged national staff to keep essential items in their homes in case shortages.

5.0 PROJECT-SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Comment on progress: AMPR Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Officer supported the international consultant to develop and configure the Open Data Kit (ODK) software used on smartphones to collect data during the rigorous evaluation of the CLPR activities. The MEL Officer continued to work with Component Coordinators to collect and classify documentation for each activity per the Year 2 Work Plan.

Table 2: Performance Indicators

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASE-LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 RESULT	Y2 TARGET	Y2 RESULT TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET ⁶	COMMENTS ON PROGRESS
1	Percentage of estimated rough diamond production in KP-compliant zones that is legally exported from CAR	8% ⁷	15%	12%	25%	5% ⁸	60%	Represents 7404.7 carats exported in October–December 2019 per the 2019 MMG official statistics.
2	Percentage of major diamond-mining sub-prefectures in the Western part of the country authorized by the KP to export rough diamonds	31% ⁹	50%	50%	50%		100%	
3	Number of licensed (registered) artisanal miners	1,000 ¹⁰	1,500	1,458	2,000	309	3,000	Artisanal miners who paid their licenses at the

⁶ In the case that the two options years are not exercised by USAID, Year 3 targets will become LOP targets.

⁷ The baseline of 8% is derived by dividing the exports from 2018 (approximately 13,000 carats) over the estimated production from the 5 KP-compliant zones in 2017 (164,000 carats). United States Geological Survey (USGS) did not estimate production for 2018 at the time of writing, but there is no reason to believe that it decreased. On the contrary, PRADD II georeferencing in April and May 2018 showed mining at a constant intensity in all zones. The figure of 13,000 carats of exports does not include approximately 63,000 carats exported in early 2018 but which were held up from 2017 due to unanswered questions by the KP Monitoring Team.

⁸ Low performance is linked to the impact of COVID-19 on the production and export of rough diamonds in CAR. There is reduced pre-financing for artisanal miners and low exports due to the closure of CAR's land and air borders and GoCAR COVID-19 internal travel restrictions that limit field implementation.

⁹ AMPR estimates that 32 of the country's 72 sub-prefectures have diamond mining or potential diamond mining. Of these, 16 are considered by experts and by the GoCAR as concentrating the vast majority of the Western region's production and have been identified by the GoCAR as *priority zones* for which approval from the KP is actively being sought. At the beginning of the project, 5 of these 16 are deemed compliant by the KP; the baseline is therefore 31%.

¹⁰ 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, an exact figure is not possible. In the first year, AMPR built relationships with relevant services who keep track of this data and is addressing data collection and management as part of its activities.

Nº	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASE-LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 RESULT	Y2 TARGET	Y2 RESULT TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET ⁶	COMMENTS ON PROGRESS
								Directorate of the MMG in Bangui between January–May 2020. 20 of them are women.
4	Number of diamond buyers (collectors and buying houses) making purchases with official purchase slips	200 ¹¹	200	206	225		300	
5	Percentage of artisanal miners in project intervention zones with basic knowledge of KP and Mining Code	35%	N/A	35%	N/A		75%	
	Men	33%		33%				
	Women	2%		2%				
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 United States Government (USG) assistance (Standard F Indicator EG.10.4-1)	0	1	0	1		5	
	Number of total related to women's equal rights							
	Stage 1: Analyzed							
	Stage 2: Drafted and presented for public/stakeholder consultation							
	Stage 3: Reanalyzed/drafted based on the results of public/stakeholder consultation							
	Stage 4: Presented for legislation/decreree							
	Stage 5: Passed/approved							
	Stage 6: Passed for which implementation has begun							
7	Number of adults who perceive their tenure rights to land or marine areas as secure as a result of USG assistance (Standard F Indicator EG.10.4-8)	1,800 ¹²	N/A	N/A	N/A		2,040	

¹¹ 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 AMPR capacity building will make possible.

¹² The KAP survey in the first year found that 75% of mine managers perceived their tenure rights as secure. Based on a population estimate of 2,400, the baseline is therefore 1,800 people. The end-of-project target assumes a 5% increase (120 people) in each of the two remaining KAP surveys.

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASE-LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 RESULT	Y2 TARGET	Y2 RESULT TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET ⁶	COMMENTS ON PROGRESS
8	Number of villages having formalized and strengthened their natural resource management capacity	0	0	0	5		20 ¹³	
9	Number of groups trained in conflict mediation/resolution skills or consensus-building techniques with USG assistance (Standard F Indicator DR.3.1-2)	0	0	7	2		15	
10	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)	0	0	7	10		50	
11	Number of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance (Standard F Indicator GNDR-10)	0	10	24	5		30	
12	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)	0	2	2	3	3	20	Multi-stakeholder forums on Pastoralism organized in Berberati, Nola, and Bangui.
13	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)	0	5	0	10	14	50	Land and property conflicts resolved by the CLPRs of Balego, Wapo, and Nassolé.
	<i>Disputes resolved by local authorities</i>							
	<i>Disputes resolved by contractors</i>							
	<i>Disputes resolved by mediators</i>							
	<i>Disputes resolved by courts</i>							
14	Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (Standard F Indicator EG.3.2-1)	0	0	0	250		1,000	
	<i>Type of Individual: Producer</i>							
	<i>Type of Individual: Government Agents</i>							

¹³ This figure is an estimate of the number of villages that could be part of the ZEA pilots or that sign formal land-use planning agreements related to natural resources.

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASE-LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 RESULT	Y2 TARGET	Y2 RESULT TO DATE	LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP) TARGET ⁶	COMMENTS ON PROGRESS
	<i>Type of Individual: Private Sector Firm</i>							
	<i>Type of Individual: Civil Society</i>							
	<i>Men</i>							
	<i>Women</i>							
15	Number of gold mining sites integrated into the interactive mapping system	0	0	0	300		300	Field research and analysis completed this quarter.
16	Number of activities benefitting USAID Operating Units (OUs) aimed at improving the understanding of linkages between ASM and key development issues	0	2	3	2		10	

ANNEX I: SNAPSHOT

AMPR COVID-19 Innovations

The Central African Republic (CAR) confirmed its first case of COVID-19 in March 2020. CAR's Ministry of Public Health swiftly issued strict guidelines limiting movements between provinces and Bangui and curtailing gatherings of more than 15 people. Given AMPR's activities necessitate travel to KP compliant zones and often bring men and women in mining areas together for events, this change in context presented an important-but not insurmountable- challenge.

A coordinated response by partners in the artisanal mining sector was needed. As such, AMPR proposed that the Ministry of Mines and Geology establish a COVID-19 Task Force. In April 2020, the MMG did just that, convening partners from USAID AMPR, European Union GODICA, and World Bank PGRN to develop an action plan of communication and outreach strategies for the mining sector.

In April 2020, AMPR organized a press conference for the Minister of Mines to launch the MMG COVID-19 Action Plan and seek coordinated support of key actors in implementing the proposed responses to mitigate the spread of the pandemic in the CAR mining zones. The press conference was broadcasted nationally in French and Sango by television, radio, and written press.



Photo 10: The Minister of Mines press conference on COVID 19. Photo by Junior Delphin.

MMG partners agreed on a cost-sharing approach to support the MMG COVID-19 Action Plan. Achievements to date include:

- One thousand two hundred (1,200) copies of MMG COVID-19 brochures and posters on coronavirus risks in the mining sector distributed to key mining sector actors, notably, private sector, trading houses, civil society in Bangui and the KP compliant zones in southwest CAR;
- Awareness raising through SMS messages;
- Convened biweekly meetings of the task force;
- Community radio debates on the COVID-19 risks in mining communities;
- Training mining communities on techniques for making water filters using local materials; and
- Soapmaking Training of Trainers course for 21 women's groups in southwest CAR.

The MMG COVID-19 Task Force meetings enabled partners to prioritize activities reinforcing GoCAR COVID-19 prevention measures in the mining communities. The Task Force is motivated to continue its coordination of the MMG COVID-19 interventions next quarter.

ANNEX 2: LIST OF MEDIA

Local, national, and international media covered the following activities for AMPR during this quarter:

- **Bangui:** Eleven media outlets, including the Central African Radio and Television, RJDH, radio Ndeke Luka, and Guira FM reported on the Minister of Mines and Geology press conference on COVID-19 addressing actors in the mining sector. A national newspaper (*Le Confident*) and online paper (*Agence Centrafricaine de Presse, ACAP*) also published several articles on AMPR activities.
- **Berberati and Nola:** Local radios Zoukpana in Berberati and Kuli-Ndouna in Nola broadcasted the debates of the subprefectures, Regional Health and Mining Directors on the risks of propagation of COVID-19 linked to the practices of mining practices seven times. The message reached more than 20,000 listeners in the three mining zones of Berberati, Carnot, and Nola.
- **Tetra Tech ARD Newsletter:** Tetra Tech ARD newsletter featured AMPR trainings on water filtration using local materials in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) communities, creating COVID-19 sensitization posters and fostering income-generating activities through training women groups on soap-making. These activities were recognized among the key global innovations made to projects, processes, and systems that keep Tetra Tech's work advancing in the COVID-19 environment.

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