



Explore planetGOLD Mongolia's latest newsletter

We are working toward the formalization and professionalization of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector in Mongolia, including the elimination of mercury use in gold processing. Collaborating with stakeholders along the gold supply chain – miners, gold traders, local and national governments as well as civil society – will allow us to sustainably improve artisanal mining operations as an important economic opportunity for remote communities and to support the revision of regulations governing the sector. For regular project updates, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).



October 2022

ASM regulation workshop in Ulaanbaatar

A Regulation on Extraction of Minerals by ASM (Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Regulation) was approved by Government Resolution No. 296 on August 3, 2022. Accordingly, planetGOLD Mongolia, in cooperation with the ASM NF (Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining National Federation), organized a joint workshop on October 20th for the discussion of the newly approved ASM regulation. Joining the workshop were 30 delegates from the Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry (MMHI), Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), Bank of Mongolia (BoM), Mineral Resources and Petroleum Authority of Mongolia (MRPAM), Financial Regulatory Commission (FRC), Assay Office, General Agency for Specialized Inspection (GASI), Mongolian Tax Authority, Ecological Police Unit, ASMNF, and Erdenes Legal Consulting LLC in Ulaanbaatar. The purpose of this workshop was to reach a common understanding of how to interpret and implement the provisions of the ASM regulation and answer questions from stakeholders.



November 2022

Awareness raising workshop on ASM regulation in Selenge province



planetGOLD Mongolia cooperated with MMHI, MRPAM, ASM NF and the Governor's office of Selenge province to organized an awareness-raising workshop on the newly approved ASM regulation for the related government officials of Selenge province in November 2022. The workshop was held in Sukhbaatar soum and was attended by 24 (8 women/16 men) government officials from Sukhbaatar, Yuruu, Mandal, Bayangol soums, and Tunkhel village. The workshop focused on the newly released ASM regulations and introducing them to government officials responsible for the implementation and monitoring of mineral extraction regulations. The workshop also aimed to improve the coordination of parties in supporting responsible activities in accordance with the law.

During the meeting, the following presentations were delivered:

- Legal environment and newly approved regulation of ASM, by MMHI
- Implementation of legal frameworks of ASM, by MRPAM
- Issues related to gold origin in ASM and planetGOLD Mongolia project contribution, by planetGOLD Mongolia project
- Rights and responsibilities within the framework of ASM regulation, by ASMNF



In the fourth quarter of 2022 planetGOLD Mongolia, in collaboration with our partners, organized various training events for miners and government officials. You can learn about some of these training programs below.

November, December 2022

ASGM Formalization training



As a follow-up to the newly approved ASM Regulation, the project team organized ASGM formalization trainings for artisanal miners in Selenge province (November 2022), as well as in Khovd and Gobi-Altai provinces (December 2022). The formalization training provides artisanal miners with information about ways to formalize their operations from registration to acquiring various permits, and their legal obligations as ASM operations, with the objective to increase formalization levels, legal extraction, and processing practices in the ASGM sector. In addition to artisanal miners, the local government of Gobi-Altai province requested to have their employees attend the training to acquire necessary information regarding formalizing their ASM sector. The trainings were organized in cooperation with the ASMNF and attended by 77 participants (47 women/30 men) from 13 different soums.. The training consisted of following topics:

Below are some testimonials from the training:



Altai province

"Our members were lacking in information regarding to ASM due to the Covid situation. This training was the one we really wanted to get knowledge about, but due to the capacity of the classroom, some could not attend. In this course, I got enough information about the legal environment of ASM." – *Oyunchimeg Chilkhaa, Head of ASM Association of Gobi-*

"I am engaged in ASM in Altai soum since 2017. Our mining land is permitted. Since 2019 we are collaborating with planetGOLD Mongolia project. The knowledge that the project is delivering to us is so useful that I share it with the other miners." – *Sukhbaatar Tsedee, Head of Altain gobi tsonj partnership, Khovd province*



"In Khovd, there is 80 ha of land damaged due to illegal ASM operation. This training provides an important contribution towards formalization and responsible activities and to reduce environmental impact." – *Batbayar Lkhamsuren, Director of Department of Environment and Tourism, Khovd Province*

November 2022

Responsible Artisanal Mining training

PlanetGOLD Mongolia, in cooperation with the ASMNF, organized training on responsible artisanal mining with the purpose of providing necessary information on how to operate legally as well as in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. A total of 12 miners (7 women and 5 men) from Mandal soum and Tunkhel village of Selenge province attended the training.

The training was delivered to all participants with relevant knowledge and information related to operating artisanal mining in accordance with the law. The participants gained knowledge and information about the ASGM legislation, and partnership leaders learned of their responsibilities towards their members.

At the beginning of the training, the participants self-assessed their knowledge on the topic, and post-training self-assessment has been conducted to evaluate the knowledge improvement. A satisfaction survey was conducted on the organization of the training, methods, handouts, the trainer's skills, and the training's effectiveness. Two group work sessions have been organized where the participants were divided into two groups, and one team member explained the material in detail. Once concluded, it was determined that the miners understood the importance of responsible mining operations.





December 2022

ASGM Business Management

The planetGOLD Mongolia team worked with ASMNF to organize a business management training session for artisanal miners in Khovd province in December 2022. The objectives were to change the mindset of miners to see ASGM and their partnership/cooperative as a small business and provide the miners with knowledge on the legal liabilities of an artisanal and small-scale mining organization (ASMO), simple accounting, and planning for their ASM operation. Additionally, the session focused on providing information and knowledge about making savings from the ASGM income, establishing a savings group within the ASMO, and to provide knowledge and information on the benefits of planning and recording the operational costs and activities. A total of 22 miners (6 women/16 men) from Bulgan, Jargalant, Uyench, Must, Altai, and Khovd soums attended the training.

Below are some testimonials from the training:

- *"I need to convey this knowledge and information to other members of my partnership. To operate like a real mining entity, we need to learn how to make these calculations and recordings." – Female miner*
- *"I have just discovered that we work without any financial planning, like working in total darkness. If we start doing these plans, we will be able to plan our future. Also, I now understand the importance of paying taxes and insurance. Now I am thinking that an ASM operation is a small business. I want to bring this knowledge to the rest of my partnership." – Male miner*



October 2022

Gender and Human rights training for ASM Gender Committee members

The planetGOLD Mongolia project team organized a training on the gender and human rights of the ASGM in Mandal soum of Selenge province for the members of ASGM Gender Committee in October, 2022. The Gender Committee was established by the planetGOLD project in order to provide the required knowledge of gender and human rights issues to the artisanal miners in the project sites and keep them engaged in the issues. In line with this goal, the purpose of the training was to strengthen gender equality and human rights knowledge of ender committee members, to identify and analyze common human rights issues and violations that artisanal miners face, and to improve their collaboration and teamwork skills. In total, 8 miners (8 women) and 2 government officials (2 women) attended the training. The training agenda consisted of an icebreaker, human rights

session, a gender equality session, and a call to action. Based on lessons learned and experiences from previous trainings, participatory activities were also utilized. The following are the highlights from the training:

Below are some testimonials from the participants:

- *"Although I attended similar training before, simple facilitation and explanation make much sense. It is never extra to learn about human rights"* - Female participant
- *"I feel gender topic has many layers. Even after my previous training, there is still much to learn."* - Female participant
- *"I realize that I have to change my communication style to respect human rights and gender. I always thought prioritizing work is a must, but now I am doubtful about it due to the need for work-life balance."* - Female partnership leader
- *"Asking my boy to toughen up and not to cry was a mistake. I didn't realize the importance of the mental health of my boy."* - Female participant



Training on Operational Safety and Health (OHS) issues in the ASGM and First-aid

As part of the Gender Committee's monthly capacity building activities in November 2022, planetGOLD organized OHS issues in the ASGM and first-aid training. The first-aid training was delivered by Mr. Davaajargal Baasansuren, an international first-aid trainer and health care program advisor at the Mongolian Red Cross Society. The training provided a basic knowledge of first aid to the GC members in various emergency cases and strengthened the teamwork skills and community-building of the members. A total of 23 people (15 women/8 men) including miners and government officials from Mandal soum and Tunkhel village, attended the training.



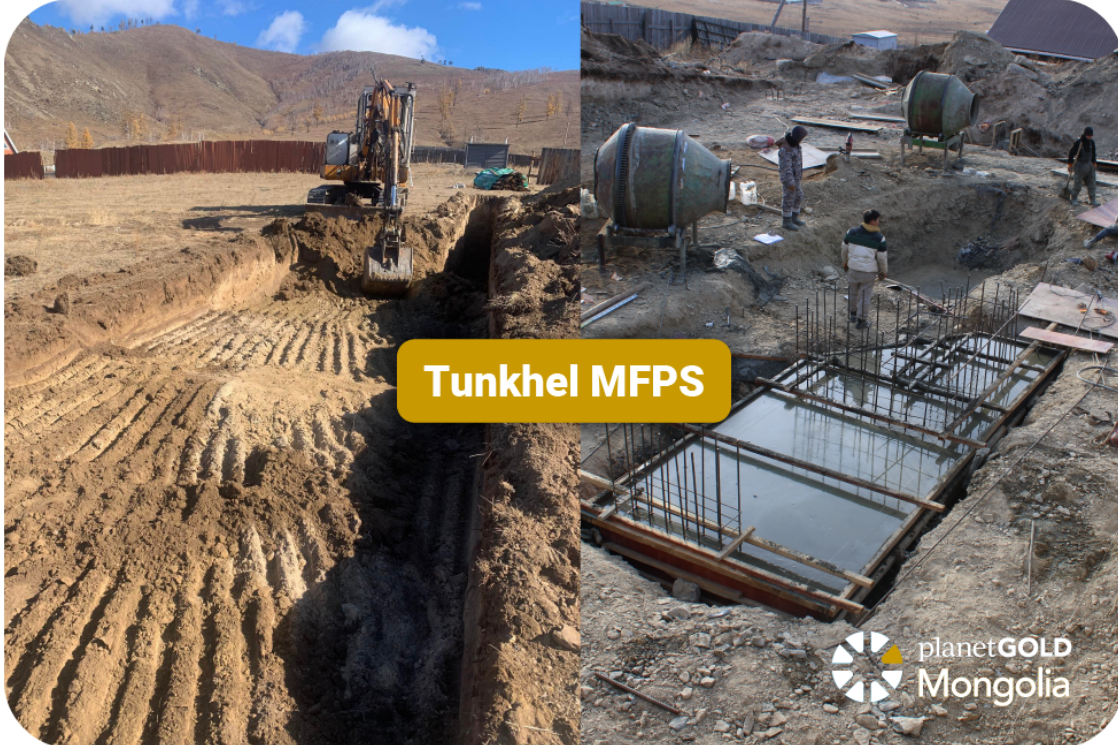
MERCURY-FREE PROCESSING SYSTEM

Mercury-free processing facilities

PlanetGOLD Mongolia is building two facilities with a Mercury-Free Processing System (MFPS) in Mandal soum and Tunkhel village of Selenge province. The purpose of building the MFPS is to reduce mercury use, increase gold recovery, implement international standards on responsible ASM, and promote formalized operations, fair price policy, and income-splitting mechanism. The MFPS uses a gravimetric method for processing gold ore and does not involve any mercury or any other illegal chemical use in its operation. Two sets of MFPS equipment were imported from Colombia and China respectively in September and October after long delays due to Covid-related logistical challenges.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, construction included groundwork and building construction for both facilities started and are still in process. Due to the raw materials supply shortage in Mongolia, the construction work took more time than anticipated. The project managed to complete the Mandal MFPS construction work and equipment installation while Tunkhel MFPS construction work is at 30% to completion. As it is impossible to continue construction work during winter in Mongolia, the project decided to resume the Tunkhel MFPS construction from April 1, 2023.





CRAFT code/planetGOLD Criteria Implementation

The planetGOLD Mongolia project continued to provide technical support for the ASGM partnerships, Shijir Khishig and Tunkhel Manlai in preparing for the introduction of CRAFT Code/planetGOLD criteria, which are international due diligence on the ASM gold supply chain. With guidance from the Project, ASM NF trainers conducted capacity-building sessions for the CRAFT staff, miners, and the heads of the ASGM partnerships in October and November 2022. The training provided detailed information and knowledge about the due diligence key requirements, principles, reporting mechanism, and documentation of mining operations. Moreover, the trainers assessed the internal documents including the Code of Conduct, human rights reporting mechanisms, gold traceability recording, and tax payments, and provided consultancy and on-the-job support on the internal documents and rules to comply with the planetGOLD criteria. In total, 28 (10 women; 18 men) members and staff of the partnerships were provided with training and consultancy.



[Global Environment Facility](#) funded [planetGOLD Mongolia](#) is a project led by the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) and [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#), and executed by the [Artisanal Gold Council](#) in partnership with the [Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia](#).



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