

**MINISTERE DES MINES**  
**CENTRE PERMANENT DU**  
**PROCESSUS DE KIMBERLEY**



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

**In accordance of the Guidance Document on the template  
for annual reporting endorsed by the WGM 2014 Plenary  
meeting in Guanzhou**

**Focal Point : Marc Benoit**

**Institutional Framework**

### **Constant**

The Republic of Gabon has been a country participating in the Kimberley Process since November 2018.

We formally notified that the Republic of Gabon has promulgated the required legislation concerning compliance with the requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, by the following decrees:

No. 000169 / PR / MEIN of 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2018, on the establishment and organization of the Permanent Center for the Kimberley Process (3946). (Abbreviated as CPPK).

No. 000170 / PR / MIEN of 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2018, laying down the rules for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, applicable in Gabon (3948).

These decrees have been published in the official Gazette dated 16th to 23th July 2018

The Republic of Gabon submitted to the Chairmen of CPC and WGM a detailed “Roadmap” of activities to be carried out in the next 12 months of 2019, to implement the main recommendations of the Kimberley Process.

## **Variable**

This Roadmap contains the points developed, discussed and decided with the CPC, during the Intersession of the Kimberley Process, held in Antwerp in June 2018, which include the possibility for Gabon to issue Kimberley Certificates during the establishment of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. See copy of the Roadmap in appendix A.

The roadmap has been implemented since the beginning of 2019 and has evolved during the year. 2019. (See the details of this evolution of the 2019 roadmap in the appendix B.)

But during all the years 2020 and 2022, The Gabon, through its legal structure which manages all operations of the Kimberley Process Certification scheme called: **“Centre Permanent du Processus de Kimberley”** abbreviated by the letters **“CPPK”**, **has not made any progress in implementing the minimum application of Kimberley Process certification requirements.**

## **EVOLUTION**

On the delayed points reported in the annual report for 2019 at was mentioned:

- Export or import of rough diamond during the year ended 2019;
- Issuance of Certificates;
- Internal control: see appendix;
- Penalties.

In addition

- No progress has been made on the mission visits to the artisans;
- No progress has been made on the implementation of Purchasing offices, which are the only legal bodies authorized to export diamonds.

**And in conclusion of the evolution, Gabon has yet to issue a single Kimberley certificate attesting to a legal export in due form. Yet Gabonese diamond production continues at a steady rhythm with artisanal miners and to date 100% of exports of this production are done illegally.**

## **Two essential points were defined for 2020 and 2021 for priority execution.**

Mentioned in the 2019 KP report ANNUAL REPORT 2020 (In accordance of the Guidance Document on the template for annual reporting endorsed by the WGM 2014 Plenary meeting in Guanzhou)

### **1) Field visits by the CPPK to the artisans:**

Apart from a barely-there visit to the Mitzi region, no other has taken place in 2020 and 2021.

The reason is certainly not the desire of the CPPK to undertake these visits, but mostly due to the lack of support from the Ministry of Mines to allocate the necessary budgets for the realization of these campaigns. (No finances, no vehicles, etc.).

### **2) Installations of purchasing offices in Gabon:**

Two types of Purchasing Offices have been formally planned with appropriated Conventions in Gabon: national Offices and international Offices.

**The international Offices:** We were able, with the help of the AWDC in Antwerp, to prepare four to five potential candidates for a trip to Gabon in order to explore the possibilities of setting up purchasing offices at the start of the year 2020, but we had to backtrack because the CPPK was not able to foresee an installation according to an ad hoc Convention prepared nor to be able to ensure the export of diamonds following the Kimberley Process Certification. Since then the situation concerning internationals has been frozen.

**The national offices:** We managed to install a national purchasing office in 2019, which had to wait almost two years to obtain a "Collector" authorization, and then finally a Purchasing Office appointment. **Despite these authorizations and having paid its annual membership fee required by the CPPK, this purchasing office is unable to obtain a Kimberley Certificate due to the lack of preparation of the CPPK. This National Purchasing Office feels cheated.**

I believe that other national purchasing offices have been set up (without confirmation from my side), but also these have not exported any diamonds, for reasons certainly similar to those mentioned above and most probably due the financial weakness of the latter, made up of former collectors.

**3) In addition to these two points mentioned above**, as a Focal Point, I am affected by this paralyzed situation in Gabon, in fact not only I Can't manage to evolve in the monitoring of Gabon's accession to the Kimberley Process but also my service invoices amounting to nearly 20 million FCFA, defined by an agreement signed with the Ministry of Mines in 2018, **remain unpaid to this day. Or more than two years late, which is unacceptable.** This even after numerous reminders up to the Minister of Mines himself.

### CONCLUSIONS

2020 and 2021 have been disappointing years for Gabon for the KP, even if the sanitary crisis does not make work easy and despite the CPPK efforts and its desire to evolve positively, **the lack of government support from Gabon in the development of the KP to comply with the rules of the Kimberley Process is evident.**

We have the impression that the government in Gabon has shown itself to be very interested in obtaining membership in the KP, but as soon as it is obtained it is disinterested in the KP and the CPPK with the consequence of going towards declining all the efforts made.

I remain pessimistic about the follow-up to be given to Gabon for the year 2022 concerning the evolution of the Kimberley Process in Gabon. And illegal diamond exports will continue without officially knowing the actors or the final destinations.