ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING

- Produces up to 20% of world’s gold
- Employs 15 million people typically in remote rural areas
- Involves 4 to 5 million women and children
- Takes place in 70 countries and often in areas where there is limited economic opportunity
- Releases 35% of all mercury pollution to the environment
- Is often considered as informal sector
Artisanal gold mining and biodiversity: Restoring the balance

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Minamata Secretariat

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Uganda, Minamata Focal Point
Under the Minamata Convention, development of NAP is an obligation for each party that determines that ASGM in its territory is more than insignificant.
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
Strategic Content according to Annex C

- Strategies for making-based mechanisms or marketing tools
- Strategies to eliminate worst practices and promote mercury-free methods
- Strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age
- Steps to facilitate the formalization
- A public health strategy on the exposure of miners and their communities to mercury
- Baseline estimates of the quantities of mercury used and the practices employed
- Strategies for providing information to ASGM affected communities
- Strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury
NAP projects around the world
ASGM and BIODIVERSITY impacts

- Deforestation
- Land degradation
- Contamination of water bodies and soil: mercury, cyanide etc.
- Alteration of the physical conditions of watercourses
Tailings management
Protected Areas
Ways forwards
ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF MERCURY CONTAINING TAILINGS

Restore the surface grading and **revegetate** the land to reduce erosion

Allocate **financial mechanisms and responsibilities** to ensure the sound management of tailings

Engage ASGM communities in the restoration plans

Organize **educational sessions** focused on the benefits of restoration and future restored land use possibilities

Source: [SOUND TAILINGS MANAGEMENT IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING](#)
Formalization

Technical solutions

Access to finance

Awareness raising

planetGOLD
Making a world of difference in small-scale gold mining.
planetGOLD-specific Criteria related to Biodiversity

Minimize impact on biodiversity

With a special emphasis on protecting biodiversity and critical habitats.

Eliminate mercury in the mining process

And appropriately manage mercury contaminated tailings.

Respect and protect the rights of Indigenous Communities

These are requirements of the GEF environment and social safeguards.
[End of my part]
Manoela’s slides
Sharing country experience - Uganda

• From Minamata Convection focal point perspective
• And from CBD focal point perspective
• Below - some additional slides – just in case - to reuse images