



REPORT OF THE AD-HOC SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE MEETING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF AFP PROJECT ASSETS POST- BGR SUPPORT

Introduction

1. Following the submission of the AFP project status report to its 28th meeting held from 22nd to 24th April 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda, the ICGLR Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources established a subcommittee composed of Tanzania, Burundi, Zambia, Rwanda and Uganda to develop a comprehensive proposal on the way forward when the BGR support ends.
2. In this perspective, the subcommittee held a virtual meeting on **5th August 2024** to discuss possible options for managing AFP infrastructure. Specifically, the analytical laboratory is currently hosted by the African Mineral Geosciences Centre in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, and the sample preparation laboratories are established in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, and Tanzania post-BGR support.
3. The subcommittee members from Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda attended the meeting. A representative of Rwanda did not participate as well, and there have been changes in the executive management of the national mining institution, OBM (Burundian Office of Mining and Carries) in the Ministry of Water, Energy and Mines. Experts from the geological surveys who attended the technical sessions and consultations on preparing the AFP project handover attended this meeting.
4. After a round of introduction of the participants, the meeting agenda was adopted. The subcommittee resolves to select a representative of Zambia to chair the meeting.

5. The meeting participants discussed the four options suggested to manage the AFP analytical infrastructure, namely:

(a) Option 1: Integrate the AFP Project into the ICGLR Programming:

This option proposes that ICGLR integrate and manage all AFP project assets. The ICGLR will ensure the project's financial implications.

(b) Option 2: Transfer the AFP project assets to the respective ICGLR Member States:

This option proposes to handle the AFP analytical laboratory to one of ICGLR MS, preferably the current hosting country, who will technically and administratively manage and support **financially** the AFP analytical laboratory on behalf of ICGLR and its MS. ICGLR will retain the role of data interpretation of laboratory results and maintain AFP database using the already acquired statistical tools and skills. Member states hosting the sample preparation laboratories will keep running them and integrate them into their national analytical infrastructure.

(c) Option 3: Hand over the AFP regional laboratory to the AMGC

This option suggested that the AFP analytical laboratory be handed over to AMGC, fully integrated into its analytical infrastructure, and run and maintained at cost.

(d) Option 4: Close the AFP analytical laboratory.

This option proposes that the AFP analytical laboratory is not fully operational. Due to environmental management, the analytical laboratory will be dismantled, the unused items will be handled at BGR's disposal, and the valuable items will be donated to AMGC or any other institution identified in Tanzania.

Meeting Resolutions

6. After thoroughly considering all the options, the participants selected option 2. The participants expressed that they would ideally choose the first option, but due to the financial constraints of the ICGLR secretariat, the first option is not feasible. The second option has been feasible, practical, and viable because national institutions

already host the AFP sample preparation laboratories, except for the AFP Analytical Laboratory at AMGC in the Republic of Tanzania. This option also allows for designing a mechanism to ensure the coordination and maintenance of the equipment from a regional perspective.

7. The United Republic of Tanzania showed interest in managing the AFP Analytical Laboratory at AMGC on behalf of ICGLR. It was also resolved that the government of the United Republic of Tanzania should officially write to the Conference Secretariat on its interest in managing the AFP Analytical Laboratory at AMGC on behalf of ICGLR.

Way Forward and Action Points

8. The meeting resolved that this report be tabled for consideration at the next 29th ICGLR Regional Committee meeting in November 2024.
9. It was also resolved that the Conference Secretariat should engage the Republic of Rwanda over the AFP preparation laboratory in Rwanda, which was arranged to be shipped to the Republic of Uganda.

**CHAIRPERSON OF AD-HOC SUB-COMMITTEE
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**