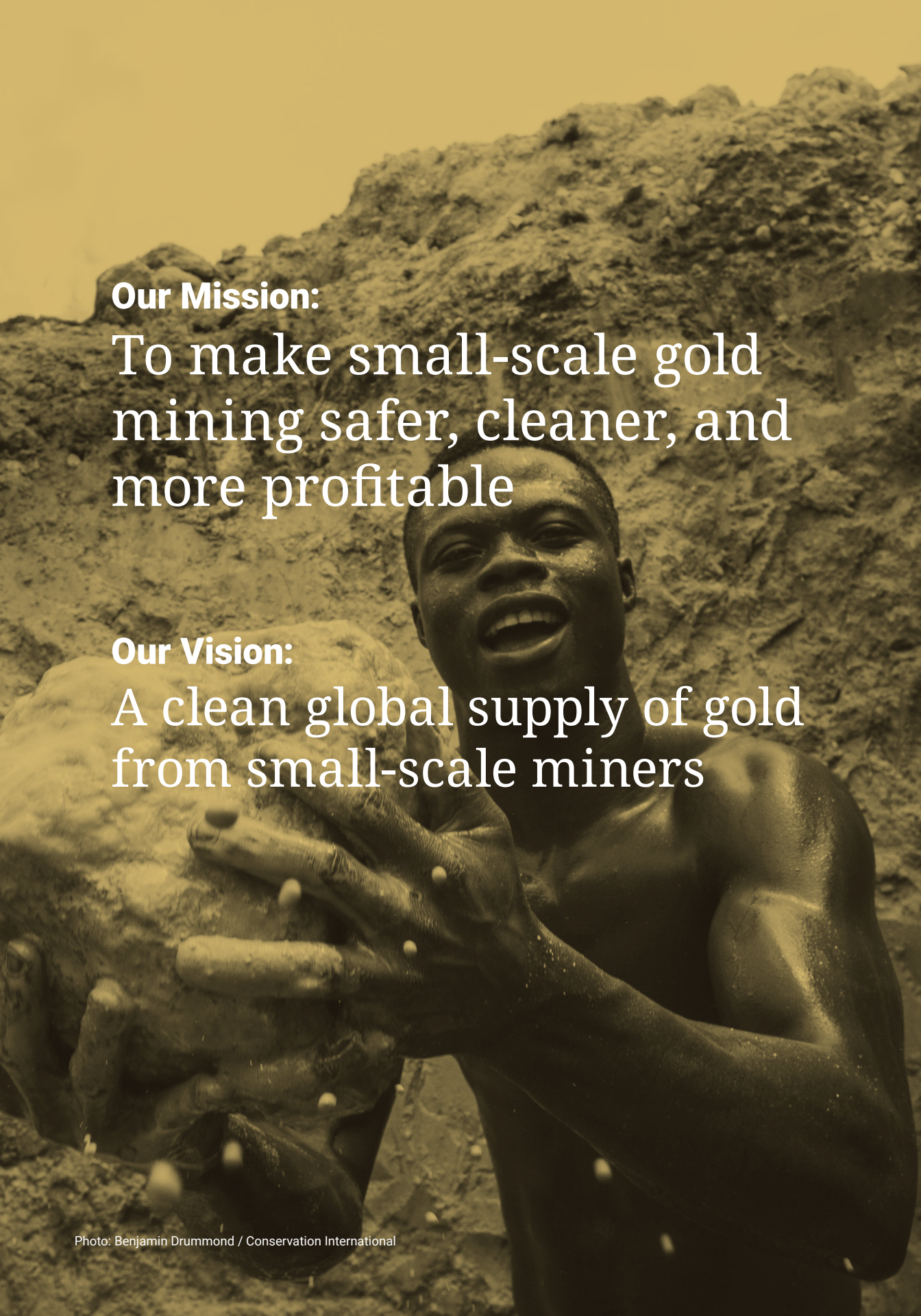
planetGOLD

Making a world of difference
in small-scale gold mining.

A GEF Initiative



Our Mission:

To make small-scale gold mining safer, cleaner, and more profitable

Our Vision:

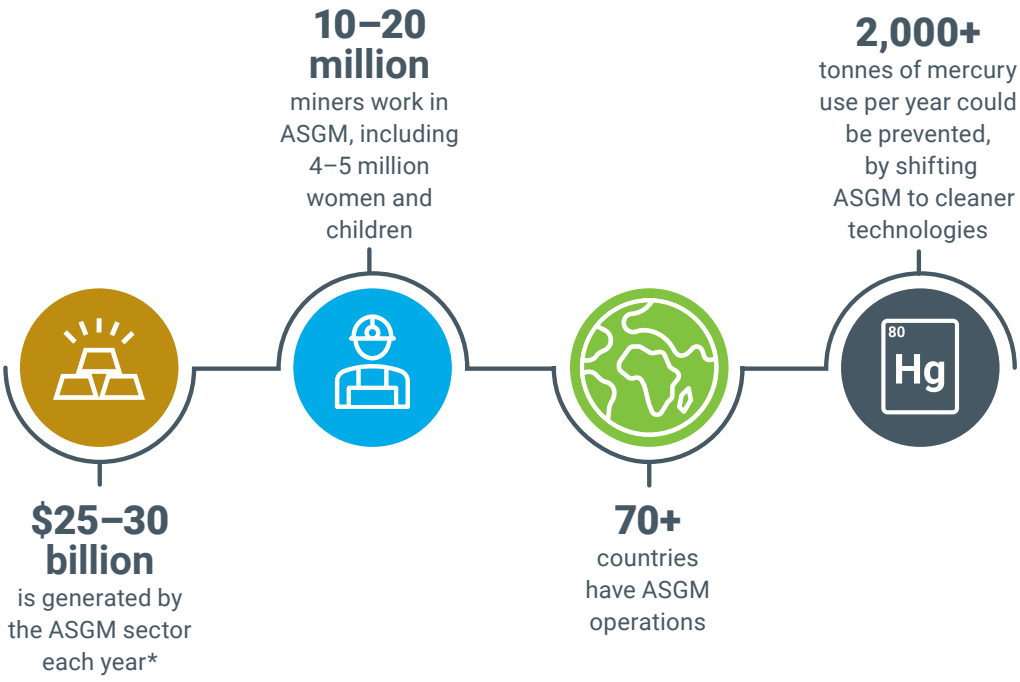
A clean global supply of gold from small-scale miners

Photo: Benjamin Drummond / Conservation International

Artisanal and small-scale miners are responsible for producing 20 percent of the world's gold each year.

Due to limited economic opportunities or a lack of awareness about the dangers, many of these small-scale mining operations use the highly toxic chemical mercury to extract their gold, making this sector the largest source of mercury pollution in the world. This 3,000-year-old method for processing gold is leading to grievous environmental and health consequences.

Today, an opportunity exists to upgrade the practices of 10–20 million small-scale miners—sustainably boosting their productivity while improving the gold supply chain and significantly reducing global mercury pollution. Transforming the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector has the potential to inject new capital into local economies and improve the lives of more than 100 million people, who rely on this industry directly or indirectly for their livelihoods.

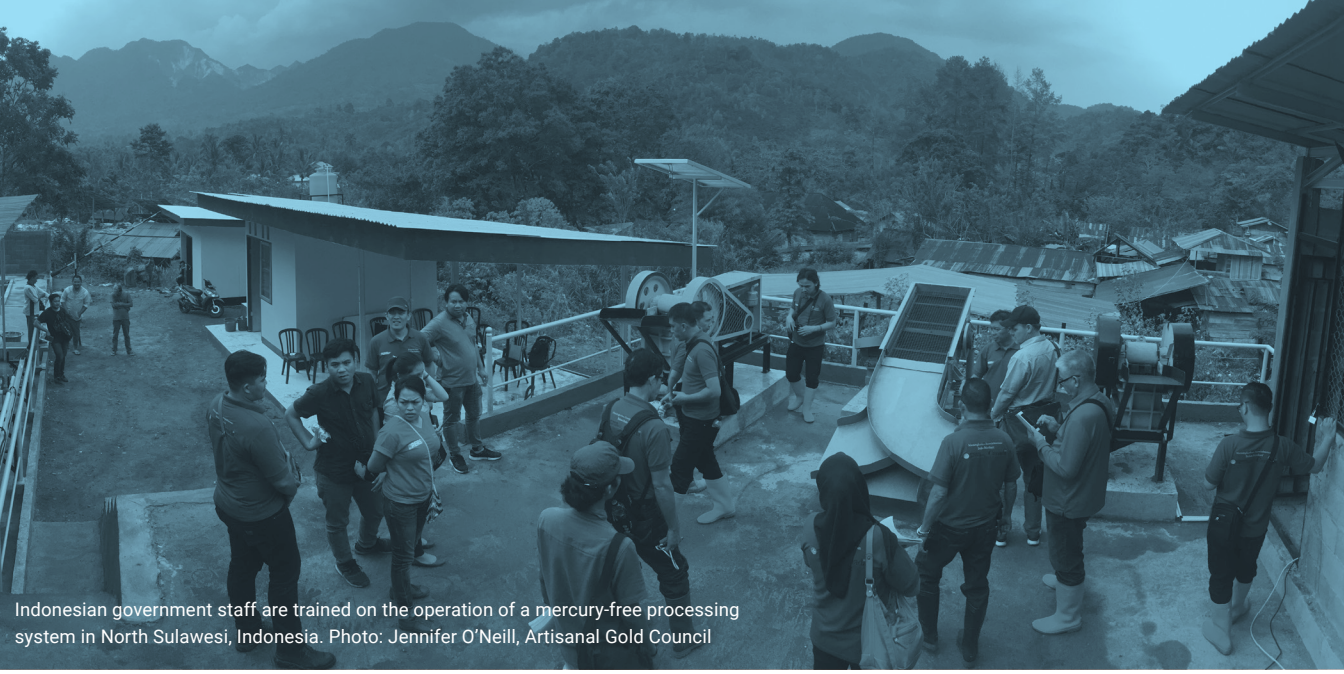


*based on 2019 price of gold

The planetGOLD programme works in partnership with governments, the private sector, and ASGM communities in nine countries to significantly improve the production practices and work environment of artisanal and small-scale miners. By working to close the financing gap, supporting formalization, and connecting mining communities with mercury-free technology and formal markets, the programme aims to demonstrate a pathway to cleaner and more efficient small-scale gold mining practices that benefit everyone, from mine to market.

Panning for gold in Kakamega County, Kenya.
Photo: Duncan Moore/UNEP

Photo: UNDP Ecuador



Indonesian government staff are trained on the operation of a mercury-free processing system in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Photo: Jennifer O'Neill, Artisanal Gold Council

The planetGOLD programme is working to eliminate mercury from the supply chain of gold produced by artisanal and small-scale miners by supporting:

Formalization
Facilitating efforts to integrate the ASGM sector into the formal economy, society, and regulatory system

Access to Finance
Piloting a range of models for access to investment and finance for small-scale miners and their communities

Mercury-free Technology
Introducing and facilitating access to mercury-free technologies and best practices in ASGM

Access to markets
Facilitating miners' access to formal gold supply chains, in partnership with gold buyers and industrial users

Visit **planetgold.org** to learn more
and sign up for updates

Supported by the Global Environment Facility, planetGOLD is led by the United Nations Environment Programme and implemented in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Development Programme, and Conservation International.

planetGOLD

Supported by: gef

Led by: UN environment

In partnership with: UNIDO UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

UNDP

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Photo: UNDP Ecuador