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PROPERTY RIGHTS AND ARTISANAL DIAMOND DEVELOPMENT II (PRADD II) MANO RIVER UNION REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON HARMONIZATION AND ENFORCEMENT



MAY 2014

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HARMONIZATION AND ENFORCEMENT

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADPA	African Diamond Producers Association
ASM	Administrative Support Mechanism
CEEC	Centre d’Evaluation, d’Expertise et de Certification
CEDEAO	Communauté Economique des Etats de l’Afrique de l’Ouest
CEN	Customs Enforcement Network
CENTIF	Cellule Nationale de Traitement des Informations Financières
DDI	Diamond Development Initiative
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
GDO	Government Diamond Office
GIABA	Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa
IDMA	International Diamond Manufacturers Association
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
JRC	Joint Research Centre (European Union)
KP	Kimberley Process
KPC	KP Certificate
KPCS	Kimberley Process Certification Scheme
MRU	Mano River Union
PAC	Partnership Africa Canada
PRADD II	Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Project II
RILO	Regional Intelligence Liaison Office
TCU	Transnational Crime Unit
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WACI	West Africa Coast Initiative
WAPIS	West Africa Police Information System
WCO	World Customs Organization

WDC	World Diamond Council
WFDB	World Federation of Diamond Bourses
WGM	Working Group on Monitoring
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Project II (PRADD II), under Contract No. AID-OAA-I-12-00032/AIDOAA-TO-13-00045, is implemented by Tetra Tech under the Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights (STARR) Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC) and under the auspices of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Land Tenure and Property Rights division, and with cofounding from the European Union for activities in Cote d’Ivoire. This report summarizes the major achievements and outcomes of the Mano River Union Regional Workshop on Harmonization and Enforcement held in Grand-Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire, from March 4–6, 2014. Fifty-eight participants from Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone attended, along with representatives from regional and international organizations of the multilateral, bilateral, and international nongovernmental world (see Annex A: List of Participants). The author of this report, Brad Brooks-Rubin, was a consultant to PRADD II and one of the principal organizers and participants in the workshop. Throughout this report, his views and roles are noted as those of “the consultant.”

The idea of a regional approach to the Kimberley Process (KP) -- the international initiative established to eliminate “conflict diamonds” by establishing a comprehensive certification system for rough diamond trade -- in the Mano River region is not new. Indeed, it has been the subject of discussion inside and outside the Kimberley Process (KP) for many years. Its creation has been referenced and recommended in a range of documents, from the reports of the United Nations Panel of Experts (Liberia) and KP review visits to technical workshops on commonly shared challenges, such as counter-smuggling enforcement strategies.

The primary motivations for this workshop were for participating countries—Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone—to improve internal controls, mitigate smuggling vulnerabilities, and realize the reputational advantages that come with improved compliance with the minimum requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). Consequently, the regional approach would allow these countries to realize greater economic returns from the diamond sector. A regional approach to KP compliance is also a response to long-held requests by African producing countries for technical and financial assistance to help strengthen their internal controls.

For these reasons, preliminary consultations on a regional approach have elicited high-level political support in each of the four participating countries. Civil society groups have been equally supportive, and have already begun forging closer relationships, most notably by creating the Mano River Union Civil Society Natural Resource Rights and Governance Platform in September 2012. Some industry leaders have lent support as well, including the World Diamond Council (WDC), the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB), and some regional industry associations. The regional approach also received the full endorsement of the Kimberley Process, as affirmed in the final communiqué of the November 2013 Johannesburg Plenary.

The impetus for this latest initiative emerged from the March 2013 KP review visit to Liberia, which broke from past practice to include visits to neighboring countries Guinea and Sierra Leone in order to assess some of the regional challenges with KP compliance. Guinea and Sierra Leone invited the Liberia review team to make these side visits, and the KP focal points for each country also joined the Liberia review visit.

The following summary presents the history leading up to the workshop, the dynamics unfolding at the workshop itself, and, finally, reflections on next steps to implement the Regional Action Plan presented in Annex C. The recommendations are primarily those of the consultant and in no way reflect USAID, the

PRADD II project, or the participants in the Regional Harmonization and Enforcement Workshop. The recommendations focus on ways to operationalize the Regional Action Plan, formalize the regional approach within the KP, and identify additional financial and technical resources.

1.0 BACKGROUND CONTEXT FOR REGIONAL HARMONIZATION WORKSHOP

1.1 PRE-2013 EFFORTS

Since the first days of the Kimberley Process (KP), the four countries of the Mano River Union (MRU) have been a primary focus: Sierra Leone as it emerged from United Nations sanctions and civil war; Liberia as it emerged from conflict and United Nations sanctions on rough diamond exportation; Guinea as it faced KP action on its compliance system in 2009; and Côte d'Ivoire as it experienced civil war and faced United Nations sanctions on diamond exports since 2005.

This focus began with an emphasis on the development of rough diamond-production footprints.¹ The KP has also been consistently focused on the status of Côte d'Ivoire and the impact of the export ban on neighboring countries.²

In recent years, the focus shifted to overall improved internal controls implementation, law enforcement coordination, and economic development gains. This included MRU country “enforcement profiles” and a related Enforcement Seminar held at Intersessional 2010, which led to an MRU country-specific section in the 2010 *Diamonds Without Borders* report adopted at the 2010 KP Plenary.³ The ad hoc group Friends of Côte d'Ivoire also began to direct more of its work to MRU-wide efforts after 2010 and, in February 2012, assisted with the convening of a workshop in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, focused on KP enforcement.

1.2. REGIONAL APPROACH

In 2013, the United Nations Panel of Experts called on the KP to examine ways in which to maximize the efficacy of the KP in Liberia and the MRU region by developing a regional approach to KP compliance. A review visit took place in Liberia from March 18–27, 2013. The review team was invited to visit border regions of the neighboring MRU countries of Guinea and Sierra Leone in order to better assess some of

¹ See, e.g., Paragraph 9 of the 2006 KP Plenary Communiqué; Paragraphs 13–14 of the 2007 KP Plenary Communiqué; and Paragraph 22 of the 2008 KP Plenary Communiqué.

² See, e.g., Paragraphs 3 and 18 of the 2007 KP Plenary Communiqué; and Paragraph 8 of the 2008 KP Plenary Communiqué.

³ See, e.g., Paragraph 15 of the 2010 KP Plenary Communiqué.

the regional challenges with KP compliance. The team also had the benefit of participation in the review visit by representatives of Guinea and Sierra Leone. A recommendation of the Liberia review visit was for the KP to investigate the shared challenges, opportunities, and interests of West African participants in developing a regional approach to KP compliance. A KP team visited the MRU region in September–October 2013 to investigate this concept.

Following the visit of the KP team, the MRU participants indicated that they welcomed the opportunity to collaborate on these shared challenges and opportunities; the 2013 KP Plenary endorsed this effort.⁴ The European Union (EU) funded an initiative implemented by the Diamond Development Initiative (DDI) and Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) to serve on a technical team⁵ to help MRU member countries and Mali improve and harmonize their diamond mining regulations and policies, using key sections of the Washington Declaration Diagnostic Framework to draw out best practices. The Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development II (PRADD II) program—funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the EU, and operational in Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea—is also dedicating resources to support this initiative.

The MRU countries and technical team decided the next step in advancing the regional approach was to convene a workshop in March 2014 in Côte d’Ivoire. PRADD II engaged consultant Brad Brooks-Rubin to assist with one specific element of the workshop, law enforcement strategy and coordination, as well as overall support.

⁴ See, e.g., Paragraph 23 of the 2013 KP Plenary Communiqué.

⁵ The technical team also includes a representative from the EU and is led by a representative from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

2.0 WORKSHOP PREPARATION

Beginning in January 2014, the consultant began a review of existing KP efforts with respect to law enforcement⁶, as well as an assessment of the potential for collaboration with agencies or initiatives outside the KP.

2.1 EVALUATION OF LAW-ENFORCEMENT APPROACHES IN THE KP

Although the KP is not a law-enforcement-focused initiative, the successful implementation of internal controls and governance of the rough diamond trade requires careful consideration of how best to approach and work with law enforcement. While too much focus on law enforcement can distract participants and the trade from economic development and other critical issues, too little attention to it can result in significant lost revenue and the introduction of negative elements to the trade.

Both the KP Core Document and 2006 Administrative Decision on Internal Controls reference law enforcement and related issues. For example, section IV(d) of the Core Document requires participants to establish “dissuasive and proportional penalties” for violations, and section V(g) encourages participants to ensure close coordination among law-enforcement agencies. Annex II, Paragraph 6, indicates that the names of individuals and entities convicted of violating KP-related laws and regulations should be shared throughout the initiative. The Administrative Decision on Internal Controls goes further by suggesting that convicted individuals have licenses revoked, and that a comprehensive search of convictions be performed on anyone applying for a license related to the KP.

In recent years, the KP has recognized the need for more concerted attention to enforcement. Since 2010, the KP has adopted a number of documents and convened several seminars designed to improve the way in which the KP approaches enforcement issues and cooperates with agencies focused on such issues. (In addition to the Ouagadougou workshop in February 2012, the KP held broader seminars in June 2010, June 2011, and November 2012.)

The documents adopted by the KP with respect to enforcement include:

- Administrative Decision on Cooperation on KP Implementation (2009);
- Administrative Decision on Establishing Cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO) (2010); and
- *Diamonds Without Borders*, including accompanying recommendations (2010).

Paragraph 15 of the 2010 KP Plenary Communiqué, Paragraph 29 of the 2011 KP Plenary Communiqué, and Paragraph 57 of the 2012 KP Plenary Communiqué also further present the importance of holding enforcement seminars.

⁶ For purposes of this report, “implementation” refers to the manner in which countries comply with KP minimum requirements; “enforcement” refers to the effort to combat illicit trade that circumvents KP internal controls.

Overall, these recent efforts⁷ demonstrate a solid framework for the KP, participating governments, and the diamond trade to approach law-enforcement needs more concretely and engage more directly with law-enforcement agencies. To date, however, this has only happened episodically in individual countries, and not consistently enough at a KP level. For example, the KP did not take full advantage of the WCO's initiative targeting illicit rough diamond trade in September 2013. Similarly, there remains limited cross-border sharing of enforcement-related information under the KP's auspices. These indicate a number of needs within the KP that the MRU regional approach could help serve, including:

1. Improved awareness among those involved with the KP of existing tools for law enforcement;
2. Greater coordination among participating governments to use existing tools;
3. Willingness of participants and the trade to pilot new approaches to law enforcement; and
4. Stronger leadership and ownership of enforcement issues at the KP level, whether through the KP chair, Administrative Support Mechanism (ASM), or working groups, particularly the Working Group on Monitoring (WGM).

2.2 EXPLORATION AND ASSESSMENT OF NON-KP LAW-ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND APPROACHES

The consultant focused on several organizations active in the MRU sub-region with approaches to law enforcement that could be of interest to the KP. With the exception of the WCO, the KP had no existing relationships with these organizations. The consultant examined the organizations and their respective tools, and sought to establish contact with relevant officials, with the purpose of inviting them to attend the March workshop in order to facilitate further exchange of information, lessons learned, and possible avenues for collaboration. In each case,⁸ these efforts proved successful, and a representative from each organization attended the workshop.

These organizations include:

- **World Customs Organization (WCO).** The WCO serves as the international umbrella body for customs authorities. In addition to its broad work on customs issues, the WCO has established a series of Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) and a global database, the Customs Enforcement Network (CEN), to centralize information on illicit trade and seizures. The KP's 2010 Administrative Decision on WCO Cooperation encouraged greater cooperation with RILOs and KP contribution to the CEN, such as with fraudulent certificates.

In general, KP use of and contribution to these tools has been limited. In order to focus attention of the MRU regional approach on the potential for such cooperation, a representative of the West Africa RILO, based in Dakar, Senegal, attended the workshop.

- **The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).** As the dominant regional governance institution, ECOWAS has a range of tools and declarations that relate in various ways to the MRU regional approach, including initiatives on natural resources and economic development. The consultant focused in particular on one new initiative related to law enforcement, the West Africa

⁷ The consultant also explored other regional approaches to law enforcement, such as those in Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa. He also contacted each government, but only received information from authorities in Botswana. Further engagement with each government may be useful for additional suggestions and lessons learned.

⁸ In light of the challenges faced in collaborating with the KP on its targeted enforcement efforts, the WCO was also initially reluctant to attend the workshop. Concerted consultant outreach and financial support facilitated by the consultant and the EU, via the Government of Australia, resulted in WCO attendance.

Police Information System (WAPIS), which will be a centralized database of enforcement-related intelligence and information.⁹ Although KP- and diamond-related issues are not set to be included in the system at this stage, the consultant assessed that this could happen in the future and that the WAPIS model itself could be of interest to the MRU approach (e.g., as an example that could be used for a centralized licensing database).

Only seven¹⁰ of ECOWAS' 16 member states are KP participants, and there has been little to no engagement between the organizations in recent years. The consultant made contact with and secured the attendance of the ECOWAS regional security director.

- **International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).** Although INTERPOL serves as a key international law-enforcement institution, its focus on criminal law enforcement has resulted in limited potential for engagement with the KP. The 2013 addition of an INTERPOL unit focused on international trade, especially in counterfeit and illicit goods, offers a new avenue for cooperation.

The consultant established communication with the head of this unit based in Lyon, France but he was unable to attend. He did ensure that a local INTERPOL representative in Côte d'Ivoire attended the workshop.

- **UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).** UNODC has had limited engagement with the KP in the past, given its attention to the drug trade and related criminal networks. In recent years, UNODC established the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) to improve coordination across the region in combating the illicit drug trade. One of the principal tools within WACI is the establishment of Transnational Crime Units (TCUs) in each participating country. TCUs serve as inter-agency coordinating bodies in a given country, where all law-enforcement and interested agencies come together to exchange information and, in some cases, investigate issues related to illegal drugs and crime.

In light of the potential for lessons learned from WACI and the possible use of TCUs to focus on illicit diamond trade, the consultant established contact with one of the UNODC leads on WACI. The lead agreed to attend the workshop.

- **Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA).** An arm of ECOWAS, GIABA serves as the regional anti-money-laundering coordinating body. It is one of several Financial Action Task Force (FATF)-style regional bodies¹¹ that gathers intelligence and promotes coordinated approaches to combating money laundering. Representatives of GIABA have attended previous KP enforcement meetings, including the 2012 Ouagadougou workshop, but there has been little follow-up or ongoing coordination. The completion of a report in October 2013 (published in January 2014) by FATF and the Egmont Institute on money laundering and the diamond trade amplified the need to reengage with FATF/Egmont and GIABA, in particular, given their combined interest in following up on this report.

The consultant engaged the previous GIABA contact, who agreed to attend, along with the organization's secretary general.

⁹ WAPIS is being developed by INTERPOL and funded by the EU, but it will ultimately be managed and maintained by ECOWAS.

¹⁰ In addition to the four MRU countries, ECOWAS member states that participate in the KP include Ghana, Mali, and Togo.

¹¹ FATF is a global initiative established to combat money laundering and terror finance.

With the agreement of each organization to attend, and in light of the analysis of previous or existing KP initiatives,¹² the consultant prepared a presentation for the workshop to outline possible efforts by the MRU regional approach regarding law enforcement. The consultant also developed a plan for the facilitation of a law-enforcement-specific session of the workshop.

2.3 OTHER WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

In addition to focusing on law-enforcement issues, the consultant contributed in two concrete ways to the preparation and development of the March workshop:

- **Agenda Development.** Together with the PRADD II chief of party in Côte d'Ivoire, the consultant participated in all teleconferences related to the workshop and assisted in an array of preparatory activities. This included development of a specific Terms of Reference for the enforcement sub-theme of the workshop and contribution to the development of the Terms of Reference and Agenda for the overall workshop.¹³ The consultant also worked with the PRADD II chief of party in Côte d'Ivoire to provide advance suggestions for, and later review and comment on, the analytical paper prepared by the technical team to review the findings from its 2013 visits to the MRU countries and advance a framework for the March workshop.
- **Outreach to Industry and Other Organizations to Support Workshop.** When the consultant began work, little outreach had begun to the World Diamond Council (WDC) or other diamond-industry organizations, either at a national or international level. The consultant initiated contact with a number of organizations and requested assistance for the workshop. His efforts raised \$4,800 to offset attendee expenses and commitments of future interest to support the Regional Action Plan and other needs.

¹² The consultant also investigated possible programs in support of law-enforcement efforts in the region, including through consultations with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Assistance at the Department of State (State/INL) and the World Bank's Sustainable Energy, Gas, Oil, and Mining (SEGOM) unit.

¹³ The Agenda is attached as Annex B.

3.0 WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION AND IMPRESSIONS

3.1 GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

Overall, the workshop held in Grand-Bassam from March 3–6, 2014, was well-organized and carried out in an effective and efficient manner. A follow-up meeting with the principle parties within Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development II (PRADD II) was held on March 7. The workshop resulted in an ambitious Regional Action Plan that will form the basis of the effort moving forward. The overall Regional Action Plan is attached as Annex C.

The consultant made a presentation on the first day of the workshop, and then facilitated a full-day discussion on the second day among attendees interested in law enforcement. This discussion began with consultant’s presentation of 13 hypothetical issues or scenarios. Attendees were asked to choose three to four issues of the most interest.

For each topic, a representative from the four participating countries explained the current national approach to the issue. Discussion ensued, with national government representatives, international law enforcement representatives, and civil societies all providing input. The culmination of each discussion was the agreement on specific items to present for inclusion in the Regional Action Plan.

From these discussions, several overall themes emerged. These regional themes harken back to the principle problem of overall Kimberley Process (KP) enforcement presented in the October 2013 Financial Action Task Force (FATF)/Egmont Institute report: “The KP lacks transparency for controlling officers at the border.”¹⁴ From this lack of transparency—both in individual transactions as well as overall awareness of what the KP is about—stem most of the enforcement challenges faced by the countries participating in the workshop. These themes include:

- **Individual countries are often doing more enforcement than their regional peers, or even national colleagues, may know.** For example, the Guinean Anti-Fraud Brigade has reportedly deployed a number of techniques for addressing illicit trade that were unknown, but of significant interest, to others in the region.
- **There is a need for a mechanism that promotes ongoing sharing of best practices and ideas, both within and among countries.** As the issue above suggests, there is much happening in the region with regard to enforcement issues, and there will continue to be in the future. Unfortunately, other than through the organization of an ad hoc conference or the informal exchange on the margins of KP meetings, there is little done in a systematic manner to capture best practices and lessons learned.

¹⁴ FATF report, October 2013, p. 57.

In previous years at a KP level, the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire attempted to facilitate sharing, and an effort began to develop a sub-working group on enforcement. Neither effort proved successful at ongoing coordination. Further thought is needed to close this gap, as enhanced exchange of information and lessons learned can enhance efficiency and prevent wasted efforts.

- **Timing of enforcement-related actions may be as important as the design.** As attendees discussed options for law-enforcement training or actions, representatives from the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and other agencies suggested that timing be more carefully considered than it has in the past. For example, timing a KP-related law-enforcement action in conjunction with the actions of another law-enforcement agency may improve awareness and efficacy. Traditionally, diamond-related enforcement actions have been done in a discreet, one-time manner, and planned solely by the KP.
- **Enforcement and economic development principles remain distinct in most officials' minds.** In several instances, the scenarios being discussed appeared to overlap quite clearly with development concerns, yet none of the enforcement officials or other attendees mentioned the need to address development. For example, in an exchange concerning unlicensed artisanal miners, no officials mentioned the ways in which development approaches could be effective complements to enforcement. Further cross-fertilization of development and enforcement ideas and projects is clearly necessary and could help make resource use more efficient.
- **The KP has not appreciated the impact of the ECOWAS principle of free passage of individuals and goods in the region.** As the enforcement discussion proceeded, especially with respect to the problem of the transit of uncertified goods across the region, the ECOWAS representative and other attendees noted the apparent conflict between the KP's requirement for a certificate for all rough diamonds that cross borders, and the ECOWAS principle of free movement of people and goods across the region.¹⁵ The KP and ECOWAS have not had substantial engagement in the past, and this issue may present a critical area for future discussions. Were ECOWAS to address the need for KP compliance, it could significantly increase awareness of KP issues in the region.
- **Côte d'Ivoire may be in the best position to lead the region in enforcement issues.** Throughout the enforcement discussion, attendees from Côte d'Ivoire provided critical input and demonstrated an impressive current focus on KP issues. This is clearly a result of the country's push to end the United Nations embargo. The benefits of that concerted effort, especially in the area of enforcement, should not be permitted to lapse, regardless of the outcome on the sanctions vote.

3.2 MANO RIVER UNION REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR HARMONIZATION AND ENFORCEMENT

3.2.1 KEY FEATURES OF REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

From the discussion in the session, a number of enforcement-related (and broader) elements were presented and accepted for inclusion in the Regional Action Plan, such as:

- Develop a coordinated law-enforcement training module;
- Ensure license-vetting procedures include law-enforcement checks, both in-country and in-region;

¹⁵ This principle was established by the 1979 protocol relating to Free Movement of Persons, Residence, and Establishment and related measures.

- Introduce regional dimension to investigations of illicit diamond trade and possible connection to drug trade and other criminal networks;
- Focus on improved customs officers' awareness of KP;
- Build awareness of connections between money laundering and illicit diamond trade;
- Work with ECOWAS to improve border controls on diamond trade; and
- Institute national and regional consultative mechanisms to adopt best practices.

Implementation of these steps will go a long way toward advancing KP implementation in the region. Further thoughts on this are presented below. It must be borne in mind throughout that the lack of transparency on KP issues will continue to form the principal obstacle to successful implementation of the enforcement-related elements of the Regional Action Plan.

3.2.2 FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

Finally, it is worth noting that there were additional ideas on enforcement that were not discussed sufficiently to merit presentation as Regional Action Plan recommendations, but nevertheless may be worth revisiting in the future. These include:

- Develop a standard KP Certificate (KPC) used by all governments in the region.** For many reasons, the KP adopted an approach in which each participating government develops a unique KPC. Although beneficial in some ways, this approach has created a significant vulnerability through the proliferation of fake certificates.¹⁶ Because enforcement agents may not have access to the current form of a country's KPC, they may overlook illicit trade. Development of a common KPC across the region could enhance enforcement.
- Provide for the counter-signing of KPC by an enforcement official.** For some KP participants, a KPC is signed not only by the KP focal point or related ministry official, but also by a customs or other enforcement official. This ensures, among other things, that enforcement equities have been reviewed prior to the issuance of the KPC and that there is closer coordination across agencies.
- Develop a standard approach to investigating fake certificates.** As referenced above, one of the region's most evident KP vulnerabilities is fake certificates. Despite the identification of fakes from countries across the region, there does not appear to be a standard approach to investigating fake certificates or to sharing their existence with neighbors, despite the potential for the same actors to be involved in fakes from different countries. Cooperating on countering fake KPCs could be an easily agreed-upon method for countries to try as a first step toward common enforcement interests.
- Investigate whether KP and diamond-related information could be included in the West Africa Police Information System (WAPIS) database, or whether a similar database should be constructed.** As discussed in Section 2.2, in conjunction with INTERPOL and the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is developing a centralized database of enforcement information, known as WAPIS, with data provided principally by national police agencies. The database does not appear to be sufficiently developed to take on new enforcement areas, such as KP-related infringements, but could be in the future. Engagement with ECOWAS and national police authorities in the region should continue in this regard. Similarly, as experience with WAPIS develops, the architecture of the database should be reviewed for possible replication by the KP of the databases suggested in the Regional Action Plan.

¹⁶ This vulnerability was discussed in the October 2013 FATF report, on pages 57–58.

4.0 REGIONAL ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS/ RECOMMENDATIONS

The Regional Action Plan contains enforcement items that are appropriate in scale and, if achieved, could transform the nature of Kimberley Process (KP) compliance and rough-diamond trade governance in the region. In most cases, these enforcement-specific items can dovetail with the other elements of the Regional Action Plan to allow for efficient use of time and resources (see Annex C: Regional Action Plan).

The following are recommendations and considerations for Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development II (PRADD II) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to consider in their engagement with the technical team and broader KP in moving the Regional Action Plan forward. These are the opinion of the consultant, and reflect neither USAID nor the PRADD II project.

4.1 OPERATIONALIZING THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

Previous efforts to improve KP compliance in the region suffered from a lack of specific, concrete, and achievable action items. Similarly, the KP lacks a coordinated mechanism for documenting and sharing achievements and lessons learned. The consultant recommends these next steps:

1. **Structure the Regional Action Plan as distinct work items.** Following the workshop, PRADD II has encouraged the technical team to turn the Action Plan's elements into more specific action items, with clear timetables and responsibilities. This should be revisited continuously, with the encouragement by PRADD II of the technical team and Focal Points to create increasingly detailed specifics in terms of actions taken and achieved.
2. **Push for standard call/meeting times and Regional Action Plan reporting.** Although it may seem minor, for the Regional Action Plan to take hold, it must become a routine element of the work of the Focal Points and the technical team. As of now, the regional approach remains an additional duty, and thus it is at the mercy of other responsibilities. Until it becomes a regular job task, the regional approach will prove difficult to take hold. To counteract this, PRADD II should recommend the establishment of regular meeting times and reporting deadlines.

Similarly, there should be regular, periodic (monthly or quarterly) reporting from each focal point and the technical team on activities undertaken and progress made in achieving the Regional Action Plan.

Each focal point's report should be made available via the KP website (initially the participants-only section, ultimately leading to the public side) and circulated by the technical team to other Focal Points via e-mail.

These reports should be included as attachments to each country's annual report on KP implementation, submitted each March to the Working Group on Monitoring (WGM). The Focal Points should be encouraged to devote significant attention to their work on the Regional Action Plan in their annual reports.

3. **Encourage a smaller conference of Focal Points and key officials to be held in September;** consider biannual meetings thereafter. In light of the inherent difficulties in maintaining good e-mail or phone contact in the region, the regional approach should consider establishing a biannual meeting schedule. It is unnecessary for follow-up conferences to be as large as the March workshop. Subsequent meetings can focus on specific elements of the Regional Action Plan. Having regular biannual meetings will enable each country to host meetings over time, which could help secure ministerial or other senior-level support and raise the profile of the work in each country.

PRADD II could continue to support meetings in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, while other donors could play a role in meetings hosted in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

4. **Name point people for each country and action-plan item.** As discussed on a recent technical team call, the Regional Action Plan requires the assignment of specific responsibilities: focal-point responsibility for elements of the plan, and technical team responsibility for follow-up with specific countries. PRADD II should encourage Côte d'Ivoire to take responsibility for the enforcement items, and, informally, PRADD II should maintain a level of responsibility for Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea's overall follow-through on the Regional Action Plan.

4.2 FORMALIZING THE REGIONAL APPROACH WITHIN THE KIMBERLEY PROCESS

Previous efforts to focus on West Africa in the KP suffered from the engagement of too few actors, particularly when the KP was distracted by seemingly more pressing issues, such as the multi-year effort to address the Marange diamonds situation in Zimbabwe. By formalizing and consistently publicizing the effort, it will make it easier to build momentum and generate further financial and technical resources.

1. **Establish the regional approach as a sub-group of the WGM, or as an ad hoc working body of the KP.** In order to provide clear legitimacy to the regional approach, it may be useful for the effort to be established as a sub-group of the WGM or as a separate KP body. This would ensure the group would become part of KP meeting agendas and provide leadership opportunities for the Focal Points. Given the relative lack of African governments in leadership positions in the KP, and complete absence of West African representatives in leadership roles, establishing the regional approach as a sub-group, with the Focal Points serving as chair and vice-chair on a rotating basis, would provide that potential for West African leadership while also giving the effort a more secure role in the KP. Although decisions may take longer to achieve because of the need for consensus, having a formal process could make any such decisions more credible.

A specific sub-group or ad hoc group could then provide the regional approach with a clearer platform from which to raise funds.

2. **Mobilize support from the KP chair and vice-chair.** There was no visible workshop support from the KP chair or vice-chair, other than the attendance of the Chinese ambassador at the close-out meeting with the minister. This lack of visible support should be addressed by the MRU countries and

technical team. PRADD II should continue to recommend to the technical team that this be a high priority, given the strong role that a KP chair has over an annual agenda.

The technical team has indicated it will request permission from the KP chair to use one hour of the Intercessional agenda for a report back on the March workshop. If the KP chair is unwilling to organize such a session during the Intercessional, the technical team should be pushed to set up its own meeting on the margins and then announce the time and location to the attendees. Work should begin now, through direct approach to the KP chair as well as to Chinese representatives in the MRU and other supporting countries, to ensure there is agenda time for the plenary devoted to the regional approach.

3. **Identify a role for the Administrative Support Mechanism (ASM), including as first-year “secretariat.”** The industry-led ASM has the capacity to provide more support to the regional approach. One element of the ASM, the technical assistance support module provided by Ghana, should be directly responsible for searching for additional resources, and other elements of the ASM can help promote the work via the KP website and other communications. The KP website should begin to serve as a repository for actions taken and lessons learned, in a manner that can help close the current awareness gap.

In addition to encouraging Ghana to fulfill its technical assistance support obligations and requesting that the ASM feature the regional approach on the KP website, strong consideration could be given to having the ASM take on quasi-secretariat duties for the regional approach in the first year, while more specific consideration can be given to whether such a secretariat-like mechanism is needed in the long-term. This could include meeting and teleconference coordination, materials distribution, and engagement with outside actors.

There will be a stronger basis to make this type of request if the regional approach becomes its own working body within the KP.

4. **Engage other interested KP working groups.** At least two KP working groups beyond the WGM—specifically, the Working Group of Diamond Experts (from both a geological foot printing and customs perspective) and Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production—have roles to play in supporting the regional approach. The regional Focal Points and technical team should request agenda time during the Intercessional from each of these working groups in order to build the regional approach into their work.
5. **Build broader KP awareness.** The KP website remains an underutilized tool, as does KP-wide e-mail. Nevertheless, a dedicated page on the KP website should be created, and notice about this page should be circulated via a KP Chair Notice.

Further, the technical team (or PRADD II) should create a one-page handout on the regional approach and distribute it to all Intercessional attendees.

4.3 IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES

As set forth in the Regional Action Plan, the effort will be most effective if it builds on and takes advantage of existing programs and activities. Potential counterpart initiatives, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), industry trade associations, and other (nontraditional donor) governments with diamond-trade expertise, should all be approached to support specific elements. This will take time to develop, but, given the focus of the technical team on more traditional donors and actors, this should be an area that PRADD II emphasizes for the Focal Points and technical team.

With respect to industry, the technical team should recognize current trends that could provide opportunities for the regional approach to benefit the trade. For example, the natural-diamond industry faces increasing pressure from synthetic producers, a number of whom present their product as the “ethical” alternative to mined diamonds. By highlighting the efforts of the regional approach to bring improved benefits to the MRU countries, the industry’s support could demonstrate to the public how the natural-diamond trade helps this region.

1. **Request specific support from the World Diamond Council (WDC), ASM, System of Warranties, etc.** The industry’s umbrella representative in the KP, the WDC, was not represented at the workshop but did provide funding. The WDC is undergoing a major reform process, which should conclude in the coming months. Engagement with, and support of, the regional approach could provide the WDC with an initial action item that could help it demonstrate a new focus on specific support to tangible efforts in the KP. The technical team and PRADD II should request a meeting with the new WDC leadership (its elections are slated to conclude by the end of May) at the Intercessional.

In addition to obtaining WDC support for devolution of ASM resources as a regional-approach secretariat, one example of a request to the WDC would be to provide resources to buying houses and traders in MRU countries on KP compliance and proper use of the WDC’s System of Warranties that complements the KP. The WDC could also be asked to extend complimentary membership for one year to industry actors in the region, given the traditional lack of West African representation in the WDC.

2. **Request support from World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB), International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA), World Jewelry Confederation, large companies, and national trade organizations.** The consultant contacted a number of trade associations and diamond-industry companies and obtained commitments for limited financial support. Each of the above-referenced associations and companies should be able to provide further financial resources.

More importantly, these organizations and companies have diamond-specific technical expertise and resources that should be requested. These could include:

- i. Diamond sorting and valuation training;
- ii. Provision of diamond office equipment;
- iii. Assistance in establishing national diamond-trade associations;
- iv. Access to enforcement-specific information (e.g., names of traders suspended from WFDB member-bourses; information of interest gathered by company security personnel); and
- v. Funding for future meetings.

3. **Request the opportunity to make a presentation on the regional approach during the World Diamond Congress in June in Belgium.** On a biennial basis, IDMA and WFDB hold a joint meeting known as the World Diamond Congress. This is an event well-attended by leading industry actors and widely covered by the trade press. The regional approach could provide an opportunity to engage in and provide collective support to a specific—and non-political/non-divisive—issue. Given that the Congress will focus extensive attention on synthetic diamonds, the regional approach could again provide a unique discussion point on the development benefits of natural diamonds.
4. **Consider attendance at targeted trade events and inclusion of the regional approach in investment presentations.** Much of the diamond industry’s work happens at trade shows and conferences. In addition to the World Diamond Congress, trade shows such as those in Las Vegas,

Hong Kong, and Mumbai could provide interesting and unique opportunities for the regional approach's efforts to spark interest and garner support. Focal Points and technical team members should be encouraged to attend these events and make presentations on the regional approach.

The MRU countries should also be encouraged by the technical team and PRADD II to include reference to the regional approach in their booths and presentations at forums such as the African Mining Indaba or Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) convention. Highlighting the regional approach at such events will not only raise its profile and possibly generate further support from companies, but it can help improve government commitment to the regional approach by connecting implementation to the ability to generate investment.

5. **Nominate one technical team (or PRADD II) member to monitor related events on governance** (e.g., EITI, African Mining Vision/UN Economic Commission for Africa, Inter-Governmental Forum on Mining, etc.). Priorities of other mining sector initiatives are often changing and do not traditionally focus extensively on the diamond sector. Nevertheless, one member of the technical team (or PRADD II itself) should be assigned responsibility for monitoring the work of other initiatives and identifying both possible events of interest as well as opportunities for additional support.
6. Ensure request is sought from the "BRICS" (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and other nontraditional KP donor governments. The Regional Action Plan contains many elements that require financial and technical resources. Previous KP efforts in West Africa have focused on traditional donors (the United States, EU, Canada, UN, World Bank, etc.) for support. The KP has also traditionally underutilized the potential for support from actors outside these traditional players. Governments in southern Africa (South Africa, Botswana, Namibia), as well as throughout the supply chain (Brazil, China, India, Russia, UAE, Israel, Switzerland, etc.), may have available resources and political imperatives to provide support that goes beyond those of the traditional donors.
7. Place articles on the regional approach in JCK Magazine, International Diamond Exchange, National Jeweler, Rapaport, and Tacy Ltd. The diamond industry (as well as governments and civil society) continues to rely on a few trade publications for much of their information. Placing articles on the regional approach that contain summaries of the effort and defined requests of the industry could help ensure the effort stays on the industry's collective radar and is appropriately covered in the future.

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ANNEX B: AGENDA

PROGRAM		AGENDA	
LUNDI, LE 3 MARS 2014		MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014	
19h	Dîner d'accueil Présidé par Son Excellence le Ministre de l'Industrie et des Mines de la Côte d'Ivoire	7:00	Welcome dinner Hosted by His Excellency the Minister of Industry and Mines of Côte d'Ivoire
MARDI, LE 4 MARS 2014		MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2014	
9h	Cérémonie d'ouverture Le Maire de la Commune de Grand-Bassam Le Secrétaire Général de l'Union du Fleuve Mano Représentant de l'Union Européenne, président du Groupe de Travail sur le Monitoring du Processus de Kimberley et Coordonnateur du Groupe d'Amis de la Côte d'Ivoire Son Excellence le Ministre de l'Industrie et des Mines de la Côte d'Ivoire Cocktail	9:00	Opening ceremony The Mayor of Grand-Bassam The Secretary General of the Mano River Union Representative of European Union, Chair of the Working Group on Monitoring of Kimberley Process and Coordinator of the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire Group His Excellency the Minister of Industry and Mines of Côte d'Ivoire Refreshments
10h	Séance Plénière Introductive Présentation par l'équipe technique de l'initiative de l'approche régionale (Alan Martin, Partenariat Afrique-Canada)	10:00	Introductory Plenary Session Presentation by the technical team of the regional approach (Alan Martin, Partnership Africa-Canada)
10h30	Présentations par les points focaux du Processus de Kimberley des pays de l'Union du Fleuve Mano	10:30	Presentations by the Kimberley Process Focal Points of Mano River Union countries
11h15	Présentation sur le rôle des partenaires techniques dans la promotion de l'approche régionale (Terah DeJong, Directeur national, projet DPDDA II Côte d'Ivoire)	11:15	Presentation on the role of technical partners in fostering a regional approach (Terah DeJong, Côte d'Ivoire Country Director, PRADD II project)
12h	Présentation sur le rôle des organisations régionales (Représentant CEDEAO) Présentation sur l'importance de l'harmonisation régionale d'une perspective africaine (Président, Association des Pays Africains Producteurs de Diamants)	12:00	Presentation on the role of regional organizations (Representative of ECOWAS) Presentation on the importance of regional harmonization from an African perspective (President, African Diamond Producing Countries Association)
12h15	Présentation sur la méthodologie de travail de l'atelier (Maurice Miema, modérateur)	12:15	Presentation on the work methodology of the workshop (Maurice Miema, Moderator)

PROGRAM		AGENDA	
12h30	Déjeuner Présentations des trois groupes de travail thématiques	12:30	Lunch Presentations by the three thematic working groups
12h45	Présentation des enjeux du groupe de travail thématique sur les contrôles internes et la traçabilité (Maurice Miema, République Démocratique du Congo, Chef d'équipe technique de l'approche régionale)	12:45	Presentation on the issues in the thematic group on internal controls and traceability (Maurice Miema, Democratic Republic of Congo, Regional Approach Technical Team Leader)
13h	Présentation par le représentant du Centre de Recherche Conjointe de l'Union Européenne (Winfried Ottoy) Présentation des enjeux du Groupe de travail thématique sur la valorisation de l'exploitation au profit des communautés minières (Dorothee Gizenga, l'Initiative pour le Développement du Diamant)	1:00	Presentation by the representative of the European Union's Joint Research Center (Winfried Ottoy) Presentation on the issues in the thematic group on beneficiation for mining communities (Dorothee Gizenga, Executive Director, Diamond Development Initiative)
14h30	Pause-Café Présentation des enjeux du groupe de travail thématique sur l'application de la loi (Brad Brooks-Rubin, Holland Hart LLP, ancien conseiller au Département d'Etat des Etats-Unis pour les Minerais de Conflits) Présentation par le représentant de l'Organisation Mondiale des Douanes	2:30	Coffee break Presentation on the issues of the thematic working group on law enforcement (Brad Brooks-Rubin, Holland Hart LLP, former senior adviser on conflict minerals at U.S. State Department) Presentation by a representative of the World Customs Organization
15h15	Présentation par le représentant du Groupe Intergouvernemental d'Action contre le Blanchiment d'Argent (GIABA) en Afrique de l'Ouest Présentation par le représentant de l'Office des Nations Unies contre la drogue et le crime	3:15	Presentation by a representative of the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa Presentation by the representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
15h45	Dîner	3:45	Dinner
MERCREDI, LE 5 MARS 2014		WEDNESDAY, 5 MARCH 2014	
8h30	Séance plénière : Accueil et présentation de l'ordre de jour (Maurice Miema, modérateur)	8 :30	Plenary session: Welcome and presentation of the day's agenda (Maurice Miema, moderator)
9h	Séance en atelier organisé par groupe de travail thématique Objectif : Identification des actions conjointes à la lumière des présentations de la veille	9 :00	Breakout session organized by thematic working group Goal : Identification of actions in light of the previous day's presentations
10h	Pause-café	10 :00	Coffee break

PROGRAM		AGENDA	
10h30	Séance en atelier organisé par groupe de travail sectoriel Douanes et contrôles financiers Anti-fraude / forces de l'ordre Administration minière Société civile et secteur privé Objectif: partage d'expérience et identification des actions régionales et nationales par secteur Séance plénière : Restitutions des groupes de travail thématiques et groupes de travail sectoriels	10 :30	Breakout session organized by functional working group Customs and financial controls Anti-fraud/law enforcement Mining administration Civil society and private sector Goal: Experience-sharing and identification of regional and national action by functional area Plenary session: Reporting back on the thematic and functional working group breakout sessions
11h45	Déjeuner	11 :45	Lunch
13h	Séance en atelier organisé par groupe de travail national et un groupe de travail des organisations régionales et partenaires techniques Objectif : Identifier des points pour le plan d'action Pause-café	1 :00	Breakout session organized by national working group and one working group of regional organizations and technical partners Goal: Identify points for the Action Plan Coffee break
14h30	Restitution des groupes de travail nationaux et régionaux/technique Remarques par le modérateur et constitution du comité de rédaction du projet de plan de travail	2 :30	Reporting back by national and regional/technical working groups Remarks by the moderator and the establishment of a technical writing committee for the draft Action Plan
16h	Dîner	4 :00	Dinner
JEUDI, LE 6 MARS 2014		THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2014	
8h30	Présentation du projet de plan d'action par le comité de rédaction	8 :30	Presentation of the draft Action Plan by the technical writing committee
9h	Echanges en plénière sur le projet de plan d'action	9 :00	Discussion in plenary on the draft Action Plan
10h30	Pause-café	10 :30	Coffee break
11h	Séances en atelier organisé par groupe de travail national et un groupe des organisations régionales/techniques Objectif : apporter des amendements et suggestions au plan d'action Déjeuner	11 :00	Breakout sessions organized by national working groups and one working group for regional/technical organizations Goal: Draft specific amendments to the draft work plan Lunch
12h30	Finalisation en séance plénière du plan de travail	12 :30	Finalization of the Action Plan in plenary session
14h	Pause-café et photo de famille	2 :00	Coffee break and group photo
16h	Adoption du plan de travail	4 :00	Adoption of the Action Plan
16h30	Cérémonie de clôture	4 :30	Closing ceremony
17h	Dîner	5 :00	Dinner

ANNEX C: REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

KIMBERLEY PROCESS REGIONAL APPROACH FOR THE MANO RIVER UNION
Regional Action Plan From Technical Workshop Held March 4–6, 2014 in Grand-Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire

Regional Action Category Catégorie d’action régionale	Specific Actions Actions spécifiques	Proposed Next Steps and Potential Partners Responsables/Prochaines étapes
1. Develop joint KP and diamond-industry training and awareness-raising materials	Create a KP induction-training module for all law-enforcement agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to possible partners such as PRADD II, PAC, ADPA Review module by law enforcement and KP experts (Focal Points, INTERPOL, etc.)
	Deliver training to relevant law-enforcement agencies, preferably as part of regular training events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KP Focal Points identify relevant agencies and training opportunities in each country KP Focal Points deliver trainings on regular basis as needed
	Adapt law-enforcement training module for community-level awareness raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to possible partners such as PRADD II, PAC, ADPA, DDI, CSOs
	Implement community-level campaigns through multiple channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KP Focal Points develop national awareness-raising plans Possible partners include PRADD II, DDI, MRU civil society platform
	Develop harmonized standard-operating procedures for government diamond-valuation offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each country shares its methodologies and procedural documentation Questionnaire developed for GDOs and local trade on harmonizing practices Adopt basic standard-operating principles and update country-level procedures accordingly Possible partners: PRADD II, DCI, WGDE

Regional Action Category Catégorie d'action régionale	Specific Actions Actions spécifiques	Proposed Next Steps and Potential Partners Responsables/Prochaines étapes
	Conduct joint trainings for government diamond valuers and other actors in the chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIA/PRADD II trainings in Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea • Letter from MRU harmonization steering committee sent to ADPA requesting training assistance • MRU harmonization steering committee sends letter to industry to request assistance in internships and exchanges of diamond valuers among GDOs in the region
1. Develop joint platform for sharing information on licensing, production, sales, and exports	Develop regional database interface for licensing, production, and diamond sales/exports information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose database infrastructure • KP Focal Points collaborate with EITI national committees to ensure that database is relevant to new reporting standards • Develop database system with partners • Possible partners: PRADD II, JRC, INTERPOL
	Develop procedures and practices for gathering statistics at national level for regional database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop comparative chart of statistics gathering systems in sub-region as part of landscape survey (Liberia focal point) • Approach African Development Bank to ensure practices take into account in MRU regional minerals study (technical team/Sierra Leone) • Review practices and procedures for statistics gathering • Amend practices and procedures
	Develop database of photographs of diamonds from the sub-region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach partners for development of database (JRC, INTERPOL, etc.) • Country diamond offices upload images on regular basis

Regional Action Category Catégorie d'action régionale	Specific Actions Actions spécifiques	Proposed Next Steps and Potential Partners Responsables/Prochaines étapes
	Develop system to integrate geographical information on diamond concessions and zones in sub-region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical team and KP Focal Points take lead on identifying a viable strategy and partners • Understand existing cadaster systems and donor support programs • Identify legal and technical constraints to data-sharing at national level • Support national-level cadaster systems to allow regional data integration • Share information with JRC/USGS to develop monitoring of activity outside licensed zones and early warning system
1. Conduct comprehensive geologic surveys at a sub-regional level	<p>Request funds from major donors for sub-regional geological surveys</p> <p>Continue to develop deposit modeling across region</p> <p>Request geological surveys to share geological information with MRU countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries put together joint request to World Bank, African Development Bank, etc. • Governments collaborate with USGS to provide historical production data to improve model • Geological sampling in ASM zones for USGS/JRC program (PRADD II) • KP Focal Points advocate for this request
1. Use and contribute to law enforcement information systems in implementation of KP	Improve exporter vetting procedures to include regional and cross-sectorial consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal Points share information on export license applicants with Mano River counterparts • Amend licensing procedures to include vetting through verification in national/regional law enforcement databases, FIUs, etc.

Regional Action Category Catégorie d'action régionale	Specific Actions Actions spécifiques	Proposed Next Steps and Potential Partners Responsables/Prochaines étapes
	Take regional approach in investigating diamond trade violations and possible connections to organized crime, terrorism and drug trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical team in conjunction with Focal Points to coordinate with TCUs/FIUs/national task forces and enforcement brigades to evaluate which would be the best information-sharing platform at sub-regional level • Focal Points encourage involvement of any mining enforcement authorities with TCUs and CENTIFs/FIUs at national level, such as by providing fake certificates to TCUs/FIUs • Technical team to explore high-level KP/UNODC collaboration for information-sharing
	Improve customs awareness and enforcement of KP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal Points to work with national customs agencies to adopt procedural changes at national level to ensure that customs authorities update CENComm database on relevant diamond enforcement information and provide copies of current KPCs to customs officials to improve verification processes • Technical team to provide training materials to WCO RILO for use in educating Customs National Contact Points • Technical team to liaise with WCO on the possible conduct of MRU-focused joint customs operation (similar to Operation Cullinan) coordinated by RILO in Dakar; include customs authorities in major importing destinations • Ensure KP chair/ASM process for distribution of fake certificates includes RILO in Dakar
	Build awareness among government and diamond industry on efforts to fight links between diamond trade and money laundering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KP Focal Points/CENTIFs to coordinate with GIABA on its outreach to regional diamond actors on this issue and regulatory requirements • Amend country-level export procedures as appropriate showing proof of use of official bank channels

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	Work with ECOWAS to improve border controls on diamond trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from KP chair/WGM chair to ECOWAS requesting public clarification on free movement of goods and persons principle in case of diamond trade • Technical team to work with Focal Points on ensuring that MRU country representatives to ECOWAS raise issue at appropriate regional meetings
1. Develop mechanisms to disseminate best practices and harmonize policies across the region	Institute regular coordination and communication mechanism on MRU harmonization among relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a National Tripartite KP working group in each member country that will meet quarterly to examine progress on harmonization, Washington Declaration, etc. • Quarterly calls between KP Focal Points and other stakeholders on progress and issues • Regional bilingual, biannual newsletter on progress, issues, and best practices • Create page on KP website for regional approach • Regional approach added to agenda at KP meetings and diamond industry meetings, including regular side events
	Institute national and regional consultative mechanisms to adopt best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize national-level forums on strategies to improve production capturing and managing the artisanal sector, and invite participants from region as appropriate • Continue to implement Washington Declaration diagnostic framework, including joint score-card for region • Encourage KP Focal Points to participate in related forums at national and international level for cross-fertilization (artisanal gold mining, industry mining conferences)
	Ensure that Focal Points have sufficient information to encourage decision-makers to optimize and harmonize policies to strengthen internal controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct landscape survey with respect to fiscal regimes, royalty fees, beneficiation, and licensing regimes • Continue to build awareness of importance of harmonized export taxes in MRU region

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