



MAPPING ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING (ASM) SITES IN THE WESTERN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

International Peace Information Service (IPIS) is an independent research center specializing in conflict analysis and projects to support good governance in the natural resources sector. This interactive webmap¹ explores several datasets linked to ASM in the CAR.

IPIS, in partnership with national authorities, produced a diagnostic report, “Mapping Artisanal Mining Sites in the Western Central African Republic,” and map of ASM sites in the west of the CAR. These outputs aim to support the efforts of the CAR Ministry of Mines and Geology (MMG) and other key stakeholders (such as the Permanent Secretariat of the Kimberley Process in the Central African Republic) to restore the Central African government’s control over legal minerals production and exports. IPIS created the report and map to help stakeholders gain a better understanding of local socio-economic dynamics (including potential conflicts and obstacles to the re-establishment of legal export channels), with a principal focus on the gold sector.

¹ The interactive map can be found here: <https://www.ipisresearch.be/mapping/webmapping/carmine/v1>

IPIS conducted this activity under the purview of the Artisanal Mining and Property Rights (AMPR) project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which aims to strengthen property rights in mining communities and natural resource governance.

ARTISANAL MINING SITES

This map depicts the different mining sites visited. An interactive menu allows the user to filter the sites according to mineral type, prefecture, number of workers, presence of women, presence of children under 15 years old, and presence of state services. The user can also view sites in which an armed actor is present, with barricades, or in which an accident or conflict has taken place in the last 12 months. When a mining site is selected, the map displays data collected when the site was visited by the joint IPIS and MMG team. Different tabs allow the reader to view the information collected.

As the situation in CAR is dynamic, particularly with regard to armed presence or the number of diggers on a site, the user should compare the information found on this map with that of other sources. IPIS does its best to ensure the quality of the data; however, the information may contain inaccuracies and errors and is provided for information purposes only.

OTHER DATASETS

In the legend on the right, the user can select the datasets that they wish to make visible on the map. The user can also create custom maps by switching layers in the legend on or off to overlay them. The interactive map includes other datasets as well, such as potential mining sites and the delimitation of areas conforming to the Kimberley Process. The map includes recent mining activities as geo-referenced by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) through the study of satellite images dating from 2013 to 2017. Another layer of data represents mining concessions in CAR. The user can select a concession to obtain more information on the type of license, minerals exploited, and name of the owner of the concession. Finally, the interactive map allows the user to view the main destination of minerals for each site visited, which makes it possible to distinguish the main points of sale in western CAR.

This map is also accompanied by a counter (bottom left) that allows the user to know at any time how many sites are visible and how many diggers work on these sites. A user can also use the selection tools (top left) or change the basemap to a satellite view (Bing) or to an OpenStreetMap view. IPIS maintains its own basemap with main roads and cities; however, this map may contain errors and IPIS cannot be held responsible for the boundaries, territories, and names used on this interactive map.

OPEN DATA

Some datasets are available for free access on [IPIS Open Data page](#). This page also contains operating instructions to download and analyze the data.

CONTACT

IPIS welcomes any feedback or corrections at mapping@ipisresearch.be. The accompanying report for this map can be found on [IPIS website](#).