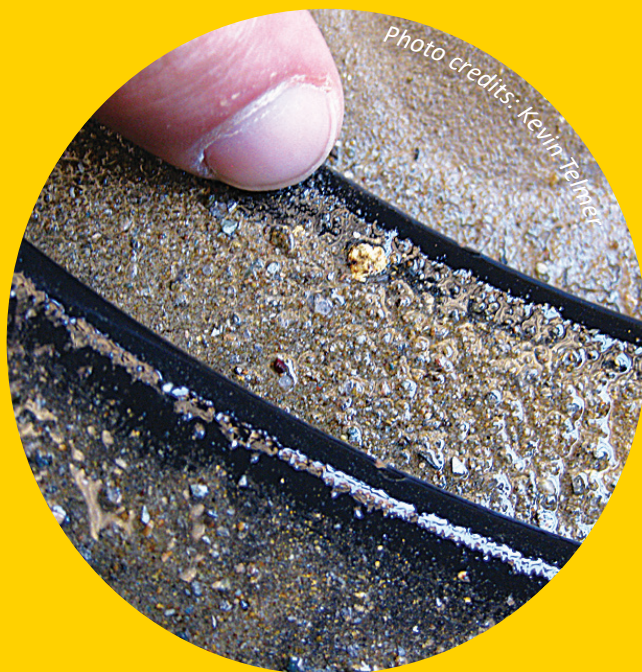


# ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE GOLD MINING



*Photo credits: Kevin Telfer*

## ELIMINATING the worst practices towards mercury - free mining



24-29 September 2017  
First meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP1)



# MINAMATA CONVENTION and National Action Plan

According to the Annex C of the Minamata Convention, each National Action Plan for ASGM shall include **actions to eliminate worst practices**:

1. Whole ore amalgamation,
2. Open burning of amalgam,
3. Burning of amalgam in residential areas,
4. Cyanide leaching in sediment, ore or tailing to which mercury has been added without first removing the mercury.

For more information:



Watch UN Environment/UNITAR video:  
***“ASGM:Eliminating worst practices”***



Read UN Environment and  
Artisanal Gold Council guide  
***“Reducing Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold***

# WORST



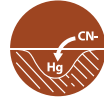
Whole ore amalgamation



Open burning of amalgam



Burning of amalgam in residential areas



Cyanide leaching in the tailings to which mercury has been added without first removing mercury

# BETTER



Mill and concentrate the ore



Use mercury vapor capture tools



Process in designated areas



Ensure mercury is removed before applying cyanide

# BEST



Pay close attention to mineralogy and grain size



Combine multiple concentration techniques



Directly smelt the high grade concentrate to recover the gold



Use chemical leaching *with proper training and careful monitoring*

Development of National Action Plans (NAPs) for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) is an obligation under Article 7 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury for each country that determines that ASGM in its territory is more than insignificant.

The **UN Environment Global Mercury Partnership** is undertaking activities to enhance national information exchange, capacity building and knowledge generation to facilitate the development of the UN Environment implemented NAPs. This is referred to as the **NAP Global Component**. As part of these activities, UN Environment is developing practical tools and guidance materials on safer and environmentally sound ASGM practices, and thus providing the guidance on steps necessary for the transition towards mercury-free ASGM sector.

**Visit UN Environment website:**

<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/global-mercury-partnership/reducing-mercury-artisanal-and-small-scale-gold-mining-asgm>

**Artisanal and  
Small Scale  
Gold Mining**

**NAP**

**National  
Action  
Plan**

**UN**   
**environment**