

ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING



For over three decades, Projekt-Consult has been at the forefront of transforming the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) sector into a responsible venture. Our holistic approach leverages deep industry knowledge to facilitate access to markets and formalise ASM operations, ensuring they meet national and international standards. By closely collaborating with miners, cooperatives, and regulatory bodies, we implement comprehensive strategies that encompass technical, legal, environmental, and socio-economic aspects tailored to the unique conditions of each project.

Our expertise extends to enhancing environmental best practices and fostering responsible mineral extraction, which have been pivotal in shifting ASM towards less intrusive methods that significantly benefit local communities and the environment. With a proven track record of facilitating sustainable development and improved access to international markets, Projekt-Consult continues to lead in delivering solutions that not only support

compliance and certification but also promote inclusive growth and environmental stewardship in the ASM sector. Explore our rich history and the impactful services we offer, underscoring our commitment to a more sustainable and responsible mining industry.

Find out more about the services we offer in these areas:

Formalisation: Our formalisation strategies transform informal ASM activities into recognised operations that comply with legal frameworks, fostering stability, growth, and sustainable development within the sector.

Access to market: Within our projects we attempt to empower ASM operators by enhancing their market access, ensuring that artisanal miners can connect with fair and sustainable trading networks worldwide, thereby increasing their profitability and compliance with global standards.

Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining



© Projekt-Consult GmbH

FORMALISATION

Formalisation of the ASM sector is crucial for integrating artisanal miners into the official economy, enhancing their living conditions, and promoting sustainable practices. By transforming informal mining activities into legally recognised operations, Projekt-Consult supports the development of the ASM sector as a cornerstone of local and national economic growth. Our comprehensive approach includes in-depth technical and socio-economic assessments, analysis of existing mining legislation, and the proposal of necessary adjustments tailored to the unique needs of each community and country. These efforts ensure that ASM operations are compliant with national and international standards, thereby enhancing their legality and legitimacy.

Formalisation of the ASM sector is pivotal for integrating artisanal miners into the formal economy, enhancing their living conditions, and ensuring sustainable mining practices. Projekt-Consult supports this transformation by conducting detailed socio-economic assessments, revising mining legislation, and implementing tailored strategies that align with international standards. Our work mitigates environmental impacts and fosters economic growth within mining communities.

By establishing clear legal frameworks and promoting compliance, we address illicit financing and enhance safety and productivity in ASM operations. Our approach includes capacity building with local authorities, engaging CSOs for sensitisation campaigns, and introducing technology to improve efficiency and traceability. Through policy dialogue, we advocate for supportive regulations, ensuring the formalisation and sustainable development of ASM.

Projekt-Consult helps to:

- Provide technical support and training to improve environmental management practices in ASM, helping to mitigate the sector's ecological footprint.
- Facilitate the introduction of appropriate and sustainable technologies that increase efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of mining operations.
- Involve local communities in the formalisation process, by attempting to improve relations between miners and local populations, ensuring that mining activities contribute positively to local development.
- Develop and implement comprehensive safety training and standards to reduce risks and enhance the health and safety of miners in ASM operations.

These activities reflect Projekt-Consult's commitment to improving the ASM sector's efficiency and sustainability. Our efforts ensure that mining practices contribute to economic development and environmental conservation, aligning with our mission to make mining a responsible venture.

- **ASM mapping & assessment:** Projekt-Consult acquires first-hand information through detailed field mappings and assessments, on-site interviews, and discussions with the key stakeholders. According to the client's needs, spatially referenced geo-data and ASM knowledge databases are set up and maintained.

- **Formalisation processes:** We design and implement formalisation training programs that enable ASM miners to access formal markets and adopt responsible mining practices. In Colombia and Peru, for example, we successfully collaborated with various regions to formalise miners, enhancing their operational standards and market integration.
- **Comprehensive legal frameworks:** We collaborate with authorities at the national, regional and local to refine and strengthen ASM legal frameworks, ensuring they are robust and support sustainable development. Particularly in Latin America and Africa we have participated in ASM reform processes in various jurisdictions. In these assignments, we typically provide support for regulatory and legal reforms based on a combination of international best practices and insights from fieldwork at mining sites and in neighboring communities.
- **Capacity building:** We develop and deliver training programs for stakeholders to enhance their ability to implement and sustain formalisation initiatives. These programs frequently adopt a train-of-trainer approach, where experienced didactic experts collaborate with thematic specialists to develop participatory courses for national multipliers. For instance, in the DR Congo, we have trained staff of the competent local authority as well as civil society members to support the ASM sector in seven technical modules. Following the training of trainers, the project team provided ongoing support to the trainers during their initial training sessions for ASM cooperatives and communities in the copper-cobalt sector.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** We facilitate dialogue and collaboration among miners, local communities, CSOs, government agencies, and international organisations to support inclusive and realistic formalisation strategies. We have organised stakeholder consultations to inform formalisation reforms in various Andean countries. We also work with specific interventions on sensitive issues. For example, we have supported authorities at various levels in Central Africa on LSM-ASM cooperation and on conflict resolution in ASM-affected areas.
- **Compliance with environmental requirements:** We have extensive experience in environmental management for ASM, with a focus on assessing and mitigating risks to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and standards. Our approach includes thorough evaluations of environmental impacts and the establishment of best practices for responsible mine management. For instance, we have provided support to environmental protection agencies and other mining oversight institutions in different Western African countries on environmental and social audits, particularly in the ASM sector. Our multidisciplinary teams have developed, tested, and introduced customised audit guidelines for the relevant authorities. We also conduct on-site trainings and shadow audits of semi-industrial and artisanal mines.



ACCESS TO MARKET

Securing access to market for artisanal and small-scale miners is pivotal in promoting responsible and sustainable mining practices. Projekt-Consult's approach to enhancing market access integrates crucial elements such as environmental stewardship, occupational health and safety (OHS) standards, and the implementation of rigorous due diligence processes. Our projects focus on reducing the use of hazardous substances like mercury in mining operations, aligning with global initiatives for mercury reduction and environmental protection.

By collaborating with local and international stakeholders, we facilitate the inclusion of ASM products, particularly responsible gold, in global supply chains. This effort is supported by comprehensive strategies that improve miners' access to finance, enabling them to invest in safer and more efficient technologies and practices. These interventions not only aim to elevate the quality and safety of ASM operations but also ensure that they meet the high standards demanded by international markets.

Projekt-Consult helps to:

- Advocate for and support the adoption of responsible sourcing initiatives that enhance sustainability in the ASM sector.
- Implement Safety and Environmental Standards to ensure safe and responsible mining practices.
- Facilitate Access to Finance by enabling miners to implement sustainable technologies and practices.
- Enhance Due Diligence and Compliance with international norms to secure responsible supply chains.

Through these efforts, Projekt-Consult is dedicated to improving the economic viability and environmental sustainability of the ASM sector, making it a more attractive and compliant option for global markets. This includes:

- **From mine to market:** We assist ASM operations in achieving certification under international responsible gold programs, enhancing their marketability and ensuring premium market prices for their products. Most prominently, Projekt-Consult developed the world renowned Swiss Better Gold Initiative as an innovative public private partnership and was responsible for its implementation for more than a decade.
- **Mineral processing:** Projekt-Consult analyses and optimises each processing step to maximise the efficiency and, thus, the quantity of the ore concentrate obtained, while mitigating the negative effects for the miners' health and the environment. Miners are trained on the job using advanced and efficient processing technologies, such as amalgamation retorts. These technologies require no or only a small fraction of chemical reagents, consume less water, and are more energy efficient. Pragmatic tailings and mining waste management strategies are developed considering the miners' technical capacity and environmental conditions.
- **Access to finance:** By connecting ASM operations with financial institutions and impact investors, we enable miners to access the necessary capital to improve their mining practices and comply with international due diligence standards as done so through trainings in the Tierra Dorada project in Colombia for ASM gold miners. In Bolivia we are working for Unido / planetGold on increasing financing options for miners that apply environmentally friendly techniques.
- **Due diligence and compliance:** We provide expertise and support in developing and implementing due diligence frameworks that comply with international regulations, ensuring responsible sourcing from ASM operations and integrate these frameworks in our projects. Notably, we have supported the German Geological Survey (BGR) in developing the Certified Trading Chains (CTC) standard for 3TG (tantalum, tin, tungsten, gold) minerals in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This certification has since become a national standard for conflict minerals in the DRC.
- **ASM standards and audits of ASM sites:** Projekt-Consult has been participating in a multitude of international policy fora for developing standards and guidelines for responsible mining and sourcing with a particular focus on the ASM sector. Our staff has advised the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on child labor in mining and participated in the working group of the OECD for drafting the Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict Affected and High-Risk Areas. Projekt-Consult's experts have also conducted numerous independent third-party audits, particularly in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) in different continents.

CONTACT

Projekt-Consult GmbH ▪ Eulenkurgstraße 82 ▪ 22359 Hamburg, Germany ▪ phone: +49 40 603 06 0 ▪ e-mail: info@projekt-consult.de
www.projekt-consult.de