

2016 Year in Review

Projects

Peru:

- The AGC became registered as a Canadian NGO operating in Peru
- The selection of the first project site was made: Chaparra (in the district of Arequipa)
- The first Steering Committee meeting was held
- Approval of the Project Implementation Plan
- Approval of the Annual Work Plan
- Agreements signed with two major stakeholders in the first region: GREM and ARMA Arequipa
- Selection of the Cholito as the beneficiary ASGM organization in first site
- The first major field exercise (baseline and contextual investigations) carried out by the AGC and RS (Red Social) at the Chaparra site.
- The MEJORO project became registered in Peru
- Training material for miners and community members was completed

Indonesia:

- Holding of the 1st Project Steering Committee Meeting to finalize the Project Implementation Plan and Annual Work Plan.
- Holding of Project Workshop for stakeholders in Kalimantan.
- Minamata Convention training for Indonesian local partner.
- AGC technical visit to Kalimantan and training of local partner on ore characteristics and site selection.
- AGC keynote address at the Community Mining Conference in Jakarta.

Nicaragua:

- Produced a detailed ASGM inventory for the Chontales Department and published a report on the process and results
- Completed a detailed Nicaraguan ASGM Sector report
- Reviewed and assessed existing ASGM regulatory frameworks and policy, identifying barriers to formalization for miners, and proposed recommendations for reforms
- Closed the Project

Suriname:

- Completed field visits to over 10 ASGM communities, collecting information on the current realities of the sector
- Produced inventory estimates for miner population, ASGM gold production, and Mercury use in Suriname
- Completed a national ASGM sector report in collaboration with Surinamese Consultancy "Social Solution".
- Developed relationships with LSM companies for ASGM/LSM collaborative models towards mercury reduction
- Closed the project

Senegal:

- Finalized training of miners on mercury free processing system, resulting in first local capacity for 100% miner operated mercury free gold production
- Continued operation of the AGC processing system (mercury often still used by miners on final concentrate; however, the reduced quantity of concentrate amalgamated results in reduced net mercury use on site)
- Completed on site miner operated demonstration of mercury free processing to local miners, and national and international stakeholders from government, NGOs, and funding agencies
- Introduced 3 mining groups and over 50 miners to mercury free processing techniques on the AGC mercury free system.

Guinea:

- Completed extensive field visits to over 20 ASGM sites in 4 mining regions to assess the on the ground realities of ASGM in Guinea
- Collected inventory data to allow the production of national inventory estimates. Data analysis currently underway
- Developed relationships with key stakeholders including the Ministry of Mines and Geology, the Guinea Development Bank, and l'Union des Orpailleurs de la Guinée, aimed towards collaborative efforts for mercury reduction and improved supply chains in the country's ASGM sector

Burkina Faso:

- RGTM (Social enterprise) has taken over the USDOS and UNIDO projects to allow for a continuation of the 2 projects
- Groundwork for NAP which will begin early 2017
- Groundwork for the GEF gold executing agency

APEC:

- Received a contract to develop a business training curriculum for miners in Peru, Indonesia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea on behalf of the APEC Mining Taskforce.

NAPs (National Action Plan)

Gabon:

- Project approved by the GEF
- Hired and trained a local team to conduct an inventory of the ASGM sector
- Completed fieldwork at Mekambo, one of the country's major ASGM centres
- Organizing the project launch for January, 2017

Mali/Senegal:

- Project approved by the GEF
- Completed a scoping study of the Malian and Senegalese ASGM sectors
- Organizing the project launch for February, 2017

Peru:

- Project approved by the GEF
- Organizing the project launch for February, 2017

Proposal Submissions

- Ongoing work with UNIDO and UNEP to develop 3 GEF funded ASGM sector projects in Burkina Faso, Mongolia/Philippines, and globally.

Conferences & Events

- Peru Project Opening Event - February
- PDAC (Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada), Toronto - Kevin in March
- Minamata Convention on Mercury: 7th Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Meeting (INC7), Jordan - Richard in March
- UNEP Global Mercury Assessment, Geneva - Kevin in April
- BAN Toxics hosted 4th National ASGM Summit, Philippines - Kevin in April
- OECD UN Group of Experts Joint Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains, Paris - Kevin in May (with meetings about International Knowledge Hub - SAM led, maybe?)
- COWI ASGM Inventory Workshop, Uganda - Eric in September
- Illegal Gold Mining Forum US Southern Command, Florida - Mike in September
- NRDC ASGM Roundtable, Washington DC - Kevin in September
- LBMA/LPPM Precious Metals Conference, Singapore - Kevin in October
- PAHO/WHO Minamata Health Discussion, Jamaica - Arnaldo in October
- Mining & Investment Summit Latin America, Peru - Kevin in October
- Community Mining Indonesia Conference, Jakarta - Richard in November
- Regional Workshop on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains, Columbia - Arnaldo in December
- GEF GOLD Launch, Washington DC - Linda, Peter & Kevin in December
- Consorcio de Investigación Económica y Social: Reunión Grupo de Trabajo Pequeña Minería y Minería Artesanal, Lima - Arnaldo in December

Board of Directors and Staff

- Merwin Engineer stood down
- Elected a new member: Dru Narwani
- Hired:
 - A general manager to oversee project managers
 - An administrative assistant
 - A communications and business director
 - A NAP manager
 - A chemical processing engineer
 - Indonesia Project manager
 - Peru Project manager

Communications & Media

- Strategic Communications Plan completed and launched
- Gold Price Calculator (www.goldpricecalc.com)
- Redesign of www.artisanalgold.org
- Language sites for Indonesian, French and Spanish

1. www.emasartisanal.org
2. www.oroartesanal.org
3. www.orartisanal.org