



Merian Gold Project

June 2012



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

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Expected Activities for the Project will include:

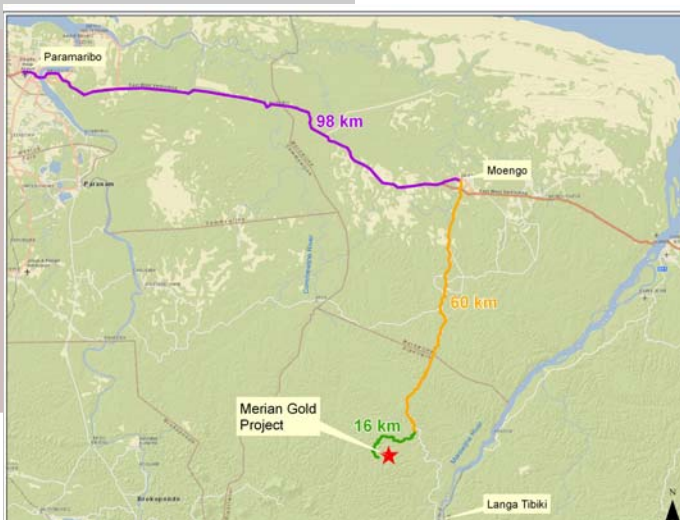
- Drilling and exploration activities
- Improvements to the transport route from the Merian site to Moengo
- Construction activities in the Merian area
- Mining activities once the project is approved
- Transport of Surgold staff and goods to and from Merian Camp, Paramaribo / Nieuwe Haven.
- Communication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

Project Background

What is the Project?

Surgold has been exploring the feasibility of developing a gold mine in the Merian concession located south of Moengo and north of the Nassau Mountains. The Project would involve the development of a gold mine and associated infrastructure.

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 has identified the potential impacts of the project and defined mitigation measures to address them. These measures aim to maximize positive impacts from the project, while reducing or avoiding potential negative impacts.



WHO IS 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 holds the Merian Right of Exploration where the Project is located.



Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Process

What is the ESIA Process?

An Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessment (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 mitigation measures. The final ESIA report is a public document available to interested groups.

What has been done to carry out the ESIA?

To help ERM understand the social and environmental conditions of the Merian Surgold Project area, experts visited the area and recorded their findings. These findings were used to assess the potential positive and negative impacts of the Project on the environment and local community. Stakeholder consultations were undertaken throughout the process to engage any person who may be impacted by the Project.



NIMOS ESIA PROCESS

STEP 1 - Screening Phase (June–July 2011)

To establish if an ESIA is required.

STEP 2 - Scoping Phase (July–August 2011)

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

STEP 3 - Impact Assessment Phase (Sept 2011–May 2012)

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

STEP 4 Disclosure Phase (May–July 2012)

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



CONSULTATION METHODS

Public consultation took place throughout the ESIA process including:

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



Key impacts and mitigation measures

How mitigation measures are designed?

Mitigation measures are aimed at reducing or avoiding negative impacts and maximizing the positive impacts from the project. They are based on field studies and stakeholder consultations to ensure all considerations have been taken into account and they are fully adapted to the specific conditions of the Merian Surgold Project area. Some of the key Merian project impacts and mitigation measures are listed below.

Impact on environment

- potential disturbance, loss and damage to animals and plants
- Water quality deterioration
- Stream flow changes
- Increase in dust and emissions
- Increase in noise and vibration due to movement of heavy vehicles and equipment



- Wildlife management plan
- Revegetate disturbed areas with native species
- Erosion and sedimentation control plans
- Construct sediment ponds and water treatment plant
- Water and water resources management plan
- Avoid sensitive or critical habitats and areas with high vegetation diversity
- Wildlife awareness training program for workers
- Noise monitoring program
- Equipment and vehicle maintenance

Impact on community and livelihoods

- Potential loss of incomes and decreased standard of living due to exclusion of ASM activities within the Merian Industrial Zone
- Actual and perceived loss of access to the Project area and project induced changes to the forest ecosystem may affect traditional livelihood practices and community identity



- Work with relevant stakeholders to improve small scale mining techniques
- Alternative livelihood and skills training for ASM miners
- Development of an ASM management plan
- Implementation of a stakeholder engagement plan
- Implementation of a cultural heritage management plan

Impacts on health

- The Project may lead to an increase of infectious and communicable disease transmissions in the Project area
- Movement of heavy equipment and vehicles may increase traffic accidents along the transport corridor
- Potential risk of community exposure to environmental contaminants



- Screening and monitoring for malaria and HIV amongst workers
- Traffic Management Plan, including monitoring speed of Surgold drivers
- Safe driving training
- Community Safety Awareness training and Coordination
- Implementation of Hazardous Waste Management Plan
- Employee training for handling of hazardous materials
- Use of appropriate containers and vehicles for storage and transport of hazardous materials

Direct and Indirect employment

- Approximately 1200 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers will be required for the Project
- Increased revenues can boost the local and national economy and create indirect employment opportunities



- Development of a recruitment policy that prioritises local employment
- Local procurement of goods and services
- Providing education and skills training to residents of the Pamaka communities to increase local employment capacity.



How can I get more information?

Where do I get more information? How to get the full ESIA report?

Surgold will keep the public informed on every phase of the Project using storyboards in the surrounding communities, as well as via the project website and through publishing announcements in newspapers and on the local radio.

The full report will be available to download from the Merian Surgold project website, www.merianproject.com and can also be requested by contacting the Surgold and ERM personnel using the contact details below.

We want to hear from you!

Should you have any comments or concerns regarding the Project or any questions regarding the ESIA process, please contact the representatives of Surgold and ERM below. Comments can also be submitted via the Merian Surgold project website www.merianproject.com.

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