

# Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector in Equatorial Guinea

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**  
11921  
**Countries**  
Equatorial Guinea  
**Project Name**  
Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector in Equatorial Guinea  
**Agencies**  
UNEP  
**Date received by PM**  
3/19/2025  
**Review completed by PM**  
3/27/2025  
**Program Manager**  
Toshiyuki Yamasaki  
**Focal Area**  
Chemicals and Waste  
**Project Type**  
EA

**Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)**  
Section I - Enabling Activity Summary

Funding elements.

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 5/13/2025:

Thank you, cleared.

Toshi 3/27/2025:

This project is aligned with the GEF-8 Chemical and Waste focal area strategy.

However, please address the following comments:

- 1) The Expected Implementation Start Date (currently 4/14/2025) is too optimistic, please revise it to a more realistic date appropriately.
- 2) The Expected duration is 48 months in the Enabling Activity Summary Table, but the attached ESS states that it is 24 months, also, the budget table has information for the first and second year only. Which is correct (maybe 24 months)? Please be consistent.
- 3) According to Article 7 of the Minamata Convention, the country shall develop and implement a National Action Plan in accordance with Annex C and submit it no later than three years from the notification. However, while the notification was dated August 2024, the Expected Report Submission to Convention is dated February 2029. Please check and correct it appropriately.

SECTION 1: ENABLING ACTIVITY SUMMARY 

Enabling Activity Title: ⓘ	Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector in Equatorial Guinea		
Country(ies): ⓘ	Equatorial Guinea	GEF Enabling Activity ID: ⓘ	11921
GEF Agency(ies): ⓘ	UNEP	GEF Agency Enabling Activity ID: ⓘ	
Project Executing Entity(s): ⓘ	Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, Husbandry, Fisheries and Forestry of Equatorial Guinea	Executing Partner Type:	Government
GEF Focal Area (s): ⓘ	Chemicals and Waste	Submission Date: ⓘ	3/19/2025
Expected Implementation Start : ⓘ	4/14/2025	Expected Duration : ⓘ	48 In Months
Type of Report(s): ⓘ	Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)	Expected Report Submission to Convention: ⓘ	2/1/2029
	ASGM National Action Plan (ASGM NAP)		2/1/2029

Agency's Comments

- 1) Implementation start date has been revised to 1 June 2025.
- 2) The expected duration of the project has been revised to 36 months, which is in line with both the ESS and the budget. This is based on previous experiences with combined MIA and NAP projects where additional time is needed as different stakeholders are involved in finalizing the reports. The project will ensure that the NAP is endorsed by the government prior to the 3 year deadline set forth by Convention requirements. However, the actual submission by the government is typically out of the control of the implementation agency.
- 3) The expected submission date of the report to the Convention has been revised to 17 August 2027, in accordance with the Convention's requirements. Kindly note that submission to the Convention is the responsibility of the Government and must adhere to specific national procedures and respective timelines.

**Cost Ranges.**

**If there was a deviation in the cost range, was this explained?**

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 3/27/2025:

The project has no deviations in the cost range.

Agency's Comments

**Enabling activity summary.**

**Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?**

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 5/13/2025:

Thank you, cleared.

Toshi 4/10/2025:

Gender: Under Activity 1.1.1, please ensure that the roster of experts includes gender experts and representatives of women's organizations. Please ensure that monitoring and reporting also include gender equality outcomes or results, best practices and lessons learned.

Agency's Comments Component 1 has been updated including gender mainstreaming provisions across all activities aligning with other MIA NAP projects and considering the above recommendation to include gender experts and representatives of women organizations. Gender provisions had already been included in the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and have now been highlighted for easy reference.

**Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information**

**Eligibility Criteria.**

**Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?**

## Secretariat's Comments

**Toshi 3/27/2025:**

**Yes.**

## Agency's Comments

**Institutional framework.**

**Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?**

## Secretariat's Comments

**Toshi 6/5/2025:**

Thank you, cleared.

**Toshi 5/13/2025:**

The list of stakeholders has been expanded, but the description of each role is insufficient. Please elaborate much as possible at this stage.

**Toshi 3/27/2025:**

Stakeholders: In Section D) Institutional Framework, the proposal says, "A detailed list of stakeholders will be elaborated at inception and means of engagement and frequency will be defined." However please consider adding a tentative list of expected relevant stakeholders at this stage, including the role each of them is expected to have in the project and their means of engagement.

## Agency's Comments

Specific stakeholders and means of engagement have been included in the institutional framework section. Please note that this will be analysed and detailed as part of the inception phase of the project.

**5/19/2025:**

A description of stakeholder roles has been added, drawing from the NAP Guidance (2024). This guidance will continue to serve as a reference when further defining stakeholder engagement approaches during project inception.

**Monitoring and Evaluation.**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?**

## Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 3/27/2025:

Yes. The M&E budget for the project is \$30,000.

Agency's Comments  
**Section 3. Information Tables**

**GEF resource availability.**

**Is the proposed GEF financing in Table F (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

Toshi 3/27/2025:

**Yes.**

**Agency Response**  
**Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):**  
**STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments

**N/A.**

Agency's Comments  
**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 3/27/2025:

**Yes.**

Agency's Comments  
**LDCF under the principle of equitable access?**

Secretariat's Comments

**N/A.**

Agency's Comments  
**SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?**

Secretariat's Comments

**N/A.**

Agency's Comments  
**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments  
**Rio Markers.**  
**Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?**

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments  
**Country endorsement.**

**Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal**

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 3/27/2025:

Yes.

Agency's Comments  
**Response to Comments**

**Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)**  
**Gef Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A.

Agency's Comments  
**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A.

Agency's Comments  
**Council comments**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A.

Agency's Comments  
**STAP comments**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A.

Agency's Comments  
**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A.

Agency's Comments  
**CSOs comments**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A.

Agency's Comments  
**Project Budget Table.**

**Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?**

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 5/13/2025:

Thank you, cleared.

Toshi 4/10/2025:

- 1) Some of the text in the project budget table is off margins, please correct this (you can ask ITS for support in case it is needed).
- 2) Audit should be charged under PMC but not M&E.

Agency's Comments

- 1) Project budget table formatting has been fixed in the Portal.
- 2) Audit has been moved to PMC. As a consequence, project budget per component has slightly changed from the first submission.

**Environmental and Social Safeguards.**

**If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached? (only as applicable)**

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 3/27/2025:

Yes. ESS documents have been attached. The overall project risk is categorized as low risk.

Agency's Comments

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION.**

**Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?**

Secretariat's Comments

Please address the comments above and resubmit. Please highlight in yellow the changes you make to the portal form for ease of revision.

**REVIEW DATE(S)**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO  
Endorsement**

**Response to Secretariat  
comments**

**First Review**

**3/27/2025**

**Additional Review (as  
necessary)**

**4/10/2025**

**Additional Review (as  
necessary)**

**5/13/2025**

**Additional Review (as  
necessary)**

**6/5/2025**

**Additional Review (as  
necessary)**