



## Annex 5

# Illicit diamond flows from the Central African Republic: an overview of the literature and sources available to regional law enforcement

- Didier Verbruggen –  
IPIS Researcher


*High-level workshop on the fight against fraud and smuggling of rough diamonds in Central Africa*

*Yaoundé, Cameroon, 20-22 December  
2021*


# IPIS publications on CAR



← → ↻ ipisresearch.be/country/central-african-republic/

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## Country: Central African Republic



### Promoting peaceful and seasonal migration in Northern Central African Republic

February 9, 2021

"You can negotiate with an armed group, not with the drought" The border regions of the Central African Republic (CAR) are home to one of the largest seasonal livestock migrations in the world. Decades of unrest and crisis, however, have brutally disrupted most aspects of the lives of the people involved, governance mechanisms, as well as relations to local authorities.



### The Impact of Covid-19 on artisanal mining in Northern Central African Republic

January 21, 2021

To assess the socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the artisanal mining sector in Western Central African Republic (CAR), IPIS conducted a series of interviews with mining communities and local authorities.

Maps and reports on CAR on the IPIS CAR web pages:  
<https://ipisresearch.be/country/central-african-republic/>

# IPIS research in CAR



## CARTOGRAPHIE DES SITES MINIERES ARTISANAUX DANS L'OUEST DE LA CENTRAFRIQUE

Produit en partenariat avec le projet **Droits de  
Propriété et Artisanat Minier** (USAID DPAM)



Auteurs: Alexandre Jaillon (IPIS) et Guillaume de Brier (IPIS)  
Novembre 2019

This publication was produced for review by the  
United States Agency for International Development.  
It was prepared by the International Peace Information Services (IPIS).



# Purpose of the presentation



The purpose of this presentation is twofold:

- 1/ Overview of the CAR's diamond sector in general, and of the issue of diamond smuggling from CAR in particular. Introduction to this workshop;
- 2/ Overview of sources of information, which you can later consult as appropriate to your task in taking action to curb the illicit diamond flow from CAR.

# Structure of the presentation



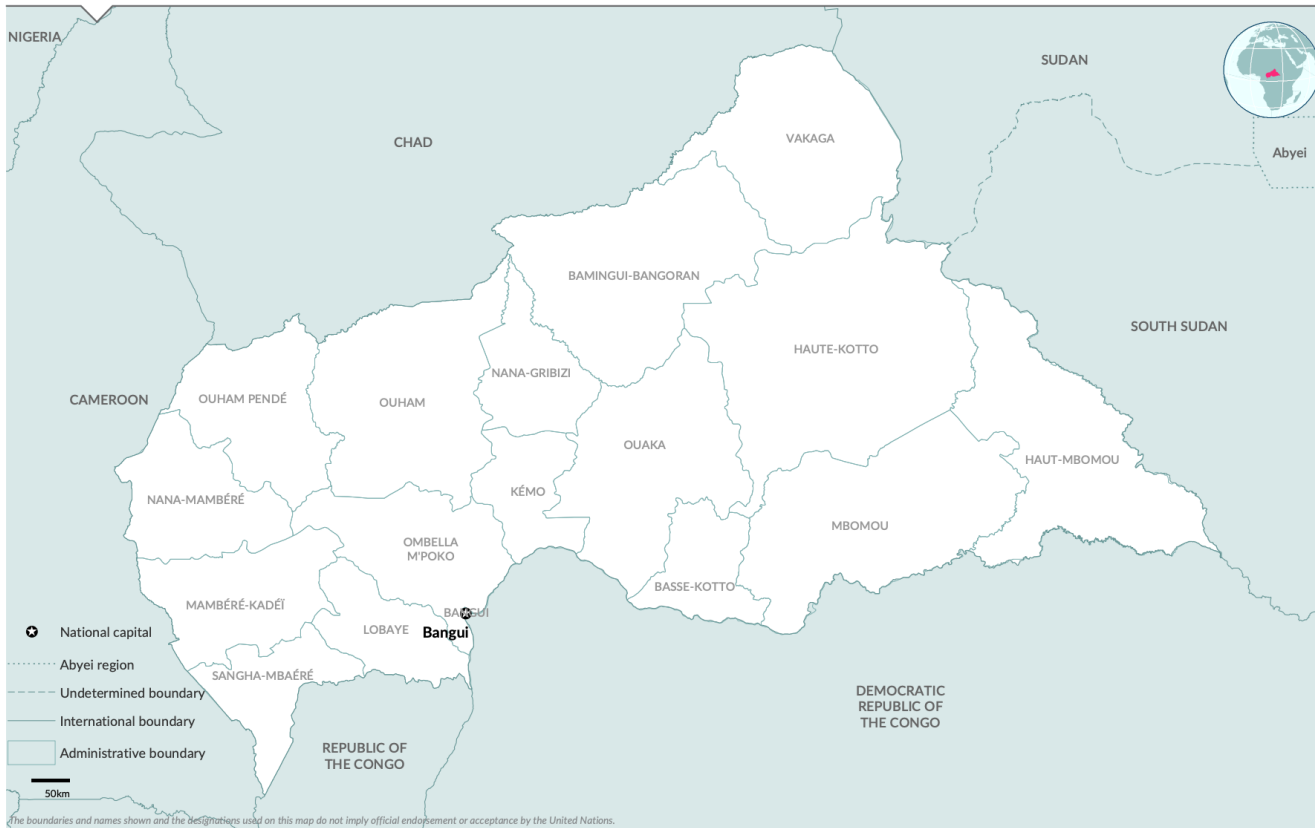
1. Basic data on CAR's geography, demography and diamond related geology.
2. Basics of the country's diamond production.
3. Estimation of quantity and value of smuggled diamonds from CAR.
4. Typology of CAR diamond smugglers: Who smuggles the diamonds from CAR?
5. Categories of open sources with background information and leads for further investigation.
6. Map with domestic (CAR) and regional smuggling routes, as compiled from the open sources mentioned.
7. Concluding remarks and key recommendation on intelligence gathering and sharing.

The slides do continue after the conclusion with a list of publications.

# Administrative map of CAR and demographic data



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
**Administrative map**  
as of 17 Nov 2020



- 16 provinces, 10 produce diamonds
- Surface area of 623,000km<sup>2</sup>; population of 4.7 million
- Labor force of 1.9 million
- 66 % of the population lives on < 1.90 USD per day
- 93 % on < 5.50 USD per day

# CAR's western and eastern diamond deposits

Western and eastern diamonds have distinct characteristics: footprints

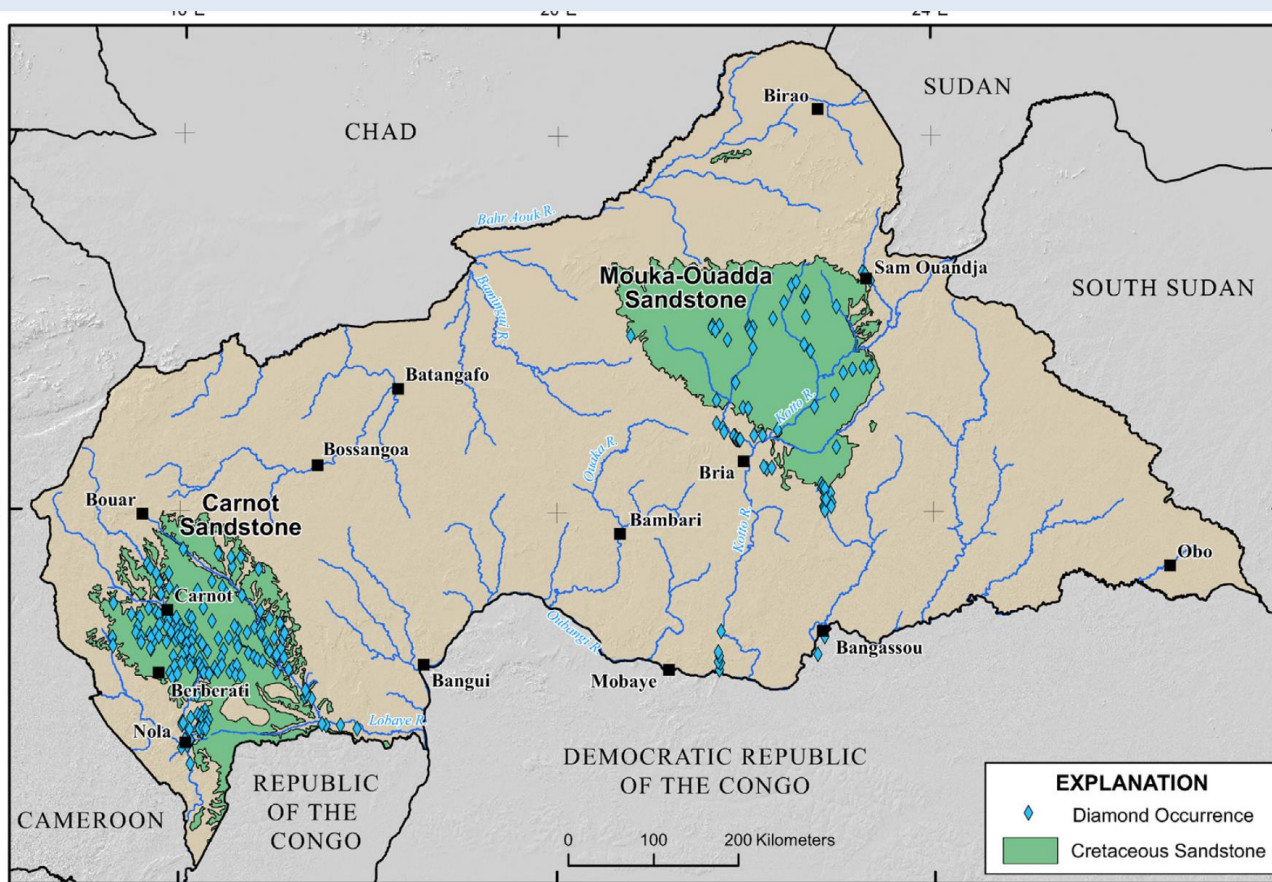
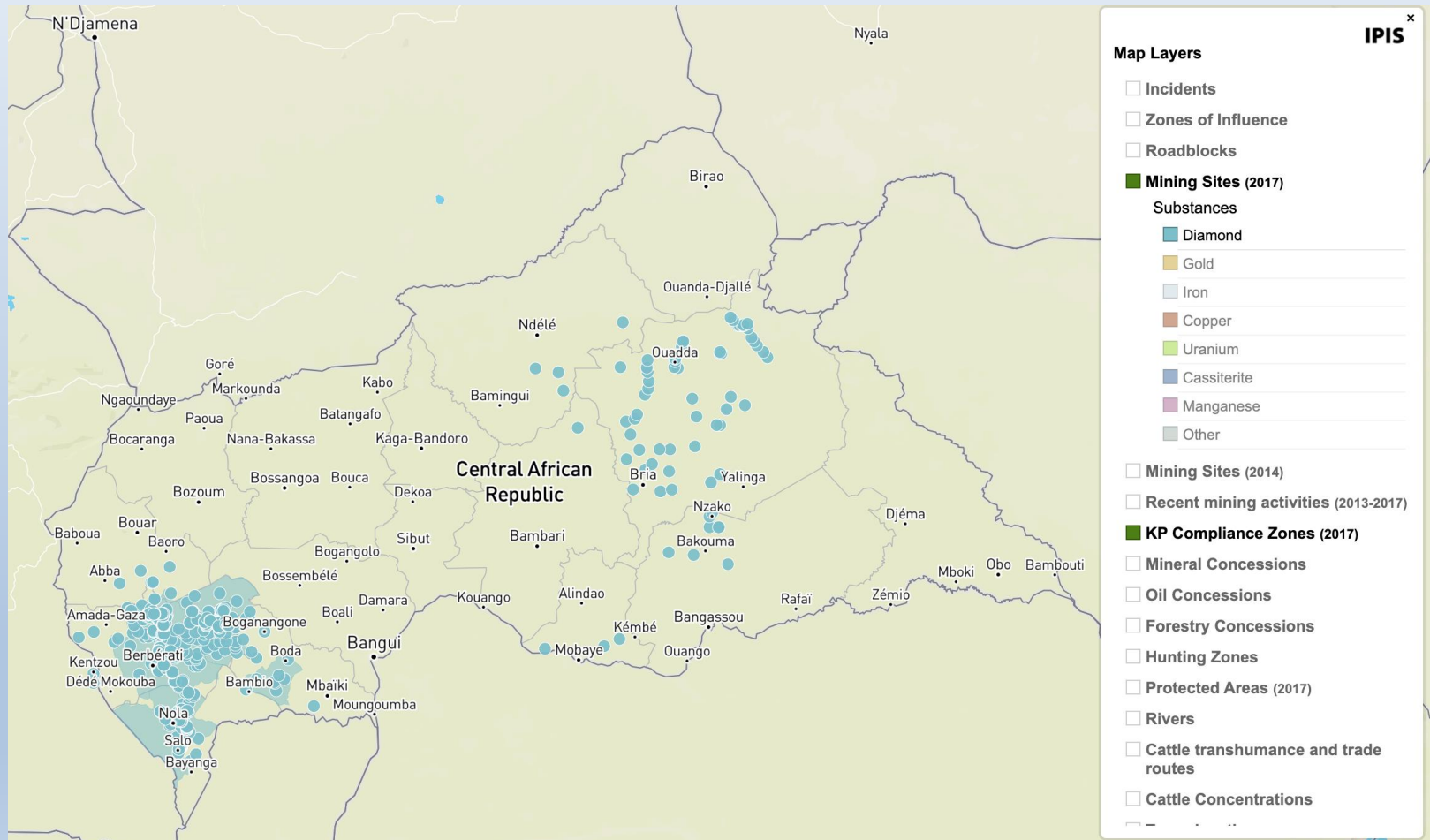


Fig. 1. The location of CAR's diamond deposits and the Carnot and Mouka-Ouadda Sandstone formations.

# Spatial distribution of diamond mining sites and KP compliant zones (2017)





# Data on diamond production in CAR



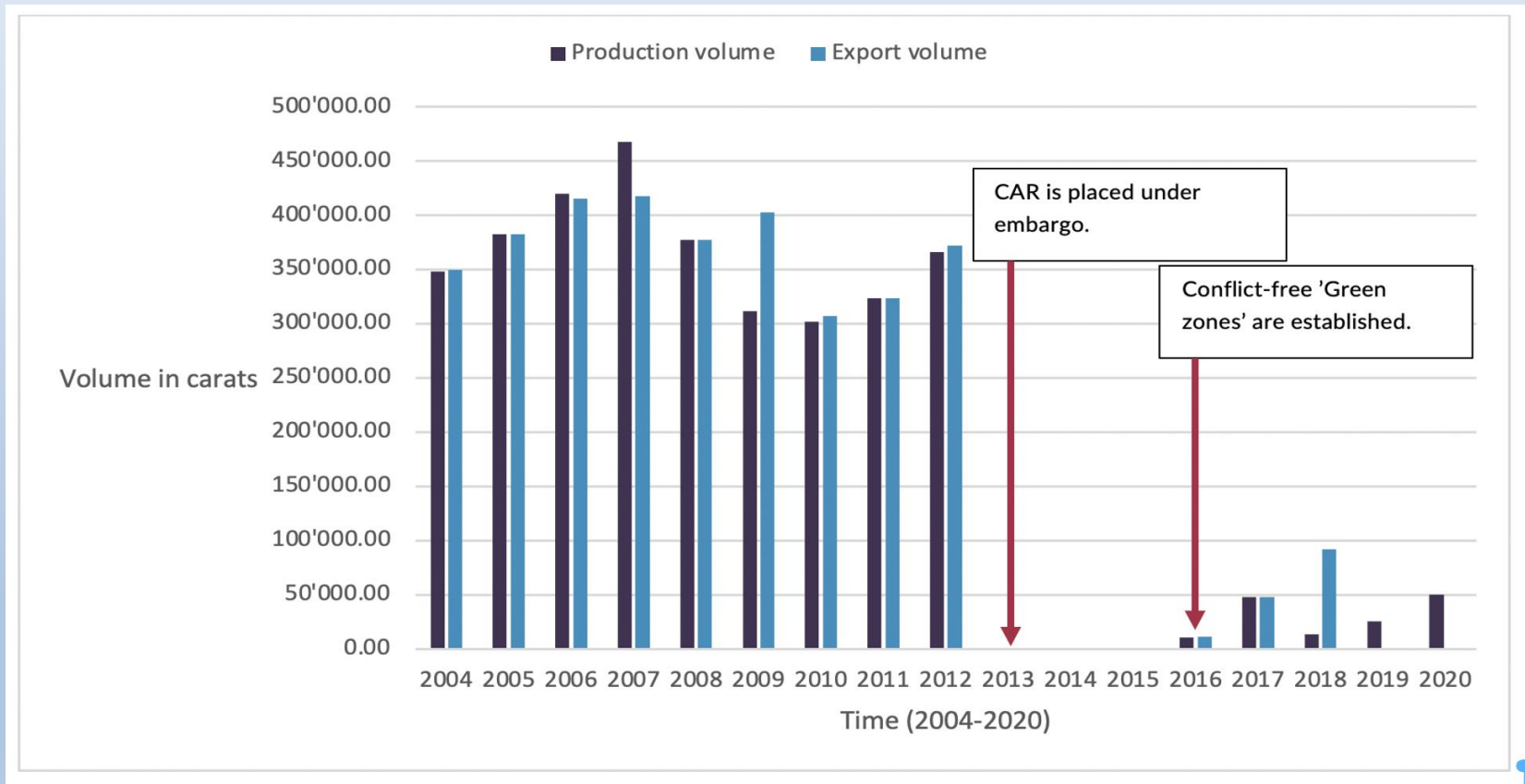
- Workers and dependents: direct employment to 150 to 300,000 workers (diamonds + Au); 10 % of population depends on ASM.
- Diamond production sites (French: chantiers): estimated by USGS (2018) at 25,432 as opposed to 5,450 gold production chantiers and 4,152 mixed production chantiers. These 'chantiers', are located in an estimated number of 187 'foyers miniers', i.e. units of production around villages or small towns.
- Collectors: before the 2013 crisis, about 200 to 250 licensed 'collecteurs' would prefinance operations, buy the minerals and transport them to a handful of buying houses in Bangui.
- KP paradox: globally production is dominated (70 %) by a handful of industrial players active in a handful of countries; countries with ASM, which accounts for only 15 % of global production, need multiple resources to implement KP controls on their territory, while they usually dispose of much lower national budgets.

# Estimating quantity and value of smuggled CAR diamonds: introduction



- Carats produced - carats stocked - carats KP exported = carats smuggled
- Fast cash turnover requirements, so ignore stock variable.
- Carats and their value exported under the KP system are reported to the KP Working Group on Statistics. Annual summaries published by KP: [https://kimberleyprocessstatistics.org/public\\_statistics](https://kimberleyprocessstatistics.org/public_statistics)

# Graph production + exports reported by CAR to the KP, in carats, 2004-2020



# Analysis production + export figures

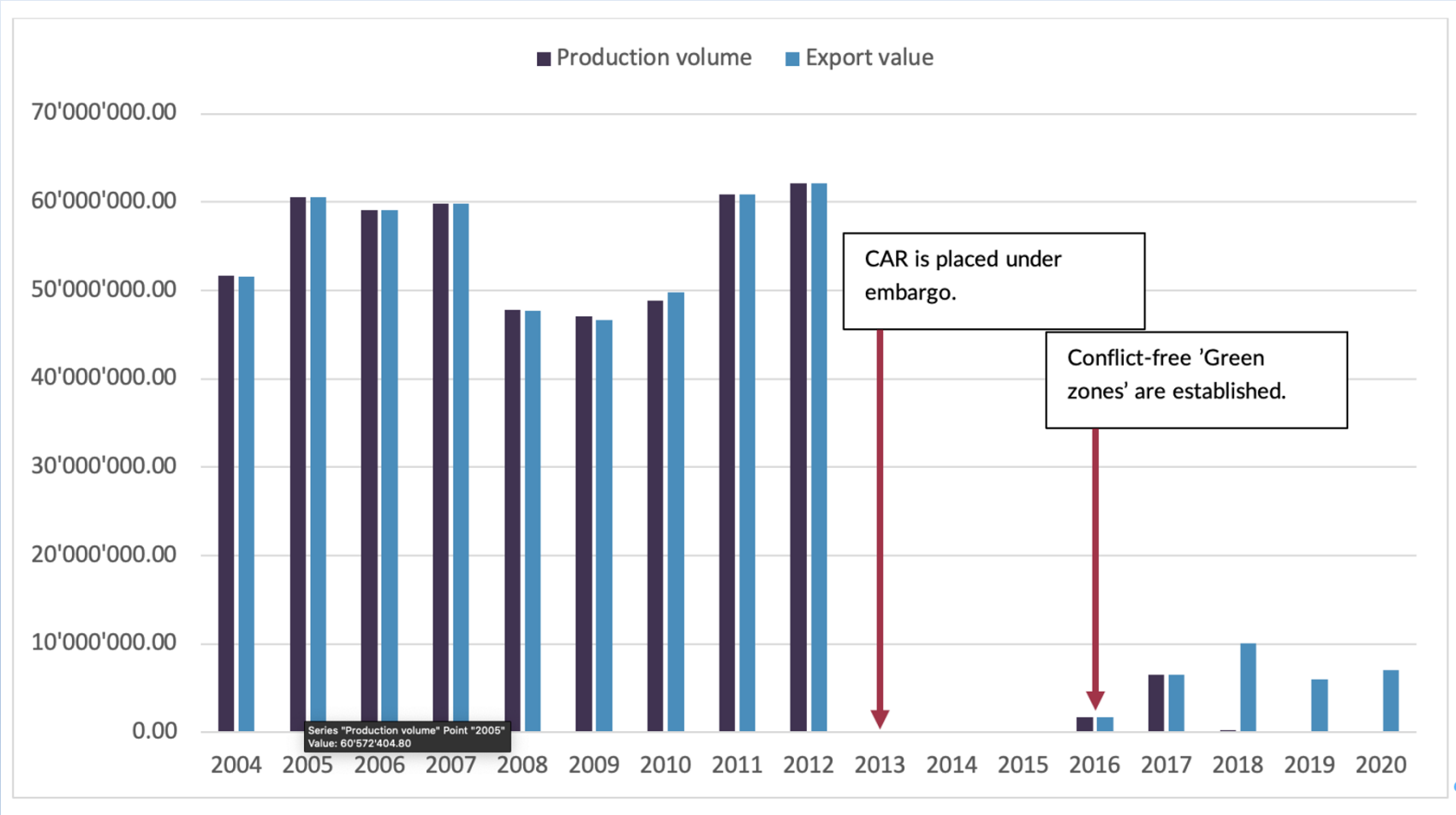


- Experts like World Bank (2008) estimate the percentage of smuggled carats before 2013 at 25-40 %.
- 8 years preceding the embargo official exports amounted to 350 to 420,000 carats + est. 20 % smuggled: CAR medium-size producer of an estimated 400 to 500,000 carats per year; fifth best quality producer on the global market.
- Since partial lifting of the embargo in March 2016, exported caratage down to less than 50,000 carats: 10 % or less than pre-embargo figures.
- Since 2016 Antwerp connection cut, official exports to Dubai.
- Since 2020 official exports up (new buying house CCO).
- Literature discusses export figures until April 2021. UN Panel of Experts (July 2021) : " For the January-April 2021 period, the export quantities were approximately 12,000 carats. (...) the Panel is of the view that this amount is below CAR's potential and the reality of what is currently produced in the country."

# Graph production + exports reported by CAR to the KP, in USD, 2004-2020



USD



# Analysis production + export values



- 8 years preceding the embargo the official annual export value between 50 and 60 million USD.
- Meagre years between 2008 and 2010 by the global financial crisis, consequently increased malnutrition and misery in CAR's mining communities. Communities, especially outside KP green zones, suffering a lot today and need the market to return to normality, i.e. with no rebel groups meddling with the trade and a full lifting of the KP embargo.
- Export values never above 2 to 8 million USD after the embargo = 4 to 13 % of export before embargo. CAR KP secretariat has most recent figures.
- Also large quantities of diamonds from green zones smuggled: fraudulent exports not limited to conflict diamonds from the east.

# Estimates of actual production since embargo



- Carats produced - carats KP exported = carats smuggled
- Various estimates of carats produced since KP embargo in 2013, based on 3 types of sources: satellite imagery; field surveys; historical records. Figures experts have arrived at:
  - UNDP/UNICEF (2018): production in 2017 est. 267 - 451,000 cts; smuggled diamonds 172 - 390,000 cts.
  - USGS (2018): production of 330,000 carats based on satellite images of 2017.
  - USAID/IPIS (2019): field survey 2019 west of CAR, extrapolating figures to the entirety of the country: est. production 187,000 carats.
- Trend since 2013: gold ↑, diamonds ↓

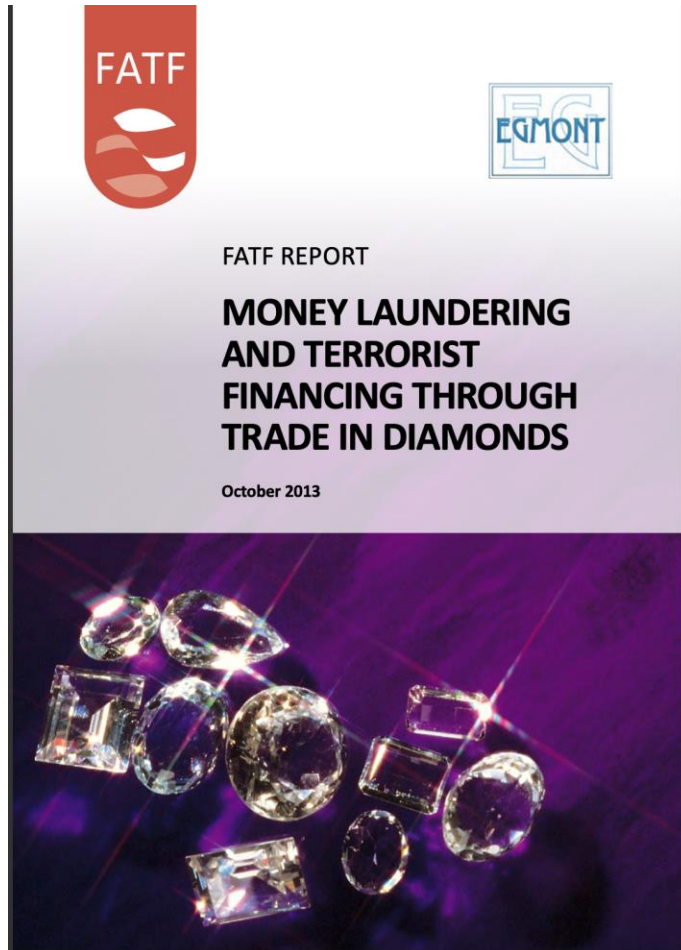
# Estimating quantity and value of smuggled CAR diamonds: conclusion



- 2016-2018: ~ 359,000 carats produced annually - ~ 30,000 carats KP exported on average annually = ~ 329,000 carats smuggled annually
- 2019-2020 (no legal exports due to Covid between March-July): ~ 200,000 carats produced - ~ 35,000 carats exported on average annually = ~ 165,000 carats smuggled annually
- **Total smuggled volume 2016-2020 = ~ 1,217,000 carats.**
- Most recent trend: decreasing production and increasing legal exports.
- Estimating value is methodologically very difficult: Asymptotic relationship between weight (carats) and value;; smugglers probably prefer high value stone. Multiplying estimated total volume by average historical KP export price per carat, which is between 150-200 USD: total smuggled diamonds between 2016-2020 valuing 183-243 million USD.
- Value at retail level: value increases by factor 5 to 6. Multiplying medium value of our estimate, i.e. 213 million USD by 5.5: total retail value of illegal CAR diamonds of 1.171 billion USD from 2016 to 2020, offered for purchase to consumers.
- Mining communities in CAR suffering; diamond consumers contributing to enrichment actors in a shadow economy; risks for Central African region.



# FATF publication on ML and TF risks associated with the diamond sector



- Security risks: Illicit cash flow of several tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars presents a considerable security risk in the Central African region, as such flows tend to attract and sustain rebel, criminal and terrorist networks. Rebels need cash to finance their personnel and buy arms and ammunition; criminals use cash to launder money; terrorists use cash to launder money, finance themselves and buy arms.
- Reputational risks: the existence of illicit money flows from diamonds in the Central African region, tarnishes the reputation of countries located here.

# Typology of CAR diamond smugglers



Smuggler typology from Government of CAR/USAID AMPR (2019) (plus comments from other publications) :

- 
- Adventurers: foreign and from CAR; easily accessible to non-Africans; risk of being defrauded. CAR is considered by businessmen in the region as a place with opportunities for striking it rich. Migratory flows have brought a considerable number of businessmen to the CAR who still entertain family ties with their kin in the Sahel and West-African regions. It is common that nationals from the wider region navigate the CAR minerals business environment referring to local traders are part of their family networks.
- Businessmen using diamonds as currency. They sell the goods in a trading center like Dubai and use the proceeds to buy goods like motorbikes, which they import in CAR and sometimes use to pay artisanal miners.
- Transborder criminal networks engaged in internationally organized illicit activities in the diamond trade, often of Lebanese origin but also for example Chadians, Indians and others.
- Officially registered collectors and buying houses which only declare part of their exports to the KP.
- Elite individuals who have the capacity to escape controls at Bangui airport or at the terrestrial borders of CAR. This is a transversal category, as any type of smuggler may enjoy some level of protection depending on his connections. Also, smugglers of this category sometimes dispose of diplomatic passports.
- Cooperatives facilitating exports for collectors or on their own account. They sometimes buy diamonds which they have not produced themselves, which is illegal. There were 369 registered cooperatives in 2019.

# MINUSCA elements



← → ↻ 🔒 reuters.com/world/europe/gold-diamonds-drugs-portuguese-peacekeepers-suspected-smuggling-2021-11-08/

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November 8, 2021  
9:15 PM CET  
Last Updated a month ago

Europe

## Gold, diamonds and drugs: Portuguese peacekeepers suspected of smuggling

2 minute read

By Catarina Demony

# CAR diamond trafficking: literature overview. IPIS database NGO reports



- ▼ Amnesty
  - 2020\_AI\_Bozoum\_AFR1920312020ENGLISH.PDF
  - AFR1924942015ENGLISH
- ▶ Enact
- ▼ Enough
  - CAR Report - Behind the Headlines 5.1.14
  - SplinteredWarfare\_August2017\_Enough\_final
  - Warlord Business 061615
- ▼ Global Witness
  - 2015\_July\_GW\_Report\_BLOOD\_TIMBER\_web.pdf
  - 2017\_June\_Game\_of\_Stones\_Global\_Witness
- ▶ HRW
- ▼ ICG
  - 2010\_Dec\_ICG\_dangerous-little-stones-diamonds-in-the-central-african-republic.pdf
  - 2014\_ICG\_Pastoralism\_CAR.pdf
  - 2015\_ICG\_-central-african-republic-the-roots-of-violence.pdf
- ▼ IMPACT
  - 2016-Dec-From-Conflict-to-Illicit-Mapping-the-diamond-trade-from-Central-African-Republic-to-Cameroon
  - IMPACT\_Just-Gold\_April-2018-EN-web
- ▼ IPIS
  - 2009\_Febr\_Mapping\_CAR.pdf
  - 2013\_Feb\_Gold and diamonds in the Central African Republic.pdf
  - 2014\_Nov\_IPIS-CAR-Conflict-Mapping
  - 2017\_Nov-CAR-roadblocks-English
  - 2018\_Sept\_CAR-conflict-mapping\_web
  - 2019\_Nov\_AMPR\_IPIS\_Cartographie\_sites\_Ouest\_RCA
  - 2020\_Dec\_Concordis Report.pdf
  - 2020\_IPIS-Fact-Sheet\_-Impact-of-Covid-19-on-artisanal-mines-in-western-CAR-1.pdf
  - 2020\_July-insights-The-impact-of-Covid-CAR.pdf
  - 2020\_March\_IPIS ASM Mapping in Western CAR Eng
  - 2021\_JAN\_COVID-19\_western\_CAR.pdf
- ▶ Levin
- ▶ RELUFA
- ▼ RESOLVE/The Sentry
  - diamond-matrix-04-oct-2016
  - FearInc\_TheSentry\_Nov2018-web.pdf
  - StateofPrey-TheSentry-Oct2020.pdf

International NGOs from the UK, Europe, the US and Canada most often focus on the war economy in CAR and hence have published data on diamond smuggling in relation to rebel financing in CAR. The main organizations involved in this type of research are: IPIS; Global Witness; The Sentry; International Crisis Group; Amnesty International; Enough.

# Literature overview: reports by UN Panel of Experts on CAR



The UN Panel of Experts in CAR was installed in 2014 by the UN Sanctions Committee. Part of its mandate is to investigate the link between diamond trafficking and rebel financing. Due to political strife in the UNSC, the UN Panel, which is the best source of information for the issue of rebel financing, currently is not operational.

un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/2127/panel-of-experts/reports

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Home » Sanctions » The Central African Republic Sanctions Committee » Panel of Experts » Reports

### Reports

Document Symbol	Date of Submission	Document Title
<a href="#">S/2021/569</a>	25 June 2021	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 2536 (2020)
<a href="#">S/2021/87</a>	27 January 2021	Midterm report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 2536 (2020)
<a href="#">S/2020/662</a>	8 July 2020	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 2507 (2020)
<a href="#">S/2019/930</a>	14 December 2019	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2454 (2019)
<a href="#">S/2019/608</a>	30 July 2019	Midterm report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2454 (2019)
<a href="#">S/2018/1119</a>	14 December 2018	Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2399 (2018)
<a href="#">S/2018/729</a>	23 July 2018	Midterm report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 32 (c) of resolution 2399 (2018)
<a href="#">S/2017/1023</a>	6 December 2017	Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2339 (2017)
<a href="#">S/2017/639/Corr.1</a>	4 August 2017	Central African passport with false identity belonging to Freddy Libeba Baongoli and issued by Nouredin Adam
<a href="#">S/2017/639</a>	26 July 2017	Midterm report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 28 (c) of resolution 2339 (2017)
<a href="#">S/2016/1032</a>	5 December 2016	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 23(c) of resolution 2262 (2016)
<a href="#">S/2016/604</a>	11 August 2016	Midterm report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 23(c) of resolution 2262 (2016)
<a href="#">S/2015/936</a>	21 December 2015	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 17(c) of resolution 2196 (2015)
<a href="#">S/2014/762</a>	29 October 2014	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 59(c) of resolution 2127 (2013)
<a href="#">S/2014/452</a>	26 June 2014	Interim report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 59(c) of resolution 2127 (2013)

# World Bank/Delve website on minerals from CAR



delvedatabase.org/data/countries/central-african-republic  
Click to go back, hold to see history

**2020 State of the ASM Sector Report** Learn about artisanal an

**DELVE** Home Find Data People

FIND DATA / BY COUNTRY

## Central African Republic

Mineral production of both diamond and gold is widespread across the Central African Republic. Estimates from a 2019 study stated the total production of rough diamonds in the CAR could be approximately 187,000 carats per annum, all of which is from ASM<sup>1</sup>. With an estimated 150,000 - 300,000 people depending on the sector for their livelihood out of a population of 4.6 million, artisanal diamond and gold mining are one of the principal livelihoods in the country. Total annual gold production is estimated to be between two to five tonnes.<sup>1</sup>

Several multilateral agencies in the field of economic development have touched upon the issue of diamond smuggling in publications on CAR's mineral sector. The main ones are the World Bank and UNDP/UNICEF.

# USAID's projects and resources related to CAR



← → ↻ land-links.org/country-profile/central-african-republic/



## LANDLINKS

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Home | What is Land Tenure? | Cross-Sector Impact | Country Profiles | USAID Land Projects | Evaluations and Research | Tools and Mission Resources

Home / Country Profiles

### Central African Republic



The map shows the Central African Republic highlighted in green, surrounded by neighboring countries: Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Cameroon, Congo, Congo DRC, Gabon, and Uganda. A small 'Privacy - YourAdChoices' icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the map area.

# CAR on KP website



kimberleyprocess.com/en/central-african-republic-0



WHAT IS THE KP KP IN ACTION NEWS & MEDIA EVENTS CONTACT ENFORCEMENT

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## Central African Republic

HOME / ABOUT / KP PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS / CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



Central African Republic \*

Agencies of the CAR government have published numerous reports on their diamond sector. Usually they can be found on the protected part of the KP website, to which other KP secretariats have access. The same goes for the publications of the KP's CAR Monitoring Team.



# CAR, mining and Central African Region in Africa Intelligence



Some press outlets are specialized in intelligence gathering and reporting on issues that can be highly relevant to minerals fraud in the Central African region. The main one of these outlets is Africa Intelligence, which has separate pages on Central and West Africa. You can also select a specific country, such as CAR as you can see in the example on the slide.

← → ↻ 🔒 africaintelligence.com/country/car  
Click to go back, hold to see history

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**BUSINESS** 24/11/2021

### Ecolog's Central African patch under threat

The directors of the Dubai-based logistics and catering giant Ecolog, the main supplier to the UN Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) since its creation in 2014, are worried about the impending 2022 tender. [...]

**POLITICS INVESTMENTS FUNDS** 22/11/2021

### IMF splashes out for some CEMAC states but leaves N'Djamena and Bangui hanging

Since the beginning of the year, the International Monetary Fund has signed support programmes with four of the six countries in the oil-dependent and Covid-weakened Central African monetary zone. But its talks with Chad and the Central African Republic have stalled. [...]

**DIPLOMACY** 17/11/2021

### Bangui's high-stakes gamble with rebel groups

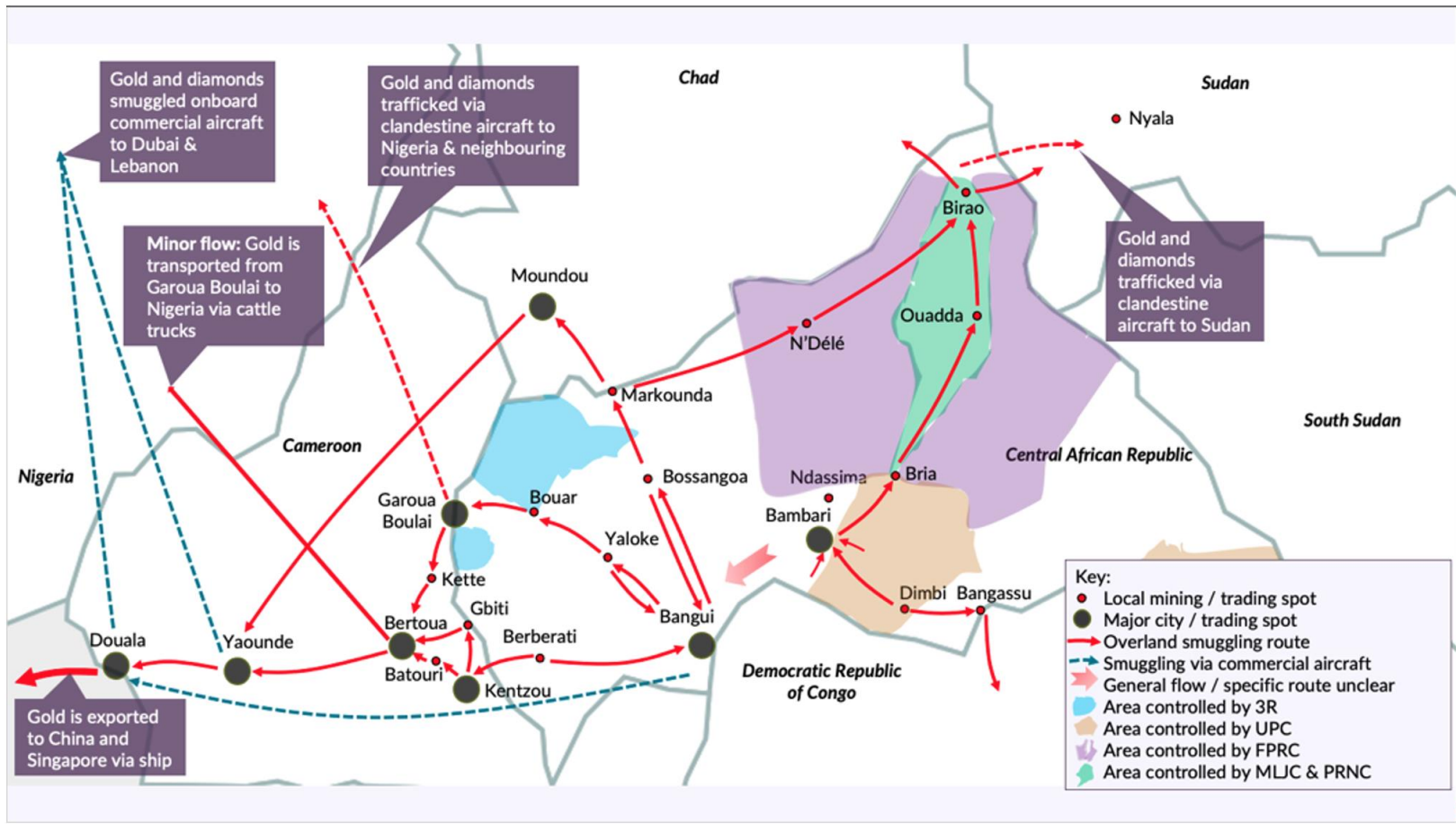
At Luanda's instigation, several heads of the armed groups that last year joined a rebel coalition recently signed an initial deal with the government. But Bangui suspects two holdouts of rapidly rearming via neighbouring states. [...]

**MINING** 15/11/2021

### Mediation set to continue over disputed Ndassima gold mine

The mediation that took place in Abidjan in October between the Central African government and the Canadian company Axmin over the Ndassima gold mine has been extended into January. [...]

# Map of illicit CAR diamond (and gold flows)



# Explanation of illicit flows map



- The map compiles information in the literature on smuggling routes and destinations of CAR diamonds (and gold). The area east of Bangui is under the influence of several rebel groups. The map does not take into account the dynamics in 2021 with regard to the security situation in CAR.
- Domestic flows in CAR to the capital Bangui, and a number of land routes leading to terrestrial border crossings to CAR's neighbouring countries, mainly Cameroon, DRC, Chad and Sudan, the latter two being non-KP participants. Also, a commercial aircraft route from Bangui to Douala is highlighted. In the literature flows of illicit diamonds are not quantified: how many carats of what value are smuggled where???
- Diamond smuggling connections to CAR's neighbouring countries were already mentioned before the Seleka uprising in December 2012. For example, World Bank (2008) in its section on Fraud highlights the existence of transborder trafficking to Chad and Cameroon, while International Crisis Group (2010) adds Chad, and to a lesser degree, the RoC and the DRC as destinations of illicit flows.

# Conclusion: how can these sources of information be used by law enforcers?



- Efforts of law enforcement in relation to diamonds highly rely on intelligence gathering and sharing, domestically between agencies, and regionally between countries.
- Field research teams of NGOs, World Bank consultants, UN agencies and development agencies of donor countries find leads, either through interviews or field surveys with 'enquêteurs' using questionnaires, and publish them in open source reports. UN expert panel reports also are very useful sources of information, especially on individuals and networks linked to rebel groups in CAR. **But only local law enforcement and intelligence services have the time and the mandate to get to the bottom of the issue, make arrests and compile dossiers with forensic evidence that holds up in court. In doing so, law enforcers can use the leads in the literature as a basis for further investigation.**
- The CAR authorities also have good sources of information related to individuals involved in the diamond sector. For example, the KP secretariat and other agencies have lists of registered collectors and buying houses. Also, immigration officers at the airport dispose of passenger lists. Such lists can be cross-referenced with other lists and shared with the appropriate agencies in the region, with the aim of conducting risk-based checks and searches at border crossings. **Ideally, regularly updated lists with people engaged in the diamond sector, red lists with high-risk individuals, and black lists with individuals carrying illicit diamonds would circulate among law enforcement agencies in the region.**

# Recommendation on intelligence sharing between agencies in the region



Main takeaway from this presentation is the recommendation that during this workshop we think about how to gather and centralize intelligence on diamond smuggling from CAR, maybe in a password protected database which, taking into account domestic and regional interinstitutional arrangements, mandates and legislation, can be shared and consulted by the appropriate agencies to adopt a risk-based approach in their controls pertaining to the problem of diamond smuggling.

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Thank you for your attention! (and see below for list of publications)

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Please note that in almost all cases, the publications listed also have a French version.

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## List of all UN Panel of Experts on CAR reports to date (December 2021)

Document Symbol	Date of Submission	Document Title
<a href="#">S/2021/569</a>	25 June 2021	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 2536 (2020)
<a href="#">S/2021/87</a>	27 January 2021	Midterm report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 2536 (2020)
<a href="#">S/2020/662</a>	8 July 2020	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 2507 (2020)
<a href="#">S/2019/930</a>	14 December 2019	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2454 (2019)
<a href="#">S/2019/608</a>	30 July 2019	Midterm report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2454 (2019)
<a href="#">S/2018/1119</a>	14 December 2018	Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2399 (2018)
<a href="#">S/2018/729</a> 	23 July 2018	Midterm report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 32 (c) of resolution 2399 (2018)
<a href="#">S/2017/1023</a> 	6 December 2017	Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2339 (2017)
<a href="#">S/2017/639/Corr.1</a> 	4 August 2017	Central African passport with false identity belonging to Freddy Libeba Baongoli and issued by Nouredin Adam
<a href="#">S/2017/639</a> 	26 July 2017	Midterm report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 28 (c) of resolution 2339 (2017)
<a href="#">S/2016/1032</a> 	5 December 2016	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 23(c) of resolution 2262 (2016)
<a href="#">S/2016/694</a> 	11 August 2016	Midterm report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 23(c) of resolution 2262 (2016)
<a href="#">S/2015/936</a> 	21 December 2015	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 17(c) of resolution 2196 (2015)
<a href="#">S/2014/762</a> 	29 October 2014	Final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 59(c) of resolution 2127 (2013)
<a href="#">S/2014/452</a>	26 June 2014	Interim report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with paragraph 59(c) of resolution 2127 (2013)