Report

planetGOLD

Making a world of difference in small-scale gold mining.

A GEF Initiative

Documentation of planetGOLD Programme: Formalization Interventions in Guyana

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planetGOLD Guyana

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The planetGOLD Guyana project concluded its activities in February 2023. The project was implemented by Conservation International and executed in partnership with Conservation International-Guyana, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, National Toshaos Council, Guyana Women Miners Organisation, and the National Mining Syndicate Inc.

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Abbreviations/Acronyms

Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
ASGM	Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining
Au	Gold
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental and Social Assessment
GGB	Guyana Gold Board
GGDMA	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association
GGMC	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
Hg	Mercury
MFPS	Mercury Free Processing System

Executive Summary

The planetGOLD Guyana Project aimed to contribute to the transition of the country's Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector to mercury-free operations by 2025. While the project's primary focus was on eliminating mercury use and promoting sustainable practices, the project also recognized the need to further strengthen Guyana's existing efforts on formalization to enable the mercury transition. Namely, the project took the opportunity to address formalization where it intersected with other types of project interventions. This included:

- Miners' Compliance: Working partnerships with the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) and the Guyana Mining School and Training Centre Incorporated (GMSTCI) catalyzed opportunities for training on responsible mining, mercury-free technologies, and safety, which in turn raised awareness of formalization and compliance.
- Policy Engagement: Dialogues to help clarify formalization requirements in the context of developing financing mechanisms (e.g., green loans) to support the transition to cleaner practices.
- Technology Adoption: Demonstration sites for mercury-free technologies showcased the economic and environmental benefits of responsible mining, indirectly raising miners' awareness of the benefits of formalization.

All of these efforts emphasized capacity building, stakeholder collaboration, and providing miners with the tools and incentives to formalize their operations.

The major findings and lessons learned from this work are as follows:

- Collaboration: Strong partnerships between government, the private sector, and local communities are essential for promoting formalization and compliance.
- Training Drives Compliance: Educating miners on responsible practices and new technologies directly influences formalization efforts.
- Technology Demonstrations Encourage Formalization: Showcasing the benefits of clean technologies encourages miners to formalize operations, albeit largely indirectly.

While the ASGM sector in Guyana is already largely considered "formalized, the project demonstrated that a multifaceted approach combining capacity building, policy support, exploration of financial mechanisms, and technology adoption can further buttress formalization and better compliance. Future interventions should continue to focus on collaboration, capacity building, and clear policy frameworks to support miners' transition to formalized, mercury-free practices.

1. Introduction

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) has long been an economic mainstay in Guyana. Prior to the discovery of oil (the equivalent of 11 billion barrels) by ExxonMobil in the offshore Guyana-Suriname Basin, gold accounted for 64 percent and 15 percent of the country's foreign exchange and total economic output, respectively.[1] Overall, the ASGM sector accounts for 88 percent of this production, is the primary source of revenue in the country's interior, and is believed to be "completely legalized".[2] Those operating in Guyana's ASGM sector work areas are in possession of small-scale claims or medium-scale mining permits, which can only be awarded to a citizen of the country. Moreover, any individual who is in possession of a dredge that is in a mining district[3] or claim must register and secure a license to use it. The details of these legislative requirements are shared in Box 1.

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Box 1: Licenses linked to ASGM in Guyana[4]

In Guyana, mining is regulated and monitored by the Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) under the *Mining Act* of 1989. The two permits relevant to ASGM that the Act covers are:

1. Small-Scale, which covers an area of 1500 feet by 800 feet (land) or one mile of a navigable river; and
2. Medium-Scale, which covers an area of between 150 and 1200 acres.

Moreover, those in possession of a dredge in one of Guyana's six mining districts are, according to Part XI (Section 97) of the Act, required to register it or it will be seized. A fee structure determined by the diameter sizes of the dredge is provided by the GGMC (see "Registration of Dredge and Specified Machinery", https://ggmc.gov.gy/services/all/registration-dredge-and-specified-machinery).

[1] See "Guyana becomes key contributor to global crude oil supply growth", www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=62103#:~:text=Guyana's%20discovered%20oil%20and%20natural,project%20in%20the%20Stabroek%20block. (Accessed 13 December 2024); "planetGOLD Guyana", www.planetgold.org/guyana#:~:text=planetGOLD%20project%20sites%20in%20Guyana,distinction%20among%20gold%20producing%20countries. (Accessed 3 January 2025); planetGOLD. 2022. TECHNICAL REPORT On the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Guyana. planetGOLD, Washington DC (www.planetgold.org/sites/default/files/planetGOLD%20-%20GUY%20Technical%20Report%20-%20FINAL.pdf.

[2] "Mining Sector", https://eiti.gy/mining-sector/ (Accessed 4 January 2025).

[3] These are as follows: 1) Berbice Mining District, 2) Potaro Mining District, 3) Mazaruni Mining District, 4) Cuyuni Mining District, 5) North West Mining District and 6) Rupununi Mining District.

[4] Information obtained from "Guyana Geology and Mines Commission", https://ggmc.gov.gy (Accessed 4 December 2024); Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada. 2012. A Mining Information Toolkit for Guyana, Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, Ottawa.

The number of people employed directly in Guyana's ASGM sector is somewhat contested, although the broad consensus appears to be between 15,000 and 30,000. This would mean, in light of estimates of *indirect* dependents made in other countries, that upward of an additional 100,000 people have economic ties to the sector.[5] When the last census was carried out in 2019, there were 1094 active ASGM operations.[6]

Those engaged in ASGM in Guyana are mostly regulated and monitored by the GGMC. As the main government agency regulating mining in the country, GGMC has an active presence in the country's mining districts through its regional offices. The GGMC works collaboratively with the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA), the chief industry body representing ASGM in the country.[7] All small- and medium-scale miners are required, by law, to sell their gold to the Guyana Gold Board (GGB) at its offices in Georgetown or Bartica, or to a private (gold) dealer (licensed by the GGB). A number of other government agencies and industry bodies play a part in regulating and supporting ASGM in the country (Table 1), galvanized by its ratification of the *Minamata Convention on Mercury*, in September 2014.

[5] Government of Guyana. 2021. National Action Plan for the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. Government of Guyana, Georgetown; "Mining Sector" (Accessed 6 January 2025); Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada. 2012.

[6] Government of Guyana, 2021.

[7] Conservation International. 2017. A GEF GOLD/Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana's ASGM Sector: El Dorado Gold Jewelry – Made in Guyana. Conservation International and Report Prepared for the Global Environmental Facility, Washington DC.

2. Project Background and Context

Guyana launched "A GEF Gold/Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana's ASGM Sector: El Dorado Gold Jewelry Made in Guyana" (hereafter referred to as "planetGOLD Guyana"). This 48-month project, commencing in May 2018, was designed specifically to assist the government with meeting commitments highlighted in the country's National Action Plan under the *Minamata Convention on Mercury*. The project sought to stimulate innovation, catalyze public-private partnerships and promote environmentally-friendly practices in AGSM, with the goal of facilitating a transition toward a mercury-free sector by 2025.[8] Conservational International-GEF was the Implementing Agency, Conservation International-Guyana was the lead Executing Agency, and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) and the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA) were partner agencies for the project.[9] Like other projects in the planetGOLD programme, the project emphasized the programme pillars of technology transfer, to facilitate production, increase access to finance and increase in the sale of mercury-free, responsible gold to formal markets. The project had a specific focus on three of the country's most important ASGM localities: Barima-Waini (Region 1), Cuyuni-Mazaruni (Region 7), and Potaro Potaro-Siparuni (Region 8).[10]

[8] Conservation International. 2021. A GEF GOLD/Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana's ASGM Sector: El Dorado Gold Jewelry – Made in Guyana. Mid-Term Review, Conservation International and Report Prepared for the Global Environmental Facility, Washington DC.

[9] Conservation International and the Global Environmental Facility. 2019. Project Implementation Report (PIR) for the project: A GEF GOLD/Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana's ASGM Sector: El Dorado Gold Jewellry – Made in Guyana FY19 May 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. Report prepared for Conservation International for the Global Environmental Facility, Washington DC.

[10] Bakx, J., Gómez, B.R., Tufo, R. 2024. Documenting planetGOLD programme experiences with ASGM supply chain mechanisms Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia, Peru, and the Philippines. Report prepared by Levin Resources for planetGOLD, Washington DC.

Table 1: Institutions that govern ASGM in Guyana[11]

Government Organizations	
Institution	**Roles/Responsibilities**
Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources	This body reviews policies and administration across sectors to ensure government actions align with good governance principles and serve the nation's best interests.
The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)	Established in 2011, the MNR is responsible for developing, implementing, and overseeing policies for the responsible exploration, development, and use of natural resources while ensuring proper environmental management.
The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)	Established in 1979. GGMC is the mandatory regulatory body for the gold mining sector and is responsible for promoting mineral development and providing technical assistance and permissions across various spheres of the mining sector.
The Closed Area Committee (CAC)	Established in 1994. This body identifies areas for mining claims, manages state reserves, and approves applications for mining and prospecting licenses and permits.
The Guyana Gold Board (GGB)	Established in 1982. GGB is Guyana's official marketplace and buyer of gold and is responsible for granting authorizations to process, sell, or export gold extracted in Guyana.
Ministry of Labour (MoL), Occupational Safety and Health Department	Responsible for enhancing and promoting OSH in industry and commerce in Guyana, including SMS mining.
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Established under the 1996 Environmental Protection Act, this body oversees the management, conservation, protection, and enhancement of the environment while preventing and controlling pollution.
The Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Board (PTCCB)	This Board was created to manage pesticides and toxic chemicals while minimizing risks to humans and the environment.
Ministry of Health (MoH)	To implement the provisions detailed in the Public Health Act for the improvement in the quality of life. The Ministry of Health provides the broad overarching and technical support in relation to the management of the risk associated to the use and exposure to mercury
Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS)	The Guyana National Bureau of Standards Act, Chapter 90.16 of 1984, establishes guidelines for developing and promoting standards for commodities, services, processes, and practices.
Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA)	Accepts licenses issued by the other Agencies and conducts inspection process pertaining to the entry of mercury in Guyana
National Toshaos Council (NTC)	This body promotes good governance in Amerindian villages by developing strategies for protecting and sustainably managing village lands and resources while reducing poverty and improving access to health, education, and essential services.

[11] Government of Ghana, 2021.

Miners' Organizations	
Institution	**Roles/Responsibilities**
Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA)	Established in 1984. GGDMA protects and promotes the rights of the mining community by advocating for the industry in legislative and regulatory processes, negotiating with authorities, and ensuring fair payment for gold and diamond producers. It also supports members through representation, regular communication, and its television program.
Guyana Women Miners Organization (GWMO)	Established in 2012.The organization is responsible for improving the conditions for women in the mining industry and expanding their opportunities to ensure benefits that accrue from the industry are used in ways that are beneficial to both women and the society.
The National Mining Syndicate (NMS) Inc.	Established in 2016. Its purpose is to coordinate and facilitate the consultative and participatory process regarding the individual syndicates by assisting miners in finding solutions to problems that may arise.
Minamata Steering Committee	
Partners/Stakeholders	**Role/Input**
Conservation International Guyana	As joint implementing agency and lead executing agency of the Minamata Convention, and tasked with executing the planetGOLD Guyana project, Conservation International was a catalyst in bringing together government agencies and NGOs.
GGDMA	The mouthpiece of the small-scale mining sector which was tasked with dialoguing directly and communicating with small-scale miners.
GWMO	The representative body for women in small-scale mining tasked with engaging female miners on mercury-related matters.
MNR	The umbrella agency in government positioned to usher in the proposed changes to legislation.
GGMC	The main policymaking and technical body of the government.
EPA	The main environmental policymaking body of the government.
National Toshaos Council	The representative agency of Indigenous groups in Guyana.
WWF Guianas	The inclusion of the WWF Guianas was determined on the basis of its lengthy history in ASGM-related technical assistance work.

However, unlike most projects in the planetGOLD programme, planetGOLD Guyana was **not** designed to focus substantially on the formalization pillar, since the ASGM sector in Guyana is considered largely formalized already. Nonetheless, the project recognized that while Guyana has an advanced system of laws and regulations around the ASGM sector, there were nevertheless opportunities to further strengthen the commitment to formalization and to encourage ongoing compliance by miners with the regulatory system.

3. Formalization-related Activities Conducted under the Project

The purpose of this document is to summarize the key activities related to formalization within the planetGOLD project, which were mostly interspersed as complementary activities to two of the projects' other components:

- "Component 1: Appropriate mercury-free technologies mainstreamed in Guyana's ASGM sector"
- "Component 2: Mechanism for financing capital investments for mercury-free technologies established and functional".

The information presented in this report combines key findings contained in reports produced under the planetGOLD Guyana project with feedback from interviews with key project staff to profile these interventions.

Formalization Intervention 1: Working with miners on compliance

Summary of the Intervention

Guyana provides a route to formalization for small and medium-scale miners. While this is perceived both within the country and outside of it to be a strength of its ASGM sector, during the planetGOLD Guyana Project, the team continued to promote, among operators, the importance of formalization and how it leads to responsible mining. The challenges identified by licensed miners who at times choose to operate outside of regulations were addressed to improve compliance moving forward. To achieve this, the planetGOLD team collaborated with the GGMC and the School of Mines.

Main Outcomes, Outputs and Impacts

The partnership of the Guyana Gold Project with the GGMC and the School of Mines provided training to a significant number of miners. A major focus was on responsible mining best practices, including appropriate handling of mercury, as well as training on occupational safety.

In addition to these materials, the team created a blog on Humanizing Gender Dynamics within ASGM in Guyana that showcased the experiences of women in the sector, with the goal of understanding gender-based differences.

Although these activities were not specifically related to formalization, the aspects of capacity building, training on mercury-free technologies, and new policies and incentives for mercury free production impacted formalization issues for the miners involved. The planetGOLD Guyana staff explained that the assortment of training, demonstrations and educational initiatives around technology and mercury-free processing were all carried out with the idea of supporting formalized ASGM activities. A list of these activities is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: List of training, education and demonstration sessions conducted by the planetGOLD Guyana team to support formalization[12]

ACTIVITY	DATE	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	COMMENTS (WHERE APPLICABLE)
Hg-Free Site Visit/Mtg with National Institute for Env. And Dev in Suriname	22 – 25 Oct 2018	10	
Village Improvement Plan Campbelltown	29 – 31 Oct 2018	87	Three workshops
Technology Sharing in Mahdia	5-Feb-2019	9	
Technology Roundtable Discussion	1-Feb-2019	24	Report available
Harmonisation Meeting	13-Feb-2019	29	
Technology Round Table Discussion - Follow Up	28-Mar-2019	7	Report available
Getting Gender Right in the GEF and GCF	26 – 28 March 2019	29	Internal
Awareness Session Puruni	1-Jul-2019	28	
Awareness Session Region 1 (Ppport Kaiatuma | Arakak)	9-Sep-2019	44	
Demonstration – Puruni		~25	
Demonstration – Mahdia		~40	
Demonstration – Karrau		~55	
VIP	6-Feb-2020	30	
M&E Questionnaires	12-Sep-2020	52	
Merundoi	Nov 2020 - Mar 2021		https://merundoi.org.gy/air-times/
Merundoi	1 Mar – 11 Apr 2021		https://merundoi.org.gy/air-times/
Design of ASM Financing Mechanism for Capital Investments in Mercury-Free Technology	15-Apr-2021	36	Report available
Meeting with Karrau Village Council	1-Jul-2021	10	
Value Chain Assessment	1-Jun-2021	25	Report available
IPLC Engagement Training	18-Jan-2022	31	
Responsible Mining Conference	18 – 20 Jan 2023		Report available
Planet Gold Program Advisory Group Meeting	28-Feb-2023		
Project Stakeholders		146	Mining, Indigenous Communities, Government, Private sector
Demo Video			https://youtu.be/3fGB2fLRUJU?si=9zFpTKNSIoDLGY-g

[12] Data retrieved from planetGOLD Guyana team.

Formalization Intervention 2: Work on the policy level

Summary of the Intervention

The intervention related to the work at policy level was conducted as part of Guyana's Minamata Working Group. This group has supported the Ministry of Natural Resources with multilevel, multi-stakeholder discussions and interactions to provide oversight and governance of the ASGM sector. Further, the project specifically supported the Government of Guyana - Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on the development of a National Action Plan (NAP). As part of the NAP, project staff participated in the baseline field work through data collection exercise at several mining sites and was also involved in discussions on the formula to be applied for calculating Guyana's Mercury Baseline. The team also provided feedback on the draft plan.

One of the more under-the-radar moves – although inadvertent in the eyes of the planetGOLD Guyana team – was that the planetGOLD Guyana project further legitimized the Guyana Mining School and Training Centre Incorporated (GMSTCI). Established in 2012 under the *Companies Act*, with shares wholly owned by the GGMC and operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) through the GGMC, the GMSTCI supplies, in partnership with local, regional and international learning institutions, qualified technicians to the Guyana's mining and petroleum industries.[13] Where the school has proved invaluable under the planetGOLD Guyana Project and beyond, however, is what it offers under its training arm. Courses ranging from Community Mines Ranger Training, through Intermediate Jewellery Making, to Mineral Prospecting and Map Reading Level I have all been relied upon at one point or another by the planetGOLD Guyana Team to support efforts to train targeted miners at each of the three pilot sites.

Main Outcomes, Outputs and Impacts

The multi-stakeholder discussions had an impact on the understanding of the requirements for the formalization of the ASGM sector in Guyana, especially with regards to the sector governance. The work carried out broadly supported the strategic objectives of the Guyana National Action Plan, to support formalization of the sector by supporting licensees through training on new technology, educating them about legislation, and working with the GGDMA to support the sector.[14]

As indicated, the planetGOLD Guyana Project further legitimized the GMSTCI, which the team relied

[13] "Guyana Mining School & Training Center Incorporated", https://miningschool.gov.gy/course-directory/ (Accessed 4 January 2025).
[14] Global Environmental Facility (GEF). National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in the Co-Operative Republic of Guyana. Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Washington DC.

upon throughout for inputs to training and educational-related matters. Moreover, as a unit specializing in technical assistance to mining, it also provided an array of services which proved invaluable in anchoring work linked to technical demonstrations. Perhaps more importantly, the synergies established under the planetGOLD project between the team and School have galvanized into a full-blown partnership that is at the heart of new responsible mining projects being funded by Norwegian and German partners. The planetGOLD Guyana Project is credited in part with strengthening the relationship between Conservation International Guyana, which oversees these projects, and the School.

Finally, the project developed a conceptual framework for a financing mechanism to facilitate the technological transition to cleaner energy in Guyana's artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector (ASGM) [15]. The framework proposed four financing mechanisms that would improve access to finance for ASGM in the country, namely (1) enhancing geological knowledge to support bankability of projects, (2) the creation of a Mining Development Bank, (3) the launch of a support fund, and (4) the introduction of green loans backed by local financial institutions. While ultimately the project did not develop a financial mechanism, the process of developing the framework included significant multi-stakeholder discussion and dialogue, which fostered a critical debate on the role of local and regional banks in providing green credits, investments, and equipment to promote mercury-reduction technologies and underpin the formalization of the ASGM sector more generally.

Formalization Intervention 3: Work around technology

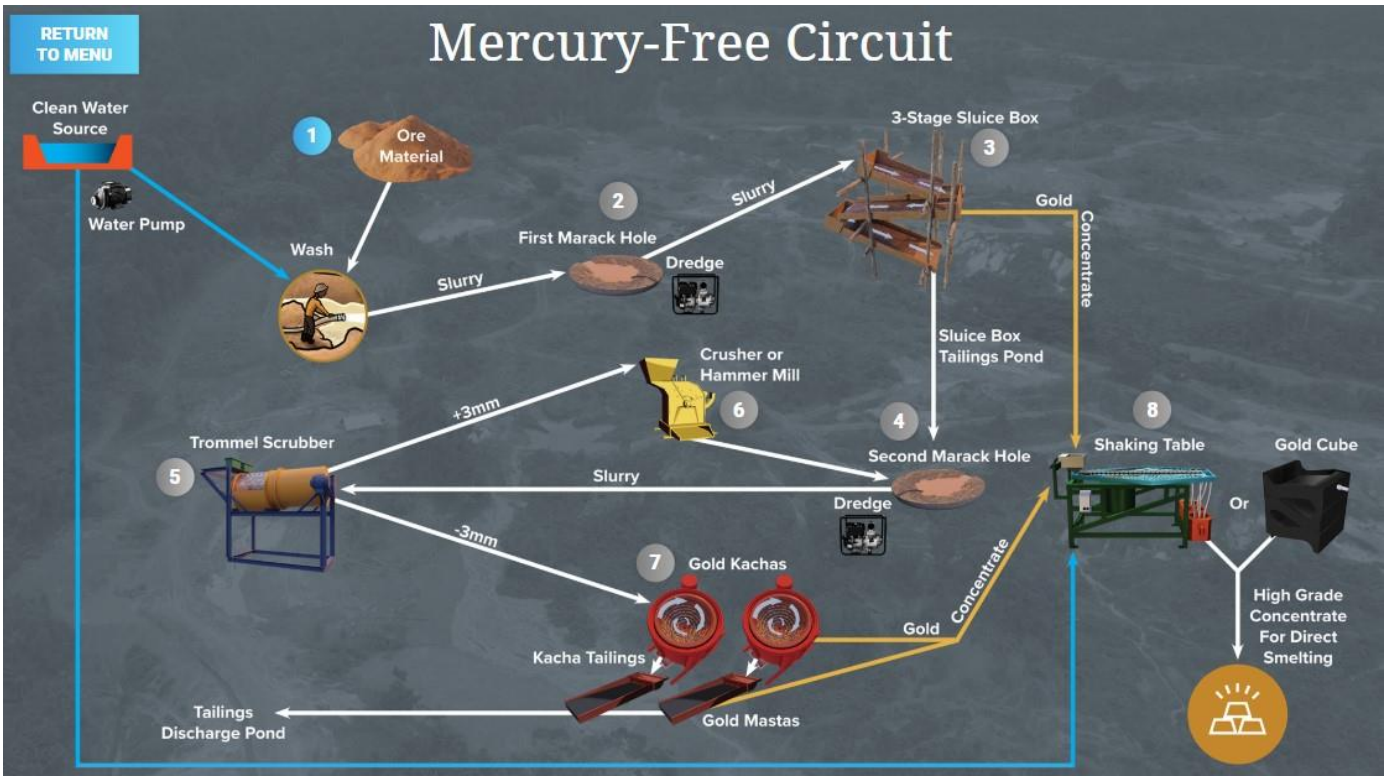
Summary of the Intervention

The planetGOLD Guyana project included a robust technological component focused on responsible mining without the use of mercury. The technology was introduced alongside efforts aimed at raising awareness among miners of the current regulations and how important it is to comply with them. Much of the work conducted around formalization supported technological support, including showcasing the 360 Mine and through demonstrations of mercury-free processes at the three pilot sites in Barima-Waini (Region 1), Cuyuni-Mazaruni (Region 7), and Potaro Potaro-Siparuni (Region 8).

[15] Arias, C., Gómez, K. 2024. Documentation of planetGOLD Guyana ASGM Financial Inclusion Interventions. Global Environmental Facility, Washington DC. See www.planetgold.org/sites/default/files/Documentation%20of%20planetGOLD%20Guyana%20ASGM%20Financial%20Inclusion%20Interventions.pdf

On the former, formalization efforts have centred on supporting miners to go "mercury-free" by following the model prescribed. The Guyana 360 Mine, which *is* this model is what has been promoted as the solution moving forward (Figure 1). It was highlighted heavily at the Guyana Responsible Mining Conference in Georgetown, January 2023, and has been endorsed by one of the more influential small-scale gold miners in Guyana, who was featured in Episode 2 of the planetGOLD *Dispatches from the Field*[16] series. On the latter, there are a suite of individual technologies that feature as part of this apparatus that collectively, when assembled, are believed to be the blueprint for transitioning away from mercury. The list includes 1) the 3-Tier Sluice Box, which process is slurry and catches the gold on mats; 2) the shaking table that separates particles; 3) the trommel scrubber, which screens materials; and 4) the gold cube that separates particles and recovers fine gold.[17]

Figure 1: Conceptualizing the planetGOLD Guyana 360 Mine[18]



[16] "'Dispatches from the Field' video series spotlights miner stories and journeys", www.thegef.org/newsroom/feature-stories/dispatches-field-video-series-spotlights-miner-stories-and-journeys (Accessed 3 January 2025).
[17] "planetGOLD Guyana 360", www.planetgold.org/explore-guyana-360/ (Accessed 4 February 2025).
[18] *Ibid.*

Figure 2: The planetGOLD Guyana "360 Mine" highlighted at the Responsible Mining Conference in Georgetown, January 2023

Main Outcomes, Outputs and Impacts

The technological-oriented interventions in Guyana facilitated a broadened awareness of more responsible practices. These interventions have specifically showcased cleaner and more efficient technologies that could yield higher economic return for ASGM groups.

In *Summary Report: planetGOLD Guyana Technology Transfer Interventions*,[19] describes the work carried out at a set of demonstration sites (including the site featured in the 360 Mine) to show proper processes and clean technologies. The document outlines, *inter alia*, the cost of this apparatus: the equipment required (excluding the sluice, which is locally handcrafted) is approximately US$45,000, and the total costs for one site, including site preparation, equipment, transportation and other costs is approximately US$160,000. Each site demonstration was designed to include management strategies for ore and waste, as well as safety protocols, with control sites for effective comparative analysis. Although the intervention had no specific activities on miner's formalization, the training delivered by the GGDMA's Technical Services Unit provided capacity building support to small miners

[19] planetGOLD. 2023. *Summary Report: planetGOLD Guyana Technology Transfer Interventions* . planetGOLD, Global Environmental Facility, Washington DC. See www.planetgold.org/sites/default/files/planetGOLD%20Report%20Templates_Technical_Guyana%20final%20for%20circulation%208%2016.pdf

in various aspects of responsible mining and compliance, that indirectly increased the miners' awareness of formalization issues.

4. Findings, Experiences and Lessons Learned

Broader Lessons Learned

The broader lessons learned from the formalization interventions in the Guyana Gold Project include:

- **Collaboration:** Effective partnerships with governmental bodies (GGMC), educational institutions (School of Mines), and other stakeholders (multi-stakeholder policy groups) are crucial for promoting formalization and compliance in the ASGM sector. Collaborative efforts create synergies that drive capacity-building, improve governance, and facilitate sector-wide change.
- **Capacity-building and compliance:** Training miners in responsible practices, mercury-free technologies, and safety protocols enhances awareness of both environmental and formalization issues. Even when formalization is not a direct objective, improving miners' skills and understanding often leads to greater compliance with regulations.
- **Financial mechanisms to support formalization:** Policy-level interventions, such as the creation of financial mechanisms (e.g., green loans, mining development funds), can facilitate the transition to cleaner, more formalized mining practices. These mechanisms offer economic incentives for miners to adopt sustainable technologies and align with formalization goals, since formalization and legitimacy are foundational to access to commercial finance.
- **Cleaner technologies and better practices:** Demonstrating the benefits of clean, efficient technologies not only improves mining practices but also highlights the economic advantages of formalization. Miners are more likely to comply with regulations if they see tangible benefits, such as improved profitability and reduced environmental impact.

These lessons underscore that successful formalization in the ASGM sector is a multifaceted process, requiring integrated approaches involving training, financial support, technology, and inclusive policies.

Recommendations for Future Interventions

Recommendations on formalization for future interventions:

- **Strengthen Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration:** Future interventions should continue to emphasize partnerships between government, private sector, educational institutions, and local communities. These collaborations are key to building trust and creating an enabling environment for formalization.
- **Enhance Capacity Building and Training:** Expand training programs that focus on responsible mining practices, environmental compliance, and financial literacy. Miners need continuous support to adapt to new technologies and regulations.
- **Develop and Implement ASGM-specific Policy Frameworks:** Ongoing policy development should focus on simplifying the formalization process and creating clear, accessible pathways for miners. Multi-stakeholder policy dialogues should be sustained to address sector challenges and governance issues.
- **Associate Financial Incentives and Support Mechanisms to Formalization:** Establish more targeted financial mechanisms (e.g., low-interest loans, subsidies for cleaner technologies) to support miners' transition to formalized and sustainable practices.
- **Promote Technology Transfer and Innovation:** Demonstrating the economic and environmental benefits of clean technologies should remain a priority. Ensuring access to affordable, scalable solutions will help miners adopt responsible practices.
- **Integrate Gender and Social Equity:** Address gender dynamics within the sector by implementing programs that ensure equal opportunities and support for women miners. Future interventions should be inclusive and consider the unique challenges faced by different groups.
- **Encourage Public Awareness Campaigns:** Public and market awareness around the benefits of formalization and mercury-free practices should be a part of any future intervention. Creating demand for responsible, formalized gold can incentivize miners to transition.

These recommendations highlight the importance of an integrated, inclusive approach that combines policy, training, financial support, technology, and gender equity to promote successful formalization in the ASGM sector.

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