



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**

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Executing Partners



Environmental
Protection
Agency - Guyana



Project Information			
Project Title:	A GEF GOLD/Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana's ASGM Sector: El Dorado Gold Jewelry – Made in Guyana		
Country:	Guyana	GEF ID:	9713
GEF Agency:	Conservation International	Duration In Months:	62
Executing Agency:	Conservation International-Guyana	Actual Implementation Start Date:	05/04/2018
GEF Focal Area:	Chemicals and Waste	Expected Project Completion Date:	06/30/2023
GEF Grant Amount:	USD 2,652,294	Expected Financial Closure Date:	12/31/2023
Expected Co-financing:	USD 3,136,600	Date of Last Steering Committee Meeting:	09/09/2021
Co-financing Realized as of June 30, 2022:	USD 2,422,002	Mid-Term Review-Planned Date:	04/30/2020
Date of First Disbursement:	05/04/2018	Mid-Term Review-Actual Date:	12/15/2020
Cumulative disbursement as of June 30, 2022:	USD 1,940,455	Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date:	03/01/2023
PIR Prepared by:	Ingrid Sarabo	Terminal Evaluation-Actual Date:	TBD
CI-GEF Project Manager:	Courtney McGeachy	CI-GEF Finance Lead:	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 April 2022 to February 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"/>	

MINOR AMENDMENT RESPONSE FROM CI-GEF

Provide approval or reject minor amendment request along with a justification

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 is 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 takes 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 demonstrates innovative approaches, tools, and strengthens partnerships with public and private sector actors to guide the switch to mercury-free mining and adopting environmentally-friendly approaches to mining. The project is being 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, will be 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

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

In Q2 of FY21, Expressions of Interest for establishing demonstration sites were received from three concessionaires, one from each project-focused region.. Desktop research concluded that mining operations at the demonstration sites would have minimal to no negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems at the proposed sites in regions 7 and 8. Agreements between CI-Guyana and the Region 7 Concessionaire approved for hosting a demonstration site and between CI-Guyana and GGMC on the loan of Equipment for that site were finalized.

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

The Canadian International Research and Development Institute (CIRDI) was hired to design a suitable financing mechanism for the local ASGM sector. The Final Report recommended several options for financing mechanisms: Lending through Geological Knowledge; Establishment of Mining Development Bank; Support fund through Guyana Gold Board; Green Loans. Any of which requires significant Government policy change.

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

A series of interactive sessions were held remotely, with TDI leading the review of the PlanetGOLD Criteria for Environmental and Socially Responsible Operations in the context of Guyana.

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

The project worked with the MNR on the process to finalize the NAP which included the Assessment of Guyana's legal framework. Findings included that draft guidelines, standards, codes of practice, as well as draft legislation needed to be approved in a timely manner. Also, critical data collection and information sharing protocols, in relation to the mercury trade and usage are either not established or not functioning effectively.

Component 5: Monitoring & Tracking the use of Mercury

The project provided support to the NAP consultants on the development and finalization of the ASG Inventory Report, specifically in relation to determining the mercury baseline utilized in the ASGM sector. This will inform the analysis of data gathered at the demonstration sites.

Component 6: Communications and Knowledge Management

Material included - brochure on Project Safeguards; field video demonstrating how to effectively operate three pieces of equipment used in mercury free mining operations – Gold Kacha, Gold Cube and Blue Bowl; booklet developed in collaboration with partner agencies, informing miners of the COVID-19 virus, including its symptoms and how to practically stay safe travelling to and from mining camps as well as when working in the camps.

Safeguards

A Grievance Mechanism website and online database was developed to facilitate the submission of grievances related to the project.

CURRENT 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. The 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 24th 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 7th April the first Demo was conducted at the Region 7 site and viewed by 12 persons. 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 will provide verifiable evidence of the efficiency and effectiveness of the equipment in place at the two circuits. Each location has a parallel mining operation utilizing mercury from which production data is also collected for comparison purposes.

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 grant 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 one of the financing mechanisms recommended under the Financing Mechanism Consultancy

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 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.

Work commenced under the Mercury-Free Verification Consultancy and the Duke Agreement is expected to generate policy proposals for MNR’s consideration.

Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

Work on monitoring the use of mercury in the ASGM continues to be stymied by the lack of GoG’s approval of the Draft NAP as well as the ASGM Inventory Report and the proposed mercury baseline contained therein.

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 and posters. A booklet titled “ Equipment for Responsible Mining” that showcase equipment suitable for mercury-free gold production, was produced and widely disseminated among miners.

Posters on the dangers of mercury, and small Prospecting along with 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. Many of the male students are likely to enter the mining sector after leaving school and the female students play some role 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. Arrangements were in place to encourage their participation to bring gender balance to the activities, and to acknowledge their influence in the communities.

SUMMARY: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS

PROJECT PART	PRIOR FY21 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	CURRENT FY22 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING ¹	RATING TREND ²
OBJECTIVE	MU	MS	Increasing
COMPONENTS AND OUTCOMES	MU	MS	Increasing
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	HS	HS	Unchanged

PROJECT RISK RATING³

RISKS	M	L	Decreasing
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¹ **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

² **Rating trend:** Improving, Unchanged, or Decreasing

³ **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.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:	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 ⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
a. Number of tons of Mercury reduced by end of project.	4.6 Tons	IS	This amount reflects the amount of mercury reduction over the period March to June 2022 for both Mahdia and Puruni sites.
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	IS	Consistent with the ore type identified during the prospecting undertaken earlier in the two regions, the appropriate technology was deployed in FY22. The processing of ore without the use of mercury commenced during March and April in Region 7 and Region 8, respectively.
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	D	The consultancy to develop a financing mechanism, conducted in FY21, generated several options however each require an enabling environment that is only possible through clear policy change at the level of Government. Elements of the recommendations coincide with recommendations outlined in Guyana's Draft NAP. However, to date, there has been no uptake by central Government or the financial sector. Efforts are underway to work with local government officials and groups of miners

⁴ **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 ⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
			to develop a financial mechanism along with a comprehensive plan for its implementation. These will be presented to Central Government for consideration early in FY23.
d. Number of chain of custody processes, verification mechanisms for gold, and El Dorado Branding Schemes developed and institutionalized	There is no chain of custody process, verification mechanism developed at this stage of the project.	D	The Mercury-free Verification Consultancy was launched with the objective of ensuring that the ASM miners can operate with higher productivity and recovery rates while meeting social and environmental safeguards, thereby decreasing mercury emissions and pollutions. The consulting team made its first project visit in May, during which it visited the Region 8 demo site and held stakeholder consultations in regions 4, 7, and 8. This resulted in a comprehensive report that included a range of recommendations. The proposed chain of custody and verification process will be fully articulated and tested during the next phase of the consultancy scheduled for Q1, FY23.
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.	The Draft Guyana National Action Plan was completed and awaiting Government of Guyana approval	IS	The team participated in the Development of the Revised National Action Plan (NAP): Participated in the National Working Groups that drafted the document Technical Officer worked with NAP consulting team during “on the ground” data gathering activities Provided input at the review and finalization stages of the process. It is anticipated that recommendations from consultancies underway will result in several draft polices for Govt. consideration.

OBJECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION
MS	A moderately satisfactory rating has been given to objective implementation progress. After four years of implementation, the project has gotten back on track and is making significant progress towards completing the objectives. FY22 implementation was successful with demonstrations in regions 7 & 8 as well as a CI-GEF site visit with national partners and consultants. However, there are delays with the financial mechanism and chain of custody verification which should be resolved in FY23.

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

This part of the report assesses the progress towards achieving the outcomes of the project.

COMPONENT 1	Appropriate mercury-free technologies mainstreamed in Guyana's ASGM sector
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Outcome 1:	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 ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 1.1.: Number of regions in Guyana where mercury-free technology has replaced the use of mercury in the ASGM sector	Mercury-free technologies have replaced the use of mercury in at least one region of Guyana	2 Regions where mercury-free technologies have replaced the use of mercury	CA	Technical teams conducted rapid environmental assessments and prospecting as preparatory work to confirm suitability of the Regions 7 & 8 concessions. Based on the results, equipment was deployed on the most appropriate area of land at each location. Equipment circuits were designed, set-up and tested by mid-March after which, both operations were successfully producing gold without any use of mercury.
Outcome indicator 1.2.: Number of tons of Mercury reduced	Reduction in mercury use of about 15T	540g	IS	This amount is for miners in Regions 7&8 and/or GGB in Region 4 over the period March to June '22

COMPONENT 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	A satisfactory rating has been given to component 1 (mainstreaming mercury free technologies). Demonstrations have commenced with the final demonstration scheduled for the first quarter of FY23. Project team will use remaining project period to focus on transferring of technology to local ASGM community.	Increasing

COMPONENT 2	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
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁶	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 2.1.1.: Number of financial mechanisms established and operational to facilitate the transition of mercury-free technologies in ASGM. Outcome Indicator 2:2 Amount of finance approved by financing mechanism(s) to miners.	One financial Mechanism established 250.000 dollars approved through financial mechanism(s) to miners	No financial Mechanism established No funds approved through a mechanism for miners	D NS	The following options were recommended in the Final Report from the Consultants hired to design suitable financing mechanisms: Lending through Geological Knowledge; Establishment of Mining Development Bank; Support fund through Guyana Gold Board; Green Loans. However, the required Government policy change has not yet materialized. It was recognized that apart from government support through guarantees and tax waivers, there was need to inform banks and microfinance institutions about geology. Lending strategies could then be designed using knowledge of gold mineralization and complementary data as collateral for loans. In collaboration with local government officials, a team of economists and other stakeholders, a final effort will be made to design a feasible mechanism that the govt could actively support. Any movement under this indicator is dependent on the existence of the mechanism, which is not yet the case.
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	NS	Any movement under this indicator is dependent on the existence of the mechanism, which is not yet the case
COMPONENT 2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION			RATING TREND
MS	A moderately satisfactory rating was given to component 2. Two financing round tables were hosted, and recommendations have been made, but no formal mechanisms have been put in place. In FY23 the project team will work with local government officials to activate a formal mechanism.			Unchanged

Component 3: Markets established for branded mercury-free gold from Guyana

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Outcome 3: 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

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	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.	No increased gold sales are shown as a result of El Dorado Gold Branding	IS	The Mercury Free Verification and Capacity Building Consultancy was launched in the second half of the year. Significant progress was made during their team visit in May. The designing of processes is well advanced and is scheduled for testing during Q1, FY23.
COMPONENT 3 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION			RATING TREND
S	A satisfactory rating was given to Component 3. The Mercury Free Verification and Capacity Building Consultancy was launched in the second half of FY22 and is scheduled for testing in the first quarter of FY23.			Increasing

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

Outcome 4: 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

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁸	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 4.1.:				

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁸	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
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.	1	IS	Draft NAP with the Government of Guyana (GOG) for approval
COMPONENT 4 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION			RATING TREND
S	A satisfactory rating was given to Component 4. The project team worked closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources to revise policies and regulations, building on the policy gaps that emerged during stakeholder consultations organized under Components 1,2, and 3. The project worked closely with the Ministry on its NAP development process which included the Assessment of Guyana's legal framework.			Increasing

COMPONENT 5	Monitoring and Evaluation
Outcome 5:	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 ⁹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 1.1.: Number of national mercury monitoring mechanisms operational	Monitoring and evaluation of the use of mercury in	No monitoring and evaluation of the use of mercury in	D	The data collected from the parallel operations (using mercury) at the two project concessions will provide a baseline for mercury-use in those 2 regions. Based on the number of operations in the areas/regions it is

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
	gold mining is institutionalized within the appropriate agencies	gold mining is institutionalized within the appropriate agencies.		possible to estimate the amount of mercury used in the area/regions. This could initiate steps to develop a national baseline to track the amount of mercury used in the country. This approach will be used without the benefit of the baseline proposed in the Draft NAP, as that document and the relevant elements contained therein are not yet approved.
COMPONENT 5 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION			RATING TREND
MU	A moderately unsatisfactory rating was given to Component 5. Although representatives from stakeholder agencies met in FY21 to discuss strategic approaches and roles and responsibilities, a baseline has yet to be established. Establishing a baseline and mechanism to monitor mercury reduction moving forward will be key to the sustainability of the project.			decreasing

COMPONENT 6: Communications and Knowledge Management

Outcome 6: 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 ¹⁰	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	Twenty (20) strategic plans and awareness materials targeted at policy makers, mining and indigenous communities, and other key stakeholders on	4 types of communication material produced	IS	In addition to the Communications Strat Plan and 14 other products from prior years, the four comprise: A tutorial video demonstrating how to use small scale prospecting equipment (augur and flush drill); 2 videos of interviews of miners for the “Women in Mining” series and a booklet “Equipment for Responsible Mining” showcasing key pieces of equipment utilized for small scale prospecting and mercury free gold production.

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁰	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
raising and policy advocacy developed.	responsible gold mining in Guyana			
COMPONENT 6 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION			RATING TREND
HS	A Highly satisfactory rating was given to Component 6. The project team continues to produce high quality communication and knowledge products. In FY22, several communication products were produced including a tutorial video demonstrating how to use small scale prospecting equipment, 2 video interviews of miners for the “Women in Mining” series, and a booklet “Equipment for Responsible Mining” showcasing key pieces of equipment utilized for small scale prospecting and mercury free gold production.			Unchanged

c. Overall Project Results Rating

OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION RATING

OVERALL RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND ¹¹
MS	A moderately satisfactory rating has been given to the overall project results implementation. The project team worked diligently in FY22 to deliver key outcomes in Components 1, 3, 4 and 6. In FY23 the project will focus on formalizing a financial mechanism in partnership with the government as well as establishing a baseline for national mercury reduction targets.	Increasing

d. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Work with MNR to submit NAP to the Minamata Convention	PMU team	November 2022
Closely monitor project activities and timeline and evaluate adaptive measures to align with project end date	PMU team	November 2022
Engage project steering committee to address “roadblocks” with components 2 &5.	PMU team	October 2022

¹¹ 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 ¹²	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY22 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹³
Risk 1: 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.	IS	Demonstrations of the new technologies and practices will continue for the remaining project implementation phase	H	M	Decreasing
Risk 2: Theft of high grade ore or Gold at the Demo site could leading to loses for the Concessionaire and contamination of the data needed	Theft/Security must be treated as a priority since it is seen a serious concern for ASGM. The claim of theft could also	Both concessionaires have managed mining operations for many years and have very reliable and proven security systems in place With respect to the need for accuracy and	IS	Detailed metallurgical reports generated from the data gathered is providing much needed, science-based evidence regarding recovery rates and equipment efficiency	H	L	Decreasing

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¹³ **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹²	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY22 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹³
to inform potential investors	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.	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. The expert is responsible for monitoring and measuring input and output along the circuit.					
Risk 3: Government does not establish or capitalize the financing mechanism	Include key government agencies for the technology demonstrations exchange/learning visits to demonstrate tangible benefits of mercury-free practices and technology	The government is well represented on the Project Steering Committee and members are regularly informed of and invited to participate in project activities.	D	The Final Report from the Financing Mechanism Consultants recommended several options for financing mechanisms: Lending through Geological Knowledge; Establishment of Mining Development Bank; Support fund through Guyana Gold Board; Green Loans. Each of which requires significant Government policy change. To date there has been no indication of government support	H	H	Unchanged
Risk 4: The Guyana Gold Board does not distinguish mercury-	Ensure that market, branding and standard assessments are	Two demo sites are producing gold without the use of mercury and activities have	IS	The path is now set for mercury-free gold from the ASGM sector to enter the supply chain separate from gold produced with mercury.	H	M	Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹²	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY22 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹³
free from mercury gold	focused on differentiating mercury-free gold. Develop a pathway with GGB, identify the support needed through Component 3 and sign an MOU to support that work.	commenced under the Mercury-free Verification and Capacity Building Consultancy. The GGB has participated in a range of discussions and has committed to setting up a process of differentiation to distinguish Hg free gold.		The next step is dependent on the amount of the mercury-free gold and on the rate of production.			
Risk 5: 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.	CA	There have been extended period of heavy rainfall over the past few months. Though both Regions were affected, and surrounding areas are under water from time to time, the actual demo sites and circuit have not been impacted	L	L	Unchanged
Risk 6: 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)	Booklets and posters with awareness messaging were translated into Spanish and Portuguese for dissemination across the relevant areas	IS	The number of Brazilian and Portuguese miners in the ASGM sector is relatively small so unlikely to significantly impact the uptake of new technologies.	M	L	Decreasing
Risk 7: COVID -19 continues to spread in mining areas further delaying field activities.	Activity 1. Ensure all possible preparatory work is undertaken ahead of the lifting of travel restrictions to mining areas	1. The strict measures put into place at the national level minimized the spread of the pandemic in mining areas.	CA	With the significant drop in the incidence of COVID-19 cases, full resumption of activities commenced in the first half of FY22.	-	L	

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹²	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY22 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹³
	Activity 2. Adjust implementation approach as much as possible to allow for implementation within the restrictions	2. CI developed a rigid risk assessment regimen to determine the resumption of hinterland travel.					

OVERALL RATING OF PROJECT RISKS	JUSTIFICATION	RISK RATING TREND ¹⁴
L	A low-risk rating has been given to the project. The project has been managing the risks correctly by implementing mitigation measures.	Decreasing

Recommendations

MITIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Engage project steering committee and GEF OFP on Risk 3.	PMU	October 2022

¹⁴ **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

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 ¹⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
<p>ACCOUNTABILITY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project’s Accountability and Grievance Mechanism</p>	30	0	0	CA	<p>To date, there have been no complaints received Through the AGM despite there being several options for submitting complaints : by telephone, in-person, online or via a trusted member of the community. Throughout FY22, the project continued to inform stakeholders about the mechanism. This was done during the sensitization</p>

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

<p>2. Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>0%</p>	<p>0%</p>		<p>sessions held at the demo sites as well as reminders to community leaders and regional officials.</p>							
<p>GENDER MAINSTREAMING</p> <p>1. Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Men</p> <p>-</p>	<p>Women</p> <p>-</p>	<p>Men</p> <p>150</p> <p>66</p>	<p>Women</p> <p>130</p> <p>95</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Men</td> <td>Women</td> </tr> <tr> <td>430</td> <td>339</td> </tr> <tr> <td>153</td> <td>194</td> </tr> </table> <p>IS</p>	Men	Women	430	339	153	194	<p>Though there are generally more men participating in project meetings and consultations, it is observed that women have shown a greater interest in participating in training activities. Outreach to women in the mining areas by the female members of the team has encouraged women's participation in project activities. Also, the provision of transportation to project activities which ensures safe movement is another strategy used. The NAP included gender considerations.</p>
Men	Women											
430	339											
153	194											

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)		1	1		
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT		25	120	IS	
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	17				
2. Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	-				
3. Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	12	150	130	527	359 IS
ESS 4: Indigenous Peoples (delete if not applicable)			100%	16	44
1. Percentage of indigenous/local communities where FPIC have been followed and documented	100%	100%	100%	IS	All interactions with Indigenous Peoples followed FPIC requirements

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

The project utilized several methods to re-engage stakeholders during FY22, to make up for opportunities lost over the previous year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To a large extent, disseminating information about mercury-free technologies and practices, along with the establishment of the two demonstration sites were central to our engagements. A booklet titled "Equipment for Responsible Mining" that showcases equipment suitable for mercury-free gold production, was produced and widely disseminated among miners. The project team completed three Mercury-Awareness Sessions for students from High Schools in areas where mining is the main source of income. Many of the male students are likely to enter the mining sector after leaving school and many of the female students will play some role along the gold value chain. Outreach to women in communities closest to the demonstration sites was done to encourage their participation at the scheduled demos. Arrangements were in place to encourage their participation so as to bring gender balance to the activities, and to acknowledge their influence in the communities.

Meetings were held with local government officials from Regions 7 & 8, early in the FY, to update them on project activities. The success of the engagements with the cross section of stakeholders was reflected in the attendance levels at the demonstrations held in March, April and May at the two sites as well as the increased interest in the "new technologies". The willingness of stakeholders to meet with and hold frank discussions with consultants during Q4 was another indication of the effectiveness of the project's outreach efforts.

There were however challenges as far as plans to collaborate with WWF and UNDP on mercury-reduction activities as the agencies were unable to start their projects in a time frame that coincided with the PlanetGOLD project. Another challenge was the apparent lack of interest on the part of the Government and financial institutions with respect to the realization of a financing mechanism to assist miners with the transition to mercury-free mining. However, two local government officials have indicated a willingness to advocate for such a mechanism and efforts are underway to collaborate with these and other officials of similar mindset, in this regard.

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

The project attempted to realize most of the activities, as initially proposed by the GMP, however there were several activities that required significant input from external agencies and entities and were therefore outside the control of the project. These activities remain unachieved and that is unlikely to change in the remaining months of project implementation. Among them are (i) an inclusion of a gender dimension in the identification of beneficiaries' economic incentives to adopt the technologies. A financing mechanism to support the capitalization of mercury-free technologies is yet to be realized. (ii) Support the creation of a Community of Practice to provide guidance on the implementation of safeguards; It was intended that the Safeguards Coordinator would work closely with the designated safeguards officers under the WWF and UNDP Mercury Reduction Projects, however, to date, the officers are still to be appointed because of the significant delays in the startup of the two projects. (iii) The project will work through the Indigenous People's Plan to ensure that Indigenous women are targeted for capacity building and empowerment; Despite arrangements being in place to encourage the participation of Indigenous women in project activities, we continue to see primarily male representatives participating in meetings even when the activity is close to an Indigenous village.

Early in the second year of project implementation, a Gender and Social Analysis study was conducted. The main purpose of the qualitative study was to contribute to the generation of knowledge, to identify the role of gender in the ASGM value chain and evaluate the challenges and opportunities for women in the ASGM subsector. Further, the study sought to understand the current gender knowledge, attitudes and practices concerning mercury-dependent ASGM activities that could help identify the entry points to transition towards a responsible use of mercury and the adoption of mercury-free technologies. The study was developed into a case study and as originally intended, the findings and recommendations of the study informed a revised GMP, and impacted project delivery across all components. Among them are: (i) Women are well represented at the meetings of the PSC (ii) Gender integration across all components of the project; decision-making processes, consultations and other stakeholder engagements use methodologies to promote proportional representation and participation of men and women. During the final period of project implementation, measures to reduce any remaining barriers to participation will be addressed.

d. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products¹⁶ developed and disseminated

Gender

Specific effort was made to encourage greater participation of women in project activities so as to improve gender balance. This is apparent in the sex disaggregation numbers for participation in workshops and meetings which reflect an increased level of participation. However, the numbers with respect to active participation in mining operation activities remain low. This so, even in the case of the project demonstration operation, located on a woman-owned concession. This may be attributed to a culture that drives the belief that mining is unsuitable for women folk and therefore their presence at operations is limited to cooking, washing and cleaning.

Grievance Mechanism

The Accountability and Grievance Mechanism continues to be in place, inclusive of an online system that allows for registering, recording and tracking of complaints. This online system facilitates stakeholders who prefer not to register concerns by telephone or in-person, to do so online. However, to date no complaints were received so there has been no opportunity to test the efficiency or effectiveness of the system.

Indigenous Peoples

All communication between the Project and Indigenous Villages followed FPIC principles which has contributed to excellent working relationships. This is reflected in the participation of representatives of the villages at both demonstrations conducted to date at the mercury-free site located in regions 8 and the one conducted at the Region 7 site.

Stakeholder Engagement

Throughout the period under review, the project utilized various methods to engage stakeholders. Among them are community outreach, education and awareness sessions and dissemination of material.

On several occasions throughout the year, team members were interviewed on radio stations located in Regions 7 and 8. This proved to be a reliable method for informing community level stakeholders, on project status and upcoming project activities, in which they may have an interest in participating. Radio is the main medium for information sharing in hinterland communities and the project managed to make the best use of it whenever feasible.

Through the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Education, relationships were established with officials in regions 7 and 8, to identify suitable methods for educating students on the dangers of mercury. Education and Awareness sessions were held for students from several Secondary Schools who were preparing to leave the school system. The students identified were very likely to find work within the ASGM sector.

In May, representatives of four project consulting teams held stakeholder consultations with representatives of government Agencies, NGOs, Local Govt, Gold Dealerships, Jeweler shops, Community, a Gold Miner Association, as well as individual small and medium scale miners. The stakeholders all willingly participated in a demanding schedule of interviews and meetings over the 2-week period in Regions 4, 7 and 8. This was an indication of the effectiveness of the outreach, education and awareness sessions previously implemented and dissemination of knowledge material, previously organized.

Knowledge material produced over the FY22 period

A booklet, "Equipment for Responsible Mining" was designed to provide guidance on various types of equipment that can be used for setting up a small to medium-scale responsible gold mining operation in Guyana.

The "Women in Mining" video series that was created to ensure that the stories of women miners are told in their own voices and their own words. It is important that the presence of women miners is known as well as their experiences working in the mainly male-dominated

¹⁶ 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.

The Prospecting Video (Auger and Flush Drill) Video was produced to guide miners on how to adopt two simple prospecting methods which can reduce the impact on the environment, through targeted and limited land disturbance.

Posters on the dangers of mercury, and small-scale prospecting along with the planetGOLD Guyana Fact Sheet were translated into Spanish and Portuguese for circulation across the relevant mining districts, and uploaded on the planetGOLD webpage; printed copies were made available for circulation. Copies were also made of posts with an image and quotation from a miner and another with an image and quotation from a gold shop owner, each reflecting their individual experiences in the mining sector. Wide dissemination of the posters was made possible through the support of partner agencies.

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 FY22 IMPLEMENTATION 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	The project team has periodically socialized their AGM via the sensitization sessions on the mining sites. On the GMP, the project significantly improved women’s participation and in beneficiaries, there were more women beneficiaries than men during this FY. On the SEP, the project has over exceeded all their targets and on ESS4 the project has implemented FPIC in all engagements with IPs, mainly to keep project implementation areas away from IPs communities who are not engaged neither interested in mining. all engagements with IPs, mainly to keep project implementation areas away from IPs communities who are not engaged neither interested in mining.	Unchanged

f. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
As the project has demonstrate a good performance in ESMF this FY and in previous one and has also advanced interesting activities and results in terms of gender equality, the project is encouraged to share their experiences, good practices and lessons learned with other GOLD+ upcoming projects.	PMU and CI GEF Agency	June 2023

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

Required topic

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

Throughout FY22, the project utilized various methods to engage stakeholders, these included dissemination of: posters on the dangers of mercury, posters informing on the AGM, an equipment booklet and a tutorial video on the use of a few pieces of equipment suitable for small-scale mercury-free mining. In Q4, the Communications Consultant met with a number of miners and gold shop owners to test the effectiveness of existing knowledge management products and current methods of communication. Feedback garnered through the communications consultant revealed an interesting variety of responses.

Some miners are not keen on booklets or any other item that requires “too much” reading. Their preference is for posters with clear, focused messages, particularly if the images are of personalities with whom they are familiar or with whom they can readily relate. For example, the poster with the quotation, “Mining blind ...is asking for all kinds of trouble...because you come with big vehicle and you go back walking.” Was very well received and opened the door for frank and honest interactions. Other miners, though they appreciated the detail presented in booklets, requested a visit from someone from the project to explain the more technical elements in the material rather than being left to understand the specifics on their own. Yet others were only interested in participating in live demonstrations and if possible, opportunities for repeated participation.

Local government officials, gold shop owners and jewelers who benefitted from project outreach were all supportive of the objectives and were interested in collaborating as far as possible within their respective areas of competence.

Local Government officials were particularly well informed on the project, its objectives, and the activities that were implemented, as well as those scheduled. This was attributed to updates the team had provided on a regular basis through various forms of media. The presence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the launch of the demo site was testimony to the effectiveness of the outreach, given that no special invitation was issued.

Additional topics (please choose two)

Scientific and technological issues

Mercury mining in Guyana traditionally consists of gold concentration using a sluice box followed by concentrated cleaning using amalgamation (addition of mercury to capture the gold), once the gold is captured using mercury, the amalgamated gold is separated from the rest of the solids. Mercury is then recovered from the amalgam by heating in a retort to form sponge gold. The last step is smelting of the sponge gold to produce a gold ore. Though mercury is used in this process it avoids the worst forms of mercury use.

A simplified mercury-free technology circuit could consist of gold concentration using a sluice box but instead of amalgamation concentrate, cleaning is achieved by using a gold cube and a shaking table to produce a clean gold concentrate (with sand rejected as waste), the concentrate is then smelted to produce a gold ore using appropriate fluxes. Simplifying the circuit this way allows for comparison to be made between mercury and mercury-free technologies without incorporating the recovery improvement segments of the circuit. This approach helps to address the equipment cost and throughput issues. Miners adopting mercury-free technology would need to replace amalgamation with a gold cube and shaking table for concentrate cleaning. One advantage of using the shaking table over other technology is the ability of the miner to see the gold during separation, which can help address the “trust” issues when operating a centralized concentrate cleaning center. This significantly reduces the required capital investment for transitioning to mercury free technology. For smaller operators with limited capital, transitioning to mercury free would require use of either the Gold Cube and or the Warrior with better matting or panning. Two follow up issues to be addressed for the Simplified Mercury Free Circuit are recovery and time taken to process the black sands (mostly smelting time). Unlike amalgamated gold which can easily be converted to sponge gold by mercury removal though heating, the product from the shaking table needs to be smelted to remove the impurities from the gold. This process requires the right type of flux and a good heat source for smelting. The presence of residual sand in the concentrate makes the smelting process more challenging and longer. Selection of a suitable heat source and flux will help resolve this challenge.

The rest of the circuit, including: the crusher, Trommel screen, Gold Kachas and Mastas are aimed at improving recovery. Ideally, a cost benefit analysis is required to justify the increased capital expenditure compared with the conventional mercury flowsheet. Preliminary analysis of the performance of the sluice box only vs. the extended circuit (including crusher, Trommel, Gold Kachas, Mastas) showed that recovery more than doubles with the extended circuit. Miners would require training on basic economics including the benefits of increasing recovery vs. throughput to help justify an investment in additional equipment.

It is worth noting that whilst the recovery improvement segment of the circuit is not critical for mercury transition, the inclusion of this segment is required for improving recovery. The characterization (both size by assay and GRG) tests indicate the recovery improvement segment is critical for maximizing gold recovery from the ore.

Factors that encourage replication, including outreach, dissemination of lessons learned, and communications strategies

The two project demonstration sites established in Regions 7 & 8 have generated significant interest on the part of miners, decision maker, fabricators and jewelers alike. It is now confirmed that mercury-free technologies work in the production of gold. Based on this fact alone, there is interest among some miners in having access to similar equipment at their locations. The sampling and analysis of product input and output of each individual piece of equipment is needed to establish the level of efficiency and effectiveness of the technology in general and the particular circuit in place at the sites.

Replication is therefore first dependent on stakeholders being able to see the demonstration in action. Then there is need for scientific evidence that the processes are economically viable which will encourage financiers to support the purchase of similar equipment as a viable business.

With the above factors in place, the dissemination of a clear message becomes easier as the product would be tried and tested. The application of a communication strategy designed around these will facilitate replication.

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
CLASSIFICATION <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>	NEW	NEW
Note: Provide justification if the location is a new site in this line	No demo site set up previous to FY22	No demo site previous to FY22
GEO NAME ID <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: http://www.geonames.org.</i>	3377263	3376334

LOCATION NAME <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
LATITUDE <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
LONGITUDE <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
LOCATION DESCRIPTION <i>(Optional field) 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”.</i>	Mining Concession	Mining Concession
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION <i>(Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the activity taking place at the location, for example, “Installing a mini-grid energy system”.</i>	Mercury-Free Mining Site	Mercury-Free Mining Site

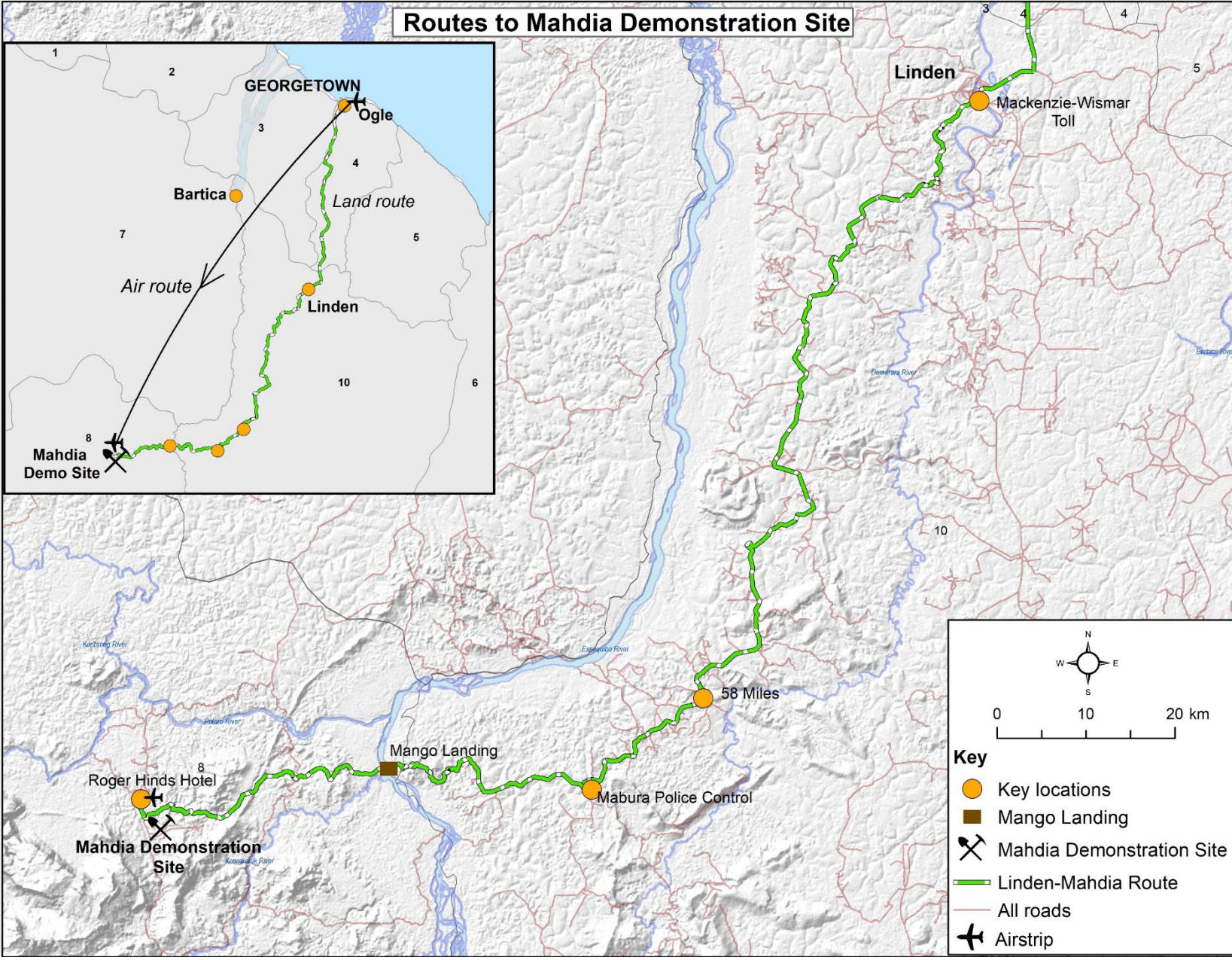
Please provide a justification regarding changes in location during implementation. Justifications should also be provided in the event the geographic location of key project activities cannot be provided at CEO Endorsement/Approval stage.

<p>(Geo Name ID: Location Name)</p> <p>Justification:</p>

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.

Routes to Mahdia 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 TARGET2	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Output 1.1 Two sites for demonstrating mercury-free practices and technologies are established and functional.				
Output Indicator 1.1.1: Number of sites demonstrating mercury-free practices and technologies established and functional	2	2	CA	Demonstrations have commenced at the two sites, both of which have functioning mercury-free circuits.
Output 1.2 Verifiably Mercury-free gold is produced from at least one demonstration site.				
Output Indicator 1.2.1: Number of grams of verified mercury-free gold produced at demonstration sites.	15 Tons	0	IS	The 2 sites have thus far produced 4.6 Tons of gold without the use of mercury; however, the verification process is not yet in place.
Output 1.3 Miners exposed to demonstrations of Mercury-free gold mining practices and technologies in Regions 1, 7 and 8.				
Output Indicator 1.3.1: 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.
Output Indicator 1.3.2: Number of Technology Innovation clinics organized with miners, fabricators, and equipment retailers	6	3	IS	Two demonstration sessions were conducted at the Region 8 site and one at the Region 7 site The other 2 demonstrations will be conducted in FY23.
Output 2.1 : An assessment of financing mechanisms for artisanal, small-scale, and medium-scale miners to adopt mercury-free technologies is undertaken.				

¹⁷ O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

<p>Output Indicator 2.1.1:</p> <p>Number of feasibility assessments completed on mechanisms for financing technologies appropriate to Guyana based on mechanisms tested around the world.</p>	1	1	CA	A comprehensive assessment was conducted by a team of consultants hired to design a financing mechanism for the ASGM sector.
<p>Output 2.2: A financial mechanism for the procurement of mercury-free gold mining technology is established and functional</p>				
<p>Output Indicator 2.2.1:</p> <p>Number of miners applying to the financing mechanism to support their transition to Hg-free operations</p>	20	0	NS	A financing mechanism is not yet in place.
<p>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.</p>				
<p>Output Indicator 3.1.1:</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	0	D	In May, the Consultants hired to lead this process had an initial country visit that included stakeholder consultations and a site visit. A comprehensive report was completed.
<p>Output 3.2: El Dorado producers are linked to international responsibly produced gold markets</p>				

<p>Output Indicator 3.2.1: Number of market systems analyses and feasibility studies for the establishment an institutional mechanism to trade El Dorado-branded gold.</p>	1	0	D	In May, the Consultants hired to lead this process had their initial visit that included stakeholder consultations and a site visit.
<p>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.</p>				
<p>Output Indicator 4.1.1: Number of multi-stakeholder policy-focused fora convened.</p>	1	0	D	Ongoing research and stakeholder consultations under the Duke Grant and Mercury-Free Verification Consultancy will generate content for a policy-focused forum, that will take place at the Responsible Mining Conference in October 2022.
<p>Output Indicator 4.1.2: 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.</p>	1	0	D	The formulation of mechanisms depends on the specific policy recommendations.
<p>Output Indicator 4.1.3: Number of national policies for responsible ASGM gold mining revised/drafted.</p>	1	1	CA	The Draft Revised NAP was completed and awaits Government's approval.

Output 5.1 Monitoring and Tracking of mercury use in mining is institutionalized within appropriate agencies.				
Output Indicator 5.1.1: Number of Mechanisms for monitoring and tracking the use of mercury in gold mining	1	0	NS	There is continued unwillingness on the part of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemical Control Board (PTCCB), to provide critical information needed to design a system.
Output 6.1: 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				
Output Indicator 6.1.1: Number of strategic communications plans aimed at key stakeholders, within the ASGM supply chain for awareness raising, policy advocacy developed and implemented.	1	1	IS	Consulting team hired to implement Communication Strategy over the remaining life of the project.
Output 6.1: 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				
Output Indicator 6.1.1: Number of strategic communications plans aimed at key stakeholders, within the ASGM supply chain for awareness raising, policy advocacy developed and implemented.	1	1	CA	The strategic plan approved for implementation focuses on the full range of project stakeholders.
Output 6.2 Coordination with the global project on Knowledge Management activities				

<p>Output Indicator 6.2.1:</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	4	IS	The education awareness material produced this FY, including a Tutorial Video (Auger), 2 Videos (Women in Mining series) 1 Equipment Booklet.
<p>Output 6.3: Biennial conference and annual dialogues organized to promote Project Findings and Responsible Gold Mining.</p>				
<p>Output Indicator 6.3.1:</p>	1	0	IS	The Conference is scheduled for October '22 (Q2, FY23).