



planetGOLD Mongolia newsletter

June 2022

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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](#) and [Twitter](#).

Training program



In the second quarter of 2022, planetGOLD organized various training events for miners and government officials in collaboration with our partners.

Training for artisanal gold miners in Gobi-Altai

Continuing with the training events conducted in Khovd and Selenge provinces in 2021, the Project organized a six-day training event in April in Gobi Altai province. The training, which was organized in cooperation with the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining National Federation of Mongolia (ASM NF) and with the support of the Gobi-Altai Governor's Office and the Department of Environment and Tourism, attracted 135 miners (51 women/84 men) from Yesunbulag, Biger, Bayan-Uul and Chandmani soums. The program offered one-day training sessions on the following topics:

- Responsible ASM practices
- Environmental responsibility and rehabilitation in ASM
- Occupational health and safety, including mercury hazards
- Business and financial management
- Gender and human rights



Gender training for government officials

The planetGOLD Mongolia project, ASM NF, and Women for Change NGO organized trainings on gender issues and gender-sensitive policy and planning for government officials in Gobi-Altai, Selenge, and Khovd provinces in May and June 2022. The trainings were attended by staff from the provincial and soum level government organizations including the Governor's Office, the Department of Investment, the Development Policy and Planning, the Department of Environment and Tourism, the Specialized Inspection Agency, the Ecological Police, the Hydro-Meteorological and Environmental Research Center, and the Inter-Soum Forest Department. In total, 63 government officials (29 women/34 men) attended the

training and received information on gender equality, the gender situation in Mongolia, gender equality mechanisms and regulatory environments, and gender-sensitive policy planning.

Artisanal gold miners trained as gender and human rights focal points

A five-day training session for 13 artisanal gold miners (10 women/3 men) from Gobi-Altai, Khovd, and Selenge provinces was organized by the planetGOLD project in collaboration with the MONFEMNET National Network. The purpose of the training was to strengthen and deepen the understanding of gender and human rights of artisanal miners in the project target area, to prepare Gender and Human Rights focal



points as well as to support the institutionalization of ASGM gender committees in the project areas. The participants were specifically trained by MONFEMNET National network on the [SASA!](#) Programme, an evidence-based community mobilization approach to prevent violence against women. The [MONFEMNET National Network+](#) is a non-partisan, non-profit, non-governmental organization with 20 member organizations dedicated to human rights, gender justice and democracy. Following the training, the participants got acquainted with the activities of the ASM NF, the Mongolian Women's Federation, Women in Mineral ResourcesNGO, and the planetGOLD project.

Forum and exhibitions



planetGOLD co-organized Mongolia's first Precious Metal Expo

The planetGOLD Mongolia project advocated for a responsible artisanal gold supply chain and investment opportunities during the country's first-ever Precious Metals and Jewellery Forum and Expo in April 2022. The three-day event, co-organized by the planetGOLD Mongolia

project, was the result of a collaboration between many organizations along the minerals supply chain including government ministries, civil society organizations and the private sector. The planetGOLD Mongolia team highlighted the rights and realities of Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Miners (ASGM) and advocated for topics such as formalization of the industry, due diligence, gold traceability and transparency, and access to finance during the forum, which was attended by 60 people. At its booth at the Expo, the team shared information about project activities, the importance of responsible gold trade, and the formalized ASGM sector with over 500 visitors. Please learn more by clicking on the Blog button below.

[Blog](#)

Mercury photo exhibition organized in Gobi-Altai province

During the training event organized in Gobi-Altai province, the project, in collaboration with the Fresh Water Resources and Nature Conservation Center under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Department of Environment and Tourism of Gobi-Altai province, organized a photo exhibition titled "Silent Threat of Mercury and Minamata Convention" on April 6-11, 2022 in Yusunbulag soum, Gobi-Altai province. The photo exhibition was held to raise awareness of the history of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the



use of mercury in artisanal gold mining as well as the negative impacts of mercury on human health and the environment. The photo exhibition attracted some 420 people and brought the importance of the Minamata Convention and the harmful health and environmental effects of mercury to the attention of the local community, officials, and miners.

Meetings



planetGOLD meets with Ethiopian ASGM delegation

Ethiopian ASGM delegates, led by Mr. Merga Kenea Gemedo, Director of ASSM Directorate, Ministry of Mines of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, visited Mongolia to learn about the legal environment, formalization, and good practices of the Mongolian ASM sector.

The visit which was supported by the SUMM project in Ethiopia, included 13 delegates (10 women/3 men) from government and ASM organizations. The planetGOLD Mongolia project hosted a meeting with the delegates to introduce the project, discuss strategies for mercury reduction in the sector, and to exchange knowledge and experiences of ASM in the two countries. Additionally, the Project conducted training on the Legal Framework of the ASGM sector in Mongolia and Responsible Mining practices for the delegates.



planetGOLD organizes mercury meetings with MET

Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia (MET) and planetGOLD Mongolia jointly organized meetings and discussions on 'Replacing Mercury-added Products' and 'Decreasing Mercury Use in the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM)' on June 7 and 8, 2022. Representatives from the MET, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, the National Emergency Management Agency, the Ecological Police Unit, the General Agency for Specialized Inspection, the Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, the National Center for Public Health, and Environment, Artisanal and Small-scale Mining National Federation and Tourism Departments of Gobi-Altai, Selenge and Khovd provinces participated the events. Mongolia ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury in 2015. As a party to the

Convention, the Government of Mongolia aims to phase out mercury-added products and implement a National Action Plan to reduce mercury use in ASGM. In relation to this, the stakeholders discussed the possibility of phasing out mercury-added products and what measures were required to do so. Furthermore, extensive information was provided, and discussions were held on the health effects of mercury use in ASGM and the importance of formalizing the ASGM sector. The [Global Mercury Assessment](#) estimates that 38% of anthropogenic mercury emissions are caused by the ASGM sector. The Minamata Convention on Mercury sets out strategies and measures to reduce mercury use in ASGM. Eliminating mercury use in ASGM requires formalization and professionalization of the sector, as well as access to capital for its stakeholders to purchase mercury-free processing systems. Tackling socio-economic issues in the sector requires effective inter-sectoral cooperation and coordination between various stakeholders. Therefore, co-organizing the multi-stakeholder workshop was an important step to facilitate a fruitful dialogue among various stakeholders in the endeavor to eliminate mercury in Mongolia.

planetGOLD Mongolia on International forums

[Please watch our Project Manager's interview on Exponential Climate Action Summit V at 03:52:00](#)

[Please watch our Gender Specialist's presentation on planetGOLD annual forum at 01:36:00](#)

[Please watch our Technologist Engineer's presentation on planetGOLD annual forum at 02:40:00](#)



[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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