

RESPONSIBLE ARTISANAL GOLD SOLUTIONS FORUM

Supported by Solutions for Hope

Committed to testing and enabling responsible, artisanal gold sourcing from the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa

While there has been marked progress in recent years to establish legitimate supply of tin, tantalum, and tungsten from the Great Lakes Region (GLR), artisanal gold remains a major gap and threat to responsible minerals trade – and therefore to the development and stability that such a system could help bring to countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The Responsible Artisanal Gold Solutions Forum (Forum) is a multi-stakeholder coalition seeking to learn about and address critical barriers to the production and trade of artisanal gold from the Great Lakes Region in a way that verifiably meets national, regional, and international laws and standards for responsible sourcing.

98%

OF ARTISANAL GOLD IS SMUGGLED OUT OF THE DRC

UN GROUP OF EXPERTS, 2013

FORUM OBJECTIVES

The Forum has three main goals:

- 1. Assess and design (phase 1) and implement (phase 2) pilot supply chain(s)** from Eastern DRC to a participating refiner, allowing downstream manufacturers, retailers, and other end users to include this artisanal gold as part of a range of responsible sources for their products.
- 2. Support technical and policy coordination** with partners who manage and implement sourcing projects, policies, guidance, and standards, to align Forum work with existing projects and systems and to mitigate risks that are likely to arise in sourcing efforts.
- 3. Promote shared learning and broader engagement** of industry, government, and civil society in support of scaling up responsible artisanal gold trade in the GLR.

FORUM ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER RESPONSIBLE ARTISANAL GOLD SOURCING ACTIVITIES

The Forum will engage organizations currently designing and implementing responsible artisanal gold sourcing projects, and assess how these sources can meet requirements for downstream buyers. The Forum will respect and promote national, regional, and international laws and standards; and liaise with existing guidance and standards systems relevant to responsible artisanal gold sourcing.

RESPONSIBLE ARTISANAL GOLD SOLUTIONS FORUM – ACTIVITIES

TESTING & SHARED LEARNING PLATFORM + SOURCING PILOT (PHASE 1 ASSESSMENT, PHASE 2 IMPLEMENTATION)

Pilot implementers and downstream companies, along with civil society and government partners, identify and seek to remove barriers to artisanal gold sourcing, support alignment of systems and practices, and communicate lessons learned



IN-REGION SOURCING

Great Lakes Region-based implementation partners test and manage responsible production and trade from mine to export

EXPORT & PROCESSING

Refiners support due diligence to meet regional and international responsible sourcing laws, standards, and other criteria; and accept for processing materials that meet these criteria

MANUFACTURING, RETAIL, & OTHER END USERS

Downstream companies 1) publicly signal desire for responsible, artisanal gold from the GLR in their products, and 2) encourage engagement by suppliers and other brands

FORUM PARTICIPATION

The Forum welcomes partners committed to supporting the Forum’s objectives and activities. For more information, please contact RESOLVE (Jennifer Peysers: jpeysers@resolv.org; Margaret Lee: mlee@resolv.org). (RESOLVE serves as the Forum facilitator, supported by contributions from Signet, Richline, Tetra Tech, Google, and Apple.)

Participants of the Forum include

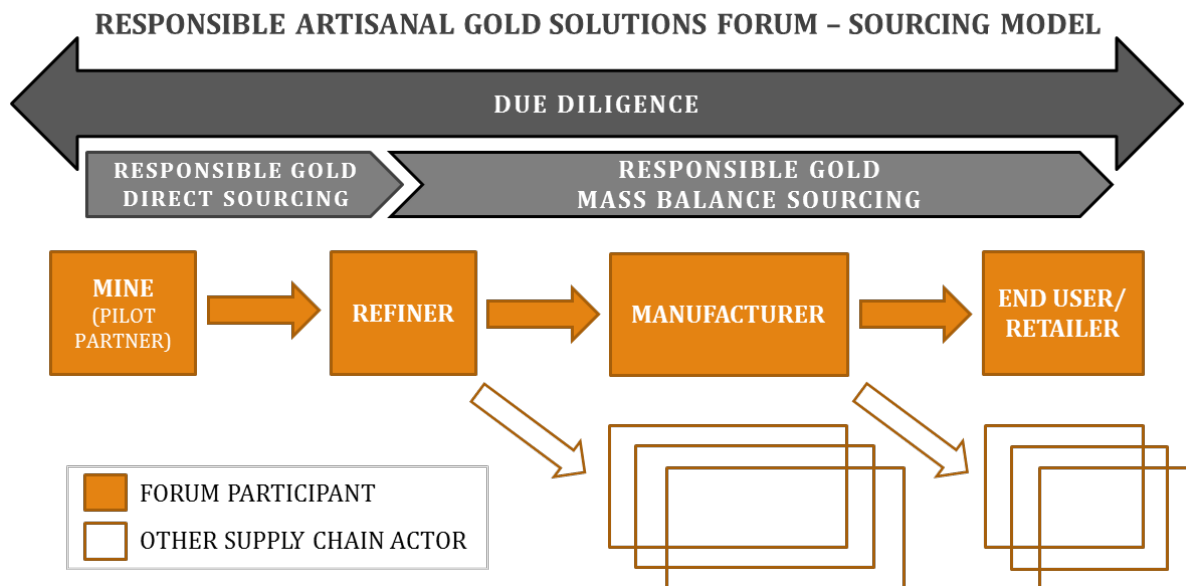
Companies committed to enabling responsible export or sourcing from these pilots	Signet Jewelers, Richline Group, Google, Apple, Asahi Refining, Fair Congo, PAMP
NGOs and other entities serving in an advisory capacity	Enough Project
Implementing partners establishing responsible artisanal gold supply	Tetra Tech ARD
Observers sharing expertise on their respective organizational mandate or system	Argor-Heraeus, International Organization for Migration, London Bullion Market Association, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Rand Refinery, Responsible Jewellery Council, U.S. Department of State

RESPONSIBLE GOLD & DUE DILIGENCE

“STANDARDS LIKE THE OECD DUE DILIGENCE GUIDANCE ACTUALLY ENCOURAGE COMPANIES TO WORK WITH ARTISANAL MINERS, WITHOUT DEMANDING PERFECTION. RESPONSIBLE SOURCING OF MINERALS IS ABOUT GOOD FAITH EFFORTS TO WORK AND IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN...

WHAT’S IMPORTANT IS PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE SOURCING OF MINERALS FROM CONFLICT AREAS, DESPITE THE CHALLENGES.”

TYLER GILLARD, OECD, AND ROEL NIEUWENKAMP, CHAIR OF OECD WORKING PARTY ON RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT, MARCH 2015



About Solutions for Hope

This forum is supported by the Solutions for Hope platform. Solutions for Hope was established in 2011 to promote responsible sourcing from the GLR, initially focused on tantalum from DRC. Today, Solutions for Hope serves as a platform to convene partners seeking to source responsibly from conflict-affected areas and share lessons learned. The Responsible Artisanal Gold Solutions Forum builds on lessons from the early Solutions for Hope tantalum pilot and shares the platform’s goals of supporting responsible sourcing as a means of contributing to development, and of building industry and local capacity through shared learning.