

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

## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT OCTOBER 1– DECEMBER 31, 2022



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Photo:

SMARTER Mining Training of Artisanal Miners on Using Sieves in the Site of Likenze in SCED-Ndéléngué pilot ZEA in Nola subprefecture. Photo by Bienvenue Houltoupou.

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

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	African Development Bank
ALS	<i>Antenne Locale de Suivi</i> (Kimberley Process monitoring committee at the commune level)
AFPE	<i>Association des Femmes pour la Promotion de l'Entreprenariat</i> (Association of Women for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship)
AMPR	Artisanal Mining and Property Rights
APCM	<i>Appui à la Professionnalisation des Coopératives Minières</i> (Support for the Professionalization of Mining Cooperatives)
ASM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining
BECDOR	<i>Bureau d'Évaluation et de Contrôle de Diamant et d'Or</i> (Bureau of Evaluation and Regulation of Diamonds and Gold)
CAR	Central African Republic
CLPR	<i>Comité Local de Paix et Réconciliation</i> (local peace-building committee)
CLS	<i>Comité Local de Suivi</i> (Kimberley Process monitoring committee at zone level)
CNS	<i>Comité National de Suivi</i> (Kimberley Process monitoring committee at national level)
COP	Chief of Party
CRAFT	Code of Risk mitigation for ASM engaging in Formal Trade
CTRE-RCA	<i>Comité Technique de Réflexion et d'Echange de la République Centrafricaine</i> (Technical Reflection and Exchange Committee of the Central African Republic)
CTRJCR-RCA	Technical Committee in charge of the Revision of Legal and Regulatory Texts for the Mining and Petroleum Sectors in the Central African Republic
DAS	Deputy Assistant Secretary
DDRSC	Data, Regulation and Marketing Monitoring Department
DOAG	Development Objective Grant Agreement
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DSPA	Dzanga-Sangha Protected Area
ENABEL	<i>Agence Belge de Développement</i> (Belgian Development Agency)
ENC	<i>Elie Numerique Centrafrique</i>
ERT	Emergency Response Team
EU	European Union
FACA	<i>Forces armées centrafricaines</i> (Central African Armed Forces)
GODICA	Strengthening the governance of CAR's artisanal diamond and gold mining sectors



GoCAR	Government of the Central African Republic
GTSM-RCA	<i>Groupe de Travail du Secteur Minier de la République Centrafricaine</i> (Mining Sector Working Group of the Central African Republic)
HEAT	Hostile environment awareness training
IDIQ	Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGO	International non-governmental organization
IPIS	International Peace Information Service
IR	Intermediate Result
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
MHASNR	Ministry of Humanitarian Action Solidarity and National Reconciliation
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MMG	Ministry of Mines and Geology
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
OF	Operational Framework
OU	Operating Unit
PRADD	Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development
PGRN	<i>Projet de Gestion des Ressources Naturelles</i> (Natural Resources Management Project)
SCED	<i>Société Centrafricaine d'Exploitation Diamantifère</i> (Central African Diamond Exploitation Society)
SMARTER	Sustainable Mining by Artisanal Miners
SODEMI	<i>Société pour le Développement Minier de la Côte d'Ivoire</i> (Society for the Mining Development of Côte d'Ivoire)
STARR II	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights II
TVCA	CAR National Television
USAF	<i>Unité Spéciale Anti-Fraude</i> (Anti-Fraud Police Unit)

USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)
WB	World Bank
WIF	Women’s Innovation Fund
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
ZEA	<i>Zone d’Exploitation Artisanale</i> (Artisanal Mining Zone)



# I.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Artisanal Mining and Property Rights (AMPR) project supports the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to improve land and resource governance and strengthen 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 the Central African Republic (CAR) using a multidisciplinary approach. The project focuses primarily on diamond — and to a lesser extent, gold — production as well as targeted technical assistance to other USAID Missions and Operating Units (OUs) 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 with two option years, which were granted last year. The present report summarizes progress during AMPR's quarter 1 of the fifth year of project implementation.

Objective 1 of the project aims to strengthen CAR's capacity to implement the 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 supports 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 also 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.

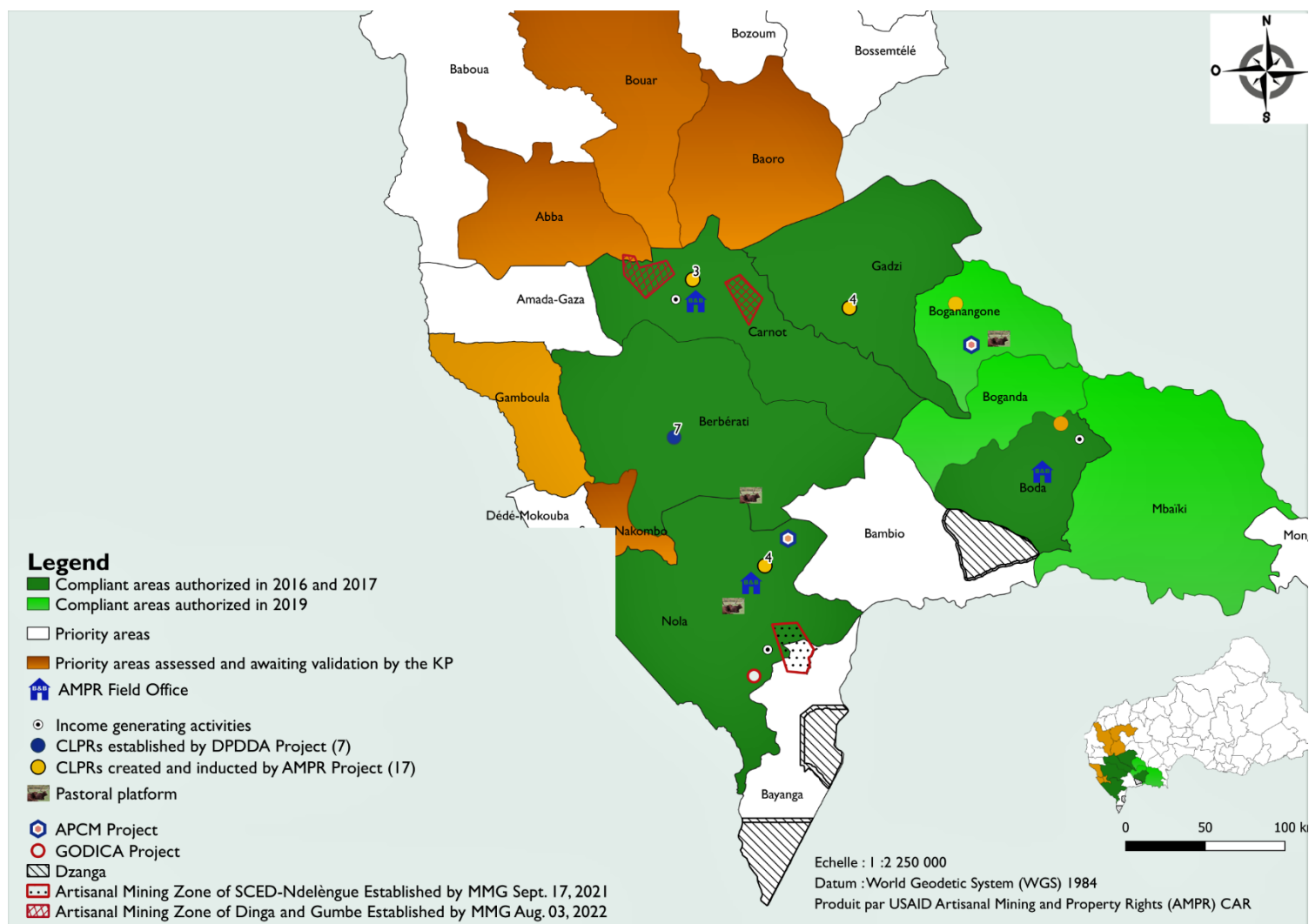
Objective 2 strengthens social cohesion and economic development in diamond mining communities. AMPR is building upon lessons learned from PRADD II and expanding local structures and processes for fostering peace and reconciliation. AMPR supports the expansion of local peace and reconciliation committees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

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 the gold supply chain 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. In Y4, AMPR commissioned a study to generate recommendations for improving gold commercialization and export systems in CAR.

Objective 4 involves responding to USAID's requests for technical assistance with respect to understanding the linkages between ASM and development issues. One recent example is AMPR's evaluation of the PRADD II project in Côte d'Ivoire, which concluded in 2018.

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

**Figure I: Map of Southwestern Central African Republic and AMPR Field Activities**



## 2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AMPR supports USAID's Land and Resource Governance Office and the USAID Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Mission's Central Africa Program to improve land and resource governance and strengthen property rights for all members of society, especially women. It serves as USAID's vehicle for addressing complex land and resource issues around ASM in a multidisciplinary fashion, focusing on diamonds and, to a lesser extent, gold production in the CAR. The project also provides targeted technical assistance to other USAID missions and OUs in addressing land and resource governance issues within the ASM sector. The project builds upon activities and lessons from the PRADD I and II projects. The AMPR contract was signed on September 28, 2018 and will run for five years (the two option years were approved in 2020). This quarterly performance report describes achievements realized under the AMPR between October 1 and December 31, 2022.

AMPR's achievements for the quarter are summarized below:

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

- AMPR provided technical and logistical support to the MMG Sectorial Working Group (SWG) on fraud and rough diamond smuggling, to elaborate a new national anti-fraud strategy and terms of reference to set up a CAR Task Force on Fraud.
- CAR's diamond exports for 2022 totaled to 115,574 carats in 2022, equivalent to 111% of the 103,647 carats exported in 2021, thanks in part to the coordinated support between the MMG and CAR Kimberley Process Permanent Secretariat (KPPS) partners.
- Provided technical and logistical support to the MMG to organize a technical review meeting with to analyze GoCAR's implementation of the 2019 Action Plan to combat fraud and smuggling of mineral resources.
- Supported community dialogue to validate a technical strategy for the pilot Dinga and Guembé Artisanal Mining Zones (ZEA) in the Carnot KP compliant zone subprefecture.
- Conducted a joint MMG mission to document best practice experiences from the Bagandou and Ndolobo mining sites on the local traceability monitoring systems.
- Provided technical and logistical support to a joint MMG, KPPS, KP National Monitoring Committee (CNS KP) to facilitate the KP Local Monitoring Committees (CLS) quarterly meetings in the eight KP compliant zones of Boda, Mbaïki, Boganangone, Boganda, Carnot, Gadzi, Berberati and Nola

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

- Supported capacity building of the Ministry of Humanitarian Action Solidarity and National Reconciliation (MHASNR) managers on the use of the image toolboxes to facilitate social dialogue.
- Provided technical and logistical support to the MHASNR to organize a biannual coordination and exchange meeting on the issues and challenges related to the reestablishment of the legal diamond chain.
- AMPR continued to provide technical and logistical support to boost the women entrepreneurship activities under the Women's Innovation Fund (WIF) strategy in Boda, Carnot and Nola subprefectures.

- Supported information sharing regarding the implementation of the Women’s Innovation Fund through a Network of Women Entrepreneurs.

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

- AMPR submitted to USAID the report for the evaluation of CAR gold marketing and export system and value-added opportunities, prepared by a team of consultants.
- CAR's gold exports for 2022 totaled to 1,536 kg, equivalent to 179% of the 857 kilograms exported in 2021. Such unprecedented levels of gold exports are partly due to improved security in CAR's gold-producing western and central regions.

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

- The PRADD II Cote d’Ivoire Performance Evaluation team completed and submitted a draft report in French to AMPR for review and to draft the final English version.
- AMPR’s COP participated in the Kimberly Process plenary session in November 2022 in Gaborone, Botswana, as part of the USAID delegation.
- AMPR finalized the review and negotiation of the proposal from the firm Health in Harmony (HiH) on training for AMPR staff by HiH on radical listening tools in the next quarter.

## 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 October 1 - December 31, 2022. These descriptions and results presented below are 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 activity builds upon efforts that began in 2016 to implement a strategy to combat diamond smuggling, particularly into 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 related less to coordination issues with other countries and more to the reduced buying house activity and lax airport controls. As such, AMPR is facilitating a rigorous and participatory consultative process, including a visit to the MMG's counterpart in Cameroon last quarter, to identify root causes for the uptick in smuggling and identify ways to improve the monitoring mechanisms required under the KP OF. AMPR will then organize a national workshop to debate conclusions and adopt recommendations that the project can support through activities and advocacy.

**Results:** Throughout Y4, AMPR participated in several meetings organized by the MMG Sectorial Working Group (SWG) on fraud and rough diamond smuggling, which includes MMG partners. The SWG elaborated a national anti-fraud strategy and prepared TORs for an inter-ministerial CAR Task Force on fraud and rough diamond smuggling. In this past quarter, AMPR continued to participate in strategic meeting of the MMG - SWG chaired by the Minister of Mines. The SWG presented to the MMG senior cabinet the draft of the national anti-fraud and smuggling strategy that includes the findings and recommendations from the three regional consultation workshops held in Berberati, Bouar and Bambari. MMG cabinet approved the draft national strategy and provided feedback, especially on the format to be considered to finalize it. MMG cleared the strategy to be presented for validation during a national workshop of CAR mining sector actors in the next quarter. Once validated, the new strategy will be implemented by an inter-ministerial CAR National Fraud Task Force.



Photo 1: Presentation of the draft National Anti fraud Strategy to MMG Cabinet. Photo by St Cyr Nganadora.

**CAR 2022 Diamond Exports:** The CAR Kimberley Process Permanent Secretariat (KPPS) documented 115,574 carats of diamonds exported in 2022, equivalent to 111% of the 103,647 carats exported in 2021. The 2022 diamond exports are valued at around 8.8 billion CFA. CCO, BADICA, DUNTA and SUD AZUR are the four major exporters among the twelve exporters in 2022. The return of BADICA, a key exporter in the country, and the arrival of new exporters VOGUERO and CLASSE DIAMANT significantly increased diamond exports in 2022. The 2022 exports are the highest since the resumption of CAR diamond exports in 2016.

### 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 WB. AMPR will seek to participate in policy and reform discussions and will contribute where appropriate, especially with respect to the KP and ASM. Moreover, the report on implementing the KP OF (see Activity 1.1.1) will consist of recommendations for specific reforms, such as those related to law enforcement, data collection, and management. AMPR will ensure such recommendations are integrated into broader reform process.

**Results:** In Year 2, the MMG validated the AMPR-produced action plan for strengthening the diamond supply chain governance (*Plan d'action pour le renforcement de la chaîne légale du diamant centrafricain*). In Years 3–4, the action plan was used to coordinate the interventions of the MMG partners that target fraud and contraband in CAR. In this quarter, AMPR organized a technical review meeting with MMG to analyze GoCAR's implementation of the 2019 Action Plan. The meeting attended by the senior leadership of the MMG, KPPS and Mining Police (USAF) analyzed the anti-fraud interventions proposed in the plan, which have been completed to date, the pending interventions, and future perspectives to combat fraud and smuggling of CAR's rough diamonds. The review meeting highlighted the following:



Photo 2: Participants at the meeting to review the 2019 Fraud Action Plan. Photo by Ava Passy.

- Strong coordinated efforts of the MMG and its partners AMPR, EU-GODICA and PGRN/WB in formalizing and reinforcing the capacity of the CAR KPPS to implement the KP operational framework in the compliant zones.
- Tremendous progress in strengthening the commercialization of CAR's rough diamonds leading to an increase of about 400% in exported diamonds since 2019.
- Strong need to increase technical and logistical support towards strengthening the collection and management of mining sector data.
- Low progress on the side of GoCAR in managing the risks of smuggling through the Bangui M'Poko airport. This is due to a lack of coordination between the different services that manage the VIP lounge, which block the Mining Police from accessing the lounge.
- Consensus that the non-implemented interventions in the 2019 Action plan should be integrated into the new draft national anti-fraud and smuggling strategy to be implemented by an inter-ministerial CAR National Fraud Task Force.

### 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 WB-led Mining Code revision process with respect to ASM policy. At the time of this quarterly reporting, the WB efforts began with the hiring of an international consultant to review the mining code and the review conducted by the ADB's Legal Support Facility. Meanwhile, the government has created a formal committee to review the Code and the mining policy. AMPR intends to liaise closely with the MMG cabinet, WB, and others to determine appropriate avenues for participation. 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 *Société pour le Développement Minier de la Côte d'Ivoire* (SODEMI) model for village-based revenue management (see Activity 1.2.3).

**Results:** The World Bank (WB) confirmed that GoCAR had presented the draft Mining Code to the CAR National Assembly for review. The technical contribution of the MMG partners to the Code is limited at this stage.

### 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 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—such as the DRC—for reserving secondary deposits for ASM, they can also be used to formalize a partnership between communities and the government, such as the SODEMI model in Côte d'Ivoire. 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:** AMPR participated in a joint mission with the MMG to kickstart the implementation of the strategy for the pilot Dinga and Guembé ZEA in the Carnot KP compliant zone, approved by the MMG. The team met various leaders, notably the Subprefect and Mayor, to discuss and share copies of the signed MMG Decree and strategy for the pilot ZEA of Dinga and Guembé in the Carnot subprefecture. The team also held a joint meeting with the Regional Officers of the MMG, KPPS, and Mining Police to discuss their roles in implementing the signed ZEA strategy. The team met with the mining communities of the



Photo 3: Discussions on the implementation of the ZEA strategy with the mining community of Dinga. Photo by St Cyr Nganadora.



designated pilot ZEA in Dinga and Guembé to discuss the implementation of the ZEA strategy. The communities of Dinga and Guembé signed the local pacts committing to implement the agreed ZEA strategy. Leaders and actors expressed satisfaction over MMG's designation of exclusive artisanal mining zones in Carnot and pledged their support towards the implementation of the ZEA strategy.

### 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 on developing and building consensus around the model(s) to pilot in Year 1. The question of revenue management is particularly tricky, as indicated in the consultancy report prepared by Sebastian Pennes. AMPR identified a strategy as outlined in the ZEA strategy document and additional community consultations in SCED-Ndélégué. However, the exact details will be further refined in the organizational texts and the community decisions in each pilot ZEA.

**Results:** AMPR's Specialist in the Extension of Compliant Zones completed a joint mission with the MMG to document existing good practices for generating revenue at the Bagandou and Ndolobo mine sites. During FGDs, the mining actors in Bagandou and Ndolobo explained how they mobilize revenue from mining activities for community development. They indicated that the collected funds are used for infrastructure development, for instance, the construction of the new municipality building in Ndolobo town. The documented best practices will be adapted to establish a system to generate revenues in the pilot ZEAs of Carnot and Nola from mining operations to invest in community development.



Photo 4: Focus group discussion with mining actors in Bagandou on best practices to generate revenue for community development. Photo by Gerald Doumalo

### 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 periodically measure knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) among miners 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 for active gold and diamond mining sites.

**Results:** In Y4, AMPR completed the second knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) survey in the KP-compliant zones. The survey report was submitted to USAID.

### 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:** No activity was planned for this past quarter.

### 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 Year I, AMPR conducted trainings on the use of hand drills in select communities to help build trust among the population. 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 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 in the next quarter as part of the action plans for the pilot ZEAs in SCED-Ndélénguè, Nola sub-prefecture and the pilot Dinga ZEA in Carnot (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, as well as respond to other technical assistance needs expressed by the KPPS and MMG.

**Results:** AMPR participated in joint missions with the MMG, CNS KP, and KPPS to support the CLSs to conduct their quarterly meetings. Using the agenda and reporting templates developed by AMPR, the CLSs in the KP compliant zones of Boda, Mbaïki, Boganangone, Boganda, Carnot, Gadzi Berberati, and Nola completed their reports. The reports focus on the presence of state authority; armed group presence and their impact on mining activities; and free circulation of people and goods, production, and fraud. The CAR KPPS will share the reports with Ambassadors, Heads of Diplomatic Missions, and other partners resident in CAR in the next quarter. In summary, the reports highlighted the following:

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## Key Highlights from the CLS Quarterly Reports

**Security situation:** *The situation is calm in all compliant areas. This information was confirmed by the two MINUSCA representatives who participated in the Berberati meeting. However, a few minor incidents were reported, including the arrest on October 10, 2022, by FACA of a man in possession of a weapon in the locality of Nao (85 km on the Berberati-Amadagaza axis) and transfer to the Berberati Gendarmerie for investigation. The presence of armed men in search of Fulani herders is reported on the outskirts of Gadzi. In Nassole, the inhabitants found and handed over to the Berberati military authorities a bag filled with war ammunition in the bush.*

**Diamond production and marketing:** *Despite repeated rains, there is a slight increase in production in the areas of Berberati, Carnot, Boda, Boganda, and Nola. However, in Bagandou, Boganangone and Gadzi, production is down. As for the number of legal actors, it has also increased in all zones thanks to the support provided by AMPR through the sensitization sessions for site managers. For example, in Boda, the number of artisanal miners increased from 226 in Y4 Q4 to 318 in this quarter. The members of CLS-PK issued an alert on the risks of expropriation of mining sites by the state from traditional occupants for the benefit of foreign mining companies and cooperatives. For example, a case of conflict related to mining land between traditional occupants and the Don de Dieu mining cooperative has been reported at the NATALE mining site (Berberati).*

**Anti-fraud and smuggling efforts:** *The government's anti-fraud unit (USAF) in Nola seized 989,000 XAF in contraband as well a scale, calculator, and magnifying glass from a smuggler. The increased vigilance of USAF is partly due to the AMPR-supported anti-fraud mass sensitization in the KP compliant zones.*

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### 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 broached the idea with local diplomats in Bangui, who were interested in this concept.

**Results:** There is no activity planned this quarter.

### 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 GoCAR to have a central role. AMPR will adapt to 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:** There is no activity planned this quarter.

### 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. The AMPR team is in constant communication with the EU GODICA and WB teams to avoid duplication

and complement each other's' efforts. The AMPR COP frequently meets with other project heads in Bangui to discuss advancements. The projects have also shared costs on various activities, such as support to BECDOR. AMPR will continue to be collaborative, proactive, and flexible in this activity.

**Results:** This quarter, AMPR collaborated extensively with the VB PGRN projects on supporting the consultancy for the evaluation of the CAR gold marketing and export system and coordinated joint support to MMG—SWG on fraud and rough diamond smuggling that includes ministry partners.

### 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 upon 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-MHASNR 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 OF, 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 the next steps will be determined.

**Results:** There were no activities planned this quarter.

##### 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. AMPR is expected to 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 develop an action plan for the year, and will provide some logistical support to implement CLPR activities. AMPR will also look to maximize synergies between the CLPR and the ALS committees. Simultaneously, the project will work with the MHASNR 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:** This quarter, AMPR's Technical Advisor on Social Cohesion conducted a master class capacity-building training for 20 MHASNR managers and officials on using the image toolboxes to facilitate social dialogue. The master class developed a practical user guide to assist members of the 24 CLPRs in using the toolbox produced by AMPR to facilitate community-based dialogue around the issues and challenges of peace, social cohesion, respect for



Photo 5: Master Class of the MHASNR to develop a practical guide for the AMPR produced social dialogue image toolbox. Photo by Ava Passy.



property rights and compliance with the KP certification mechanism in the compliant zones. Copies of the image toolbox and the practical guide will be transferred to CLPRs 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). Such activities include community service, community theater, and/or trainings on dispute resolution. AMPR filmed some of the community meetings leading to the establishment of CLPRs to produce several short videos (capsules) for use in social dialogue sessions. AMPR Social Cohesion Advisor Dr. Zéphirin Mogba produced a concept note on the Local Pacts, originally developed under PRADD II for several communes, to document community decisions and positions on sensitive issues. Through this concept note, AMPR took stock of the initial pacts and developed 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 supported a joint mission with the MHASNR and MMG to organize a biannual coordination and exchange meeting on strengthening the legal diamond chain, bringing together the CLPR, CLS, and the CU-USAF (Mining Police). The coordination meetings held in the five KP zones of Boda, Berberati, Carnot, Gadzi and Nola agreed to share information on fraud and smuggling of minerals and the implementation of an Early Warning System on monitoring compliance with traceability/Operational Framework. The meetings proposed joint operations of the USAF, National army (FACA), Police, Gendarmerie, CLPRs, and the CLS to track and apprehend smugglers. Also, the creation of Local KP branches in the zones bordering the DRC and Cameroon to monitor compliance at the border posts. A consolidated mission report was shared and discussed with the senior leadership of the MHASNR and the MMG to agree on the action points.



Photo 6: Participants in the Coordination meeting of the CLPR, CLS and USAF in Nola. Photo by Vincent de Paul Ferema

## 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 to design 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 I, 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 I, and USAID has approved the related deliverable.

### 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 were defined in the Gender Action Plan, including those implemented as part of the Year I Work Plan. By investing in a participatory and rigorous field and desk research, AMPR identified activities that meshed with its overall strategy and had the maximum chance of long-term sustainability and success.

**Results:** Activity 2.2.4 below provides information on the development of the Innovation Fund and the activities that support the autonomy of the AMPR livelihoods groups.

### 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 identified 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. 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:** In Y4 Q4, AMPR started to support eight (8) women entrepreneurs and three (3) associations in the fields of food security and artisanal mining to benefit from the Women's Innovation Fund (WIF) funding. This quarter, AMPR continued to provide technical and logistical support to boost the women entrepreneurship activities in Boda, Carnot and Nola subprefectures as follows:

*SMARTER Mining Training:* AMPR Senior Community Mobilizers based in Boda and Nola, in coordination with the regional MMG office, supported the 76 women who completed SMARTER mining training to apply the techniques. The women practiced the techniques for prospecting, exploitation, rehabilitation, and enhancement of depleted sites using the approach Post Mining Income Generating Rehabilitation and Gravel Washing (REGERPOM). The beneficiaries use improved ASM equipment like the hand auger drill to simplify the sampling and the process of finding mineral rich gravel. They also learnt how to wash gravel using a sieve to improve the recovery of minerals. The training



Photo 7: Women beneficiaries of the WIF in Boda applying SMARTER Mining techniques. Photo by Junior Kagoro.

promotes artisanal miners' and women's economic and social empowerment in ASM communities in furtherance of broad-based social and economic inclusion.

*Network of Women Entrepreneurs:* This quarter, AMPR regional office in Nola, in coordination with the MMG, met with women artisanal miners who have excelled in the training on the evaluation of diamond and SMARTER mining techniques offered under the investment funds implementation. The meetings were also attended by women entrepreneurs as beneficiaries of AMPR's livelihoods support, who have become autonomous in expanding artisanal soapmaking activities and participation in village savings and loan associations (VSLA). The meetings discussed a plan of action to establish a women's network that constitutes a core technical resource for these women that have excelled in various domains. The women requested copies of training modules and material support to train other women in their respective livelihoods and entrepreneurship. The network will finalize the action plan to share experiences with other women and build their local entrepreneurship capacity in the next quarter.



Photo 8: Meeting with identified members of the network of women entrepreneurs in Nola. Photo by: Arsene Mangibe.

### 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 MHASNR. 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:** There were no activities planned and undertaken this quarter.

#### 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 NGOs and other actors working to promote peace and reconciliation in the CAR. In Year 1, AMPR focused on building coordination and synergies at the local level, notably through clarifying mandates and roles of the local CLS/ALS and CLPRs, 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 coordination among donors and other actors.

**Results:** No activity was planned this quarter.



### **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 led a diagnostic study to assess the ASM gold economy and set up an interactive mapping system (see Activity 3.1.3). The diagnostic consisted of desk- and field-based research to understand the production and financing systems and the regulatory framework. Results were then presented and discussed at a national workshop in January 2020. The OECD/EU conducted a training on the new conflict minerals legislation, and AMPR's second subcontractor for Component 3, RESOLVE, shared experiences from the USAID Capacity Building for Responsible Minerals Trade Project in the DRC as part of a workshop in Bangui.

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

##### **3.3.1.2 Activity 3.1.2: Facilitate the 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, which will 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 is intended to work alongside 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 could be good candidates for piloting responsible sourcing initiatives. Next quarter more work will be done in collaboration with the WB APCM project to formalize pre-cooperatives and cooperatives operating in the SCED ZEA.

**Results:** AMPR submitted to USAID a report prepared by AMPR's International Consultant Armel Nganzi and two national experts on CAR gold marketing and export system and value-added opportunities. The consultants presented the findings to MMG officials, partners (PGRN and GODICA) and key gold sector actors. The feedback from the sector actors was integrated in the final version submitted to USAID. USAID reviewed and approved the report at the end of this quarter. AMPR will share copies of the approved report with the sector actors in the next quarter.

*CAR 2022 Gold Exports:* BECDOR documented export figures for 2022 of 1,536 kg, equivalent to 179% of the 857 kilograms exported in 2021. The exported gold in 2022 is valued at around 31.4 billion CFA. The historically unprecedented gold exports of more than 100 kg per month in 2022 surpassed CAR's 2021 record due to improved security in CAR (especially in the west and central regions), which enables exporters to access, purchase, and export more gold. SWISS GOLD, KOTTO-MINES, SIGMA Gold and SAWA-SAWA were the four major exporters among the 26 in 2022.

*MMG Regulation on Metal Detectors:* AMPR received an MMG Circular on November 15, 2022, discussing the importation and use of metal detectors, especially in the gold mine sites in CAR. The Circular

acknowledges the unregulated increase in the importation and use of metal detectors in the artisanal gold mining sites without prior authorization of the MMG as required by the CAR Mining Code of 2009. The Circular instructs the MMG Inspector General, Director General and Regional Directors, and the National Commander of the Mining Police to ensure that those in possession of the metal detectors and those who plan to import or acquire them obtain the required MMG authorization with immediate effect. Foreigners import most metal detectors to facilitate the exploration of ASM gold and its illegal exportation out of CAR without the knowledge of the MMG. AMPR has been advocating for strict measures to regulate the use of metal detectors to curb illicit gold activities.

### **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. IPIS researchers collected data in gold mining areas, concurrently with KP Focal Points for diamond mining areas. AMPR also suggested the interactive map generated as a result of this research could be useful for the KP OF, should the MMG agree to integrate diamond data into the mapping interface. IPIS/AMPR held a workshop with the government in Year 2 on this topic.

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

## **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 OUs on themes related to ASM and development. Should USAID request them, AMPR will prepare such documents during the work plan year.

**Results:** There were no activities undertaken this quarter.

#### **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:** The performance evaluation team completed field work and the drafting of the first report on a retrospective performance evaluation of the PRADD II project in Côte d'Ivoire. The field research team submitted the French draft report to AMPR for review. As of the writing of this report, Dr. Huntington is working on the English version of the report and if needed, she will reach out to the US-based USG representatives involved in the KP for additional information on PRADD II in the next quarter.

#### **3.4.1.3 Activity 4.1.3: Provide On-Call Technical Assistance**

**Description:** This activity aims to provide expertise and assistance to USAID OUs 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 the organization of short-term technical assistance or other activities.

**Results:** There were no activities undertaken this quarter.

### 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:** AMPR 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's COP Maxie Muwonge participated in the Kimberly Process plenary session in November 2022 in Gaborone, Botswana, as part of the USAID delegation. On CAR compliance, the CAR Monitoring Team commended the CAR for making marked improvements in the information it is required to provide to the MT for monitoring purposes. In particular, the quality and timeliness of the documentation and photographs provided have improved. The CAR MT noted several remaining challenges to traceability. The CAR MT further documented that only eight of the CAR's diamond-producing subprefectures are currently KP-compliant and that diamond production continues in non-compliant subprefectures. The CAR delegation refuted the CAR MT report. The plenary endorsed the continued work of the Working Group of Diamond Experts (WGDE) Team, in particular with respect to monitoring shipments from the CAR compliant zones, to determine adherence to the CAR diamond footprint.



Photo 9: Discussions during the KP plenary 2022 in Gaborone, Botswana. Photo by: Maxie Muwonge.

#### 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 OUs 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:** AMPR finalized the review and negotiation of the proposal from the firm Health in Harmony (HiH) to train the AMPR team on radical listening tools. The tools will facilitate eventual dialogues with Mona-Sao communities in the Bayanga sub-prefecture to reach a consensus to implement activities and respect the boundaries of the buffer zone. The training is planned to take place in late January 2023.

#### 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.

**Results:** There were no activities undertaken this quarter.

## 4.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

### 4.1 INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

There were no activities undertaken this quarter.

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

*USAID Monthly Coordination Calls:* AMPR staff continued to actively participate in the USAID monthly coordination calls designed to share updates and improve coordination on project interventions. AMPR and USAID also receive updates on the EU GODICA and World Bank —WB PGRN projects during the calls. The key themes of discussion were the progress of the MMG Sectorial Working Group (SWG) on fraud and rough diamond smuggling that, includes ministry partners, in developing an action plan and TORs for setting up a National Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Fraud and Contraband. The WB confirmed that the Code is before the National Assembly for review and endorsement. Nonetheless, the WB and the MMG agreed with MMG on a 100-day plan to tighten the revised Mining Code and avail GoCAR of international experts to develop the Mining Policy and the supporting regulations of the Code. The meeting discussed briefs from Kimberly Process –KP plenary in Gaborone of November 2022 and Post KP perspectives for USAID and AMPR.

*CAR Mining Technical Coordination Meeting:* AMPR convened two virtual CAR mining technical coordination meetings in November and December 2022. Other participants included USAID, the WB and the PGRN. The team discussed highlights of the WB visit to CAR in November 2022, notably the decision to end support to the CAR KP Permanent Secretariate by the end of 2023. The WB offered to support the MMG in developing strategies to generate revenue from the diamond exports to cover the operational costs of the CAR KPPS. The WB has not committed further funding for the CAR ASM sector beyond 2023. AMPR presented key highlights from the KP plenary session in Gaborone, Botswana, and the role of the different partners to continue supporting the CAR KPPS. AMPR and the WB agreed to continue the monthly coordination meetings in the next quarter and include the EU, which is developing a project to support the CAR ASM sector.

*COP Meeting with Ambassador Mahoney:* AMPR's COP met with the new US Ambassador Patricia Mahoney. The meeting discussed the role of AMPR in promoting legal, responsible diamond and gold supply chains and strengthening social cohesion. Ambassador Mahoney was interested in updates on the progress of the new CAR Mining Code and what the US Embassy could do now to support the process. The meeting discussed the progress of implementing the Kimberley Process in the Central African Republic and the next steps. The Ambassador agreed to continue the initiative of the Friends of CAR. She requested AMPR to propose when to hold the next Friends of CAR meeting and the themes to discuss. AMPR was also asked to prepare talking points for the Ambassador's meeting with the Minister of Mines.

*USAID Brief on AMPR Activity:* In December 2022, AMPR's COP and Project Manager participated in a virtual call organized by USAID DRC. Other participants included the US Ambassador to CAR, USAID DRC Deputy Mission Director, USAID CAR, KINSHASA and DC US State Department, USGS, CAR MT, and POL and ECON Officer of the US Embassy in CAR. The call was held to present the history of USAID's mineral programming in CAR since the implementation of the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development (PRADD) I in 2008, PRADD II in 2016 and AMPR in 2018. AMPR's COP presented accomplishments and challenges AMPR has faced since 2018, and the impact of CAR's dynamic geopolitical and security context on AMPR project implementation. The meeting acknowledged the outstanding achievements of AMPR despite the challenging operating environment.

**USAID CAR Partners Roundtable:** In this quarter, AMPR COP Maxie Muwonge participated in a USAID CAR partners' roundtable organized by USAID CAR Representative Stephane Youfeina. The USAID DRC Deputy Mission Director Zeric Kay Smith at the US Embassy in CAR chaired the meeting. The discussion focused on development activities surrounding current conditions, priority needs, and coordination issues. USAID CAR partners shared experiences and proposals with USAID senior leadership regarding the challenges with emergency programming and opportunities for linking early recovery activities. USAID promised to regularly continue meetings with CAR partners to better understand the operational context and inform future CAR programs.

**AMPR Meeting with the CRS:** AMPR's COP met with the new Country Manager for the INGO Catholic Relief Services, Herby Derenoncourt. The meeting discussed coordinating support for the CLPR activities in the Southwest, where both CRS and AMPR operate. CRS is open to supporting livelihood activities for the members of CLPRs created by AMPR to motivate them as local peace actors working voluntarily. AMPR is open to sharing with CRS the image toolboxes to facilitate social dialogue and the data management strategy for the CRS used to collect and document data on CLPR achievement. The CLPRs established by CRS have a broader mandate beyond that of the CLPRs established by AMPR with the MHASNR to reinforce social cohesion and peacebuilding in the KP-compliant zones. The team agreed on a follow-up meeting to explore areas of complementarity in the next quarter.

### **4.3 OFFICES**

**Fuel Scarcity Continued:** The fuel crisis that began eight months worsened during this period due to the failure of GoCAR to reach a price agreement with key fuel suppliers. GoCAR always subsidizes fuel to keep it at a price level acceptable to the population. But in this quarter, the fuel suppliers considered that if they continue to sell at current prices, they will make losses. Nonetheless, TRADEX started to sell limited quantities not beyond 20,000 CFA of fuel to small vehicles and 50,000 CFA to trucks and buses at any one time. TRADEX was not selling fuel for stocking. However, Total Energies expressed a desire to stop supplying fuel in the country. AMPR project operations were affected by the issue, as the project was forced to purchase fuel on parallel markets at higher prices. AMPR explored means of buying fuel from TRADEX, although the process involved making long queues for hours to be served.

### **4.4 STAFFING**

**Closeout Plan:** The AMPR project management team officially notified four employees about their contracts' termination on February 28, 2023. The team collaborated with the project's lawyer and National Labor Inspection to discuss the conditions of the termination in accordance with the CAR laws. To prepare for the progressive closeout of AMPR offices, the AMPR's Procurement, Logistics and Field Operations Officer has travelled to Carnot, Nola and Boda to make a physical verification of the non-expendable property acquired throughout the life of the project. The objective is to reconcile the inventory tracker regarding the condition, location, and any other aspect that would affect the status of the inventory items. This will help the project management team to establish a property disposition plan for USAID approval in the near future.

**Election of Staff Representatives:** During this quarter, a team of government Labor Inspectors facilitated the election of new staff representatives after the departure of Regis Ndaket, the previous Finance Officer and staff representative, and his deputy, Julie Betabelet, who resigned from her position in 2020. The CAR labor law requires that staff choose among themselves delegates to act as mediators between employees and their employer. The newly elected representatives are two Senior Community Mobilizers, Vincent Ferema, the principal representative and Junior Kogoro, the deputy.



*Team Building for AMPR Staff:* The AMPR project management organized a Tetra-Tech-funded team building activity this December 2022 to enhance employee social relations, morale, and performance. The event comprised various types of recreational activities and collaborative tasks.

*Staff Capacity Building:* AMPR Cleaner Félicité Agnès Yasselo and Driver Gerald Doumalo completed a 10-day Tetra Tech-funded training focused on basic computer training. The training helped the staff to understand how to operate a computer, create a simple document, perform basic computer maintenance, surf the Internet, install and connect a printer or scanner and process documents backup. This training is timely now that the project has started its last year of implementation because several documents will need to be scanned and filed. The newly gained knowledge will also increase the chance for the two employees to stand out when applying for their next jobs after the AMPR project.



Photo 10: AMPR's staff presenting during a session on basic computer Training. Photo by: Ava Passy.

#### 4.5 SECURITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

*Poor Road Conditions:* Heavy rains have made it difficult for AMPR teams to travel from Bangui to the country's interior during this quarter. Most of the roads were impassable and the employees and partners travelling to the interior constantly got stuck. As a result, travel times to the project's regional operating zones increased. AMPR management continued to monitor the situation carefully and, with the help of protective equipment to tow the cars, the teams made minor repairs on the road and safely reached their destinations. AMPR field teams used 4X4 vehicles and TX motorbikes to try and maneuver on these roads.



Photo 11: An AMPR vehicle stuck on the Boda Boganda road. Photo by: Benjamin Ndongo.

## 5.0 PROJECT-SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### Comments on Key Indicators:

- Indicator 1:* According to the annual report of the Directorate of Data Regulation and Monitoring of the Commercialization (DDRSC), the annual forecast for 2022, in terms of volume, is 150,000 carats. In 2022, the volume legally exported was 11,5574.5 carats or 77.05% of the estimates. Considering the CAR's fiscal year (January - December 2022) and the USGS estimate of the five rough diamond producing sub-prefectures, which is 164,000 carats, the target achieved is approximately 70%. Compared to the Year 4 DPAM project target of 60%, we have a 10% margin. This success is due to the slight increase in the number of licensed collectors and buying offices in 2022.
- Indicator 3:* According to data from the deconcentrated mining services, from January-December 2021, there are 1297 artisanal miners and from January-December 2022, there are 1680 artisanal miners. This increase was obtained thanks to awareness campaigns on the Kimberley Process's requirements with the support of AMPR. Taking into account the number of mining site managers, this number remains relatively low due to the absence of mining and tax services in most of the mining sites on the one hand and the increase in the price of hydrocarbons which has had an impact on transport prices on the other.
- Indicator 4:* In September 2022, the AMPR project will provide the technical support and computer kits needed to implement a mechanism for entering and digitizing the purchase and sale slips of the collecting agents and buying offices in the eight zones that have been approved by the heads of the mining departments. The data from this mechanism should make it possible to identify the number of actors who make transactions with the diamond purchase and sale slips. After the launch of this mechanism by the Director of the DDRSC, it is noted that this mechanism is not yet functional.

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASE LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 RESULT	Y2 TARGET	Y2 RESULT	Y3 TARGET	Y3 RESULT	Y4 TARGET	Y4 RESULT	Y5 TARGET	Y5 RESULT	LOP TARGET	COMMENTS ON PROGRESS
1	Percentage of estimated rough diamond production in KP-compliant zones	8% <sup>1</sup>	15%	12%	25%	11%	40%	56%	50%	76%	60%	26%	60%	Data updated from the MMG data exportation from Oct to Dec

<sup>1</sup> 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). The U.S. Geological Survey 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.



N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASE LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 RESULT	Y2 TARGET	Y2 RESULT	Y3 TARGET	Y3 RESULT	Y4 TARGET	Y4 RESULT	Y5 TARGET	Y5 RESULT	LOP TARGET	COMMENTS ON PROGRESS
	that is legally exported from CAR													2022 (42250.85 carats)
2	Percentage of major diamond-mining sub-prefectures in the Western part of the country authorized by the KP to export rough diamonds	31% <sup>2</sup>	50%	50%	50%	50%	75%	50% <sup>3</sup>	100%	50%	100%	50%	100%	GoCAR continues to engage the KP to validate four additional zones in the West of CAR.
3	Number of licensed (registered) artisanal miners	1,000 <sup>4</sup>	1,500	1,458	2,000	1,006 <sup>5</sup>	2,000	689 <sup>6</sup>	2,500	1948	3,000	413	3,000	Update of 413 Artisanal miners who paid their license from Oct to Dec 2022
4	Number of diamond buyers (collectors and buying houses) making purchases with official purchase slips	200 <sup>7</sup>	200	206	225	135 <sup>8</sup>	250	217	275	135	300	261	300	252 collector agents and nine (9) <sup>9</sup> buying houses.
5	Percentage of artisanal miners in project intervention zones	35%	N/A	35%	N/A	N/A	50%	N/A	N/A	49%	75%	N/A	75%	No KAP survey this year.

<sup>2</sup> 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%.

<sup>3</sup> There is an ongoing international debate on the validation of additional zones, which is out of AMPR's manageable interest given the complex politics and geopolitics at play.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 484 artisanal miners of the 1,006 paid for their license and mining documents in the areas of Carnot, Berberati, Nola, Boda, Boganda, and Mbaïki. The data is taken from the minutes of the quarterly meetings of the CLS.

<sup>6</sup> The post-electoral conflict involving the CPC armed group slowed mining activities for about four months (Dec 2020-April 2021).

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> The data for this indicator depends on the processing of the purchase slip, which is done at the end of the calendar year when the diamond buyers return the purchase slip books.

<sup>9</sup> These nine buying houses are: CCO, BADICA, DUNTA, SOCADIAM, CLASSE DIAMANT, DIAMVILLE, SUD AZUR, VOGUEROC et BBB

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASE LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 RESULT	Y2 TARGET	Y2 RESULT	Y3 TARGET	Y3 RESULT	Y4 TARGET	Y4 RESULT	Y5 TARGET	Y5 RESULT	LOP TARGET	COMMENTS ON PROGRESS
	with basic knowledge of KP and Mining Code													
	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 USG assistance (Standard F Indicator EG.10.4-1)	0	1	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	5	ZEA Decree of Dinga and Guembe in the sub-prefecture of Carnot
	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							1						Draft CAR Mining Code
	Stage 4: Presented for legislation/decreed													
	Stage 5: Passed/approved													

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASE-LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 RESULT	Y2 TARGET	Y2 RESULT	Y3 TARGET	Y3 RESULT	Y4 TARGET	Y4 RESULT	Y5 TARGET	Y5 RESULT	LOP TARGET	COMMENTS ON PROGRESS
	<i>Stage 6: Passed for which implementation has begun</i>							1		1				ZEA Decree of SCED and Dinga-Guembe
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 <sup>10</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1920	N/A	N/A	1272	2,040	1272	2,040	No KAP survey this year.
8	Number of villages having formalized and strengthened their natural resource management capacity	0	0	0	5	1	5	0	5	0	5	5	20 <sup>11</sup>	These are the villages that have signed the pacts of commitment for the pilot ZEAs of Dinga and Guembe.
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	0	2	1 <sup>12</sup>	3	17 <sup>13</sup>	10	0	15	17	15	No conflict management training is scheduled this year.
10	Number of USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build	0	0	0	10	2	15	4 <sup>14</sup>	15	10	10	0	50	In progress.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> Based on a systematic review of AMPR's project indicators at the end of Year 2, the project has determined that the trainings it conducted with CLPRs in Year 1 did not satisfy the requirements of this indicator. As such the Year 1 results have been revised down to zero for both Indicators 9 and 10. In Year 2, the priority was given to orienting the CLPRs on their roles and mandates as recommended by the expert CLPR evaluation conducted in Y2 Q2; however, the project will put a strong emphasis on training CLPRs in conflict resolution skills and consensus-building in the second half of Year 3.

<sup>13</sup> In July 2021, 34 representatives of 17 CLPRs in Berberati, Carnot, Boda, and Nola were trained by INDIGO on social dialogue techniques.

<sup>14</sup> INDIGO training in Bangui and Berberati; MHASNR Training of the new six CLPRs of Boda and Boganangone on their roles and responsibilities.

Nº	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASE LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 RESULT	Y2 TARGET	Y2 RESULT	Y3 TARGET	Y3 RESULT	Y4 TARGET	Y4 RESULT	Y5 TARGET	Y5 RESULT	LOP TARGET	COMMENTS ON PROGRESS
	support for peace or reconciliation among key actors to the conflict (Standard F Indicator PS.6.2-3)													
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		5	13	5	0	5	0	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	2	5	2	5	4	5	0	20	Conflicts between farmers and breeders that are resolved by CLPR of Yamale and Beya-Panzi
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	18	15	13	10	19	10	0	50	Additional data could be collected during the last three quarters.
	<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>													

Nº	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASE LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 RESULT	Y2 TARGET	Y2 RESULT	Y3 TARGET	Y3 RESULT	Y4 TARGET	Y4 RESULT	Y5 TARGET	Y5 RESULT	LOP TARGET	COMMENTS ON PROGRESS
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	52	250	267	250	81	250	0	1,000	They are the beneficiaries of the Innovation Funds
	Type of Individual: Producer					52		267						
	Type of Individual: Government Agents													
	Type of Individual: Private Sector Firm													
	Type of Individual: Civil Society													
	Men					33		66		9				
	Women					19		201		72				
15	Number of gold mining sites integrated into the interactive mapping system	0	0	0	300	322	0		0	0	0	0	300	The target for this indicator was met since Y2.
16	Number of activities benefitting USAID OUs aimed at improving the understanding of linkages between ASM and key development issues	0	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	0	2	0	10	In progress.

# ANNEX I: SNAPSHOT

## SUCCESS STORY

### Successful Implementation of the Women's Innovation Fund (WIF)



*Ms Rabbi Moussa, a beneficiary of the WIF in Boda, evaluating a rough diamond. Photo by the Bienvenu Houltoupou.*

Throughout Year 4, AMPR, in coordination with the Ministry of Mines and Geology (MMG), rolled out the implementation of the Women's Innovation Fund (WIF) strategy, including its theory of change. The WIF aims to provide technical and material support to women entrepreneurs and cooperatives engaged in viable economic activities. Business skills training is combined with in-kind support to boost productivity. AMPR's Component 2B Coordinator coordinated with the MMG to organize community sessions to inform stakeholders about the roll-out of the WIF in Boda, Carnot and Nola.

In Year 4, AMPR launched a call for proposals with the support of local leadership, which resulted in the selection of eight (8) women entrepreneurs and three (3) associations in the fields of food security and artisanal mining to benefit from WIF funding. The three associations selected include the Association des Femmes Artisanes Minières de Carnot, the Association des Femmes Artisanes Minières de Centrafrique and the Association des Femmes du Secteur Minier de Centrafrique (AFESMICA). The three associations have 74 members, of which nine (9) are men. The association members include site managers, artisanal miners, and small-scale traders active near the mining sites. The selected beneficiaries were provided technical and logistical support to boost their entrepreneurship. In Y5 Q1, AMPR continued to provide technical and logistical support to the beneficiaries, notably:

**Agricultural Productivity Training:** AMPR, in coordination with the Central African Agency for Agricultural Development (ACDA) regional office and the Ministry of Water and Forestry in Nola, conducted training on agricultural productivity for 26 women entrepreneurs who are beneficiaries of the WIF in Nola. The training focused on theoretical and practical techniques for food production through market gardening and agricultural diversification. The training emphasized standards and environmental practices of soil restoration through market gardening. The trained beneficiaries replicated the techniques in the exhausted mine sites of Ngamkombo and Degba in the Nola subprefecture.

**Training on Diamond Evaluation:** AMPR and BECDOR Diamond evaluators organized training on diamond evaluation for 62 artisanal miners, including women *chef de chantier* in Boda and Carnot subprefectures. The training focused on the principle and practices of diamond valuation, the type and use of equipment to evaluate rough diamonds, like the magnifying glass, and the classification of rough diamonds (Characteristics, Shape, Color and Clarity). The training will enhance the capacity of the artisanal miners to sort, classify and evaluate diamonds to bargain for a better price.

**SMARTER Mining Training:** AMPR Senior Community Mobilizers based in Boda and Nola, in coordination with the regional MMG office, supported the 76 women who completed SMARTER mining training to apply the techniques. The women practiced the techniques for prospecting, exploitation, rehabilitation, and enhancement of depleted sites using the approach Post Mining Income Generating Rehabilitation and Gravel Washing (REGERPOM).

The different trainings promote artisanal miners and women's economic and social empowerment in ASM communities in furtherance of broad-based social and economic inclusion. AMPR is organizing the women into a Network of Women Entrepreneurs to share experiences with other women and build their capacity in entrepreneurship at the local level.

## **ANNEX 2: LIST OF MEDIA**

There were no activities covered by the media undertaken this quarter.



## ANNEX 3: PROJECT STAFF

AME	TITLE	EMAIL
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## **ANNEX 4: GENERATED DATA**

No new data generated during this reporting period.

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