



PROMOTING GOOD GOLD MINING PRACTICES

Gold mining is one of the most important industries in Guyana, as it provides a range social and economic benefits to a relatively large number of people. However, the manner in which the activity is undertaken affects people and results in several negative environmental impacts.

What is Reduced Impact Gold Mining?

Reduced Impact Mining involves mining practices that use mineral extraction techniques that minimize negative consequences on the physical environment, including soil and water, the miner and surrounding and downstream communities, such as indigenous villages.

Reduced Impact Mining also makes provision for the rehabilitation of the environment through reforestation and other sustainable practices.



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Condition of Groete Creek, Essequibo River after gold mining.

Current Status of the Gold Mining Industry in Guyana

In 2015, gold mining accounted for:

- 11% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP);
- 14% of the labour force; and
- 52% of the country's exports - placing it at the top of the economic sectors.



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In 2016, gold mining continued to contribute significantly to the economy, with the highest amount of gold produced in December.



Non-compliance with the Mining Regulations can lead to:

- ✓ Unsafe workplaces;
- ✓ Health issues associated with malaria infestation and mercury contamination;
- ✓ Loss of lives;
- ✓ Widespread deforestation;
- ✓ Soil erosion;
- ✓ Pollution of rivers and streams; and
- ✓ Contamination of food chain.



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Gold mining resulted in the destruction of the landscape at Cuyuni, 2016.

How to Combat Improper Mining Practices?

- Stricter enforcement of the *Mining Act*, the *Mining Amendment Regulations of 2005* and Codes of Practice;
- Participate in education and awareness programmes for miners and mining communities;
- Encourage better collaboration between miners, mining communities and regulatory agencies;
- Better monitoring of mining activities by the relevant agencies; and
- Provide incentives for compliance with the mining regulations.



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The Acacia Plant Project is one initiative used to rehabilitate a mined-out portion of land in Mahdia.

