



The Guyana Perspective

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for ASM -LSM



legislative instruments

- The assessment and management of environmental impacts remains a top National priority as Guyana embraces a Green developmental path.
- Guyana's Extractive sector is characterized by a High degree of regulation formalization systems among the various scales of operations.
- Main legislative instruments that guide the governance of the extractive sector, particularly the management and assessment of environmental impacts include:
 - ▶ Environmental Protection Act 1996 and corresponding Regulations.
 - Mining Act 1989 and corresponding Regulations.



Environmental Protection Act

- ▶ The Environmental Protection Act sets the broad guidance directive for the management, conservation, protection and improvement of the Environment in Guyana .
- ▶ References projects which may "significantly" affect the environment
- ▶ Part IV of the Act Speaks to Environmental Impact Assessments
 - ▶ Requirements for Environmental Impact Assessment
 - Approval or rejection of projects
 - Environmental Authorization as a precondition to development consent
 - Environmental Assessment Board

Projects

- ▶ Fourth schedule highlights a wide scope of developmental projects:
 - ► Harvesting and utilization of forest Resources
 - Extraction and conservation of Mineral
- The Mining Act and regulations runs parallel to the environmental act sharply focusing on regulating activities of the various all scales of mining.







Mining Projects - Footprint

- Projects vary in terms of level sophistication and impact.
- Generally three scales of mining operations in Guyana:
- Small scale
 - ▶ 20m3 but less than 200m³ in any continuous 24 hours
 - ▶ Footprint 27.5 acres land or River I mile along the bank of the river
 - ▶ **Types** Prosecuting permit small scale, Claim license

Medium scale mines

- ▶ 200m3 but less than 1000 m³ in any continuous 24hours
- Footprint 150 1200 acres
- ▶ Types -Prospecting Permit Medium Scale, Mining Permit and Special Mining Permit



Large scale

- Processing in excess of 1000 m3
- Prospecting phase at a minimal of 500 acres but not usually exceeding 12800 Acres
- Types- Prospecting License (usually converted to the ML), Mining license and Prospecting for geological and geophysical survey

General Points for Consideration

- All projects are screened among the relative agencies to assess the relative degree of risk and impact to the receiving environment.
- Consideration is given to project footprint, proposed processes, potential adverse effects.
- Screening and EIA or ESIA determination is comprehensive and typically much more ridged for Large-scale activities.
- ▶ Small scale mining operations are typically exempt from the **EIA Process**.
- Projected environmental impacts for Medium, small, artisanal operations are managed by the respective regulatory agencies



Challenges

 Significant cost factor – (small and medium scale operations and regulating agencies)

Clash livelihood challenges.

▶ Need for greater awareness.



Strategies

Constantly revising its assessment model to include risk based framework.

Innovation

- Acquisition of comprehensive baseline data regarding natural resources.
- Data accessibility at the agency and stakeholder level.

- ▶ GGMC Offers technical Assistance to stakeholder (especially small scale miners) while managing environmental disturbance.
- Training Establishment of Mining school .



Recommendations

- A comprehensive approach which minimizes the cost factors.
- Simplistic assessments, information transfer coupled with continued technical support.



