

# METHODS AND TOOLS

## DETERMINING MERCURY USE IN THE ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING (ASGM) SECTOR



ARTISANAL  
GOLD COUNCIL



UN   
environment

### Lecture 3 Collecting Baseline Information



**ARTISANAL  
GOLD COUNCIL**



# Collecting Baseline Information: Tools, Techniques and Approaches

# Overview

- Sources of Information
- National Level Scoping
- Field Data Collection Approaches
  - Observations and General Descriptions
  - Interviews
  - Counts and Measures
  - Physical Tools for Data Acquisition
- Data Analysis
- Step by Step Approach

# Sources of information

- Literature
  - Stakeholders
  - Official export data
  - Physical measurements
  - Universities
  - NGOs
  - Donor Agencies (GEF GOLD, World Bank, GMP)
  - Others?
- National & Regional Government (Mines & Environment)
  - LSM
  - Local Authorities
  - Municipalities
  - Mining Groups
  - Gold Buyers & Exporters
  - **MINERS!**

# 1. National Sector Scoping



Literature  
Review

{ Official trade data, peer-reviewed journals, white papers from LSM, NGOs, GMP, World Bank, GEF GOLD



Interviews with  
Stakeholders

{ Government (Mines, Environment, etc), NGOs, Universities, LSM companies, national gold buying houses, gold exporters



Visits to the  
capital & major  
mining hubs

{ Regional & municipal government offices, mayors office, regional gold traders, mining cooperatives



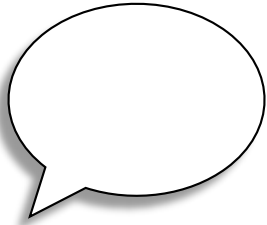
Visits to a few  
ASGM sites

{ On-the-ground realities, technology, access

# 1. National Sector Scoping



Literature  
Review



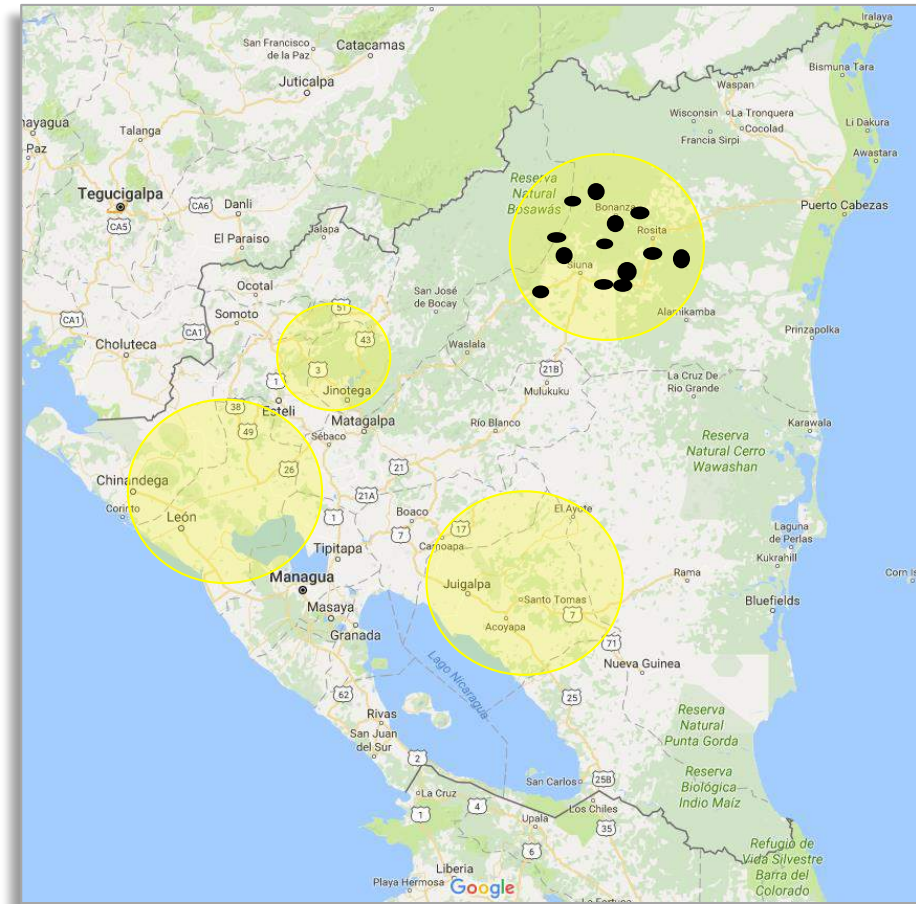
Interviews with  
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Visits to the  
capital & major  
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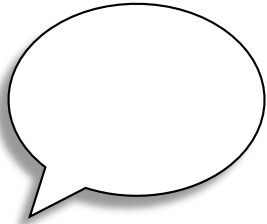
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# 1. National Sector Scoping



Literature  
Review



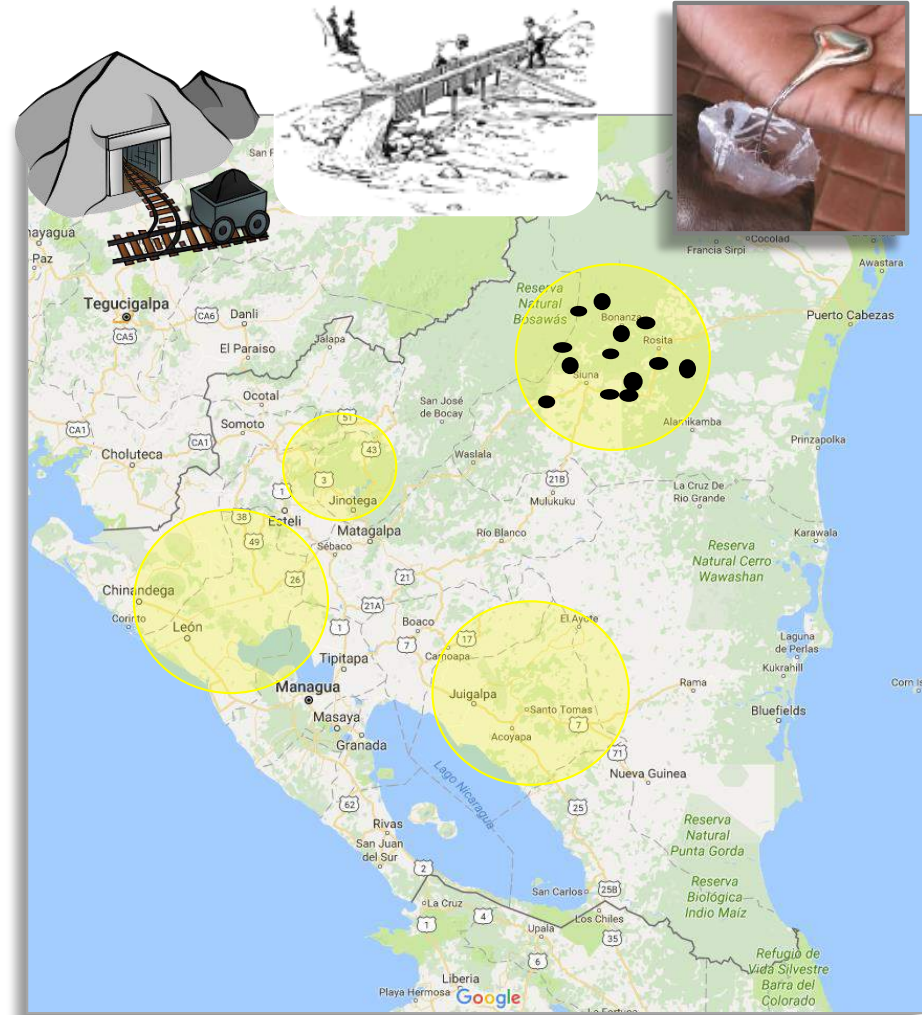
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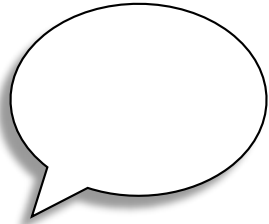
Visits to a few  
ASGM sites



# 1. National Sector Scoping



Literature Review



Interviews with Stakeholders



Visits to the capital & major mining hubs



Visits to a few ASGM sites

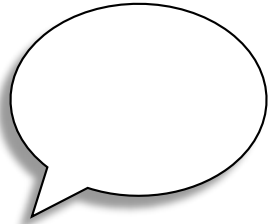




# 1. National Sector Scoping



Literature Review



Interviews with Stakeholders



Visits to the capital & major mining hubs



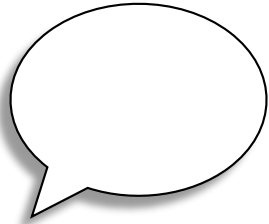
Visits to a few ASGM sites



# 1. National Sector Scoping



Literature Review



Interviews with Stakeholders



Visits to the capital & major mining hubs

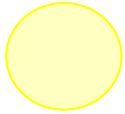


Visits to a few ASGM sites



# 2. Design a Research Plan

Identify regions & region data



Identify missing data

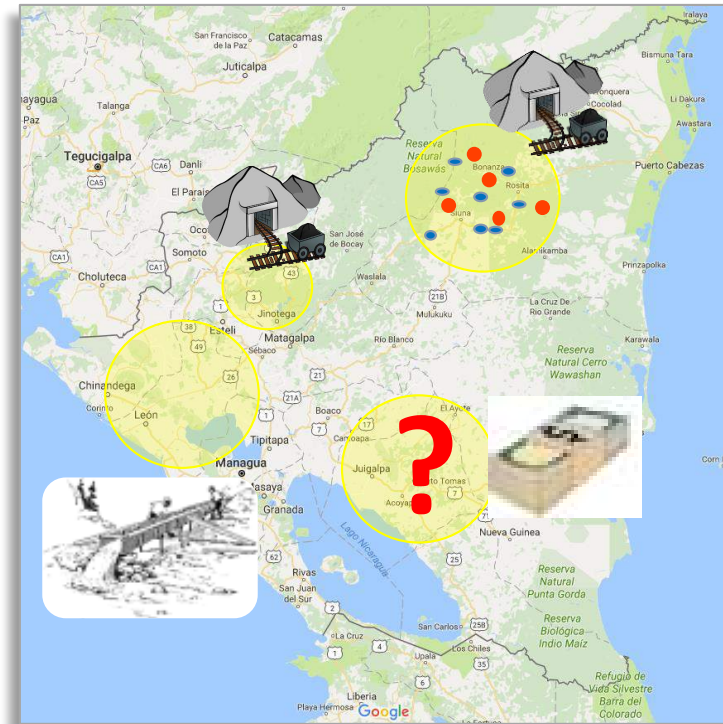


Select approaches *per region*



Determine information needed

Outline Field Data Collection



# 3. Collecting Field Data



# Tools



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## General Site Assessment Form (to be completed inventory specialist based on observations)

Note: If there is a person in charge of the site (from the town/council, police, concession holder, etc) then they should be interviewed and if possible assist in collecting the information on this sheet.

### General Site Information

<b>General Information</b>	
Inventory Officer:	Date:
Region:	Closest Community:
Site Name:	GFS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Datum:
Estimated Site Workforce:	Style of Mining:
Processing style:	Formal Status on site:
How many gold buyers in community:	Evidence of mercury use:
Contact information:	
<b>General Description of Site:</b>	
...	
<b>General Description of site Governance (Individual? Groups? Bosses? Do miners rent systems, do they get daily wage, % of production, Etc):</b>	
...	

### Extraction Information

<b>Extraction Information</b>	
Type of Ore: <input type="checkbox"/> Hard Rock / <input type="checkbox"/> Soft Rock / <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Extraction Teams: Individual / Group / Both
Extraction Method:	Estimated total Miners on site:
# Open Pits:	# Shafts:
# Miners per open pit:	# Miners per shaft:
Open pit extraction method:	Shaft extraction method:
Daily extraction per miner (open pit):	Daily extraction per miner (shaft):
Unit of measure and weight per unit:	Days active per year:
Extraction Comments:	
...	

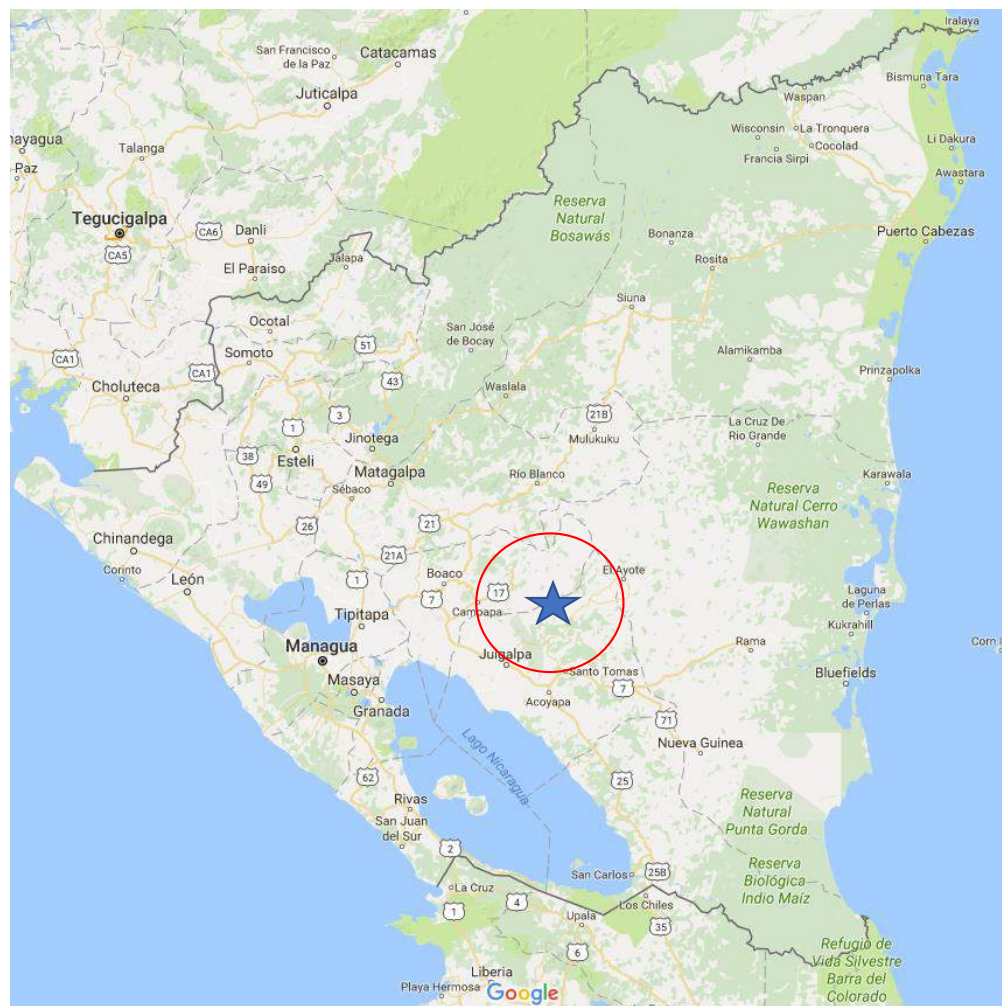
### Processing Information

<b>Processing Information 1 (Do for each general processing workflow observed on Site)</b>	
Type of Processing system:	
# of processing systems:	Estimated total Processors for this style system:
# Processors per system:	Processing per processor:
Is mercury used in upgrading?	Whole-ore or concentrate amalgamation:
Comments/ description of processing workflow:	
...	



# Step by Step Approach

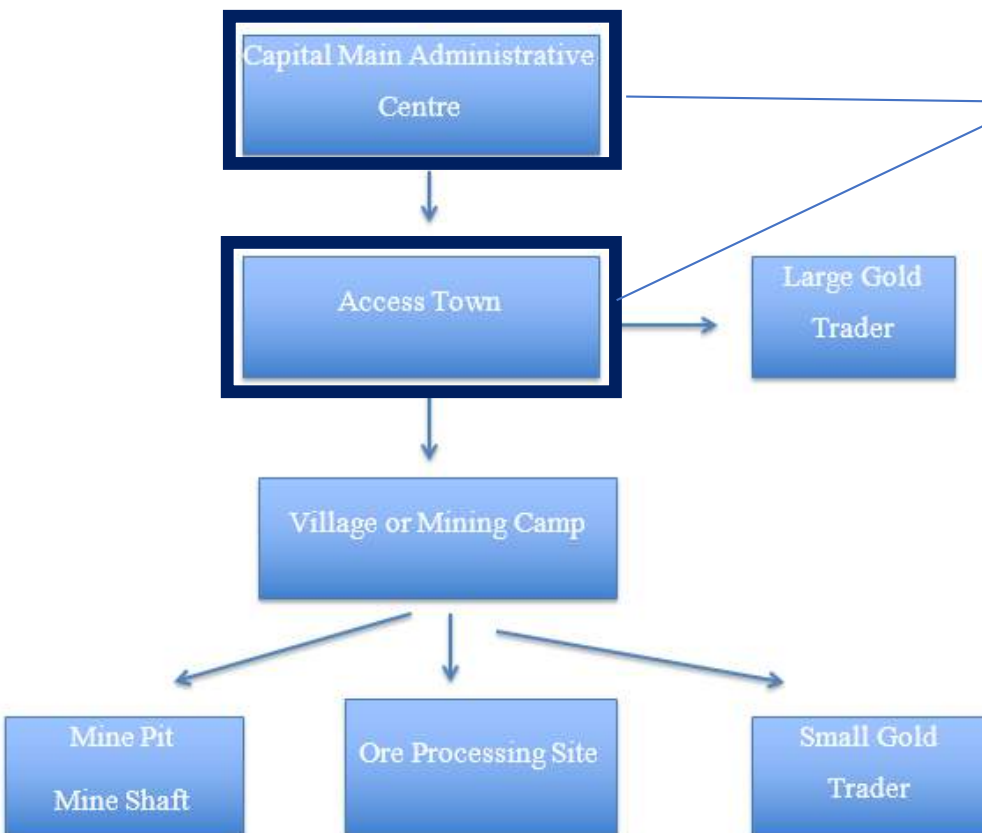
1. Visit Regional Stakeholders
2. Visit Mining Communities
3. Meet Authorities
4. Visit extraction / processing sites
5. Casual introductions
6. Observations
7. Worker Interviews
8. Other local interviews?
9. Revise and compile data daily
10. Site and regional estimates
11. Adjust as necessary!



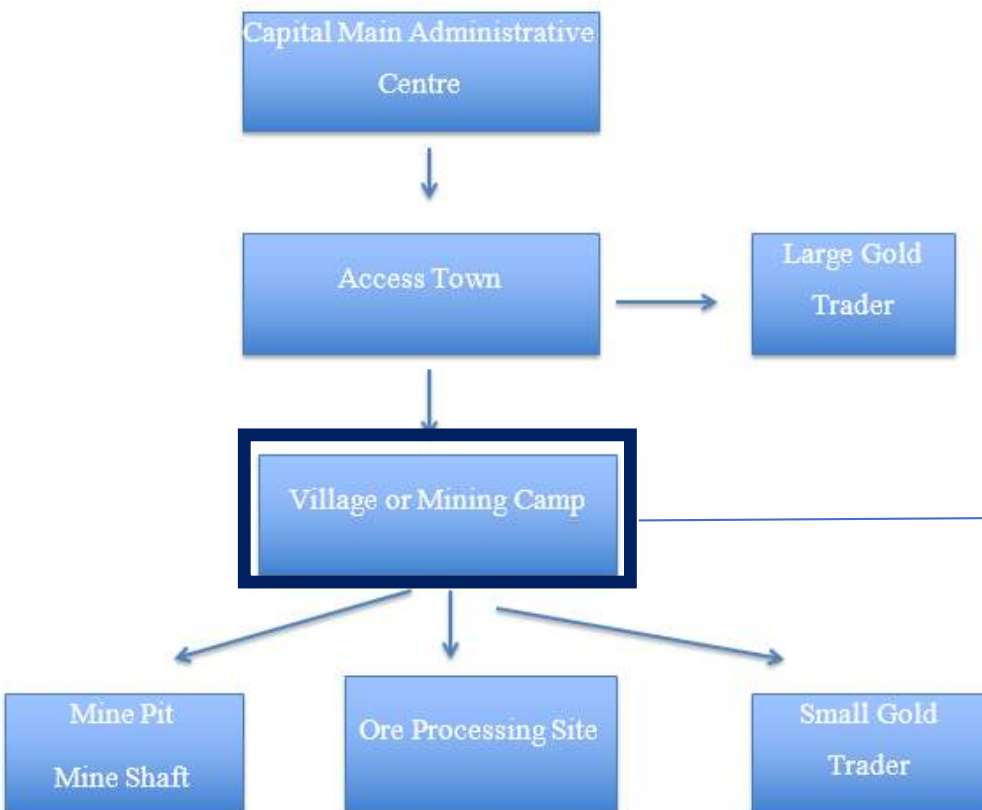
# Step-by-Step Approach

## Capital & Access Town

1. Meet with government and administrative officials + local authority. Explain project & obtain permission



# Step-by-Step Approach



# Community



1. Meet with local authority
2. Explain project
3. **Community Interview Form** collect info about mining here (will be general)

Village or Mining Camp Data Form			
<b>Location</b>			
Name of Village/Camp		Latitude	
Name of Mine Site		Longitude	
Province		Date	
Department/County		Time	
<b>Site Accessibility</b>			
Access Route (Description)		River A	



# Community



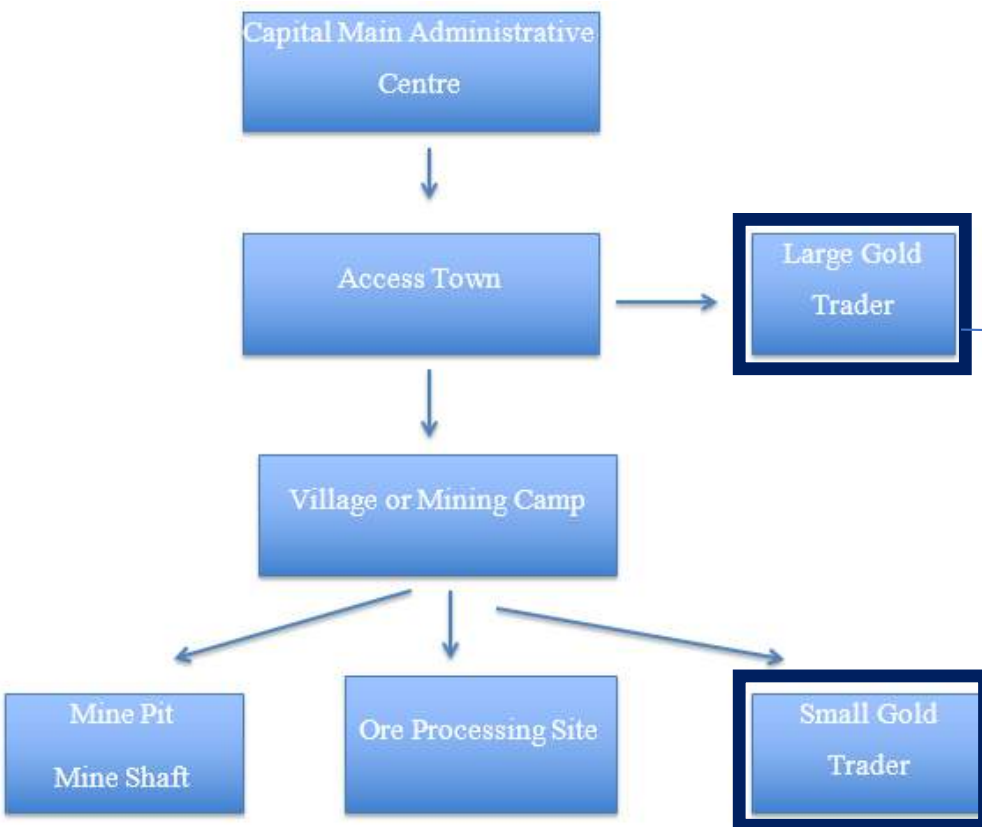
## *A Note on Interviews*

- Informal is better
- Build relationship and trust first
- Best to isolate one person for the interview
- **It`s a conversation**
- Ask questions first, take notes later
- Ask different questions to allow you to come to the same answers different ways
  - Evaluate answers as you go!
- Do NOT simply read questions off a sheet
  - Use survey sheets as a guide
- **Analyse information during or immediately following interview**

1. Meet with local authority
2. Explain project
3. **Community Interview Form**  
collect info about mining here  
(will be general)

Village or Mining Camp Data Form			
<b>Location</b>			
Name of Village/Camp		Latitude	
Name of Mine Site		Longitude	
Province		Date	
Department/County		Time	
<b>Site Accessibility</b>			
Access Route (Description)		River A	

# Step-by-Step Approach



# Gold Traders



1. Meet with head of gold house
2. **Interview**, referring to the **Gold Trader Form**
3. Start with questions about gold (price, amount purchased, types, grades)
4. Ask to see some gold. Check for Hg use. Take a photo.

## Gold Buying/Trading House Data Form

### Location Information

Name of gold trader:

Tel		Date	
Email		Time	
Address			
City			

# Step-by-Step Approach



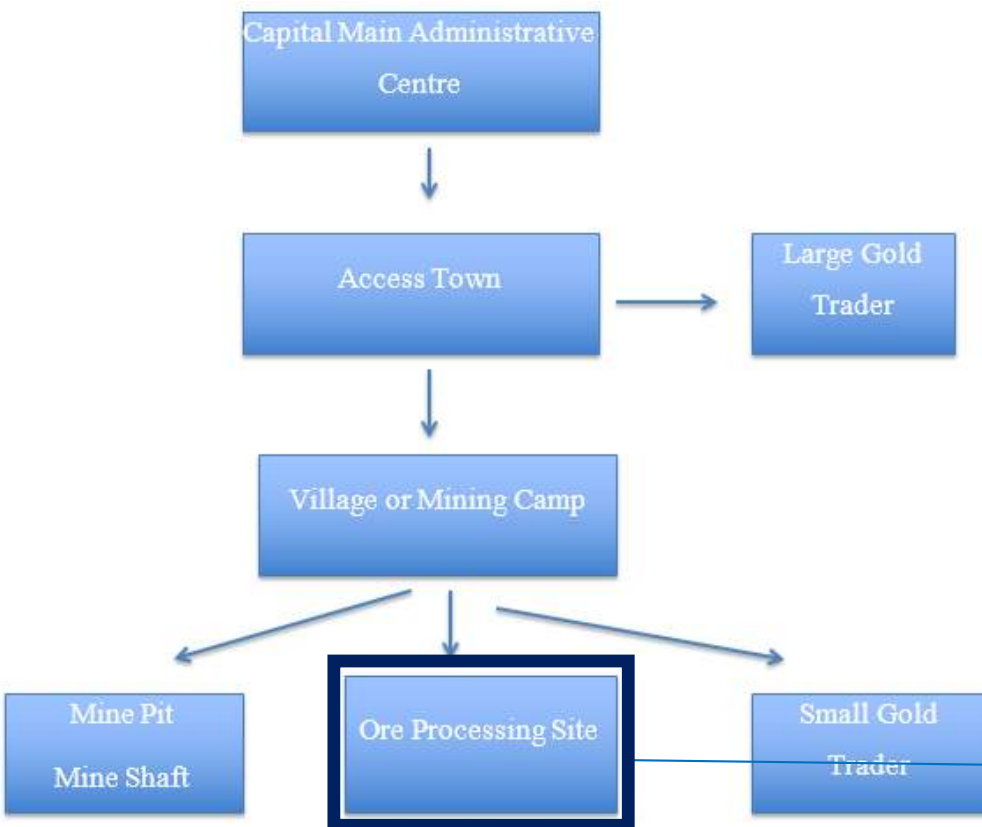
## Extraction Site



1. Scan site and determine practical approaches. Begin to fill out [ASGM General Observations](#)
2. Go to a pit/shaft, identify self
3. Interview the pit/shaft boss and miners specific to the pit/shaft
4. Use [ASGM Site Interview Form](#)

General Site Information	
General Information	
Int	Miner   Processor   Pit Boss   Processor Boss   Group Leader   Site Leader
Re	
Si	General Information (from inventory officer observations)
Es	Inventory Officer: _____ Date: _____
	Region: _____ Closest Community: _____
	Site Name: _____ Mining Group Name: _____
	Person Interviewed: _____ Role of Person Interviewed: _____
	Estimated Site / Group Workforce: _____

# Step-by-Step Approach



## Processing Site

General Site Information	
General Information	
Inventory Officer:	Date
Reg:	Miner   Processor   Pit Boss   Processor
Site:	
General Information (from inventory officer)	
Inventory Officer:	
Reg:	
Site:	Mercury Inventory Form
Per:	
Est:	
Location	
Name of Village/Camp	
Name of Mine Site	
Province	
Department/County	



1. Fill **ASGM General Observations**
2. Go to a processing team, identify self & explain project
3. Observe the processing workflow, noting steps, equipment & where Hg is used.
3. Go to each step & interview. Use **ASGM Site Interview Form**
4. Do detailed mercury measurement to find Hg:Au ratio
5. Use **Hg:Au Form**

# Ways of Collecting Information



## Interviews

with miners, processors, bosses, land owners, gold traders



## Direct Observation

Type of mineral, mining/processing workflows, mercury use, site governance, socio-economic variables



## Counts

Pits, shafts, processing systems, miners, bags of ore...



## Weight

Bag of ore, mercury added/recovered, amalgam produced, gold produced...



## Volume

Mercury added/recovered, water throughput...



## GPS

Location, spatial distribution

# Conducting Interviews



- Informal is better
- Build relationship and trust first
- Best to isolate one person for the interview
- **It`s a conversation**
- Ask questions first, take notes later
- Ask different questions to allow you to come to the same answers different ways
  - Evaluate answers as you go!
- Do NOT simply read questions off a sheet
  - Use survey sheets as a guide
- **Analyse information during or immediately following interview**

# Analysing Data During Interview



Q. How much ore do you process in a day? A. 1 tonne

Q. How many bags of ore do you process in a day? A. 15

Q. How much does a bag of ore weigh? A. 100 kg

# Analysing Data After Interview

## Processor #1:

- Throughput = 1 T/d
- Recovery = 60 g/T
- Days Active = 6 / wk
- Month Prod = ~250 g

## Processor #2:

- Throughput = 10 bags/d
- Measure: 100 kg/bag*
- Observe: 2.5 bag/6 hr*
- Recovery = 1 g/bag
  - Days Active = 25 / month
  - Month Prod = ~200 g

## Processor #1:

- Throughput = 1 T/d
- Recovery = **10-15 g/T**  
(use 12.5 g/T)
- Month Prod = ~250 g

### Calculate Production:

- Daily = 60 g/d
- Month = 1440 g/month



### Calculate Production:

- Throughput = 1 T/d
- Production = 10 g/d
- Month = 250 g/month

### Calculate Production:

- Daily = 12.5 g/d
- Month = 300 g/month





# Site Counts

- Visit sites and make counts of select characteristics
  - Active Pits
  - Active Processing systems
  - Workers per pit or system
  - Extraction per or throughput per system



# Site Counts

**For large sites or communities hire a local miner to show you around the site!**

*Counts at ALL sites in a region?*

- *Couple with site authority interview?*
- *Triangulate with other regional information?*



# Physical Measurements

- Mercury measurements
- Gold Measurements
- Ore bag measurements
- Throughput



# Hg:Au Ratio



## Example: measuring the Hg:Au ratio for concentrate amalgam



1. Weigh the total amount of mercury before it is applied to the concentrated ore.



2. Weigh the excess mercury not forming a part of the amalgam.



12

3. If possible, weigh the amalgam formed after mixing the mercury with the concentrated ore, to better understand the loss of mercury to air versus water/soil.

## Example (continued)



4. Weigh the sponge gold remaining after burning.

5. If possible, weigh the gold doré after the sponge gold has been melted in order to understand the % of residual mercury remaining in the sponge (often 5%). This is valuable to know, because sponge gold is often burned in gold shops, located in populated areas.



13

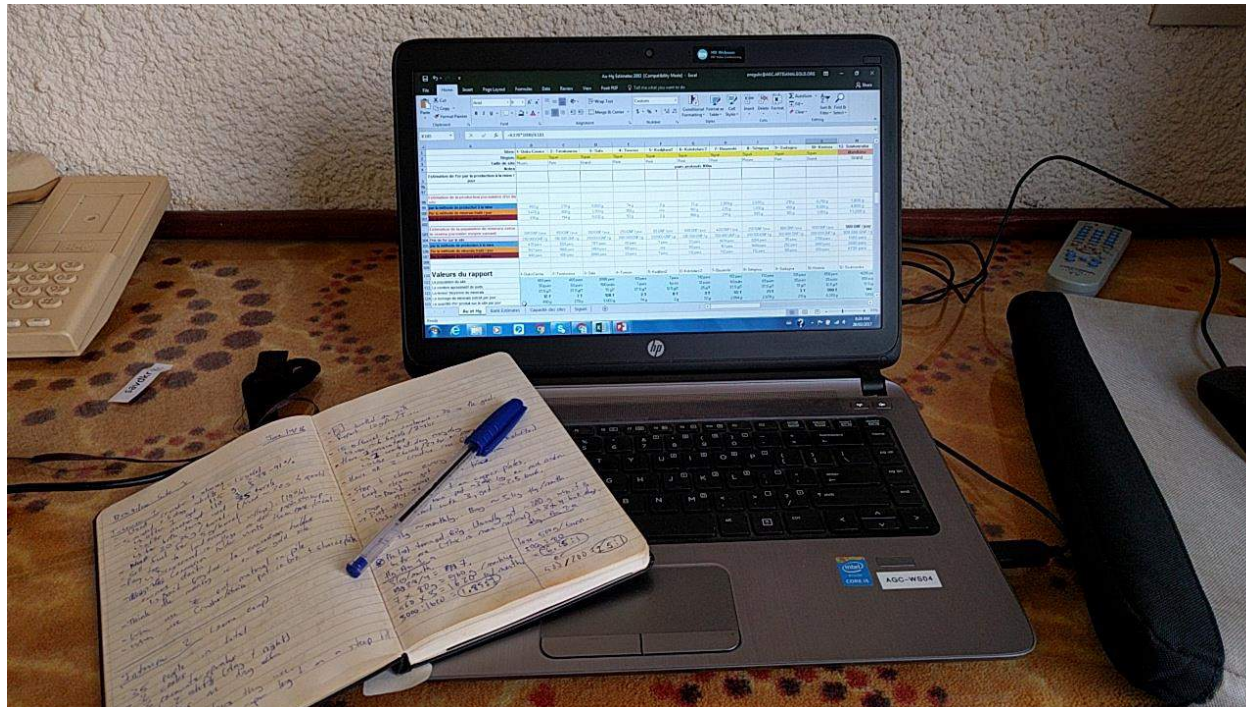


# Data Analysis



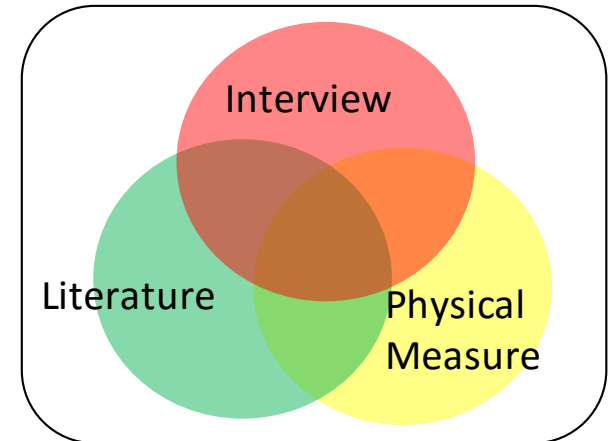
# Data Analysis

- Review and organize field data daily
- Assess data collected to ensure you have information needed for regional extrapolations
- Adjust field approaches as needed to ensure collection of useful data



# Data Analysis

- Must compile and organize data
- Determine which site data to use for regional estimates, and how to extrapolate
- Couple site data with existing information to compare, and produce regional and national estimates
- Compare estimates from different sources, and review to determine best estimates
- Use logic, triangulation, and gather extra information where needed



# Excel Sheets: Unit Conversion



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## Quantity of Gold

informal unit for weight of gold	blade	
grams per informal unit for weight of gold	1.3	<i>g/blade</i>
weight of gold, in informal units (blade)	10	<i>blades</i>
weight of gold, in grams (g)	13	<i>g</i>

## Purity of Gold

gold purity in karats	18	<i>K</i>
gold purity in %	75%	

## Quantity of Ore

informal unit for weight of ore	sack	
kg per informal unit for weight of ore	60	<i>kg/sack</i>
tonnes informal unit for weight of ore	0.06	<i>T/sack</i>
weight of ore, in informal units (sack)	100	<i>sacks</i>
weight of ore, in tonnes (T)	6	<i>T</i>

## Grade of Ore

informal unit for ore grade	g/sack	
unit for weight of gold	g	
grams per unit of gold weight (g)	1	<i>g/g</i>
unit for weight of ore	sack	
tonnes per unit of ore weight (sack)	0.06	<i>T/sack</i>
ore grade in informal units (g/sack)	2	<i>g/sack</i>
ore grade in ISO units (g/T)	33.33	<i>g/T</i>



# Excel Sheets: Site Estimates



## Enter location information

### ASGM Site: Korfalo | Location Information

ASGM Site	Korfalo
Concession/Mining Title	-
ASGM Mining Region	Godu
Lat	1.216667
Long	123.500000
GPS device & datum	Trimble handheld GPS, NAD83

Associated Communities	Kafala
County / District	Malika District
Province / State / Department	Godu Province
Country	Goldaguay

Date(s) of data collection	Oct 30, 2017
----------------------------	--------------

Name of field researcher	Marie Cooke
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Site contact(s): name	Ana Fleur	Eli Strong	Jim Jones	
role	Community Chief	Mining Coordinator	Cooperative Leader	
phone number	1(234)567-1234	1(234)567-8910		
email			<a href="mailto:jjones@email.com">jjones@email.com</a>	

# Excel Sheets: Site Estimates



Enter data (e.g., extraction-based data)

UN environment		ASGM Site: Placerton   Interviews with ASGM workers about Extraction							
		Data Collection Form "ASGM Site Interview: Extraction"							
Extraction Unit Interviews - Extraction Type 1		Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5	Interview 6	Interview 7	Interview 8
<b>Data entry</b>									
interviewee type		EXTRACTION WORKER	EXTRACTION BOSS						
interviewee name		Eli	Jonas						
ore grade (g/T)		10	10						
gold purity (%)		70%	70%						
daily extraction per miner (T ore/shift)		0.1	0.1						
average active miners per unit		10	10						
number of units on site - total		20	20						
number of units on site - active		10	11						
shift length (hr)		8	8						
shifts per day		2	2						
days active per week (d/w)		6	6						
months active per year (m/y)		10	10						
days active per year (d/y)		200	200						
daily earnings per miner (g 24K Au)		0.5	0.5						
annual earning per miner (g 24K Au)		100	120						
price per g of pure gold (local currency/g 24K Au)		38	35						
price per g of pure gold (\$USD/g 24K Au)		\$38.00	\$35.00						
<b>Calculations of site-level information</b>									
total miners on site (assumed = miners active/d)		200	220	---	---	---	---	---	---
daily ore extraction per unit (T ore/d/unit)		2	2	---	---	---	---	---	---
daily ore extraction on site (T ore/d/site)		20	22	---	---	---	---	---	---
yearly ore extraction on site (T ore/y/site)		4,000	4,400	---	---	---	---	---	---
yearly Au extracted on site - impure (kg Au/y/site)		40	44	---	---	---	---	---	---
yearly Au extracted on site - pure (kg Au/y/site)		28	31	---	---	---	---	---	---
value of yearly Au extracted on site (local currency/y/site)		1,064,000	1,078,000	---	---	---	---	---	---
value produced yearly per miner (local currency/y/miner)		5,320	4,900	---	---	---	---	---	---
value produced yearly per miner (\$USD/y/miner)		\$5,320	\$4,900	---	---	---	---	---	---

# Excel Sheets: Site Estimates

## Calculate - Useful variable averages:

		Site Interviews	
		Mean	Range
<b>Extraction Type 1</b>			
	daily extraction per miner (T ore/shift)	<b>0.1</b>	0.1 - 0.1
	average active miners per unit	<b>10</b>	10 - 10
	shift length (hr)	<b>8</b>	8 - 8
	shifts per day	<b>2</b>	2 - 2
	days active per year (d/y)	<b>200</b>	200 - 200
	daily earnings per miner (g 24K Au)	<b>0.5</b>	0.5 - 0.5
	annual earning per miner (g 24K Au)	<b>110</b>	100 - 120
	daily ore extraction per unit (T ore/d/unit)	<b>2.0</b>	2 - 2
	value produced yearly per miner (local currency/y/miner)	<b>5,110</b>	4900 - 5320
<b>Mineralogy</b>			
	ore grade (g/T)	<b>6.0</b>	2 - 10
	gold purity (%)	<b>80%</b>	70 - 90%
<b>Trade</b>			
	price per g of pure gold (local currency/g 24K Au)	<b>38.00</b>	38 - 38
	price per kg of mercury (local currency/kg Hg)	---	0 - 0
	purchased by miners per year, mercury, entire site (kg Hg/y)	---	0 - 0
	purchased by sellers per year, mercury, entire site (kg Hg/y)	---	0 - 0

# Excel Sheets: Site Estimates

## Calculate - Baseline Estimates for the Site:

<i>Site-Level Baseline Estimates for Placeron</i>			
<b>ASGM Ore Production (T 24-K Au/y)</b>		Mean	Range
	Extraction-based	20,800	18000 – 23600
	Processing-based	20,940	19000 – 22880
	Transport-based	4,560	4000 – 5120
	<b>average</b>	<b>15,433</b>	
<b>ASGM Gold Production (kg 24-K Au/y)</b>			
	Extraction-based	59.3	53 – 65
	Processing-based	58.9	55 – 63
	Transport-based	31.9	28 – 36
	Trade-based (bought by gold traders)	25.6	25 – 26
	<b>average</b>	<b>50.0</b>	
<b>ASGM Mercury Use (kg Hg/y)</b>			
	Extraction-based	252	
	Processing-based	250	
	Trade-based (total sold by Hg sellers)	---	0 – 0
	Trade-based (total bought by miners)	---	0 – 0
	Transport-based	136	
	<b>average</b>	<b>213</b>	
<b>Workforce</b>			
	Extraction Workers (extraction-based)	430	400 – 460
	Processing Workers (processing-based)	408	400 – 416
	Transport Workers (transport-based)	30	28 – 32
	<b>total</b>	<b>868</b>	

These variables (highlighted in yellow) go in the "Region Baseline Calcs" tab of the Region Workbook.

	Gold per Processing Type		
	kg	% of total	Hg:Au Ratio
Type 1	28.6	48%	6.87
Type 2	30.3	52%	1.79
Type 3	0	0%	0



# Excel Sheets: Region

## Calculate - Baseline Estimates for the Region

### Approach 1

**Visited all sites? Add estimates from all sites!**

**Approach 1: Collect site-specific data for ALL sites. Sum data for ALL sites in the region**

*Add data for all sites below (use data collected from site visits, plus additional info from stakeholders). Add together to get the regional baseline estimates.*

**Table 1. Summing the results of all regions**

	Site 1 Placerton	Site 2 [site name]	Site 3 [site name]	Site 4 [site name]	Site 5 [site name]	Site 6 [site name]	Site 7 [site name]	Site 8 [site name]	Site 9 [site name]
ASGM Gold Production (kg/y)	50	60	45	34	43	43	18	90	
ASGM Mercury Use (kg/y)	213	300	225	170	215	215	90	450	
ASGM workforce	868	45	346	324	123	54	32	12	

# Excel Sheets: Region

## Calculate - Baseline Estimates for the Region

### Approach 2

Visited a subset of sites? Extrapolate regional estimates using the variable averages and pieces of information about the region

**Approach 2: Collect averages of common variables by visiting a subset of sites (previous tab - 'All Sites'). Find baseline estimates by combining these variables with pieces of regional information**  
 Add all known data for the region (immediately below). Add key averages of information collected at your subset of sites (previous tab).

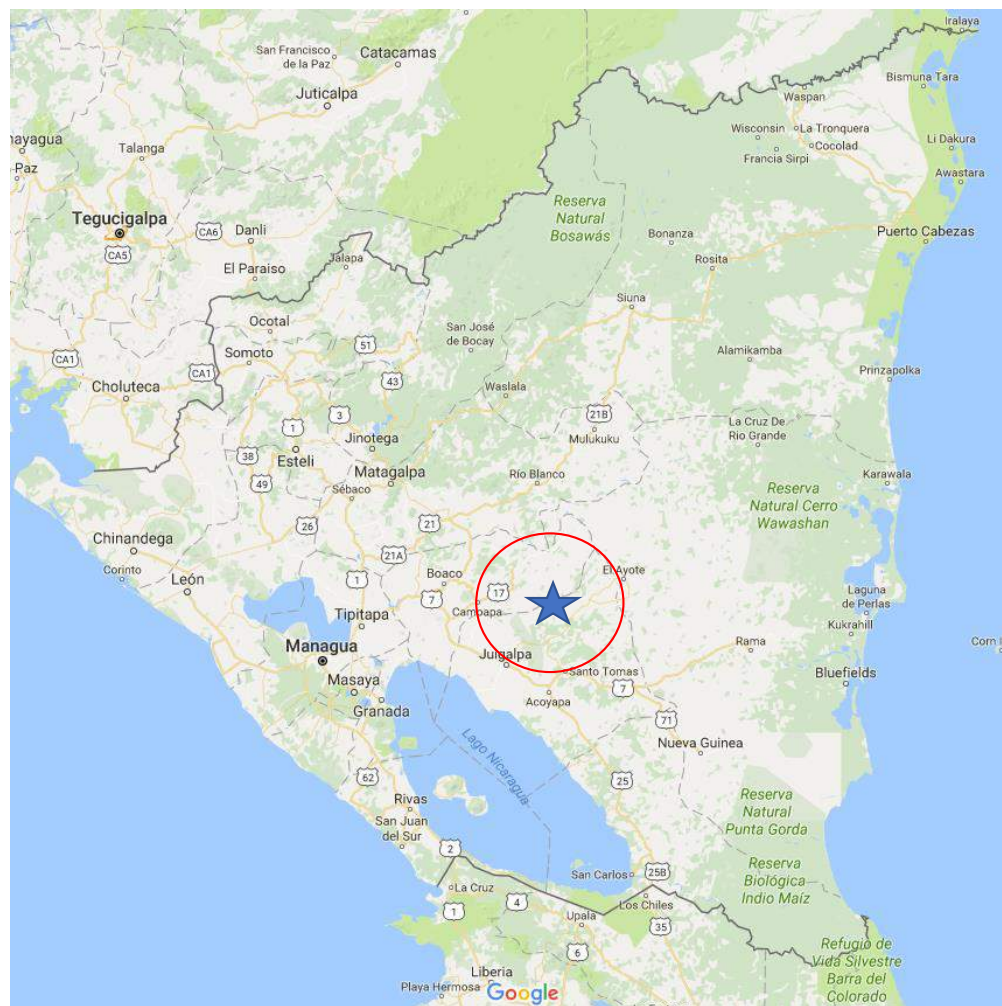
Table 2A. Available information about the region. Add all known region data here.		Table 2B. Extrapolation and Cross-check Exercises. Combine Region Data (Table 2A, directly above) and Site-based Average Data (previous tab).	
		View comments embedded in cells for calculation suggestions. These calculations are not the only options available. Regional estimates can be calculated in many different ways. These ways will be specific to the country, the region, and the information that has been collected from ASGM sites, and the regional information available. Add to the table below as per methodology defined by your team.	
		Regional Estimates	Comments
<b>General</b>	Ore Grade (g/T) Gold Purity (%) Total ASGM Workforce Annual Gold Production (T/yr)		
<b>Extraction</b>	total miner workforce % of workforce miners no. of mining sites - total no. of mining sites - large no. of mining sites - med no. of mining sites - small no. of extraction units	<b>Region Data: Workforce   Site-based Data: Extraction Info</b> Total Number of Miners Annual Gold Production (T) Annual Hg use (T)	
<b>Processing</b>	processor workforce % of workforce processors no. of mining sites No. of processing sites - total No. of processing sites - large No. of processing sites - med No. of processing sites - small no. of processing systems type 1 no. of processing systems type 2 no. of processing systems type 3 Hg:Au Ratio	<b>Region Data: Gold Production   Site-based Data: Extraction &amp; Processing Info</b> Total Gold production Total ASGM workforce  <b>Region Data: Number of Extraction Sites   Site-based Data: Extraction Info</b> Number of large mining sites Number of medium mining sites Number of small mining sites Average miner workforce of large sites Average miner workforce of medium sites Average miner workforce of small sites Total Miner Workforce Total ASGM Workforce Annual Au Production	
<b>Other</b>		<b>Region Data: Counts of Processing Systems   Site-based Data: Processing Info</b> Processing systems 1 in region Annual Au Production 1 Annual Hg use 1 ASGM workforce 1 Processing systems 2 in region Annual Au Production 2 Annual Hg use 2 ASGM workforce 2 Processing systems 3 in region Annual Au Production 3 Annual Hg use 3	





# Step by Step Approach

1. Visit Regional Stakeholders
2. Visit Mining Communities
3. Meet Authorities
4. Visit extraction / processing sites
5. Casual introductions
6. Observations
7. Worker Interviews
8. Other local interviews?
9. Revise and compile data daily
10. Site and regional estimates
11. Adjust as necessary!



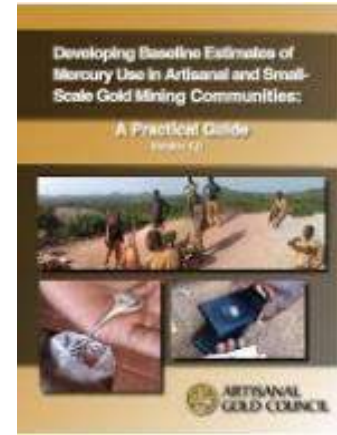
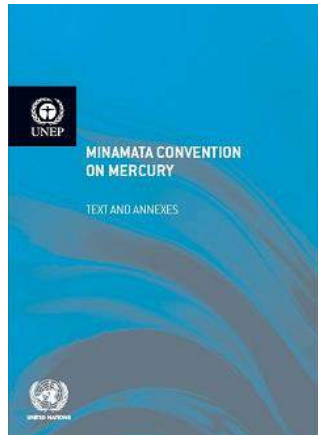
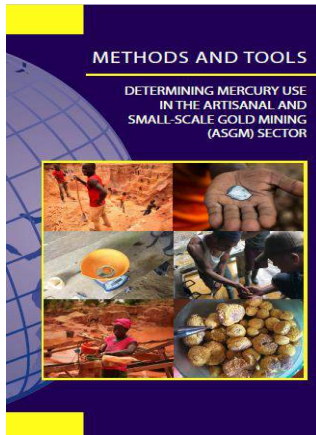
# Conclusions

- Various approaches and tools to collecting data
  - Select those appropriate for your methodology
- Constantly analyse information received
  - Both in the field, and afterwards
- Adapt methodology and questioning as you go
- Triangulate as often as possible
- Most important tool is knowledge of ASGM and experience



# Other Reference Documents

1. **Tools and Methods: Determining Mercury Use in the ASGM Sector**
2. UNEP Nap Guidance Document  
(<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/global-mercury-partnership/asgm/national-action-plans>)
  1. Minamata Convention on Mercury (UNEP)
  2. Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases (UNEP)
  3. Developing Baseline Estimates of Mercury in ASGM Communities (AGC)
  4. A Practical Guide: Reducing Mercury Use in ASGM (AGC/UNEP/UNIDO)





# ARTISANAL GOLD COUNCIL

Thank you very much!

Questions?



# Extra slides

## 9.1.1. Gold Calculations



### Correcting Impure Gold to 24K or 100% Pure Equivalence

$$\text{mass pure gold} = (\text{mass impure gold}) \times \frac{(\text{purity of impure gold})}{(\text{purity of pure gold})}$$

If the purity of your gold is stated in karats, the calculation will look like:

$$(\text{mass impure gold}) \times \frac{(\text{karatage impure gold})}{24}$$

If the purity of your gold is stated as percentage, the calculation will look like:

$$(\text{mass impure gold}) \times \frac{(\% \text{ purity of impure gold})}{100}$$

*e.g.1. 50 g of 18K gold = (50 g) x (18/24) = 37.5 g of 24K gold*

*e.g.2. 70 g of 80% pure gold = (70 g) x (80/100) = 56 g of 100% pure gold*

---

### Gold Yield from Ore (Gold Production)

$$\text{gold yield} = (\text{mass ore}) \times (\text{recoverable ore grade})$$

*e.g. 1. How much gold is yielded from 30 T of ore that has a recoverable grade of 5 g/T?*

$$\text{gold yield} = 30 \text{ T} \times 5 \text{ g/T} = 150 \text{ g of gold}$$

*e.g. 2. The average bag extracted by miners on site weighs 10 T. The recoverable ore grade is 6 g/T. How much gold is in each bag?*

$$\text{gold yield per bag} = 10 \text{ T/bag} \times 6 \text{ g/T} = 60 \text{ g of gold per bag}$$

## 9.1.2. Mercury Calculations

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Mercury recovery

Mercury-to-gold (Hg: Au) Ratio

See Section 6: Mercury-to-Gold (Hg: Au) Ratios.

## 9.1.3. Throughput Calculations

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### Sluice Throughput

$$\text{throughput rate} = (\text{width}) \times (\text{water depth}) \times (\text{water velocity})$$

$$\text{daily slurry throughput} = (\text{throughput rate}) \times (\text{hrs operating})$$

$$\text{daily ore throughput} = (\text{daily slurry throughput}) \times (\text{mass of sediment per m}^3 \text{ of slurry})$$

*e.g.*

Field officers measure the dimensions of a sluice and the velocity of the ore slurry passing through it. They interview the processors to find out how many hours per day the sluice is operating. They also fill a 1L soda bottle with the slurry enter the sluice and weigh it. They then drain the water out of the 1L bottle of slurry and weigh the sediment.

They find:

Sluice length = 14 m

Sluice width = 0.8 m

Water depth = 0.01 m

Water velocity = ~1.25 m/s

Hours operating = 20 hr/d

1 L slurry = 1285 g

Mass of sediment in 1L of slurry = 0.463 kg

What is the daily ore throughput of the sluice?

Throughput rate =  $0.8 \text{ m} \times 0.01 \text{ m} \times 1.25 \text{ m/s} = 0.01 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$

Daily slurry throughput =  $20 \text{ hr/d} \times 3600 \text{ s/hr} \times 0.01 \text{ m}^3/\text{s} = 720 \text{ m}^3/\text{d}$

Daily ore throughput =  $720 \text{ m}^3/\text{d} \times 463 \text{ kg/m}^3 = 333360 \text{ kg/d} = 333 \text{ T/d}$



## 9.1.4. Equations and Calculations for Processing Sites

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### Calculations per Each Processing System:

*\* important: each of these calculations is for one specific processing system type. Calculate this information for each system type (e.g., system 1 = sluice, system 2 = rastra, system 3 = panning).*

**Daily 24K gold production (g/R/d)**

Daily throughput (T/sys/d) x ore grade (g/T)

*Correct karatage to 24K (as in Section 9.1.1.)*

**Daily mercury loss (g/R/d)**

System-specific daily 24K-Au production (g/sys/d) x system Hg:Au ratio

**Daily number of active processors (px/sys/d)**

Shift count (px/shift) ÷ shift length (hrs/shift) x 24hrs

**Daily active miners required to produce the daily throughput (ex/sys/d)**

Daily throughput (T/sys/d) ÷ miner ore prod (T/ex/d)

### Calculations for Site-level Daily Information

*\* once calculations are made for each type of processing system on the site, the averages for each processing system can be combined into site-level information.*

**Daily 24K gold production (g/site/d)**

Average of system type 1 daily 24K gold prod (g/sys1/d) x #sys1/site

*Also calculate for system type 2, type 3, etc. and then sum production values for all system types.*

**Daily mercury loss (g/site/d)**

Average of system type 1 daily Hg loss (g/sys1/d) x #sys1/site

*Also calculate for system type 2, type 3, etc. and then sum production values for all system types.*





**Daily number of active processors (px/site/d)**

Average system 1 daily number of active processors (px/sys1/d) x #sys1/site

*Also calculate for system type 2, type 3, etc. and then sum production values for all system types.*

**Daily number of active miners (ex/site/d) – Option 1**

Average system 1 daily active extractors (ex/sys1/d) x #sys1/site

*Also calculate for system type 2, type 3, etc. and then sum production values for all system types.*

**Daily number of active miners (ex/site/d) – Option 2**

Average site-level daily throughput (T/site/d) ÷ average miner ore production rate (T/ex/d)

## Calculations for Regional-level Daily Information

**Daily 24K gold production (g/region/d),**

**Daily number of active processors per region (px/region/d), and**

**Daily number of active miners per region (ex/region/d).**

Extrapolation from site-level data using a known piece of regional information, e.g., number of processing systems in the region. (see Section 7.2: *Extrapolating Regional Estimates*).

**Daily mercury loss (g/reg/d)**

Daily 24K gold production (g/sys1/d) x (% of production yielded by system type 1) x (Hg: Au Ratio for system type 1)

*Also calculate for system type 2, type 3, etc. and then sum production values for all system types.*

## Calculations for Regional-level Annual Information

**Annual 24K gold production (g/site/yr)**

Daily 24K gold production (g/region/d) x active days per year (d/yr)

*Convert to kg/region/yr by dividing by 1000.*

**Annual mercury loss (g/site/yr), Option 1**

Daily Hg loss (g/region/d) x active days per year (d/yr)

*Convert to kg/region/yr by dividing by 1000.*

**Annual Hg loss (kg/site/yr), Option 2**

Annual 24K gold production (kg/region/yr) x (% of production yielded by system type 1) x (Hg: Au Ratio for system type 1)

*Also calculate for system type 2, type 3, etc. and then sum production values for all system types.*

**Annual number of active processors (px/region/yr)**

assumed equal to the daily statistic

**Annual number of active miners (ex/region/yr)**

assumed equal to the daily statistic

## Calculations for National-level Annual Information

**Annual 24K gold production (kg/country/yr)**

Sum all 24K gold production (kg/region/yr) for each of the major ASGM mining regions in the country

**Annual mercury loss (kg/country/yr)**

Sum all Hg loss (kg/region/yr) for each of the major ASGM mining regions in the country

**Number of active processors (px/country)**

assumed equal to the daily statistic

**National active extractors (ex/country)**

assumed equal to the daily statistic