



Merian Gold Project

August 2011

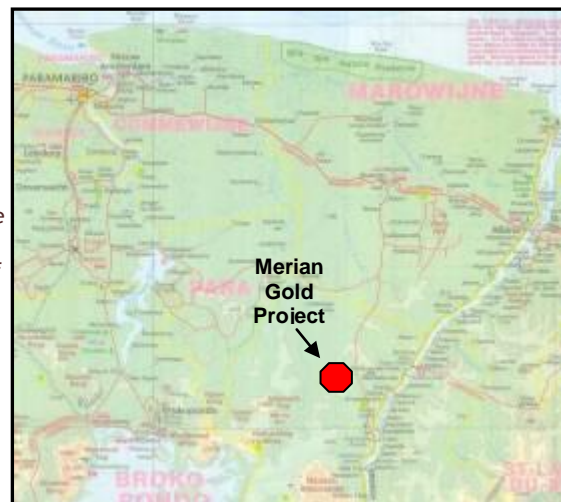


This document provides information to help the public to understand the planned Merian Gold Project and the related impact assessment process.

Project Background

What is the Project?

Surgold is currently conducting a series of studies to examine the feasibility of the development of a gold mine in the area south of Moengo and north of the Nassau Mountains. The Project would involve the development of a gold mine and associated infrastructure in the Merian area and some upgrade of a transport route to Nieuwe Haven.



WHO ARE SURGOLD?

Suriname Gold Company, LLC (Surgold) is a limited liability company held by Newmont Overseas Exploration Limited (Newmont) and Alcoa World Alumina LLC. Newmont is the manager of Surgold, and Surgold hold the Merian Right of Exploration where the Project is located.

Surgold began exploration at Merian in 2004 and in 2007 applied for a right of exploration. They are about to start negotiations with the State to complete a Mineral Agreement that will set the conditions for the granting of exploitation rights, amongst other aspects.

Surgold anticipate that, if approved, the Project would involve three open pit mines, a gold processing plant and other infrastructure such as waste rock storage areas, a tailings dam area to store liquid waste, and worker accommodation.

In accordance with the directives of the National Institute of Environment and Development of Suriname (NIMOS) Surgold is required to prepare an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for which Surgold has commissioned Environmental Resources Management (ERM), an independent international environmental consultancy. This study will seek to identify, reduce or avoid negative impacts and promote positive impacts to the local communities and environment.



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Expected Activities for the Project will include:

- Drilling and exploration activities
- Improvements to the transport route from the Merian site to Moengo
- Construction activities in the Merian area
- Mining activities once the project is approved
- Transport of Surgold staff and goods to and from Merian Camp, Paramaribo / Nieuwe Haven.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Process

What is the ESIA Process?

An Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessment, or an ESIA, is a process to determine what effects a Project will have on people and the environment. The results of an ESIA are used to document potential impacts of a Project and the required mitigations. The impact assessment process will culminate in the development of a written ESIA/ESIA report, which is a public document available to interested groups.

What are the requirements for an ESIA?

In performing an ESIA, ERM will follow the guidelines of the National Institute of Environment and Development (NIMOS), international best practice and the Surgold business practices.

The main components of an ESIA are:

- characterize the existing environment;
- assess potential impacts and required mitigations; and
- engage potentially impacted groups.

To help ERM to understand the social and environmental conditions experts will visit the area and record their findings. ERM will use these findings to make their report.

ESIA SCHEDULE

STEP 1 - Feasibility Study (Exploration Activities) Already Complete

STEP 2 - Scoping Phase March 2010 to August 2011 (including public meetings)

STEP 3 - Impact Assessment Phase September 2011 to approximately May 2012 (studies and designing mitigation plan)

STEP 4 - Disclosure Phase approximately May 2012 to July 2012 (authorities and communities revision before ESIA approval)



NIMOS ESIA PROCESS

STEP 1 - Screening Phase

To establish if an ESIA is required. This has already been undertaken.

STEP 2 - Scoping Phase

To gain a preliminary understanding of the project and help to focus the ESIA

STEP 3 - Impact Assessment Phase

Conducting studies on the current environmental and social conditions in the area and the potential effects of the project.

STEP 4 Disclosure Phase

Holding public meetings to discuss the findings with communities and interested groups.



Involvement of Stakeholders

What is a Stakeholder?

Any person who is affected by a project or who is interested in the project is known as a 'stakeholder'. Consultation with stakeholders is a crucial component of the ESIA process.

STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

ERM have developed a Terms of Reference for the ESIA which describes the structure and detail of the planned studies in more detail. If you would like to see this document copies are available from:

- Surgold office on Suriname Straat (Paramaribo)
- NIMOS Office (Paramaribo)
- Surgold camp (Merian)

CONSULTATION

Participatory – communication to involve stakeholders in the consultation process.

Flexible— the methods and techniques that will be used will be flexible and adapted to the changes and concern

Culturally sensitive— it is important to have a good understanding of the historical background of the area and the cultural and socio-cultural dynamics within the stakeholder groups.

Transparent— the process of consultation will be open and transparent. All comments and feedback will be recorded and attempts will be made to address them.



Villages along the Marowijne River



How can I get involved?

Where do I get more information?

Should you have any comments or concerns regarding the Project or any questions regarding the ESIA process, please contact the representative of Surgold below:

How can I get involved?

The public consultation will take place throughout the ESIA process. ERM will consult the communities and other stakeholders in many ways during the ESIA process. If you would like to be involved please contact the Surgold representative below:

We want to hear from you!

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PROPOSED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION METHODS

Public consultation will take place throughout the ESIA process including:

- Telephone interviews
- Public Meetings
- Small group meetings
- Individual interviews
- Household surveys
- Media announcements
- Release of documents
- Public comments

