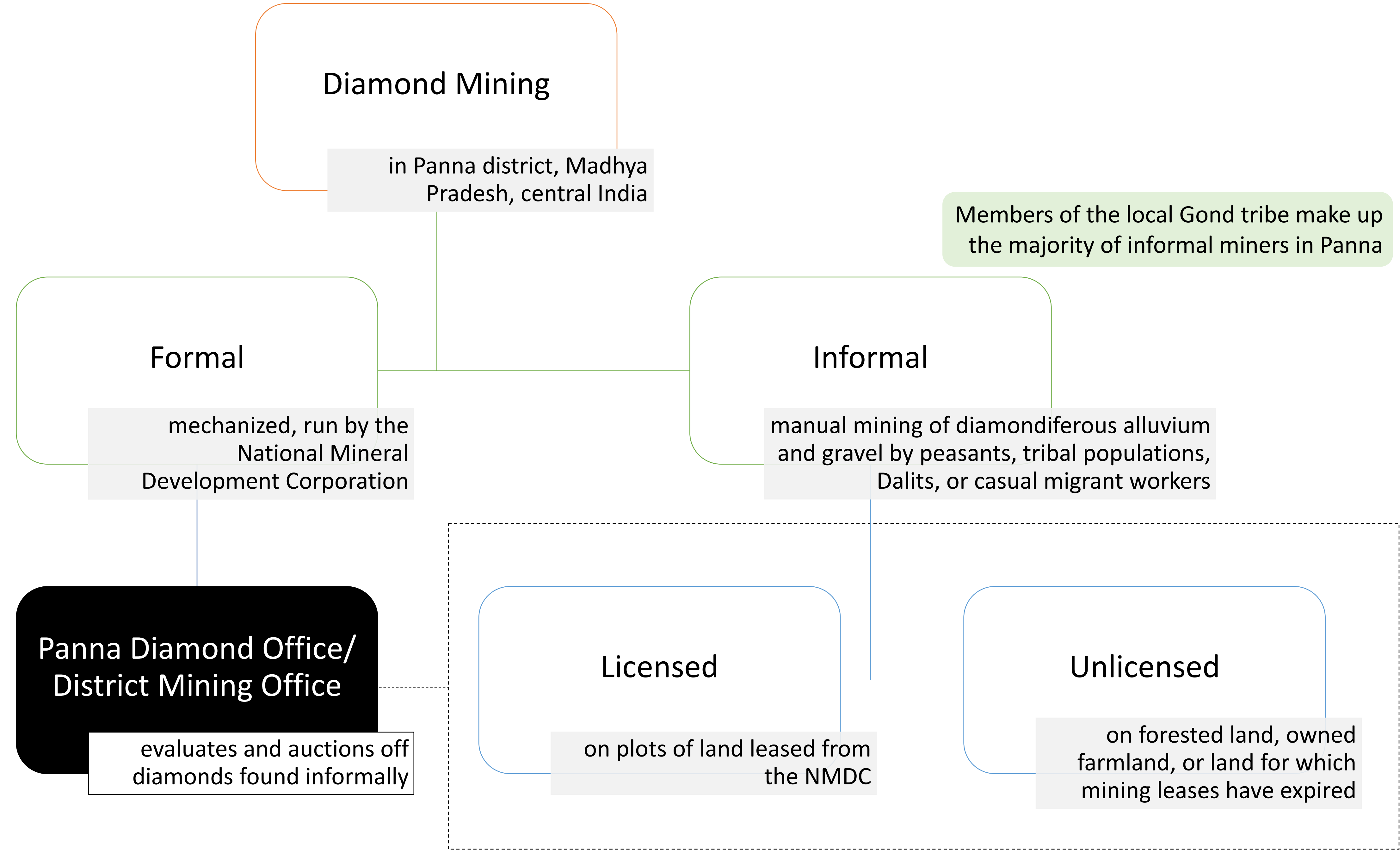
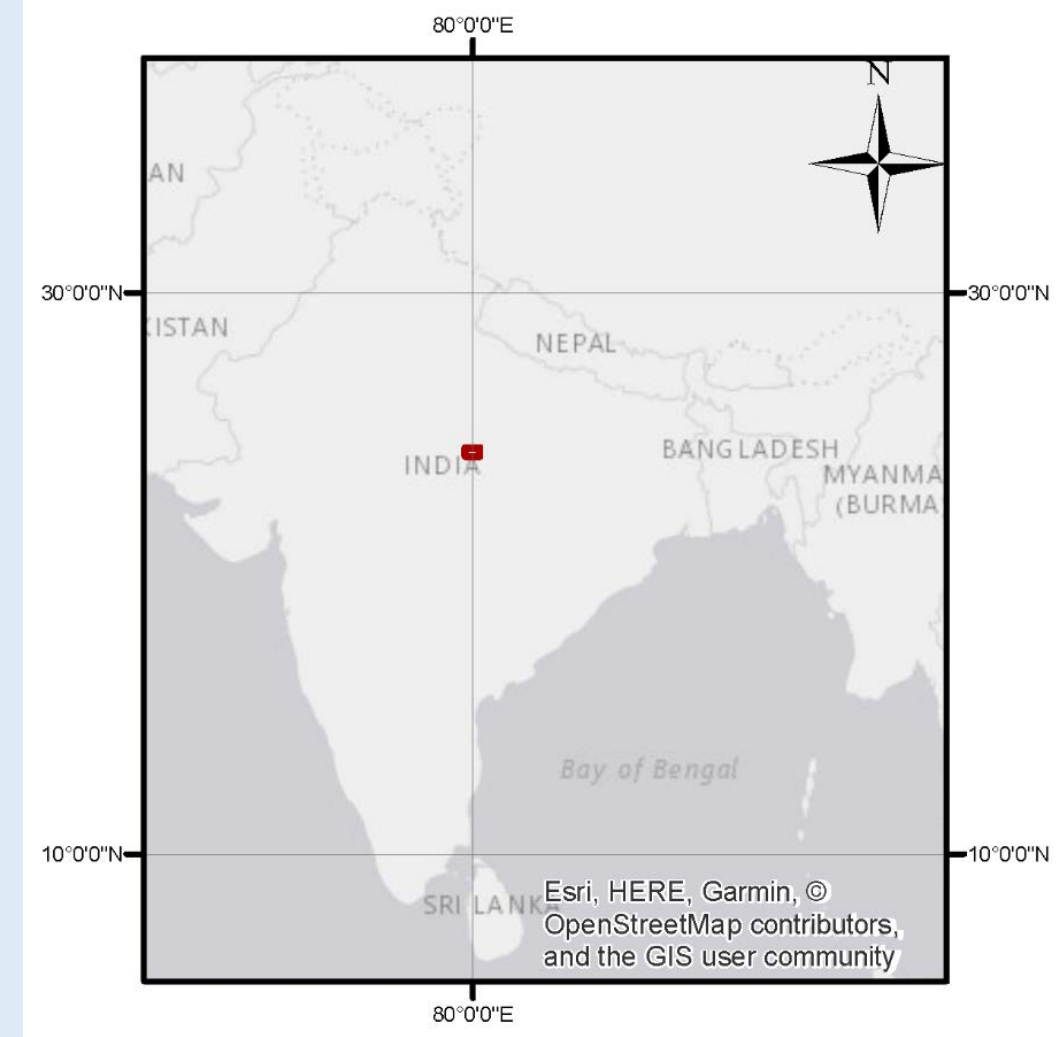


## Background

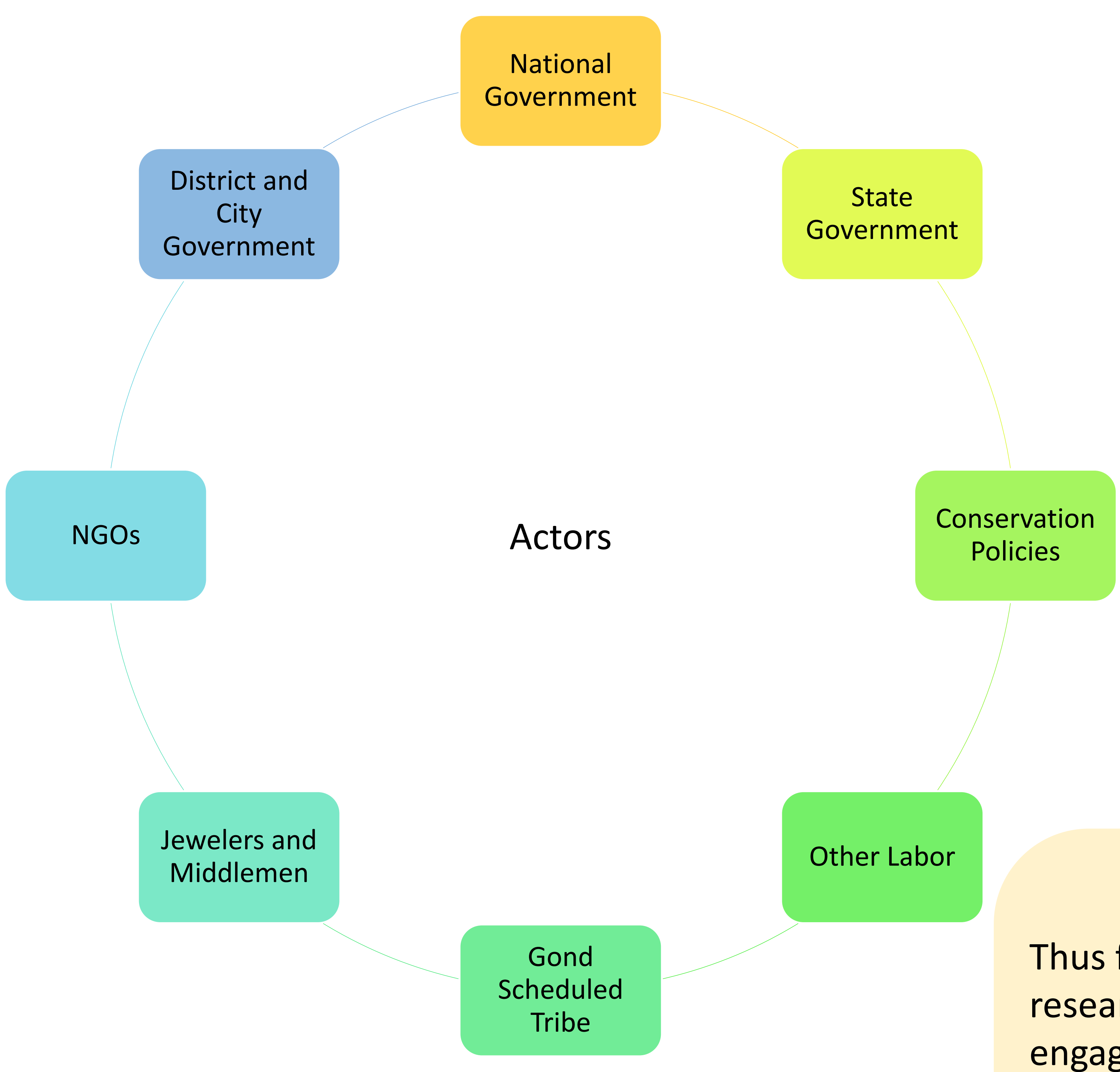
At the Panna Diamond Office:

- the state retains a royalty of 11% of the sale price
- the state deducts income tax
- the remaining revenue is paid to the finder
- auctions happen quarterly
- diamonds are not sold unless they meet a reserve price.

Illegal diamond sales – directly to jewelers or middlemen – are a growing problem.



Members of the local Gond tribe make up the majority of informal miners in Panna



## Research Questions

- What is the governmental response to black-market diamond sales?
- is there a policy response?
  - is there a regulatory response?
  - if so, what are the gaps in enforcement?
- How can policy and regulatory reform formalize the traditional Gond mining economy in a way that respects and protects indigenous needs?

## Future work

Thus far, archival and secondary research suggest that Gondi miners engage in illegal mining as a form of resistance, whether direct or indirect, against the conditions of their marginalization. In what way is their marginalization a vestige of colonialism? In what way does it result from bureaucratic indifference?

## Methods

- Interviews with:
- government officials in Panna, Bhopal, and New Delhi
  - jewelers
  - journalists, historians, Gond ethnographers
  - Gondi miners
- Scenario planning with administrators
- Mapping rail, road, and riparian routes out of Panna
- Archival research: newspapers, news channels, academic journals



Images: Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt

Lahiri-Dutt, K. 2016. Diamond mining in Panna, India. 25 November. *YouTube*. Accessed 15 March 2019 at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOT2EBShlek>>.

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