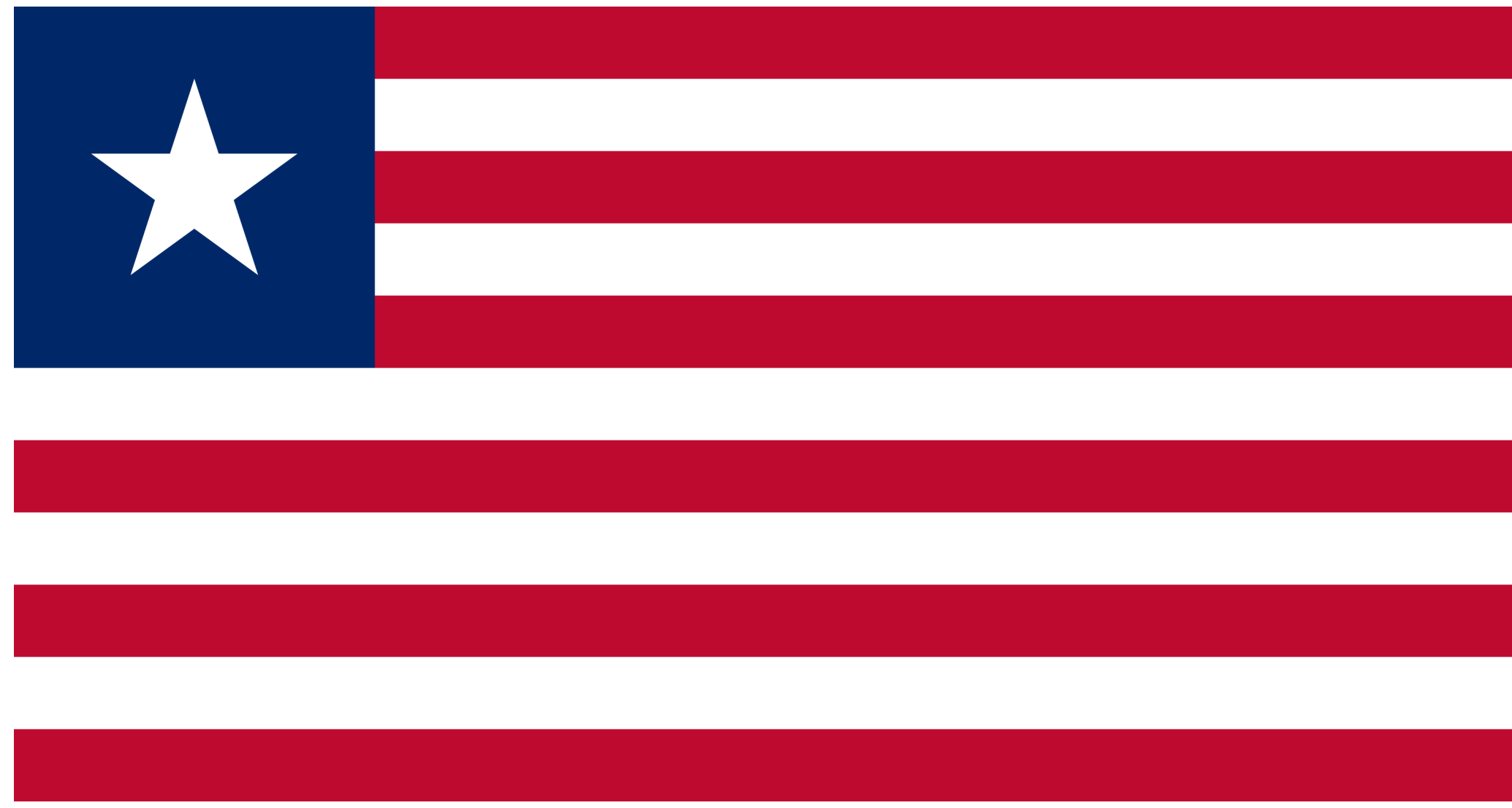


# LIBERIA



## Environmental stewardship minimum benchmark training toolkit for artisanal and smallscale gold miners

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## INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME 308

Mine Water & Mine Waste Management



Sweden  
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## THE CHANGE PROJECT

The artisanal-small-scale mining (ASM) sector of Liberia has attracted both local and foreign miners because of the low level of regulation and the fast income it provides. However, the new Mineral and Mining Law of 2000 allows only Liberians to venture into Class C mining operations. The low level of regulation and enforcement mechanisms undermines the potential of the ASM Sector in Liberia to support social and economic growth and the improvement of livelihoods in rural communities that have very little or no access to basic services and incomegenerating activities.

The limited capacity with respect to governance and regulation in the sector has led to negative environmental impacts, conflict, and abuse of women's and children's rights, among other things.

The goal of the change project is, therefore, to develop and institutionalize an Environmental Stewardship Minimal Benchmark Toolkit with the intent to:

- Guide ASM on sustainable mining practices
- Improve inter-ministerial coordination between MME, EPA, and other local authorities for the regulation of Artisanal Small-Scale mining.
- To improve the level of knowledge on sustainable mining practices among artisanal miners through training and capacity building
- To mitigate and reduce the risk of environmental degradation and pollution to forest resources, agricultural land, and freshwater ecosystems.



Example of small-scale mining activities in Liberia highlighting the need of increased knowledge of mining best practice and mining's negative impacts on the environment and the human health.



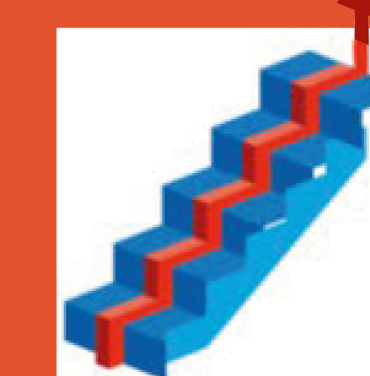
## SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The toolkit will improve and change the artisanal miners' knowledge-base with regards to the impact of their mining on nature and humans. It will also assist them in better understanding the regulations associated with their mining activities. In addition, there is an opportunity to enhance the final product recovery by improved methods of mining that will benefit the miners themselves, the BNP as well as the environment.

For the government authorities, MME and EPA, the toolkit will improve inter-organisational collaborations as well as make the institutions more efficient in regulating artisanal mining operations in the country.



Mercury spill from small-scale gold mining activities in Liberia.



## RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

As a result of this project, the EPA and MME have strengthened their collaboration in regulating activities of ASM along with the Association of Gold and Diamond Dealers and Brokers. The organisations are now more conscious about the formation of mining cooperatives as being a better option to enable ASM operators to fully comply with the Environmental and Management Laws of Liberia. Hence the issue of formalization of the sector is being engaged.

The updated Information Leaflet initially created by the previous ITP 308 group was made available to ASM communities as well as other regulating authorities and stakeholders. This was also inclusive of a hotline contact for both MME and EPA. As a final report, the team developed an Environmental Stewardship Minimum Benchmark Training Toolkit for Artisanal and Small – Scale Gold Mining in Liberia. This toolkit will be made available in every ASM hotspot and shared with all relevant stakeholders.

The toolkit provides training and guidance to ASM operators on smart mining, restoration techniques, and education on the health implications of unsustainable mining practices. Moreover, with the use of this toolkit, miners will become more aware of how to manage and reduce their environmental footprint while adhering to the mining guideline on ASM operations.



## THE WAY FORWARD

As part of various collaborations and programs involving mining in Liberia, a number of documents and tools concerning artisanal-small-scale mining have been created in the last couple of years.

A specific guideline on ASM operations has been developed under the Environmental Governance Program (EGP). The Mercury Awareness Toolkit was developed with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ). The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) is behind the International Training Programme 308- Mine water and mine waste management, where the Environmental Stewardship Benchmark Toolkit was created. Together, the guidelines, leaflet and tool kits complement each other and will assist in improving the ASM sector.



### Interagency engagement with artisanal miners and utilisation of the information leaflet in Sam Sumor Town.

The Liberian government organisations MME and EPA are endeavoring to ensure that Environmental Inspectors, Mining Inspectors, Mining Agents, Gold and Diamond brokers, Land survey officers, and Township Commissioners have access to the toolkit and for it to be distributed to the small-scale and artisanal miners.

Other future planned activities include training of trainers across the country, training of miners and continued work with the newly formed ASM Working Group where MME and EPA are lead counterparts.

The ongoing extensive work with the ASM community in Liberia involving numerous local, as well as external contributors, has also highlighted the opportunity for a more formalized ASM mining sector in Liberia. The formation of mining cooperatives is an alternative for improved compliance with the Environmental and Management Laws of Liberia (EPML) and may also provide a platform for improved collaboration between government organisations and miners.