

planet**GOLD**

Executive Summary

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2019/2020



Supported by:

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Our Mission:

To make small-scale gold mining safer, cleaner, and more profitable

Our Vision:

A clean global supply of gold from small-scale miners

Artisanal and small-scale miners are responsible for producing about 20 percent of the world's gold each year. Due to limited economic opportunities or a lack of awareness about the dangers, many of these small-scale mining operations use the highly toxic chemical mercury to extract their gold. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) is estimated to be the largest source of mercury pollution in the world.

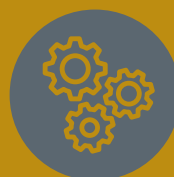
The planetGOLD programme, supported by the Global Environment Facility, partners with governments, the private sector, and ASGM communities in nine countries to significantly improve the production practices and work environment of artisanal and small-scale miners. By working to close the financing gap, supporting formalization, raising awareness, and connecting mining communities with mercury-free technology and formal markets, planetGOLD aims to demonstrate a pathway to cleaner and more efficient small-scale gold mining practices that benefit everyone, from the mine to the marketplace.

CORE PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGIES



Formalization

Supporting efforts to integrate the ASGM sector into the formal economy, society, and regulatory system



Technical Solutions

Introducing and facilitating access to mercury-free technologies and best practices in ASGM



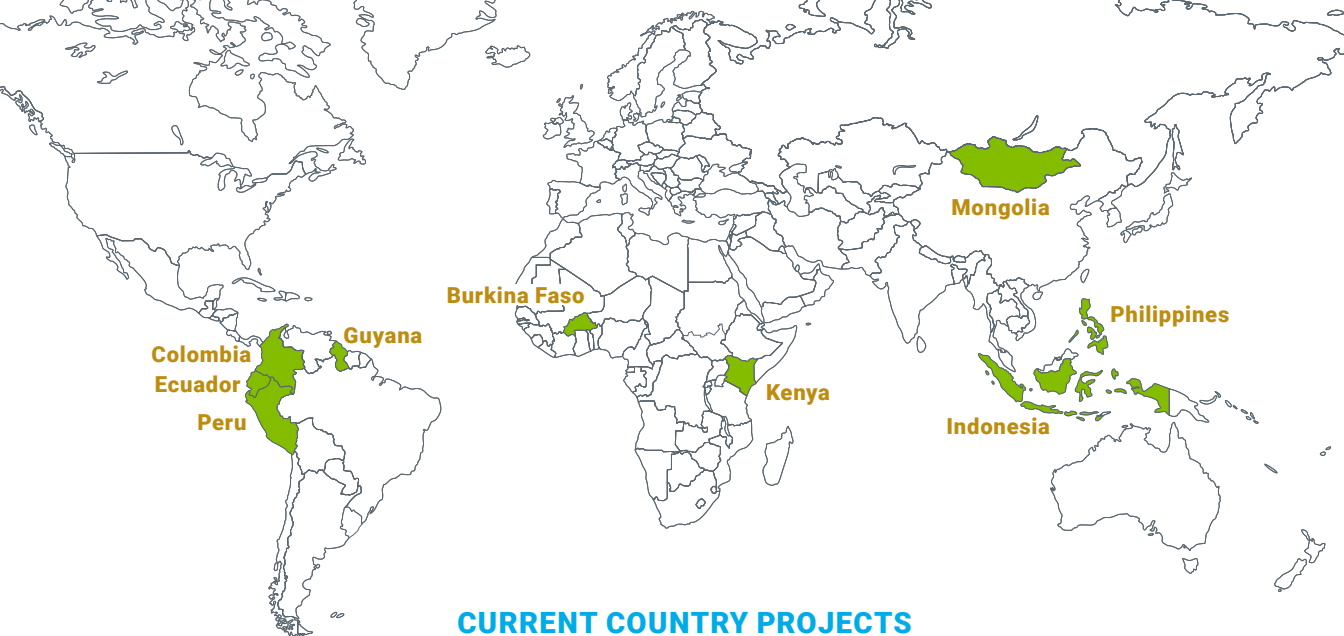
Access to Formal Markets

Facilitating miners' access to formal gold supply chains, in partnership with gold buyers and industrial users



Access to Finance

Piloting a range of models for access to investment and finance for small-scale miners and their communities



CURRENT COUNTRY PROJECTS

The planetGOLD programme includes projects in nine countries that collectively account for approximately **1,145 tonnes of mercury** released by ASGM activities per year, according to recent estimates. This work assists countries to meet their commitments under the [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#) to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in the sector. The project teams are working to protect men, women, and children from exposure to toxic levels of mercury through artisanal and small-scale gold production every year.

A global knowledge management and communications project, executed by the Natural Resources Defense Council with technical support from the UN Environment Programme and UN Industrial Development Organization, emphasizes improving access to finance and facilitates the dissemination of information from planetGOLD to mining stakeholders and communities, governments, the private sector, and civil society.





























IMPACTS OF COVID-19

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic caused unprecedented challenges throughout the world in 2020, and touched artisanal and small-scale gold mining operations in every corner of the globe, creating economic hardship and serious health concerns. Projects in planetGOLD faced considerable challenges, uncertainty, and disruptions as a result of this health emergency. Despite these unprecedented difficulties, project teams were nimble in adjusting work plans to adapt to changing situations on the ground and react in a timely manner to the emergency.























PROGRESS ON CORE PROGRAMME STRATEGIES

The charts below show progress on the programme's four key programmatic strategies across all country projects under implementation during the reporting period.*

FORMALIZATION

			
	Review of legal framework & recommendation of changes initiated or completed	Identified miner organizations for assistance	Training/sensitization and/or assistance with permitting provided
 BURKINA FASO			
 COLOMBIA			
 ECUADOR			
 GUYANA			
 INDONESIA			
 MONGOLIA			
 PERU			
 PHILIPPINES			

ACCESS TO FINANCE













			
	Analysis of existing financial mechanisms / Outreach to finance entities	Financial mechanisms designed / Agreement with institutions developed/ underway	Loan application assistance provided
 BURKINA FASO			
 COLOMBIA			
 ECUADOR			
 GUYANA			
 INDONESIA			
 MONGOLIA			
 PERU			
 PHILIPPINES			

* Due to delays detailed in the full report, the planetGOLD Kenya project launched later and, as such, is not reflected in these charts

TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

	Experts hired / Site assessments (ore, mercury, land) conducted	Focus group discussions / Mercury-free technology trainings conducted for miners	Land/plants identified and/or applications in process / Mercury free system designed / Manufacturers, concessionaires, suppliers identified
 BURKINA FASO			
 COLOMBIA			
 ECUADOR			
 GUYANA			
 INDONESIA			
 MONGOLIA			
 PERU			
 PHILIPPINES			

ACCESS TO FORMAL MARKETS

	Tools/capacity building for due diligence (DD) and/or gold branding	Review of gold trade policies / Recommendations for reform	Supply chain mapping & identification of potential downstream buyers
 BURKINA FASO			
 COLOMBIA			
 ECUADOR			
 GUYANA			
 INDONESIA			
 MONGOLIA			
 PERU			
 PHILIPPINES			



LOOKING AHEAD

As the world prepares to emerge from the pandemic in the coming year, planetGOLD will focus on assisting the ASGM sector to re-activate, by identifying needed mercury-free technology, brokering finance mechanisms, and working with governments to create more favorable regulations, while still holding ASGM operations accountable to its high environmentally and socially responsible operating criteria. Our private sector partners will continue to play a vital role in providing relevant stakeholder perspectives and helping to open avenues to the formal gold markets in the long run.

A NEW PHASE FOR PLANETGOLD

In June 2020, the GEF Council approved the concept to expand planetGOLD, by adding eight countries and nearly \$44 million USD to the programme. Bolivia, Congo, Ghana, Honduras, Madagascar, Nigeria, Suriname, and Uganda will join the current set of nine countries in planetGOLD working to make artisanal and small-scale gold mining safer, cleaner, and more profitable from the mine to the market.

This second phase of planetGOLD is expected to start within the next year and run through 2025. The programme will be led by Conservation International and implemented together with UN Environment Programme, UN Industrial Development Organization, and UN Development Programme. The programme will continue to work within planetGOLD's four knowledge areas, with a particular focus on promoting holistic, multisectoral, and integrated approaches to formalization.

Visit planetgold.org to learn more and sign up for updates

Supported by the Global Environment Facility, planetGOLD is led by the United Nations Environment Programme and implemented in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Development Programme, and Conservation International.



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