

Mapping the Economic and Social Challenges of Artisanal and Small-Scale Diamond Mining in Côte d'Ivoire:

A Case Study of the Seguela and Tortiya Areas

Executive Summary



GRPIE

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Grassroots research on local diamond mining impacts

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In Côte d'Ivoire, there are two main diamond mining areas, namely Séguéla, which accounts for about 90% of production, and Tortiya, which accounts for about 10% of production. All Ivorian production comes from artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). In recent years, production levels drastically declined.

The **main objective** of this study is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the state of artisanal and small-scale diamond mining in Séguéla and Tortiya in order to identify the major economic and social challenges and suggest recommendations to key stakeholders. The research focuses on the following questions:

- What is the state of artisanal diamond production in recent years in the Séguéla and Tortiya areas?
- What is the socio-economic situation of local supply chain actors since the end of the embargo in April 2014?
- What about the benefit to communities?
- What are the priority measures to be implemented to improve the socio-economic situation of the diamond sector in Côte d'Ivoire?

Key findings

The general observation is that the diamond sector in Côte d'Ivoire is experiencing difficulties linked to the fall in production. However, artisanal diamond mining can be an effective and efficient means of fighting poverty and a definite source of tax revenue. The combination of several testimonies shows that diamond mining was once the prestige of the Séguéla and Tortiya areas. Their model - the one adopted by SODEMI (la Société pour le Développement Minier) in Séguéla in particular - is a significant example of how resources from diamond mining can contribute to the empowerment of local residents and provide significant support for community development projects. Access to finance and technical support from the state are major challenges in the Seguela and Tortiya diamond areas. The option of accompanying Cooperative Societies and artisanal miners towards semi-industrial exploitation could be an avenue to explore to revitalise the diamond sector in Côte d'Ivoire.

Recommendations

To the government and the ministry in charge of the diamond sector:

1. Strengthen the mechanisms to monitor the artisanal diamond mining sector in the country. Well-prepared and efficient teams of auditors should be trained and motivated to monitor activities along the entire production chain.
2. Create a formal collaboration framework with the different stakeholders in the diamond sector (Government, local private sector, civil society, technical partners etc.) to carry out a diagnostic study of the diamond sector with a view to obtaining concrete proposals for action.
3. Resume geological studies specifically in the Seguela and Tortiya areas to identify more accurately the probability of finding new deposits and model the potential distribution of alluvial diamonds. To this end, a request for technical assistance from an institution such as the United States Geological Service (USGS) is recommended to update the existing geological studies.
4. Include representatives of community groups in the identification of areas with high mining potential, as well as those with low potential, to facilitate informed planning choices. The identification could be accompanied by discussions on the socio-economic benefits of current and diamond crops.
5. Build the capacity of Cooperative Societies (SCOOPS) and artisanal miners to improve internal control and diamond valuation and support local SCOOPS consultation frameworks to make them spaces for expression and economic development.

6. Improve the performance of Cooperative Societies (SCOOPS) by facilitating access to finance and equipment for diamond miners.
7. Decentralise the issuing and renewal of cards for artisanal miners. In order to alleviate administrative constraints and procedures and above all to facilitate the renewal of cards, it is recommended that to delegate the powers to issue and renew cards for local artisanal diamond miners to the Departmental Directorates of Séguéla and Niakaramadougou (Tortiya). A one-stop shop could be located there.
8. Develop programmes to strengthen the creation of alternative sources of income with the assistance of technical and financial partners, community organisations and civil society. This would help to absorb some of the artisanal workforce in other areas such as agriculture.
9. Develop a strategy for the recognition of women's potential in artisanal diamond mining. This could start with a more in-depth analysis of the role of women in the sector and a strategic plan for gender mainstreaming in general.
10. Transform artisanal diamond mining into a viable economic sector. Establish artisanal mining zones with small-scale mining permits that can be converted to semi-industrial mining permits if technical conditions warrant. Otherwise, move towards semi-mechanized mining and adopt the bipartite designation of the mining sector (large-scale mining and small-scale mining).



The Groupe de Recherche et de Plaidoyer sur les Industries Extractives (GRPIE) is a civil society organisation based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, whose main mission is to advocate for the democratic, transparent and accountable management of natural resources for sustainable socio-economic development, and to promote the rights of communities affected by extractive sector companies.

Context: This report is part of a larger pan-African research project called *Grassroots research on local diamond mining impact* which was run in eight African countries by ten African member organisations from the Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition.

The eight country reports intend to study some of the impacts of artisanal and small-scale diamond mining in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory-Coast, the Republic of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe and the impact of industrial diamond mining in Lesotho.

The full version of the reports can be read and downloaded on <https://www.kpcivilsociety.org/publications/publications-from-the-coalition/grassroots-research-on-local-diamond-mining-impact/>



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This study was conducted with the guidance and technical support of the Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition (KP CSC). The KP CSC is the umbrella organization that acts as an observer to the Kimberley Process (KP) on behalf of civil society. Most of the coalition's members are based in Africa, the world's largest diamond producing continent. Representing communities affected by diamond mining and trade, members work to improve the governance of the diamond sector in their home countries. The coalition's local and regional expertise allows us to monitor responsible diamond sourcing on the ground and to articulate a citizen's perspective on the diamond sector in national, regional and international forums. The Coalition includes representatives from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Guinea, Ivory-Coast, Liberia, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Belgium.



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