



## **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**

**FY21**

*July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021*

**Executing Partner**



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>	48
<b>Executing Agency:</b>	Conservation International-Guyana	<b>Actual Implementation Start Date:</b>	05/04/2018
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	Chemical and Waste	<b>Expected Project Completion Date:</b>	04/30/2022
<b>GEF Grant Amount:</b>	USD 2,652,294	<b>Expected Financial Closure Date:</b>	10/31/2022
<b>Expected Co-financing:</b>	USD 3,136,600	<b>Date of Last Steering Committee Meeting:</b>	04/21/2021
<b>Co-financing Realized as of June 30, 2021:</b>	USD 1,971,569	<b>Mid-Term Review-Planned Date:</b>	04/30/2020
<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, 2021:</b>	USD 1,069,019	<b>Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date:</b>	02/28/2022
<b>PIR Prepared by:</b>	Ingrid Sarabo	<b>Terminal Evaluation-Actual Date:</b>	TBD
<b>CI-GEF Project Manager:</b>	Courtney McGeachy	<b>CI-GEF Finance Lead:</b>	Susana Escudero

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 I: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS SUMMARY**

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

#### **A GEFGOLD/ 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) to meet its commitments to the Minamata Convention, by directly creating market incentives for private sector enterprises. It will take a value chain approach, by working with business enterprises with a profit motive, towards leading the shift in the development of a mercury-free ASGM supply chain and downstream El Dorado Gold branded jewelry. The project is demonstrating innovative approaches, tools, and strengthening partnerships with public and private sector actors for guiding 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 project activities including education and awareness sessions, will be carried out in three 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 at a minimum meets the PlanetGold Environmental, Social and Governance standards, from at least one of the sites to be established in these Regions.

To ensure the identification and involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples, gender equity, and an opportunity for anyone affected to give voice to any concerns, the project has prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, an Indigenous People’s Plan, a Gender-mainstreaming Plan, and an Accountability and Grievance Mechanism. These inform the activities outlined in the workplans developed for implementation.

### **PRIOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (FY20)**

The project reached the mid-term of implementation phase and efforts were made to make progress in all areas by adjusting to suit the changed circumstances.

The project team partnered with the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) to mobilize suitable mercury-free processing equipment and conduct mobile demonstrations at locations within project-focused Regions. These provided valuable information and learning that positioned the project to strengthen capacities for more effective field activities.

A program was designed in partnership with Mercer University, Georgia, USA, to strengthen national capacities and facilitate improved demonstrations of mercury-free technologies and practices. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, that collaboration was put on hold.

The launch of a Consultancy to develop a Financing Mechanism was delayed given it would require a range of face-to-face consultations with private and public sector stakeholders that could not be arranged under the restrictions that were in place.

An application to the Guyana Registrar for a El Dorado Gold brand trademark for mercury-free gold produced in Guyana was approved in April 2020 and the Certificate issued in June 2020 with validity until March 2026.

The DragonFly Initiative (TDI) reviewed the PlanetGOLD Criteria for Environmental and Socially Responsible Operations, situating them in Guyana’s context. CI-Guyana and TDI together identified the best approach for completing TDI’s work, under circumstances where the Consultants were unable to travel to Guyana as originally planned.

Collaboration commenced with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on stakeholder consultations for the development of the system for monitoring and tracking mercury. However, those arrangements were placed on hold due to COVID-19.

A consultant was contracted to develop the Project’s Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Results Management Plan. The Inception Report, including a review of the Project Results Framework, was submitted for consideration and agreement was reached on the next phase of the consultancy.

Posters highlighting the dangers of mercury and actions to reduce exposure, a video featuring a gold buyer telling his personal experience of mercury poisoning, a video capturing work undertaken over the first year of implementation of the project, and a blog detailing the story of mining in Guyana and the importance of shifting away from mercury use in Guyana’s ASGM sector were produced and disseminated. These also helped profile this project with videos featured at the third Conference of Parties in Geneva and on the “Voices” page of the PlanetGOLD website where the blog was also featured.

Safeguards plans were updated over the year and their implementation advanced. Stakeholders' awareness of the safeguards was enhanced through a series of engagements and through production of specific targeted communication material. A consultancy to develop a database in support of implementing the Accountability and Grievance Mechanism (AGM), commenced.

The Social and Gender Assessment was completed, and the findings informed a revision of the Gender Mainstreaming plan.

## CURRENT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (FY2021)

**Despite the delays, some key achievements were completed during the year. Those achievements are explained by each project component as follows.**

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

The COVID-19 pandemic had the most significant impact on the activities scheduled under this component as all field work remained at a standstill during the first half of the FY. However, after months of consistent, targeted outreach to the mining community through the limited means available, several miners began to inquire into the possibility of working with the project. In Q2 of FY21, Expressions of Interest for the establishment of demonstration sites were received from three concessionaires, one from each of the project-focused Regions. Desktop research was conducted to determine the likely impact of the mining operations at the demonstration sites on biodiversity and ecosystems at the proposed sites in regions 7 and 8. The findings concluded that more rigorous ‘on the ground’ assessments were not required prior to the conduct of prospecting activities. Additionally, the Agreements with CI-Guyana and the Region 7 Concessionaire approved for hosting a demonstration site and with GGMC for the loan of Equipment for that site were finalized. When the COVID-19 protocols and safeguards for local travel were in place, field work commenced with prospecting activities in region 7, which confirmed the identified area was suitable for demonstrating the effectiveness of mercury-free mining.

### **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. CIRDI produced a Global Baseline Report in Q1 and after a wide range of remote consultations in Q2, produced the National Baseline Report. Two Financial Round tables were hosted in Q3, both utilizing a hybrid model that limited in-person participation, by having most participants join remotely. The Consultants’ Final Report recommended several robust options for financing mechanisms: Lending through Geological Knowledge; Establishment of Mining Development Bank; Support fund through Guyana Gold Board; Green Loans.

Each of these align with the local business environment, but all require an enabling environment only possible through significant policy change at the level of Government.

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

The COVID-19 environment continued to cause the delay of a second visit by TDI. The elements of the Value Chain Assessment Consultancy that could reasonably be conducted remotely, were assessed. Based on that, a series of interactive sessions were held, with TDI leading the review of the PlanetGOLD Criteria for Environmental and Socially Responsible Operations in the context of Guyana. Discussions were also held remotely with the Guyana Gold Board in relation to the Chain of Custody options. The Consultants then recommended the mechanisms needed for miners to produce verifiable mercury-free gold for both local and international markets. Unfortunately, persistent international travel restrictions resulted in the planned visit to be cancelled and TDI had no opportunity to test the recommendations offered.

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

The project has worked closely with the MNR on the process to finalize the NAP which included the Assessment of Guyana's legal framework. The findings of that assessment determined that draft guidelines, draft standards, draft Codes of Practice, as well as draft legislation needed to be approved in a timely manner. Another significant finding was that data collection and information sharing protocols, in relation to the mercury trade and usage are critical but are either not established or not functioning effectively. This now sets the platform for the project to organize support which the MNR needs in addressing many of these gaps.

#### **Component 5: Monitoring & Tracking the use of Mercury**

The Technical Officer 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 was important, because that baseline will inform the analysis of data gathered at the demonstration sites. Consistent with this, CI-Guyana proposed to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Protection Agency, Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, and the Guyana Gold Board that a multi-agency grouping should be established to identify a system for tracking and monitoring the use of mercury in the ASGM sector. Representatives of the agencies agreed to the proposal and the first meeting was scheduled for July 2021. It was proposed that the purpose of the first meeting would be to agree on the approach to be taken by the group to achieve the intended result and the individual roles of the various agencies.

#### **Component 6: Communications and Knowledge Management**

Knowledge products were produced - a brochure outlining the Project Safeguards; a Field Video demonstrating how to operate three pieces of equipment used in mercury free mining operations – Gold Kacha, Gold Cube and Blue Bowl, explaining the most effective way each can be used. This will assist the Communications and Safeguards coordinators to demonstrate low-cost efficiency, during their Education and Awareness sessions with miners. Importantly, a booklet was developed in collaboration with partner agencies, informing miners of the COVID-19 virus; its symptoms, and how to practically stay safe travelling to and from mining camps, as well as when working in the camps.

A Communications Strategy was developed to guide communication activities over the remaining life of the project; the focus being to guide the process for identifying and designing the tools best suited for communicating effectively with the various project audiences.

#### **Safeguards**

All applicable safeguards plans were updated over the year and their implementation advanced. A database expert developed a Grievance Mechanism website and online database to facilitate the submission of grievances related to CI-Guyana's Responsible Mining Initiative (RMI).

The Social and Gender Assessment, completed in FY20, was utilized to develop a case study that aimed to contribute information about women's roles in ASGM in Guyana, South America. The collaboration with RBA Director, Project Development and Monitoring packaged information that can be used to inform and influence the ASGM sector in Guyana to be more gender-responsive and environmentally and socially sustainable.

#### **Mid Term Evaluation**

During FY20, the project reached the mid-term of the implementation phase, however due to delays related to COVID-19, the MTR was implemented approximately 10 months after the targeted date of March 2020. An independent consulting firm, Asesoramiento Ambiental Estratégico (AAE), was contracted to execute the MTR, beginning January 2021. Given travel restrictions in place, AAE partnered with a local firm, Spiral Consulting, to provide on-the-ground consultations in Guyana. The Final Report was presented in May 2021; key findings included:

- The project is in conformity with all pertinent policies and plans.
- With a few exceptions, outcome received a satisfactory rating despite the significant challenges presented because of COVID-19 and the change in government
- Successful implementation will require that the project focuses on implementation of activities in regions 7 and 8. This involves an all-hands approach between mining technicians, safeguards, gender, communications, etc. from CI-G and from partner organizations
- There is a productive base and momentum to recover lost time and realize most of the outputs.
- Extend the project close by 6 months through a no-cost extension modality

The key findings and recommendations identified by the MTR will be used to update the project work plan with activities required to realize project outcomes as proposed in the project framework


**SUMMARY: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS**

PROJECT PART	PRIOR FY20IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	CURRENT FY21IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING <sup>1</sup>	RATING TREND <sup>2</sup>
OBJECTIVE	MU	MU	Changed
COMPONENTS AND OUTCOMES	MS	MU	Decreasing
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	HS	HS	Unchanged

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

RISKS	M	M	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 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.	No mercury reduction can be attributed directly to project activities and results.	D	<p>It was anticipated that with the establishment of demonstration sites in regions 1, 7 and 8, the measuring of mercury avoidance as a result of project activities would have commenced by the second half of FY21. However, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Guyana, generally, led to the decision to cancel all plans for demonstrations in region 1 and delay the start of activities in regions 7 &amp; 8 until Q3. As a result, the selection process for the region 7 and 8 sites was not completed until Q4, and operationalizing the sites was rescheduled for FY22.</p> <p>Again, due to COVID-19, the expert identified to guide project activities on mercury capture systems in gold shops, could not travel to Guyana to commence that work.</p> <p>With approval for the recommencement of critical field activities only in Q3, the Technical Officer was able to travel with the NAP Consultants who were hired to establish the baseline use of mercury in the ASGM sector which was needed to measure any change in the</p>

<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
			use of mercury over time. By the end of the FY, agreement was reached on the average baseline for mercury use in the sector.
b. Number of Regions in Guyana in which mercury-free technologies have replaced the use of mercury in ASGM	There is no Region where mercury free technology has replaced the use of mercury.	D	<p>The results of prospecting and environmental and social assessment activities are prerequisites to an agreement being signed with Concessionaire for the establishment of proposed demonstration sites. The presence of the COVID-19 pandemic caused a complete halt of all field activities throughout the first half of the FY, thereby preventing activities necessary for these prerequisites to be in place.</p> <p>Though all possible preparatory work was completed including the desk review which determined that mining operations would have no limited negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystems at the proposed sites in regions 7 and 8. Despite these promising results, prospecting activities could not be arranged until Q4, which prevented the mobilizing of mercury-free technologies in the regions as planned.</p>
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	<p>Unable to travel to Guyana due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Canadian International Research and Development Institute (CIRDI) held remote consultations with a range of stakeholders within the ASGM sector and by the end of Q2 produced both Global and National Baseline Reports. Two Financial Round tables were hosted in Q3, utilizing a hybrid model that limited the in-person participation, by having most participants join remotely. The Consultants' Final Report recommended several robust options for financing mechanisms that align with the local social and business environments, all of which require an enabling environment. However, the establishment of any of these mechanisms requires the creation of an enabling environment through significant policy change at the level of Government. Several elements of the recommendations coincide with activities outlined in the Draft NAP. The project will therefore move to engage the MNR to plot a path for the institutionalizing</p>



OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>4</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
			anyone of the possible financial mechanisms early in FY22.
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	Early in the FY, TDI's second visit to Guyana was postponed. Instead, a series of interactive sessions were held with TDI leading the review of the PlanetGOLD Criteria for Environmental and Socially Responsible Operations in the context of Guyana and the provision of recommendations for the implementation with mining entities. The Consultants recommended the mechanisms to be in place for miners to produce verifiable mercury-free gold for both local and international markets. However, the contract ended at the end of FY21, without the testing of recommendations proposed by TDI. Fortunately, the Mercury-Free Certification Consultancy is scheduled for FY22 which provides an opportunity to fill the gaps remaining for a chain of custody process and verification mechanism to be institutionalized.
e. Number of national policies and requisite laws/regulations in support of responsible gold production and value added in the gold commodity chain refined/drafted.	There is no policy and requisite law/regulation developed, drafted or refined in support of responsible gold production and value added that can be directly attributed to the project.	D	During the FY, the project engaged stakeholders through activities under components 1, 2 and 3. Those discussions and consultations have generated ideas for policy change and regulation amendments. The NAP process led by the MNR has highlighted the need for policy change and amendments. This now sets the platform for the project to organize support which the MNR needs to address many of the gaps in the ASGM legal framework. It is expected that the multi-sectoral team assembled to address the tracking and monitoring of mercury will play a key role in this process during FY22.

OBJECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION
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**MU**

A moderately unsatisfactory rating has been given to objective implementation progress. After three years of implementation, the project continues to present significant delays. The project team has provided comments and justification that indicate field activities will be starting in Q1 of FY22. However, it is important to continuously consider adaptation mechanisms for COVID-19 related delays.

**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.

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<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 in the ASGM sector	Mercury-free technologies have replaced the use of mercury in at least one region of Guyana.	0 Regions where mercury-free technologies have replaced the use of mercury.	<b>D</b>	The establishment of the demonstration sites is a key aspect of this indicator. Proposed demonstration sites were identified, and environmental assessments conducted in regions 7 & 8 before the close of Q2. However, the next steps in the process were hindered by the halt in field activities enforced because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prospecting of the area identified in Region 7 was approved and conducted in Q4, similar work for the area identified in region 8 is now scheduled for Q1, FY22. The final report from the prospecting consultants confirmed the list of equipment to be used for Mercury-free mining in region 7. This equipment, to be deployed on-site in early FY 22, will be included in the circuit to be used for the mercury-free processing of ore instead of the traditional circuit which requires mercury.
Outcome indicator 1.2.: Number of tons of Mercury reduced	Reduction in mercury use of about 15 metric tons.	No mercury use reduction that can directly be attributed to the project recorded.	<b>D</b>	Data will be collected from the mercury-free circuit as well as from the parallel traditional circuit located on the same concession. A comparison of these two sets of data will inform on the mercury avoided. The data on recovery rates will also inform on the comparative efficiencies of the two circuits in terms of recovery rates.

<b>COMPONENT 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING</b>	<b>JUSTIFICATION</b>	<b>RATING TREND</b>
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<b>MU</b>	A moderately unsatisfactory rating has been given to component 1. Although the project has now identified demonstration sites and prospecting has begun, equipment has to be deployed. The project team has noted that equipment deployment is scheduled to happen in Q1 of FY22.	<b>Increasing</b>
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<b>COMPONENT 2</b>	Mechanism for financing capital investments for Mercury-free technologies established and functional
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<b>Outcome 2:</b>	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 <sup>6</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
<p>Outcome indicator 2.1.: Number of financial mechanisms established and operational to facilitate the transition of mercury-free technologies in ASGM.</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 2:2 Amount of finance approved by financing mechanism(s) to miners.</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 2.3: Number of miners successfully accessing financing for mercury-free mining equipment</p>	<p>A financial mechanism to facilitate the transition to Mercury-free technologies will be established and operational.</p> <p>250.000 dollars approved through financial mechanism(s) to miners.</p> <p>30 miners successfully accessing finance for mercury-free mining equipment.</p>	<p>No financial mechanism established.</p> <p>No finance approved through financial mechanism to miners.</p> <p>No miners successfully accessing finance for mercury-free mining equipment</p>	<b>D</b>	<p>The CIRDI consultants hosted the first Financing Round Table Discussion in Q3, with the main objective being of “To Build the capacity of stakeholders to participate in a collaborative design of the ‘best fit’ financing mechanism for Guyana’s ASM industry”. The second Round Table Discussion was hosted in Q4 with the main objective being “To enable the Consultant to present the Model Design Report and receive comments from stakeholders, for consideration when finalizing the report.”</p> <p>The timing of both activities was affected by the COVID-19 travel restrictions. After significant delay the decision was made to utilize a hybrid model was utilized that limited in-person participation, by having most participants join remotely.</p> <p>The Consultants’ Final Report recommended several robust options for financing mechanisms: Lending through Geological Knowledge; Establishment of Mining Development Bank; Support fund through Guyana Gold Board; Green Loans. Each of these align with the local business environment, but all require an enabling environment only possible through significant policy change at the level of Government. The project will engage the MNR on steps to be taken to realize at least one recommended financing mechanism during FY22.</p>

<sup>6</sup> **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

COMPONENT 2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
<b>MS</b>	A moderately satisfactory rating was given to component 2. Two financing round tables were hosted, but COVID-19 restrictions required a hybrid approach for limited in person participation. The project team also mentions that some of the suggested financial mechanisms may not be realized due to government and policy restrictions. At least one model needs to be piloted in FY22.	Unchanged

**COMPONENT 3** Markets established for branded mercury-free gold from Guyana

**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 <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.	No increased gold sales are shown as a result of El Dorado Gold Branding.	<b>D</b>	The team had a series of interactive online sessions with TDI during which the Consultants guided the review of the PlanetGOLD Criteria for Environmental and Socially Responsible Operations in the context of Guyana. Discussions were also held remotely with the Guyana Gold Board in relation to Chain of Custody options. Based on the information garnered during these sessions, TDI recommended mechanisms to be in place for miners to produce verifiable mercury-free gold for both local and international markets. Due to the international travel restrictions, the second visit to Guyana was cancelled and TDI had no opportunity to test their recommendations. The institutionalization of a chain of custody process and a verification mechanism is expected to materialize through the mercury-free certification consultancy scheduled for FY22.

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COMPONENT 3 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
<b>MU</b>	A moderately unsatisfactory rating was given to component 3. While the consultants conducted a series of online sessions with TDI resulting in recommendations, the recommendations have yet to be tested. The project team has stated that the chain of custody process and verification mechanism is expected to materialize in FY22.	Unchanged

<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.	No national policy and attendant requisite laws/regulations in support of responsible gold production and value added in the gold commodity chain revised/drafted	<b>D</b>	To achieve this target, the project is supporting the MNR with its efforts to revise policies and regulation, 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. The assessment was seriously delayed by the pandemic, which prevented the NAP legal consultants from starting their work before the latter months of FY21. Eventually, the findings of that assessment showed, draft guidelines, draft standards, draft Codes of Practice, as well as draft legislation were awaiting approval for prolonged periods. Another significant finding was that data collection and information sharing protocols, in relation to the mercury trade and usage are critical for achieving agreed objectives of the sector, but they are either not established or not functioning effectively. The project will now, in FY22, utilize these findings to work with the MNR to address many of these gaps.

<sup>8 8</sup> **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

COMPONENT 4 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
<b>MU</b>	A moderately unsatisfactory rating was given to component 4. This component continues to experience significant delays. If progress on the national policies is not likely to occur, the scope of this component may need to be adapted.	Decreasing

<b>COMPONENT 5</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>Outcome 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>9</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>IS</b>	The Project provided in-field support to the NAP consultants to determine the mercury use baseline for the ASGM sector. Support was also provided in the review and finalization of the ASG Inventory Report. These were very important, because that baseline will inform the analysis of data gathered at the demonstration sites. Consistent with this, CI-Guyana proposed that the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Protection Agency, Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission and the Guyana Gold Board that a multi-agency grouping should be established to identify a system for tracking and monitoring the use of mercury in the ASGM sector. Representatives of the agencies agreed to the proposal and the first meeting was scheduled for Q1, Fy21. It was proposed that the purpose of the first meeting would be to agree on the approach to be taken by the group to achieve the intended result and the individual roles of the various agencies.

<sup>9 9</sup> **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

COMPONENT 5 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	A satisfactory rating was given to component 5. Representatives from stakeholder agencies met in FY21 to discuss strategic approaches and roles and responsibilities.	Increasing

<b>COMPONENT 6</b>	Communications and Knowledge Management
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<b>Outcome 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.
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>10</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	No strategic plan developed as yet, 12 types of awareness materials targeted at policy makers, mining and indigenous communities, and other key stakeholders on responsible gold mining in Guyana produced	IS	The travel restrictions put in place in response to the COVID-19 hampered the roll out of in-person Education & Awareness activities. However, outreach was still made possible through various media including radio programs, WhatsApp, and our online presence. Also, with partner agencies recommencing field work before the project, we were able to have material disseminated across regions through governmental and private sector partners. New knowledge products produced and widely shared included, a safeguards booklet, a field video demonstrating how to operate three pieces of equipment used in mercury free mining operations – Gold Kacha, Gold Cube and Blue Bowl, explaining the most effective way each can be used. Importantly, a booklet was developed in collaboration with partner agencies, informing miners of the COVID-19 virus; its symptoms, and how to practically



OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>10</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
				<p>stay safe travelling to and from mining camps, as well as when working in the camps.</p> <p>The Communications Consultant developed a strategy to guide communication activities over the remaining life of the project; the focus being on the process for identifying and designing the tools best suited for communicating effectively with the various project audiences as well as a framework for monitoring the effectiveness of the strategy.</p>

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 FY21 the project team produced a booklet informing miners of the COVID-19 virus; its symptoms, and how to stay safe traveling to and from mining camps, as well as working in camps.	Increasing

### c. Overall Project Results Rating

#### OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION RATING

OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND <sup>11</sup>

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

<b>MU</b>	A moderately unsatisfactory rating has been given to the overall project results implementation. While the project team has worked hard to account for, and adapt to, COVID-19 related delays, most of the project activities continue to be delayed. The project has completed the Mid-term evaluation which has provided a series of recommendations to assist with the implementation of the project. The project team has also indicated that several activities are scheduled to take place in Q1 of FY22. With limited time left in the project implementation period, it will be imperative that activities at the demonstration sites move forward in Q1 FY22, which will act as a catalyst for the other project components.	<b>Decreasing</b>
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**d. Recommendations**

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Submit formal extension request as recommended by Mid-Term Evaluation.	PMU team	October 2021
Closely monitor project activities and timeline and evaluate adaptive measures to align with new end date.	PMU team	November 2021
Schedule monthly check-in with CI-GEF project lead (frequency can be amended as needed)	PMU team	October 2021

### **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

#### **a. 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>12</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND <sup>13</sup>
<b>Risk 1:</b> Few miners adopt mercury-free practices and technologies as a result of project interventions	Ensure a full market systems approach to alternative livelihoods. Tie the El Dorado Gold brand and the project closely to Guyana’s commitment under the Minamata Convention, demonstrating that the project provides real and tangible support to the ASGM sector to participate effectively with GoG on the implementation of the convention’s commitments.	The project is consistently presented to stakeholders as a means of securing economic gains while protecting the health of miners and their families. Additionally, the practices promoted by the project ensures there is a safer environment from which all can benefit.	<b>IS</b>	Though hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic for most of FY21, the project has used creative ways to ensure information sharing continues across mining areas. In addition to radio programs and WhatsApp messaging, partner/stakeholder agencies provided tremendous support by distributing hard copies of our material during their outreach activities. Continued engagement with miners on the range of options available to those interested in reducing their mercury remained a priority. Production and distribution of a field video demonstrating how to operate three relatively low-cost pieces of equipment used in mercury free mining operations – Gold Kacha, Gold Cube and Blue Bowl, and explaining the most effective way each can be used.	Substantial	Substantial	Unchanged

<sup>12</sup> **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

<sup>13</sup> **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING <sup>12</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND <sup>13</sup>
<p><b>Risk 2:</b> Guyana Gold and Diamonds Mining Association (GGDMA) and Guyana Women Miners Organization (GWMO) do not engage and contribute to the project in its execution</p>	<p>Extend existing memorandum of understanding between the GGDMA and CI-Guyana to include activities under this project.</p> <p>Establish a memorandum of understanding with GWMO.</p> <p>Partner with the GGDMA in the Project Preparation Phase</p> <p>Engage with any new executive body of the organizations at the earliest opportunity to secure their continued commitment.</p>	<p>There continues to be a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between GCI-Guyana and GGDMA as well as one with GWMO MoU was signed with GWMO in Oct 2018. The MOUs commit CI-Guyana to work on responsible mining with both GGDMA and GWMO. The GGDMA and GWMO were fully involved in the inception workshop of the project. The GGDMA presented on research they conducted on exploration/prospecting under the GEF-PlanetGOLD sister project the Norad funded ADoD project and the GWMO presented on the development and implementation of the Craft Standards for ASGM, a process they are involved in.</p> <p>The GGDMA and GWMO have also participated fully in the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Minamata Working Group meetings.</p>	IS	<p>The GWMO, which is a member of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), continues to be actively involved in project activities including the sharing of knowledge material, participating in workshops, and providing expert advice on Gender issues as needed.</p> <p>At a PSC meeting held during the first year of project implementation and at subsequent engagements, the GGDMA expressed concern that it is unrealistic that the country can eliminate mercury from the mining process by 2025 or 2027 (as the government committed). They have been advocating for a more phased reduction in mercury use and elimination where feasible. In recent months GGDMA has indicated a willingness to work with CI-Guyana to realize shared objectives that include the objective of the PlanetGOLD project.</p>	Moderate	Moderate	Unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING <sup>12</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND <sup>13</sup>
<p><b>Risk 3:</b> Government does not establish or capitalize the financing mechanism</p>	<p>The project includes the government in the Project Steering Committee which will help build ownership for the project and advocacy for the establishment of the financing mechanism</p>	<p>The government is well represented on the Project Steering Committee and thereby regularly informed and updated. Also, government agencies have actively participated in many project activities over the past year.</p>	<p><b>IS</b></p>	<p>The project held two Financial Round Tables under the consultancy identified to design a financing mechanism that supports the uptake of new technologies by miners. Participation was keen and recommendations from the consultants provide three possible mechanism options.</p> <p>The recommendations that emerged from the Round Table Discussions require an enabling environment that can only be created through substantial support from the govt. This may not be realized in the remaining months of the project. Thus, the risk rating increased from moderate to substantial.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Increased</p>
<p><b>Risk 4:</b> The Guyana Gold Board does not distinguish mercury-free from mercury gold</p>	<p>Differentiate mercury-free gold through branding, and highlight for peer recognition, those miners who opt to participate in the El Dorado branding exercise. Participants would also be prioritized for training and exposure to practices and technologies. Branding will specify how gold is</p>	<p>Opportunities and recommendations for differentiating mercury free gold will be identified during the value chain, chain of custody, verification mechanism and branding assessment process.</p>	<p><b>NS</b></p>	<p>Differentiation will be key when the demonstration site is established and the operations of the mining enterprise are streamlined to align with the standards established to meet the relevant PlanetGOLD Criteria for Environmentally and Socially Responsible Operations and the chain of custody and verification requirements</p> <p>The GGB has participated in a range of discussions and has committed to setting up a process of differentiation to distinguish Hg free gold.</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Decreased</p>

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING <sup>12</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND <sup>13</sup>
	produced and highlight its responsible history. Branding will act as a signal to consumers that more of the revenue from gold sales goes to support gold miners who practice responsible mining.						
<b>Risk 5:</b> Sustainability of the project outcomes is unrealized at a landscape level	Build on CI's long history of success in multi-stakeholder processes, with a focus on "bottom up" solutions from miners and communities as the basis of all project interventions.  Take an approach of building from points of agreement in order to address more complex issues	The project team has been taking a participatory / 'bottom-up' approach in project implementation. Engaging miners and Indigenous communities on the ground where they reside and operate. This is aimed at building trust and understanding through constructive engagement and dialogue, ensuring that project activities/interventions are appropriate, practical and solutions-oriented	<b>IS</b>	The WWF and the UNDP mercury reduction projects were significantly delayed, however from all indications both projects are set to commence activities this year. The intended complementarity of the projects to the GEF project should lead to the achievement of objectives at a landscape level. Sustainability will also be realized by: Training of mining officers of GGMC and other partners such as the Mining School,	Moderate	Low	Decreasing
<b>LowRisk 6:</b> Lessons Learnt do not reach target audiences	Build on CI's long history of engagement at the international level in climate change and nature conservation. Further, the GEF GOLD program is deliberately designed	A key activity for the project is the sharing of information and knowledge material across mining communities. Knowledge material was produced and disseminated through collaborative arrangements with	<b>IS</b>	Over the past year, education & awareness sessions were conducted in mining communities. During the coming year, these activities will continue, utilizing interviews of Miners and other community members, a video of a gold shop owner sharing his story on mercury poisoning and posters depicting the dangers of mercury	Low	Low	Unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING <sup>12</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND <sup>13</sup>
	(separate child project) to provide opportunities for sharing of lessons learned	stakeholder partners. Information was disseminated through various means including WhatsApp messaging, and radio programs. Monthly calls involving project communication focal points, provide for the exchange of lessons learnt and best practices among participating child projects. The Communication Strategy was designed for implementation over the remaining life of the project		and radio advertisements of the Grievance mechanism. The lessons learned will continue to be captured and shared among the target audiences.			
<b>Risk 7:</b> COVID -19 continues to spread in mining areas further delaying field activities.	<b>Activity 1.</b> Ensure all possible preparatory work is undertaken ahead of the lifting of travel restrictions to mining areas  <b>Activity 2.</b> Adjust implementation approach as much as possible to allow for implementation within the restrictions	All possible work was done in preparation for the lifting of travel restrictions. Agreements with region 7 Concessionaire and with GGMC for the loan of equipment were Drafted and finalized for signature. Quotations from suppliers of equipment were secured and evaluated. And Terms of reference for consultancies were drafted in anticipation of prospecting activities being approved. These related mainly to Component 1 which was	<b>IS</b>	The project took steps to ensure work progressed by shifting wherever possible, from in-person to remote stakeholder interactions. This was the case for the Communications, Value Chain and Financing Mechanism Consultancies In addition, the M&E Consultant conducted online training in the use of tools to ensure the tools once instance. As a result, COVID-19 travel restrictions did not entirely prevent consultants from achieving their objectives with these activities taking place. the project was able to I advance as its work and maintain as much momentum	NA	High	NA

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING <sup>12</sup>	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND <sup>13</sup>
		most significantly affected by the travel restrictions.		as possible during this challenging period.			

OVERALL RATING OF PROJECT RISKS	JUSTIFICATION	RISK RATING TREND <sup>14</sup>
<b>M</b>	A moderate rating has been given to the project risks. The project has been managing the risks correctly by implementing mitigation measures. Two project risks have decreased in response to the project team's mitigation efforts.	Unchanged

### Recommendations

MITIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Update mitigation measures to address identified risks as needed	PMU	December 2021

<sup>14</sup> **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing



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

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved Environmental and Social Safeguard plans, as well as recommendations to improve the implementation of the safeguard plans, when needed. This section is divided in three parts:

- a. Progress towards Complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency’s Environmental & Social Safeguards
- b. Overall Project Safeguard Implementation Rating
- c. Recommendations

### **a. Progress towards Complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency’s Environmental & Social Safeguards**

MINIMUM SAFEGUARD INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF YEAR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING <sup>15</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	30	0	<b>IS</b>	No in-person E&A sessions possible due to limited in-field activity but the posters detailing the mechanism were disseminated along with the “dangers of mercury” posters by partner agencies when they conducted their outreach activities. However there were with no demonstrations or any project activity that would result a grievance . No cases were reported.  No grievances were reported.
2. Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project’s Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved	100	<b>0</b>		

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

<p><b>GENDER MAINSTREAMING</b></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>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)</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>39 males 32 females</p> <p>39 males 32 females</p> <p>0</p>		<p>Based on the following activities: 4 PSC Meetings, 1 Survey, 2 Finance Round Table Discussions</p> <p>Based on the following activities: 4 PSC Meetings, 1 Survey, 2 Finance Round Table Discussions</p>
<p><b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</b></p> <p>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</p> <p>2. Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis).</p> <p>3. Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12</p>	<p>25</p> <p>39 males 32 females</p> <p>10</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>4 government agencies, 1 mining supply company, 3 mining organizations, 11 individual miners, 2 indigenous organizations, 2 private sector organizations and 2 global organizations</p>

4. Percentage of stakeholders who rate as satisfactory the level at which their views and concerns are taken into account by the project				
<p><b>INDIGENOUS PEOPLES</b></p> <p>1. Percentage of indigenous/local communities where FPIC have been followed and documented</p> <p>2. The percentage of communities where project benefit sharing have been agreed upon through the appropriate community governance mechanisms and documented</p>	100 %	0%	NS	For FY21, we did not travel to indigenous communities due to COVID and extreme weather conditions. New Toshaos were newly elected and we plan to engage them in the new FY.

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

As far as possible, progress was made in implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. As a result of the COVID-19 related restrictions, engagements that could be effectively conducted virtually, were held according to schedule, among them were all Meetings of the Project Steering Committee. In some instances, such as the Financing Mechanism Round Table Discussions, engagements were conducted through a mix of in-person participation and online participation. Though generally in-person engagements were put on-hold especially those that required travel by consultants.

Also, stakeholders continued to be engaged through dissemination of communications material produced by the project: a field video that demonstrated three low-priced pieces of equipment used for the mercury-free gold processing – Gold Kacha, Gold Cube and Blue Bowl, and explained the most effective way each can be used and a safeguards brochure that outlined the project-focused safeguards. Importantly, a booklet was developed in collaboration with partner agencies, informing miners of the COVID-19 virus: its symptoms and how to practically stay safe travelling to and from mining camps as well as when working in the camps.

**c. Provide information on the progress towards achieving gender sensitive measures/targets**

The updated Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP), continued to influence planning for all activities across components. Though implementation of project activities was stymied by the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 throughout the year, gender was taken into consideration for all activities that were conducted. A significant gender focused activity introduced during the latter part of the FY is the Women in Mining series which focuses on three female miners who are interested in shifting from the traditional mercury use in mining to responsible mining. The interviews will be videotaped, and each miner will be photographed for the production of a poster that will showcase a memorable quote from her interview. Also, it is important to note that one of the two concessionaires identified for establishing demonstration sites is a female with over 25 years of experience in the field.

The Social and Gender Assessment, completed in FY20, was utilized to develop a case study that aims to contribute information about women’s roles in ASGM in Guyana. The decision was taken in recognition of the very limited literature available on this subject. In collaboration with CI’s Project Development and Monitoring department, experiences and data gathered are packaged to inform and influence the ASGM sector in Guyana to be more gender-responsive and environmentally and socially sustainable safeguards workplan. The case study first gives an overview of women in the global ASM and ASGM sector, followed by existing research and documented information focused on Guyana and including information about the PlanetGOLD mercury-reduction project. Then an explanation is given of the methodology used to gather information from women and men within the mining sector to understand women’s current roles and responsibilities.

Due to COVID-19, many of the gender sensitive activities particularly those that are field activities or require face-to-face interaction, have not been started. As the restrictions are reduced and in-field activities recommence, it is anticipated that the involvement women in project activities will be on the increase.

## b. Overall Project Safeguard Implementation Rating

### SUMMARY: PROJECT SAFEGUARD IMPLEMENTATION RATING BY TYPE OF PLAN

SAFEGUARDSTRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT (delete those not applicable)	CURRENT FY21 IMPLEMENTATION RATING	RATING TREND
Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms	HS	Unchanging
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	HS	Unchanging
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	HS	Unchanging
Indigenous Peoples	S	Unchanging

### OVERALL PROJECT SAFEGUARD IMPLEMENTATION RATING

RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	Information on the AGM continued to be disseminated and no complaints were received during the reporting period. The pandemic stymied implementation of the GMP. However, the project introduced a Women in Mining series and a case study which gives an overview of women in the global ASM and ASGM sector. In-person stakeholder engagement was also affected by the pandemic. Nevertheless, the project identified alternative ways to maintain engagement including holding virtual meetings where possible and disseminating KM products. No travel to IPs were undertaken due to pandemic restrictions and in compliance with the safeguards for community health, safety and security. The corrective action for FY20 of setting gender targets was not completed.	Unchanging

## c. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
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## **SECTION V: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

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

The process of developing the Communications Strategy to be implemented for the remaining life of the project, provided significant insight into the effectiveness of the knowledge material that has been utilized by the project over the first years of implementation. Despite the wide dissemination of material and messages by the project and partner agencies across most mining regions, the skepticism about the dangers of mercury and the possibility of mercury being replaced, is dominant. This is the case for most artisanal and small-scale miners as well as among many medium-scale miners. Though aware of the changes that are likely to happen with respect to the availability of mercury, most are of the belief that mercury is invaluable to their work and livelihood. Most miners remain unprepared, primarily because of a lack of knowledge. Also, because so many miners have used mercury all their lives as had the fathers and grandfathers, there is generally very little concern about health risks. Their position often is while every other activity in the gold mining process is important, the amalgamation process, which involves the use of mercury, is most important since it is only at the stage where the mercury is added that they begin to see the gains of their hard work. This is further compounded by the lack of viable options for amalgamation to be done without the use of mercury.

With miners and residents of mining communities continuing to show resistance and lots of apprehension regarding the idea of mercury-free mining, a behavioral change approach to our education and awareness efforts, needs to be adapted to address the information needs of key stakeholders. Therefore, it is important that our communication efforts are first consultative process with key stakeholders (especially at the community level) is maintained and respected, since some interventions may suggest behavioral and cultural adjustment.

### **Factors that improve likelihood of long-term sustainability of project impacts**

Factors that improve likelihood of long-term sustainability of project impacts

The National Working Group on Mercury Reduction, established in 2019 by the Ministry of Natural Resources has provided the framework for the project to work closely with agencies across the sector on an ongoing basis. The participating agencies represent the private sector, civil society, mining organizations and government agencies, and are all involved in activities that support Guyana meeting its commitment to the Minamata Convention.

Many of the agencies have supported the execution of activities within each of the six project components, showing willingness to partner as needed to ensure that shared objectives are attained. In addition to these collaborative efforts contributing to project deliverables, they also contribute to long-term sustainability through the buy-in achieved because of the inclusive planning and decision making.

Among the actively involved, has been the GGMC, the partner agency with responsibility for establishing and enforcing regulations in the sector. The project has partnered with GGMC to conduct mobile demonstrations which involves the training of miners in the use the “new technologies.” In addition, GGMC has loaned the project equipment needed for the establishment of the first demonstration site under the project.

With respect to the mercury use in Guyana, CI-Guyana proposed to the relevant agencies - Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Protection Agency, Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission and the Guyana Gold Board, that a multi-agency grouping be established to identify a system for tracking and monitoring the use of mercury in the ASGM sector. Representatives of the agencies agreed, and collaboration has commenced.

In addition to the above, the Guyana Gold Board has indicated a willingness to work with the project as it is interested in exploring opportunities to improve Guyana's Brand and reputation with respect to quality control of gold exports, through the upgrade of its mercury capture system and that of systems used in gold shops located across gold producing regions, including the three project-focused regions.

All of these indicate a strong likelihood that a range of agencies will be instrumental in the of long-term sustainability of project impacts beyond the life of the project given that the role of the above-mentioned agencies in the ASGM sector will continue beyond the life of the project

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

The quality and visual appeal of communication materials produced by the project has encouraged the wide dissemination of messages that include videos, booklets, brochures, and posters. Partner agencies continue to request these items for their respective outreach programs and education and awareness sessions.

Developing new approaches for engaging members of key audiences who have not yet been reached or persuaded, is key to an innovative communication strategy. These could include: **press Briefings & Press Conferences** – to provide opportunities for media to react and to share information directly related to the project; **media network** to maximize results of directly working with the media, targeting a small network of enthusiastic and credible journalists; **media tool kit**- This can serve as a repository of all material pertinent to the project that will encourage media curiosity and withstand scrutiny– project reports, key stakeholders, press release, activities, and reports on various aspects of the project, speeches and images; **story telling** – where miners speak directly to miners, jewelers speak directly to jewelers and gold shop owners speak directly to gold shop owners. The success of new approaches will lead to replication among projects.

The Planet GOLD Program encourages the sharing of information, knowledge, and messages among projects, especially through the monthly meetings of the communication focal points for the child projects. In addition, the PlanetGOLD website is a platform for showcasing success stories and for dissemination of lessons learned

With CI-Guyana as lead for the communications sub-committee of the National Working Group on mercury-reduction, the project will continue to have an opportunity to influence the dissemination of messaging through knowledge material produced and lessons learned

## 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 (H):** 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>16</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	0	IS	Even though the project was preparing to undertake preliminary activities required for the establishment of a demonstration site, that was not realized because of the onset of the COVID-19. However, with the recommencement of field activities in the latter half of FY21, all efforts were made to ensure that demonstrations will commence early in FY22.
<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 ounces of verified mercury-free gold produced at demonstration sites.	-	0	NS	The production of mercury-free gold is entirely dependent on the establishment of a demonstration site and the commencement of production which was not realized in FY21.
<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	3	IS	Based on the prospecting done at the R7 site, the following pieces of equipment will be adopted at the first (region 7) demonstration site: RG30 Trommel, Gold Kacha, Blue Bowl, Gemeni Shaking Table, and Crusher

<sup>16</sup> O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

<b>Output Indicator 1.3.2:</b> Number of Technology Innovation clinics organized with miners, fabricators, and equipment retailers	6	0	D	This activity is dependent on the establishment of demonstration sites which is still to be realized. As stated above, some progress was made towards having one site established but these efforts were curtailed by the occurrence of the pandemic.
<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.				
<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.	1	1	CA	A consulting firm was hired and conducted consultations with a wide range of stake holders on the basis of which the Global Baseline Report and National Baseline Reports were produced. Two financing round table discussions were held and recommendations made for financing mechanisms suited to Guyana.
<b>Output 2.2</b> A financial mechanism for the procurement of mercury-free gold mining technology is established and functional.				
<b>Output Indicator 2.2.1:</b> Number of long-term financing mechanisms for mercury-free technology established and functional to access credit and financing for producers in model sites to be able to convert to non-mercury technology.	1	0	NS	This activity is the required next step following the recommendations of the consultancy. It requires the specific policy adjustments at the level of government. During FY22, the project will seek to work through the Ministry of Natural Resources to achieve this indicator.
<b>Output Indicator 2.2.2:</b> Number of miners applying to the financing mechanism to support their transition to Hg-free operations	-	0	NS	This indicator is dependent on a fully functioning mechanism which is not yet in place.
<b>Output 3.1:</b> 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><b>Output Indicator 3.1.1:</b> 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	The Consultancy through which this is to be delivered was resulted in a series of recommendations however due to COVID-19-related restrictions, the recommendations were not tested. It is expected that the Mercury-free certification Consultancy will fulfill that aspect of work.
<p><b>Output 3.2:</b> El Dorado producers are linked to international responsibly produced gold markets</p>				
<p><b>Output Indicator 3.2.1:</b> Number of market systems analyses and feasibility studies for the establishment an institutional mechanism to trade El Dorado-branded gold.</p>	1	0	D	The Consultancy through which this is to be delivered was resulted in a series of recommendations however due to COVID-19-related restrictions, the recommendations were not tested. It is expected that the Mercury-free certification Consultancy will fulfill that aspect of work.
<p><b>Output 4.1:</b> 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><b>Output Indicator 4.1.1:</b> Number of multi-stakeholder policy focused fora convened.</p>	0	0	NS	It was determined that the project will support the MNR in the conduct of stakeholder consultations for the amending of Policy as necessary. The current COVID-19 situation has delayed the MNR's scheduled work in this regard.
<p><b>Output Indicator 4.1.2:</b> Number of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism to provide policy and program advisory services for the long-term adoption of mercury-free gold mining technologies established.</p>	1	1	IS	The MNR established a Harmonization Working Group that includes all agencies, organizations and projects working toward the reduction of mercury use. -The project is actively involved in this group and has specific coordinating responsibilities related to Monitoring and Evaluation as well as Education and Awareness.

<b>Output Indicator 4.1.3:</b> Number of national policies for responsible ASGM gold mining revised/drafted.	1	0	D	This deliverable is dependent on the collaborative work with MNR on policy amendment and associated stakeholder consultations. It is expected that with the finalization of the NAP and the emanating policy recommendations, this will be realized.
<b>Output 5.1:</b>				
<b>Output Indicator 5.1.1:</b> Number of M&E programs for instituting mercury- free gold mining established.	1	0	IS	The key agencies involved in monitoring the importation and use of mercury have agreed to work together to identify a system for tracking and monitoring the use of mercury in the ASGM sector.
<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				
<b>Output Indicator 6.1.1:</b> Number of strategic communications plans aimed at key stakeholders, within the ASGM supply chain for awareness raising, policy advocacy developed and implemented.	1	0	IS	A Communications Strategy was developed and a TOR prepared for the Consultancy that will lead the implementation of the Strategy over the remaining life of the project.
<b>Output 6.2:</b> Coordination with the global project on Knowledge Management activities				
<b>Output Indicator 6.2.1:</b> Number of education awareness material and activities to promote mercury- free gold mining technology nationally prepared and published.	20	14	IS	The education material produced included videos, posters, brochures,
<b>Output 6.3:</b> Biennial conference and annual dialogues organized to promote Project Findings and Responsible Gold Mining.				

<p><b>Output Indicator 6.3.1:</b> Number of documented lessons learned made available to the knowledge management platform within the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.</p>	1(at least)	1	IS	The project in collaboration with partner agencies produced a booklet informing miners of the COVID-19 virus: its symptoms and how to practically stay safe travelling to and from mining camps as well as when working in the camps.
<p><b>Output 6.4:</b> Education and awareness on options and benefits of responsible gold production and education targeting policy-makers to build national commitment to a sustainable responsible gold value chain in Guyana.</p>				
<p><b>Output Indicator 6.4.1:</b> Number of education and awareness plans targeting policy-makers and mining communities on benefits of responsible gold production gold value chain in Guyana.</p>	1	0	IS	It is anticipated that the education and awareness plans will be identified through the Communications Strategy is currently being developed.