



# The World Bank

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## **Communities, Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (CASM)**

*CASM's holistic approach to small-scale mining aims to transform this activity from a source of conflict and poverty into a catalyst for economic growth and sustainable development*

### *AT A GLANCE:*

- Artisanal and small-scale mining is practiced in about 50 countries by people who live in the poorest and most remote rural areas, with few employment alternatives.
- At least 20 million people engage in artisanal and small-scale mining and a further 100 million people depend on it for their livelihood. These numbers are growing in line with higher prices and demand for minerals both in OECD countries and emerging economies such as China and India.<sup>1</sup>
- As many as 650,000 women in 12 of the world's poorest countries are engaged in artisanal mining.
- Between 1 and 1.5 million children, evenly split between boys and girls under the age of 18 years old, are also involved in small-scale mining, according to the International Labor Organization.
- The range of commodities exploited by artisan miners is diverse, including gemstones, gold, copper, cobalt, coltan, coal, and other industrial minerals.

### **One Goal, Four Pillars**

Through a holistic approach, CASM aims to reduce poverty by building sustainable communities in those countries where artisanal and small-scale mining is an important economic activity with positive potential contributions to development when the right conditions and incentives are created for all major stakeholders.

CASM's strategy to achieve this goal is based on four pillars:

- Better governance and formalization of the sector
- Initiatives to enhance environmental and technical performance, and socio-economic development
- Network building for more effective partnerships
- Knowledge development and best practice sharing

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<sup>1</sup> Gold is believed to be the most important mineral extracted by artisanal and small-scale miners, and the rising price of gold since 2003 has attracted more miners into the sector.

## **G8 and CASM:**

In June 2007, the Group of eight most industrialized nations (G8) joint statement at Heiligendamm, Germany, encourage support for two global initiatives: the Communities and Small-scale Mining (CASM) initiative, housed at the World Bank, and the Diamond Development Initiative (DDI), which emerged from the Kimberley Process to strengthen the developmental impacts associated with artisanal diamond mining in Africa. The G8 countries also expressed their support for efforts to develop techniques to limit environmental degradation and pollution associated with artisanal mining, such as education and training to encourage the use, for example, of safer technologies for mercury distillation in gold extraction.

## **Why support CASM?**

Supporting an initiative like CASM offers vital entry points into the priority challenges of the international development policy agenda, including the following:

- The social and economic characteristics of small-scale mining fully reflect the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including: health, environment, gender, education, child labour, and poverty eradication
- Small-scale mining communities are highly vulnerable to communicable diseases including malaria, tuberculosis, influenza, cholera, yellow fever, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV/AIDS.
- Large scale mining often comes to areas of traditional artisanal and small-scale mining, which creates potential conflicts around issues of ownership rights and alternative livelihoods.
- The number of people entering this sector is expected to grow significantly, particularly in post-conflict and fragile states which already experience high levels of social and economic stress.
- Artisanal and small-scale mining provides most of the world's coloured stones and 40 per cent of diamonds from Africa. Consumer awareness and concern over the source of commodities is increasing.

## **How is CASM helping small-scale miners address their challenges?**

Although artisanal and small-scale mining may often contribute to conflict, corruption and poverty, CASM focuses its work program on key areas of action that aim to transform these negative implications into positive and holistic contributions to poverty reduction. The long-term objectives for artisanal and small-scale mining include:

- To advance integrated rural and regional social and economic development, including the utilization of environmentally responsible techniques;
- To establish positive and productive relationships amongst local communities, large scale mining companies and government agencies within an equitable and effective legal framework;
- To comply with international standards related to labor regulations and occupational health and safety;
- To provide acceptable incomes through productive mining practices which enhance local infrastructure and services;
- To allow for long-term efficient resource extraction, with access to fair markets and sources of credit

## What has CASM already achieved?

- ✓ Partnerships: more than 35 organizations are now developing projects together with CASM in 25 countries, with potential benefits for thousands of people
- ✓ Networks: Three regional CASM networks have been established in Africa, Asia and China to provide more direct support to artisanal and small-scale mining communities in these regions.
- ✓ Comprehensive strategies to counter the social, economic and environmental impacts of artisanal and small-scale mining -including child labor, communicable diseases, and threats to biodiversity- in countries such as Ecuador, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, and DRC.
- ✓ Substantial progress in spreading understanding of the impacts of mercury misuse in gold mining
- ✓ Knowledge/best practices: seven guidance notes, toolkits, training materials and a book are being prepared for publication, and four more are in early stages of development.
- ✓ An increased awareness of small-scale mining as a key development issue with clear links to the MDGs and fair trade.
- ✓ An increased acknowledgement of CASM's crucial role not only as a facilitator of development processes but also as an advocate for change through the use of best practices in the small-scale mining sector.

## Who is funding and supporting CASM?<sup>2</sup>

The main donors are the UK's Department for International Development and The World Bank Group, through its Development Grant Facility. CASM also receives support for a variety of its initiatives from other donors, including: Natural Resources Canada; Trust funds from Austria, Denmark, Netherlands, and Switzerland; and Partners like the Global Mining Research Alliance.

In order to achieve its objectives, CASM also works extensively with other partners, including: the Diamonds for Development Initiative (DDI), Peace Diamond Alliance (PDA), Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (Durban Process), the Blacksmith Institute, ILO, ICMC, the Association for Responsible Mining, and the Australian National University program on Women in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining in Asia.

## How are the funds being used?

Funding for CASM is primarily used to implement the following main programs:

**Knowledge Development and Sharing:** Preparation of best practice guidelines and research which are effectively shared by bringing together major stakeholders at conferences and other events.

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<sup>2</sup> Funds are managed by the World Bank and the CASM Secretariat under the accounting and financial policies and procedures of the World Bank Group, and in accordance with the CASM Charter.

**Grants Program:** Targets a specific region or community for closer project monitoring and feedback, which encourages integrated community development by addressing multiple issues within the same area.

**Strategic Research Program:** Responsive to critical knowledge gaps while supporting achievement of CASM Strategic Goals. Main research themes include: Fair trade; Gender; and Large-scale vs. Artisanal Mining.

**Technical Assistance:** Appropriate technical expertise to guide different stakeholders on legal, policy and technology-related issues, so that government and non-government organizations can improve the policy-making and project execution related to small-scale mining activities

### **Background on CASM:**

The Communities and Small-Scale Mining (CASM) initiative was launched in March 2001 in response to an urgent plea persistently made at every international meeting on small-scale mining, for improved coordination between the various institutions working in this sector and for better integrated, multi-disciplinary solutions to the complex social and environmental challenges facing small-scale mining communities.

CASM is creating a knowledge-based community and strong network of miners, communities, government officials, development agencies and non-profit organizations. It is also seeking to become a more active promoter and advocate of “good practice” and better conceived approaches for meeting the poverty challenge and building the basis for more sustainable communities and economies.

For more information, see the website:

[www.artisanalmining.org](http://www.artisanalmining.org)

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