

Diamond Exports to Resume from 3 More Areas of CAR

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Source: National Jeweler

Dubai, United Arab Emirates--Members of the Kimberley Process have deemed three more areas of the Central African Republic to be compliant with its minimum standards, which means they can begin exporting rough diamonds again soon.

The sub-prefectures (like a state or province) of Boda, Carnot and Nola, which are located in the western half of the country, were declared as such back in August after members of the KP monitoring team visited them.

The declaration was made public Tuesday by KP chair nation the United Arab Emirates and has the support of all members of the monitoring team, including civil society.

The KP suspended all rough diamond exports from the Central African Republic in May 2013 because of reports they were being used to fund rebel violence against the government of overthrown President François Bozizé.

After working to establish compliant zones within the country and putting in place procedures to ensure diamonds could be traced to these areas, the Central African Republic was allowed to resume shipping rough diamonds from one area, the sub-prefecture of Berbérati, in June.

Ahmed Bin Sulayem, who chairs the KP for the UAE, said in a press release that to date, two shipments of rough diamonds have left Berbérati. "Good progress has been made and hopefully we can move forward to a (further) normalization of the situation in the western zone of the CAR."

The KP monitoring team will be contacting the KP focal point person--the person who is the first and main point of contact between their country and the KP and, in many cases, is authorized to sign the KP certificates--in the Central African Republic to confirm the schedule for the team's monthly inspections of shipments of rough diamonds that are leaving the country.