Case study: planetGOLD

Protecting human health and the environment from mercury pollution in the gold mining sector by empowering artisanal gold miners.

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UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

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Supported by: gef | Led by: UN environment programme | In partnership with: UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNDP, Conservation International

Mercury and Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining

2005

GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Establishment of the Global Mercury Partnership by UNEP to coordinate efforts to address mercury pollution at global level.

2013 – 2017

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

International Negotiation Committee reach an agreement and adopt the Minamata Convention that enters into force 4 years later.

2019 – now

As per Article 7 of the Convention parties with ASGM activities can develop a NAP and access the planetGOLD programme assisting the, to reduce the use of mercury in gold mining and processing. The programme is led by UNEP, funded by the GEF and collaborates with different partners.

planetGOLD

gef

UN environment programme

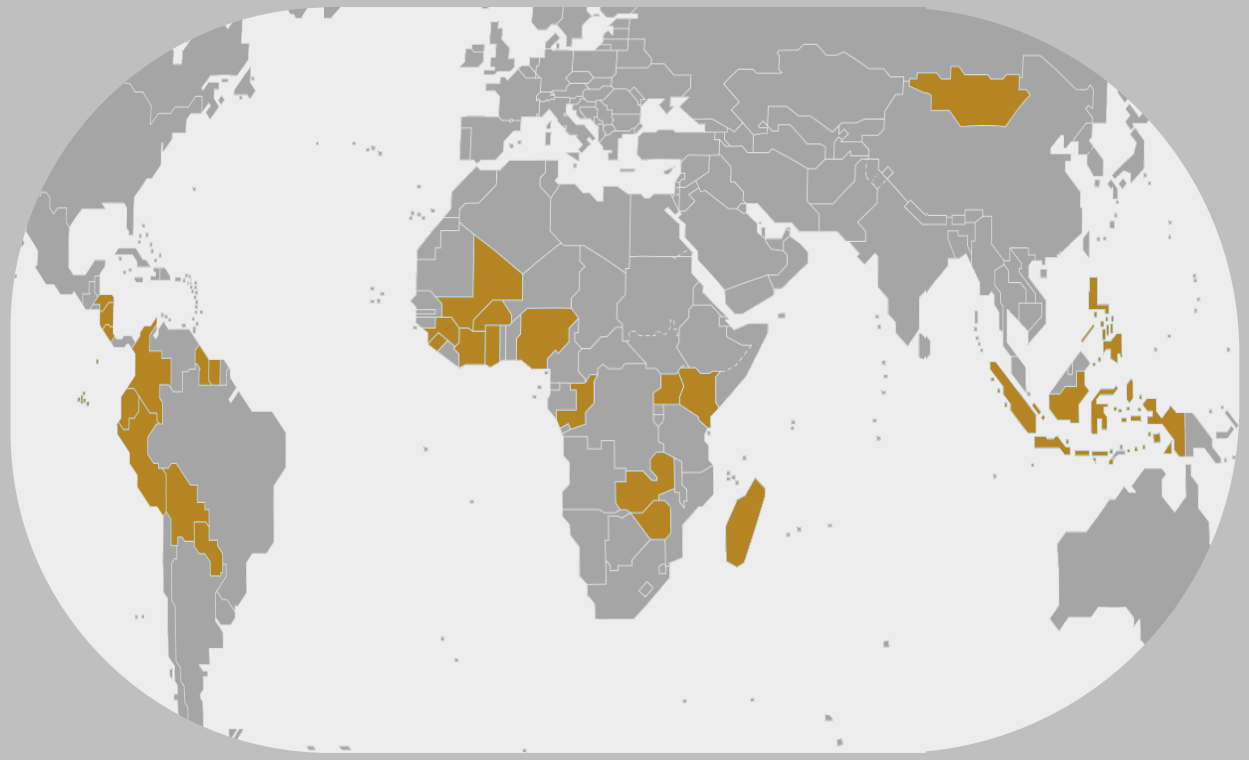
UNIDO

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

NRDC

UNDP

planetGOLD



26 countries globally, 12 in Africa:

- Burkina Faso
- Congo
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- Uganda
- Zambia

Advancing formalization

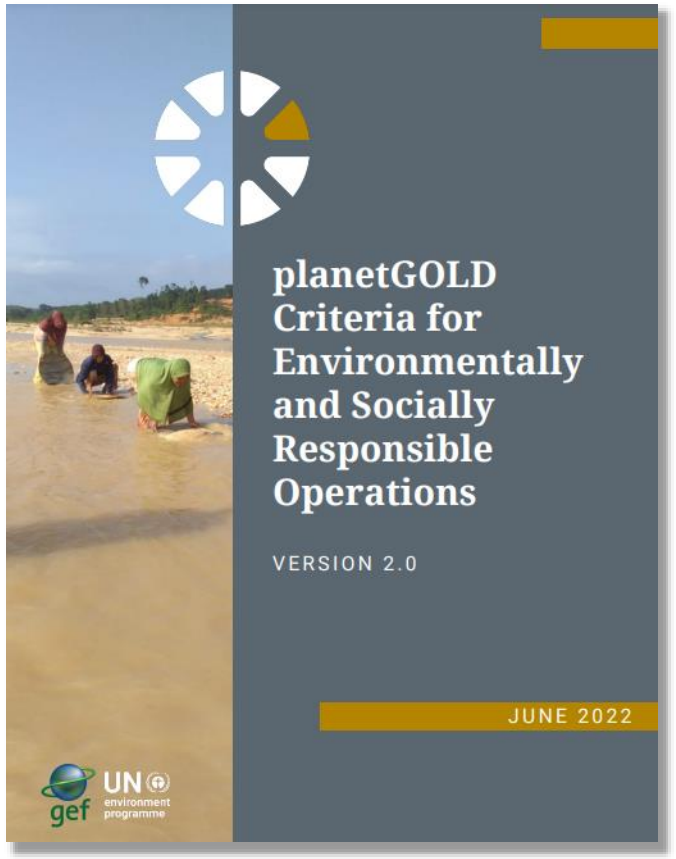
Access to finance and formal markets

Uptake of mercury-free technologies

Communications and knowledge sharing

Key aspects of the successful experience of planetGOLD

Working with artisanal mining communities



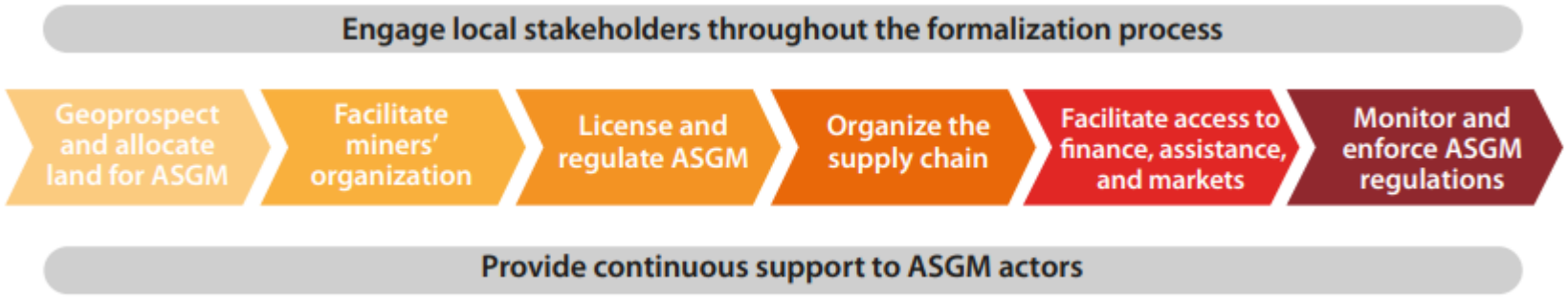
- Incorporates the 4 modules criterion of the CRAFT code
- Describes 3 additional planetGOLD criterions:

➢ Criterion A: Eliminate mercury in the mining process, and appropriately manage mercury contaminated tailings, in keeping with the objectives of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

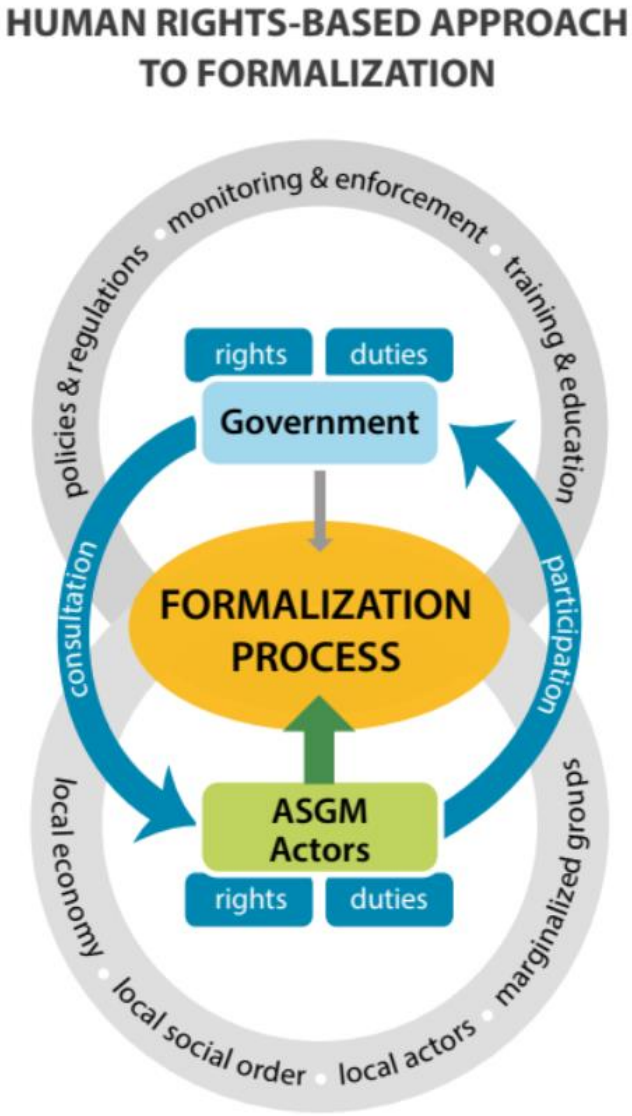
➢ Criterion B: Respect and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, per requirements of the GEF Environment and Social safeguards.

➢ Criterion C: Minimize impact on biodiversity, reflecting additional environmental protection considerations required by the GEF, with a special emphasis on protecting biodiversity and critical habitats

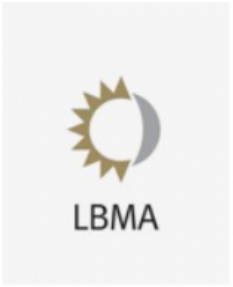
Formalization of the ASGM sector



- The **legal dimension** includes the legislation, policies, and regulations that govern the sector.
- The **institutional dimension** incorporates government and private sector agencies and their coordination, capacity, and respective responsibilities in the sector.
- The **financial dimension** includes aspects such as systems of taxation, credit, markets, investment, and distribution of revenue related to the sector.
- The **socio-economic dimension** comprises the de facto social arrangements that govern the sector locally, and all cultural aspects, working conditions, and considerations of vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- The **geo-environmental dimension** includes all geological, geographical, and environmental aspects related to the sector, such as geological characteristics, extraction and processing techniques, and environmental impacts.

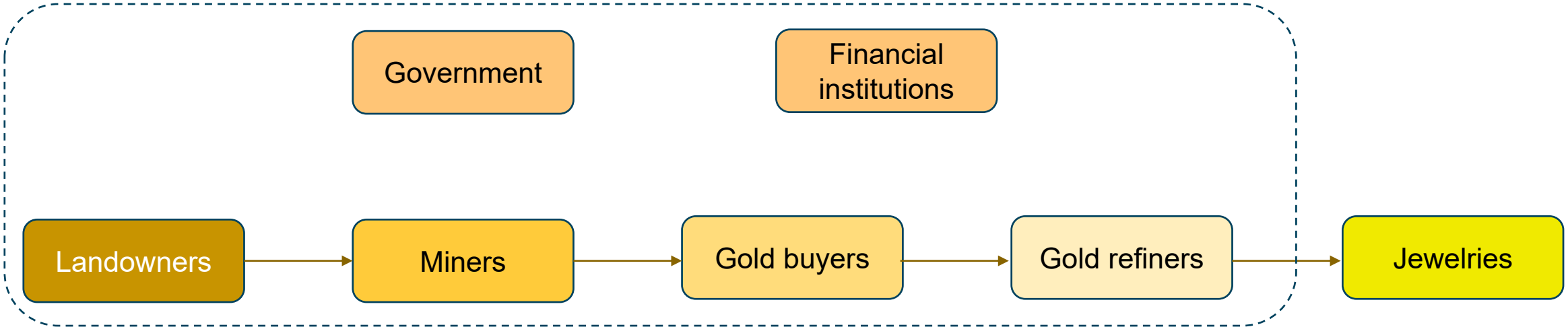


Due diligence tools for suppliers and buyers



- Ensures to all actors in the gold supply chain that environmental and social standards are being addressed.
- Provide practical information for all stakeholders of the gold supply chain who want to improve environmental and social sustainability of their practice.
- Provide key recommendation for buyers and collectors looking for information on purchasing ethically made jewellery.

Mobilization of value chain actors



Project advisory group

Diverse actors from the gold value chain

Mining Finance

OCIM

Qwest INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT CORP.

Refiners

LBMA

ITALPREZIOSI®
Precious Metals Refining and Trading

Jewelers

KERING

FUTURA JEWELRY

ANNALOUCAH FINE JEWELLERY

Positive communication on the sector

Thematic Storytelling

Elevating miners' voices & experiences

Voices from the Field: Peru

A Message From The Miners

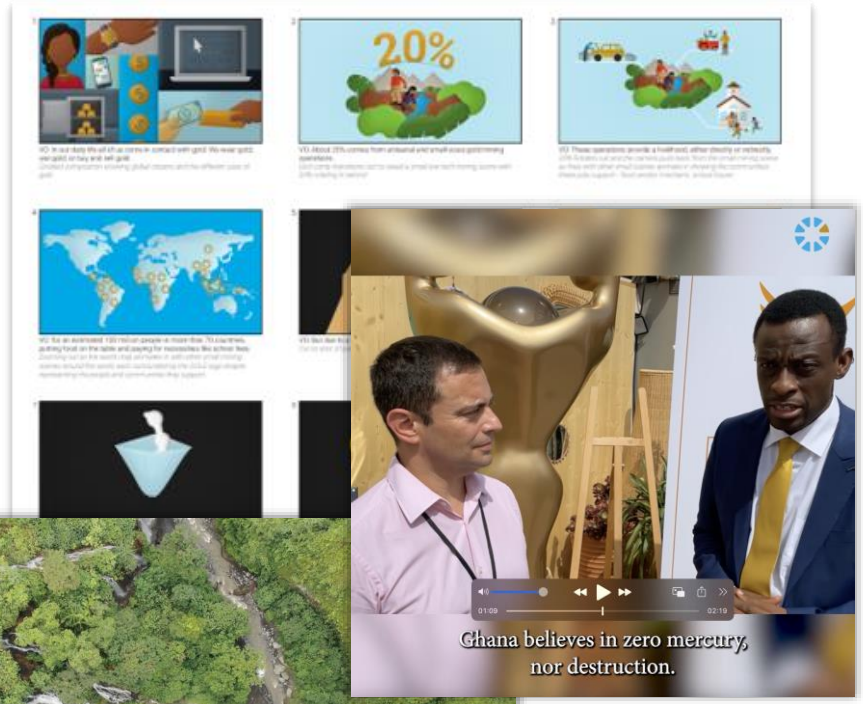
'Mercury destroys lives': but if goldmining is here to stay, is there a way to make it safer?

The Guardian Int

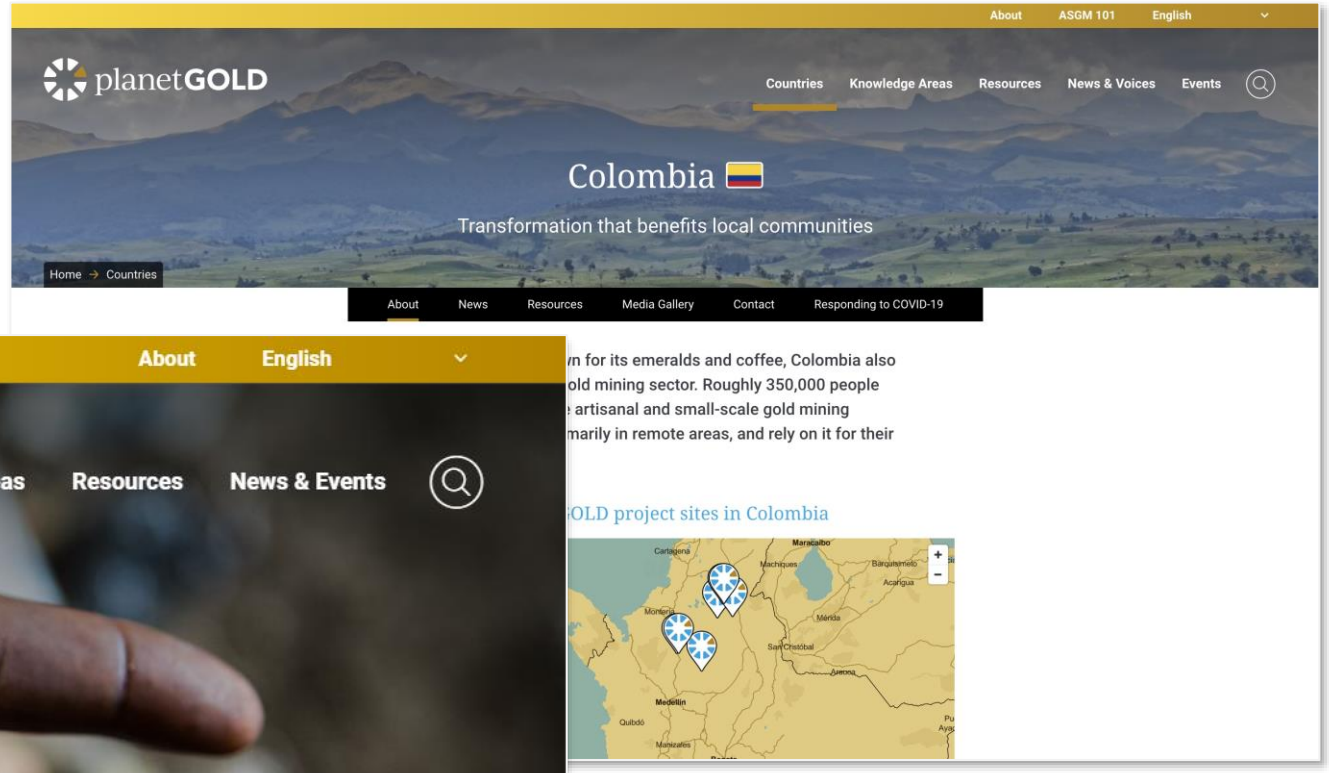
Despite the Philippines' ban on mercury, some goldminers still use the toxic metal to separate gold. In the PlanetGold method, seen here, the ore is crushed and the gold separated mechanically, using no mercury and far less cyanide. Photograph: Dawn Po Quimque/PlanetGold

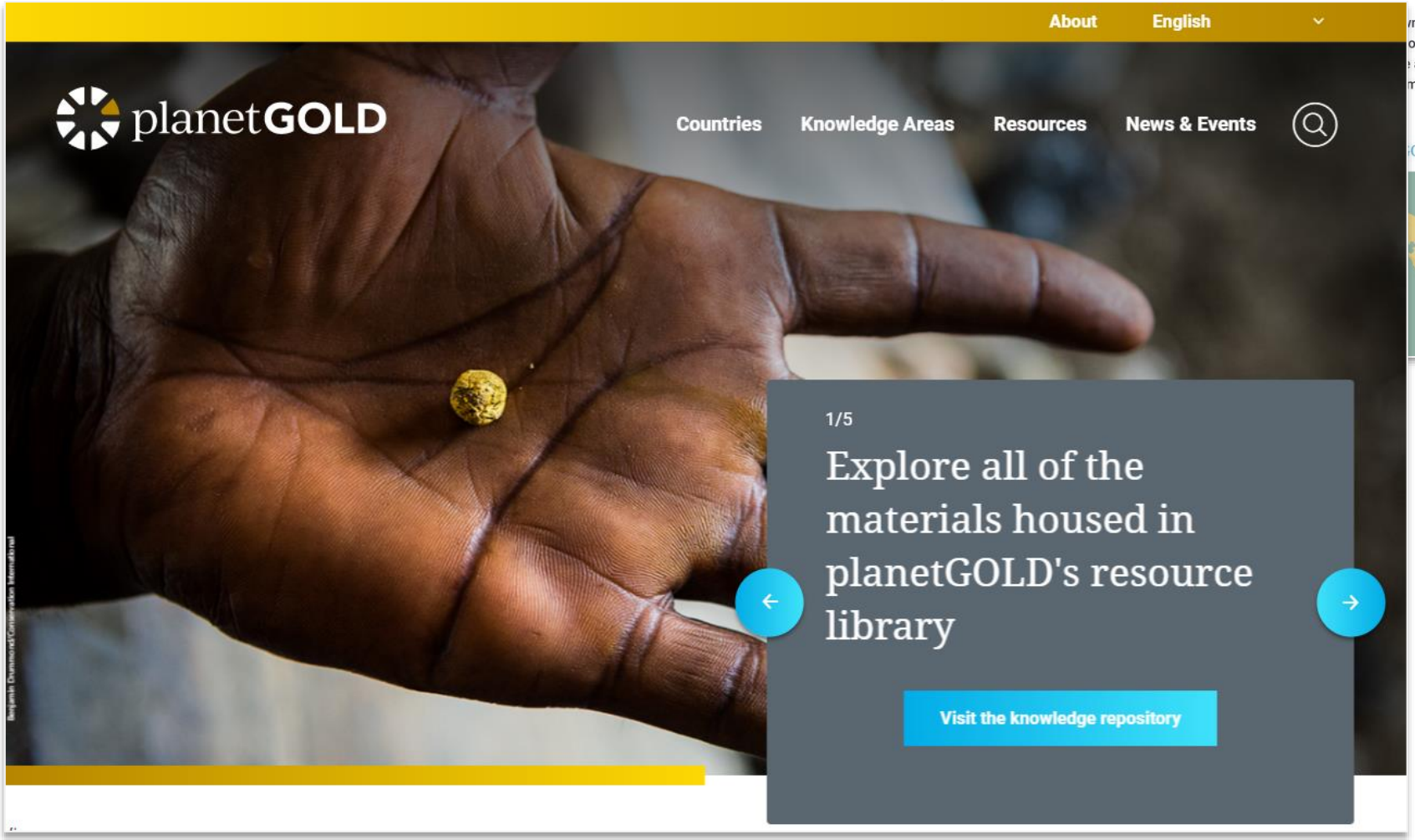
Awareness Raising Media Content

Promoting responsible ASGM



Knowledge management





Website: planetgold.org

Thank you

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