Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Partnership Area

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What is needed to reduce Hg in ASGM?

- Restrict supply and availability of Hg
  - Provide a price signal to miners to conserve
- Formalize/integrate miners
  - Enables programs to legally reach miners with information/technologies
  - Gives miners access to means to increase productivity and profitability while decreasing mercury use and releases
- Develop successful models of transition to low/non-mercury techniques
- Financial and technical support for scaling up
Next Steps under the partnership

• Reduce availability and increase price of mercury as soon as possible
• Provide information and training on alternative methods for miners
• Expand awareness-raising and pilot projects in key countries, as directed by UNEP GC Decision 25/5
  – Projects must be started soon in order for results to inform negotiations
• Global Mercury Partnership is one vehicle for carrying out projects
ASGM Partnership

• Overall goal: **50% reduction in mercury use and emissions by 2017**

• Identified four priority areas for pilot/demonstration projects in 2008 business plan

• More substantial financial support **critically needed** to further work in each of these areas
1. Support government efforts in setting national objectives/reduction targets for mercury use in ASGM

- Projects already initiated in three regions
  - Two “regional strategic plan” projects funded by SAICM QSP
    - South-East Asia (focused on Cambodia and the Philippines)
    - South America (focused on Peru and Bolivia)
  - Francophone West Africa regional mercury project, led by the US and UNIDO, with funds from Government of Finland
  - Anglophone West Africa regional mercury project financed by the USEPA

- These efforts will identify strategic, high impact projects that will need support
2. Eliminate the worst practices:
- whole-ore mercury amalgamation
- mercury/ cyanidation combination
Reduce Hg use and emissions

Copper plate amalgamation – the worst case scenario
M. Veiga, Venezuela, 2003
3. Promote awareness and adoption of cleaner ASGM practices and technologies

Panning directly in river increases siltation, and destroys river banks
UNIDO, Madagascar, 2008

Simple and cheap retort easy to procure locally
UNIDO-GMP, Laos, 2003
4. Explore innovative market-based approaches

- Establish gold brand with price premium for adhering to good social and environmental practices
  - E.g., Oro Verde

- Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) and Fairtrade Labelling Organization (FLO) currently developing Fair-Mined/Fair Traded “Standard Zero” for ASM gold, silver and platinum
Immediate Partnership Priorities

• Documentation of existing efforts on legalization and formalization,
• Global knowledge base on ASGM,
• Technical manual of existing technologies and practices,
• Feedback on mercury requirements for ARM-FLO gold standard,
• Expand partnership base (currently 23 partners)
UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
ASGM Area

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Or visit the UNEP website:

http://www.chem.unep.ch/MERCURY/Sector-Specific-Information/Artisanal-small-scale-mining.htm