



2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KP CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION

1.0 INTERNAL GOVERNANCE MEETINGS -2020

1.1 Mission and Vision, Strategy and Operational Planning

The KP CSC mission and strategic framework for 2018 – 2019 was reconsidered and amended during a meeting in Zimbabwe early 2020, with a continued focus on diamond mining affected communities accompanied by a strategic choice to also focus on networks and platforms outside the Kimberley Process.

Objectives of the meeting were:

- a) To define strategic objectives of KPCSC for 2020-2021.
- b) To agree on an activity plan
- c) Improving KP CSC governance

The outcomes of the meeting included the following:

- a) the strategic objectives were updated and agreed upon
- b) a discussion on membership and acceptance of the notion of "associated members"
- c) a new governance structure, including a steering committee and regional leads
- d) a clear mandate for the coordinator, and the steering committee

1.2 Identified Challenges and Opportunities

Covid-19 International and in-country travel limitations hampered national, regional and international CSC activities and meetings throughout 2020 but the coalition succeeded in working together on their common agenda (see below).

In addition to the existing online communications, an increasing amount of communication, meetings and activities took place virtually (CSC meetings and discussions, virtual intersessional, working with partners). This was particularly challenging as all our African members struggle with poor communication networks, capacities and skills.

As expressed in the January 2020 meeting in Zimbabwe, members shared a general feeling not to expect meaningful change within KP any time soon. The KP CSC will therefore increasingly look at other international fora and actors for improving diamond governance, and focus more on national and regional-level activities. Yet it will keep a confined role within KP, as CSO watchdog and to exploit any opportunities for promoting our agenda of protecting community rights.

In the KP CSC adopted strategic and operational plan for 2020-2021, focus is on three main themes: redistribution of diamond mining benefits, reduction of violence and the protection of land rights of local communities. The coalition will work through three interlinked regional approaches: West (MRU countries), Central (DRC, Cameroon and potentially CAR) and South Africa (Zimbabwe, Lesotho and potentially Angola).

CSC members have implemented the action plan and produced national and regional activities on the agreed topics. They also published a study on the impact of COVID 19.

1.3 Improved Governance Structure

To implement decisions on governance and roles and responsibilities as agreed in Zimbabwe, the following has been achieved

- MoUs were concluded with CSC members
- A Steering Committee was created to manage the coalition between meetings. It has representatives from all regions + the coordinator. The steering committee has regularly met in teleconferences
- **Membership:** the notion of “associate member” was accepted, with a member from Central African Republic entering the coalition in this capacity. A new application from Sierra Leone is pending.
- **Communication:** a communication team has been set up, new policy and action plan developed. The website is available in French and there is increased online communication (social media, blogs, etc.).

1.3.1 Appointment of Vice-Chair

Michel Yoboue, director of GRPIE in Ivory Coast was appointed vice chair in the February 2021 planning meeting. The vice chair will work closely with the chair Shamiso Mtisi from Zimbabwean based ZELA in 2021 and will take over chairmanship early 2022 at the occasion of the annual planning meeting of the KP CSC. One of the criteria for selection of the vice chair was to always seek a French speaking vice chair and English speaking chair or vice versa.

1.3.2 New Associate member

The KP CSC has further developed its membership structure, and introduced a concept of “**associate membership**” to allow organisations to engage in KP work at national level and become increasingly acquainted with the Kimberley Process. The KP CSC also decided to proactively reach out to a potential members in CAR. In 2020 the Central African Centre Centrafricain de Recherche et d'Analyse Géopolitique (CCRAG) has been accepted as an associate member of the KP CSC.

Active outreach will be done to include members from other strategically important diamond producing countries. Applicants will come in as an “associate member” and can apply for full membership after 1 year.

2.0 PARTICIPATION IN KIMBERLEY PROCESS WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

The KP CSC participated in online meetings and the working group activities continued virtually. This has been particularly challenging for some of the KP CSC members but efforts were made to ensure maximal presence.

The different members did take on roles in the different Kimberley Process' Working Groups and Committees to ensure participation and input in the teleconferences. The task division as agreed in the meeting in Zimbabwe was observed.

Special attention will be given to the follow up of the CAR monitoring team though language continues to be a problem for many members to actively engage in the monitoring team. Paul Crescent Beninga from Central African Republic CCRAAG will play an active role.

3.0 JOINT RESEARCH OUTPUT

As agreed in the planning meeting in Zimbabwe, early 2020, the KP CSC members invested in the following **national research projects** and **international advocacy initiatives**:

3.1 National projects 2020 - Report on COVID 19 impact

The Kimberly Process Civil Society Coalition (KPCSC) has been assessing the situation on the level of various communities during Covid-19 lockdown measures to document how COVID 19 impacts on African communities affected by diamond mining. The KP CSC produced a report of this assessment in seven African countries: Zimbabwe, Guinea, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The CSC organised a webinar on July 6, 2020 to discuss the findings of this report and explore what can be done to address the challenges posed by the pandemic

The international travel budget for Kimberley Process meetings was partly reoriented to cover for national travel for research within the framework of national projects and for the launch of a common diamond mapping research project (see below).

3.2 National projects 2020/2021 - The impact of diamond mining on local communities in Africa. Field research results of KP CSC members.

KP Civil Society member organisations between May and August 2020 carried out research projects in their home countries on one of three areas of focus, namely benefits of diamond mining to local communities (CECIDE/AMINES, GAERN, NMJD, CNRG, Green Advocates, CENADEP), violence caused by diamond mining (ZELA, RELUFA) and land rights (MCDF). All participants in these national research projects faced the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and found creative ways to cope with restrictions in their countries. The summaries of the resulting reports are published on the website of the Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition.

2020 also saw the start of a diamond mapping project, executed by KP CSC members in their respective countries. After training on a common methodology for the mapping exercise, KP CSC members will collect key and comparable information on the impact of diamond mining in KP member states and therefore contribute to inform key stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities of the sector.

Advocacy - Based on their analyses, KP CSC members will produce a common output and share recommendations to raise awareness and contribute improving governance of the ASDM sector in KP participating states.

3.3 Common international advocacy

Building on the real care is rare report and on their longstanding work at national level, members engaged in an international advocacy strategy for the coalition based on a video with 3 testimonies that demonstrate how diamond mining harms to the lives, livelihoods and environment of communities affected by diamond mining.

With this video a campaign was launched to engage industry in discussions on diamonds to close the information gap and establish meaningful relationships between communities living in diamond mining areas and the market.

<https://www.kpcivilsociety.org/we-need-to-talk-about-diamonds/>

The KP CSC's new strategy, set at the 2020 planning meeting in Zimbabwe, to engage more outside the KP and particularly with industry and other civil society actors equally bore fruit. The KP CSC participated in a number of webinars, including one with the Chicago Responsible Jewelry Conference on '[Human Rights in the Diamond Supply Chain](#)', two sessions (respectively for a Japanese and English-speaking audience) with the Japanese NGO Diamonds for Peace on 'What the KP is (not) doing about ongoing human rights abuses in diamond mining', and one with Fairlux UK, a network of responsible jewelers on '[Diamonds – What's Next](#)'. Throughout these calls we noticed a big interest in the work of the Coalition and the shortcomings of the Kimberley Process, particularly among jewelers for whom much of our findings and observations were new.

In addition the KP CSC is having regular calls with a group of international NGOs working on diamond-related issues, including The Sentry, Human Rights Watch, IMPACT, Global Witness, Amnesty International and RAID. These calls serve to exchange and synergies on plans, reports and other activities.