



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**

FY19

May 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Executing Partners



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:	9602
GEF Agency:	Conservation International	Duration in Months:	48
Other Executing Partners:	Conservation International-Guyana Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA) Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)	Start Date:	03/2018
GEF Focal Area:	Chemicals and Waste	Actual Project Close Date:	03/2022
GEF Grant Amount:	US\$ 2,752,294	Date of Last Steering Committee Meeting:	03/01/2019
Expected Co-financing (USD)		Mid-Term Review-Planned Date:	04/2020
Conservation International:	2,000,000		
Government of Guyana:	649,600		
WWF – Guianas:	487,000		
Total Project Cost:	5,888,894	Mid-Term Review-Actual Date:	
Co-financing Realized as of June 30, 2019: USD	635,695	Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date:	04/2022
Conservation International:	99,033		
Government of Guyana:			
Date of First Disbursement:	8/4/2017	Terminal Evaluation-Expected Date:	04/2022
Disbursement as of 30 June 2019: USD	760,000	PIR Prepared by:	Ingrid Sarabo
Actual Expenditures as of 30 June 2018: USD	270,443	CI-GEF Program Manager:	Ian Kissoon

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

Guyana's Artisanal, Small- and Medium-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector has been in existence for more than one hundred years. The Guyana Mining Act (1989) gives the ASGM sector legal status, with the scale of mining (small, medium or large) dependent on the size of the dredging equipment and technology used. The ASGM sector accounts for 70 percent of the country's gold production.

Gold in Guyana is produced primarily by hydraulic dredging and sluices, and mercury is used in the final stage of the gold extraction process (amalgamation). Mercury is used primarily by the ASGM sector; the large-scale miners use cyanide. Mining is the largest consumer of mercury and accounts for 94 percent of Hg emissions (Ministry of Natural Resources, 2017). Between 2008 and 2010, an estimated 60,000 kg of mercury was imported annually.

Miners often do not follow safety measures when working with mercury, and the waste is released into the environment since there are usually no containment structures for the generated waste. The main barriers for shifting to mercury-free mining have been identified as lack of knowledge on the harmful effects of mercury, the demonstration of and financing for mercury-free technologies, and market incentives for producing mercury-free gold.

The Project Objective is to assist Guyana to meet its commitment under the Minamata Convention by involving business enterprises, with a profit motive, in leading the shift towards the development of a mercury-free ASGM supply chain, and downstream El Dorado Gold branded jewelry. The Project comprises the following six 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

CURRENT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (FY19)

The project began in May 2018 and was publicly launched in September 2018. The first six months saw the establishment of the project execution unit and Project Management Unit (PMU); the recruitment and orientation of staff; awareness-raising about the project's objectives and components; and the building of both public and private-sector partnerships for implementation. These partnerships were central to the progress made during YR1 and are key to achieving the overall project objective. The project has now been under implementation for one year and, although several challenges have been encountered, it remains on track to meet its overall objective and, outcomes.

The project identified mercury-free technology appropriate for Guyanese conditions (Comp1), these included smaller centrifugal concentrators, jig concentrators, gravity concentrators, shaking tables, screened and well-designed sluice boxes and a few final recovery options. The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) indicated that most these machines are in their possession, with specific brands including the Gold Cube, Blue Bowl, Gold Kacha, Gold Genie and Knelson Concentrator. GGMC, as a major project partner, has committed this equipment for use in mercury-free demonstrations under the project, now scheduled for YR2. The project will focus on establishing demonstration sites in administrative regions 1, 7 and 8. Potential sites and interested concessionaires have been preliminarily identified in Regions 1 and 8. Initial discussions were held with a local commercial bank, Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI), on financing for the ASGM and their interest in supporting a mercury-free financing mechanism (Comp2). This component has not started, as the project recognized the need for a better understanding of equipment requirements and the local operating context for ASGM miners in Guyana. This understanding is critical to designing a robust and sustainable mechanism. Following an extensive procurement process, an international firm was identified to make recommendations in establishing mercury-free branded Guyanese gold, and outline options to access national and international niche markets (Comp3). An offer has been made to the consultancy, and implementation is expected to commence in Q1 of YR 2. The project supported the Ministry of Natural resources (MNR) - Minamata National Working Group in efforts to harmonize the work of agencies responsible for reducing mercury use in the ASGM sector (Comp4). Thematic groupings were established to examine policy, technology, environmental health, restoration, M&E and E&A. This process is meant to facilitate the development

and implementation of a co-ordination action plan for Guyana to meet its Minamata commitments. A variety of communications tools and materials were produced to raise awareness on the project (Comp6), with individuals from the sector now being engaged to provide personal accounts of their experiences with mining and mercury. The Accountability and Grievance Mechanism (AGM) was designed and presented to stakeholders, including communities. AGM communication materials are being distributed as project implementation scales up. All anticipated risks were mitigated, no significant safeguard issues were encountered, and no grievances were reported.

The National Minamata Working Group met at the Project inception workshop and agreed that the first version of the National Action Plan (NAP) for the ASGM sector produced in 2017 was too broad, and required a more specific focus on ASGM issues. Based on this the MNR, with support from the project team and CI-GEF Agency, sought clarification from the Minamata Convention / UNEP and have since changed the title of the first NAP to the National Implementation Plan (NIP). They have now commenced a process to develop an ASGM specific NAP by 2020, with support from the UNEP and Basel Convention Regional Training Centre. The project will also provide support to this process as necessary.

A no-confidence motion against the Government was moved in parliament on 21 December 2018, leading to a protracted legal process and the triggering of national elections. Political uncertainty and a general slow-down in decision-making and policy development impacted project implementation. As Guyana enters the upcoming period of political campaigning, the Project Team anticipates delays in carrying out government supported activities but will continue to look for opportunities to maximize implementation.

PROJECT PART	PRIOR FYXX IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	CURRENT FY19 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING ¹	RATING TREND ²
OBJECTIVE	NA (first year)	Satisfactory	NA (first year)
COMPONENTS AND OUTCOMES	NA (first year)	Satisfactory	NA (first year)
RISKS	NA (first year)	Satisfactory	NA (first year)
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	NA (first year)	Satisfactory	NA (first year)

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

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 part 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 in leading the shift in the development of a mercury-free ASGM supply chain and downstream El Dorado Gold brand jewelry.
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OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ³	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Number of tons of Mercury reduced by end of project.	At this stage, no mercury reduction can be attributed directly to project activities and results.	IS	The project has been able to work with key government, private and civil society actors to identify appropriate mercury-free mining technologies and practices that can be tested and used in Guyana. These included smaller centrifugal concentrators, jig concentrators, gravity concentrators, shaking tables, screened and well-designed sluice boxes and a few final recovery options. The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) indicated that most these machines are in their possession, with additional brands including the Gold Cube, Blue Bowl, Gold Kacha, Gold Genie and Knelson Concentrator. The project has also been able to develop critical partnerships with the GGMC, the miners, gold buyers and Indigenous communities who are all very willing to collaborate to implement testing and demonstration activities to promote mercury free technologies in year 2 of the project. The project will commence demonstration activities in Q2 of YR 2 of

³ **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 ³	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
			the project. Hence, there is time to work towards achieving this target.
Number of Regions in Guyana in which mercury-free technologies have replaced the use of mercury in ASGM	Currently, there is no Region where mercury free technology has replaced the use of mercury.	IS	Demonstration sites have been identified in Mathews Ridge, Region 1 and in the Mahdia/Campbelltown area, Region 8. It is expected that formal agreements will be signed with the Concessionaires and demonstrations will commence in Q2 of year 2. The GGMC has committed to supporting the project with technical expertise and equipment, and several miners have indicated their willingness to participate in the demonstrations. Gold buyers in Mahdia Town are also very interested in partnering with the project to test and adopt mercury capture technologies in their shops.
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	NS	At the project inception workshop, a local financial institution (GBTI) signaled a strong interest in setting up a financing mechanism for the project. However, the financing mechanisms will depend on the cost of the technologies. Hence the process of designing and establishing this mechanism is expected to commence in Year 2, after location-specific technologies are tested. Hence, the establishment of the financial mechanism will be achieved within the project life.
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.	IS	The various outputs under this objective are expected to be developed under one consultancy, allowing for a more holistic approach to be taken. This means the consultancy will link the value chain and feasibility assessment for social and environmental standards in the ASGM sector in Guyana, directly to the recommendations to set up a traceability and verification system and a branding process for El Dorado gold. This will effectively save time, moving the process from analysis and recommendations to testing and putting into practice, in a shorter time than if separate/individual consultancies were done. The contract for this consultancy is now being prepared

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ³	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
			for signature, with implementation expected to commence in early Q1 of Year2.
Number of national polices 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.	NS	The project has been providing critical support to the MNR in the process of developing the NAP for the ASGM sector as required by the Minamata Convention. The project is also supporting the MNR's harmonization process, which aims to ensure that activities and projects related to the Minamata Convention are coordinated and implemented efficiently. The project is working with the MNR to identify preliminary priority areas for coordination support, and potential synergies with project activities. In addition, the project will continue to provide technical support to the drafting of the NAP, which is due to be completed in 2020 with support from UNEP. The development of new policies and regulations for mercury-free operations and for incentive mechanisms will be informed by the SWOT and gap analyses of Guyana's policies and legal framework which was rescheduled for Q4 of Yr 2.

OBJECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION
Satisfactory	This being the first year of implementation, it was not expected that the project indicators would be achieved at this time.

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.
Outcome 1:	By the end of the project, demonstrations established, and mercury-free technology transferred

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁴	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 use has been replaced	IS	The project is setting the platform towards achieving this outcome by building key and strategic relationships with miners, Indigenous communities, government agencies (regional and national) and the mining authorities (GGMC). The project has collaborated with the Indigenous village of Campbelltown, Region 8 to complete a Village Improvement Plan (VIP) under the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MoIPA) Sustainable Village programme. This plan has the promotion of responsible - mercury free mining as a key priority and provides a valuable opportunity to establish a space for a mercury free landscape. In addition, the project has established a relationship with a concession holder in Matthew's Ridge, Region 1 and is aiming to sign an agreement in Q1 of Y2 to begin demonstrations in that landscape.
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 be directly be attributed to the project recorded	NS	In addition to identifying appropriate mercury free technology and practices, and establishing associated demonstration sites, the project has been working with the MNR to develop the NAP for the ASGM sector. This NAP will develop an overall strategy reducing and eliminating (where feasible) the use of mercury in the ASGM sector and has the potential to exceed this target.

COMPONENT 2 Mechanism for financing capital investments for Mercury-free technologies established and functional

Outcome 2: By the end of the project, a financial mechanism for capital investments for mercury-free technologies is established and functioning.

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 2.1.: Number of financial mechanisms established and operational to facilitate the transition of mercury-free technologies in ASGM.	A financial mechanism to facilitate the transition of mercury-free technologies will be established and operational	No financial mechanism to facilitate the transition of mercury-free technologies established	NS	At the start of the project and currently there is no mechanism in place in Guyana to finance miners in the transition to mercury free technology. There is appetite from the financial sector to set up and test such a mechanism. The project will be providing support in this process by providing critical information to the miners and financial institutions e.g. costings, viability etc. to help them design and implement the incentive mechanism. By developing relationships with the key players (miners, communities, government and financial institutions) the project is well

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
				placed to support the set-up of the mechanism during the lifetime of the project.

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
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁶	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 shown as a result of El Dorado Gold Branding	IS	Preparatory work to establish the chain of custody processes, verification mechanism and branding scheme has commenced. A consultancy to assess and develop a holistic framework for a chain of custody and verification mechanism and a branding scheme will commence in Q1 of YR 2, after which they will be tested and refined for adoption.

COMPONENT 4	National policies and incentives for mercury- free gold established
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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
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 4.1.: Number of national policies 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	NS	Support has been provided to the MNR to develop the NAP for the ASGM sector and to harmonize project and activities that are focused on supporting the transition to mercury free mining practices and preparatory work has started on understanding the policy and on the ground situation as it relates to mercury-free mining. This work will continue in FY20 and will also be linked to the assessments to be conducted under component 2 and 3, as the policies and regulation will have to be aligned to the financing/incentive scheme and the chain of custody and verification mechanism.

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COMPONENT 5	Monitoring and Evaluation
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Outcome 5:	By the end of the project, regular monitoring of project activities against targets and outcomes and management of risk will be done and reported on semi-annually against the Results Framework. Adaptations will be made based on monitoring reports.
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁸	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 5.1.: Number of monitoring and evaluation reports on targets and outcomes in the Results Framework completed.	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.	NS	Building on the results framework and project results monitoring plan in the Project Document and the M&E system in the Norad funded Addressing Drivers of Deforestation (ADoD), sister project, preparatory work for the establishment of a comprehensive M&E system has started. The framework will be finalized by Q2 of year 2.

COMPONENT 6	Communications and Knowledge Management
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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.
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁹	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	Twenty (20) strategic plans and awareness materials targeted at policy makers, mining and indigenous communities, and	No strategic plans and awareness materials targeted at policy makers, mining and indigenous communities, and other key stakeholders on	IS	Project communication material to raise awareness of the Accountability and Grievance Mechanism was produced. Preparatory work to develop the strategic plan has commenced and the plan and materials will be produced in Q2 of YR 2. An introduction to the Guyana Project and images from the launch event were submitted for the Guyana page of the GEFGOLD Global website. A video was produced documenting a learning visit by the Project Team and partners to a Mercury-free mining operation in French Guiana. Additionally,

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
supply chain for awareness raising and policy advocacy developed.	other key stakeholders on responsible gold mining in Guyana	responsible gold mining in Guyana produced		a preliminary database of miners from areas earmarked for demonstration sites was developed. This database, and the linked development of a WhatsApp group, will facilitate regular communication and information sharing on Project activities.

c. Overall Project Results Rating

OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION RATING

OVERALL RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND ¹⁰
Satisfactory	During the first year of implementation, much time was spent on establishing the project team and building relationships with stakeholders which are important in setting the foundation for the remaining years of the project. As project implementation continued, the unprecedented passing of the no-confidence motion by Parliament against the Guyanese government and the subsequent uncertainties of governance caused some of the project activities to be affected. The project site identified during the PPG phase had to be changed due to political and land tenure conflicts and the identification of a new site resulted in delays of on the ground activities. Nevertheless, the project made strides in identifying mercury-free mining technology and negotiated demonstration with stakeholders, facilitating exchange visits of miners, participating in GEF GOLD official launch in London, producing communication materials and coordinating with the global GEF GOLD program, among others.	NA (first year)

d. Recommendations`

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
The project needs to move swifter in Year 2 on the financing mechanism and on implementing on the ground activities.	PMU	June 30, 2020

¹⁰ 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

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 ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FYXX RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
Risk 1: 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 team has taken a market approach to understanding the ASGM sector, including in the stakeholder engagement process and in the assessment of mercury free technologies and practices. In addition, the project has been working with the MNR and other key actors to advance the development of the NAP for the ASGM sector to fulfil Guyana’s commitment under the Minamata Convention.	IS	<p>During the first year of the project the project team has been very deliberate and practical with its approach to understanding the market / economic factors that limit adoption of mercury free technologies. Engagements with miners, representative organizations of miners, Indigenous communities, civil society and government have all been predicated on ensuring that whatever technological solutions are proposed, it is important that they are appropriate (miners can use it easily) and affordable.</p> <p>Terms of reference/RfP has been prepared for a value chain assessment, including recommendations to set up a chain of custody and verification system and a branding process. This assessment will be conducted in FY 20 and will follow a market systems approach that will ensure mercury free gold produced in Guyana follows a functional, secure and economically</p>	Substantial	Substantial	Unchanged

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¹² **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

				<p>viable route to market. The assessment will also provide recommendations to ensure that the gold produced meets national and international social and environmental standards. The project will work to test and implement the recommendations in country.</p>			
<p>Risk 2: GGDMA and 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. Establish a memorandum of understanding with GWMO. Partner with the GGDMA in the project preparation phase. Engage with any new executive body of the organizations at the earliest opportunity to secure their continued commitment.</p>	<p>The existing MoU with GGDMA is still in place (there was an election new executives). A new MoU was signed with GWMO in Oct 2018. This MoU commits CI-Guyana and GWMO to work on responsible mercury free and responsible mining.</p> <p>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-GOLD 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>	<p>IS</p>	<p>The project has also been engaging the National Mining Syndicate (a new representative body for small scale miners) with members in all mining districts. The project intends to formalize this relationship in year 2 through an MoU and plans are being put in place to provide technical and financial support to the Syndicate to build their institutional capacity to promote responsible mercury free mining.</p> <p>First, during the PSC meeting in March 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 also stated at the project inception workshop, that the first version of the NAP (produced in 2017) was too broad (focused on many sectors, in addition to the ASGM) and needed to be narrowed down to the ASGM. Based on discussions around this position the MNR sought and gained clarification from the Minamata Convention / UNEP and have since changed the title of the initial NAP to the National Implementation Plan (NIP) and have embarked on a process to develop a NAP by 2020 with support from the UNEP and Basel Convention Regional</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Modest</p>	<p>Increasing</p>

				<p>Training Centre. The project provided support to this process.</p> <p>The project will continue to work with the GGDMA to ensure that they are fully on board with and committed to implementation of project activities and to update the current MoU to include activities under the project.</p>			
<p>Risk 3: 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>Government is well represented on the PSC and is actively involved in the decision-making processes through participation in the meetings of the PSC. There is also tangible Government participation in the key activities such as the exchange visit to mercury-free mining site in French Guiana, with engagements with miners and Indigenous communities in the target landscapes.</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>The project is also supporting the government with its harmonization process (for programmes/projects in the mercury free / mining sector) and supporting the development of the NAP for the ASGM sector. The government has provided tangible (technical personnel, equipment and other field related costs) support through the GGMC and MNR. This is a clear signal of partnership and joint ownership of the process.</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Modest</p>	<p>Decreasing</p>
<p>Risk 4: 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 produced and highlight its responsible history. Branding will act</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>NS</p>	<p>Differentiation will be prioritized during the demonstration engagements, training and the implementation of the chain of custody and verification process planned for implementation in FY 20.</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Unchanged</p>

	as a signal to consumers that more of the revenue from gold sales goes to support gold miners who practice responsible mining.						
Risk 5: 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 and ensuring that project activities/interventions are appropriate, practical and solutions oriented.	IS	The project has supported the Campbelltown Village to develop a Village Improvement Plan that prioritized the demonstration and promulgation of responsible mining. The VIP process is a national policy initiative under the MoIPA and the Campbelltown case will be used as an example to other Indigenous communities involved in mining throughout Guyana. Also, in collaboration with its sister project, ADoD the project produced a toolkit to build awareness and capacity for policy makers on multi-stakeholder / bottom-up approaches. Two awareness sessions were held on the toolkit and more training will be conducted on the approach during YR 2 of the project.	Moderate	Modest	Unchanged
Risk 6: 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 programme is deliberately designed (separate child project) to provide opportunities for sharing of lessons learned.	The project team is in the process of compiling the lessons learned so far and this will be shared nationally and internationally (through the GEF GOLD platform).	NS	The strategic communications plan will produce appropriate tools/material that will target audiences nationally e.g. miners, Indigenous communities, national decision-makers and internationally e.g. down-stream buyers of mercury free gold and international policy and decision makers to share lessons learned.	Low	Low	Unchanged
Risk 7: Brazilian miners who are legally	Ensure the project includes Portuguese language communications	The project has been keeping a record of the areas where Brazilian and Spanish (Venezuelan)	IS	The Brazilian Mining Association is now defunct. Moving forward, in addition to developing communications material in	Moderate	Modest	Unchanged

working in Guyana undermine successful execution of project activities.	(and other relevant languages). Engage the Brazilian Mining Association.	miners have been encountered (in current areas of implementation). This will help guide the development of communications material produced for the demonstration activities slated for YR2.		Portuguese and Spanish, the project, where appropriate, will also employ translators/interpreters for demonstrations/trainings.			
Risk 8: Climate Change	The project will track changes in the environment due to climate change impacts and adapt the project accordingly.	The project has engaged the Campbelltown Indigenous communities in understanding the vulnerabilities and coping strategies related to climate change in the VIP process. The planning process involved developing strategies to improve resilience of human and natural systems that the village depends on.	IS	Climate change adaption strategies will be included in the development of further landscape plans and in the development of the demonstration sites with the GGMC and miners.	Low	Low	Unchanged
Risk 9: Geological events from mining activities	The project is designed for implementation within the context of the wider CI-Guyana Responsible Mining Initiative. Through this initiative, the project will work with stakeholders to ensure that: Gold mining activities are only carried out in places where viable deposits are located; More efficient methods are employed to improve the recovery of gold from	Through and in collaboration with the sister ADoD project, research was conducted to understand the methods of exploration that are currently being employed by ASGM in Guyana. The research also included testing appropriate and cost-effective exploration techniques to ensure that miners are mining in areas with commercially viable deposition of gold (thereby minimizing cost and reducing	IS	Demonstration of appropriate prospecting techniques will be incorporated into the training sessions at the demonstration sites to be set up in FY 20. In addition, geological samples will be taken from the demonstration sites before set-up to characterize the ore, to ensure that the correct mercury free equipment is selected, and the relevant production flow system is developed to maximize recovery. Also in FY 20, the sister ADoD project in collaboration with Boise State University and University of Guyana will be implementing a research initiative on ecosystem restoration in areas degraded by mining to: 1. Develop a	Low	Low	Unchanged

	<p>ore and phase out the use of mercury; Effective integrated planning is implemented to reduce the impact of exploitation on forests and fresh water as well as improve the livelihood impact of the sector; and Mining sites are rehabilitated for planned after-use.</p>	<p>deforestation and environmental degradation). These techniques were also demonstrated to miners in collaboration with GGMC.</p>		<p>national level map to identify restoration opportunities; 2. Quantify ecosystems health and function at different mined sites and; 3. Initiate a forest restoration programme at the University of Guyana. Where appropriate, the results of this research will be incorporated into the design and set up of the demonstration sites and will help to inform the landscape planning activities under this project.</p>			
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PROJECT RISKS MITIGATION MEASURES RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RISK RATING TREND ¹³
Satisfactory	The changes to the risks have been insignificant during Year 1. Please ensure mitigation activities continue, especially for Risk 2.	NA (first year)

Recommendations

MITIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
The project needs to continue managing the risks identified above, particularly Risk 2	PMU	June 30, 2020

¹³ **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 ¹⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
ACCOUNTABILITY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM				
Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project’s Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	No target was set.	0	IS	The Accountability and Grievance Mechanism was established in Q3 of FY19. Distribution of posters and brochures outlining the AGM also began in Q3. Targets for the AGM, and other project safeguards, will be established following the social assessment consultancy. At the end of Year 1, no grievances were reported
Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project’s Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved	No target was set.	0	IS	At the end of Year 1, no grievances were reported. AGM targets will be established following the social assessment consultancy.
GENDER MAINSTREAMING				
Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations)	A gender quota of 10% women miners benefiting was set.	53 men and 61 women (47% men; 53% women)	IS	Project activities included the Technical Workshop (Inception), Project Steering Committee Meetings, Harmonization Workshop, and the Technology Round Table. A gender and social analysis will be conducted in FY 20. This analysis will focus on assessing the participation and contribution of men and women in the gold value chain and update the project Gender Mainstreaming Plan, with specific recommendations for the implementation of gender-responsive activities throughout the life of the project.
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	A gender quota of 10% women miners benefiting was set.	2 men and 5 women (30% men; 70% women)	NS	Five were women, including one miner from the Guyana Women Miners Organisation, participated in the seven-person team that visited Sal Sias, French Guiana

¹⁴ **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

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)	No target was set.	1	IS	The Campbelltown Indigenous Village Improvement Plan (VIP) was completed and presented by the villagers to key local government representatives. The plan includes a list of possible projects and a mapping of proposed landscape utilization.
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES				
Percentage of indigenous/local communities where FPIC have been followed and documented	No Target was set	0	NS	The project is preparing to commence activities in Campbelltown Village, which will follow FPIC guidelines consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and CI's Rights Base Approach (RBA). This will build on CI-Guyana's ongoing support to the Campbelltown Village Council, which has led to the development of the community's Village Improvement Plan (VIP).
The percentage of communities where project benefit sharing have been agreed upon through the appropriate community governance mechanisms and documented	No Target was set	0	NS	
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT				
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	No target was set for stakeholder engagement.	31 agencies	IS	9 Government, 1 academic, 6 private sector, 4 mining, 2 indigenous, 5 NGOS, and 4 independent individuals
Number of engagements (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase		8	IS	Campbelltown Village Planning Workshop, GEF GOLD Inception Workshop, Harmonization Meeting, Technology Round Table
Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase		114 (53 men and 61 women)	IS	

b. Overall Project Safeguard Implementation Rating

SUMMARY: PROJECT SAFEGUARD IMPLEMENTATION RATING BY TYPE OF PLAN

SAFEGUARDSTRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT (delete those not applicable)	CURRENT FY19 IMPLEMENTATION RATING	RATING TREND
Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms	Satisfactory	NA
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	Satisfactory	NA
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	Satisfactory	NA
Indigenous Peoples	Satisfactory	NA

OVERALL PROJECT SAFEGUARD IMPLEMENTATION RATING

RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
Satisfactory	There GM was widely communicated and there were no grievances reported. Engagement with stakeholders such as the government (MNR, GGMC), miners, and the indigenous community of Campbelltown has been good. The percentage of women engaged by the project has also been good at over 50%.	NA (first year)

c. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
The project needs to move swiftly with on the ground activities and increase engagement stakeholders especially women and IP.	PMU	June 30, 2019

SECTION V: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. Project institutional arrangements, including project governance

The project is being implemented within the framework for the wider EL Dorado Gold Responsible Mining Initiative at CI-Guyana which allows for significant opportunities for sharing, collaboration and cost savings. The EL Dorado Responsible Mining Initiative is a combination of the GEF funded “*A GEF GOLD/Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana’s ASGM Sector: EL Dorado Gold Jewelry – Made in Guyana*” and the Norway funded “*Addressing Drivers of Deforestation (ADoD)*” sister project. This initiative aims to transfer technologies and techniques towards reducing and eliminating mercury use within the Artisanal, Small and Medium-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector, as well as reducing forest loss through efficient exploration and extraction. The overall initiative takes place in a context where the ASGM Sector has been in existence in Guyana for over 100 years, and where mercury has been consistently used in the final stage of the gold extraction process. It is also important to note that the ASGM sector has extensive linkages to the retail and services sectors. As the main source of employment and revenue for hinterland (Indigenous and local) communities, it provides direct employment for over 18,000 persons, many of them being youths who would otherwise be unemployed.

The project encountered a number of challenges during its start-up phase, with several new measures and project adjustments emerging to address these challenges. Through the project, CI-Guyana significantly expanded its engagement with the ASGM sector and was challenged to quickly build strong relationships with new partners. This was compounded by a transition in the Executive Director position during the reporting period. However, the time that has been spent in building strong partnerships for project implementation has been key to recent progress under key components. Partnerships based on trust will be fundamental to achieving lasting behavior change in the ASGM sector, and ultimately to achieving the overall project objective.

Following repeated recruitment efforts, the project Team was constituted and, as expected, went through an initial period of learning and adjustment to the policies/regulations of both CI and GEF. New members of the Team have now been exposed to internal CI orientation and trainings, and they continue to learn and refine these policies for increased efficiency in project implementation. The project team, and CI-Guyana as a whole, has also undergone significant learning on the ASGM sector in the last year. Although the Team’s initial lack of extensive experience in the sector contributed to slower than anticipated implementation in some components, the significant learning and capacity gained during YR1 will be leveraged for accelerated implementation in YR2.

Capacity was also created in-house for the development of TORs, consultancies and grants for ASGM focused activities. Due diligence, vetting and sometimes simply engaging with this new pool of consultants, grantees and partners required more time than expected. The project’s scope and the anticipated implementation of technical project components in the next two years, led to the addition of a permanent technical staff position. This position will complement the current three-member project team, with recruitment expected to be done in Q1 of YR2. CI-Guyana is continuously working to identify and address delays in internal reviews and approvals, with recent efforts being made to streamline project dependent processes.

Internal evaluations and adjustments made to project governance and implementation has resulted in noted improvements during the YR1. CI-Guyana will continue seeking to streamline activities, processes and procedures throughout the life of the project. Project adaptation has benefitted from the mid-term evaluation process done under the ADoD project, which was conducted between January and April 2019. Lesson-learned and recommendations from that evaluation have been, and will continue to be, used to inform implementation under the GEF GOLD Guyana project.

2. Capacity Building

The project anticipates significant capacity building activities that include transfer of knowledge related new technologies and mercury-free techniques; training of small miners in better business practices and training for members of fledging mining organizations to improve management of group resources. The Monitoring

and Evaluation system which will be informed by the system and tools already in place for the ADoD project, will be utilized to measure and assess short and medium-term results of the capacity building efforts. The project will also build on the institutional capacity building activities implemented under the ADoD project in year 2, including lessons learned.

3. Implementation of safeguard policies, including gender mainstreaming, accountability and grievance mechanisms, stakeholder consultations

The project utilizes CI-GEF's Environmental and Social Management Framework (EMSF) as a basis for developing and implementing its Safeguards. The in-house Grievance Mechanism Committee and its members were presented with the details of the Accountability and Grievance Mechanism (AGM) as well as their individual responsibilities. A toolkit comprising a brochure and posters to detail the mechanism were designed, printed and circulated among key partners. The distribution of the posters and brochure to communities close to areas where project activities are planned, is underway. An e-version of the grievance submission form was developed and placed on the CI-Guyana website to ensure that its availability is widespread and an electronic database for recording and tracking grievances was developed and tested. Several creative means of communicating the purpose of the AGM and how it functions are in place, including a radio advertisement for broadcast in the identified communities.

Brochures outlining the elements of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in relation to the Project have been created for circulation among partners and communities to ensure that the rights of the Indigenous People's in proximity to project activities are respected. Similarly, material that speaks to gender and how it is mainstreamed into project activities is being prepared. Stakeholder consultations have been ongoing as the project has engaged numerous groupings with which it is expected to work either directly or indirectly. In preparation for working in the mining regions a special effort has been made to meet with Regional Officials to share the objective of the Project, how it will be implemented, that way improving the likelihood of their buy-in and support for activities.

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

The partnerships developed with miners, communities, sector agencies and the MNR, improves the likelihood of long-term sustainability of project impacts. The involvement of multiple stakeholders, and key members of the sector, in the demonstration of mercury-free approaches will lead to more practical and sustainable lessons-learned; an important quality when supporting behavior change in the ASGM sector. As miners begin to benefit through increased return on investments and better personal and environmental health outcomes, they will attribute this to more efficient practices and the interest to shift to new technologies will result in greater ownership and buy-in by miners. Similarly, partnerships with influential gold-shop owners to demonstrate and promote the use of efficient mercury capture systems that impacts positively on their health and the health of their families and communities, will lead to more uptake of these systems.

The objective of the project is to support Government of Guyana to meet its obligations under Minamata Convention, sustainability of project impacts over time is linked directly to Guyana meeting its obligations under the convention. This is being achieved mainly through providing the testing and demonstration mercury free equipment and practices and through the support that the project provides for the development of the NAP for the ASGM, to be completed by August 2020. It is important to note that the involvement of several government agencies (through technical, material and logistical support) in project implementation has been high so far. This is further indication that there will be continued action to encourage the sustainability of project impacts beyond the life of the project.

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

Though the Project is still at an early stage there is strong interest from miners in the ASGM sector to be informed about methods and technologies that could improve their recovery rates. There is also a high level of interest among gold shop owners in the availability of effective and accessible mercury capture systems.

The effective demonstration of appropriate technology will be key to encouraging the replication of any efforts made by the Project. It is critical that all activities must be conducted in a manner that will instill confidence in those present.

It is intended that the key project activities will be captured through photographs and/or video to ensure that there is easy and timely dissemination of success stories and all critical information. It is also intended that persons who benefit directly from the project will be captured telling their story and those stories will be shared widely to wider influence positive behavioural change and adaptation of the technology.

6. Engagement of the private sector

The project is premised on the engagement of business enterprises at several points of the value chain. Though at this time the focus is mainly on miners this will soon change and the level of engagement with the private sector locally and internationally will be key.

7. Interpretation and application of GEF guidelines

The project has triggered significant learning and awareness of CI-GEF's procedures and guidelines within CI-Guyana. In partnership with CI-Arlington, the local office provides regular support to project execution, with guidance on clarifications, interpretation and application of GEF guidelines. Additional familiarization/training will be pursued, particularly for project staff, as procurement activities going forward are expected to increase in both magnitude and complexity.

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.