



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

WARNING RE: MARANGE DIAMOND EXPORTS

May 11, 2010

The United States strongly supports the Kimberley Process and its efforts to implement the Administrative Decision on Zimbabwe adopted in November 2009. Nevertheless, reports continue to appear concerning smuggling of rough diamonds from, and violence in, the Marange area. Rough diamonds from Marange will only be acceptable for Kimberley Process purposes with official approval from the Kimberley Process Monitor, as indicated by an official KP stamp on the Zimbabwe Kimberley Process certificate; to date, no rough diamonds have been certified by the Monitor. Thus, Marange diamonds continue to be prohibited from the trade. The KP has recently been informed that some exports of Marange diamonds have, in fact, occurred, despite this prohibition.

Please see the document attached to this warning for further explanation.

As such, we remind the rough diamond trade in the United States to maintain extreme vigilance against rough diamonds from Marange. Moreover, we encourage both the diamond manufacturing and the jewelry industries to take reasonable steps to ensure that diamonds used in their products were not originally sourced from Marange, thus entering the trade in contravention of the Kimberley Process. Should the Monitor officially approve Marange exports in the future, these sectors will need to remain similarly vigilant against diamonds that may have been smuggled out of the area and brought illicitly into the trade.

Questions concerning these issues may be directed to the Special Advisor for Conflict Diamonds at 202-647-2856, [USKimberleyProcess@state.gov](mailto:USKimberleyProcess@state.gov).

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May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**TO ALL KIMBERLEY PROCESS PARTICIPANTS**

**Re: Trade of Marange diamonds in compliance with KPCS requirements**

**Vigilance against the laundering of illicit shipments**

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**Trade of Marange diamonds in compliance with KPCS requirements**

I would like to remind all Participants of the provisions of the Administrative Decision and Joint Work Plan (JWP) adopted by the Plenary in Swakopmund, Namibia, concerning Zimbabwe (see on KP website).

I would in particular draw your attention to item #11 of the JWP that establishes a "Supervised Export Mechanism" for exports of rough diamonds from Marange, and establishes the designation of a KP Monitor to examine and, as the case may be, confirm the KP compliance of individual export shipments from Marange with a specific signature and stamp on the KP Certificate.

I attach a copy of the KP Monitor stamp and signature that are required for a KP Certificate for Marange diamonds to be a valid export under the Swakopmund Decision and JWP.

I would also request that your report immediately any shipment of Marange diamonds that might come to your attention in contravention of the terms of the Swakopmund Decision and JWP.

**Vigilance against the laundering of illicit shipments**

In addition to the measures regulating the official trade of Marange diamonds, a 2009 KP Chair notice called on Participants to ensure "enhanced vigilance" with respect to illicit trade of Marange diamonds that may be 'laundered' through KP Channels (e.g. under a KP certificate mentioning another origin).

With reference to this KP Chair notice, I would like to call upon you to identify and report any such shipment following the Guidance provided below (see Annex I).

Yours Sincerely

Boaz Hirsch

Chair  
Kimberley Process



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**Annex I - KP Monitor stamp and signature (for official exports of Marange diamonds)**





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## Annex 11 - KP Guidance for enhanced vigilance measures targeting illicit Marange diamonds

The Kimberley Process has expressed concern at the illicit trade of diamonds from the Marange area in Zimbabwe and decided to step up international efforts to prevent the illicit trafficking of those diamonds, notably by calling on KP Participants to take appropriate 'enhanced vigilance measures' as per KP Chair notice of 10 February 2009. Pursuant to the KP Chair notice of XX/XX/2010, the KP has decided to upgrade the vigilance measures. This guidance aims at assisting KP Participants to implement the 'enhanced vigilance measures' and handle suspicious shipments from the Marange area.

- Participants should make use of the **footprint** on Marange diamonds (attached) and, when confronted with a suspicious Marange shipment, Participants should take the following **precautionary measures**:
  - Provisionally detain the shipment;
  - Exercise due diligence, i.e. request the necessary information in view of an examination to determine, where possible, the origin of the goods;
- Participants confronted with a suspicious shipment should ensure transparency and duly inform the KP Chair and the WGM and issue a **suspicious shipment report** for their consideration, subject to national applicable provisions. The suspicious shipment report should contain information pertaining to the determination of the origin of the goods, without prejudice to the confidentiality of commercial information. Where necessary, the WGM will ensure coordination with other KP working bodies such as WGS or WGDE;
- Upon receipt of such a report, the WGM will consider making a recommendation to the KP Chair to place the suspicious shipment **report on the Participants section of KP website**. Participants are encouraged to keep their own records of suspicious shipments;
- When a Participant is confronted with a suspicious shipment requires **assistance of technical nature** for the examination of suspicious shipment and/or evaluation of the origin of the goods, the Participant may present a request to the KP Chair or the TA coordination mechanism for specific technical assistance in the matter.

Considering that the appropriate use of KP certificates is crucial for the credibility of the KPCS, Participants are also encouraged to exercise caution as regards possible fraudulent certificates.



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PRODUCTION FOOTPRINT MARANGE DIAMOND FIELD (Zimbabwe)

## FOOTPRINT OF ROUGH DIAMONDS FROM MARANGE DIAMOND FIELD (Zimbabwe) FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT AUTHORITIES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

### 1. HOW THEY LOOK LIKE

On first sight, strong "gravel" impression resembling rounded pebbles in a riverbed. Look like tumbled and ; bra= coarse chips ; f bi oken beer bottles with colours ranging from dark brown to black to darkish green. Most surfaces are matt and dullad wild , id ledF ccjmers and edges. Broken surfaces display "metallic4ike" lustre,



PRODUCTION FOOTPRINT JMAR-INGE DIAMOND FIELD (Zimbabwe)

Two distinct qualities can be observed:

1. The largest group (-90%) consists of coarse very low quality diamonds resembling rounded pebbles with colours ranging from dark green to dark brown and black. The most characteristic feature of these diamonds is their rounded "abraded" nature.

**Due to these unique features this group of diamonds cannot be mistaken for diamonds from other deposits, and THE PRESENCE OF THESE DIAMONDS IS AN IDENTIFYING FEATURE.**



2. A small fraction (-10%) consists of near gem and gem quality diamonds with mostly greenish and brownish colours. Most greens tend to be smaller while browns tend to be larger and more abraded. Both greenish and brownish diamonds show spots with intense colouration. The features of this group of diamonds are not unique, and diamonds similar to these can be found in many different diamond deposits throughout the world.





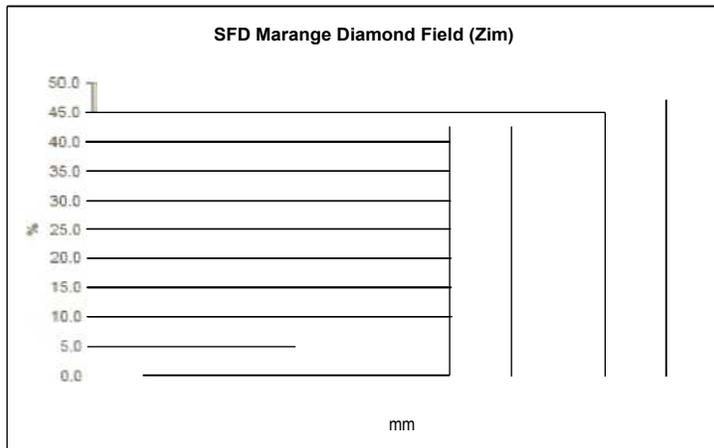
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**SIZE FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION**

- 47% of the diamonds are larger than 8mm
- 43% of the diamonds are in between 5.6mm and 8mm in size
- 9% of the diamonds are in between 4mm and 5.6mm in size
- 1% of the diamonds are smaller than 4mm