The Guyana Perspective

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for ASM - LSM
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.
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 1 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 24 hours
    - **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.