



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 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 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.

