INTER-RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING AND BIODIVERSITY IN UGANDA: THE NEED FOR SYNERGIES BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY, CHEMICALS AND WASTE MEAS

A PRESENTATION MADE BY THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY DURING NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND GOVERNMENT EXPERTS' CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND CHEMICALS AND WASTE MEAS, 29 TO 31 AUGUST 2023 IN BUGESERA, RWANDA

INTRODUCTION

1.0 ASGM contribution to livelihood in Uganda

2.0 ASGM practices in Uganda and the triple planetary crisis

3.0 National interventions

1.0 ASGM CONTRIBUTION TO LIVELIHOOD IN UGANDA

- Globally, up to 20% of all gold produced is from ASGM
- Uganda ASGM Gold production is estimated at 7081 kg/yr
- Miner population in Uganda is 31,622
- ASGM workforce-value chain is 390,000

2.0 ASGM PRACTICES IN UGANDA AND THE TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS

- Key impacts of ASGM in Uganda center around deforestation, land degradation, pollution of air, soil and water ecosystems and loss of habitats

I. Pollution

- MIAs, 2018 - A total of 32,146kg of mercury (Hg) is annually released into the environment
- Air is the biggest receptor of mercury (19926 Hg/kg/y) followed by land (5633 Hg/ kg/y) and water (3913 Hg/ kg/y); 80 Hg/ kg/y released as a by-product plus impurities; 2437 Hg kg/y released as general waste; and 157 Hg/kg/y released in sector specific treatment/disposal

2.0 ASGM PRACTICES IN UGANDA AND THE TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS cont.

I. Pollution cont.

- In Uganda mercury used in gold processing =15,000kg/yr
- 73% of gold produced by ASGM is with mercury use
- Limited mercury emissions and containment methods at ASGM sites
- cyanide recovers 80-85% of gold left in mercury tailing. On the contrary mercury recovers only 40% of gold from primary gold ores.

ASGM PRACTICES IN UGANDA AND THE TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS CONT.

II. Climate change & biodiversity loss

ASGM sites are catalysts of climate change (Deforestation) & biodiversity loss

- ✓More pits than shafts Non restorations of pits (88% of gold produced from pits, 12% from shafts)
- ✓Use of wood to construct shafts
- ✓-ASGM in protected areas

3.0 NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

i. Development of a NAP on ASGM 2019 providing for formalisation of the ASGM sector
ii. Mining and Minerals Act,2022 covering ASMs and a favourable minerals licensing regime
iii. NEA, 2019 covering biodiversity offsets and guidelines prepared on the same

- ✓Biodiversity offsets are measurable conservation outcomes resulting from actions designed to compensate for significant residual adverse biodiversity impacts arising from project development and persisting after appropriate prevention and mitigation measures have been implemented
- ✓The goal of biodiversity offset is to achieve no net loss (NNL) and preferably a net gain (NG) of biodiversity with respect to species composition, habitat structure, ecosystem function and people's use and cultural values associated with biodiversity

NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS CONT.

iv. Restoration, monitoring the impacts of gold mining on biodiversity

v. To align NBSAP to GBF to support synergies and financing of biodiversity, chemicals & waste