

GEF GOLD+: Global coordination, knowledge management and outreach

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10606

Countries

Global

Project Name

GEF GOLD+: Global coordination, knowledge management and outreach

Agencies

UNEP, UNEP

Date received by PM

11/24/2021

Review completed by PM

11/13/2022

Program Manager

Anil Sookdeo

Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Project Type

PIF

CEO Endorsement

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Project description summary

2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

What global level communication activities will be undertaken/planned? Please clarify how the activities will be achieved and funded.

March 24 - the response provided does not provide sufficient or specific details on what will be actually done and how it will be executed.

July 7, 2022 - comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF 06/08:

Additional detail has been added to provide specific details about what activities will be done and how they will be executed. Details can be found in Section C. The Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project. Details have also been summarized below for reference.

In addition to continued knowledge exchange on formalization, finance, access to formal markets including the OECD Due Diligence Guide and related guidelines, and technology transfer, topics from the first phase of planetGOLD, this phase of planetGOLD will also focus on expanding knowledge of jurisdictional/landscape approaches.

The global project will help facilitate: the sharing of lessons learned, the dissemination of documented country efforts, the sharing of information on other ASGM related themes (e.g., biodiversity, land-use planning, occupational health and safety and mercury hazards) and tools to implement the JA/LA approaches and build capacity of stakeholders.

Sharing of lessons learned between country projects will be done via regularly scheduled conference calls among planetGOLD country project managers, creation of new knowledge products (such as syntheses of global experience on key topics), the sharing of information via the planetGOLD website and in-person and online knowledge sharing events. Knowledge exchange on topics such as jurisdictional and landscape approaches to formalization will be taught to the country projects via webinars, and knowledge products, presentations and tools will be disseminated using the planetGOLD distribution channels. To increase the number of people accessing information on the benefits of the ASGM sector and to improve its image, global outreach and communication strategies targeting government, mining communities, the private sector and the public will be continued and expanded via the planetGOLD website and social media distribution channels (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter), online and in-person events, video stories, campaigns with partners, op-eds, expert interviews, international events and conferences, major announcements and milestones and partner social media channels,

The knowledge and communication products and lessons learned will support the effective delivery of the child projects and will be purpose made for different stakeholders. Communication strategies and activities will be deployed to inform and educate ASGM stakeholders and decision makers, with the aim to shift negative perceptions that undermine progress. Gender will be mainstreamed through communication strategies and development of knowledge products. The outcomes, outputs and activities under this component are described below.

Communications and knowledge management strategies and activities will be deployed to inform and educate ASGM stakeholders and decision makers, with the aim to shift negative perceptions that undermine progress while at the same time disseminating needed information to accelerate progress to transform the sector to mercury-free, responsible practices. Gender will be mainstreamed through call knowledge management activities and products. Sharing of lessons learned, dissemination of documented country efforts, regional coordination and sharing knowledge with the ASGM global community through Global Forums will be undertaken.

Component 1: Knowledge management and communication. This component will focus on knowledge management, increased access to information among project partners and the wider ASGM community, and improvement of understanding and perceptions of the ASGM sector through communications.

In addition to continued knowledge exchange on formalization, finance, access to formal markets (including the OECD Due Diligence Guide and related guidelines, and technology transfer, ankey topics from the first phase of planetGOLD, this phase of planetGOLD will also focus on expanding knowledge of jurisdictional/landscape approaches

The global project will help facilitate: the sharing of lessons learned, the dissemination of documented country efforts, the sharing of information on other ASGM related themes (e.g., biodiversity, land-use planning, occupational health and safety and mercury hazards) and tools to implement the JA/LA approaches and build capacity of stakeholders. Sharing of lessons learned between country projects will be done via regularly scheduled conference calls among planetGOLD country project managers, creation of new knowledge products (such as syntheses of global experience on key topics), the sharing of information via the planetGOLD website and in-person and online knowledge sharing events. Knowledge exchange on topics such as jurisdictional and landscape approaches to formalization will be taught to the country projects via webinars, and knowledge products, presentations and tools will be disseminated using the planetGOLD distribution channels. To increase the number of people accessing information on the benefits of the ASGM sector and to improve its image, global outreach and communication strategies targeting government, mining communities, the private sector and the public will be continued and expanded via the planetGOLD website and social media distribution channels (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter), online and in-person events, video stories, campaigns with partners, op-eds, expert interviews, international events and conferences, major announcements and milestones and partner social media channels,

The knowledge and communication products and lessons learned will support the effective delivery of the child projects and will be purpose made for different stakeholders. Communication strategies and activities will be deployed to inform and educate ASGM stakeholders and decision makers, with the aim to shift negative perceptions that undermine progress. Gender will be mainstreamed through communication strategies and development of knowledge products. The outcomes, outputs and activities under this component are described below.

Outcomes: Outcome 1.1: Participating project countries and the wider ASGM community increasingly access and apply knowledge to deepen mercury reduction through holistic and innovative formalization approaches.

Outcome target 1.1.1: At least 1 model from each country on formalization and Hg reduction.

Outcome target 1.1.2: 3 countries (out of 15) with JA/LA action plans and budget allocations for implementing innovative approaches.

Outcome target 1.1.3: 50% of child countries have mobilized coalition stakeholders to embed ASGM in JA/LA approaches.

Through access to tools, and methodologies provided within this component, participating child project countries are expected to apply this knowledge and implement innovative and holistic formalization approaches such as JA/LA and upscale mercury reduction efforts. Additional on-demand knowledge to overcome barriers and facilitate mercury transition in the ASGM sector will be created and shared amongst stakeholders. This outcome will be achieved through two outputs.

Output 1.1.1: Knowledge products on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to strengthen ASGM formalization produced and shared with the child projects and other ASGM stakeholders.

Output indicator 1.1.1a: Number of knowledge products on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to strengthen formalization in ASGM. (***Targets - 8 Webinar series; 7 Key tools and Steps produced and shared***).

Output indicator 1.1.1b: Number of knowledge products on jurisdictional and landscape approaches that include gender considerations (**Target: 3**)

Activities:

The project will assist country child projects through training, capacity building, uptake and trials of jurisdictional/landscape approaches. The support will take the form of: creating materials and events that explain landscape approaches and the benefits of using JA/LA in formalization and how to trial this approach in the child country projects. This will take the form of webinars, technical briefing papers, workshops and formal training from CI's LA experts. The benefits of using JA/LA to enhance regional responsible sourcing to promote sustainable development will be elaborated in knowledge products and during the events.

Knowledge products to support country projects will include building stakeholder coalitions, conducting landscape assessments, development of landscape action plans, adaptation and application of Landscape indicators to the ASGM context⁵⁴. The knowledge and experiences generated from the trials of JA/LA will be documented and shared with the global ASGM community.

To strengthen the capacity of countries implementing the JA/LA approach, linkages will be made with JA/LA knowledge Hubs such as the Jurisdictional Approach Resources Hub and Landscape. Countries progressing to country assessments will be guided through the Landscape Assessment framework. The framework provides a holistic overview of a landscape in relation to the four pillars of sustainability: ecosystems, human well-being, governance, and production. It helps users gain critical insights, make more informed decisions, and share credible stories of impact. To ensure the Landscape indicators are relevant to the ASGM sector, the project considers updating the framework to include ASGM relevant indicators within the 4 sustainability pillars.

Output 1.1.2: Countries supported to apply JA/LA to strengthen formalization in ASGM.

Output indicator 1.1.2: Number of countries trained and supported on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to strengthen ASGM formalization. (Targets: All countries have webinar series and topical presentations; 50% of countries have Tools and Methodologies; 3 countries implementing action plans.)

Activities: Child project countries will be supported to understand the JA/LA approach. This will be done through a webinar series and topical presentations to develop tools, methodologies and implementation plans. Countries with an interest in deepening their understanding and building stakeholder coalitions will be supported in the development of a landscape plan

The support will follow the steps described below:

- A. Tier 1: All fifteen country projects will receive eight 90-minute sessions, one for each of the above themes. During these sessions, global experts will provide 45-minute presentations on each theme and answer questions that help each country team determine whether the additional expert support on each theme and associated tools will be relevant to their ASGM programme of work and would be helpful in beginning to build the foundations for embedding their work in a jurisdictional approach. Tier 1 trainings are expected to take place during the first quarter of project implementation.
- B. Tier 2: Each country project will have the opportunity take deep dives into the themes and tools of greatest impact to the respective countries. Tier 2 trainings will involve advance interviews and surveys by global landscape experts to identify priority interests, needs and opportunities so that a tailored curricula can be developed. Trainings will take place over 4-6 hours using virtual platforms. Following these trainings, experts will prepare reports with recommendations for each country programme regarding how to advance on the respective theme. Tier 2 trainings will take place during the first year of implementation.
- C. Tier 3: For country programs that decide a particular theme and associated tool fits their needs, global experts will conduct assessments, assist in building coalitions, and plans and implementing M&E frameworks. Tier 3 implementation will require country resources for implementation.

Outcome 1.2: More stakeholders from governments, private sector, mining communities and the public have improved understanding of the ASGM sector and access to knowledge products related to promoting responsible ASGM.

Outcome target 1.2: All key stakeholders in the countries report improved understanding of the ASGM sector.

11. Communications and knowledge management strategies and activities will be deployed to inform and educate ASGM stakeholders and decision makers, with the aim to shift negative perceptions that undermine progress while at the same time disseminating needed information to accelerate progress to transform the sector to mercury-free, responsible practices. Gender will be mainstreamed through call knowledge management activities and products. Sharing of lessons learned, dissemination of documented country efforts, regional coordination and sharing knowledge with the ASGM global community through Global Forums will be undertaken. Participating country projects will access tools through planetGOLD platform and apply the knowledge to overcome barriers and facilitate mercury transition. This outcome will be delivered through five outputs related to knowledge management and communications.

Output 1.2.1: The planetGOLD web platform is utilized, maintained, updated with all available information for all programme countries and other stakeholders (including news, events, blog posts, resources, curated thematic pages) fully functional and adapted to user demands and specifications.

Output indicator 1.2.1a: Average number of unique monthly users of the online planetGOLD platform and number of users who download educational materials and information. (Targets: 4000 monthly users, 800 downloads)

Output indicator 1.2.1b: Publications/communications products that specifically focus on gender issues in ASGM are published over the course of the project (Target: 6)

Output indicator 1.2.1c: Gender discussions included in planetGOLD knowledge products issued by the global project that do not focus on gender but have a relevant impact (e.g., finance, technology etc.) (Target: 100%)

Output Indicator 1.2.1d: Percentage of planetGOLD user survey respondents who report increased understanding of the ASGM sector (Target: > 95%).

Activities:

12. The planetGOLD online knowledge platform will be maintained and iteratively improved based on feedback from country projects, stakeholders and users. Programme news, events, blog posts, resources and country pages will be added, improved and showcased to increase engagement. Regular newsletters and programme updates will be distributed through the 'News' feature of the platform and through the planetGOLD mailing list.

13. The global project team will establish and maintain contact with country project web focal points and provide training to generate country pages for all country projects. The global project team will work with the country projects continuously to update and promote news, events, media and other content on the site. In addition, the team will work with experts to provide unique and relevant content through the Voices blog series on the site. The planetGOLD platform will provide all country projects with the needed tools to maintain a global web presence, with no need for country projects to produce their own project websites. Finally, the team will monitor web site statistics, share the data with country project focal points, and provide recommendations for increasing visibility and web presence. Further details on activities related to the planetGOLD knowledge platform and its role in overall knowledge management can be found in Section 3N below.

(Knowledge Management), and in particular in Table 6, which elaborated knowledge management activities.

14. The existing content, resources and pages on the knowledge area of Formalization will be updated and enhanced to include information on JA/LA in ASGM and its application in the planetGOLD country projects.

15. A plan will be developed for the knowledge platform that ensures that all site content and resources continue to be available after project closure, avoiding a situation where the knowledge platform would cease to function at the end of the project. This will be ensured by archiving (as necessary) and transferring content to the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and their web platform.

Output 1.2.2: Knowledge from the global ASGM community is collected, curated, exchanged and disseminated, and where necessary new knowledge products are created to fill gaps.

Output indicator 1.2.2a: Total number of new curated pages created on key topics (**Target: 15**) and number of total resources made available through the knowledge repository (**Target: 900**)

Output indicator 1.2.2b: Number of new knowledge products commissioned (**Target: 5**)

Output indicator 1.2.2c: Number of global forums held (**Target: 2**)

Output indicator 1.2.2d: Number of people (gender disaggregated) participating in-person Global Forums (**Targets: 100 women and 100 men**)

Output indicator 1.2.2e: Number of people participating in online knowledge sharing events (on an annual basis) (**Target: 600**)

Activities:

16. The global team will identify and curate relevant resources and content from the literature through regular searches of relevant databases and standing electronic alerts to new relevant publications, from ongoing engagement with and monitoring the activities and outputs of other key global ASGM projects and practitioners and stakeholders, to share with country projects and to add to the knowledge repository. Furthermore, to fill identified information gaps, the team will commission experts to develop original knowledge products, which will be disseminated to country projects, shared through the knowledge repository, disseminated via planetGOLD social media distribution channels and the planetGOLD mailing list. The project will build on phase 1 work to identify knowledge ?amplifiers? at the country level (universities and think tanks) to expand the reach of the knowledge sharing.

17. The global project team will organize knowledge sharing opportunities among the ASGM community both online and offline. The flagship activity will be the planetGOLD Global Forums for exchanging information and lessons learned among child projects and other ASGM stakeholders. For the purposes of planning, the project has budgeted for two Global Forums during the life of the project, assuming that phase 1 of the planetGOLD programme will fund the Global Forums that happen earlier in the life of the project. The team will also hold ad hoc technical webinars with experts and practitioners, relevant to issues addressed by planetGOLD.

18. The evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic will be carefully monitored by UNIDO and the NRDC using government published data during the project life cycle, particularly in relation to the organization of Global Forums as these events form the only in-person events planned by the global project. The pandemic as well as the related security and safety measures including travel restrictions has had a wide range of consequences for people across regions.

19. During Phase 1, the first Global Forum was initially postponed and then organized virtually due to the high number of cases worldwide and overall uncertainty on the evolution of the pandemic at that time. Attendance and engagement of participants during the first Global Forum will be analyzed and will inform the planning of the following global events organized under the programme. In other words, the global project will have to continuously adapt to the evolving pandemic situation.

20. It should be noted that digitalization cannot replace in-person interaction. Miners, particularly women from rural areas, lack information and communication technology (ICT) skills which hampers their participation in virtual events and reduces the expected

impact of global events. Hence, the programme activities should take into consideration the digital capacities of all target audiences.

21. Should it be necessary, new delivery modalities (i.e., hybrid meetings) will be explored and implemented by the global project team to include people that would not be able to physically travel to the place of the event while ensuring relevant in-person interaction including measures to ensure the health and safety of all participants.

22. Regional collaboration will be explored to find solutions on issues around cross-border informality, illicit mercury trade, harmonization of fiscal regimes and policy frameworks. This exploration will take place during regular conference calls among project managers in a given region (in addition to the program wide calls) and the project will also seek opportunities to participate in topically relevant regional events such as ECOWAS or Andean regional gatherings. Global forums will be scheduled to include opportunities for regional-sub-meetings to share experiences and identify ways to tackle common challenges such as formalization, biodiversity within landscapes, regional mercury flows, tax evasion and illicit financial flows. In addition, information exchange among country projects, governments and other ASGM stakeholders on formalization, access to finance and mercury-free transition will be facilitated, through technical webinars, participation in the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant or other relevant meetings and mechanisms, on an ad hoc basis.

23. The planetGOLD website will continue to be maintained and developed by UNEP.

Output 1.2.3: Current global outreach and communication strategies targeting government, mining communities, the private sector and the public are continued and expanded.

Output indicator 1.2.3: Number of global media and communication strategy documents expanded and disseminated (Target: 1).

Activities:

24. The programme-level communication strategy developed under phase 1 of the planetGOLD Global project laid a strong foundation that will be refined and expanded to guide both global activities and to support country-level child projects in creating locally developed communication materials that educate the public on ASGM. Like under phase 1, the communications strategy will contain guidelines for common messaging and timing for spotlighting various topics for various targeted audiences to ensure that the entire program is speaking with one voice. Best practices learned from phase 1 of planetGOLD will be applied and adapted for this strategy. Gender will be mainstreamed throughout project communication.

25. As part of this communications strategy, the ongoing use of planetGOLD branding materials will be reinforced. The project will update and disseminate a suite of planetGOLD country logos and brand assets (templates for fact sheets, reports, presentation slides, event banners, etc.).

Output 1.2.4: Global media and communication strategy undertaken.

Output indicator 1.2.4a: Number of new blogs, news articles, events, photo essays, videos, success stories published on planetgold.org or on other planetGOLD digital

communication platforms. (Targets: 350 News, blog posts, events and other content types).

Output indicator 1.2.4b: Number of programme newsletters sent to the planetGOLD mailing list (Target: 25)

Activities:

26. The global project will develop and maintain extensive social media coverage and campaigns for a range of audiences that provide awareness of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the sector that is linked to and enhanced with content published on the planetGOLD knowledge platform.

27. The project will seek out editorial content (such as blogs, articles, Exposure stories) from both planetGOLD country projects as well as recognized experts and partners, to feature on the planetGOLD platform.

28. The project will continue to maintain a list of international press who have written on the topic of ASGM or related matters (e.g., deforestation of the Amazon) and when appropriate, will conduct outreach to international media outlets to cultivate interest in positive success stories on responsible mercury-free ASGM gold production.

29. The project will enlist high profile individuals and brands to support project success communications, through joint communications efforts where appropriate. The planetGOLD Programme Advisory Group (PAG) members will also be enlisted to support with outreach to downstream actors through their own communication channels.

30. The NRDC is responsible for implementing the global communications strategy, along with the broader knowledge management and communications team for the Global Project and with production support from contracted communications partners. Under the overall supervision of the NRDC lead on planetGOLD, day-to-day responsibility for managing this strategy rests with the planetGOLD Global Project Communications Manager.

Output 1.2.5: Communication efforts by all planetGOLD child projects supported and reinforced.

Output indicator 1.2.5a: Number of country project media and communication materials produced that follow planetGOLD branding, style guide and messaging guide (Target: 15)

Output indicator 1.2.5b: Percent of country projects that share assets with the global programme annually as relevant (photo files, video files, graphics, relevant documents) (Target: 95%)

Output indicator 1.2.5c: Number of planetGOLD communications network meetings held to share relevant approaches and information with other country projects and inform global project about project communications activities, strategies, and story leads (Target: 15)

Activities:

31. Communications products and activities at the country level will be promoted through global channels; for example, profiles of the success stories of country child projects will be promoted via social and conventional media outlets, through the

planetGOLD website and its associated social media channels. Online events and newsletters will be used to share success stories amongst ASGM stakeholders.

32. The existing online based community of practice, comprising country project communications managers, will be expanded to engage and share information and lessons learned within the programme countries. Tools for collaboration (such as Basecamp) will be used and plans for cross-programmatic communications activities will be facilitated. During the Annual Programme Meeting, the project will organize and facilitate in-person planetGOLD communications network side meetings, including supporting travel of country project communications managers.

33. The global project will maintain a global editorial calendar and support country projects in publishing original content on the planetGOLD website and other planetGOLD communication channels.

Component 2: Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

34. The objective of this component is to ensure overall coordination, and tracking of results and impacts of the programme as a whole. This is separate from the monitoring and evaluation that will be performed by each country-level child project. The scope and goals of the programme necessitate a high degree of coordination and information sharing. The coordination will address the complexity involved in getting numerous child country projects to operate their country projects as part of a wider programme. The challenges related to coordination of a large-scale project such as this can manifest in several ways:

35. A 'siloes' approach to programme implementation, including lack of communication about key project level activities that could benefit all program participants,

? Country projects characterizing the project as a country level activity only, without connecting it to the global planetGOLD programme, and thus not taking advantage of the full impact and visibility that the program can offer;

? Insufficient information, lessons and experiences being shared, through in person and online exchanges and with the planetGOLD website - ultimately meaning this information does not get shared with the global ASGM community.

Outcome 2.1: planetGOLD programme child projects are aligned to the objectives of the programme and contribute to overall programme aims and outcomes.

Outcome target 2.1.1: Annual reports reflect on four programme-wide indicators for 100% of planetGOLD child projects

Outcome target 2.1.2: Child projects participate in 100% of programme-level knowledge exchange and coordination activities.

Outcome target 2.1.3: 100% of planetGOLD beneficiary mining entities adhere to planetGOLD Criteria for Environmentally and Socially Responsible Operations.

36. This outcome ensures child projects are aligned to the objectives of the programme through coordination, and results tracking. Child project collaboration, contribution to knowledge management and sharing will be facilitated through knowledge exchange and coordination activities such as the inception orientation meeting, bi-monthly coordination meetings and ad hoc learning meetings to exchange lessons learned. A stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) will be rolled out by the NRDC who are responsible for implementing the stakeholder engagement and it will be made available to all project stakeholders via the planetgold website (see appendix XVIII for further details). PlanetGOLD beneficiaries will be equipped to adhere to planetGOLD Criteria via training modules and guidance documents created by the project. Outcome 2.1 will be delivered through three outputs described below.

Output 2.1.1: Child projects collaborate with and contribute to planetGOLD programme level knowledge management and coordination activities.

Output indicator 2.1.1a: Number of virtual inception/implementation orientations held (Target: 2)

Output indicator 2.1.1b: Number of bimonthly programme coordination meetings held with child project teams each year to assess progress and provide recommendations for alignment. (Target: 5)

Output indicator 2.1.1c: Number of ad hoc learning meetings to exchange lessons learned and share relevant approaches and information with other country projects (Target: 10).

Output indicator 2.1.1d: Number of convenings of gender and safeguards community of practice to share lessons & exchange knowledge (Target: 12)

Activities:

37. As the number of projects under the planetGOLD umbrella increases (the 15 new countries in addition to the 8 under the current planetGOLD programme that will overlap with the beginning of planetGOLD phase 2), communication and coordination challenges are expected. To mitigate this, as well as ease coordination difficulties within this large programme, the project will implement the following activities:

? At the start of the project, the project will organize and facilitate virtual inception/implementation orientations for country projects to provide clarification on cross-programmatic coordination and knowledge sharing activities. Two such virtual meetings are envisioned, one with the projects starting implementation in 2022, and one with countries starting implementation in 2023. The orientation will include an introduction to the planetGOLD criteria.

? Programme coordination calls involving country managers will be held bimonthly. In addition, ad hoc (twice yearly) knowledge exchange meetings/networks for subject matter experts will be organized and facilitated. This includes participation by project experts in communications finance, and gender. As needed, the project may also organize calls on a regional basis to discuss possible areas of collaboration and cooperation on a regional basis.

? The global project will facilitate the sharing of relevant reports, results and materials across all country child projects, to ensure that the major programme results are well documented and shared through the knowledge exchange mechanisms and the planetGOLD knowledge platform as described in Component 1, thereby enhancing the evidence base for action on formalization, finance and technology transfer in ASGM. Gender will be integrated in documentation of results and materials for knowledge exchange.

Output 2.1.2: planetGOLD country projects are equipped to assist beneficiary mining entities to conform with the planetGOLD Criteria for Environmentally and Socially Responsible Operations.

Output indicator 2.1.2: Number of training modules and guidance documents provided to child projects to support implementation of the Criteria (Target: one set of training modules and one guidance document, updated as needed)

Activities:

38. As part of efforts to increase the credibility of ASGM gold and access to finance, country child projects beneficiaries will be supported to adhere to the planetGOLD Criteria for Environmentally and Socially Responsible Operations. Outreach will be conducted to the project managers to identify what enhancements are needed to the existing suite of tools and guidance. As needed, Country projects will be assisted to access existing training modules and resources to implement these criteria. In response to learnings and feedback from the country project implementation of these criteria, the project will further develop and disseminate the planetGOLD Criteria. Adherence to the Criteria not only improves the sustainability of the operations, it also feeds into a positive narrative on responsible ASGM gold production.

Output 2.1.3: Programme child projects adopt stakeholder engagement strategy consistent with programme guidelines.

Output indicator 2.1.3: Number of stakeholder engagement guidelines for programme participants elaborated and disseminated (Target: At least 1 disseminated and adopted by 100% of country projects)

Activities:

39. Overall stakeholder engagement guidelines for programme participants will be elaborated and disseminated. The project will support the projects in harmonizing their stakeholder engagement strategies with the programme strategy. Key stakeholders identified by the global project include government stakeholders, private sector, donor organizations, media, civil society, communities and miners. Stakeholders will be engaged to provide inputs in the development of knowledge products, monitoring and evaluation and feedback on communication approaches. Communication with stakeholders will be facilitated through the Programme Advisory Group, the planetGOLD website, social media platforms and various media channels.

Output 2.1.4: Regional coordination for the Latin American and Francophone West African regions is facilitated during project implementation.

Output indicator 2.1.4: Number of regional coordination meetings (Target: 15 per region)

Activities:

40. As part of supporting an integrated and holistic approach to formalization and elimination of mercury use in the sector, multistakeholder and regional collaboration will be facilitated to augment program-wide communication and knowledge sharing. Country child projects will be supported to make contact, identify relevant regional institutions and networks and arrange for webinars and meetings to discuss relevant topics at a regional level. Issues of interest to the programme include formalization and migration across borders, transboundary mercury flows, illicit financing and jurisdictional and landscape approaches. During the Global forums, a regional session will be arranged to enhance engagement amongst countries from the same region, as well as with relevant stakeholders from the region.

Outcome 2.2: Programme results are monitored and evaluated and the GEF Implementing Agencies and Executing Agencies and external programme advisors are informed on programme progress and achievements, as well as implementation gaps, need for re-alignment and adjustment of the original results framework.

Outcome target 2.2: Projects are aligned to programme objectives as measured by progress on four programme-wide indicators: mercury reduction, finance mobilized, responsible gold sold to formal markets and number of beneficiaries assisted in formalization.

41. Within this outcome, project and programme results based on results framework indicators will be monitored and reported to GEF Implementing Agencies, the Project Steering Committee and the GEF. These indicators will be used to guide corrective actions if necessary. The activities include regular monitoring of results, project achievements, gaps and realignment to the programme result framework. The PAG will be engaged to disseminate results within their networks to promote a positive sector image and increased engagement. Outcome 2.2 will be delivered through two outputs.

Output 2.2.1: Programme results are reported.

Output indicator 2.2.1a: Number of annual programme reports published (Target: 6)

Output indicator 2.2.1b: Number of quarterly narrative reports submitted (Target: 24)

Output indicator 2.2.1c: Number of programme coordination meetings held (annual programme meetings, annual programme communications network meetings and Programme Advisory Group (PAG) meetings) (Targets: 5 annual meetings; 5 communications meetings; 15 PAG meetings)

Output indicator 2.2.1d: Number of external advisors from stakeholder groups (government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, gold buyers, academics) engaged as members of Programme Advisory Group (Target: 25)

Activities:

42. An Annual Programme Meeting (APM) with country project participation will be facilitated through Year 5. Note that it is assumed that Year 1 of this meeting will be virtual, for planning purposes. During years when a Global Forum is planned, the APM will take place in conjunction with the Global Forum to minimize costs. On the margins of the Annual Programme Meeting, the project will also facilitate an annual meeting of the communications focal points for each country to discuss coordination of communications across the programme.

43. The project will formalize the reporting and information sharing requirements for IAs and the child country projects to deliver to the global project. Importantly common methods for calculating reported metrics will be shared and agreed.

44. Country projects will submit quarterly summaries of key activities and an annual progress report, which will include numerical reporting on the common program indicators. Using the data from the country projects, the global project will produce quarterly summaries of key activities and progress across the programme which will be disseminated to the PSC and the PAG, as well as annual progress reports for the programme that include narrative and quantitative reporting from all projects on achievement of project level and programme-level indicators.

45. The project will update and if needed expand the current PAG, which serves as a group of advisors from academia, donors, downstream gold buyers etc., to provide perspective on project activities from external stakeholders. Once fully constituted, the project will facilitate regular (3x per year) calls between project managers and the PAG and will serve as secretariat to the PAG, organize and facilitate quarterly PAG calls and subcommittee meetings.

46. The planetGOLD Programme Advisory Group includes representatives from a range of stakeholder groups including downstream buyers, financiers, academics, donors and others.

47. The purpose of the PAG is to:

? Provide advice on relevant areas of Programme activities and suggest constructive approaches for shaping activities in the future;

? Provide feedback on key products, strategies, and other outputs of the programme, as requested;

? Act as a coordination mechanism, identifying where common efforts are being undertaken and suggest how such efforts could be leveraged.

48. The members of the PAG also act as ambassadors of the programme to their stakeholder groups and offer connections to the broader community of actors with an interest in the ASGM sector.

49. Under this activity, the existing terms of reference and membership of the PAG will be reviewed, to ensure that all relevant stakeholder groups are included, and to

recommend updates to membership or possible areas of expansion if needed. If the PAG expands and/or as current PAG members rotate out, the global project will invite new members to serve on the PAG, in consultation with the Global Project Steering Committee. Selection of members will consider gender, regional and subject matter representation.

50. The global project will serve as the Secretariat for the PAG and will be responsible for convening its meetings and drafting the meeting agendas, supporting the Chair during meetings, and taking and circulating minutes. The global project will similarly support any ad hoc subcommittee meetings that are convened around special programme topics. Finally, the global project will facilitate access to PAG members by the planetGOLD country project staff, to ensure access to expertise of PAG members, and to maintain linkages to important external partners such as refiners and downstream gold buyers.

Output 2.2.2: Recommendations for project realignments are made to IAs and to PSC as identified through regular project coordination activities

Output target 2.2.2a: Percentage of projects making recommended adjustments during implementation (Target: 100%)

Output target 2.2.2b: Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved (Target: 100%)

Output target: 2.2.2c: Number of grievances resolved within recommended time period (Target: 100%)

Activities:

51. The project will work with implementing and executing agencies to review implementation gaps and assess the need for re-alignment and adjustment of the original results framework and inform the PSC.

52. The project's Accountability and Grievance mechanism has been put in place so that project stakeholders may raise a grievance at all times to the Executing Agency. To ensure that stakeholders are aware of their ability to file a grievance related to the project, the following measures will be taken:

52.1. A Grievances Form will be created on the planetGOLD website (planetgold.org). On this page, all channels that can be used to submit a grievance will also be listed, this will include: the Grievances Form, an email address where grievances can be submitted; and a full address for the submission of letters. The webpage will also contain information on how the AGM works.

52.2. Links to the Grievances Form will be added throughout the planetgold website.

52.3. The Grievance Form page will contain links to the different language versions of the Grievance Form.

53. To ensure that the AGM is working effectively and efficiently, the AGM will treat all grievances confidentially and objectively ? to provide those with grievances a safe space to voice them. A Grievance Mechanism Committee consisting of representatives from UNEP and CI will be established. The AGM has established timelines for grievance responses. Adherence to these timelines will be monitored as part of the monitoring and evaluation of the project. The AGM outlines processes for how grievances will be handled by the project and which grievances are eligible. This will allow for a well-ordered grievance mechanism where all internal parties understand their responsibilities. The project?s management team will analyze grievance reports regularly and use their analysis to adjust aspects of the project accordingly.

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: The CEO endorsement/ portal, Section 8 Knowledge Management has been updated to reflect the global communications strategy. Additional information can also be found in tables 8,9 and 10 of the CEO ER/portal. Communication strategies and activities will be deployed to inform and educate ASGM stakeholders and decision makers, with the aim to shift negative perceptions that undermine progress. Gender will be mainstreamed through communication strategies and development of knowledge products. Sharing of lessons learned, dissemination of documented country efforts, regional coordination sharing through Global Forums will be undertaken. Participating country projects will access tools through planetGOLD platform and apply the knowledge to overcome barriers and facilitate mercury transition. This outcome will be delivered through five outputs related to knowledge management and communications.

As the project unfolds, the programme will capture lessons learned and best practices and develop new knowledge around how solutions to support artisanal and small-scale miners can be brought to scale. Effective communications will be important over the lifecycle of the project as it aims to rally a wide range of stakeholders and audiences around supporting artisanal and small-scale miners and inform the development of ASGM formalization efforts globally using the knowledge generated by this programme.

The communications strategy ultimately aims to help planetGOLD country level projects and the wider ASGM community increasingly access and apply knowledge to deepen mercury reduction; and improve the understanding of governments, the private sector, mining communities and the general public of the ASGM sector.

The particular activities detailed in this strategy focus on what will be implemented at the global level of the programme, recognizing that each child project will develop its own complementary national-level communications plans with distinct audiences, platforms and outreach tactics. Responsibility for managing the activities in this strategy document rests with the Global Project.

Achieving the goals of the communication strategy requires a communications approach that focuses on:

Changing perceptions around artisanal and small-scale gold mining, particularly at the national and global level. This strategy will support this by re-framing the issue around the social, environmental and economic benefits of supporting artisanal and small-scale miners, and by systematically engaging the media to cover issues through a solutions-orientated angle.

Creating and promoting knowledge products on innovations in formalization such as jurisdictional/landscape approaches to formalization, market access, finance and technology transfer.

Sharing lessons learned from the country projects on topics such as biodiversity, land-use planning, occupational health and safety, mercury-free gold production and due diligence in gold supply chains, and employing an appealing and impactful storytelling approach that uses audio-visual content, where possible, that allows the project's messaging to reach a wider audience.

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

The co-financing is below the level of the GEF amount and not in line with the proposed amounts in the approved PFD. While there is an explanation provided for the deficit, the achievement of the objectives of the project are linked to the level of co-financing and as such co-financing must be secured prior to CEO endorsement.

March 24, 2022 - The Cofinancing is less than the GEF amt. This falls outside of the acceptable levels for co-financing and reduces the confidence that the objectives of the project can be met.

July 7, 2022 - Effort has been made to increase the co-financing including support from CI's management. While the co-financing is well below what was indicated at the PFD the comment is cleared on the condition that during the first annual program report and subsequently progress on co-financing is provided.

Agency Response

CI-GEF 06/08:

Co-Financing has been increased to meet the minimum ratio for endorsement as agreed upon by the secretariat. The project stakeholders will continue to seek co-financing

during implementation to support the coordination and knowledge management components of the global project.

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: CI acknowledges that the co-financing figure at CEO endorsement is significantly lower than the figures at PFD stage. Since PFD approval, the grants that CI proposed as co-financing did not materialize due to changing donor priorities. During implementation, CI will strive to work with partners and other agencies to secure additional grants that would count as co-financing for this project. Since the initial submission, CI has identified an additional 957,525 in co-financing and is continuing to work with partners to secure co-financing.

GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

No. An examination of the project budget indicates that significant resources from the activities resources is towards several staff positions. The cost of managing the project is provided in the PMU costs and all project management staff costs can be funded from this line item. Please clarify why there are the staff positions in the budget and how these will achieve the outputs of the project. While TORs have been provided these do not provide sufficient justification.

March 24, 2022 - Please clarify how an in-house consultant varies from a staff on a limited term?

July 7, 2022 - Comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF 06/08:

The project budget is comprised of both staff and in-house consultants. The staff and in-house consultants are necessary to deliver on the project outputs, and the staffing structure does not deviate from Phase 1. For in house consultants, they are considered at-will employees, meaning that an employer can terminate an employee for any reason without incurring legal liability and vice-versa. These types of employment arrangements are typical in the U.S. Thus, there are no formal, contractual term lengths

of employment. Instead, the expectations for the term length of employment are set in the position descriptions (i.e., terms of reference) used to fill the positions for the duration of the project. The staff positions are positions hired by the institution, whose contract terms are not limited solely to the project duration.

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: Staff performing project management activities are now listed exclusively under PMC. The budget also includes funding for In-house consultants, who are defined as those with the technical requirements to perform executing activities under the coordination and knowledge management components. Please see the updated budget in the attached appendix. Since the policy requires TORs for positions that are charging to both PMC and the component budget and this is no longer the case, the TORs were removed from the resubmission.

Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Provided

Agency Response

Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please clarify how the GEBs indicated will be achieved by the implementation of this project.

March 24, 2022 - Comment cleared

Agency Response **CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: The Global project will support the planetGOLD programme's goal of reducing the use of mercury in**

artisanal and small-scale gold mining and associated land use co-benefits through:
Coordination: The Global project will facilitate coordination amongst planetGOLD countries, ensuring that each country's global environmental benefits goals are aligned with the wider programme metrics and GEF's long term goals. **Knowledge Sharing:** The Global project will ensure that participating country projects are disseminating lessons learned and publishing findings via the planetGOLD platform and other relevant outlets. It is anticipated that these two components will aid in the increased use of mercury free technologies and formalization approaches that encourage a reduction in mercury use, which will contribute to replication beyond the project period. Further replication is anticipated through collaboration with associated baseline projects.

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

This is weakly described and developed. Please clearly outline the baseline scenario and associated projects.

March 24, 2022 - This program is supposed to build on the GEF 6 planetGOLD program. Please specify the gaps that the response raises. Overall the revised baseline scenario is better but still requires work on how the various interactions described in the response are planned to take place.

July 7, 2022 - comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF 06/08:

Additional details have been added to elaborate on how the baseline scenario was derived and how identified gaps will be addressed. The associated projects and baseline scenario sections of the Project document and Portal have been updated and summarized below.

The baseline scenario was derived by means of a review of ASGM literature and initiatives that are thematically related to the outcomes of Component 2 of the global project, and on-going work under the planetGOLD program; these areas are: knowledge platforms for the ASGM sector and public perception of the ASGM sector.

Review of Existing Knowledge platforms

There is a significant and growing literature on ASM issues, however the information is scattered across various websites and not always readily available to the public (at least until the advent of the planetGOLD knowledge platform launched in phase 1). This is particularly true for peer reviewed literature in academic journals that is often placed behind a 'paywall', making the knowledge contained inaccessible to the vast majority of ASGM stakeholders.

The ASM community has recognized this gap, and in response, several efforts have been made to create ASM-focused websites and/or 'knowledge hubs' to improve access to information and tools, and in some cases, to create a platform for sharing information among ASM practitioners. While these knowledge hubs target a range of different audiences, the focus is primarily academia, governments, the mining community and other professionals (rather than, for example, miners). Some sites cover general ASM issues, while others are focused on particular topics areas within the ASM space, including health, child labor, policy, social impact, conflict mapping, trade, technical assistance, sustainable communities, extraction, legal resources and socio-organizational matters. Some sites cater to specific regional audiences, for example, the African Intelligence page highlights energy, mining, and other topics from an African perspective. SAESSCAM-ASM is a database that focuses on registering production and socio-economical information on artisanal and small-scale mining sites, specific to some Francophone countries in Africa. In Asia, the Sustainable Artisanal Mining Project's knowledge hub focuses on formalization, advocating for environmentally sound mining practices and raising awareness amongst stakeholders within the Mongolian ASM sector. In Latin America, the Plataforma Integral de Minería a Pequeña Escala aims to broadcast the knowledge on formalization and access to responsible gold markets in the four countries of focus: Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador.

With the launch of the first phase of the planetGOLD programme, the planetGOLD knowledge hub was created, laying a strong foundation for knowledge sharing within the global ASGM sector. The website (planetGOLD.org) features and connects all the GOLD child projects under the umbrella of the planetGOLD programme and gathers information, resources, and tools, organized according to the four programme knowledge areas: technical solutions, formalization, access to finance and awareness raising. It aims to assist countries and other stakeholders by curating the available ASGM related information to identify key resources within the vast store of existing information and by creating brief, understandable, topic-specific syntheses, analyses and/or guides that focus on key topics. The Knowledge Repository on the planetGOLD website, currently contains over 450 ASM publications, videos and websites, in 10 languages and on over 20 topics in the ASGM sector (e.g., human rights, gender, environment and biodiversity). Moreover, the platform is continuously updated with news stories and 'Voices' blogs entries that present progress made by the planetGOLD participating countries and provide reflections and analysis of the featured topic, including for example women in mining and biodiversity. The Knowledge Repository is actively maintained by identifying and adding new ASGM resources. Since its launch in November 2019, the planetGOLD website has reached over 50,000 unique users around the world and received more than 110,000 page views. The extended and exceptional reach of the platform demonstrates its potential to extend program lessons and impact beyond the planetGOLD country projects.

In addition to knowledge hubs, there are also networks of experts that constitute a community of ASGM practitioners. For example, The Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) aims to bring together a community of experts from diverse networks, foster communication and collaborative work, while the planetGOLD platforms gather, curate, synthesize and analyze existing information on ASGM, which governments can practically employ when formulating relevant strategies under the NAP or planning other interventions in their ASGM sector. The Global Mercury Partnership and planetGOLD have collaborated on several events and workshops during the first phase of the programme.

In the ASGM sector specifically, the planetGOLD platform is becoming a 'go to' resource for the different stakeholders such as government, private sector, development actors, researchers and ASGM organizations concerned with the topic.

Without the planetGOLD knowledge platform to serve as the centralized hub for information related to the creation of sustainable ASGM sectors, the replicability and scale-up of best practices and successful approaches learnt by country projects during implementation is imperiled. The planetGOLD website creates a free centralised repository for all knowledge generated by the country projects and the global ASGM community; without it, no readily accessible way exists for ASGM stakeholders to find relevant information about what has and has not worked for the country projects and the sector more broadly.

The significant traction that the planetGOLD platform has achieved demonstrates the deep desire for the solution that it provides. Expanding and improving the platform based on this traction will prevent a return to the pre-planetGOLD stage of the market where only the few with sufficient budget or expertise could access the empirical knowledge being created about the ASGM sector.

Associated Baseline Projects

1. ASM Knowledge Hubs and networking platforms that complement the planetGOLD platform include Communities and Small-scale Mining (CASM), Solidaridad and DELVE: the Global platform for ASM Mining data to name a few. Annex XVI contains a full list of all the relevant knowledge platforms and websites identified.
2. UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) platform, which offers robust content and includes a range of information from technical case studies, reports, toolkits, country conference reports and information specific to the language within the Minamata Convention. In particular, since 2009, the ASGM area of the Global Mercury Partnership has been working to compile relevant information and create important synthesis tools. This includes a set of guidelines and methodologies to assist governments with developing their Minamata Convention NAPs for the ASGM sector⁵⁵, for example:
 - ? The NAP guidance document
 - ? Methods to quantify mercury use and characterize practices in the ASGM
 - ? Formalization Handbook
 - ? Quick start guide to incorporating gender dimension in the ASGM NAPs
 - ? Quick start guide to managing mercury trade under NAP

- ? Illustrated guide to mercury free ASGM practices.
3. The developed guidelines and methodologies are used by an increasing number of countries and other actors working on mercury reduction activities.
 4. The DELVE database is a knowledge hub gathering information on the broader artisanal and small-scale mining sector, including gems, gold, other metals, and low value minerals. It is developed by Pact and funded by the World Bank. The objective of the platform is to support the collection, storage, analysis, visualization and dissemination of ASM data; to define shared metrics for collective measurement of the ASM sector; to aggregate data from distinct data sources allowing for real-time analytics and dynamic decision-making; and, to create rich business intelligence tools for at-glance including insights, interactive charts and maps. The effort includes collaboration from a range of stakeholders who contribute their data on the sector. Moreover, it aims to allow miners to showcase their work and access new resources for advocacy and business opportunities. DELVE has published a 2020 State of the Sector Report⁵⁶ that examines ASM's contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and efforts to close the data gaps on the sector. The report builds upon the 2019 State of the Sector report⁵⁷. It features five focus areas: (i) improve occupational health and safety, (ii) stimulate economic growth, (iii) make production sustainable and eliminate mercury, (iv) ensure gender equality, and (v) eradicate child labor and promote youth employment; and demonstrate 22 case studies contributed by over 30 partner organizations. DELVE is also hosting COVID -19 working group that focuses on sharing experiences working in ASM sector in the light of pandemic and is coordinating a global data gathering exercise to monitor and record specific COVID-19 impacts on select ASM communities.
 5. NAPs to reduce mercury use in ASGM are national documents developed by Parties to the Minamata Convention. The documents contain a comprehensive overview of the national state of the ASGM sector (based on field and desk data collection) and outline the required strategies to better manage and eliminate the mercury use in the sector. A growing number of countries have submitted their NAP documents which are now available on the website of the Minamata Convention⁵⁸ (up to date 13 national documents are available, with more to be published over the course of 2021). The data and information gathered in each NAP document form a baseline of the current national status on the sector and planetGOLD projects can align and build upon their findings. A set of NAP focused methodologies and guidelines are available on the GMP platform (as described above).
 6. The UN Economic Commission for Africa is developing a knowledge platform on the issue of artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) for the AMDC. While the portal will apply to all kinds of minerals, not only gold, the information resources and other services will provide a robust set of assets that can be accessed by anyone interested in the ASM topic. The portal is conceptualized as a one-stop-shop where users can find a very robust search engine that includes algorithms to search the deep web and grey literature; a discussion forum; an experts' database; a knowledge repository, research guides on key topics; and, a knowledge hub that includes services to contextualize the data (e.g., finding related articles or news stories to complement a particular search).

The planetGOLD programme will closely work with this initiative in the dissemination of information activities.

7. Regional Knowledge Hubs: The African Union's (AU) African Minerals

Development Centre (AMDC) knowledge hub is worthy of consideration. While in its nascent stage, it offers an institutional set-up which has the potential for wide and effective dissemination in Africa. The AMDC is currently receiving institutional capacity support from the UNDP, and opportunities exist to explore synergies. Regional knowledge hubs offer the opportunity to disseminate knowledge at scale with the support of regional networks to encourage cross-learning and regional impact through peer learning. Such knowledge hubs would provide useful information for countries at the start of their ASGM formalization journey and should be explored. In Latin America, the Plataforma Integral de Minería a Pequeña Escala aims to broadcast knowledge on formalization and access to responsible gold markets in the four countries of focus, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador.

8. Country Knowledge Hubs: ASM focused knowledge Hubs in different countries including those who are part of the planetGOLD programme are worth considering. These hubs provide in-country research and are a source of existing knowledge that country child projects can build on. This knowledge can also be relevant at regional level where countries share landscapes such as the Amazon. Country knowledge hubs include Centro de Innovación Científica Amazonica (CINCIA)⁵⁹ in Peru, the Mongolian Knowledge Hub⁶⁰ and SAESSCAM-ASM in the Democratic Republic of Congo, among others.

9. JA/LA Knowledge Hubs: Knowledge Hubs that provide information on JA/LA approaches such as the Jurisdictional Approach Resources Hub⁶¹, Global Landscape Forum⁶² and Landscale⁶³, provide frameworks and support tools that could be beneficial to the child project countries. These JA/LA knowledge hubs offer useful guides and resources that could help guide the Global Component project but could also be hosts of knowledge generated by the country child projects. Given that JA/LA are being tested for their potential to advance ASGM formalization, this is a great opportunity for the GEF GOLD programme and these resource hubs to showcase the efficacy of their approaches in the ASGM sector.

10. The Global Component is expected to develop and conduct a training series, provide tools and support for JA processes within country projects. Countries progressing to country assessments will be guided by the Landscale Assessment framework. The framework provides a holistic overview of a landscape in relation to the four pillars of sustainability: ecosystems, human well-being, governance, and production. It helps users gain critical insights, make more informed decisions, and share credible stories of impact. For relevance to the ASGM sector, the Global component will consider and review the framework to include ASGM relevant indicators within the 4 sustainability pillars to guide the project's results framework.

11. Regional Initiatives: The regional initiatives in Africa and Latin America would be relevant to the majority of the planetGOLD countries. In some regions, countries share landscapes which are impacted by ASGM activities. Impacts include ecosystem and biodiversity disturbances, undocumented movements of people, illicit mercury and gold

flows, tax evasion and illicit financial flows. Some regional initiatives the Global Component can consider for collaboration, sharing of tools and networking include:

- ? The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
- ? The Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS)
- ? The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)
- ? The Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC)
- ? The African Mineral Geosciences Centre (AMGC)

Alternatives to the Business-as-Usual Scenari

Gaps and opportunities on public perception about ASGM

While the planetGOLD program has made significant progress on positive and solution-oriented media coverage, the general lack of such media coverage globally on responsible ASGM interventions perpetuates the one-sided negative perception of the sector. Changing this requires that the global project continue and improve upon its already impactful communications strategy (more detail on the updated strategy can be found in Appendix XVII).

There is an opportunity to further create a media strategy that highlights improvements in the sector (especially those made by the country-level projects in the planetGOLD Programme) and to emphasize the positive development opportunities presented by responsible small scale gold mining. In no way will these activities ?greenwash? the genuine social and environmental issues confronting the sector, but they will attempt to create more balanced coverage of the issue. By doing so, the general public and policy makers, and other stakeholders such as investors, will be better informed and more likely to support effective policies and strategies to improve conditions, bring ASGM into the formal economy and support development of responsible ASGM supply chains. Without media influence towards a positive image on responsible ASGM there is a risk that the negative perceptions on the sector keep it from development. The sector should create greater positive messaging for the downstream and financial sectors to increase access to markets and funding for its development. Pushing a narrative of a growing responsible ASGM will help in showcasing emerging good practices and promoting private sector engagement. Finding and amplifying the positive impact of these practices through the planetGOLD communication channels is the work that is being undertaken by the global project in phase 1 and this will be continued and improved upon during phase 2.

Moreover, through the jurisdictional approach, the market and policy-based interventions will be combined for greater impact on the ground. This includes encouraging governments, businesses, local communities, and NGOs to work together towards common goals, such as improving local livelihoods, eliminating mercury and maintaining natural ecosystems through coordinated strategies across the sector. By involving and educating all the relevant actors across the ASGM landscape, through the planetGOLD communications channels and events, the efforts to improve the perception of the ASGM sector, including raising awareness about the challenges and opportunities the miners are facing, can be magnified.

Achieving this will involve changing perceptions around artisanal and small-scale gold mining, particularly at the national and global level. The project's communication strategy will support this by re-framing the issue around the social, environmental and economic benefits of supporting artisanal and small-scale miners, and by systematically engaging the media to cover the issues through a solutions-orientated angle. At the same time, it will proactively pitch and place stories, opinion editorials and blogs in the media and on the platforms used by governments, the finance sector and the global gold industry. As the program unfolds, brand partnerships and joint campaigns will also support this perception change.

This communications strategy will also proactively promote what the program is learning and the knowledge that it produces to maximize uptake among key audiences, including the development community and private sector, particularly those working in ASGM. Finally, this strategy will also consolidate and strengthen stakeholder and donor support by regularly communicating updates, milestones and impacts. A storytelling approach with a strong focus on audio-visual content production will make the communications materials produced through this strategy appealing, impactful and enable the program to reach a wider audience.

Without the centralised, prolonged and concerted efforts of the global project, disparate communication efforts from the ASGM sector will not achieve the large-scale amplification required to change perceptions about the sector.

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: The baseline scenario section has been expanded to include the gaps associated with the planetGOLD platform, as well as additional text on associated baseline projects in the regional, country hub, and knowledge management sections.

Associated Baseline Projects

Knowledge Hubs and networking platforms that complement the planetGOLD platform include Communities and Small-scale Mining (CASM), Solidaridad and DELVE: the Global platform for ASM Mining data to name a few. Annex XVI contains a full list of all the relevant knowledge platforms and websites identified.

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) platform, which offers robust content and includes a range of information from technical case studies, reports, toolkits, country conference reports and information specific to the language within the Minamata Convention. In particular, since 2009, the ASGM area of the Global Mercury Partnership has been working to compile relevant information and create important synthesis tools. This includes a set of guidelines and methodologies to assist governments with developing their Minamata Convention NAPs for the ASGM sector⁵⁴, for example:

The NAP guidance document

Methods to quantify mercury use and characterize practices in the ASGM

Formalization Handbook

Quick start guide to incorporating gender dimension in the ASGM NAPs

Quick start guide to managing mercury trade under NAP

Illustrated guide to mercury free ASGM practices.

The developed guidelines and methodologies are used by an increasing number of countries and other actors working on mercury reduction activities.

The DELVE database is a knowledge hub gathering information on the broader artisanal and small-scale mining sector, including gems, gold, other metals, and low value minerals. It is developed by Pact and funded by the World Bank. The objective of the platform is to support the collection, storage, analysis, visualization and dissemination of ASM data; to define shared metrics for collective measurement of the ASM sector; to aggregate data from distinct data sources allowing for real-time analytics and dynamic decision-making; and, to create rich business intelligence tools for at-glance including insights, interactive charts and maps. The effort includes collaboration from a range of stakeholders who contribute their data on the sector. Moreover, it aims to allow miners to showcase their work and access new resources for advocacy and business opportunities. DELVE has published a '2020 State of the Sector Report'⁵⁵ that examines ASM's contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and efforts to close the data gaps on the sector. The report builds upon the '2019 State of the Sector report'⁵⁶. It features five focus areas: (i) improve occupational health and safety, (ii) stimulate economic growth, (iii) make production sustainable and eliminate mercury, (iv) ensure gender equality, and (v) eradicate child labor and promote youth employment; and demonstrate 22 case studies contributed by over 30 partner organizations. DELVE is also hosting COVID -19 working group that focuses on sharing experiences working in ASM sector in the light of pandemic and is coordinating a global data gathering exercise to monitor and record specific COVID-19 impacts on select ASM communities.

NAPs to reduce mercury use in ASGM are national documents developed by Parties to the Minamata Convention. The documents contain a comprehensive overview of the national state of the ASGM sector (based on field and desk data collection) and outline the required strategies to better manage and eliminate the mercury use in the sector. A growing number of countries have submitted their NAP documents which are now available on the website of the Minamata Convention⁵⁷ (up to date 13 national documents are available, with more to be published over the course of 2021). The data and information gathered in each NAP document form a baseline of the current national status on the sector and planetGOLD projects can align and build upon their findings. A set of NAP focused methodologies and guidelines are available on the GMP platform (as described above).

The UN Economic Commission for Africa is developing a knowledge platform on the issue of artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) for the AMDC. While the portal will apply to all kinds of minerals, not only gold, the information resources and other services will provide a robust set of assets that can be accessed by anyone interested in the ASM topic. The portal is conceptualized as a one-stop-shop where users can find a very robust search engine that includes algorithms to search the deep web and grey literature; a discussion forum; an experts' database; a knowledge repository, research guides on key topics; and, a knowledge hub that includes services to contextualize the data (e.g., finding related articles or news stories to complement a particular search). The planetGOLD programme will closely work with this initiative in the dissemination of information activities.

Regional Knowledge Hubs: The African Union's (AU) African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) knowledge hub is worthy of consideration. While in its nascent stage, it offers an institutional set-up which has the potential for wide

and effective dissemination in Africa. The AMDC is currently receiving institutional capacity support from the UNDP, and opportunities exist to explore synergies. Regional knowledge hubs offer the opportunity to disseminate knowledge at scale with the support of regional networks to encourage cross-learning and regional impact through peer learning. Such knowledge hubs would provide useful information for countries at the start of their ASGM formalization journey and should be explored. In Latin America, the Plataforma Integral de Minería a Escala aims to broadcast knowledge on formalization and access to responsible gold markets in the four countries of focus, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador.

Country Knowledge Hubs: ASM focused knowledge Hubs in different countries including those who are part of the planetGOLD programme are worth considering. These hubs provide in-country research and are a source of existing knowledge that country child projects can build on. This knowledge can also be relevant at regional level where countries share landscapes such as the Amazon. Country knowledge hubs include Centro de Innovación Científica Amazonica (CINCIA)⁵⁸ in Peru, the Mongolian Knowledge Hub⁵⁹ and SAESSCAM-ASM in the Democratic Republic of Congo, among others.

JA/LA Knowledge Hubs: Knowledge Hubs that provide information on JA/LA approaches such as the Jurisdictional Approach Resources Hub⁶⁰, Global Landscape Forum⁶¹ and Landscale⁶², provide frameworks and support tools that could be beneficial to the child project countries. These JA/LA knowledge hubs offer useful guides and resources that could help guide the Global Component project but could also be hosts of knowledge generated by the country child projects. Given that JA/LA are being tested for their potential to advance ASGM formalization, this is a great opportunity for the GEF GOLD programme and these resource hubs to showcase the efficacy of their approaches in the ASGM sector.

The Global Component is expected to develop and conduct a training series, provide tools and support for JA processes within country projects. Countries progressing to country assessments will be guided by the Landscale Assessment framework. The framework provides a holistic overview of a landscape in relation to the four pillars of sustainability: ecosystems, human well-being, governance, and production. It helps users gain critical insights, make more informed decisions, and share credible stories of impact. For relevance to the ASGM sector, the Global component will consider and review the framework to include ASGM relevant indicators within the 4 sustainability pillars to guide the project's results framework.

Regional Initiatives: The regional initiatives in Africa and Latin America would be relevant to the majority of the planetGOLD countries. In some regions, countries share landscapes which are impacted by ASGM activities. Impacts include ecosystem and biodiversity disturbances, undocumented movements of people, illicit mercury and gold flows, tax evasion and illicit financial flows. Some regional initiatives the Global Component can consider for collaboration, sharing of tools and networking include:

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)

The Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS)

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

The Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC)

The African Mineral Geosciences Centre (AMGC)

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

This section needs to be improved based on a full elaboration of the baseline.

March 24, 2022 - the response provides an imprecise description of how work will be actually done. The text gives an impression that many of activities are planned to occur and details are to be developed.

July 7, 2022 - comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF 06/08:

Additional details have been added to elaborate on the alternative scenario and baseline. Updated text includes details on how activities will be executed during implementation. The "Alternative scenario" section of the Project document and portal have been updated and summarized below.

1. The alternative scenario builds on, consolidates and upscales the significant achievements of the planetGOLD platform and communications strategies to date. In the proposed alternative scenario:

? The dedicated ASGM knowledge platform (planetGOLD) is improved and expanded upon and continues to be made accessible to all stakeholders. This will aid the access and adoption of knowledge by stakeholders that assists in the reduction of mercury use in ASGM.

? The planetGOLD communications strategy and stakeholder engagement plans that began in phase 1 are continuously improved and expanded. This will, 1) improve public perception of the ASGM sector, 2) promote further uptake of knowledge generated by the project country projects, 3) encourage engagement with content hosted on the planetGOLD knowledge platform, 4) increase the visibility and successes of the planetGOLD Criteria for Environmentally and Socially Responsible Operations and other similar mechanisms, and 5) encourage replication of the methods and approaches that have been successfully developed and implemented by country projects under phase 1 and 2.

2. The global project will have two primary components: 1) Knowledge Management and Communication; and 2) Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. Whilst the activities of the first component more directly address the issues associated with the business-as-usual scenario (a lack of accessible ASGM knowledge platforms and the difficulty of changing public perception of the sector), the second component is also key to achieving the aims of component 1 as the coordination and monitoring activities will assist in the attainment of programme level goals. The two components reinforce each other as: the successful execution of the programme requires the individual country projects to succeed in a manner aligned to the programme; successful country projects will in turn lead to more positive stories, case studies and empirical analyses that will be amplified by the planetGOLD communications strategy. These stories and knowledge products will encourage replication of the approaches that helped generate the positive outcome and serve as collateral for the perception change efforts of the project. The Theory of Change Diagram (Figure 2) illustrates this process.

Component 1: Knowledge Management & Communication

3. Under this component, the project will build on the significant progress of the planetGOLD knowledge platform, execute both the project's communication's strategy as described in Appendix XVI and the stakeholder engagement plan as described in Appendix XVII.

4. The following section provides a brief description of the specific activities and outputs under Component 1's expected outcomes and how they will contribute to the attainment of the alternative scenario (a comprehensive and detailed list of activities, outputs and targets can be found in the component descriptions contained in Section 3: Project Strategy).

5. Outcome 1.1 Participating project countries and the wider ASGM community increasingly access and apply knowledge to deepen mercury reduction through holistic and innovative formalization approaches.

6. This first outcome centers on the promotion of innovative formalization approaches to ASGM. In particular, it focuses on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to strengthen ASGM formalization. The focus on these approaches is a response to information gathered from stakeholders during phase 1 that innovative holistic approaches to formalization should be developed and trialed during the phase 2. These approaches are replicable and scalable.

7. These holistic approaches will assist in the development and promotion of market-based efforts to improve the reputation of ASGM gold. The outputs and activities under Outcome 1.1 are detailed below.

8. Output 1.1.1: Knowledge products on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to strengthen ASGM formalization produced and shared with the child projects and other ASGM stakeholders.

9. Activities

- ? Creation and publication of knowledge products on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to formalization
- ? High-level webinars, reading materials and tools will be created and shared with project participants and the wider ASGM community

10. Output 1.1.2: Countries are supported to apply jurisdictional and landscape approaches to strengthen formalization in ASGM.

11. Activities

- ? Project countries will be trained virtually on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to strengthen their ASGM formalization efforts
- ? In-depth webinar series and topical presentations will be provided
- ? Countries will be actively supported by JA/LA experts to develop formalization implementation plans based on jurisdictional and landscape approaches

12. Outcome 1.2 More stakeholders from governments, private sector, mining communities and the public have improved understanding of the ASGM sector and access to knowledge products related to promoting responsible ASGM.

13. This outcome will help overcome both the public perception problem and the limited access to knowledge problem described in the baseline scenario. Under this outcome, the project will continue building on the current achievements of the planetGOLD platform which will be promoted as the 'go to' resource for global ASGM information sharing and lessons learned through enabling user access, strengthening its content and cross linking with other existing knowledge platforms.

14. Output 1.2.1: The planetGOLD web platform is utilized, maintained, updated with all available information for all programme countries and other stakeholders (including news, events, blog posts, resources, curated thematic pages) fully functional and adapted to user demands and specifications

- ? The planetGOLD online platform will be maintained, iteratively improved based on feedback from stakeholders
- ? The existing content, resources and thematic sections on the platform from phase 1 will be continue to be updated and expanded upon
- ? New knowledge areas will be added to the platform to include information, for example, on topics such as JA/LA in ASGM
- ? The global project team will work with the country projects continuously to update and promote news, events, media and other content on the site to assist the country projects in amplifying messaging to their stakeholders

15. Output 1.2.2: Knowledge from the global ASGM community is collected, curated, exchanged and disseminated, and where necessary new knowledge products are created to fill gaps.

Activities

- ? The global project team will identify and curate relevant resources and content to share with country projects and to add to the knowledge repository
- ? Sources of existing ASGM knowledge will be broadened by providing links to regional and national ASM Hubs such as the African Intelligence page, SAESSCAM-ASM database, Sustainable Artisanal Mining Project's knowledge hub and the Plataforma Integral de Miner?a a Peque?a Escala.
- ? The global team will organize knowledge sharing opportunities among the ASGM community, this will include the planetGOLD Global Forums and ad hoc technical webinars with experts and practitioners

16. Output 1.2.3: Current global outreach and communication strategies targeting government, mining communities, the private sector and the public are continued and expanded.

Activities

- ? The programme-level communication strategy developed under phase 1 of the planetGOLD Global project will continue to be executed and refined and expanded in response to feedback by the Global Communications manager
- ? The global project will continue to support country-level child projects in creating locally developed communication materials that educate the public on ASGM

17. Output 1.2.4: Global media and communication strategy undertaken.

Activities

- ? The global project will develop and maintain extensive social media coverage and campaigns for a range of audiences that provide awareness of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the sector that is linked to and enhanced with content published on the planetGOLD knowledge platform
- ? The project will conduct outreach to international media outlets to cultivate interest in positive success stories on responsible mercury-free ASGM gold production
- ? The project will enlist high profile individuals and brands to support project success communications
- ? The planetGOLD Programme Advisory Group (PAG) members will also be enlisted to support with outreach to downstream actors

18. Output 1.2.5: Communication efforts by all planetGOLD child projects supported and reinforced.

Activities

- ? Communications and activities (such as success stories at the country level) will be promoted through the global project's social media and its network that extends to conventional media outlets
- ? Online events, the planetGOLD website and newsletters will be used to share country project success stories, milestones and case studies

? An online based community of practice, comprising country project communications managers, will be developed to engage and share information and lessons learned within the programme countries on how to best amplify communication efforts

Component 2: Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

19. The objective of this component is to ensure overall coordination, and tracking of results and impacts of the programme as a whole. It supports the attainment of the alternative scenario by assisting country projects to: remain aligned with the objectives of the programme, contribute their lessons learned to the planetGOLD knowledge base, coordinate with one another, assist beneficiary mining entities to conform with the planetGOLD Criteria, adopt stakeholder engagement strategy consistent with programme guidelines.

20. Outcome 2.1: planetGOLD programme child projects are aligned to the objectives of the programme and contribute to overall programme aims and outcomes.

21. Output 2.1.1: Child projects collaborate with and contribute to planetGOLD programme level knowledge management and coordination activities.

22. Under this output, country projects will assist with the attainment of the alternative scenario by continuing to participate in global project knowledge management and coordination activities.

? At the start of the project, the project will organize and facilitate virtual inception/implementation orientations for country projects to provide clarification on cross-programmatic coordination and knowledge sharing activities

? Bi-monthly programme coordination meetings involving country managers will be held

? Knowledge exchange meetings/networks for subject matter experts (communications, finance and gender) will be held

? Sharing of relevant reports, results and materials across all country child projects, to ensure that the major programme results are well documented and shared through the knowledge exchange mechanisms and the planetGOLD knowledge platform

23. Output 2.1.2: planetGOLD country projects are equipped to assist beneficiary mining entities to conform with the planetGOLD Criteria for Environmentally and Socially Responsible Operations.

Activities

? The project will further develop and disseminate the planetGOLD Criteria for Environmentally and Socially Responsible Operations

? Country projects will be given access to existing training modules and resources to implement these criteria.

? The beneficiaries of country projects will be supported to adhere to the planetGOLD criteria

24. Output 2.1.3: Programme child projects adopt stakeholder engagement strategy consistent with programme guidelines.

Activities

- ? Overall stakeholder engagement guidelines for programme participants will be elaborated and disseminated to new and existing country projects.
 - ? Stakeholders will be engaged to provide inputs in the development of knowledge products, monitoring and evaluation and feedback on communication approaches
25. Output 2.1.4: Regional coordination for the Latin American and Francophone West African regions is facilitated during project implementation.

Activities

- ? Country child projects will be supported to make contact, identify relevant regional institutions and networks and arrange for webinars and meetings to discuss relevant topics at a regional level
 - ? Regional sessions will be created during the Global forums to enhance engagement amongst countries from the same region
26. Outcome 2.2: Programme results are monitored and evaluated and the GEF Implementing Agencies and Executing Agencies and external programme advisors are informed on programme progress and achievements, as well as implementation gaps, need for re-alignment and adjustment of the original results framework.
27. Output 2.2.1: Programme results are reported.

Activities

- ? Annual Programme Meeting with country project participation will be facilitated
- ? The project will formalize the reporting and information sharing requirements for IAs and the child country projects
- ? The global project will produce quarterly summaries of key activities and progress across the programme will be produced for dissemination to the PSC and the PAG
- ? The project will update and if needed expand the current PAG
- ? Under this activity, the existing terms of reference and membership of the PAG will be reviewed, to ensure that all relevant stakeholder groups are included, and to recommend updates to membership or possible areas of expansion if needed

? The global project will serve as the Secretariat for the PAG and will be responsible for convening its meetings and drafting the meeting agendas

Output 2.2.2: Recommendations for project realignments are made to IAs and to PSC as identified through regular project coordination activities

? The project will work with implementing and executing agencies to review implementation gaps and assess the need for re-alignment and adjustment of the original results framework and inform the PSC

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: Alternatives to the Business-as-Usual Scenario

The alternatives to the business as usual scenario consist of supporting the ASGM community of practice, including the planetGOLD child project countries, with knowledge, tools and methodologies to enhance formalization, mercury reduction, access to finance and capacity building of local stakeholders to achieve sustainable change. This will support child project countries which through their NAPs have prioritized ASGM formalization, models for mercury elimination, access to finance and local technical capacity building as key tools to reduce mercury use in the sector.

Support for formalization efforts by country projects through the sharing of multisectoral and integrated models of formalization and the lessons learned will be critical components of the approach. To strengthen multisectoral approaches in formalization, countries will be supported in piloting JA/LA and explore regional collaboration on common objectives aligned to the objectives of the programme. JA provides opportunities for integrated and multistakeholder interventions and will require extensive capacity building, support of stakeholder coalition processes and landscape planning. Knowledge sharing around this approach to formalization creates an opportunity for replication and scaling up and lays the groundwork for sustainable change in the ASGM sector to achieve the global environmental benefits that the project aims for.

The approach builds on and consolidates the existing planetGOLD global component approach. In addition to providing knowledge on formalization and JA/LA approaches, sources of existing ASGM knowledge will be broadened through providing links to regional and national ASM Hubs such as the African Intelligence page, SAESSCAM-ASM database, Sustainable Artisanal Mining Project's knowledge hub and the Plataforma Integral de Minería a Pequeña Escala. Other knowledge Hubs such as those focused on JA should be considered such as Jurisdictional Approach Resources Hub, Global Landscape Forum and Landscale. Lessons learned will increasingly be shared amongst child project countries and the global ASGM community. Achievements and lessons learned will be communicated to stakeholders to garner a positive public opinion and understanding of the sector. This understanding is expected to lead to positive outcomes in ASGM policy formulation and stakeholder engagement (such as with

the financial services sector and LSMs). Resources on successful models of ASGM financial inclusion, models for mercury reduction and effective dissemination of this information will strengthen the approach.

Regional collaboration will be explored to find solutions on issues around cross-border informality, illicit mercury trade, harmonisation of fiscal regimes and policy frameworks. Through a regional approach, such as regional sub-meetings, regional priorities and initiatives shall be identified with potential to create leverage through collaboration, regional ownership and common objectives, thus institutionalizing the interventions at country and national level. The majority of the child project countries in Africa and Latin America are already members of regional initiatives. In some of the regions, countries share landscapes whose ecosystems and biodiversity are impacted by ASGM activities. Other impacts include undocumented movement of people, illicit mercury and gold flows, tax evasion and illicit financial flows.

Cost Effectiveness Analysis of Chosen Alternative

The chosen alternative will follow a cost-effective approach to achieve results at minimal cost while having a global reach and impact. The approach will capitalize on low-cost information sharing methods and platforms, leveraging on existing knowledge platforms and networks and build capacity at the local level.

Use of an online platform and knowledge sharing

The use of the planetGOLD online platform offers the following cost advantages: a) It minimizes investment in establishing a new platform and web infrastructure, b) it leverages the existing online resources, global audience, established brand, and good search engine optimization ? reducing the investment required to market the platform, c) it provides an efficient way to sustain the global community of practice, d) digital products can reach a global audience, ensuring other countries benefit from the experiences shared by the country child projects, thus achieving scalability at a much lower cost.

Supporting local capacity through sharing tools developed by country projects Collecting, consolidating and sharing local outreach tools developed by country projects leverages on existing knowledge for replication within the programme country projects.

Exploring regional level coordination and collaboration

Regional coordination and collaboration leverages shared resources to achieve shared objectives. Collaboration through regional networks and knowledge platforms allows for synergies and cost sharing in knowledge sharing. Linking country projects with regional networks, established knowledge hubs such as African Intelligence page, SAESSCAM-ASM, Plataforma Integral de Miner?a a Peque?a Escala and the Mongolian ASM Hub provides a cost-effective way for country projects to access existing knowledge while at the same time sharing their experiences with a wider global audience. Promotion of JA/LA approaches leverages stakeholder commitments and resources for ASGM formalization.

Media outreach and engagement with private sector actors

The private sector engagement, especially in the financial services and downstream actors, to support mercury transition decreases use of project funds for equipment purchases, pilots and mercury test trials. It also reduces the ASGM sector over-dependance on development and donor funding. It also encourages professionalization through private sector partnerships, contributing to the sustainable transition from use of mercury.

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

No. Please see comments prior on the baseline and alternative scenario.

March 24, 2022 - The comments have only been vaguely addressed. There is still detail lacking in how activities are to be done.

July 7, 2022 - comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF 06/08:

Additional details have been added to elaborate on how the baseline and alternative scenarios have been derived and how activities will be executed during implementation. The 'Alternative scenario' section of the Project document and portal have been updated and summarized below. There are now detailed activities in the Alternative Scenario section.

The alternative scenario builds on, consolidates and upscales the significant achievements of the planetGOLD platform and communications strategies to date. In the proposed alternative scenario:

? The dedicated ASGM knowledge platform (planetGOLD) is improved and expanded upon and continues to be made accessible to all stakeholders. This will aid the

access and adoption of knowledge by stakeholders that assists in the reduction of mercury use in ASGM.

? The planetGOLD communications strategy and stakeholder engagement plans that began in phase 1 are continuously improved and expanded. This will, 1) improve public perception of the ASGM sector, 2) promote further uptake of knowledge generated by the project country projects, 3) encourage engagement with content hosted on the planetGOLD knowledge platform, 4) increase the visibility and successes of the planetGOLD Criteria for Environmentally and Socially Responsible Operations and other similar mechanisms, and 5) encourage replication of the methods and approaches that have been successfully developed and implemented by country projects under phase 1 and 2.

29. The global project will have two primary components: 1) Knowledge Management and Communication; and 2) Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. Whilst the activities of the first component more directly address the issues associated with the business-as-usual scenario (a lack of accessible ASGM knowledge platforms and the difficulty of changing public perception of the sector), the second component is also key to achieving the aims of component 1 as the coordination and monitoring activities will assist in the attainment of programme level goals. The two components reinforce each other as: the successful execution of the programme requires the individual country projects to succeed in a manner aligned to the programme; successful country projects will in turn lead to more positive stories, case studies and empirical analyses that will be amplified by the planetGOLD communications strategy. These stories and knowledge products will encourage replication of the approaches that helped generate the positive outcome and serve as collateral for the perception change efforts of the project. The Theory of Change Diagram (Figure 2) illustrates this process.

Component 1: Knowledge Management & Communication

30. Under this component, the project will build on the significant progress of the planetGOLD knowledge platform, execute both the project's communication's strategy as described in Appendix XVI and the stakeholder engagement plan as described in Appendix XVII.

31. The following section provides a brief description of the specific activities and outputs under Component 1's expected outcomes and how they will contribute to the attainment of the alternative scenario (a comprehensive and detailed list of activities, outputs and targets can be found in the component descriptions contained in Section 3: Project Strategy).

32. Outcome 1.1 Participating project countries and the wider ASGM community increasingly access and apply knowledge to deepen mercury reduction through holistic and innovative formalization approaches.

33. This first outcome centers on the promotion of innovative formalization approaches to ASGM. In particular, it focuses on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to strengthen ASGM formalization. The focus on these approaches is a response to information gathered from stakeholders during phase 1 that innovative holistic approaches to formalization should be developed and trialed during the phase 2. These approaches are replicable and scalable.

34. These holistic approaches will assist in the development and promotion of market-based efforts to improve the reputation of ASGM gold. The outputs and activities under Outcome 1.1 are detailed below.

35. Output 1.1.1: Knowledge products on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to strengthen ASGM formalization produced and shared with the child projects and other ASGM stakeholders.

36.

37. Activities

- ? Creation and publication of knowledge products on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to formalization
- ? High-level webinars, reading materials and tools will be created and shared with project participants and the wider ASGM community

38. Output 1.1.2: Countries are supported to apply jurisdictional and landscape approaches to strengthen formalization in ASGM.

39. Activities

- ? Project countries will be trained virtually on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to strengthen their ASGM formalization efforts
- ? In-depth webinar series and topical presentations will be provided
- ? Countries will be actively supported by JA/LA experts to develop formalization implementation plans based on jurisdictional and landscape approaches

40. Outcome 1.2 More stakeholders from governments, private sector, mining communities and the public have improved understanding of the ASGM sector and access to knowledge products related to promoting responsible ASGM.

41. This outcome will help overcome both the public perception problem and the limited access to knowledge problem described in the baseline scenario. Under this outcome, the project will continue building on the current achievements of the planetGOLD platform which will be promoted as the "go to" resource for global ASGM information sharing and lessons learned through enabling user access, strengthening its content and cross linking with other existing knowledge platforms.

42. Output 1.2.1: The planetGOLD web platform is utilized, maintained, updated with all available information for all programme countries and other stakeholders (including news, events, blog posts, resources, curated thematic pages) fully functional and adapted to user demands and specifications.

Activities

Activities

- ? The planetGOLD online platform will be maintained, iteratively improved based on feedback from stakeholders
- ? The existing content, resources and thematic sections on the platform from phase 1 will be continue to be updated and expanded upon
- ? New knowledge areas will be added to the platform to include information, for example, on topics such as JA/LA in ASGM
- ? The global project team will work with the country projects continuously to update and promote news, events, media and other content on the site to assist the country projects in amplifying messaging to their stakeholders

43. Output 1.2.2: Knowledge from the global ASGM community is collected, curated, exchanged and disseminated, and where necessary new knowledge products are created to fill gaps.

Activities

- ? The global project team will identify and curate relevant resources and content to share with country projects and to add to the knowledge repository
- ? Sources of existing ASGM knowledge will be broadened by providing links to regional and national ASM Hubs such as the African Intelligence page, SAESSCAM-ASM database, Sustainable Artisanal Mining Project's knowledge hub and the Plataforma Integral de Minería a Pequeña Escala.
- ? The global team will organize knowledge sharing opportunities among the ASGM community, this will include the planetGOLD Global Forums and ad hoc technical webinars with experts and practitioners

45. Output 1.2.3: Current global outreach and communication strategies targeting government, mining communities, the private sector and the public are continued and expanded.

Activities

- ? The programme-level communication strategy developed under phase 1 of the planetGOLD Global project will continue to be executed and refined and expanded in response to feedback by the Global Communications manager
- ? The global project will continue to support country-level child projects in creating locally developed communication materials that educate the public on ASGM

46. Output 1.2.4: Global media and communication strategy undertaken.

Activities

- ? The global project will develop and maintain extensive social media coverage and campaigns for a range of audiences that provide awareness of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the sector that is linked to and enhanced with content published on the planetGOLD knowledge platform
- ? The project will conduct outreach to international media outlets to cultivate interest in positive success stories on responsible mercury-free ASGM gold production
- ? The project will enlist high profile individuals and brands to support project success communications
- ? The planetGOLD Programme Advisory Group (PAG) members will also be enlisted to support with outreach to downstream actors

47. Output 1.2.5: Communication efforts by all planetGOLD child projects supported and reinforced.

Activities

- ? Communications and activities (such as success stories at the country level) will be promoted through the global project's social media and its network that extends to conventional media outlets
- ? Online events, the planetGOLD website and newsletters will be used to share country project success stories, milestones and case studies
- ? An online based community of practice, comprising country project communications managers, will be developed to engage and share information and lessons learned within the programme countries on how to best amplify communication efforts

Component 2: Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

48. The objective of this component is to ensure overall coordination, and tracking of results and impacts of the programme as a whole. It supports the attainment of the alternative scenario by assisting country projects to: remain aligned with the objectives of the programme, contribute their lessons learned to the planetGOLD knowledge base, coordinate with one another, assist beneficiary mining entities to conform with the planetGOLD Criteria, adopt stakeholder engagement strategy consistent with programme guidelines.

49. Outcome 2.1: planetGOLD programme child projects are aligned to the objectives of the programme and contribute to overall programme aims and outcomes.

50. Output 2.1.1: Child projects collaborate with and contribute to planetGOLD programme level knowledge management and coordination activities.

51. Under this output, country projects will assist with the attainment of the alternative scenario by continuing to participate in global project knowledge management and coordination activities.

Activities

- ? At the start of the project, the project will organize and facilitate virtual inception/implementation orientations for country projects to provide clarification on cross-programmatic coordination and knowledge sharing activities
- ? Bi-monthly programme coordination meetings involving country managers will be held
- ? Knowledge exchange meetings/networks for subject matter experts (communications, finance and gender) will be held ? Sharing of relevant reports, results and materials across all country child projects, to ensure that the major programme results are well documented and shared through the knowledge exchange mechanisms and the planetGOLD knowledge platform

52. Output 2.1.2: planetGOLD country projects are equipped to assist beneficiary mining entities to conform with the planetGOLD Criteria for Environmentally and Socially Responsible Operations.

Activities

- ? The project will further develop and disseminate the planetGOLD Criteria for Environmentally and Socially Responsible Operations
- ? Country projects will be given access to existing training modules and resources to implement these criteria.
- ? The beneficiaries of country projects will be supported to adhere to the planetGOLD criteria

53. Output 2.1.3: Programme child projects adopt stakeholder engagement strategy consistent with programme guidelines.

Activities

- ? Overall stakeholder engagement guidelines for programme participants will be elaborated and disseminated to new and existing country projects.
- ? Stakeholders will be engaged to provide inputs in the development of knowledge products, monitoring and evaluation and feedback on communication approaches

54. Output 2.1.4: Regional coordination for the Latin American and Francophone West African regions is facilitated during project implementation.

Activities

- ? Country child projects will be supported to make contact, identify relevant regional institutions and networks and arrange for webinars and meetings to discuss relevant topics at a regional level
- ? Regional sessions will be created during the Global forums to enhance engagement amongst countries from the same region

55. Outcome 2.2: Programme results are monitored and evaluated and the GEF Implementing Agencies and Executing Agencies and external programme advisors are informed on programme progress and achievements, as well as implementation gaps, need for re-alignment and adjustment of the original results framework.

56. Output 2.2.1: Programme results are reported.

Activities

- ? Annual Programme Meeting with country project participation will be facilitated
- ? The project will formalize the reporting and information sharing requirements for IAs and the child country projects
- ? The global project will produce quarterly summaries of key activities and progress across the programme will be produced for dissemination to the PSC and the PAG
- ? The project will update and if needed expand the current PAG
- ? Under this activity, the existing terms of reference and membership of the PAG will be reviewed, to ensure that all relevant stakeholder groups are included, and to recommend updates to membership or possible areas of expansion if needed
- ? The global project will serve as the Secretariat for the PAG and will be responsible for convening its meetings and drafting the meeting agendas

57. Output 2.2.2: Recommendations for project realignments are made to IAs and to PSC as identified through regular project coordination activities

- ? The project will work with implementing and executing agencies to review implementation gaps and assess the need for re-alignment and adjustment of the original results framework and inform the PSC

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11:

Typically, GEF funding is disbursed and determined by incremental cost reasoning which is applied to national level projects. However, it is possible to provide a justification that the Global Component project does align with the principles and requirements of GEF's incremental cost reasoning, as the global project is supporting country child projects which are being implemented at a national level. The incremental funds provided by GEF in support of this project can be expected to transform current activities and initiatives which support the reduction of mercury release and emissions, so that they produce greater global benefits. Through the Global Component project, GEF will provide opportunities for up-scale and replication by capturing and sharing knowledge and lessons learnt, so that the piloting of models being tested in the country

child projects can have global impact (refer to Results Framework in Annex I). This can be expected in the following ways:

Impact of project on increasing mercury reduction in child countries and globally,

Impact on any foreseeable biodiversity outcomes in child project countries,

Complementarity with child project country efforts on formalization, access to finance, mercury reduction and capacity strengthening,

Complementarity to on-going regional efforts.

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please clarify how the proposed GEBs will be achieved from the project and please clarify if any mercury reductions are envisioned.

March 24, 2022 - comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: While the global coordination project will not have direct mercury reduction targets (and associated co-benefits), the project will collect and report on the mercury reduction targets from associated country targets. The global project contribution was updated under the Global Environmental Benefits (GEFTF) in the portal (see yellow highlights).

GEF investments are predicated on the delivery of global environmental benefits in biodiversity, climate change mitigation, international waters, land degradation and chemicals and waste. The global project will support child project countries in their efforts to achieve an aggregate of more than 127.758 metric tons reduction in mercury and engage more than 202,500 direct beneficiaries over a 5-year period through sharing lessons. It is expected that mercury use reduction will be replicated through sharing lessons and knowledge on the planetGOLD platform, the various planetGOLD distribution channels, events and webinars at national and global level. As such, it is anticipated that through replication, additional mercury will be reduced attributed to lessons learned. After 10 years following the project, it is anticipated that a replication by a factor of 3 will be achieved, representing an additional 383.274 metric tons reduction in mercury globally, for a total program wide reduction of 511 metric tons. These activities in the reduction of mercury use are directly aligned with GEF's long term goal of curbing the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful chemicals through a significant reduction in the use and release of mercury.

The Global project will support the planetGOLD programme's goal of reducing the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and associated land use co-benefits through:

Coordination: The Global project will facilitate coordination amongst planetGOLD countries, ensuring that each country's global environmental benefits goals are aligned with the wider programme metrics and GEF's long term goals.

Knowledge Sharing: The Global project will ensure that participating country projects are disseminating lessons learned and publishing findings via the planetGOLD platform and other relevant outlets.

It is anticipated that these two components will aid in the increased use of mercury free technologies and formalization approaches that encourage a reduction in mercury use, which will contribute to replication beyond the project period. Further replication is anticipated through collaboration with Associated baseline projects.

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please expand on these sections. The description is very generic and does not clearly articulate how in particular scale up will be achieved.

March 24, 2022 - The response only partially addresses the comments. There is a lack of specificity of how the activities will be done so as to enable scale up.

July 7, 2022 - comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF 06/08:

Additional details have been added to specify how activities will be executed during implementation to enable scale up of project outcomes and facilitate innovativeness. Updated text has been added to the ? Innovativeness? and ?Replicability and Potential for Scaling Up? sections of the project document and portal. Details have also been included below.

The project?s efforts to change the negative perception of the ASGM sector have the potential to generate catalytic change throughout the global ASGM sector and to other ASM sectors. For instance, global project led outreach to the private sector, combined with positive results from the implementation of planetGOLD Criteria and other responsible ASGM standards, has the potential to unlock additional funding at the country and global levels to invest in replication and upscaling of mercury free technologies. Project outreach and knowledge sharing will have a significant influence on these groups to encourage them to participate in scaling up project outcomes. As the ability to make ASGM more sustainable becomes widely recognized through planetGOLD communications, other ASM sectors with similar negative human and environmental impacts will be targeted for change.

The potential for scalability is embedded in the creation of a knowledge management repository that collates knowledge on critical aspects of ASGM formalization and mercury reduction which will continue to function after the country projects have ended and will inform future ASGM activities after the programme?s end. Even while the project unfolds, country and project information are gathered and can be incorporated into and shared across existing knowledge management platforms and with regional organizations, peer/neighboring countries and contribute to the ASGM community as a whole. Hosting the repository online will allow for information and knowledge to be easily curated, summarized and shared globally, as such, the potential for learning from

and replicating approaches, and by extension scaling results from the country projects, is high.

A sustainability plan for the knowledge platform will be developed and implemented so that all site content and resources continue to be available after project closure through archiving (as necessary) and transferring content to the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and their web platform.

Sharing of lessons learned on ASGM formalization models, application of JA/LA in ASGM can inform policy making and implementation strategies amongst project countries and beyond. Embedding these lessons in national ASGM strategies will significantly upscale project outcomes.

PlanetGOLD country projects will be promoted as potential destinations for learning and experience sharing to enable scaling up by other projects. Countries at the beginning of their ASGM formalization and mercury reduction efforts will be encouraged to conduct study tours to learn from the planetGOLD project. The Global Forum will further take experiences beyond the planetGOLD program. Regular online sharing through webinars, workshops and sharing of technical information on mercury reduction will be done to push out practical knowledge for scaling up formalization and mercury reduction. The project will organize exhibitions on mercury free technology and finance providers in different countries /regions to bring solutions close to ASGM actors.

The second component of the Global Child project is focused on coordination and monitoring and evaluation. By coordinating these child country projects and ensuring alignment with the goals of the programme, the implementing agencies, executing agencies and their local stakeholders will become reference points and holders of first-hand knowledge of how to execute a successful global pilot project using various formalization models and approaches. These individuals become valuable resources for their countries, regions and the wider ASGM community as more interventions are rolled out around the world.

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: Sustainability and opportunities for scaling up have been expanded. Replication and scaling up will be underpinned by engagement of different stakeholders such as governments; embedding lessons learned in policy making and ASGM strategies, private sector; upscaling project results through investments and collaboration with ASGM actors; associated baseline projects; through knowledge sharing; media sharing best practices and ASGM actors through peer learning and exchange. Implementing agencies will use institutional learning from this project to upscale lessons in similar projects they implement.

Active facilitation of knowledge exchange through webinars, profiling best practices, employing strategies that push out knowledge to different actors and Associated baseline knowledge Hubs has potential to expand the project reach, support replication and scaling up. Knowledge products and best practice cases

should be relevant to different ASGM contexts and accessible in terms of language and simplicity.

Project outreach to private sector, with positive results from implementation of planetGOLD Criteria and other responsible ASGM standards, has the potential to unlock additional funding at the country and global levels to invest in replication and upscaling of mercury free technologies. Replication of mercury free technologies must be underpinned by both an availability of investment finance and the ASGM sector's willingness to implement cleaner technologies. Project outreach and knowledge sharing should have a significant influence on these groups to encourage them to participate in scaling up project outcomes.

The second component of the Global Child project is concerned with coordination and monitoring and evaluation. By coordinating these child country projects and ensuring alignment with the goals of the programme, the implementing agencies, executing agencies and their local stakeholders will become reference points and holders of first-hand knowledge of how to execute a successful pilot project using various formalization models and approaches. These successful projects can then be replicated and scaled-up in-country and through peer to peer, regional and global learning exchanges. The coordination component and the implementing agencies will also identify synergies that can be explored in-country which provide potential to upscale project results.

Sharing of lessons learned on ASGM formalization models, application of JA/LA in ASGM can inform policy making and implementation strategies amongst project countries and beyond. Embedding these lessons in national ASGM strategies will significantly upscale project outcomes.

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

The country locations are indicated.

Agency Response

Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

This section has not been provided in the project. Please include.

March 24, 2022 - comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: This section has now been included in section 1c in the CEO endorsement/portal. The global child project will contribute to the overall programme by supporting achievement of the programme's objective to "...promote mercury reduction in ASGM through holistic multi-sectoral integrated formalization innovations...." by making best practices and lessons learnt available to the ASGM sector at a global level. The dissemination of success stories on the application of innovative ways of producing mercury-free gold from ASGM will motivate scale-up and replication in the project countries and beyond. Making lessons learned more available to ASGM practitioners will enable better design of interventions and optimal use of resources being applied to reduction of mercury releases and emission by the ASGM sector. The global project's communication plan will assist in the adoption of the knowledge generated by the programme. The communications efforts will also be instrumental in promoting the health and environmental importance and socio-economic benefits of a formalized mercury-free ASGM sector. This component will contribute to the overall programme by supporting attainment of the programme's "...aims to promote mercury reduction in ASGM through holistic multi-sectoral integrated formalization innovations...". This will be done by supporting the country child projects to attain their targets to reduce mercury emissions and releases from ASGM in their countries. Furthermore, the demonstrated success of these country child projects, which will be enabled through this component, will be a shining example for other countries considering implementing their National Action Plans.

Stakeholders

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please elaborate on the stakeholder engagement during implementation, particularly in the context of scaling the outcomes of the program as a whole.

March 24, 2022 - comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: The stakeholder engagement plan has been updated to include additional text in attachment and table highlighting stakeholder engagement during implementation included in the portal.

Stakeholder Group	Method of Engagement	Location and Frequency	Resources Required
<p>Government institutions in the 15 child project countries.</p> <p>These will include governing institutions for: environmental matters, Mining, Public health, Finance, Trade and Commerce, Labor, Law enforcement, Planning authorities on national and rural development.</p>	<p>This group of stakeholders will be invited by country project staff to provide input on the development of knowledge products and to be an audience for the final knowledge products. This group will also participate in surveys as part of the project's M&E processes.</p>	<p>Engagement with this stakeholder group will primarily be in the form of digital communications such as the planetGOLD website, the planetGOLD newsletter (monthly) and direct email as needed (e.g., when the project is soliciting input).</p>	<p>Resources required to engage this group include the planetGOLD website; the publication and development of knowledge products; the publication and development of the planetGOLD newsletter; and translation services.</p> <p>The planetGOLD website will be operated by UNEP.</p> <p>Translation of knowledge products, where necessary, will be performed by the communications teams of the country projects.</p>
<p>NGOs outside of the project.</p> <p>This group of NGOs will be an audience for planetGOLD knowledge products; potential project partners and proponents of the project and its knowledge products.</p>	<p>This group of stakeholders will primarily be engaged by the global project's staff to provide input on the development of knowledge products and to be an audience for the final knowledge products.</p>	<p>Engagement with this stakeholder group will primarily be in the form of digital communications such as the planetGOLD website, the planetGOLD newsletter (monthly) and direct email as needed (e.g., when the project is soliciting input).</p>	<p>The resources required to engage this group include the planetGOLD website; the publication and development of knowledge products; the publication and development of the planetGOLD newsletter; and translation services.</p> <p>The planetGOLD website will be operated by UNEP.</p> <p>Translation of knowledge products, where necessary, will be performed by the communications teams of the country projects.</p>

<p>Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). The NRDC will be responsible for the execution of the global project, which includes coordination and knowledge management.</p>	<p>This stakeholder will lead the coordination and communication efforts of the project. NRDC staff will engage with country projects to ensure alignment with project goals and establish areas where they are in need of assistance. The NRDC will lead the coordination and development of knowledge products under the programme. This will involve soliciting researchers and writers of the knowledge products, either from the country project staff or externally where appropriate.</p>	<p>NRDC staff will engage with the country projects for coordination meetings bi-monthly and quarterly knowledge exchange meetings, via online meetings.</p> <p>NRDC staff will solicit researchers and writers for the project's knowledge products via the planetGOLD website, the planetGOLD newsletter, social media and other appropriate digital channels.</p> <p>The NRDC will be responsible for planetGOLD presence and attendance at relevant external events such as the OECD Forums and the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.</p>	<p>The resources required for this group's engagement include: staff members to host the coordination meetings (this staff will need to consist of enough multilingual individuals to cover the language requirements (English, French and Spanish) of the project); translator(s) to assist with the coordination meetings (if the appropriate full-time staff cannot be found).</p> <p>Monetary resources will also be required for the development of the knowledge products.</p> <p>Resources will be required for planetGOLD staff's attendance at external events.</p>
--	--	--	--

<p>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP will be responsible for the maintenance, coordination and facilitating content generation for the planetGOLD website.</p>	<p>This stakeholder, as the lead on the project's knowledge management efforts, will maintain and update the planetGOLD website. UNEP will work with the NRDC and the developers/ writers of knowledge products to provide input on the creation of knowledge products. As the operators of the planetGOLD website, UNEP staff will also be involved in the Accountability and Grievance Mechanism as the grievance form will be hosted on the planetGOLD website.</p>	<p>UNEP staff will attend monthly online meetings with the NRDC staff to provide updates on the status of the project's knowledge platform and the technical efficacy of the grievance mechanism.</p>	<p>Resources required for this stakeholder's efforts include staff to operate the website and coordinate and facilitate knowledge management and curation, monetary resources for web development, hosting and maintenance.</p>
<p>Conservation International (CI). CI will lead the training of EAs on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to formalization.</p>	<p>CI will manage the contractors that will engage the country project EAs on the use of jurisdictional and landscape approaches to formalization.</p>	<p>Training on jurisdictional and landscape approaches to formalization will be spread over 8-10 workshops using a tiered approach of engagement.</p>	<p>The resources required for this activity include CI staff and external consultants to coordinate and host workshops. Knowledge products will also be produced on key JA concepts. Translation services will be provided as needed.</p>
<p>United Nations Industrial Development Organization. UNIDO will organize the programme's workshops, annual meetings and global fora events.</p>	<p>UNIDO will manage all aspects related to the global fora, workshops and annual programme meetings planned for the programme.</p>	<p>The global forum's will be hosted bi-annually; the workshops include an annual Communications Managers meeting and an Orientation meeting; and annual programme meetings will be hosted every year beginning in year 2.</p>	<p>The resources required for these activities include staff, travel budgets for attendees, meals and catering, workshop materials and supplies, interpretation services and venue rental.</p>

<p>Country project EAs.</p> <p>The EAs will interact with all stakeholders in order to achieve the goals of their individual projects and ultimately the goals of this project and the programme.</p>	<p>For the purposes of coordination, monitoring and evaluation - country projects will regularly meet with the IA and the global EA.</p> <p>Country projects will also hold themed community of practice knowledge sharing meetings with other country projects (for instance a community of practice meeting for safeguards and gender specialists) and will explore regional level collaboration opportunities.</p> <p>Country projects will engage with CI for training on the application of jurisdictional and landscape approaches to formalization.</p> <p>Country projects will also share information/articles with UNEP for the planetGOLD website.</p> <p>Country projects will receive training on gender-sensitive communication strategies.</p>	<p>Country projects will hold quarterly coordination meetings online with the NRDC.</p> <p>The safeguards and gender specialists community of practice will meet quarterly online.</p> <p>Country projects will participate in a series of JA workshops.</p> <p>Country projects will share information/articles with UNEP for the planetGOLD website at a cadence that will be agreed to between the EAs, the NRDC and UNEP at the start of the project.</p>	<p>No additional costs are expected as a result of these activities above what is assigned to the NRDC staff.</p>
---	---	---	---

<p>Project country citizens. The citizens of the project countries have an interest in the project and ancillary activities related to the formalization efforts that the project will promote.</p>	<p>This stakeholder group will be engaged primarily through communication's channels and materials determined by each country project's communications team. These engagements may take the form of consultations, workshops, digital information campaigns etc. The global project will support these communications where possible by helping to amplify their messaging via the planetGOLD website and social media channels.</p>	<p>Engagement with this stakeholder group will occur throughout the project life-cycle using methods determined by each country project's communications team.</p>	<p>The materials and methods required to communicate with this stakeholder group will be determined by each country project's communications team. They will likely include traditional and social media, surveys, workshops and the associated staffing costs (the costs for these activities will be paid from each country project's budget).</p>
<p>Mining communities in the 15 child project countries. The mining communities in the child project countries will primarily be beneficiaries of the communications generated by the country projects and the Global child project.</p>	<p>This stakeholder group will be engaged primarily through communication's channels and materials determined by each country project's communications team. These engagements may take the form of consultations, workshops, digital information campaigns etc. The global project will support these communications where possible by helping to amplify their messaging via the planetGOLD website and social media channels. The global project will also assist country projects by providing guidance on gender-sensitive communication strategies.</p>	<p>Engagement with this stakeholder group will occur throughout the project life-cycle using methods determined by each country project's communications team.</p>	<p>The materials and methods required to communicate with this stakeholder group will be determined by each country project's communications team. They will likely include traditional and social media, surveys, workshops and the associated staffing costs (the costs for these activities will be paid from each country project's budget). Training on gender-sensitive communication strategies to guide the efforts of country projects when engaging with this group will be hosted by the global project.</p>

<p>Global media organisations. This includes organisations such as CNN, BBC, Aljazeera, El Pais, Time, the Economist, NYT, etc.</p>	<p>This stakeholder group will be engaged by the global project primarily through opportunities to learn more about the project's work and story pitches.</p>	<p>This stakeholder group will be engaged by project staff throughout the life of the project via the planetGOLD website, planetGOLD social media channels and newsletter and press releases. Journalists will be invited and encouraged to connect directly with planetGOLD experts working in ASGM and the mining communities that are part of the project. Representatives of these media organisations will be invited to the bi-annual Global Forum.</p>	<p>No additional materials are required to engage this stakeholder group.</p>
<p>ASGM gold value chain participants. This group includes organisations that use gold in their products, e.g., jewellers and electronics manufacturers</p>	<p>This stakeholder group will be engaged via workshops, events and through the planetGOLD digital channels (social media, the planetGOLD website and newsletter). They will receive communications on the benefits of sourcing mercury-free gold.</p>	<p>This group will be engaged throughout the life of the project via the planetGOLD digital channels. Members of the Project Advisory Group will also reach out to them as peers. Representatives of these organisations will be invited to the bi-annual Global Forum. Representatives of these organisations are members of the PAG which will meet quarterly and extend outreach to their peers.</p>	<p>No additional materials are required to engage this stakeholder group.</p>

<p>Large-scale mining companies. This stakeholder group includes global large-scale mining companies and smaller (local) large-scale mining companies</p>	<p>At the global project level, this stakeholder group will be engaged via workshops, events and through the planetGOLD digital channels. Country project staff will determine further opportunities to engage with this group based on their country's context.</p>	<p>This group will be engaged throughout the life of the project via the planetGOLD digital channels. Representatives of these organisations will be invited to the bi-annual Global Forum. Representatives of these organisations will also be invited to join the PAG which will meet quarterly.</p>	<p>No additional materials are required to engage this stakeholder group.</p>
<p>Financial institutions This group includes mining sector investors, banks and social impact investors</p>	<p>At the global project level, this stakeholder group will be engaged via workshops, events and through the planetGOLD digital channels. Country project staff will determine further opportunities to engage with this group based on their country's context.</p>	<p>This group will be engaged throughout the life of the project via the planetGOLD digital channels. Representatives of these organisations will be invited to the bi-annual Global Forum. Representatives of these organisations will also be invited to join the PAG (Project Advisory Group) which will meet quarterly.</p>	<p>No additional materials are required to engage this stakeholder group.</p>

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please provide more information on which sectors will be targeted and the plan for engaging them.

March 24, 2022 - comment cleared.

Agency Response

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: The CEO endorsement text has been updated to provide additional information on how the private sector will be targeted and engaged. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan also includes text for engaging the private sector.

<p>Social impact investors</p>	<p>This group is currently largely ?neutral? and potentially ?challengers? as they see risks in investing in the ASGM sector. The aim would be to raise their awareness about the benefits and opportunity of supporting the ASGM sector.</p>	<p>Knowledge products aimed at the finance sector, finance sector communications kit, LinkedIn, website, financial media (e.g., Bloomberg and FT), social impact investment events and conferences, video and web profiles on miners ready for investment, op-ed by peers, and presentations at relevant external events.</p>
<p>Mining sector investors and banks</p>	<p>This group is currently largely ?neutral? and ?challengers? as they see risks in investing in the ASGM sector. The aim would be to raise their awareness about the benefits and opportunity of supporting the ASGM sector.</p>	<p>LinkedIn, mining and industry publications, in-person industry events & conferences, investor knowledge products, finance sector communications kit, op-ed by peers, and presentations at relevant external events.</p>

Global brands that buy gold	This group is currently largely ?neutral? and potentially ?challengers? as they see risks in purchasing from the ASGM sector. The aim would be to raise their awareness about the benefits and opportunity of supporting the ASGM sector.	Jewellery fairs and industry events, email newsletter, trade magazines, direct engagement with global sustainability directors from key brands, LinkedIn, op-eds by peers, and presentations at relevant external events.
------------------------------------	---	---

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please elaborate on the risks of Covid beyond the few details provided.

March 24, 2022 - The response is insufficient. The coordination project has a major role in the conduct of the planetGOLD global forum among other coordination, communications and knowledge management activities. Please include how mitigation etc of potential disruptions will be done and planned for.

July 7, 2022 - Comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF 06/08:

Additional text regarding the impacts of COVID have been added throughout the ProDoc and in the Risk section of the Portal. CI-GEF worked with UNIDO to add details around how the risks from COVID 19 will be mitigated during implementation.

1. The evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic will be carefully monitored by UNIDO and the NRDC using government published data during the project life cycle, particularly in relation to the organization of Global Forums as these events form the only in-person events planned by the global project. The pandemic as well as the related security and safety measures including travel restrictions has had a wide range of consequences for people across regions.
2. During Phase 1, the first Global Forum was initially postponed and then organized virtually due to the high number of cases worldwide and overall uncertainty on the evolution of the pandemic at that time. Attendance and engagement of participants during the first Global Forum will be analyzed and will inform the planning of the following global events organized under the

programme. In other words, the global project will have to continuously adapt to the evolving pandemic situation.

3. It should be noted that digitalization cannot replace in-person interaction. Miners, particularly women from rural areas, lack information and communication technology (ICT) skills which hampers their participation in virtual events and reduces the expected impact of global events. Hence, the programme activities should take into consideration the digital capacities of all target audiences.

4. Should it be necessary, new delivery modalities (i.e., hybrid meetings) will be explored and implemented by the global project team to include people that would not be able to physically travel to the place of the event while ensuring relevant in-person interaction including measures to ensure the health and safety of all participants.

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: While the global coordination project is not directly impacted by COVID limitations, the global project considers the limitations COVID presents for associated country projects. The global project is designed to work closely with the associated country project teams to monitor and anticipate potential risks, challenges and limitations that may impact program level activities. The global coordination project will continue to analyze all risks in partnership with the program steering committee.

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes, however please elaborate on any budgeted staff costs for the executing entity.

March 24, 2022 - please clarify the costs associated with the Conservation Strategy Fund, Eco Agriculture and Rainforest Alliance. What is the engagement envisioned and what was the process used to identify these three entities.

July 7, 2022 - comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF 06/08:

Additional information regarding the JA/LA contributors has been added to the section? Piloting Jurisdictional and Landscape Approaches? in the Innovativeness, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling up section of the portal.

Conservation Strategy Fund, Eco Agriculture and Rainforest Alliance are all sub-contractors for the Jurisdictional and Landscape Approaches component. The associated costs cover executing activities required to train country level project teams on JA/LA, design and launch JA/LA ASGM specific tools and implement country specific JA/LA initiatives. The JA/LA sub-contractors are all a part of the 1000 landscapes initiative (<https://landscapes.global/>) which is convened by EcoAgriculture Partners, and co-led with Rainforest Alliance, Commonland, Conservation International, the United Nations Development Programme, Landscape Finance Lab, and information technology leader Tech Matters. Another 20+ partners are sharing technical and financial expertise, and 12+ Landscape Partnerships are co-designing the initiative. Together, these organizations already engage with over 250 Landscape Partnerships worldwide and are positioned to provide a strategic bridge with international and national programs championing Landscape Partnerships

CI-GEF response 02/18 and 3/11: The budget has been updated to reflect all associated executing expenses.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please highlight each country's priorities in this section rather than extracting a sample of examples.

March 24, 2022 - Comment cleared.

Agency Response

CI-GEF response 02/18: The CEO endorsement package has been updated to reflect national priorities for all 15 countries.

National Priorities

Project Consistency

MIA

? Republic of Congo completed a MIA in December 2018 and the draft NAP was developed in 2019, it has yet to be finalised and enforced.

- ? Knowledge products developed and lessons learned at the local and national level will be shared with the global project.
- ? The potential for sharing lessons learnt in the areas of how national interventions that impact biodiversity can be beneficial to the other participating countries in the programme that are considering implementing JA/LA. The same knowledge and lessons can also benefit the global community.
- ? The Republic of Congo presents an opportunity to illustrate that even countries that lack advanced ASGM support interventions can benefit from the opportunities provided to them by the programme to accelerate ASGM formalization to reduce mercury releases and emissions.
- ? The promotion of beneficial ASM-LSM relationships as part of piloting the JA/LA is aligned with both the Global child project and its parent project (10836). This provides a demonstrable case for the coexistence of ASM-LSM, which has been debated by the global community for some time. The sharing of these lessons by the Global Child project would benefit other countries that have both ASM and LSM and are looking for models that support formalization through co-existence, which may lead to reduction in mercury emissions and releases from ASGM. Countries such as Ecuador, Nicaragua, Suriname and Guinea provide opportunities for lessons in ASM-LSM models for formalization and mercury reduction.

ASGM NAPs

- ? Ghana conducted a MIA in 2018 and developed a NAP which was supposed to have been finalised in May 2020.

- ? Ghana provides an example of a country that has a mature ASGM sector which already makes a significant contribution to the country's gold production (65 tons in 2018, which is 43% of national production). Unlike the Congo, it has undertaken many initiatives to address the challenges in ASGM including mercury use. Ghana has a decentralised administration of the ASGM sector including gold buying centres, District Committees and several campaigns to curb illegal mining, and yet, they have had limited success. Ghana offers an opportunity to test a commodity-specific JA, the results from this pilot may demonstrate that an integrated and holistic approach is necessary for ASGM formalization and the reduction in mercury release and emissions.
- ? The knowledge generated under the Ghanaian JA project will provide lessons on piloting JA/LA driven formalization to produce systemic change which previous interventions have not yielded, even though their regulatory framework supports ASM through designated ASM zones and district mining offices. This is consistent with the knowledge and learning component of the Global Child project as there are many countries in a similar situation that could benefit from the lessons learned under this pilot.
- ? The Global Child project's proposal to generate knowledge for capacity building for the different actors in the sector would provide knowledge products that the Global Child project could share with the other child projects and the global community, which will enhance its goal to provide lessons that can improve prospects for successful mercury reduction from formalization in other jurisdictions.

<p>ASGM policies and strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Bolivia?s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? SENARECOM was created in 2007 by the government to formalise the ASGM sector. It is a decentralised public entity established to register and control trading of minerals in domestic and foreign markets. ? Grupo Interinstitucional de Trabajo en Oro Responsable (GIT ? Oro Responsable) was formed in 2018, as a multistakeholder forum established to support sustainable development to the ASGM sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? SENARECOM provides an important case for the use of decentralised ASGM management and regulation strategies by national governments. This initiative is the primary tool of the Bolivian government?s formalization agenda, which is consistent with the programme?s objectives. ? Bolivia?s public entity provides the opportunity to draw lessons from the implementation of this initiative, which can be shared with other country Child Projects who may be considering this route to ASM formalization. ? GIT - Oro Responsable, can also provide lessons on the multistakeholder approach and the implementation of JA in Bolivia, which could act as a source of learning that the Global Child project could share with other country child projects and for the global community, in support of other JA pilots.
<p>ASGM strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Honduras?s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? CRAFT Code implementation for responsible mineral supply chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Honduras has significant conservation and world heritage value but remains one of Central America?s poorest countries. The Honduran mining sector is small and accounts for 1% of national GDP, however there is growing interest in expanding investments and linking to downstream partners especially in scaling small and medium scale mining. ? ASGM has been legalized since 2013, however due to its wide geographic distribution, diverse mining practices and lack of information, it has been difficult to regulate. ? Honduras is finalizing its NAP and improving ASGM governance through using the CRAFT code, which is piloting commodity focused JAs in Tier 1 ASGM hotspots, the knowledge generated from piloting this approach in hotspots which are in different areas using diverse mining practices in a single country could support other Child Country projects which also have diverse ASGM environments such as Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

<p>ASM Policy and Regulatory Framework</p> <p>? Uganda</p> <p>Minerals Policy 2018 and Minerals Bill 2020 under review.</p>	<p>? Uganda introduced a minerals policy with greater reflection of ASGM sector and approaches to formalize its operations, and supply chains and control mercury use.</p> <p>? The 2020 Minerals Bill has provisions for ASGM formalization and professionalization. The Bill once approved into law will be a key instrument in formalizing the sector.</p> <p>? Uganda is in the process of national ASGM biometric registration supported by the Directorate of Geology, Survey and Mines.</p> <p>? The new environmental regulations (2021) have provisions for eliminating mercury use in the ASGM.</p> <p>? The implementation of JA/LA approaches provides an opportunity for Uganda to address challenges with chemical pollution and sustainable use of its great Lakes including Lake Victoria.</p>
<p>ASGM NAPs and ASM strategies</p> <p>Cote d'Ivoire</p> <p>? Elaborating NAP</p>	<p>? Cote d'Ivoire's Mining Code of 2014 explicitly prohibits the use of 'chemicals' in ASGM however the use of mercury in gold amalgamation remains widespread among many of the more than 500,000 people involved in ASGM.</p> <p>? The country is currently elaborating its NAP.</p> <p>? The country has implemented a number of donor funded projects to formalize the ASGM sector, trial mercury free technologies and link ASGM production with international markets.</p> <p>? In 2013, the Ministry of Mines and Industries ran a programme to address ASGM 'Programme National de Rationalisation de l'Orpillage' (PNRO) which ran from 2013-2016 and endeavored to formalize artisanal and small-scale miners.</p> <p>? The implementation of JA/LA is expected to promote engagement amongst actors who are often in conflict related to access to natural resources. These include miners, national parks, cocoa farmers and livestock keepers.</p>

<p>Public Policy and Regulatory Frameworks</p> <p>? Ecuador</p>	<p>? The Public Mining Policy of Ecuador 2019-2030 consists of 6 axes: i) economic development, ii) environmental and social sustainability, iii) research and development, iv) management and administration, v) regulation, control and fight against illegal mining and, vi) regulations. This is fully aligned with project knowledge sharing priorities.</p> <p>? A comprehensive regulatory framework to address the adverse impacts of ASGM is in place and could benefit from the project's lessons learned on formalization approaches. The ASGM regulations include Regulations of the Special Regime for Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining, the Environmental Regulation of Mining Activities, and the Mining Law (reformed in 2020).</p> <p>? Ensuring environmental compliance of ASGM remains a challenge, despite the country banning use of mercury in the ASGM sector since 2013 as no alternative was given to miners.</p> <p>? Implementation of a landscape approach and raising awareness on ecosystem services amongst stakeholders is likely to have a positive impact on the watershed basin of the Amazon River.</p>
<p>Holistic and Integrated Approaches</p> <p>? Guinea</p>	<p>? Guinea is being supported by AngloGold Ashanti in developing and implementing an ASM formalization strategy. In addition to the broader sector intervention, the intention is to also support the setting up of an ASGM operation which demonstrates efficient mining and processing and good environmental and health practices.</p> <p>? The country will benefit from lessons on holistic approaches to formalization and partnership with LSM in enhancing formalization and mercury reduction. Lessons from this approach will be beneficial to project countries and the wider ASGM community.</p>

<p>NAPs</p> <p>? Mali</p>	<p>? The gold sector in Mali has experienced considerable growth over the years. However, the legislation lacks specific regulation on artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) activities and related chemical use and management.</p> <p>? The project lessons will support the country in addressing gaps identified in the NAP.</p> <p>? Piloting of sustainable landscape and jurisdictional approaches as a framework for structuring formalization interventions in a holistic, multi-sectorial and integrated way will be relevant in Mali since large-scale mining (LSM), ASGM and agriculture often overlap leading to increasing land disputes among communities that are exacerbated by the climatic changes experienced in recent years.</p>
<p>ASGM legal frameworks</p> <p>? Nicaragua</p>	<p>? The General Law of Mines, Law No. 38755, establishes the legal framework for the rational use of mineral resources, including the ASGM sector.</p> <p>? Law No. 953 established the ENIMINAS to support ASGM through exploration and rational exploitation contributing to eradicating mercury in artisanal processing and promote good environmental practices as well as occupational health, safety and security.</p> <p>? Law 21757 regulates environmental aspects of mining.</p> <p>? The country has a strong regulatory base to build upon on formalization, mercury elimination, ecosystem services and conservation.</p>

<p>National Development Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Sierra Leone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Sierra Leone's Medium-term National Development Plan 2019-2023 references ASGM impacts and articulates a national vision for the desired future of the sector, which in turn has been captured through the country's goals stated in its NAP. ? Little attention has been paid to the ASGM sector, as national and international development efforts have largely focused on diamonds. The ASGM sector has been growing rapidly and provides many rural people with means of livelihood. ? Sharing experiences on formalization and JA/LA approaches will support efforts to reduce negative impacts from the sector and allow ASGM to contribute to its national development plan.
<p>ASM strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Zambia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Zambia's completed an MIA in 2017 and its ASGM NAP (National Action Plan), is currently being finalized. ? Gold Mining Strategy - Zambia declared gold as strategic mineral and has assigned the State-owned Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines-Investment Holdings (ZCCM-IH) to oversee investments and developments in the gold sector including the buying of the gold from the ASGM sector. ? Formalization of the illegal gold sector ? This is seen as an opportunity for economic development and to create jobs for the youth of Zambia. ? Zambia Mining Environmental Remediation and Improvement Project (ZMERIP) - This World Bank funded project aims to strengthen the capacity of national and state level institutions to better enforce pollution prevention measures and address the environmental health impacts associated with unsustainable mining practices. ? The project provides lessons that can enhance the national level effort and strategies.

<p>Regulatory Frameworks and NAP</p> <p>? Madagascar</p>	<p>? Madagascar completed its NAP in 2019, demonstrating the commitment to reduce and where feasible eliminate mercury use in ASGM</p> <p>? Decree 2015-663, guided the administrative supervision of the ASGM sector under the responsibility of the national Agence de l'Or (ANOR). This governmental agency is in charge of (i) technical assistance and capacity building to gold miners in terms of production, environmental management, and occupational health and safety, as well as (ii) licensing.</p> <p>? The agency lacks resources to cover all ASGM sites and miners do not see the benefit from ANOR support.</p> <p>? The project can provide ANOR with tools for supporting miners through access to the knowledge platform and communication tools to deliver effective messaging to these stakeholders.</p>
<p>Institutional support</p> <p>? Nigeria</p>	<p>? The Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act of 2007 recognizes ASM in Nigeria. Under the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development (MMSD), the ASM Department is the official institution dedicated to artisanal gold mining.</p> <p>? There is considerable commitment and investments from both government and the private sector in ASGM. In 2017, the Government of Nigeria through the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development obtained a loan of USD 150 million from the World Bank to develop the ?Mineral Sector Support for Economic Diversification Project (MINDIVER)?. In order to improve the sector and its contribution to the GDP and the government made gold one of the seven priority minerals in the country.</p> <p>? The MMSD issued the first ever license for a national gold refinery in Nigeria in 2017 and a second one in 2018.</p> <p>? The presence of institutions dedicated to ASGM provides a platform for knowledge transfer within the country.</p>

<p>MIA and NAPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Suriname ? Suriname developing MIA and NAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Despite the sector's importance, Suriname lacks adequate legal, environmental and social frameworks and the majority of ASGM is informal or illegal. ? ASGM operations are driving land degradation, deforestation, and pollution of inland waters with mercury releases and poor tailings management, endangering human and ecosystem health. Suriname will benefit from the knowledge products on these issues.
---	--

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

This section is weakly described, particularly since the purpose of the child project is primarily knowledge management. Please clearly elaborate on the KM approach, budget etc for this work.

March 24, 2022 - comment cleared

Agency Response

CI-GEF response 02/18: Conservation International is co-implementing the global project in partnership with UNEP, who is leading the KM component. The CEO endorsement package has been updated to reflect additional details on knowledge management. Details can be found on pages 55-65, as well as Table 6

The purpose of the knowledge management functions of this project are to collect, analyse, curate, and disseminate knowledge generated in the planetGOLD programme both among country projects and within the broader ASGM community. In this way the global project will ensure that country projects and other ASGM initiatives are not operating in isolation, learn from each other, and can act on those lessons. This allows for a programme that produces impact greater than the sum of the individual child projects as the knowledge base will continue to have great utility to the global ASGM community and the mission to reduce mercury usage in the sector, well after the project ends.

Knowledge management stakeholders

The key knowledge management stakeholders can be divided by those internal and external to the programme. Internal knowledge management stakeholders are first and foremost the country project teams, including those in both the first and second phase of planetGOLD. Country project teams feed knowledge into the system and receive knowledge, insights and lessons learned both from other

country projects and from the global project. The PAG is also considered an internal stakeholder and the knowledge gathered by the project will assist the group to better provide guidance in an evidence-based manner.

External knowledge management stakeholders include the broader community of ASGM practitioners, policymakers, mining associations, researchers and development professionals. The Global Mercury Partnership, parties to the Minamata Convention, intergovernmental organizations (such as members of the IOMC), civil society organizations, gold consumers along the supply chain, providers of financial services, and others will benefit from as well as contribute to the project's knowledge management resources.

Knowledge management objectives

The key knowledge management objectives of the project are: 1) facilitating exchange of information, including data, methodologies and lessons learnt among county project teams and helping to capture this experience so that it can become the evidence base for designing future effective interventions in the ASGM sector; 2) maintaining a knowledge repository for sharing data, information and knowledge products with the broader ASGM community and the public, as well as for collecting and curating global experience; 3) creating opportunities for the county project teams and other global ASGM practitioners to meet to exchange ideas and best practices in the form of the Global Forums and webinars; and 4) generating and curating knowledge products in the four planetGOLD knowledge areas that respond to gaps identified by programme participants and the ASGM community.

Knowledge Management Approach

To achieve the objective of capturing knowledge and evidence from the country project level, the project will work with country projects to ensure that the countries are documenting important project outcomes and activities and to ensure that the resulting knowledge products are transmitted to the global level. The project will also develop and provide recommendations for country projects to use when developing knowledge products within the programme. It is expected that the knowledge products will take varying formats. Technical publications will include policy overviews, research reports, technical case studies, evaluations, resource toolkits, manuals, guidelines and guidance notes and datasets. Non-technical knowledge products will include strategy documents, insights papers, best practices at national, regional or global levels, non-technical case studies, infographics and perspectives papers on ASGM themes and topics.

Sharing the lessons and experiences from the country projects will be key to ensuring that the global ASGM community learns from the innovative approaches implemented by the country projects. The planetGOLD website hosts a knowledge repository where documentation of the country lessons and experiences can be disseminated by the project and accessed by country projects and the global ASGM community. The team will also continue to build on the existing library of materials curated from the global ASGM community on critical topics including formalization, technical solutions, awareness raising and access to finance, through ongoing scans of literature as well as active monitoring of key external partners and initiatives generating relevant knowledge of interest to the programme. The planetGOLD website will continue to play this knowledge capture and dissemination role under this project and will host all knowledge products generated by the global project as well as key knowledge products from country projects, as well as relevant knowledge products from the wider ASGM community.

The global nature of the programme also provides an opportunity for the country projects to learn from each other during the programme. This will be done through communities of practice, where representatives from each project country will meet regularly on specific themes. For example, the safeguards/gender specialists from each of the child projects will meet virtually to share lessons, identify shared challenges, etc. Communications and finance specialists are other communities of practice that will be explored during the project.

The global team will organize knowledge sharing opportunities among the ASGM community. The flagship activity will be the planetGOLD Global Forums for exchanging information and lessons learned among child projects and other ASGM stakeholders. For the purposes of planning, the project has budgeted for two Global Forums during the life of the project, assuming that phase 1 of the planetGOLD programme will fund the Global Forums that happen earlier in the life of the project. The Global Forum will be complemented by at least one topical webinar, either organized independently or with programme partners, on a key topic of interest. During years when the Global Forum is not held, the team will hold a minimum of two such topical webinars.

The programme will help create a pipeline of planetGOLD knowledge products. Priority topics for knowledge products will include innovations in formalization such as jurisdictional/landscape approaches to formalization, access to finance, raising awareness and technology transfer. Other ASGM related themes for consideration include biodiversity, land-use planning, occupational health and safety, mercury-free gold production and due diligence in gold supply chains. Lessons learned and documentation of country efforts will also be published. These knowledge products will be amplified through the planetGOLD communications channels.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

This section is generically written. Please provide description by country and specifics about what benefits will be delivered and how.

March 24, 2022 - comment cleared.

Agency Response

CI-GEF response 02/18: A table with highlights on socioeconomic benefits by country has been included in CEO ER/portal.

Socio-economic benefits ? Highlights by Project Country
<p><u>Bolivia</u></p> <p>The baseline data indicates that the extraction of gold using mercury is highly inefficient, particularly the high mercury to gold ratios imply that money is being lost in mercury overuse. Application of innovative approaches to gold extraction, supported and promoted through the Global Child Project, will lead to more efficient extraction processes, leading to better profits and higher incomes. Less money spent on mercury by miners will also mean that more of the economic value of ASGM accrues to local communities.</p>
<p><u>Congo</u></p> <p>Through knowledge promoted by this Global Child Project it can be expected that there will be improved practices and a move towards cleaner gold production. The reduction of mercury emissions and releases will result in reduced contamination of Congo forests and less mercury entering the food chain. This can be expected to lead to reduced negative impacts of mercury on the artisanal mining communities in the Congo, in particular, better health outcomes. The reduction of releases into the environment will also better protect the forest-based livelihoods in the Congo. In addition, more efficient gold extraction that will be promoted by the Global Child Project will lead to increased incomes for ASGM communities in the Congo.</p>
<p><u>Ghana</u></p> <p>It can be expected that the Ghanaian ASGM communities will benefit from the project through the improved incomes that will be made possible from applying the more efficient mercury gold processing technologies that will be promoted by the project. Since the Volta River Basin is transnational, communities in other countries that are downstream of the ASGM activities can be expected to benefit from improved health outcomes that will result from the application of these innovative mercury-free technologies.</p>
<p><u>Honduras</u></p> <p>The formalization that will be promoted and supported by the Global Child Project as a core driver of reduction in mercury emissions and releases by the ASGM community in Honduras can be expected to lead to better protection of biodiversity. This can be expected to lead to positive socioeconomic impacts on the people of Honduras, particularly the communities who live near these hotspots. As a nation, Honduras can be expected to benefit from improved resilience to climate change impacts by improving the protection of mangroves from environmentally destructive ASGM activities as mangroves help to reduce the impacts of high-water inundations. The protection of these mangroves may also have livelihood impacts as they are known to be breeding areas for some of the marine life that is a food source for nearby communities.</p>

Madagascar

It can be expected that the Global Child project will benefit Madagascar through the improved environmental management that will result from the formalization that will be promoted alongside mercury-free innovations. The reduction in wetland destruction that will result from better knowledge disseminated by this Global Child Project will mean a better environment for the communities near these wetlands. Livelihood opportunities associated with these protected areas including tourism will be one of the socioeconomic benefits for the communities.

Nigeria

Some of the states where ASGM takes place in Nigeria are water scarce. As such, the proved operating practices that will result from the innovative mercury-free processes disseminated by this Global Child Project, may lead to improved conservation of water through practices like water recycling. Another benefit of the improved mining practices promoted by the Global Child Project will be a reduction in the fatalities of artisanal miners, which is a significant problem in Nigeria.

Suriname

The large number of people employed in the ASGM sector in Suriname can be expected to benefit economically from the efficient operations resulting from the better processing practices promoted by this Global Child Project. This can also be expected to lead to better quality jobs for these workers and a reduction in one of the worst forms of child labour (child labour in mining). Keeping children out of mining sites will result in better life outcomes for them with respect to health and education. The dissemination of good gender equality practices will also lead to better outcomes for the many women known to work in the ASGM sector in Suriname.

Uganda

This Global Child Project can be expected to support a reduction in mercury emissions releases from the ASGM sector in Uganda which is known to be the largest contributor of mercury contamination. This project will disseminate knowledge on mercury-free gold extraction methods, leading to mercury pollution reductions, not only in the specific sites covered by this country child project, but also through replication in other areas not directly targeted under this programme. The reduction in releases resulting from the work of this Global Child Project will mean that freshwater systems and large water bodies like the Lake Victoria will have less contamination, and hence reduction in mercury entering the food chain through fish.

Cote d'Ivoire

The rapid expansion of the ASGM sector in Cote d'Ivoire has been accompanied by an increase in the use of mercury for gold extraction. This Global Child Project will therefore benefit Cote d'Ivoire by disseminating knowledge that supports cleaner production in this expanding sector. It may be expected that the use of mercury in ASGM may not be as entrenched as the countries where it has been prevalent for longer, hence the knowledge on good practices disseminated through this project may have an easier path to adoption.

Ecuador

This Global Child Project can be expected to result in socioeconomic benefits for Ecuador, through better environmental management promoted through dissemination of appropriate knowledge. Downstream livelihoods can be expected to improve as a result. The reduction in transboundary pollution may also lead to a reduction in disputes over the issue with neighbouring Peru, as well benefiting the environment and health of the populace in that country.

Guinea

The ASGM sector in Guinea employs more than 240,000 miners. The improved practices that will result from the knowledge disseminated by this project will lead to improvement in the lives of these miners. The formalization which will be promoted together with improved gold extraction processes will result in better jobs for these miners, dissemination of this knowledge may lead to replication in Guinea and also in neighbouring countries of the Mano River Union (Liberia and Sierra Leone). This may also lead to reduction in the cross border illicit trade of gold which can also lead to improved economic benefits for the countries.

Another aspect that may benefit from the formalization that will be supported by the dissemination of knowledge is the relations between large-scale miners and the ASGM sector. The improved practices may be fertile ground for better relations between the two subsectors, and even collaboration.

Mali

This Global Child Project can be expected to benefit Mali through promoting improved practices that will result in better socioeconomic impacts for all artisanal miners including the large number of women involved. The dissemination of knowledge on the mercury-free gold extraction innovative approaches guided by a gender mainstreaming plan can be expected to lead to improved equality on how both women and men benefit. This gender equality approach will also be reflected in the coordination and monitoring efforts of this Global Child Project leading to better socioeconomic development outcomes for women. These will include women not being disproportionately exposed to mercury, and as consequence of this, a reduction in the number of children exposed to mercury and other mine site hazards.

Nicaragua

This Global Child Project will be disseminating knowledge on improved ASGM practices that will support transformation of the ASGM sector in Nicaragua. With a gold mining sector that relies on ASGM to contribute more than 50% of national production, the positive impacts of a transformed ASM sector will have far reaching positive economic benefits for Nicaragua. The nationwide change in ASGM practices from the country child project, will be possible through replication supported and promoted by the dissemination of knowledge on improved ASGM operating practices. The coordination and monitoring efforts driven by this Global Child Project can be expected to support the Nicaragua country child projects reach its targets of mercury reduction through transformation of its ASGM sector.

Sierra Leone

This Global Child Project will result in socioeconomic benefits for Sierra Leone through positive impacts of knowledge that will be disseminated. The improved ASM practices that will be implemented as a result, will demonstrate the importance of the gold sector which has been overshadowed by the diamond sector. The positive image that will be promoted via the communication efforts of this Global Child Project will support some of the responsible supply chain initiatives being considered for the ASGM sector in Liberia (e.g., the replication and adoption of the De Beers GEMFAIR concept originally implemented in the artisanal diamond sector).

This Global Child Project can also be expected to support the transboundary socioeconomic impacts of the Sierra Leone country child project. This is particularly important from the Mano River Union perspective, where transboundary illicit trade in gold (and diamonds) has presented many developmental challenges.

Zambia

The emerging ASGM sector in Zambia (after decades of a mining sector dominated by copper) will be supported by the Global Child Project to prevent it from following the bad example of mercury pollution disasters seen the ASGM sectors in countries where it has existed for a long time. The knowledge shared on good ASGM practices and mercury free gold extraction, will help the country child project support clean production of gold as the formal ASGM sector grows. This will reduce the entrenchment of bad ASGM practices, leading to socioeconomic benefits for the actors in the sector, e.g., better incomes, improved health outcomes and gender equality. Dissemination of knowledge on ASGM formalization models by the Global Child Project will support the Zambian country project to develop its ASGM sector for better mineral linkages, contributing to economic transformation of rural communities. It will also lead to improved revenue capture for the government for social programs.

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Provided

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Overall the project needs better descriptions in several key sections and significant work is required on the co-financing and justifications for staff costs included in the budget.

March 24, 2022 - The majority of comments have not been sufficiently addressed. The most urgent comment refers to the lack of co-financing which is a serious issue.

July 7, 2022 - Technical comments have been cleared.

July 13, 2022 - Please see comments from PPO:

1. On project information: correction on the executing partner type, duration of the project and expected implementation/completion dates.

2. On co-financing: correction on the in-kind co-financing from CI. The in-kind contribution amounts \$907,525 and not \$4,386,536. In addition review of the source category of the co-financing from Conservation X Labs.

3. On core - indicators: GEF Core Indicators should be explicitly mentioned in the Results Framework in Annex A. Please request the agency to include the core indicators and their targets in the results framework as they are mentioned in the core indicator table

4. On the budget: Difference between total amounts provided in Table B and in the project budget in Annex E. Request to harmonize and correct where needed. Request for Managerial approval of implementing agency carrying executing functions and request the agency to provide the terms of reference for project positions.

5. On the utilization of PPG: Clarification required on the budget line described as "UNEP" to ensure activities are eligible under PPG. In addition correction of a \$2 difference between budgeted, spent and committed amounts.

November 2, 2022 - The lead agency role has been transfer from CI to UNEP.

Please address the following: - NRDC and Global Mercury Partnership are identified as GEF Agency, please amend.

November 13, 2022 - The correction has been made to the type of EA in the project information document. However Child project to be returned because the final CEO Endorsement Request Portal view is not selected so the documents cannot be circulated. Also, the Project Document for UNEP is marked as official use so it also cannot be circulated. Please upload the UNEP prodoc and classify as public.

November 18, 2022 - Comment Cleared.

Agency Response

Ci-GEF 06/08:

In order to effectively respond to the latest round of Secretariat comments, CI-GEF hosted a meeting with the Secretariat and ProDoc writers to review the remaining comments. Based on the written comments and call, the ProDoc has been updated to address all comments received. Additional co-financing was raised to bring the total co-financing to 7,936,276

CI-GEF response 02/18: All comments have been reviewed and addressed in partnership with co-implementing partners and executing agencies. Additional co-financing will continue to be secured and executing costs have been updated in the project budget.

21 October 2022

Please note that due to a change in implementing agency (from CI-UNEP to UNEP only), UNEP had to re-arrange and modify some of the contents in the CEO endorsement document, including shifting of outcomes, outputs and activities, in order to comply with UNEP standards. Content of several appendices were also modified. However, budget remains comparable from the previous technical cleared submission and all changes have been verbally approved by the GEF Chemicals and Waste Coordinator ahead of time.

1. Type of agency has been changed for NRDC. Project duration has been modified from 60 to 72 months and the implementation and completion dates have been updated.

2. Co-financing has been modified significantly as CI is no longer the leading IA for the project. Source of co-financing from Conservation X Lab has been changed to OTHER.

3. GEF Core Indicators and targets are now included as part of Annex A Results Framework.

4. The budget has been revised to reflect the changes of outputs in both components. Funds are shifted slightly to cover additional costs required for midterm review, terminal evaluation and terminal programme evaluation. M&E and its associated budget is also separated from Component 2. There are no executing functions at the IA level, with the only exception of the Global Mercury Partnership to maintain the planetGOLD website. This arrangement is a continuation from the first phase.

5. The PPG utilization table has been updated. UNEP consultancy was recruited to review and draft website related activities in the project.

November 9, 2022

NRDC and Global Mercury Partnership are now identified as OTHERS as no separate selection is allowed in the portal.

November 16, 2022. Requested changes in definition of documents has been done

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Council comments have been adequately responded to.

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request STAP comments have been responded to.

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Minamata Convention Comments have been responded to.

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Provided

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

While there are indications of the countries provided, please include specific coordinates where available.

July 7, 2022 - comment cleared.

Agency Response

Specific country level site locations have been added to the ProDoc under section B. Geographic Scope.. Geo coordinates have not been included at this time, due to the tentative nature of exact site locations. Exact geo locations will be included in respective child project PIRs.

Tentative country project sites

- ? Bolivia: Illimani area
- ? Madagascar: Ambalamanasa (Vatovavy Fitovinany region), Andrafialava (Diana region), Farezy (Atsimo Andrefana region), and Antanimbary (Betsiboka region)
- ? Nigeria: Minna (Niger State), Birnin Gwari (Kaduna State), Anka (Zamfara State), and Yauri (Kebbi State)
- ? Ghana: Tarkwa, Asankragwa, Obusai, Bibiani, Akim Oda
- ? Suriname: Njoen Jacobkondre, Srakreek, Mama Ndjuka, Lawa, Selakreek
- ? Honduras: Agua Fria Mineral, Macuelizo, Santa Cruz Minas
- ? Ecuador: La Mana, Santa Rosa, Nambija, San Carlos de las Minas, Arosemena Tola

- ? Sierra Leone: Tonkolili, Kono, Bombali, Karene
- ? Zambia: Solwezi; Mwinilunga; Kasempa; Mumbwa; Kabwe; Chisamba; Senga Hills; Mpika; Chilanga; Chadiza; Chirundu; Kazungula; Lundazi; Chongwe; Petauke; Lusangazi; Vubwi; Luano; Rufunsa; Chipata; Mkushi and Serenje
- ? Uganda:
 - o Busia District: Siyanyoja and Tiira
 - o Namayinyo Buchere
 - o Morototo District: Nakabaat
 - o Anudat District: Kapiyosa and Cheptakol
 - o Kassanda District: Kagaba Hill and Kayonza
 - o Buhweju District: Kitenga
 - o Kisoro District: Nyabirenura and Rushaga
- ? Republic of Congo:
 - o Sangha Department: Elogo, Maud (1 and 2), Ekokola, Paris-village, Seka, Tripoli (1 and 2) Guinn?e, Zoan, Kampala, Seya, Nasimdib, Balola, Mok?ko, Bamegod
 - o Western Cuvette Department: Akamou, Oyabi, Otsouadzoko
 - o Kouilou Department: Dimonika, Les Saras, Kakamoeka, Louvoulou, Sounda, Manzi
 - o Bouenza Department: Kingou?, Kimba
- ? Guinea:
 - o Kankan Region, Prefectures of Siguiri and Mendiana
 - o Faranah Region, Prefecture of Dinguiraye
 - o Bok? Region, Prefecture of Gaoual

Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please respond to the review comments and resubmit for further consideration.

March 7, 2022 - Please input the responses to the review into the review sheet. Referencing the revised document can be done but in conjunction with providing an explanation of how the comments was addressed and text that was added or revised.

March 25, 2022 - please respond to the remaining comments.

July 7, 2022 - technical comments have been cleared and the project is recommended for CEO endorsement.

July 13, 2022 - Please see comments from PPO in the review sheet.

November 2, 2022 - The project has been transferred by CI to UNEP .

November 16, 2022 - Please address the comments on posting of the documents in the portal.

November 18, 2022 - Documents have been uploaded.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	12/3/2021	
Additional Review (as necessary)	3/7/2022	

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

Additional Review (as necessary)	3/25/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	7/7/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/2/2022

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations