

NATIONAL LEVEL ASGM SECTOR SCOPING REPORT

Assessment of the Artisanal and
Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM)
Sector in [Country]
and Suggestions for a National
Baseline Inventory Methodology

[DAY MONTH YEAR]

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL LEVEL SCOPING

The two primary purposes of the national level scoping of the ASGM sector are to

- (1) provide the information necessary to develop effective mercury reduction strategies through the National Action Plan (NAP), target these strategies to areas of greatest concern, and measure the progress of these strategies in reducing and/eliminating mercury use and exposure in the ASGM sector; and
- (2) allow for the informed selection of sites that are representative of production and practices in the region, and thus will be targeted for baseline field data collection.

The primary objectives of the national level scoping of the ASGM sector are to: (1) provide an improved understanding of the regional ASGM practices observed in *[country name]*; (2) identify best and worst processing practices; (3) identify areas with greatest mercury use, gold production, and ASGM workforce; (4) identify knowledge gaps that require further data collection; (5) identify key information that is already available or that should be collected in the field in order to calculate regional and national baseline estimates of mercury use; and (6) propose approaches for gathering field data and calculating these estimates in each mining region.

[Project title]

[Project budget]

[Project duration]

2. METHODOLOGY

3. NATIONAL LEVEL INFORMATION (Results from the Capital)

[Note: In case the information requested under this section is unavailable or unclear, it is important to report the absence or deficiency in the assessment document so extra efforts can be deployed to address the issue during the data collection].

3.1. National ASGM Sector Overview

[A general introduction to the national ASGM sector (number of people involved, a brief history, the importance of the sector for the national economy, etc.)]

3.2. Results from Desk Research

Literature Summary

[A few paragraphs briefly summarizing the information found through literature review. Copy and paste the "Bibliography" sheet of the <<National Level Scoping Data Entry Template.xlsx>> spreadsheet in Appendix 1 (Bibliography) and mention it under this section.]

Table of Key information found

[A table of key variables sourced from literature, e.g., total annual ASGM gold production or gold export, ASGM workforce population]

3.3. Stakeholders Identified

[List the Ministries and government agencies contacted and interviewed. Describe the content of the meetings/interviews and how the interaction with government officials went. Did they seem to be well informed? What type of information about the ASGM sector have they provided? Copy and paste the “Stakeholders” sheet of the <<National Level Scoping Data Entry Template.xlsx>> spreadsheet in Appendix 2 (Contact List of Stakeholders) and mention it under this section].

3.4. ASGM Regions

[Include a map of major ASGM gold mining regions in the country, including the gold producing areas, national parks, gold buying houses and identified ASGM sites. If a map doesn’t already exist, draft a map based on information collected and interviews with key stakeholders.]

[Include a summary of the ASGM regions in the country addressing, but not limited to, the following points:

- **Regions:** What are the major general ASGM regions?
- **Hubs:** What are the mining hubs in these regions?
- **General Information:** activity in these regions (practices, production, population, etc.) If available, copy and paste the “ASGM Regions” sheet of the <<National Level Scoping Data Entry Template.xlsx>> spreadsheet here.

No.	ASGM gold mining region	No. Sites				No. Miners	Comments
		Small (<100)	Medium (100–1000)	Large (>1000)	Total		
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							

3.5. ASGM Organization

[Include a summary of how the ASGM sector is organized in the country addressing, but not limited to, the following points:

- **Formality:** Is ASGM formal or informal? How many formal and informal sites are there. If numbers aren’t available what is a rough estimate of the proportions?
- **Governance:** How is the ASGM sector governed?
- **Regulation:** Describe the ASGM regulatory framework (national, regional, municipal). Describe aspects related to ASGM in the mining code, mineral rights, mining licensing, mineral titles, and mineral taxation present in the country. Include tax of gold export and related requirements, tax of

gold paid by exporters from producers or intermediate traders, and total taxation load on legal ASGM.

- **Gold Buying Houses:** Define the type of gold buying house that is present in the country, how it works and how it is structured. Include how much gold is captured per year from the ASGM sector.
- **Site-level Organization:** How are miners organized on site?]
- **Gold Supply Chain:** Describe the organization of the ASGM gold supply chain. Include gold prices. If available, copy and paste the “Gold Prices” sheet of the <<National Level Scoping Data Entry Template.xlsx>> spreadsheet here.

Location	site of sale type (mine site, trading house, or gold-buying house)	Price (local currency/g)	Price (US\$/g)	Price (as % of world spot price)

3.6. ASGM Practices (extraction and processing)

[Include a summary of the extraction and processing techniques used in country, and where they generally occur (i.e., which techniques are used in which major regions? Address the following points and any other information found:

- **Mercury:** Is mercury used?
- **Techniques:** What are the mining and processing workflows used in each region of the country? Are the following actions conducted in the sector: a) whole ore amalgamation, b) open burning of amalgam or processed amalgam, c) burning of amalgam in residential areas, and d) cyanide leaching in sediment, ore or tailings to which mercury has been added without first removing the mercury? If information is available, include estimates about cyanide use]
- **Production:** What are the gold production levels?
- **Purity:** What is the average gold purity?

3.7. Key Existing Information

[Include a summary of the existing information on the national ASGM sector addressing, but not limited to, the following points:

- What are the key pieces of information available at the national level?
- What is the quality of this information?
- Identify the pieces of information that could potentially be used to extrapolate regional and national estimates either at present, or with the addition of newly collected information.]

[Copy and paste the “Key information” sheet of the <<National Level Scoping Data Entry Template.xlsx>> spreadsheet here.]

3.8. Knowledge Gaps

[Considering the key existing information, what additional information would be necessary to produce national baseline estimates? Address the following points:

- What key information is lacking or absent?*
- Are there any key regions for which information is lacking or absent?*
- What information is needed to allow the production of regional estimates considering what information already exists?]*

3.9. Potential approaches to producing national estimates

[Considering the key existing information, knowledge gaps, ASGM distribution, organization, and practices outlined above, what methods could be used to produce national estimates? More than one method is encouraged, as cross-checking estimates from multiple sources yields a more robust and accurate estimate. Address the following points:

- Key existing information that can be used to calculate site-level regional ASGM mercury use estimates for each region;*
- Key field data that must be collected from each region before regional ASGM mercury use estimates can be made;*
- Suggested methods of field data collection;*
- Suggested methods for extrapolating site-level information to regional estimates (which are then summed for a national estimate)].*

4. REGIONAL LEVEL INFORMATION (Results from Mining Regions)

4.1. REGION 1: [NAME OF REGION]

4.1.1. Regional ASGM Sector Overview

[A general, one paragraph introduction to the region]

4.1.2. Sources of Information

[List the Ministries and government agencies contacted and interviewed. Describe the content of the meetings/interviews and how the interaction with government officials went. Did they seem to be well informed? What type of information about the ASGM sector have they provided? Refer to the Appendix 2 under this section].

4.1.3. ASGM spatial distribution

Where do the ASGM activities occur? Include a map if possible, based on information collected and interviews with key stakeholders, including the gold producing areas, national parks, gold buying houses and identified ASGM sites.

[Include a summary of the distribution of ASGM in the region, addressing, but not limited to, the following points:

- How many mining and processing sites are there and where are they concentrated?*
- In what general areas are the greatest mercury use, gold production, and miner populations found?]*

4.1.4. ASGM organization

[Include a summary of how the ASGM sector is organized in the region addressing, but not limited to, the following points:

- Is ASGM formal or informal? Describe the regulatory framework.*
- How is the ASGM sector governed?*
- Who are the key stakeholders? In formal/informal governing and in running the gold supply chain?*
- How are miners organized on site?]*

4.1.5. ASGM practices (extraction and processing)

[Include a summary of the extraction and processing techniques used in the region, and where they generally occur (i.e., which techniques are used at which sites? Address the following points and any other information found:

- Is mercury used?*
- What are the mining and processing workflows used in each region of the country?*
- Are the following actions conducted in the sector: a) whole ore amalgamation, b) open burning of amalgam or processed amalgam, c) burning of amalgam in residential areas, and d) cyanide leaching in sediment, ore or tailings to which mercury has been added without first removing the mercury? If information is available, include estimates about cyanide use.]*

4.1.6. Key Existing Information

[Include a summary of the existing information on the ASGM sector of this region addressing, but not limited to, the following points:

- What are the key pieces of information available in the region?*
- What is the quality of this information?*

Identify the pieces of information that could potentially be used to extrapolate regional and national estimates either at present, or with the addition of newly collected information.

[Copy and paste the “Key information” sheet of the <<National Level Scoping Data Entry Template.xlsx>> spreadsheet here.]

4.1.7. Knowledge Gaps

[Considering the key existing information, what additional information would be necessary to produce national baseline estimates? Address the following points:

- What key information is lacking or absent?*
- Are there any key sites for which information is lacking or absent?*
- What information is needed to allow the production of regional estimates considering what information already exists?]*

4.1.8. Potential approaches to producing regional estimates

[Considering the key existing information, knowledge gaps, ASGM distribution, organization, and practices, what methods could be used to produce regional estimates? More than one method is encouraged, as cross-checking estimates from multiple sources yields a more robust and accurate estimate. Address the following points:

- Key existing information that can be used to extrapolate site information to regional ASGM mercury use estimates;*

- *Key field data that must be collected before regional ASGM mercury use estimates can be made;*
- *Suggested methods of field data collection;*
- *Suggested methods for extrapolating site-specific information to regional estimates.]*

4.2. REGION 2: [NAME OF REGION]

[include the same reporting template as for Region 1, above]

4.3. REGION 3: [NAME OF REGION]

[include the same reporting template as for Region 1, above]

4.X. REGION X: [NAME OF REGION], etc.

[add or delete region headings as necessary]

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

[Based on the information collected, point out the topics that will need more attention and effort to develop the country-specific plan for ASGM baseline data collection due to the absence, incompleteness and/or imprecision of the data available].

[Any other recommendation regarding future project activities and interaction with key stakeholders is welcome under this section].

5.2 POTENTIAL ISSUES FORESEEN FOR MERCURY BASELINE RESEARCH

[List and describe the points and barriers that may arise as discussions progress on developing the country-specific plan for ASGM baseline data collection, analysis, and extrapolation].

5.3 NEXT STEPS

[List agencies and stakeholders still to be contacted, as well as pending issues].

APPENDIX 1: BIBLIOGRAPHY

[Lists all the documents and websites used to collect data].

[Copy and paste the “Bibliography” sheet of the <<National Level Scoping Data Entry Template.xlsx>> spreadsheet here]

	Author	Year	Title	Source	Theme	Notes
1						
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3						
4						
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APPENDIX 2: CONTACT LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

[Copy and paste the “Stakeholders” sheet of the <<National Level Scoping Data Entry Template.xlsx>> spreadsheet here]

	stakeholder institution	location	contact person	phone	email	Contacted? (Y/N)	Notes
1							
2							
3							
4							
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6							
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