

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

for the project:

**A GEF GOLD/Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana's ASGM Sector:  
El Dorado Gold Jewelry – Made in Guyana**

**FY23**

*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*

### Executing Partners



Project Information			
<b>Project Title:</b>	A GEF GOLD/Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana's ASGM Sector: El Dorado Gold Jewelry – Made in Guyana		
<b>Country:</b>	Guyana	<b>GEF ID:</b>	9713
<b>GEF Agency:</b>	Conservation International	<b>Duration In Months:</b>	68
<b>Executing Agency:</b>	Conservation International-Guyana	<b>Actual Implementation Start Date:</b>	05/04/2018
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	Chemicals and Waste	<b>Expected Project Completion Date:</b>	12/31/2023
<b>GEF Grant Amount:</b>	USD 2,652,294	<b>Expected Financial Closure Date:</b>	06/30/2024
<b>Expected Co-financing:</b>	USD 3,136,600	<b>Date of Last Steering Committee Meeting:</b>	12/13/2022
<b>Co-financing Realized as of June 30, 2023:</b>	USD 2,997,202	<b>Mid-Term Review-Planned Date:</b>	06/30/2020
<b>Date of First Disbursement:</b>	05/04/2018	<b>Mid-Term Review-Actual Date:</b>	12/15/2020
<b>Cumulative disbursement as of June 30, 2023:</b>	USD 2,607,016	<b>Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date:</b>	03/01/2023
<b>PIR Prepared by:</b>	Ingrid Sarabo	<b>Terminal Evaluation-Actual Date:</b>	05/30/2023
<b>CI-GEF Project Manager:</b>	Prapti Bhandary	<b>CI-GEF Finance Lead:</b>	Susana Escudero

Minor Amendment Categories	Minor Amendment Justification
	Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5%. Please select the box that is most applicable for FY22 and include an explanation for the minor amendment request.
Results framework <input type="checkbox"/>	
Components and cost <input type="checkbox"/>	
Institutional and implementation arrangements <input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial management <input type="checkbox"/>	
Implementation schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Implementation end date changed from February 2023 to December 2023
Executing Entity <input type="checkbox"/>	
Executing Entity Category <input type="checkbox"/>	
Minor project objective change <input type="checkbox"/>	
Safeguards <input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk analysis <input type="checkbox"/>	

Increase of GEF project financing up to 5% <input type="checkbox"/>	
Co-financing <input type="checkbox"/>	
Location of project activity <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Any other change not captured above

### MINOR AMENDMENT RESPONSE FROM CI-GEF

CI-GEF approves the minor amendment. A no cost extension was granted that changes the end date of the project to December 2023. This extension will allow the project to complete the terminal evaluation.

The CI-GEF Project Agency Project Implementation Report (PIR) is composed of six sections:

- Section I: Project Implementation Progress Status Summary:** provides a brief summary of the project as well as the implementation status and rating of the previous and current fiscal years;
- Section II: Project Results Implementation Progress Status and Rating:** describes the progress made towards achieving the project objective and outcomes, the implementation rating of the project, as well as recommendations to improve the project performance, when needed;
- Section III: Project Risks Status and Rating:** describes the progress made towards managing and mitigating project risks, the project risks mitigation rating reassessment as needed, as well as recommendations to improve the management of project risks;
- Section IV: Project Environmental and Social Safeguards Implementation Status and Rating:** describes the progress made towards complying with the Environmental & Social Safeguards and the Plans prepared during the PPG phase, the safeguard plans implementation rating, as well as recommendations to improve the project safeguards;
- Section V: Project Implementation Experiences and Lessons Learned:** describes the experiences learned by the project managers and the lessons learned through the process of implementing the project; and
- Section VI: Project Geocoding:** documents the precise and specific geographic location(s) of activities supported by GEF investments based on information available in project documentation

## **SECTION I: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS SUMMARY**

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

#### **A GEF GOLD/ Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana's ASGM Sector: El Dorado Gold Jewelry: Made in Guyana**

This project was designed to assist the Government of Guyana (GoG) with meeting its commitments to the Minamata Convention, by directly creating market incentives for private sector enterprises. It had a value chain approach, by working with profit-motivated business enterprises, to lead the shift in the development of a mercury-free ASGM supply chain and downstream the El Dorado Gold branded jewelry. The project supported innovative approaches, tools, and strengthened partnerships with public and private sector actors to facilitate the switch to mercury-free mining and adopting environmentally-friendly approaches to mining. The project was implemented through six strategically linked 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.

*Component 3:* Markets established for branded mercury-free Gold produced in Guyana

*Component 4:* National policies and incentives for mercury-free gold established.

*Component 5:* Monitoring and Evaluation.

*Component 6:* Communications and Knowledge Management

A range of activities with a focus on technology transfer and education and awareness, was executed in three mining areas: Region 1 (Barima-Waini), Region 7 (Cuyuni-Mazaruni), and Region 8 (Potaro Potaro-Siparuni). It is the intention to produce verifiable mercury-free gold, that meets, at a minimum, the PlanetGold Environmental, Social and Governance standards, from at least two of the sites to be established in these Regions.

The project has a Gender-mainstreaming Plan, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, an Indigenous Peoples' Plan, and an Accountability and Grievance Mechanism to ensure gender equity and the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples. These tools support the work plan activities developed for implementation and allows anyone affected to voice concerns.

### **PRIOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (FY22)**

#### **Component 1: Appropriate Mercury-Free Technologies Mainstreamed in Guyana's ASGM Sector**

Technical teams conducted preparatory work on the most appropriate area of land chosen from the concessions prospected in Regions 7 & 8. One mercury-free circuit was designed and set-up at each location by mid-March, immediately after which both operations were successfully producing gold without any use of mercury.

On 24<sup>th</sup> March the first Demonstration was conducted at the Region 8 site and viewed by 33 persons including miners, members of the community and Local Govt. Officials. On 7<sup>th</sup> April the first Demo was conducted at the Region 7 site and viewed by 12 persons, including 7 miners.

A Consultant was hired in the first week of March to gather samples at both sites for assaying and quality control over a four-month period. The series of reports provided verifiable evidence of the efficiency and effectiveness of the equipment in place at the two circuits.

Under the Grant Agreement with Duke University, perceptions about the project site demonstrations, the Hg-free circuits, and the prospect of future adoption of Hg-free technologies were investigated through a survey conducted utilizing semi-structured interviews with miners in areas close to Puruni and Mahdia, during May 5-22, 2022. The arrangement also facilitated assessment of Mercury Capture Systems at the Guyana Gold Board (GGB) and Gold Shops in Regions 4,7 & 8.

#### **Component 2: Mechanism for Financing Capital Investments for Mercury-Free Technologies Established and Functional**

Consultations with Local Government officials in Regions 7 and 8 resulted in their willingness to serve as an intermediary between the project and central government in an effort to encourage government support for any one of the financing mechanisms recommended under the Financing Mechanism Consultancy that included i) Rethinking Collateralization,(ii)Establishing a Mining Development Bank, (iii) Launching a Support Fund and, (iv) new Green Loans

#### **Component 3: Markets Established for Branded Mercury-Free Gold from Guyana**

The [Mercury-Free Verification and Capacity Building Consultancy](#) was launched in Q3, and in May the Devsol Consulting team undertook a field visit to contextualize the consultancy and develop a road map on mineral processing, responsible mining standards,

chain of custody, and El Dorado Branding and Marketing within the Guyana ASGM sector. This visit resulted in a report that focused on stakeholder engagements, review of mineral processing process flowsheets, assessment of gold circuits and possible rehabilitation practices, mine standard baseline assessment, supply chain and mine practice risk assessment

**Component 4: National policies and incentives for mercury-free gold established**

The Technical Officer joined MNR's National Action Plan Consulting team for "on the ground" data gathering activities for the development of the revised NAP and the team provided input at the review and finalization stages of the process ahead of its approval by the GoG.

The work completed under the Mercury-Free Verification Consultancy and the Duke Agreement generated several policy proposals for MNR's consideration. These were discussed in detail during the Responsible Mining Conference with some commitment from the government to take into consideration going forward.

**Component 6: Communications and Knowledge Management**

Filming for the Video "Changing Minds and Mines" was near to completion and the filming of interviews of 3 women miners was completed ahead of the production of individual videos with 30 second trailers as well as posters. A booklet titled "Equipment for Responsible Mining" that showcased equipment suitable for mercury-free gold production, was produced and widely disseminated among miners and other stakeholders.

Posters on the dangers of mercury, and the planetGOLD Guyana Fact Sheet were translated to Spanish for dissemination by the MNR.

**Safeguards**

The project team completed three Mercury-Awareness Sessions for students from High Schools in areas where mining is the main source of income. This was considered important since many of the male students continued to enter the mining sector after leaving school and the female students often had roles along the gold value chain.

The project organized two sessions on Effective Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) for the CI-Guyana staff. The objectives of this training were to help the team the project facilitated 2 sessions on Effective Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) with project staff and wider CI-Guyana staff. The objectives of this training were to help the CI-Guyana team have a better understanding of the IPLC perspective and to enhance their capacity to have more effective engagements with IPLCs.

Outreach to women in communities closest to the demonstration sites was done to encourage their participation at the scheduled demos and arrangements were put in place to facilitate their participation to bring gender balance to the activities, and to acknowledge their influence in the communities.

**CURRENT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (FY23)**

**Component 1:**

A sampling consultant was hired for the Mahdia and Puruni sites, to provide the data needed to generate [prospecting reports](#) on the gold yield of the mercury-free circuit at each site, over a 4-month period. Reports on capital and operation costs were also produced, and together, these reports informed on the efficiency of the mercury-free circuit in comparison with the traditional process that utilized mercury. On 27th February 2023 the project hosted over 50 persons including miners and community leaders at Karrau, an Indigenous village where a 3rd site was established. This mercury-free processing demonstration attracted the largest number of miners to date which was an indication of the interest generated through previous demonstrations.

**Component 2:**

[The Report on Transitioning to Hg-free from Duke/Mercer](#) Grant Agreement stated that "Financial barriers are perhaps the most cited barriers to the adoption of new technologies in the mining sector, particularly by the majority of Guyanese small-scale gold miners whose financing mechanisms depend almost entirely on the amount of ore that can be processed in a given time period." The Report provided an alternative financing arrangement described as a "coexistence model" that brings together well-funded, medium-scale operations who have access to the capital necessary to invest in Hg-free equipment with small-scale gold miners who cannot afford this equipment alone. The intention is to encourage collaborations between these actors in an attempt to prevent or resolve animosity related to competition to extract gold from the same areas.

**Component 3:**

The consultancy entitled "The El Dorado Mercury Free Gold Verification and Capacity Building Project" identified The role of stakeholders in supporting the gold Chain of Custody and due diligence according to OECD guidance. A trial exercise was able to establish a verifiable and transparent Hg free Supply Chain from mine to market and explore marketing strategies to identify

consumer markets and preferred products for El Dorado Gold. The chain from mine to market via the Guyana Gold Board was established and successfully tested. However, this was established as a pilot which of course ended as the project ended.

In addition, the Consultant conducted training on topics that covered mercury free production, implementation of responsible mining standards, chain of custody along the supply chain inclusive of OECD Due Diligence Guidance, Gold Traceability systems and Branding and Marketing of El Dorado gold. The first training session was held at the Region 8 Mercury-Free processing site where a dozen miners benefitted from a robust exchange of ideas. The second training session was at the CI-Guyana Board Room where representatives from partner agencies were the beneficiaries.

**Component 4 :**

The National Action Plan was approved with several strategic objectives that reflect policy recommendations from the project. It is important to note that with respect to Government policy, the project can only make recommendations and await their implementation by the government. **Component 5**

The associated activities could not be achieved by the project on its own and there was insufficient interest from key agencies for the required work to gain traction.

**Component 6:**

Developed a range of knowledge products including a video entitled “Changing Minds about Mining” that showcased the production of mercury-free gold beginning with prospecting activity

From 18 - 20 January 2023, over 120 stakeholders attended the Eldorado Gold Responsible Mining Conference in Georgetown, Guyana, held under the theme: Responsible Mining with Better Equipment Leading to Bigger Production. Participants included artisanal, small and medium scale miners, academics, researchers, state agencies, training institutions, leaders of Guyana’s indigenous communities, and the private sector.

**Safeguards**

Recognizing the inherent safeguard risks of organizing mining demonstrations, activities at the demonstration sites included specific efforts to ensure application of safeguard measures and gender inclusion. This included specific outreach to miners, ensuring good sanitation facilities, no children brought to site with parents, and communicating about the grievance mechanism. Specific stakeholder engagement for demonstration sites included direct outreach to miners and engagement of local government authorities during demos. Importantly, the PlanetGold assessment of Responsible Mining Standards was conducted this year at the Mahdia site, showing relatively good environmental and social practices but with clear recommendations for improvement (e.g., specific policies and commitments to issues such as environmental rehabilitation and social responsibility). The RMS assessment also included training with miners at the Region 8 demonstration site and in Georgetown with other partner agencies.

**SUMMARY: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS**

PROJECT PART	PRIOR FY22 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	CURRENT FY23 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING <sup>1</sup>	RATING TREND <sup>2</sup>
OBJECTIVE	MS	MS	Unchanged
COMPONENTS AND OUTCOMES	MS	MS	Unchanged
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	HS	HS	Unchanged

**PROJECT RISK RATING<sup>3</sup>**

RISKS	L	L	Unchanged
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<sup>1</sup> **Implementation Progress (IP) Rating:** Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). For more details about IP rating, please see the Appendix I of this report

<sup>2</sup> **Rating trend:** Improving, Unchanged, or Decreasing

<sup>3</sup> **Risk Rating:** Low (L), Moderate (M), Substantial (S), High (H)

## **SECTION II: PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS AND RATING**

This section describes the progress made since the start of the project towards achieving the project objective and outcomes, the implementation progress rating of the project, as well as recommendations to improve the project performance. This section is composed four parts:

- a. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Objective: this section measures the likelihood of achieving the objective of the project
- b. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Outcomes (by project component)
- c. Overall Project Results Progress Rating, and
- d. Recommendations for improvement

### **a. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Objective:**

This section of the report assesses the progress in achieving the objective of the project.

<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVE:</b>	To assist Guyana with converting to mercury-free mining by 2025 by directly involving business enterprises with a profit motive for leading the shift in the development of a mercury-free ASGM supply chain and downstream El Dorado brand jewelry
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OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>4</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
a. Number of tons of Mercury reduced by end of project.	0.6T	<b>CA</b>	This amount reflects the amount of mercury avoided over the period March 2022 to Feb 2023.
b. Number of Regions in Guyana in which mercury-free technologies have replaced the use of mercury in ASGM	There are two regions where mercury-free technology has replaced the use of mercury	<b>CA</b>	Further to the requisite initial assessments prospecting activity, a second demo site was launched in the indigenous village of Karrau, Region on February 27 <sup>th</sup> 2023. As a result the project increased the number of mercury-free processing sites from two to three.
c. Number of financial mechanisms established and operational to facilitate the transition of mercury-free technologies in ASGM	There is no financial mechanism established to facilitate the transition to mercury	<b>O</b>	None of the traditional options generated for the consideration of the MNR, resulted in a functioning financial mechanism. However, among the outcomes of the Duke/Mercer Grant Agreement was a co-existence model which offered a non-traditional option which may yet provide a mechanism that does not require financial input from the Government.
d. Number of chain of custody processes, verification mechanisms for gold, and El	One chain of custody process, verification mechanism was developed.	<b>CA</b>	The Mercury-free Verification Consultancy produced a chain of custody and verification process that was fully articulated and tested

<sup>4</sup> **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>4</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Dorado Branding Schemes developed and institutionalized			utilizing the Mahdia mining enterprise that hosted the project's Region 8 demonstration site.
e. Number of national polices and requisite laws/regulations in support of responsible gold production and value added in the gold commodity chain refined/drafted.	One National Action Plan was accepted and approved by the Government of Guyana for onward transmission to the Minamata Secretariat	<b>CA</b>	The team worked in the National Working Group that reviewed the Draft NAP that was finalized for approval by the Government of Guyana in late 2022.

OBJECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION
<b>MS</b>	A moderately satisfactory rating has been given to objective implementation progress rating. The project made a lot of progress during the last two year of implementation especially in regard to achieving objective indicators b, d, and e. Despite the progress, the project was unable to meet the target set for mercury reduction and establishing a financial mechanism to facilitate the transition of mercury-free technologies in ASGM. However, the recommendations in the Duke Mercer report provides alternatives to the financial mechanisms which will enable the stakeholders to make informed decisions once the project ends. Regarding the amount of mercury reduced, the project had set a highly ambitious target of 15 tons which was a bit unrealistic to achieve given the time frame of the project and availability of equipment to facilitate the mercury reduction process.

## b. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Outcomes (by project component).

<b>COMPONENT 1</b>	Appropriate mercury-free technologies mainstreamed in Guyana's ASGM sector
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<b>Outcome 1:</b>	By the end of the project, demonstrations established and mercury-free technology transferred
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>5</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 1.1: Number of regions in Guyana where mercury-free technology has replaced the use of	Mercury-free technologies have replaced the use of mercury in at	2 Regions where mercury-free technologies have replaced the use of mercury	<b>CA</b>	In the fourth quarter of 2022, a concession located in a Region 7 Indigenous Village was successfully assessed and tested for the set up of a second mercury-free circuit. So, by the end of project implementation in February, 2023, there were three operations successfully producing gold without any use of mercury in Region 7 and 8.

<sup>5</sup> **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved



OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>5</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
mercury in the ASGM sector	least one region of Guyana			
Outcome indicator 1.2: Number of tons of Mercury reduced	Reduction in mercury use of about 15T	0.6T	<b>CA</b>	This figure relates to mercury avoided as a result of direct project intervention: mercury-free gold processing at 2 demonstration sites plus indirect project intervention: adjustments to gold processing by other miners in Regions 7 and 8 over the period March 2022 to Feb 2023

COMPONENT 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
<b>MS</b>	A moderately satisfactory rating has been given the component 1. The project enabled 3 operations in 2 regions (7 and 8) to successfully produce gold without using any mercury as well as set up demonstrations in the regions. However, it was significantly short of meeting its target of mercury reduction of 15 tons by the end of the project.	Decreasing

<b>COMPONENT 2</b>	Mechanism for financing capital investments for Mercury-free technologies established and functional
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**Outcome 2:** By the end of the project, a financial mechanism for capital investments for mercury-free technologies is established and functioning

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>6</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 2.1.1.: Number of financial mechanisms established and operational to facilitate the transition of mercury-free technologies in ASGM.	One financial Mechanism established	No financial Mechanism established	O	. As explained in the Duke/Mercer report, small-scale miners are unable to seek loans to access new and improved processing equipment. They do not possess any assets in the “insured region” and their operations are located in the hinterland. Small-scale miners also have higher uncertainty in their production due to the fact that they have one dredge, do not prospect and are more vulnerable to shocks. ..These miners are considered high risk and consequently traditional financial institutions remain resistant to providing financial support to them. Mechanisms proposed through the consultants required the active involvement of the Government to provide guarantees and robust concessions to incentivise the institutions. Such guarantees were not forthcoming.
Outcome Indicator 2:2 Amount of finance approved by financing mechanism(s) to miners.	250.000 dollars approved through financial mechanism(s) to miners	No funds approved through a mechanism for miners	O	.. It was anticipated that the findings of the CRDI/CESCO and the Mercer/Duke Reports would persuade the govt to provide funds to support the transition from mercury to reduced mercury processing of gold in keeping with the recommendations outlined . This was not realized during the life of the project but with the recently approved NAP acknowledging the need for financing support, the possibility of significant Govt intervention, still remains. Under the circumstances this project should be seen as an opportunity for laying the groundwork and starting a conversation rather than changing a 100 year financial culture of a country in 4 short years.
Outcome indicator 2.3 Number of miners successfully accessing financing for mercury-free mining equipment	30 miners successfully accessing finance for mercury-free mining equipment.	No miners have accessed finance for mercury-free mining equipment	O	This rating is consistent with previous paragraphs.

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COMPONENT 2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
<b>MU</b>	A moderately unsatisfactory rating has been given to component 2. The project was unable to achieve any of the targets set for this component. Despite numerous tries and consultations the project was unable to gather support and buy in from financial institutions to establish a mechanism to facilitate the transition of mercury-free technologies in ASGM. As a result, no miners were able to get access to financing. However, the Duke Mercer report provides alternatives to the financial mechanisms which will enable the stakeholders to make informed decisions once the project ends.	Decreasing

<b>COMPONENT 3</b>	Markets established for branded mercury-free gold from Guyana
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<b>Outcome 3:</b>	By the end of the project, a chain of custody process, verification mechanism for gold and, an El Dorado branding scheme is developed and institutionalized
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>7</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 3.1.: Number of chain of custody processes, verification mechanisms for gold, and El Dorado branding schemes developed and institutionalized	The branding of El Dorado Gold has been shown to result in increased gold sales and revenues to artisanal and small-scale miners in Guyana	Increased gold sales are shown as a result of El Dorado Gold Branding	<b>CA</b>	The establishment of mercury-free demo sites led to a higher recovery rate of gold by miners benefitting directly from the project. This in turn lead to a comparative increase in income by all participating miners. Further, the Mercury-free Verification Consultancy designed a chain of custody and verification process that adheres to the PlanetGOLD Environmental and Social Standards. That process, pilot tested at the Region 8 demonstration site, resulted in very favourable results. The consulting team also conducted a training session at the site for miners drawn from other mining operations and a session at the CI-Guyana location for representatives of partner agencies.

COMPONENT 3 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
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<sup>7</sup> **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

<b>S</b>	A satisfactory rating was given to Component 3. Mercury-free Verification Consultancy designed a chain of custody and verification processes that adheres to the PlanetGOLD Environmental and Social Standards. El Dorado Gold Branding has also led to comparative increase in income by all participating miners.	Unchanged
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<b>Component 4:</b>	National policies and incentives for mercury-free gold established
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<b>OUTCOME 4:</b>	By the end of the project, a national policy on responsible gold production and value added and requisite laws/regulations are refined/drafted to support a responsible gold commodity chain
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>8</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 4.1.: Number of national polices and requisite laws/regulations in support of responsible gold production and value added in the gold commodity chain refined/drafted.	At least one (1) national policy and attendant requisite laws/regulations in support of responsible gold production and value added in the gold commodity chain revised/drafted	<b>1</b>	<b>CA</b>	The project team participated in the finalization of the National Action Plan (NAP) which was approved by the Government of Guyana and submitted to the Minamata Secretariat. This policy document outlines the strategies and activities identified and agreed to by all agencies concerned, to complete a comprehensive roadmap for national efforts for Guyana to meet its obligations under the Minamata Convention to phase down the use of mercury in the ASGM sector.

<b>COMPONENT 4 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING</b>	<b>JUSTIFICATION</b>	<b>RATING TREND</b>
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<sup>8 8</sup> **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

<b>S</b>	A satisfactory rating is given to Component 4. The project team worked closely with the Government and successfully established a National Action Plan (NAP) to support responsible gold production. The policy document which provides a comprehensive road map for Guyana to meet its national obligations is highly relevant and will serve as a guide to the country once the project ends.	Unchanged
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<b>COMPONENT 5</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>COMPONENT 5</b>	By the end of the project, national capacity for the monitoring of the use of mercury in the gold mining established and strengthened.

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>1</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 5.1.: Number of national mercury monitoring mechanisms operational	Monitoring and evaluation of the use of mercury in gold mining is institutionalized within the appropriate agencies	No monitoring and evaluation of the use of mercury in gold mining is institutionalized within the appropriate agencies.	<b>O</b>	Despite the baselines that were established during the NAP process there was no mechanism designed to facilitate a nation wide monitoring of the use of mercury. This required the active involvement of government agencies that were not among our core partners. Though initial interest was shown among a wide group of agencies to undertake the exercise of tracking and monitoring the use of mercury, the interest was not maintained by key agencies. Agencies among which the project had little or no influence.

COMPONENT 5 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
<b>MU</b>	A moderately unsatisfactory rating is given to Component 5. Despite numerous stakeholder meetings and establishing a baseline, the project was unable to institutionalize a monitoring and evaluation mechanism.	Unchanged

<b>COMPONENT 6</b>	Communications and Knowledge Management
<b>COMPONENT 6</b>	A strategic communication plan and materials targeting key stakeholders, including miners, decision makers, and other local and international actors within the supply chain for awareness raising and policy advocacy are developed and implemented

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>1</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 6.1.: Number of strategic communication plans and materials (e.g. policy papers, factsheets, videos, etc.) aimed at key stakeholders, including miners, decision-makers, and other actors within the supply chain for awareness raising and policy advocacy developed.	Twenty (20) strategic plans and awareness materials targeted at policy makers, mining and indigenous communities, and other key stakeholders on responsible gold mining in Guyana	9 pieces of communication material produced		<p>In addition to the <b>Communications Strat Plan</b> and <b>14 other products</b> developed in prior years, the <b>nine</b> developed during the current year comprise: 1) <b>one video</b> “Changing Minds and Mines”, that tracked the process of producing mercury-free gold, from prospecting to smelting, 2) <b>one booklet</b> titled “<a href="#">Equipment for Responsible Mining</a>” that showcased equipment suitable for mercury-free gold production, 3) <b>two additional videos</b> of interviews of miners for the “Women in Mining” series. One of the women being the <a href="#">concessionaire for the Region 7 demo site</a>, and 3) <b>two posters</b> on the <a href="#">dangers of mercury</a> were translated into Spanish for dissemination by partner agencies and 4) <b>three</b> blogs: “<a href="#">Partnerships of hope</a>”, “<a href="#">Solutions to deforestation in Guyana</a>” and “<a href="#">Guyana Responsible Mining Conference</a>” were produced</p> <p>In addition to the material produced and disseminated across the mining districts, the Eldorado Gold <a href="#">Responsible Mining Conference</a> was hosted from 18 - 20 January 2023 under the theme: Responsible Mining with Better Equipment Leading to Bigger Production. The Conference was organized under six sub themes: 1) Developing and Maintaining Growth; 2) Safeguarding the Environment; 3)Occupational Health, Safety, and Social Inclusion; 4) Prospecting for Gold; 5)Mercury Reduction Techniques; and 6) Partnerships. This capstone event attracted small and medium scale miners, academics, researchers, state agencies, training institutions, leaders of Guyana’s indigenous communities, and the private sector. Outcomes included important commitments made to sector stakeholders by senior representatives of key government agencies.</p> <p>Miners applauded the opportunity to have their concerns discussed at the well-attended conference and government representatives committed to addressing many of the issues raised.</p>

COMPONENT 6 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	A Highly satisfactory rating was given to Component 6. The project produced several communication and knowledge products. The video on demonstration of equipment for mercury-free gold mining, booklets, and other KM products will be of use to a wider audience in other mining countries as well.	Unchanged

### c. Overall Project Results Rating

#### OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION RATING

OVERALL RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND <sup>9</sup>
MS	A moderately satisfactory rating has been given to the overall project results implementation. The project was able to complete all the outputs and outcomes under component 3, 4, and 6 but was unable to achieve the outcomes for component 1, 2 and 5. The project produced a National Action Plan (NAP) for responsible gold production, designed a chain of custody and verification processes that adheres to the PlanetGOLD Environmental and Social Standards. It generated numerous highly relevant KM products which will be of use to a wide range of audiences. COVID caused delays in the implementation of project activities, but the team was able to accomplish a lot during the last 2 years of the projects, especially in regard to setting up the demonstration sites. However, the project was significantly short of meeting its target of mercury reduction of 15 tons by the end of the project and was unable to establish a financing mechanism.	Unchanged

### d. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
NA	NA	NA

<sup>9</sup> Rating trend: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

### SECTION III: PROJECT RISKS STATUS AND RATING

#### a. Progress towards Implementing the Project Risk Mitigation Plan

This section describes the activities implemented to manage and reduce high, substantial, modest, and low risks of the project. This section has three parts:

- a. Ratings for the progress towards implementing measures to mitigate project risks and a project risks annual reassessment
- b. Recommendations for improving project risks management

#### Progress towards Implementing the Project Risk Mitigation and Plan Project Risks Annual Reassessment

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING <sup>10</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT 2023 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND <sup>11</sup>
<b>Risk 1:</b> Few miners adopt mercury-free practices and technologies as a result of project interventions	Focus attention on the technology and create the conditions for miners to try the technology and let them know that the project is assisting to find a way of capturing more gold from the existing ore body with less and with less long-term cost	The establishment of sites with circuits that are mercury-free, has attracted a high level of interest. Miners have attended demonstrations and had their questions about the technology and recovery rates answered.	<b>CA</b>	Miners and other stakeholders participated in numerous demonstrations of mercury-free gold processing. This served to encourage interest in accessing the technology but also served to identify the barriers to adoption.	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Unchanged</b>

<sup>10</sup> **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

<sup>11</sup> **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing



PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING <sup>10</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT 2023 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND <sup>11</sup>
<p><b>Risk 2:</b> Theft of high grade ore or Gold at the Demo site could leading to loses for the Concessionaire and contamination of the data needed to inform potential investors</p>	<p>Theft/Security must be treated as a priority since it is seen a serious concern for ASGM. The claim of theft could also contaminate any data collected A reliable technical operation should be in place that can guarantee the quality and source of ore coming from the project site over the implementation period</p>	<p>The concessionaires had managed mining operations for many years and had very reliable and proven security systems in place with respect to the need for accuracy and consistency in the data collection process at the sites, a sampling consultant (with team) was hired with effect from start of site production in Q2. There was no indication that there were losses of mercury-free gold at the sites.</p>	CA	<p>The production of mercury-free gold at the demonstration sites did not lead to theft of gold or losses to the concessionaire. This was anticipated, since the concessionaires had managed mining operations for many years and acquired extended experience on securing their product.</p>	H	L	Decreased
<p><b>Risk 3:</b> Government does not establish or capitalize the financing mechanism</p>	<p>Include key government agencies for the technology demonstrations exchange/learning visits to demonstrate tangible benefits of mercury-free practices and technology</p>	<p>The government is well represented on the Project Steering Committee and members are regularly informed of and invited to participate in project activities</p>	O	<p>The now approved NAP addresses the need for financial support to miners for their transition away from mercury use. However, none of the financing mechanism proposed under the project has found favour with the agencies or institutions needed to make them function.</p>	H	H	Unchanged
<p><b>Risk 4:</b> The Guyana Gold Board does not distinguish mercury-</p>	<p>Ensure that market, branding and standard assessments are focused on</p>	<p>The demo sites produced gold without the use of mercury and arrangements</p>	CA	<p>In keeping with earlier commitments, GGB set up a process that differentiates between Hg free gold purchased from miners and Hg gold</p>	H	L	Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING <sup>10</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT 2023 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND <sup>11</sup>
free from mercury gold	differentiating mercury-free gold. Develop a pathway with GGB, identify the support needed through Component 3 and sign an MOU to support that work	were put in place for the GGB to purchase all the old produced at those sites.		purchased from miners. The system ensured there was no cross contamination in the process.			
<b>Risk 5:</b> Loss of equipment or loss of access to sites due to flooding	Ensure that concessions selected for demo sites are not located in historically low-lying areas	All consideration was given to the safety and security of the equipment, when the choice was made regarding location for the setup of the equipment circuits	<b>CA</b>	There was no loss of equipment due to flooding or any other challenging conditions weather conditions.	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	Unchanged
<b>Risk 6:</b> Brazilian/Venezuelan miners who are legally working in Guyana undermine successful execution of project activities	Ensure that the project includes Portuguese/Spanish language communications (written and spoken where relevant)	A booklet describing equipment used for mercury-free mining along with as posters describing the dangers of mercury were translated into Spanish	<b>CA</b>	Partner agencies supported the wide dissemination of material produced by the project.	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	Decreased

OVERALL RATING OF PROJECT RISKS	JUSTIFICATION	RISK RATING TREND <sup>12</sup>
<b>M</b>	A medium risk rating has been given to the project. The project was able to mitigate all the risks besides risk 3. Despite the involvement of the government in the project, it was unable to provide any support to establish the financial mechanism.	Unchanged

<sup>12</sup> **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

**Recommendations**

MITIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
NA	NA	NA

## **SECTION IV: PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AND RATING**

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESMF plans, as well as recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESMF plans, when needed. This section is divided into six parts:

- a. Progress towards complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency’s ESMF
- b. Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement
- c. Information on the progress towards achieving gender sensitive measures/targets
- d. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products developed and disseminated
- e. Overall Project ESMF Implementation Rating
- f. Recommendations

### **a. Progress towards complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency’s ESMF**

MINIMUM ESMF INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF YEAR STATUS	CUMULATIVE STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>13</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
<b>ACCOUNTABILITY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b>  1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project’s Accountability and Grievance Mechanism  2. Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project’s Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved	30	0	0	<b>CA</b>	To date, there have been no complaints received through the AGM, despite there being several options for submitting complaints and consistent communication about the mechanism.
<b>GENDER MAINSTREAMING</b>					No gender targets were identified during design as there was no baseline information on women’s participation in the mining sector in Guyana. It continued to be a pleasant surprised that rather high levels of women edat the demonstrations and in the training sessions, highlighting that women do play important and influential roles in mining. This despite the fact that the number of women working in the sector continues to be low relative to men.

<sup>13</sup> **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations)</li> <li>2. Number of men and women that received benefits (e.g. employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles) from the project</li> <li>3. Number of strategies, plans (e.g. management plans and land use plans) and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations (this indicator applies to relevant projects)</li> </ol>		<p>Males – 139 Females- 114</p> <p>Males – 50 Females - 34</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p>Males – 569 Females - 453</p> <p>Males – 203 Female - 228</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p>CA</p> <p>CA</p> <p>CA</p>	
<p><b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis</li> <li>2. Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)</li> <li>3. Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)</li> </ol>	<p>17</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Female - 114</p> <p>Male - 139</p>	<p>145</p> <p>Female- 473</p> <p>Male 760</p>	<p>CA</p>	

	12	6	50	CA	
<b>ESS 4: Indigenous Peoples</b>					
1. Percentage of indigenous/local communities where FPIC have been followed and documented	100%	100%	100%	CA	Indigenous miners participated in the demonstrations conducted at the first two demo sites of Puruni & Madia are not Indigenous communities). While not an original demo site, the Indigenous community of Karrau asked to become a demo site (through aligned project efforts to support the Village Improvement Plan). Lessons and equipment from the GEF GOLD demonstration site in Puruni were brought to Karrau. <a href="#">FPIC</a> is central to the Village Improvement Plan (VIP) process, and as such, an example of where it was followed and documented.

**b. Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement**

The project focused on engaging miners to join site demonstrations through various communication channels including one-on-one phone calls with those who were already known by the team through previously held Education and Awareness sessions. with an established relationship. A WhatsApp group was also established to facilitate group communication and coordination. While Indigenous miners engaged in the demonstrations, neither site was on Indigenous land; however, through other aligned engagements, the Indigenous community of Karrau indicated interest in hosting a demo site and the lessons learned and equipment utilized at the project demo site in Puruni were transferred to Karrau. This is a good example of the impact of demo sites and the opportunity to transfer technology to Indigenous mining communities. The project continued to engage government entities including the Ministries of Natural Resources and AmerIndian Affairs, and the GGMC among others. At the demo sites, local government officials (regional officers & mayor) visited the demonstration sites. One challenge identified is the engagement with WWF and UNDP, who are implementing similar mercury-free gold initiatives. While initially planned to be complementary to the GEF GOLD project, these other efforts were slow to get off the ground. However, though there was some interaction and shared learning, it was not as robust as originally envisaged. Stakeholder engagement related to a financial mechanism occurred again this year, through the Grant Agreement with Duke/Mercer Universities conducting engagement with miners to understand the barriers to accessing finance. The communications consultancy over this last year assessed the project’s outreach, helped to gain feedback from miners, and reach important stakeholders through posters, blogs, tailored messaging, and execution of the Responsible Mining Conference, “leaving a network of informed and engaged stakeholders”. Feedback garnered significantly influenced the focus and structure of the Responsible Mining Conference considered the capstone event of the project. The Conference was strategically organized under six sub themes: 1) Developing and Maintaining Growth; 2) Safeguarding the Environment; 3)Occupational Health, Safety, and Social Inclusion; 4) Prospecting for Gold; 5)Mercury Reduction Techniques; and 6) Partnerships. Each of which addressed issues raised by stakeholders over the course of its final year of implementation. In addition the continuous call for demonstrations informed the decision to support a new demo site in Karrau even in the waning months of project implementation

Finally, a significant outcome to highlight is the impact of the GEF GOLD accountability and grievance mechanism. This was one of the first designed within Conservation International and has been influential in many other project-level AGMs over the last year. Recognizing the importance of AGMs, the CI-Guyana team has expanded upon this one first to cover all of CI-G's responsible mining efforts, and more recently to cover all projects implemented across the country. This serves as a model for other CI countries.

### **c. Information on the progress towards achieving gender sensitive measures/targets**

The project's ongoing efforts to reach women miners paid off during the demonstrations, as we were pleasantly surprised by the number of women attending (women comprised 40 % of demo participants). We attribute this partly to our dedicated community outreach over the life of the project, including highlighting women miners in our communications and direct engagement with women during site visits. This was also a function of miners asking their female spouses or family members to attend on their behalf if they couldn't make it themselves (many are reluctant to leave their mining operation). Indicative of the familial nature of mining operations, and the benefits of engaging both men and women in outreach (to reach a larger audience). While women might not necessarily identify as miners themselves, they can play an influencing role in their family's operations. When better informed on the dangers of mercury and the mercury-free alternatives to mining they can influence the behaviour of their partners who are miners and their sons who are likely to enter that workforce. The demonstration sites themselves were designed with gender sensitivity in mind, with sanitary and private toilet facilities, organizing safe transport, and generally creating a safe and inviting space where all participants felt comfortable engaging. No women (or men) reported not being able to join a demonstration because of childcare responsibilities. One of the recommended policies from the PlanetGold responsible mining assessment is on gender awareness/mainstreaming at the operation. The communications consultancy took a gender sensitive approach, ensuring a near equal distribution in audience testing of messages and highlighted the existing materials that highlight the challenges related to gender & women miners. It is noted that the consultancy on the financing mechanism identified general barriers for all miners, and did not specifically look at additional barriers that women or Indigenous miners might face; this may be a space for additional research in the future.

A primary challenge noted by the project team was the lack of a baseline assessment at the beginning of the project that could have highlighted where women-led mining operations were, and therefore directed specific outreach. There was a gender assessment conducted in year 2 of the project, however the scope limited by budget and timeframe, so also did not identify those operations. This lack of baseline also resulted in not having a defined gender target; while CI-Guyana had experience in a mining situation elsewhere where women made up 7%, this project focused on a different location. For example, mining operations in Indigenous and local communities would have higher numbers of women vs. the 'backdams' which are full mining operations. Another example was that the project, only in the closing stages of implementation learnt of women-only mining operations in Region 7. However it was much too late to interrogate those circumstances.

Over this last year there were two clear examples of how the project has highlighted women in the mining sector of Guyana: 1) building awareness about the extent to which women are involved in mining directly or how they influence mining indirectly. It opened up a space for women miners to be showcased (e.g., through the Women in Mining series) and showed that they are interested and active in the space, and 2) the fact that the demonstration site in Puruni was owned by a woman provided additional opportunity to highlight that women are not just cooks & cleaners, and play substantial decision making roles in the sector. Overall, this project has brought to light the various roles that women play in the ASGM sector in Guyana, which previously was not documented.

#### **d. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products<sup>14</sup> developed and disseminated**

This last year continues to highlight several lessons learned for implementing safeguards and gender:

1. The importance of having a social baseline (especially for a project like this that is meant to change behaviour) in order to describe the project's primary audience and understand the gender dynamics. For example, knowing education levels, view on mercury, and use of PPE, could have better influenced the communications strategy.
2. Correctly budgeting for safeguards and gender activities is critical. While this project did have a safeguards specialist role from the start, there was no additional budget allocated for any related activities. Luckily the project had some significant savings elsewhere and we were able to reallocate funds to safeguard activities. However, if this hadn't been the case, we would have struggled.
3. Having a clear gender goal may have helped to better define the specific activities in the gender plan and give us a better sense of whether we have been successful. The project focused on raising awareness of women miners and actively reached out to women engaged in the mining sector for the demonstration sites. Having a more defined theory of change for the gender component could have better identified the pathways through which engaging women leads to more uptake of mercury-free mining.
4. Demonstration sites are working to spread the technology. The example of the community of Karrau wanting to become a demonstration site (identified within the design process of their Village Improvement Plan) is a testament to interest building in the technology.

Knowledge products developed over this last year come from the communications consultancy which produced 9 new communications products: 1 equipment booklet, 2 posters on mercury translated into Spanish, 2 additional Interviews for the Women in Mining Series, and 3 bloges on Partnerships, Deforestation and the Responsible Mining Conference. A final year video was also produced, tracing the process of mercury-free gold production from prospecting to smelting.

The Accountability and Grievance Mechanism continued to be in place and communicated to stakeholder frequently; no formal grievances have been submitted during the life of the project. However, given the nature of the project and the wide distribution/communication of the AGM, this was somewhat unexpected.

#### **d. Information on the accountability and grievance mechanism**

Describe the progress on the implementation of the AGM:

- a) How is the project ensuring that all stakeholders are aware of the existing AGM?  
The project continued to have posters that described the process, placed at popular spots in the communities close to the demo sites. In addition, the mechanism was regularly described during radio interviews hosted on community radio stations.
- b) What challenges did the project encounter in implementing the AGM?  
In spite of all the methods of dissemination put in place, no grievances were submitted or reported.
- c) How did the project adapt the mechanism to overcome the challenges identified above?  
The AGM was also disseminated to miners via the WhatsApp group that was created for miners with whom the project team communicated regularly.
- d) Indicate any specific adaptations relating to making the AGM more accessible to disadvantaged groups during this period of implementation? (This may include but is not limited to adding new reporting channels, changing the name of the mechanism to make it more sensitive to cultural context, etc.)  
Continuous efforts were made to expand the groups that were aware of the mechanism, in addition to what was mentioned above, a radio series created for airing in mining communities had a story line that focused on the AGM.

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<sup>14</sup> Knowledge Products are those that are both intended to transmit knowledge but at the same time enable action by their audiences. For example, a lessons learned report, compilation of good practices and recommendations, etc.



**e. Overall Project ESMF Implementation Rating**

**SUMMARY: PROJECT ESMF IMPLEMENTATION RATING BY TYPE OF PLAN**

ESMF PLAN REQUIRED BY THE PROJECT (delete those not applicable)	CURRENT FY23IMPLEMENTATION RATING	RATING TREND
Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	HS	Unchanged
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	HS	Unchanged
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	HS	Unchanged
ESS 4: Indigenous Peoples Plan	HS	Unchanged

**OVERALL PROJECT ESMF IMPLEMENTATION RATING**

RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	On compliance with AGM requirements, the project has gone a far way in efforts to socialize their accountability and grievance mechanism, even using local community radio stations. Despite this efforts, the project have not receive a grievance until now. Nevertheless, they have kept channels open throughout this year and the whole implementation phase to receive grievances. In addition to this, the project experience on the AGM, is currently in process to scale-up to be a CI-Guyana AGM, building on the implementation experience. On the SEP the project significantly overachieved the two targets that were set for their SEP indicators. On ESS4, the project went beyond its initially planned activities to address a request from an indigenous community that asked to participate as a demo site. On the the GMP, despite the project not having set targets for these indicators, it performed well in women’s participation, and it also developed plans and strategies that incorporated gender considerations. This demonstrates that the project not just adhere to FPIC but also adapted to requirements from an indigenous community, that was not initially included in the planning of the project.	Unchanged.

**f. Recommendations**

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
NA	NA	NA

## **SECTION V: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCES, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND LESSONS LEARNED**

### **Required topics**

#### **Knowledge activities/products (when applicable), as outlined in the knowledge management plan approved at CEO endorsement/approval.**

Overall, the messages communicated by the project were well received by miners. Specifically, new knowledge on issues related to social and environmental responsibility was conveyed. By project end of the Miners knew to varying degrees, about the dangers of mercury use and, though anecdotal, information suggests that some behavior change had taken place. This is evidenced by their feedback with respect to its use: “I don’t throw it in the pit anymore”, I use retort, or a bucket in the final stage”. “I don’t use mercury anymore, mercury killed my brother”, among other expressions. There was significant interest in learning about mercury-free technology and the means to acquire some.

Useful Insights into future approaches to education and awareness initiatives were also garnered, including the importance of posters in comparison with other media as an effective communication channel to reach miners, given the diverse geographic space and the limited telecommunication access in most mining areas. Posters were found to be the preferred medium and the most versatile; since they could be used for example, to create initial awareness of an issue and to lead to deeper content on web-based applications, using QR codes. Based on this finding, it was concluded that consideration should be given to greater use for the placement of posters for future initiatives, given it is the most preferred medium. Results indicated the importance of branding to create awareness at least and acceptability at most.

The project leaves a repository of audio-visual products, a better understanding of the demographics within mining communities, and greater familiarity on the issues related to mercury-mining. Notably too the Communications and Knowledge Component leaves a firm foundation for continued work in public information and education on reducing and eliminating mercury use in the ASGM sector through the use of better technology and techniques which improves recovery. It leaves, as well, a network of informed and engaged stakeholders who have committed to fostering a culture of partnerships to achieve a more responsible mining sector in Guyana evidenced by greater social and environmental responsibilities

### **Additional topics (please choose two)**

#### **Scientific and Technological Issues**

The project aimed to persuade miners that mercury-free gold processing circuits can lead to the recovery of gold in amounts and at costs that compare more favourably with gold processes that include mercury use. In addition, the mercury-free process would better protect the environment and therefore the health of miners and their families. Demonstration of improved recovery was done through regular tracking of gold present in the material moving along the circuit over a given period and comparing that to data from a site nearby that continued to use mercury. The metallurgical analysis involved taking samples of the material entering and leaving each piece of equipment for assaying at a lab to get an estimate of the amount of gold present at each stage of the process along the circuit. The result from the lab also informed the circuit optimization. Good sampling techniques and quality control were necessary to preserve the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the conclusions drawn from the metallurgical analysis.

The analysis of the data generated confirmed the expectation that the recovery rates of mercury-free processing is significantly higher than processes that use mercury.

As a result of the interventions at the Region 8 demonstration site, approximately 5 kg of mercury was eliminated, when compared to estimates of mercury use at the site prior to the project. Further, based on the demonstrations and trainings to other miners, who subsequently changed their mercury use based on what they had learned, approximately 350 kg of mercury was reduced. Finally, through a separate activity to introduce mercury capture systems at refining operations of the Guyana Gold Board, approximately 10 kg of Hg exposure was avoided

### **Capacity building**

Soon after the mercury-free circuits were in place, demonstrations were organized and miners from nearby operations were invited to see the mercury-free operations. At each operation, training commenced with the Concessionaire and/or Mine Manager and their workers, led by GGMC representatives and the planetGOLD Guyana Project Technical Officer. Demonstrations, once started, attracted miners from nearby operations as well as those from significant distances away. Over time, the project also arranged for miners to be transported from other mining districts so they could experience first-hand, the efficiency of the new systems, particularly in relation to increased rates of recovery. In total, 52 miners were trained at project-organized demonstrations at the three sites.

Apart from the scheduled demonstrations at each site, there were occasions when miners requested to visit the mercury-free operations, having heard of the impressive gold recovery as reported by others. Such subsequent visits at each site was conducted either by the Mine Manager or the Project Technical Officer. This continued over the life of each mining operation and depended entirely on the willingness of the site Manager to accommodate interested parties.

Miners were even more interested in learning about the equipment after seeing the alternative process work and witnessing the higher rate of gold recovery. Of course, cost and accessibility soon became key issues of concern to be considered. After witnessing the demonstrations, miners reported making changes at their own operations; some changed the design of their sluice box, while others, who already had concentrators, were able to integrate them into a revised circuit design. Interaction with a few mine managers revealed that some had concentrators on their sites but they were not in use, often because they did not understand the technology, so could not make optimal use of the equipment. This changed through their exposure to an efficient and effective mercury-free operation.

## SECTION VI: PROJECT GEOCODING

This section of the PIR documents the precise and specific geographic location(s) of activities supported by GEF investments based on information provided in the Project Document. The following information should be contained in this section:

- a. Geo Location Information of Project Location(s) for the current fiscal year
- b. Project Map and Coordinates from Project Document

### Geo Location Information of Project Location(s) for the current fiscal year (add additional columns as needed)

Geo Location Information	Location No. 1	Location No. 2	Location No. 3
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b> <i>Indicate whether the site is new or already existing in the previous PIR or indicate whether the site is included at CEO Endorsement/Approval or not. Please add more columns for projects with more than 3 locations.</i>	Existing	Existing	New
Note: Provide justification if the location is a new site in this line			Villagers requested the establishment of a Demo site in Karrau after participating in demonstrationa held at other 2 sites
<b>GEO NAME ID</b> <i>Provide the location's Geo Name ID in a numerical format. IDs are available in the GeoNames' geographical database covering all countries and containing millions of placenames with free access at: <a href="http://www.geonames.org">http://www.geonames.org</a>.</i>	3377263	3376334	3376986
<b>LOCATION NAME</b> <i>Name of the geographic locations in which the activity is taking place. In instance when a GeoNames ID is provided above, the name of the said ID should be reflected. Otherwise, the location name provided will be considered as an exact location.</i>	Mahdia	Puruni River	Mazaruni River
<b>LATITUDE</b> <i>Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.</i>	5.26667	6.01254	6.41373
<b>LONGITUDE</b> <i>Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.</i>	-59.15	-59.21517	-58.63925
<b>LOCATION DESCRIPTION</b>	Mining Concession	Mining Concession	Mining Concession

<i>(Optional field)</i> Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the location in which an activity is taking place, such as for example “mini-grid energy system” or “park ranger site”.			
<b>ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</b> <i>(Optional field)</i> Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the activity taking place at the location, for example, “Installing a mini-grid energy system”.	Mercury-free Mining Site	Mining-free Mining Site	Mining-free Mining Site

Please provide a justification regarding changes in location during implementation. Justifications should also be provided in the event the geographic location of key project activities cannot be provided at CEO Endorsement/Approval stage.

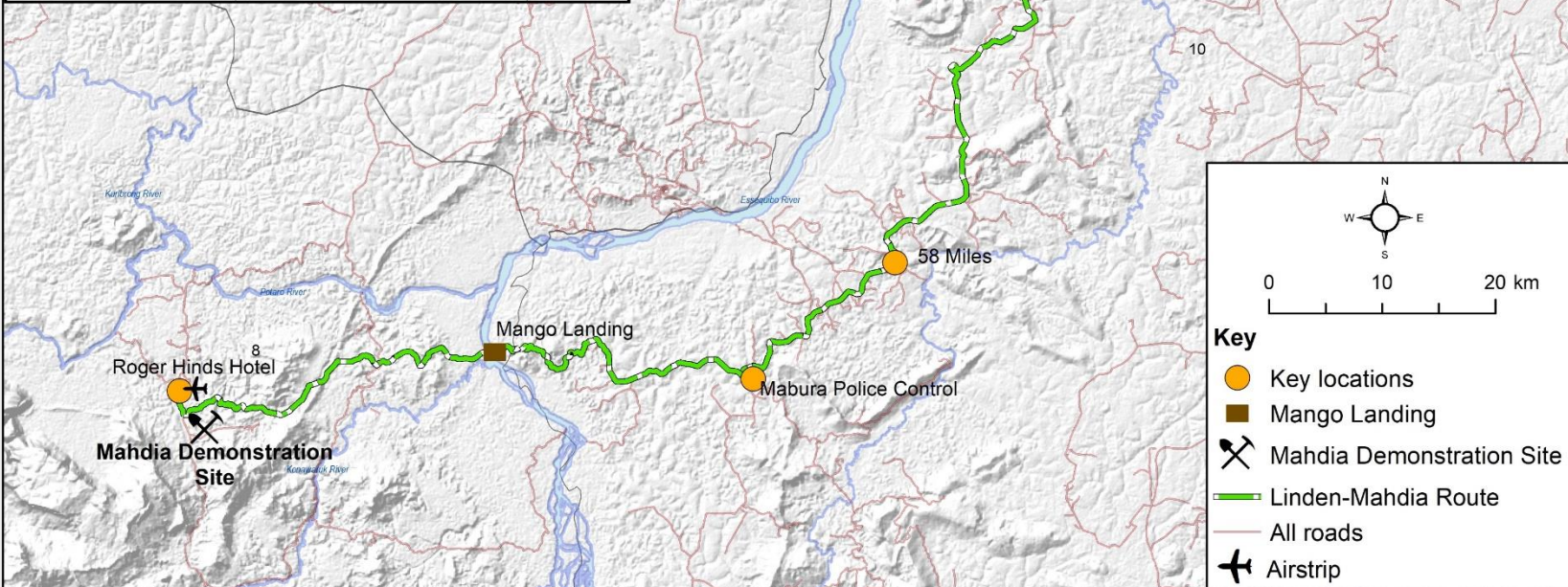
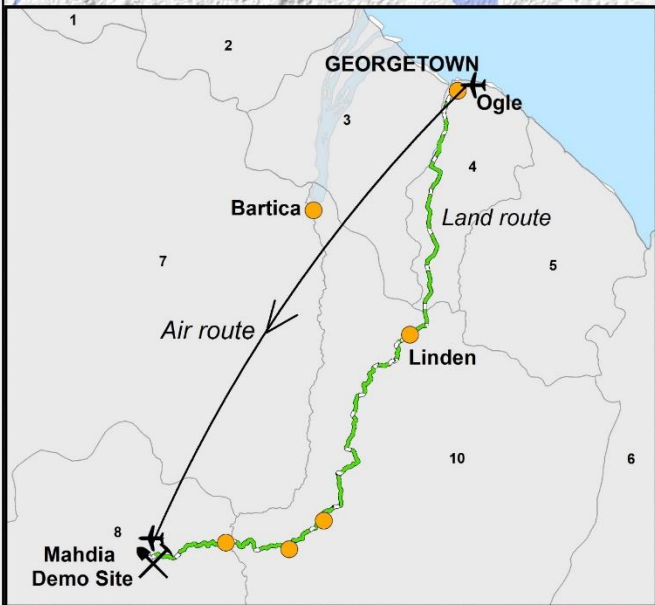
<p><b><i>(Geo Name ID: Location Name)</i></b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p>
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**Project Map and Coordinates**

Please provide geo-referenced information and image map where the project interventions took place. If available, please provide attachments as appropriate such as in the case of locations presented along geometric shapes in popular formats like shapefiles, KML and GeoJSON.

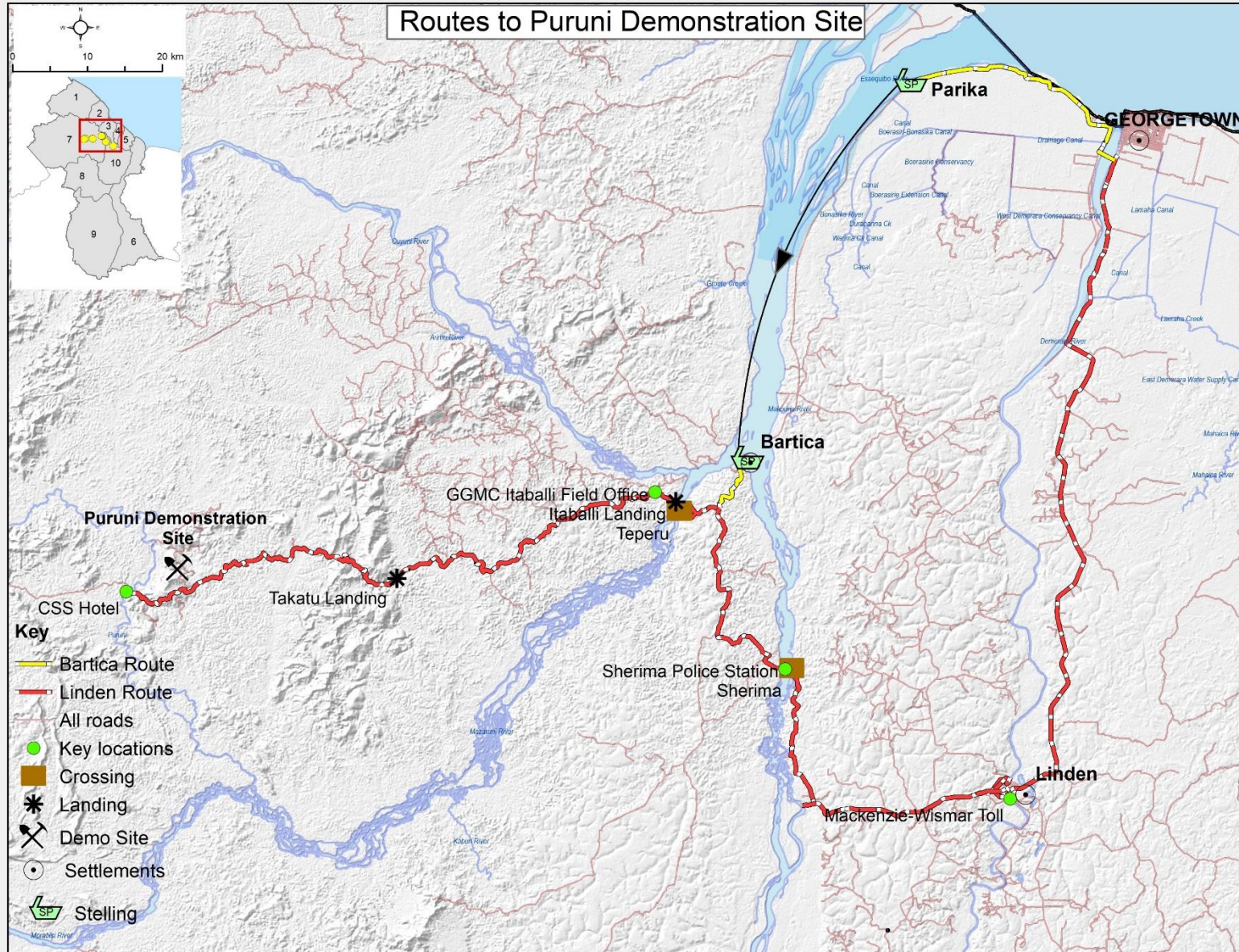
<p><b><i>(Geo Name ID: Location Name)</i></b></p> <p><b>Map:</b></p>
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# Routes to Mahdia Demonstration Site





# Routes to Puruni Demonstration Site







## APPENDIX I: PROJECT ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING

Rating		Overdue (O)	Delayed (D)	Not started on schedule (NS)	Under implementation on schedule (IS)	Completed/Achieved (CA)
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	HS	0%		100%		
Satisfactory (S)	S	20%		80%		
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	MS	40%		60%		
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	MU	60%		40%		
Unsatisfactory (U)	U	80%		20%		
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	HU	100%		0%		

- **Highly Satisfactory:** 100% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project. The project can be presented as an example of “good practice” project,
- **Satisfactory:** 80% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; except for only 20% that are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Moderately Satisfactory:** 60% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 40% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Moderately Unsatisfactory:** 40% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 60% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Unsatisfactory:** only 20% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 80% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action, and
- **Highly Unsatisfactory:** 100% of the indicators: a) are overdue, and/or b) delayed in their implementation, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project.

## APPENDIX II: RISK RATINGS

Rating	
Low (L)	L
Moderate (M)	M
Substantial (S)	S
High (H)	H

- **Low Risk (L):** There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.
- **Moderate Risk (M):** There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.
- **Substantial Risk (S):** There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.
- **High Risk:** There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.

**APPENDIX III: PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROJECT EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>15</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
<b>Output 1.1</b> Two sites for demonstrating mercury-free practices and technologies are established and functional.				
<b>Output Indicator 1.1.1:</b>  Number of sites demonstrating mercury-free practices and technologies established and functional	2	3	CA	Following the successful conduct of mercury-free mining demonstrations at the first 2 sites, miners from the Indigenous Village of Karrau requested project support for the establishment of a mercury-free site in their Village. This was achieved towards the end of project implementation in collaboration with a NORAD-funded Indigenous People's project implemented by CI-Guyana.
<b>Output 1.2</b> Verifiably Mercury-free gold is produced from at least one demonstration site.				
<b>Output Indicator 1.2.1:</b>  Number of grams of verified mercury-free gold produced at demonstration sites.	15 Tons	0.00168 Tons	CA	Two sites produced mercury-free gold over a period of 10 months. The production process was measured against the chain of custody and verification process designed by Mercury-free Verification Consultants. A process that adheres to the PlanetGOLD Environmental and Social Standards.
<b>Output 1.3</b> Miners exposed to demonstrations of Mercury-free gold mining practices and technologies in Regions 1, 7 and 8.				
<b>Output Indicator 1.3.1:</b>  Number of mercury-free gold mining technologies identified, tested, and adopted	4	4	CA	The four are: Gold Kacha, Gold Masta, Gold Cube and Shaking Table.

<sup>15</sup> O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

<p><b>Output Indicator 1.3.2:</b> Number of Technology Innovation clinics organized with miners, fabricators, and equipment retailers</p>	6	6	CA	<p>A total of <b>three</b> demonstration sessions were conducted at the Mahdia, Region 8 site, <b>one</b> at the Puruni, Region 7 site, <b>one</b> at the Karrau, Region 7 site and <b>one</b> at the Exhibition &amp; Mini Demonstration at the Responsible Mining Conference held in Georgetown.</p>
<p><b>Output 2.1 :</b> An assessment of financing mechanisms for artisanal, small-scale, and medium-scale miners to adopt mercury-free technologies is undertaken.</p>				
<p><b>Output Indicator 2.1.1:</b> Number of feasibility assessments completed on mechanisms for financing technologies appropriate to Guyana based on mechanisms tested around the world.</p>	1	1	CA	<p>A comprehensive assessment was conducted by a team of consultants hired to design a financing mechanism for the ASGM sector.</p>
<p><b>Output 2.2: A financial mechanism for the procurement of mercury-free gold mining technology is established and functional</b></p>				
<p><b>Output Indicator 2.2.1:</b> Number of miners applying to the financing mechanism to support their transition to Hg-free operations</p>	20	0	NS	<p>No financing mechanism to support miners' was realized .</p>
<p><b>Output 3.1 Social and environmental standards, a chain of custody process, and a verification mechanism for El Dorado Gold, linked to the GEF Gold brand, is developed and institutionalized.</b></p>				

<p><b>Output Indicator 3.1.1:</b></p> <p>Number of chain of custody process verification mechanism for gold produced on model sites developed and an El Dorado Green Gold branding scheme developed that is linked to the GEF GOLD Brand.</p>	1	1	CA	<p>The Mercury-free Verification Consultancy developed mechanism that provided a responsible, transparent and traceable supply chain from mine to market. The consultants tested the mechanism and conducted training sessions that focused on the due diligence process needed for the mechanism to work</p>
<p><b>Output 3.2: El Dorado producers are linked to international responsibly produced gold markets</b></p>				
<p><b>Output Indicator 3.2.1:</b></p> <p>Number of market systems analyses and feasibility studies for the establishment an institutional mechanism to trade El Dorado-branded gold.</p>	1	1	CA	<p>The Consultants completed a comprehensive review of the local jewellery market with a focus on opportunities for a mercury-free gold niche market. Recommendations were made for a robust branding and marketing approach, involving key agencies and jewellers, based on the belief that “Facts tell, but stories sell”</p>
<p><b>Output 4.1: Multi-stakeholder fora convened to provide input for the revision/drafting of a national policy for responsible ASGM gold mining and capacity built to ensure compliance with mining policy.</b></p>				
<p><b>Output Indicator 4.1.1:</b></p> <p>Number of multi-stakeholder policy-focused fora convened.</p>	1	1	CA	<p>The Jan 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Responsible Mining Conference was a forum provided an opportunity for policy recommendations to be articulated and thoroughly discussed. The event concluded with commitments from key agencies including the MNR that could significantly impact the ASGM sector.</p>

<b>Output Indicator 4.1.2:</b> Number of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms to provide policy and programme advisory services for the long-term adoption of mercury-free gold mining technologies established.	1	1	CA	The decision was taken that the Project Steering Committee that comprises the key stakeholders involved in mercury-reduction projects was the most suitable multi-stakeholder mechanism to provide those advisory services.
<b>Output Indicator 4.1.3:</b> Number of national policies for responsible ASGM gold mining revised/drafted.	1	1	CA	The Revised NAP was approved by the Government of Guyana and submitted to the Minamata Secretariat.
<b>Output 5.1</b> Monitoring and Tracking of mercury use in mining is institutionalized within appropriate agencies.				
<b>Output Indicator 5.1.1:</b> Number of Mechanisms for monitoring and tracking the use of mercury in gold mining	1	0	NS	Unwillingness on the part of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemical Control Board (PTCCB), to provide critical information needed to design a system proved to be unsurmountable.
<b>Output 6.1:</b> A strategic communication plan prepared and implemented, and materials prepared (e.g., policy papers, factsheets, videos) aimed at key stakeholders, including miners, decisionmakers, and other local and international actors within the supply chain for awareness raising and policy advocacy				

<p><b>Output Indicator 6.1.1:</b></p> <p>Number of strategic communications plans aimed at key stakeholders, within the ASGM supply chain for awareness raising, policy advocacy developed and implemented.</p>	1	1	CA	<p>A Communications Consultant was hired to review and expand on the Strategic Plan that was in place. The Consultant also supported the hosting of the Responsible Mining Conference, including the production of a comprehensive report.</p>
<p><b>Output 6.1:</b> A strategic communication plan prepared and implemented, and materials prepared (e.g. policy papers, factsheets, videos) aimed at key stakeholders, including miners, decisionmakers, and other local and international actors within the supply chain for awareness raising and policy advocacy</p>				
<p><b>Output Indicator 6.1.1:</b></p> <p>Number of strategic communications plans aimed at key stakeholders, within the ASGM supply chain for awareness raising, policy advocacy developed and implemented.</p>	1	1	CA	<p>The Strategic plan guided the communications activities implemented, including the knowledge material produced and disseminated during the year.</p>
<p><b>Output 6.2 Coordination with the global project on Knowledge Management activities</b></p>				
<p><b>Output Indicator 6.2.1:</b></p> <p>Number of education awareness material and activities to promote mercury- free gold mining technology nationally prepared and published. raising, policy advocacy developed and implemented.</p>	20	9	CA	<p>Material produced developed <b>one video</b> “Changing Minds and Mines”, <b>one booklet</b> “Equipment for Responsible Mining” <b>two additional videos</b> for the “Women in Mining” series, <b>two</b> posters translated into Spanish and <b>three</b> blogs. Number produced over the life of the project totaled <b>22</b>.</p>
<p><b>Output 6.3:</b> Biennial conference and annual dialogues organized to promote Project Findings and Responsible Gold Mining.</p>				



<p><b>Output Indicator 6.3.1:</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>CA</p>	<p>The Eldorado Gold Responsible Mining Conference was hosted from 18 - 20 January 2023 under the theme: Responsible Mining with Better Equipment Leading to Bigger Production. The Conference was organized under six sub themes: 1) Developing and Maintaining Growth; 2) Safeguarding the Environment; 3)Occupational Health, Safety, and Social Inclusion; 4) Prospecting for Gold; 5)Mercury Reduction Techniques; and 6) Partnerships.</p>
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