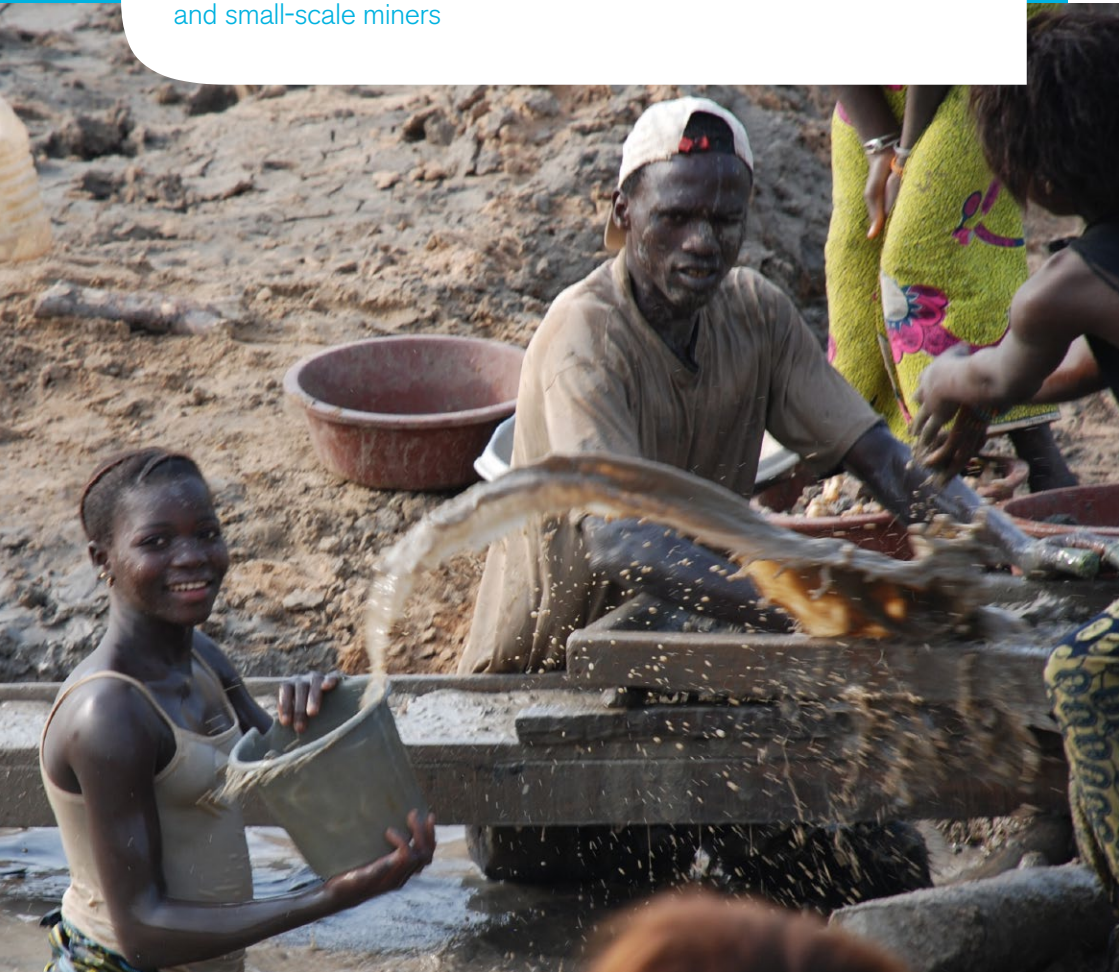


IIED's Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) Knowledge Programme

To generate the knowledge, tools, advocacy and networks needed to improve policy and practice for the world's artisanal and small-scale miners



In brief

IIED is planning a five-year knowledge programme for the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector. Our goal is to create a policy environment that supports more secure, dignified livelihoods for miners, that helps to empower them, that promotes collaboration within the sector, and that addresses other social and environmental challenges. The programme's core components will be country learning groups; multi-stakeholder dialogues on contentious issues; an online ASM resource centre and virtual network; and global policy engagement and communications.

Why now?

Governments have long ignored the problems facing artisanal and small-scale mining, but interest is now emerging. The number of miners is growing. Their activities can cause severe social and environmental impacts. But the sector has significant potential to provide livelihoods for 20-30 million people, including some of the world's poorest.

There is progress. National governments want to use their natural resources to reduce poverty, and some have started formalising ASM processes. The international community wants to reduce mercury pollution (driven by the UN Minamata Convention) and tackle ASM's links to conflict (driven by the US Dodd-Frank legislation and OECD Guidance on Conflict Minerals). Large-scale miners want to avoid

disruption to local operations from ASM on their fence-line. Meanwhile some ASM organisations are working to increase market access through ethical labelling schemes (Fair Trade and Fair Mined Gold).

But governments, companies and ASM organisations face huge challenges to implementing effective ASM policy and practice including:

- **Knowledge gaps and poor information-sharing**
- **Poor communication and relations among ASM stakeholders**
- **Weak voice and representation of ASM miners in policy-making**

Our ambitions

We want to help **improve knowledge, policy and practice among those whose role supports the ASM sector, or whose activities affect it** – including governments, large-scale mining companies, international mining initiatives, ASM representative organisations, donors, technical experts and NGOs.

The programme will achieve this through three linked components.

1. **National Learning and Leadership Groups.** The programme will help groups of ASM leaders and practitioners within countries to meet regularly to exchange ideas and information. These groups will produce specific research, policy analyses

and tools, and will engage the media and other stakeholders in order to catalyse change in the sector. Their activities will include coordinating a **National ASM Outlook**, which will assess the state of ASM in their country, and sharing findings across the global network.

- 2. Sector dialogues.** A series of in-depth international and national dialogues will bring diverse stakeholders around a table to discuss and find solutions to contentious issues.
- 3. Website, global policy and communications.** The programme will develop an online hub for stakeholders to access and share up-to-date information and tools on ASM. The programme will support better global debate and governance of the mining sector by

advocating findings from the learning groups, dialogues and miners' own experiences in key fora.

These three components will run in parallel, with significant information sharing across national, sector and global levels. Piloting innovative ways to involve ASM miners or their representatives in programme activities, will be integral to its approach.

Our decentralised, partner-led approach, means the precise ASM issues addressed will be determined by national contexts and strategic opportunities for change. Likely priorities are: **inclusive governance frameworks; improving market access for ASM; managing local conflict among sector stakeholders; and improving ASM's social and environmental outcomes.**

Outcomes

The ASM Knowledge Programme will operate in at least six countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America in sectors such as gold, gemstones, construction materials and salt. Outcomes will include:

- The creation of new cross-sector networks (**learning groups**) of ASM policy champions with the knowledge, tools and links to improve their organisations' practices and influence policy for ASM
- Greater **visibility and representation of ASM miners'** views in policy-making and public discourse
- Strengthened knowledge among **officials in key government departments** about ASM, miners' perspectives and effective interventions
- Increased **understanding, dialogue and co-operation** amongst the sector's disconnected actors
- Vastly improved **online access to information on ASM** and increased cross-country and **South-South learning**

- **National governments** in six countries progressively improving national ASM policy design and implementation
- **International public and private sector actors** progressively improving their policy frameworks and practices

Our programme activities mapped

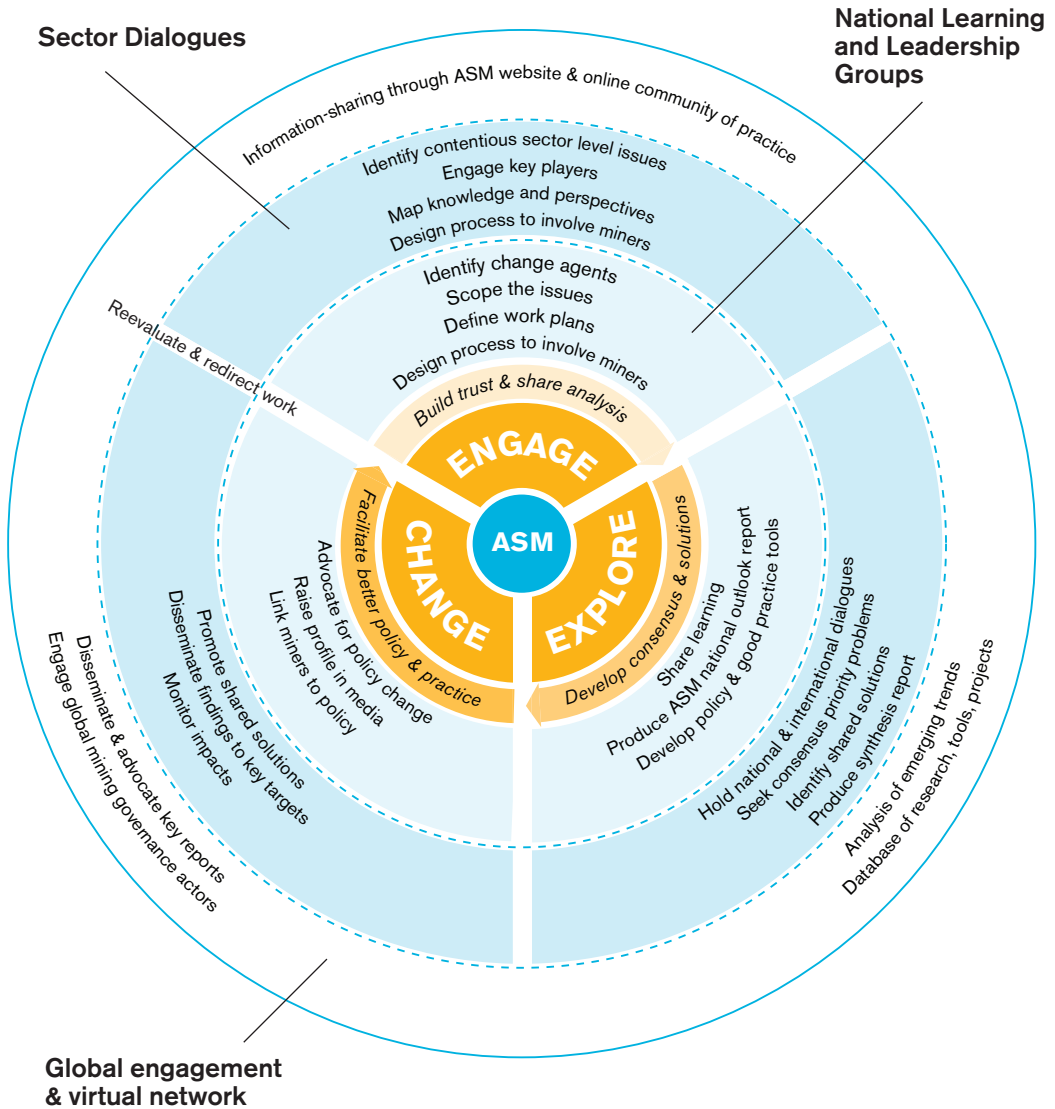


Figure adapted from The Forest Dialogue Strategic Plan 2011–2015 www.theforestdialogue.org

Who we are

IIED is an independent policy research organisation and world leader in sustainable development thinking. IIED has extensive experience in building knowledge and dialogue programmes, including in the mining sector through the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development programme (MMSD), and will convene and coordinate this programme.

Local partners with in-country expertise in ASM issues, environment and poverty, will convene national learning groups. IIED is already collaborating with PACT, Development Alternatives and the Alliance for Responsible

Mining to develop activities in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and India, with scope for additional countries and partnerships.

The programme will involve **ASM stakeholders** directly in learning groups and dialogues, the co-production of policy outputs and in programme governance. More broadly, it will reach out to a wide range of regional and global ASM, mining and sustainable development actors via the ASM online resource centre and networking.



Get involved

The programme aims to launch in Summer 2014. There are many ways to stay in touch, get involved and spread the approach.

Visit our website – www.iied.org/asm – and get in touch with Abbi Buxton to find out more about the project and how you can get involved.

Work with us to ensure the programme best meets your needs. Email us with your ideas and feedback on **our current plans**, which include:

- Fundraising for the programme
- Scoping a dialogue series on the interactions between ASM, large scale mining and governments
- Developing a research methodology for national ASM Outlook Reports

IIED contacts:

Abbi Buxton (ASM programme lead)
abbi.buxton@iied.org

Sarah Best (senior researcher)
sarah.best@iied.org

Frances Reynolds (the Sustainable Markets Group's coordinator) frances.reynolds@iied.org

Link to other publications:

Buxton, A (2013) Responding to the challenge of artisanal and small scale mining: How can knowledge networks help?
[<http://pubs.iied.org/16532IIED.html>]

Buxton, A (2012) MMSD+10: Reflecting on a decade of mining and sustainable development
[<http://pubs.iied.org/16041IIED.html>]



Project Materials

ASM

Keywords:
Artisanal and Small-scale
Mining, Mining, Informal

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Mining family in Ivory Coast,
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