



ARTISANAL MINING AND PROPERTY RIGHTS UNDER THE STRENGTHENING TENURE AND RESOURCE RIGHTS II (STARR II) IDIQ QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 1– JUNE 30, 2023



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SMARTER Mining Training conducted by AMPR for Artisanal Miners in Carnot Centre, Carnot Sub-prefecture. Photo by Ava Passy

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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, 2023

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

4 Cs	Cut, Carat, Color, and Clarity
AGR	Income-Generating Activity
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</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)
BM	Bank of Materials
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)
COP	Chief of Party
CPC	Coalition of Patriots for Change
DDRSC	Data, Regulation, and Marketing Monitoring Department
DPM	Deputy Project Manager
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
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 Sector (European Union)
GoCAR	Government of the Central African Republic
HiH	Health in Harmony
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
IPIS	International Peace Information Service
KAPs	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
KP	Kimberley Process
KPCS	Kimberley Process Certification Scheme
KPPS	Kimberley Process Permanent Secretariat

MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MHASNR	Ministry of Humanitarian Action, Solidarity, and National Reconciliation
MMG	Ministry of Mines and Geology
NGO	Nongovernmental 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)
PM	Project Manager
RL	Radical Listening
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)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
STARR II	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights II
SWG	Sector Working Group
TN	Technical Note
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WB	World Bank
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 for Quarter 3 of AMPR's fifth year of 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 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 examining lessons learned and opportunities for miner parcel certification.

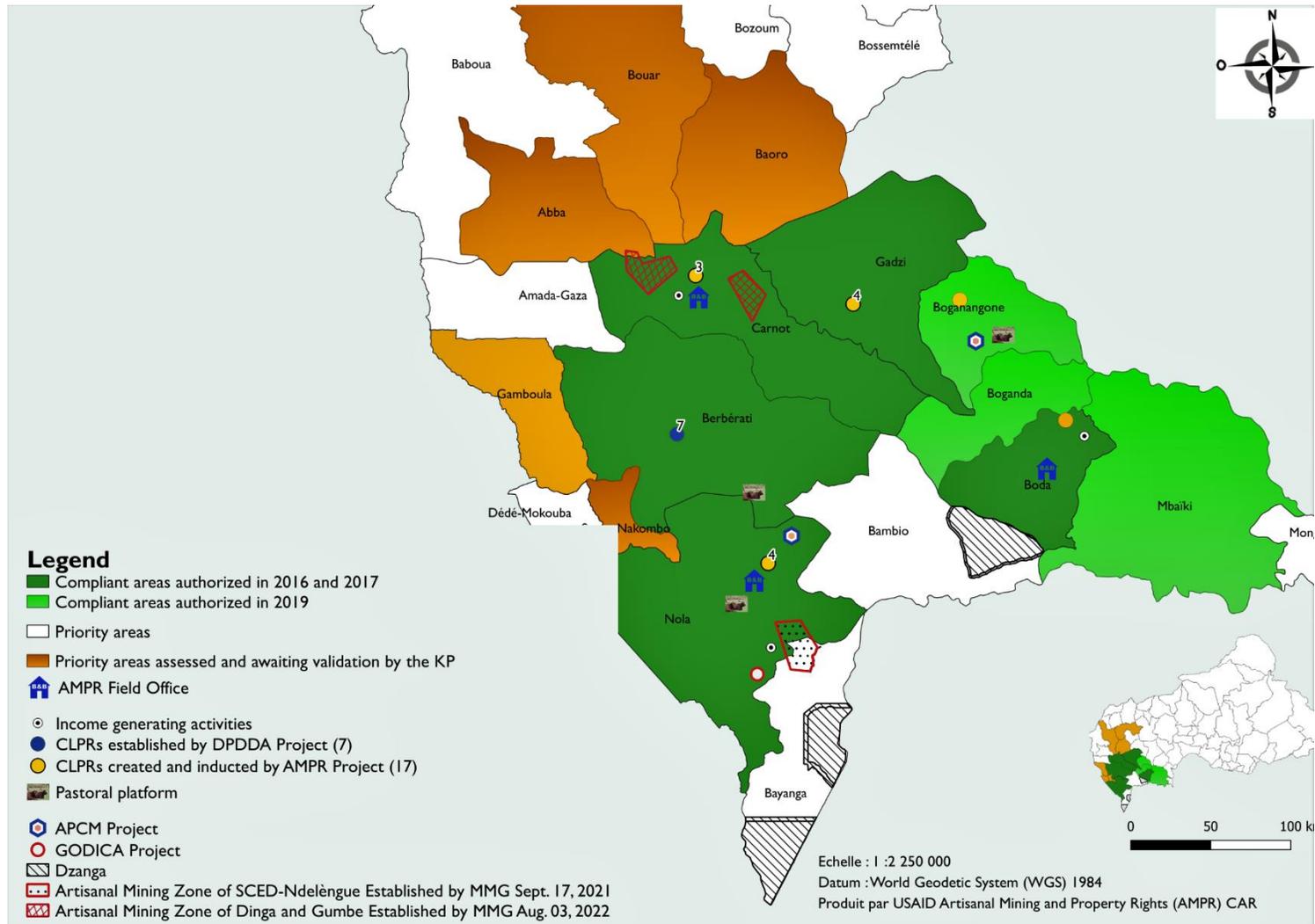
Objective 2 strengthens social cohesion and economic development in diamond mining communities. AMPR is building upon lessons learned from PRADD II and expanding local structures and processes for fostering peace and reconciliation. AMPR supports the expansion of local peace and reconciliation committees (*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), that also have activities in the sector. The project will foster synergies and avoid duplication through local coordination and regular calls between donors.

Figure 1: 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's (DRC) 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 governance 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 April 1 and June 30, 2023.

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 support to the Ministry of Mines and Geology (MMG) Sector Working Group (SWG) on fraud and rough diamond smuggling to include a section on anti-corruption in the new draft national anti-fraud and smuggling strategy, to be implemented by an inter-ministerial CAR National Fraud Task Force.
- AMPR provided technical and logistical support to the MMG Director of Data, Regulation, and Monitoring Department (DDRSC) to review the pilot mechanism to improve MMG data capture and digitize purchase and sale slips.
- The CAR Kimberley Process Permanent Secretariat (KPPS) has documented 59,510 carats of diamonds exported from January to June 2023, equivalent to 51.4 percent of the 115,574 carats exported in 2022, thanks in part to the coordinated support between the MMG and CAR KPPS partners.
- AMPR completed the deliverance of 308 certificates for formalizing customary land rights in the pilot ZEA of *Société Centrafricaine d'Exploitation Diamantifère* (SCED) Ndélégué in the Nola subprefecture and Dinga and Guembé ZEA in the Carnot subprefecture.
- AMPR supported the training on Sustainable Mining by Artisanal Miners (SMARTER) for 151 artisanal miners in the Dinga and Guembé pilot ZEA in the Carnot subprefecture.
- The project completed a study on the functionality of banks of materials and *chantier école miniers* and the formalization of customary property rights in KP-compliant zones of Nola and Boganangone.
- Using the agenda and reporting templates developed by AMPR, the Local Kimberly Process Monitoring Committee (CLS-KP) in the KP compliant zone of Berberati conducted their quarterly meeting using their resources.

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

- AMPR and the Ministry of Humanitarian Action, Solidarity, and National Reconciliation (MHASNR) conducted lessons learned workshops for local CLPR activities supported by AMPR since 2018.

- AMPR provided technical and logistical support to women beneficiaries of AMPR’s SMARTER mining and diamond evaluation training in the KP-compliant zones to expand mining activities and apply the acquired techniques in their respective sites.

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

- The MMG committee working on the gold sector reforms is analyzing the applicability of International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) procedures for the ASM gold traceability in CAR.
- CAR’s gold exports from January to June 2023 totaled 892 kilograms, equivalent to 58.1 percent of the 1,536 kilograms exported in 2022. 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 Côte d’Ivoire Performance Evaluation team completed and submitted a draft report in French to AMPR for review. The international consultant is drafting the English version to be submitted to USAID in the next quarter.
- AMPR participated in a virtual call with the USAID/Washington Biodiversity Unit to discuss AMPR’s implementation of the radical listening tool developed by the firm Health in Harmony (HiH).
- AMPR authored and submitted an article on gender equality using the AMPR case study as part of the World Bank DELVE 2023 State of the ASM Sector report.

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 1–June 30, 2023. 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 of the uptick in smuggling and 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: In this quarter, AMPR participated in a workshop organized by the MMG SWG on fraud and rough diamond smuggling, CAR's High Commission of Good Governance, and the National Agency for Financial Investigation to discuss the risks related to corruption in the mining sector. The workshop highlighted the corruption risks associated with the issuance of various MMG authorizations, including mining permits and annual operating permits for mining actors. The workshop also identified trends of financial misappropriation in which officers charge for MMG services or issue penalties beyond the amount set by the CAR Mining Code and finance laws. At workshop, the team recommended establishing a coordination mechanism between the different CAR anti-corruption institutions to ensure that corruption in the mining sector is well investigated and punished according to the law. Recommendations also included a call to reinforce the legal instruments for managing the CAR natural resources with anti-corruption articles and provisions. The MMG used the feedback from this workshop to include a section on anti-corruption in the new draft national anti-fraud and smuggling strategy to be implemented by an inter-ministerial CAR National Fraud Task Force.

CAR 2023 Diamond Exports: The CAR KPPS documented 59,510 carats of diamonds exported from January to June 2023, equivalent to 51.4 percent of the 115,574 carats exported in 2022. So far, 2023 diamond exports are valued at around USD 8.83 million. CCO and DUNTA are the major exporters in 2023. The MMG increased the Mercurial price by around 120 percent for all categories of exported diamonds from January 13, 2023. The new Mercurial pricing system is being applied for rough diamonds at exportation. AMPR will continue to monitor the impact of this high Mercurial pricing on diamond exports in 2023.

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 the WB supports. 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 this quarter, AMPR’s Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Manager and the MMG DDRSC reviewed the pilot mechanism to improve data capture and digitization of purchase and sale slips. Earlier in the fiscal year, AMPR coordinated with the DDRSC to train the MMG regional officers in Carnot, Berberati, Nola, Gadzi and Boda on techniques and measures to improve monitoring and capture of, and reporting on, purchase and sales data to reduce anomalies. During a technical review workshop in Berberati, the MMG regional officers conveyed that the mechanism had helped them rapidly analyze and detect anomalies, such as collectors who often declare fewer purchases than the quantity of minerals traced through their compiled purchase slip data. Also, the timely data analysis has enabled the regional officers to identify collectors who use their alias to make transactions. AMPR used this review feedback to compile a standard operating procedure (SOP) on enhancing the MMG monitoring mechanism for the production and marketing data as part of the closeout of this activity.



Photo 1: MMG regional officers participating in a review workshop in Berberati. Photo by Benjamin Ndongo.

SOP on MMG Data Monitoring Mechanism: AMPR, in coordination with the MMG DDRSC, developed an SOP for the monitoring mechanism for MMG production and marketing data. The SOP is based on six months of piloting a template AMPR had developed to capture data from sales and purchase slips collected by the MMG and CAR KPPS regional officers in five KP-compliant zones. The SOP is structured around data capture, digitization, and transfer, as well as data processing, validation, and analysis. In general, the piloted template enabled the MMG agents to capture up-to-date diamond marketing data systematically, resulting in better and more timely monitoring of transactions between the actors in the chain. The field data captured using the template enabled the DDRSC to verify the export data of mineral parcels and exporters quickly. AMPR anticipates that the SOP will facilitate, guide, and enhance the mechanism for collecting, capturing, managing, and analyzing MMG diamond production and marketing data.

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 had begun with the hiring of an international consultant to review the Mining Code. The African Development Bank’s Legal Support Facility was planning to review the Code. Meanwhile, the government has created a formal committee to review the code and 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 WB confirmed that the CAR National Assembly returned the draft Mining Code to the Government of the CAR (GoCAR) for redrafting to ensure it meets international standards. The WB *Projet de Gestion des Ressources Naturelles* (PGRN) coordinated with the MMG to recruit international legal mining experts to provide technical support to GoCAR to strengthen the returned draft code for review.

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 certificates of customary land tenure PRADD I delivered to nearly 3,000 miners between 2007 and 2012 and identify potential 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 7 women) and non-recipients, as well as local mining authorities in Boda and Nola. The study recommended that the mining claims certification processes PRADD I initiated 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: AMPR completed the activity and will carry out subsequent steps 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: In this quarter, AMPR, in coordination with MMG regional officers and local administrators, completed the delivery of 308 certificates for formalized customary land rights in the pilot ZEA of SCED Ndéléngué, Nola subprefecture, and Dinga and Guembé ZEA, Carnot subprefecture. AMPR used georeferenced data for active mine sites to issue customary land rights recognition certificates to 157 mine site owners in the pilot ZEA of SCED, 83 mine site owners in Dinga, and 68 in Guembé. The certificate delivery process included public



Photo 2: Pgym Mine site owners in the pilot SCED ZEA who received customary land rights recognition certificates. Photo by Benjamin Ndongo.

validation of georeferenced active mine sites and the corresponding mine site owner by the respective mining community members. As recommended during the radical listening sessions with the mining communities, the village chiefs and artisanal miner delegates signed the customary certificates locally. The mayors of the respective administrative zones issued the signed certificates to the rightful mine site owners in the presence of the mining communities. AMPR anticipates that the delivery of the customary certificates will strengthen individual, household, and community land rights recognition and help clarify the boundary concerns with Dzangha Sangha Protected Areas in the Nola subprefecture.

SMARTER Mining Training: AMPR provided technical and logistical support to MMG to conduct training on SMARTER mining for 176 artisanal miners, of whom 53 are women, in the Dinga and Guembé pilot ZEA in the Carnot subprefecture. The AMPR–MMG team conducted theoretical training on effective techniques for prospecting, mining, and rehabilitating exploited sites using Rehabilitation Generating Post-Mining Income interventions. The team also conducted practical training with the artisanal miners on the same techniques. The training received very positive feedback, resulting in increased MMG interest in determining how its technical staff, in partnership with AMPR, can support artisanal mining formalization in southwestern CAR.



Photo 3: Artisanal miners in the pilot ZEA of Dinga undertaking theoretical training on SMARTER Mining. Photo by Bienvenu Houltoupou

Functionality of Banks of Materials (BMs): AMPR's local consultant completed the evaluation of the functionality of BMs and *chantier école miniers* established in the subprefectures of Nola and Boganangone by the former WB Support for the Professionalization of Mining Cooperatives (APCM) project. The evaluation showed that the BMs are functioning and have generated revenue from renting the equipment to artisanal miners working on gold and diamond production. Since their operationalization in September 2022, the BM of Boganangone has generated CFA 1,247,000, the BM of pilot ZEA of SCED Ndéléngué has generated CFA 532,100, and that of Loppo has generated XFA 200,500 from equipment rental. The evaluation established that only the women's association of artisanal miners in Bilolo and artisanal miners in the pilot ZEA of SCED Ndéléngué in Nola subprefecture have applied good mining practices following the SMARTER training in the *chantier école miniers* by APCM. In Boganangone, the artisanal miners have not applied the SMARTER mining techniques because they argue that it is not adapted to the bed mining approach used in the region. The consultant is finalizing the evaluation report, including detailed findings and recommendations, which AMPR will share with USAID in the next quarter.

Technical Note (TN) on the Pilot ZEAs: AMPR has compiled a TN on customary land rights formalizing processes for mining plots in the pilot ZEAs. The TN reflects lessons learned from the implementation strategy for the pilot ZEAs in SCED Ndéléngué in the Nola subprefecture and in Dinga and Guembé in the Carnot subprefecture. The TN discusses the ZEAs' different implementation phases, their relevance, the implementation approaches applied, successes and challenges, and conditions to successfully replicate and scale up the ZEA strategy to formalize customary land rights on other mining plots and pilot ZEAs in CAR. AMPR anticipates that the developed TN will serve as a blueprint for MMG and interested partners to extend the formalization of land and resource rights in ASM diamond mining communities by piloting a land management and community development framework around the concept of the ZEA.

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

Description: This activity follows 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 that Sebastian Pennes prepared. AMPR identified a strategy as outlined in the ZEA strategy document and additional community consultations in SCED Ndéléngué. However, the exact details will be further refined in the organizational texts and the community decisions in each pilot ZEA.

Results: No activity was planned for this past quarter.

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 (KAPs) among miners to assess the effectiveness of awareness-raising activities and 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 the project to score each respondent 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 and final KAP survey in the KP-compliant zones and submitted the survey report to USAID. No additional KAP survey is planned in Y5.

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 1, 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: No activity was planned for this past quarter.

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 and respond to other technical assistance needs expressed by the KPPS and MMG.

Results: Using the agenda and reporting templates AMPR had developed, the CLS-KP in the KP-compliant zone of Berberati conducted their quarterly meeting. The committee supported the meeting logistics and compiled its report without AMPR's technical and logistical support. The report focuses on the presence of state authorities and armed groups and their impact on mining activities and free circulation of people and goods, production, and fraud in the Berberati KP zone between January and April 2023. The CLS report highlighted the increase in production and commercialization of rough diamonds, with over 10,000 carats evacuated from Berberati for exportation during the reporting period. The report also indicated that 485 active mine workers, 155 artisanal miners had renewed their annual permits. Finally, the report mentions that 16 mining cooperatives, 49 collectors, and 6 *bureaus d'achat* are operating in the Berberati KP zones. The CLS shared the report with CAR KPPS to pass along to ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions, and other partners in CAR. AMPR welcomes the CLS's use of resources to continue holding quarterly meetings with the AMPR-developed agenda and reporting templates. This initiative demonstrates the potential for sustainability of the CLS quarterly meetings without the logistical support of partners.



Photo 4: Members of CLS KP of Berberati who participated in the quarterly meeting. Photo by CLS KP Berberati.

Restitution Workshop: AMPR organized a technical restitution workshop with CAR KPPS, MMG directors, and heads of department to discuss project closeout and transfer of Component I activities. At the meeting, participants proposed that implementation of the national strategy on fraud and rough diamond smuggling (supported by AMPR and other partners) be handed over to an inter-ministerial National Task Force. Attendees recommended that the Minister of Mines and Geology convene a meeting for the MMG SWG on fraud and rough diamond smuggling that includes official handover from AMPR next quarter. The CAR KPPS indicated ongoing discussions with WB PGRN to secure funding for an additional two years. However, the PGRN support will not cover due diligence activities for the KP OF in the field that AMPR currently implements. To sustain and expand AMPR's activities for formalizing land and resource rights in artisanal diamond mining communities, meeting participants proposed reviewing the SMARTER training module based on ZEA lessons learned. The review will enable the MMG technical staff to adapt the module to the CAR mining context.

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: No activity was planned for this past 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: No activity was planned for this past 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 Strengthening the Governance of CAR's Artisanal Diamond and Gold Mining Sectors (GODICA) and WB teams to avoid duplication and complement each other's' efforts. AMPR Chief of Party (COP) Maxie Muwonge frequently meets with other project heads in Bangui to discuss advancements. The projects have also shared costs on various activities, such as support to the *Bureau d'Évaluation et de Contrôle de Diamant et d'Or* (BECDOR). AMPR will continue to be collaborative, proactive, and flexible in this activity.

Results: No activity was planned for this past 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 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. 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: AMPR’s Senior Technical Advisor on Social Cohesion and MEL Manager participated in a joint mission with the MHASNR to conduct lessons learned workshops for CLPR activities AMPR supported from 2018 to the present. With the eight selected CLPRs in Berberati, Boda, Carnot, and Noa, the team analyzed changes in the areas of the return of peace, social cohesion, and living together in the compliant mining areas of southwest CAR. Through a master class with CLPR, the team documented broader community support for CLPR initiatives on resilience and community dialogue to prevent violent conflicts and networking dynamics between CLPRs and other local institutions. For instance, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees supported the construction of a *maison de paix* for the CLPR of Carnot and Berberati, supporting the return and reintegration of refugees from Cameroon. The mayor of Nandobo in Berberati subprefecture provided a house/office space for the CLPRs involved in resolving conflicts over land and property in his region. In Balégo, a collector provided land and a house for the CLPR’s use. The team noted that some CLPRs have succeeded in obtaining the support of international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to carry out income-generating activities (AGRs). This has motivated other CLPRs to demand support for AGRs from the project and MHASNR. The CLPRs argue that revenue from AGRs will enable them to sustain and facilitate their involvement in community peace activities. The MHASNR intends to use the findings to engage partners seeking information and experience supporting the roles and missions of CLPRs in CAR.



Photo 5: AMPR’s Senior Technical Advisor on Social Cohesion facilitating a master class with the CLPR of Carnot in Carnot Subprefecture. Photo by Abdel Adoum.

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: No activity was planned for this past 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 Technical Advisor, 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: No activity was planned for this past quarter.

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 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.

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 1 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: The Bossoui Women's Association, a beneficiary of AMPR livelihoods support in Boda, has expanded and sustained the village savings and loan association (VSLA). Following AMPR's theoretical training and practical techniques on VSLAs in October 2022, the group saved XAF 2,345,600, of which the group has saved XAF 325,300 in cash as a solidarity fund, with the rest for use as credit by the 30 members (of which six are men). However, the group's soapmaking livelihood activities have been paralyzed by a doubling in raw material prices due to increased transport costs. The price of a bag of soda has risen from XAF 22,000 to XAF 45,000, and a 25-liter jerrycan of palm oil from XAF 11,000 to XAF 22,000. AMPR is monitoring and documenting the impact of the



increase in fuel prices in CAR on the livelihood activities of the groups. In the meantime, AMPR assisted the group to transport the raw materials during the field mission from Bangui to subsidize the operational costs of the various soapmaking livelihoods groups. AMPR's Community Mobilizer in Boda monitors the beneficiaries' activities and provides additional technical support on how to expand their soapmaking activity.

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: This quarter, a woman beneficiary of AMPR's SMARTER mining training in the Boda KP-compliant zone expanded mining activities in her site, applying the mining techniques she had learned. Using the SMARTER mining kit AMPR had provided, the woman trained artisanal miners working in her site on how to wash gravel using a sieve to improve the recovery of minerals. This transfer of improved mining practices is intended to enhance production and revenue in furtherance of broad-based social and economic inclusion of both women and men artisanal miners.



Photo 7: A woman beneficiary of AMPR SMARTER mining training in Boda washes gravel using a sieve. Photo by Junior Kogoro.

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. Component 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: No activity was planned for this past 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 for this past 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 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 Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (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 the *Agence Belge de Développement* 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 met with the MMG committee working on the gold sector reforms to discuss their progress in drafting CAR's National Gold Strategy. The committee indicated that they were analyzing the applicability of the ICGLR procedures for the ASM gold traceability in CAR's context. The committee is also working on strategies to enhance the capacity of the MMG in the evaluation, pricing, and purity systems to enhance the legal revenue from the sale of unprecedentedly high gold exports.

The committee confirmed it is considering some of AMPR's CAR gold marketing and export system study recommendations in the draft National Gold Strategy.

CAR 2023 Gold Exports: BECDOR has documented export figures for January to June 2023 of 892 kilograms, equivalent to 58.1 percent of the 1,536 kilograms exported in 2022. So far, the exported gold in 2023 is valued at around USD 35.5 million. The drop in the monthly gold exports from 232 kilograms in March to 118 kilograms in June, is due to a pause in by many Chinese mining enterprises following the killing of nine Chinese nationals by armed groups in the Chimbolo gold mining site in Bambari operated by the Chinese enterprise, Gold Cost Group. Foundries SWISS GOLD, SIGMA Gold, SAWA-SAWA, and KOTTO MINES are the four major exporters in 2023 so far.

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: No activity was planned for this past 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 a draft 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 completed working on the English version of the report for submission to USAID 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: No activity was planned for this past 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 No activity was planned for this past quarter.

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

Description: Like 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 Project Manager (PM) Bocar Thiam and COP Muwonge participated in a virtual call with USAID/Washington staff to discuss AMPR's implementation of the radical listening tools developed by the firm HiH. AMPR shared its experience in applying the tools to facilitate dialogue with Mona-Sao communities in the Bayanga subprefecture to reach consensus on activity implementation and buffer zone boundaries for the pilot SCED Ndéléngué ZEA in the Nola subprefecture. AMPR presented the strengths and weaknesses of radical listening as a concept and methodology based on feedback discussions in the mining communities SCED Ndéléngué. The team highlighted that the radical listening techniques of witnessing and listening to a group as participants enter authentic conversations with one another were useful for generating honest discussions about the formalization of customary land and mining rights. However, feedback revealed a need for technical guidance to enable the community groups to examine their problems and eventually reach an agreement with priority-based, practical solutions. The participants indicated it is necessary to set realistic boundaries and help community groups determine the desired long-term outcomes to improve the applicability of the methodology. Also, listening must be supported by negotiations so that the communities can suggest workable solutions. USAID proposed to organize a follow-up virtual call with broader participation.

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: AMPR COP Muwonge, PM Thiam, and former PM Mark Freudenberger jointly authored and submitted an article on gender equality using the AMPR case study as part of the DELVE 2023 State of the ASM sector report. The AMPR article highlights the role of women in the artisanal diamond economy of CAR, with a key focus on the success of AMPR's innovative initiatives to increase the status of women in artisanal diamond mining. The article further describes strategies and practices AMPR undertook to promote environmentally sensitive SMARTER exploration, mining, and site rehabilitation, coupled with diamond valuation techniques (e.g., the 4 Cs [cut, carat, color, and clarity]). These strategies are rapidly expanding the status of women in the artisanal diamond economy of southwestern CAR. AMPR anticipates that the strategies used by the project and key lessons showcased in the article may be of interest to others globally.

4.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

4.1 INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

No activity was planned for this past 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 received updates on the EU GODICA and WB PGRN projects during the calls. During this quarter, the key discussion themes were AMPR's closeout plan, including closeout workshops in the field and Bangui to ensure a smooth handover to the MMG and MHASNR for continuity. USAID agreed to provide timely approval for the disposition of project assets to agreed beneficiaries. The meeting also discussed the different perspectives for future MMG projects supported by partners. AMPR highlighted the implication of the new fuel crisis in CAR on the implementation of planned project activities. USAID expressed its satisfaction with the success of the project in supporting the CAR KPPS and MMG institutional and regulatory reforms.

CAR Mining Technical Coordination Meeting: AMPR convened three virtual CAR mining technical coordination meetings in April, May, and June 2023. Other participants included the WB and PGRN staff. The team discussed highlights of the WB presentation of key technical aspects of the draft CAR Mining Code to the Deputies at the National Assembly in April 2023. The WB confirmed that at the end of May 2023, the CAR National Assembly Commission returned the draft CAR Mining Code to the MMG for redrafting to ensure it meets international standards. WB PGRN coordinated with the MMG to recruit international legal mining experts to provide technical support to GoCAR to strengthen the returned draft code. The WB also designated one of its mining legal experts to work closely with the MMG to ensure that specific technical details are captured and integrated. The WB confirmed a two-year extension of the PGRN project with additional funding of around USD 5 million to support the KP and institutional reforms around the Mining Cadaster. AMPR COP Muwonge also provided updates on the project closeout activities, including technical workshops with MMG and partners to hand over/transfer technical activities following the project's end of field operations in June 2023. The WB is very concerned about the stoppage of the United States Government's (USG) support to the MMG and hoped that the USG would continue to support the governance component of the mining sector until the context of other components improves.

US Embassy Briefing with AMPR: In June 2023, AMPR COP Muwonge met with the Political and Economic Officer of the US Embassy in CAR. They discussed key updates on AMPR support to the MMG, especially on the compliance with the KP OF and the implication of the new Mercurial pricing system for rough diamonds at exportation. The group also discussed the significance of the historically unprecedented monthly gold exports that averaged more than 100 kilograms in 2023. Additional topics included exploration of the USG's potential role in supporting WB efforts to work with the MMG committee to incorporate best international best practices into the draft Mining Code. The AMPR COP provided updates on the project closeout activities and expressed readiness to continue to offer technical support in the form of talking points and other appropriate materials on the mining sector for the meetings of the US officials with GoCAR representatives.

CAR Working Group Meeting: In June 2023 AMPR's COP and PM participated in a virtual call organized by Invisible Children. Other participants included representatives of international NGOs engaged in humanitarian and development interventions in CAR. Participants discussed the constitutional

referendum to address political reforms scheduled for July 30 and potential ripple effects, including the likelihood of sabotage by armed groups opposed to the referendum. The attendees also discussed the implications of the new USG sanctions on companies, including those in CAR accused of engaging in illicit gold dealings to fund the Wagner mercenary group. AMPR reported out the project's plan to phase out activities in CAR by September 26. Meeting participants proposed joint advocacy for increased funding for human rights and peacebuilding activities in the USG FY24 appropriations for CAR.

4.3 OFFICES

Closure of AMPR's Nola and Boda Field Office: AMPR organized a closing ceremony for its Nola field office. The participants included local administrative authorities; MMG regional officers; representatives from KPPS, Mining Police, CLS-KP, CLPRs, and women's associations; and beneficiaries of AMPR livelihoods and innovation fund support. The leaders in both Nola and Boda subprefectures expressed appreciation for AMPR's contribution to mining communities but are disheartened that the project is ending. AMPR handed over the field office furniture to the beneficiaries of Nola and Boda. The AMPR Nola and Boda staff relocated to Bangui to complete the separation process on June 30, 2023, per the project closeout plan.



Photo 8: Participants at the the AMPR's field office closing ceremony in Nola Prefecture. Photo by: Arnold Minang.

GoCAR Strategy to Fix Fuel Crisis: To deal with the worsening fuel crisis, CAR's Minister of Energy issued a memo on May 17, 2023, allowing for fuel trading outside of gas stations if certain conditions are met. These conditions included a secured fuel storage facility, a declaration of the fuel quantities stocked, and proof of tax payments. This measure is intended to enable a regulated sale of fuel by off market traders. On June 20, 2023, CAR's president announced that the GoCAR had signed an agreement with Octogone Trading International, a key gasoline and fuel oil trader in the West African region. Through this agreement, Octogone will start supplying fuel to the CAR market to address the ongoing fuel crisis. During this quarter, AMPR explored means of buying and stocking about 1,000 liters of diesel, which was relatively available from the fuel stations. As a mitigation measure, AMPR reduced the use of gas vehicles for project activities and resorted entirely to diesel vehicles.



Photo 9: Long queues of motorists at a fuel station in Bangui. Photo by: Maxie Muwonge.

4.4 STAFFING

Staff Separation: On June 30, 2023, AMPR separated with four employees as part of a project phase-out approach for closeout. The team collaborated with the project's lawyer and National Labor Inspector to discuss the conditions of the termination in accordance with the CAR laws. According to the CAR labor law, the National Labor Inspector must approve any collective layoff before dismissal. The National Labor Inspector provided written approval for the collective layoff of staff on June 30 and then on September 26 (the project's end date).

New AMPR Deputy Project Manager (DPM): Maggie Thompson started her functions as a permanent AMPR DPM. AMPR is grateful for Ariana Frascatore’s tremendous efforts on the project as Interim AMPR DPM before the confirmation of Ms. Thompson.

4.5 SECURITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Flooding and Road Conditions: Heavy rains during the reporting period have led to flooding in some parts of Bangui and the country’s interior. Several homesteads in Bangui were flooded and destroyed following torrential rains in the last two weeks of June. AMPR field teams use 4X4 vehicles and TX motorbikes to try and maneuver on these roads, but average travel times for missions from Bangui to the interior have increased due to poor road conditions.

Security Incident: On the night of June 5, suspected armed elements of the Coalitions of Patriots for Change (CPC) attacked a base of the *Forces Armées Centrafricaines* (FACA) and the allied forces in the Baoro subprefecture in Western CAR. This led to an unspecified number of casualties. The attack on Baoro, 400 kilometers from Bangui, temporarily disrupted transport along the main Bangui-Cameroon export route. FACA and its allies repulsed the CPC elements, enabling the return of regular traffic between Bangui and Cameroon. AMPR used an alternative route via Boda to the regions of Nola and Berberati until FACA restored security along the Bangui-Baoro Road.

CAR Constitutional Referendum: CAR’s president announced during this reporting period that the country would hold a constitutional referendum to decide key political reforms, including presidential term limits. The president called upon the citizens to participate in the vote scheduled for July 30 to determine the future of their country. The opposition has criticized the call for a referendum as an attempt to increase presidential term limits that would allow the incumbent to run for re-election after completing the two terms mandated in the current constitution. AMPR will continue monitoring the risks and tensions around the referendum process to take appropriate safety actions.



Photo 10: AMPR team blocked by trucks that are stuck along the Boda-Mbaiki road following heavy rains. Photo by: Arnold Minang.

5.0 PROJECT-SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Comments on Key Indicators:

- *Indicator 4:* In September 2022, the AMPR project provided 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 makes it possible to identify the number of actors who make transactions with the diamond purchase and sale slips. AMPR will continue to engage the Director of DDRSC to coordinate with the MMG regional offices to use the mechanism to generate the target indicator data.

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 that is legally exported from CAR	8% ¹	15%	12%	25%	11%	40%	56%	50%	76%	60%	62%	60%	Data updated from the MMG data exportation of January–June 2023 (38347.97 carats)
2	Percentage of major diamond-mining sub-prefectures in the Western part of the country authorized by the	31% ²	50%	50%	50%	50%	75%	50% ³	100%	50%	100%	50%	100%	GoCAR continues to engage the KP to validate four additional zones in the west of CAR.

¹ 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.

² 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 percent.

³ 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.

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
	KP to export rough diamonds													
3	Number of licensed (registered) artisanal miners	1,000 ⁴	1,500	1,458	2,000	1,006 ⁵	2,000	689 ⁶	2,500	1948	3,000	876	3,000	Update of 172 artisanal miners who paid their license between April and June 2023.
4	Number of diamond buyers (collectors and buying houses) making purchases with official purchase slips	200 ⁷	200	206	225	135 ⁸	250	217	275	135	300	261	300	252 collector agents and nine ⁹ buying houses in 2022.
5	Percentage of artisanal miners in project intervention zones with basic knowledge of KP and Mining Code	35%	N/A	35%	N/A	N/A	50%	N/A	N/A	49%	75%	N/A	75%	No KAP survey this year.
	Men	33%		33%										
	Women	2%		2%										

⁴ This figure is an estimate based on available government data for the number of miners registered in 2018. Because this data is not fully centralized in Bangui, but remains in the provinces, 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.

⁵ 484 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.

⁶ The post-electoral conflict involving the CPC armed group slowed mining activities for about four months (December 2020–April 2021).

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ These nine buying houses are: CCO, BADICA, DUNTA, SOCADIAM, CLASSE DIAMANT, DIAMVILLE, SUD AZUR, VOGUEROC, and 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
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 subprefecture of Carnot
	<i>Number of total related to women's equal rights</i>													
	<i>Stage 1: Analyzed</i>													
	<i>Stage 2: Drafted and presented for public/stakeholder consultation</i>													
	<i>Stage 3: Reanalyzed/drafted based on the results of public/stakeholder consultation</i>							1						Draft CAR Mining Code
	<i>Stage 4: Presented for legislation/decree</i>													
	<i>Stage 5: Passed/approved</i>													

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>							I		I				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 ¹⁰	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1920	N/A	N/A	1272	2,040	1272	2,040	No KAP survey in this final 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 ¹¹	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	0	0	0	2	1 ¹²	3	17 ¹³	10	0	15	17	15	No conflict management training is scheduled this year.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

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

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
	consensus-building techniques with USG assistance (Standard F Indicator DR.3.1-2)													
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	0	10	2	15	4 ¹⁴	15	10	10	3	50	Technical capacity building of the seven CLPRs and associative groups on using the toolbox for social dialogue and discussions on the issues and challenges of CLPR activities.
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	0	2	2	3	2	5	2	5	4	5	0	20	Conflicts between farmers and breeders

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

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
	(multi-party, civil/security sector, and/or civil/political) held with USG assistance (Standard F Indicator DR.3.1-3)													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	7	50	Additional data could be collected during the last quarter.
	<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	0	0	0	250	52	250	267	250	81	250	0	1,000	They are the beneficiaries of the innovation funds.

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
	F Indicator (EG.3.2-1)													
	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 the second year.
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

Expanding Women's Participation in the Artisanal Diamond Mining Sector



AMPR's woman beneficiary Moussa Rabbi evaluating a rough diamond. Photo by Junior Kogoro.

Moussa Rabbi is a beneficiary of the USAID Artisanal Mining and Property Rights (AMPR) Project advanced training on environmentally sensitive Sustainable Mining by Artisanal Miners (SMARTER) exploration, mining, and site rehabilitation coupled with diamond valuation techniques. She has successfully expanded her artisanal diamond mining entrepreneurship in the Boda Kimberly Process-compliant zone. Ms. Rabbi, who owns a mine site in Boda town, applies the acquired mining techniques to improve the production of diamonds from her site. Since the beginning of 2023, the beneficiary has produced and sold over 11 carats of rough diamonds.

Using her acquired advanced diamond evaluation skills, Ms. Rabbi evaluated the diamond using the kit AMPR had provided. She successfully sold them to a collector in Bangui at the estimated value of XAF

3,245,000 (approximately USD 5,600). From this revenue, she spent about XAF 500,000 (USD 820) to pay the artisanal miners that work on her site.

Ms. Rabbi also spent about XAF 100,000 (approximately USD 100) on fuel for the motor pump used at the site. She used the SMARTER mining kit to train artisanal miners working on her site on using a sieve to wash gravel using to improve the recovery of minerals. This transfer of improved mining practices has enhanced production and revenue through furthered broad-based social and economic inclusion of both women and men artisanal miners.

Ms. Moussa Rabbi is among the 10 artisanal miner beneficiaries of the AMPR women's innovation fund. The women participated in advanced training on diamond evaluation in January 2023, conducted by AMPR and Ministry of Mines and Geology's Bureau of Evaluation and Regulation of Diamonds and Gold (BECDOR). The advanced practical training focused on how to use hand-held loupes to classify and evaluate rough diamonds using the criteria of the 4-Cs (cut, carat, color, and clarity). The training enhanced the capacity of the artisanal miners to sort, classify, and evaluate diamonds to bargain for a better price. The women beneficiaries of this advanced training who received BECDOR recognition certificates will assist other women in their regions to evaluate their diamonds before selling. By knowing the quality of rough diamonds in advance of sales, women are better prepared to bargain for a good price.

Ms. Rabbi's story demonstrates the success of the process AMPR set up to trace diamonds produced by the project's women beneficiaries from production to commercialization.

ANNEX 2: LIST OF MEDIA

No media coverage for this past quarter.

ANNEX 3: PROJECT STAFF

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ANNEX 4: GENERATED DATA

No new data generated during this reporting period.

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