



ADDRESSING ASM CHALLENGES IN GHANA: ENVIRONMENTAL MGT. & JOB CREATION



**(ORLANDS KOFI TETTEH)
MINERALS COMMISSION, GHANA**

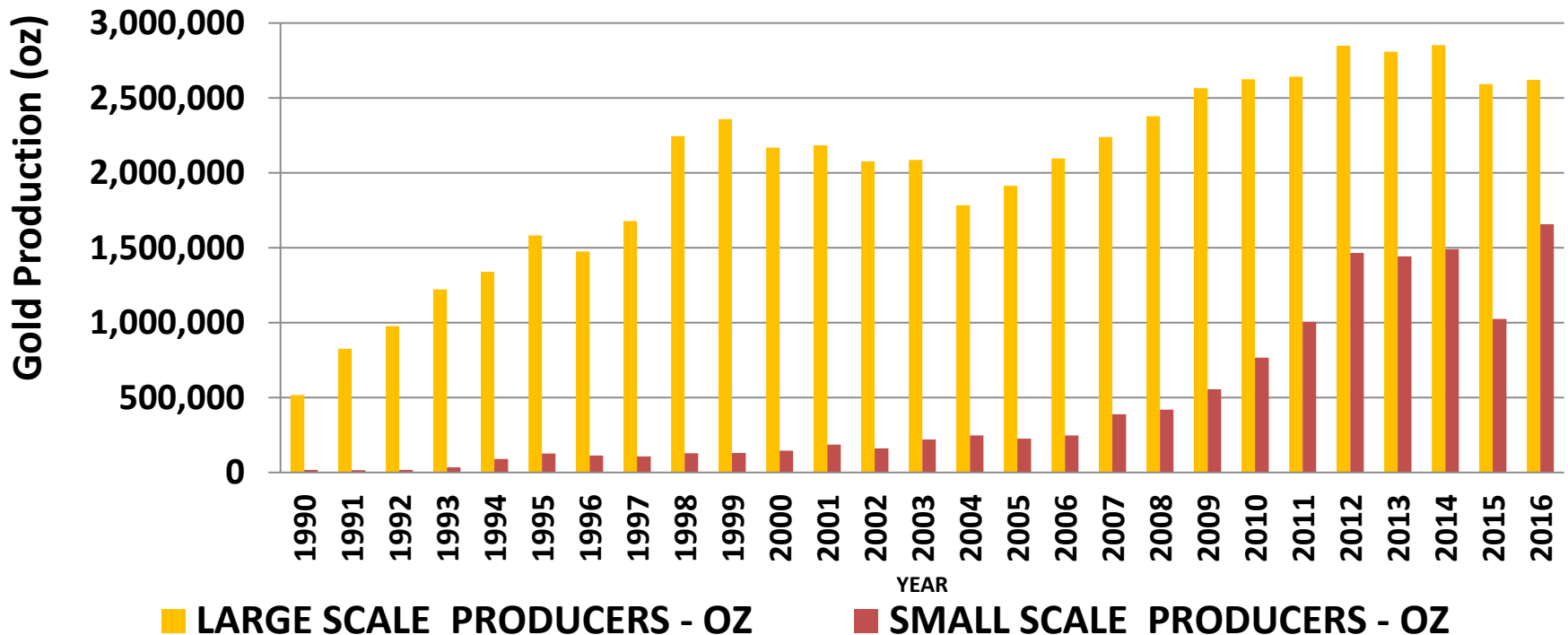
CONTEXT

- **Background:**
 - Importance of ASM
 - ASM and some key SD Goals
- **Policy & Legal Framework Governing Small Scale Mining**
 - Minerals & Mining Policy
- **ASM Challenges**
 - Measures adopted to address the challenge
- **Conclusion**

BACKGROUND: IMPORTANCE OF ASM TO GHANA'S ECONOMY

- ASM is a significant sub sector providing livelihood for millions;
- Has the potential to contribute to poverty reduction and stimulate economic growth.
- ASM Contributed 39% (**1.65 million oz**) of total gold production in 2016

GOLD PRODUCTION: L/S vs. ASM - 1990 to 2016



ASM AND SOME KEY SD GOALS

Activities of ASM impact positively & negatively on 3 key SD Goals:

- **SDG6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)** ‡
 - ASM activities impacts on water bodies through pollution
 - Cause for increased water treatment etc.
- **SDG8 (Employment and Economic Growth)** ‡
 - ASM employs an estimated 1 million people in Ghana
 - Creation of ALPs in mining communities
- **SDG15 (Ecosystem and Biodiversity Protection)**
 - Land degradation
 - Enforcement of laws on land reclamation



FRAMEWORK GOVERNING ASM IN GHANA

Key Policy, Laws & Regulations Include:

- **Minerals Commission Act, 1993 (Act 450)**
- **Minerals and Mining Policy of Ghana**
- **Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703) & Regulations**
- **Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490) & Regulations**
- **Mercury Act, 1989 (PNDCL 217)**

GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR SMALL SCALE MINING

ASM is reserved for Ghanaians;

**ASMs would be assisted to improve upon their operations;
and**

**Govt will continue to ensure the use of appropriate, safe
and affordable technologies in small-scale mining**



SSM Legal Framework Explained

License issued by the Minister for Lands & Natural Resources: SSM Reserved for Ghanaians & Licence is Site Specific

Environmental Permit issued by the EPA [Act 703, S.18]

**Operating Permit issued by the Minerals Commission
[Act 703 Section 102]**

DRIVERS OF ILLEGAL MINING & ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Relatively high gold price which makes marginal gold deposits economic for illegal miners;

Connivance of some chiefs, landowners and opinion leaders with illegal miners to operate in remote areas.

Perceived complexity of licensing process.

Lack of geologically investigated areas for ASMs

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ASM



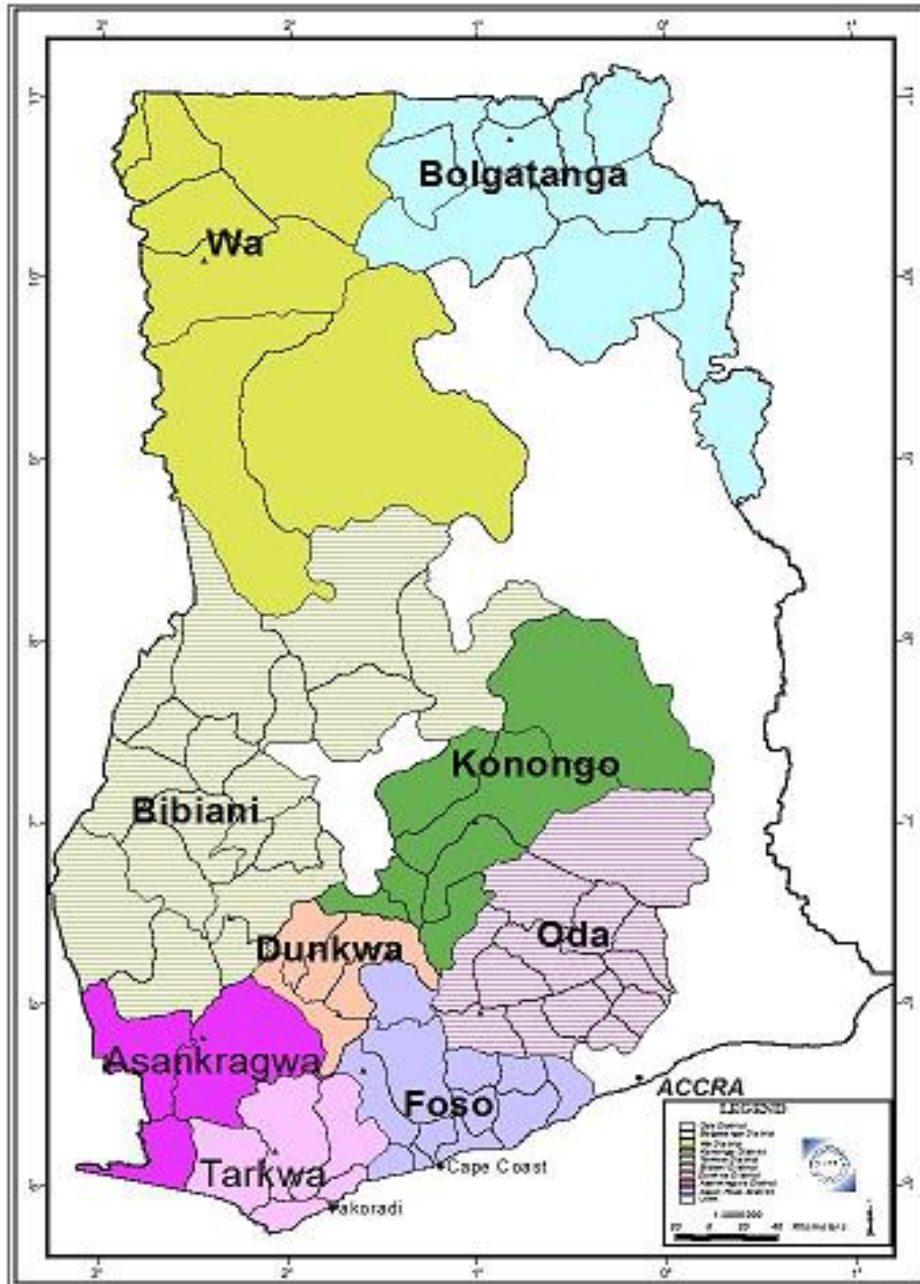
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ASM



MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- **Established Regional & District Mining offices of MC to facilitate licensing and monitoring of ASM activities**
- **Designate & Geologically Investigate Areas for ASM**
- **Establishment of District Mining Committees**
- **Deepen Sensitisation of Stakeholders**
 - **Educate and Sensitise Traditional Authorities, Land Owners etc.**
- **Enforce Minerals & Mining (Amendment) Act 2015, Act 900**
- **Formation of small scale mining associations**
- **Implementation of Alternative Livelihood Projects (ALPs)**

OFFICES OF THE MINERALS COMMISSION



The Commission has nine (9) Small Scale Mining District Offices countrywide to facilitate licensing and extension service delivery to small scale miners.

Also Inspectorate Functions at:

- Takoradi
- Kumasi
- Koforidua
- Accra

- **Plans underway to expand office coverage**

RECLAIMED LAND IN SOME ASM LICENSED AREAS



RECLAIMED LAND IN SOME ASM LICENSED AREAS



ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS IN MINING COMMUNITIES



SHORT/MEDIUM TO LONG TERM STRATEGIES

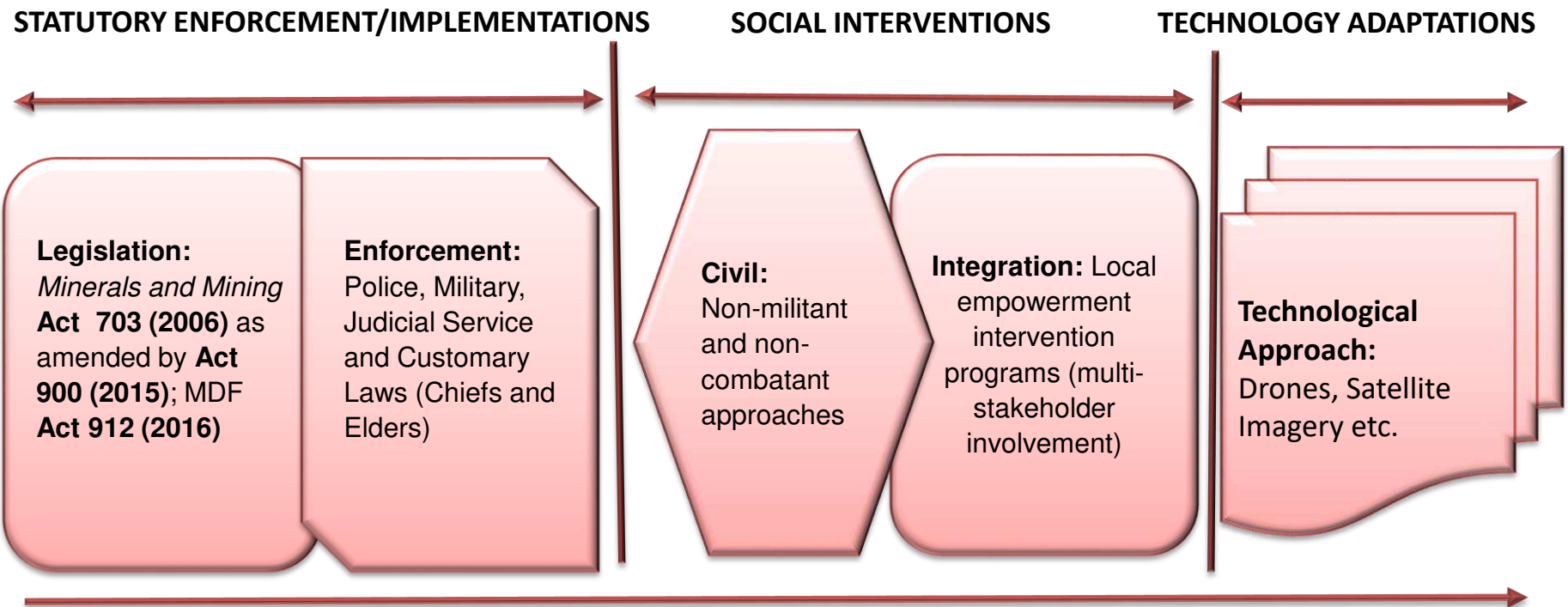
- Introducing E-services into the ASM license acquisition process (MCAS)
 - Cartographic searches can be conducted at the District Offices
- Creation of Plant Pools
- Formalization: Make ASM attractive to Financial Institutions to grant loan
- **USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY: Tracking of Heavy Duty Equipment (Excavators & Bull Dozers) used in ASM operations**
- **Deployment of Drones to aid monitoring ASM activities**
- Deployment of coordinated security forces, under the name of **Operation Vanguard**.

SHORT/MEDIUM TO LONG TERM STRATEGIES

- **MULTILATERAL MINING INTEGRATION PROJECT**

- Collaborate with MLNR to implement the Multilateral Mining Integration Project (MMIP)

LECITA MODEL (A PROJECT MANAGEMENT APPROACH)



CONCLUSIONS



- Sustainable Mining is not just about eliminating and **minimizing** negative impacts, it is about **maximizing** the positive impacts, and maximizing the value to society throughout the minerals cycle
- Need to deepen efforts to address the environmental, economic and social challenges throughout the mining value chain
- Government will continue to work at improving its facilitation role while working with all other stakeholders towards achieving sustainable development through mining.

THANK YOU

