



Project Title: Strengthening the enabling framework for biodiversity mainstreaming and mercury reduction in small-scale gold mining operations

Duration: 7 years: (January, 2021 - December 1, 2027)

Funding Agency: Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNDP (GEF Agency)

Executing Agency: EPA Guyana

Project Cost/Value: USD \$34,206,097

Partner Agencies: Guyana Geology & Mines Commissions, Guyana Mining School, Ministry of Natural Resources and Guyana Forestry Commission

Project Objective: The objective of the proposed project is to strengthen the regulatory framework and institutional capacity for the management of small-scale gold mining and promote greater adoption of environmentally responsible mining techniques in Guyana in order to protect globally significant biodiversity, reduce mercury contamination, enhance local livelihoods and human health.



Project Activities:

Outcome 1: Policy and regulatory framework strengthened and supported

- Undertake assessments and consultations for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Review of proposals to increase fines
- Assist to review proposals to raise reclamation bond/study to assess other financial options
- Assist in conducting an assessment of public-private partnerships/ Corporate Social Responsibility
- Assist in designing the Mercury Free Mining Fund with CI and other partners
- Development and approval of water effluent standards

Assist in reviewing current regulations on granting of permits for prospecting

Outcome 2: Increased institutional capacity and inter-institutional coordination to mitigate and manage the impacts of small-scale gold mining.

- Design training plans to strengthen institutional capacities to enhance oversight and enforcement of small-scale mining operations and increase consideration of biodiversity aspects
- Convene and establish a Working Group for allocation and monitoring of concessions
- Develop protocols for data collection and monitoring in the demonstration project sites
- Assist in collecting baseline and monitoring data on impacts of biodiversity, state of forests, soil quality and health (in terms of mercury) in the demonstration project sites.



Project Activities:

Outcome 3: Adoption of more environmentally responsible gold mining practices

- Establish project base/research station in Madhia
- Assist in selecting demonstration sites
- Design of extension/ training programs for miners and quarterly evaluation of extension services/ feedback
- Deployment of extension services and training to miners in Konawaruk/ Potaro catchments
- Conduct workshop to identify additional restoration areas
- Establishment of up to 9 demonstration sites for restoration (training, implementation, monitoring)

Outcome 4: Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation implemented to support learning and upscaling.

Design and implementation of Information and Communication Strategy