

“Footprint” or characteristics of the diamond production from the Eastern region around Bria in the Central African Republic (CAR)

In follow-up to the "enhanced vigilance measures" taken by the KP Chair in September 2011 in respect to violent clashes between rebel movements in the Eastern part of the Central African Republic (CAR), the WGDE has been requested to provide characteristics of the diamond production or "footprint" of the concerned region.

Geological context:

Diamonds occur in the Eastern part of the CAR in an area covered by Mouka-Ouadda Sandstones. These sandstones are considered to be the reservoir rocks comparable in age (Cretaceous?) and formation history to the Carnot Sandstones that form the most important diamond deposits of the CAR in the Western part of the country.

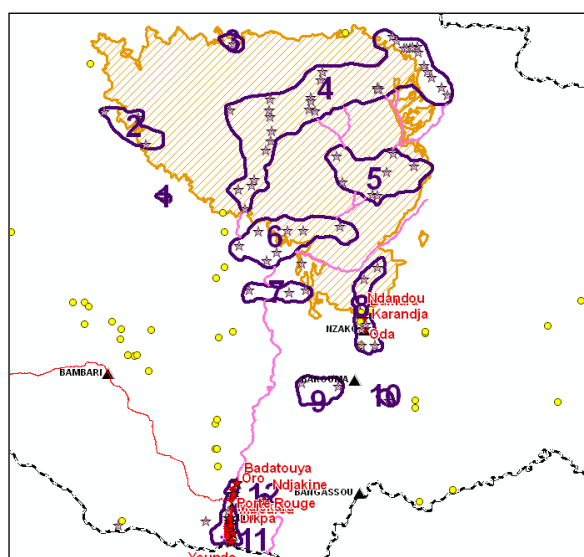


Fig.1: Diamond production areas in Eastern CAR. Hashed area represents occurrence of Mouka-Ouadda Sandstone Formation. Diamond deposits in zones 2-3-4-5-6("Bria") -7 and 8 share morphological characteristics. Diamonds increase in size and quality from North to South. Diamonds from deposits 9-10-11 ("Dimbi") and 12 show stronger resemblance to diamonds from Northern DRC. Asteriks represent individual diamond deposits. Yellow circles indicate artisanal gold diggings (Map source: RCA et Processus de Kimberley -Estimation du potentiel diamantifère alluvionnaire et de la capacité de production (2009); DNG-BRGM-USGS).

	Description
Size	Avg. weight/stone: 0.7ct; 2ct common; >3-4ct less common; >10ct frequent; exceptionally ~100ct.
Crystal Morphology	Saweables (Octahedrons rare): 70-75% Makeables: 25-30% (incl. up to ~30% broken crystals). Mostly rounded, slightly flattened crystals with shiny surface. Many with (alluvial) transportation damage.
Quality	~85-90%: High & Medium: Mostly greenish-yellowish, Greenish coatings common. Mostly commercial. Rarely colourless. Mostly cleanish. ~10-15%: Low: dark and heavily included crystals.
Value	Sam Ouandja: ~ 200\$/ct; Bria: 200-250\$/ct; Nzako: >300\$/ct
Production Capacity	Sam Ouandja: ~ 10,000ct; Bria: 40,000-50,000ct; Nzako: ~ 5,000 - 7,500 ct