

Cristina Echavarría Comments

Some years back the World Bank hosted for two decades the Communities and Small Scale Mining Initiative, known as CASM. That however ended, and currently IIED is intending to play a role as knowledge platform and convener of the ASM community globally. You may contact Abbi.Buxton@iied.org for more information on who is who. Other convening spaces are the OECD conflict free minerals discussions and UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership, two issues that are at the top of the global agenda as respects ASM.

ARM is part of that community, especially focussing on Fairmined certification and marketing, formalization, lobbying for inclusive social policies for ASM, ASM training and capacity building, and communications/knowledge. We currently work with miners in Latin America (Colombia, Bolivia and Peru), francophone West Africa and with partners in Mongolia, through projects funded by IADB, UNIDO/French Environment Ministry, PACT, USDOL, Solidaridad and corporate partners such as Chopard, among others.

A next step identified as key for the sustainability of certification and formalization initiatives is access to credit, tied to formalization and certification commitments by organized miners. The lack of credit is already identified as a key barrier to formalization (see attached). One thing we have learnt is that given the enormous diversity inside the ASM sector, credit needs are also diverse.

I am copying in this email Lina Villa, ARM's executive director for further contact, and invite you to look specifically at this link to better understand how we work with partners: <http://www.responsiblemines.org/en/partnerships-donors/partner-with-us>

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