

BECDOR

Gold production is estimated to be approximately 64,000,000 EUR (or two tonnes) per year and it comes mainly from few villages along the two big gold deposits in the eastern and western part of the country. Compared to the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo, the gold industry is quite strongly regulated in the Central African Republic. In 1992, the government established the „Bureau d'Évaluation et de Contrôle de Diamant et d'Or“ (BECDOR), which is charged with overseeing the market mechanisms from the mine to the export and with the valuation of diamonds.

BECDOR maintains a database concerning all gold production in the country.

It is thus not surprising that, depending on the source, 50,000 to 70,000 licensed gold diggers (creuseurs) are active in the Central African Republic. The gold diggers sell the gold they have found to middlemen (collecteurs), which operate independently or in association with a purchasing office (bureau d'achat). Gold diggers may also sell directly to a purchasing office.

To formalize their gold finds, the gold diggers fill out a “bordereau de production”; when selling the gold, the gold diggers receive a “bordereau d'achat”, which is drawn up in two original copies, with one copy retained by the purchasing office and one by the gold digger. The “bordereau d'achat” indicates the name of the seller, his license number, the weight and value of the gold and the place of discovery of the gold. If, for example, a “collecteur” buys from five different gold diggers, his sale to a bureau d'achat will be accompanied by five “bordereaux d'achat”. The collecteur receives from BECDOR licences for the salea single “bordereau d'achat”. This enables to trace back to the original seller all gold presented to BECDOR for valuation.

