Advancing the SDGs through Investment in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining

With proper education and investment, artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) presents a tremendous opportunity to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Twelve of the 17 SDGs overlap with the development of a more responsible and sustainable ASGM sector, demonstrating the real—and often unrecognized—prospect for the deployment of socially responsible investing and impact investment.

By bringing ASGM together with new investment, business, and technical partners, an estimated 10-20 million miners could access modern machinery and training to upgrade their production practices, alleviating poverty and reducing environmental impacts.
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

ASGM Objective: Grow prosperous local operations for the economic benefit of miners and their communities

Our Approach: Facilitate investment to help formalize the ASGM industry

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

ASGM Objective: Provide a safe and healthy environment for miners and their communities

Our Approach: Eliminate the use of mercury in ASGM processing and provide training for safe operations

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

ASGM Objective: Empower women miners

Our Approach: Encourage and support the participation of women in all aspects of ASGM through training, opportunities, and capacity building

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

ASGM Objective: Reduce the use of fossil fuels in ASGM operations

Our Approach: Work with the ASGM sector to develop affordable, clean energy alternatives to replace current methods used to power operations

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

ASGM Objective: Grow the local ASGM sector with sustainable, safe, good paying jobs

Our Approach: Formalize, build capacity, and bring investment to the ASGM sector
Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

ASGM Objective: Improve technology and enable miners to operate in a socially and environmentally acceptable manner

Our Approach: Work with local miners to provide practical, state of the art mining and processing solutions that are efficient and do not use mercury

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

ASGM Objective: Grow local industry and create more wealth for long-term development in ASGM communities

Our Approach: Facilitate access to formal gold markets and encourage good business practices between gold buyers and miners that result in fair prices and more wealth at the local level

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

ASGM Objective: Achieve a responsible gold business from production through to end user

Our Approach: Work with all actors in the supply chain to support and encourage ethical and environmentally acceptable practices

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

ASGM Objective: Reduce the carbon footprint and other impacts on climate from artisanal and small-scale gold mining

Our Approach: Work with mining communities to develop renewable energy alternatives to power their operations and to minimize deforestation

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

ASGM Objective: Minimize the impact of mining activities on rivers, lakes, and oceans

Our Approach: Work with mining communities to use practices and materials that do not harm water systems or their ecosystems, including eliminating mercury and other chemical discharges

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The planetGOLD programme works with governments and mining communities worldwide to demonstrate a pathway to safe and cost-effective small-scale gold mining practices that benefit everyone, from mine to market.

To learn more, visit planetgold.org or contact finance@planetgold.org