

Annex P

Mining Training and Extension Centers

Introduction

The Mining Training and Extension Centers (MTEC) proposed in this project are foreseen as an innovative approach to circumvent past challenges in transferring technology to small scale miners. The MTEC model was based on lessons learned from the Mining School and the Mining Service Centers that were created in Suriname, as well as on lessons gleaned from other sectors, for example approaches to extension used in agriculture.

The overall vision of the MTECs is one of extension and service rather than one of enforcement. The MTECs are intended as places from which miners can access training, knowledge, technology, and material, as well as technical or legal support. Combined with a preferential access to selected socio-economic services (e.g. education, telecommunication, market information, health services), the MTECs are expected to become poles where miners can congregate and for which they will develop a sense of ownership.

Modalities

For practical purposes, the MTECs will be located in a “central location” within a mining zone. During the project, each MTEC will be staffed and operated by a non-governmental organization with a reputation of neutrality. Modalities for continued operation past the project lifespan will be devised together with NGOs, universities, and other partners, to ensure replication and upscaling, and continued neutrality of service.

Furthermore, the project will ensure to enable the environment of reliable sources of finances at the local level, among public and private stakeholders. By suggesting financial mechanisms, it will set a greater potential of success and long-term sustainability of the project.

The MTECs will house a mining technology demonstration facility, which will include equipment and methods to support the deployment of environmentally responsible mining practices. Training will be provided to miners using a flexible modality. The training includes a certain number of modules that could either be taken by miners in one 9 weeks bloc or in separate modules spread over a longer period of time and available as a menu of options. The training available to miners will be deployed on mining sites by the MTEC staff in a fixed classroom-based or in a roving training format, where the MTEC staff will move with its equipment to various mining sites in the vicinity. In addition, as part of a system of incentives, MTECs will also house the following (depending on availability of funding and partnerships):

- 1- A repair workshop, for which access at preferential rates/prices will be provided to MTEC members. The repair workshop will be staffed by volunteer miners who have been trained at MTECs, and their time will be compensated by further discounts on parts or services.
- 2- A spare parts shop, with equipment also available on a concessional basis to MTEC members.
- 3- Access at low cost to mining-related legal support, including support on licensing and concession management, permitting, compliance with regulation, negotiation, standards and price setting.
- 4- Access to medical services including nurses, first response doctors, vaccinations, family health and planning, HIV/AIDs prevention (provided through the Medical Mission).
- 5- Access to communications technology, including phones, faxes, internet connection.

- 6- Access to remote education services, such as virtual classrooms, literacy training for children and adults, books and library

In order to access these services and incentives, miners and miner groups will be required to become MTEC members. Membership requires the following conditions be met, and assistance to meet the basic conditions will be provided by the project during the first years:

- Be formally constituted in a mining group, with internal rules and statutes.
- Demonstrate minimum registration requirements (official registration at the District Commission Office).
- Make a formal commitment to attend trainings and to apply environmentally responsible practices.

Membership is automatically extended to any miner's immediate family (spouse, children). Failure to meet these basic requirements would lead to membership being revoked for the household. Members will be issued ID cards to be able to access sites and services.

Membership guarantees access to the suite of services above, either free of charge, or at highly concessional prices. In the long-term, the willingness to pay of miners will be assessed in order to determine how the MTECs can become miner-owned or co-owned, and how they can be financially autonomous, while maintaining neutrality of service and the basic mission to support environmentally responsible mining practices (ERMP).

Implementation arrangements

Each MTEC will be operated and staffed an NGO. The MTEC team will comprise 4 people, including 1 manager and 3 assistants (one each for technical services to miners, social services to communities, and management) who will have expertise in environmentally responsible mining practices, artisanal small-scale gold mining and community mobilization and consultation. Staff costs, overhead and transportation costs will be covered by the project during the 7 years of implementation. After the project, the MTECs (including their supporting bodies, such as the LAC) are expected to become financially autonomous, or self-sustained – on the basis of activities undertaken in other project outputs. In order to ensure replicability, the NGO tasked with managing the project-supported MTECs will also be tasked with building capacity of a local organization that can take over after project completion.

Each MTEC will also be supported by a Local Advisory Committee (LAC), which will be tasked with providing key direction, strategic advice, and to identify best practices and lessons learned. The LAC will also serve as a consultative body for dialogue between small-scale miners, large-scale miners (LSM), communities and government authorities, with a view of creating open discussion around technical issues. Local Advisory Committees will meet at least twice a year, or more often as required to ensure the success and replicability of the MTEC.

The MTECs will promote a gender-sensitive approach so that both women and men are engaged in all activities the centres propose. In this regard, MTECs will maintain records of all people (gender and age-disaggregated) who participate in trainings and events, or who access and benefit from services (on site or services offered on a roving basis). A monitoring and evaluation system will also be maintained alongside regular accounting and maintenance.

Responsibilities assigned to the MTEC operating NGO will include:

- Financial management of the site;
- Operational management of the site:
 - o Identify the most appropriate ASGM technologies and techniques that will be promoted, based on the geological, social and other conditions of the site;
 - o Liaise with relevant authorities and organizations to put in place the incentives to be offered to miners (health, education, etc.);
 - o Set up the repair shop and set up the spare parts shop;
 - o Set up the communications technology;
 - o Organize and manage training for miners;
 - o Purchase all relevant equipment and supplies;
 - o Hire assistant staff, if necessary and if justified to and approve by finance;
 - o Convene and organize LAC meetings;
 - o Feed lessons learned and best practices to PMU.
- Development of an MTEC self-sufficiency strategy and building capacity of a local future MTEC partner;
- Ensure the safety of the materials and equipment;
- Plan and provide logistical assistance to staff for roving trainings;
- Set up and administer a membership system based on ID-cards for miners and families;
- Acquire and transport necessary materials, spare parts or others
- Participate in environmental monitoring at member miner's sites;
- Act as a liaison between the MTEC LAC and the Project Technical Advisory Committee and Board.

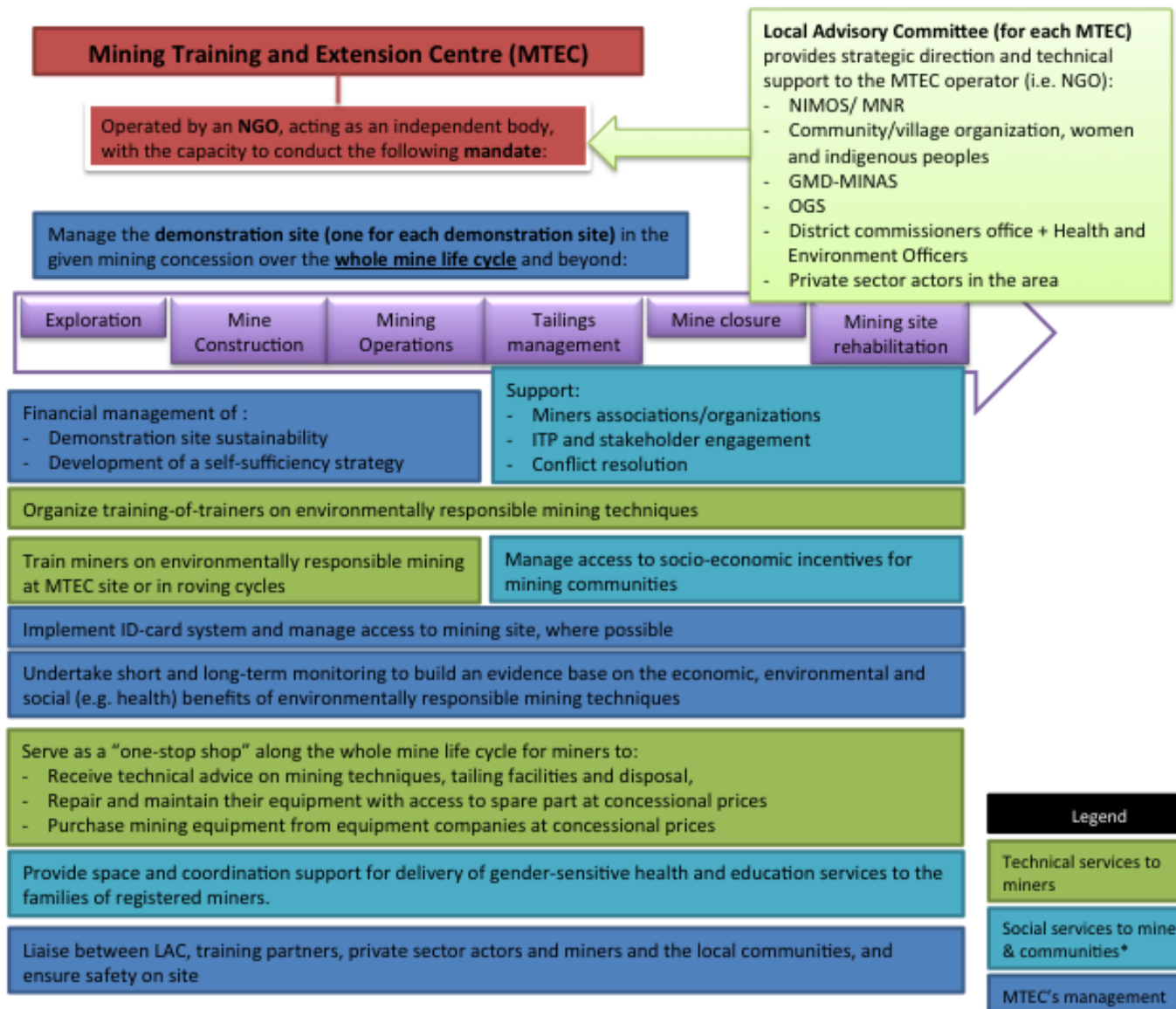


Figure 1: MTEC model

Location of MTECs

Snesi Kondre MTEC

Snesi Kondre is not a mining site but a transportation hub where all miners pass by en route to market. A demonstration site will be set up in Snesi Kondre and will be used only to showcase the extraction/processing phase. The ore from other nearby mines will be transported to the hub to be processed. The transportation hub will host a MTEC to provide miners with the above mentioned extension services (social and community services to miners and technical services to miners).

Brokopondo North of the Lake MTECs: Nieuw Koffiekamp, Companiekreek

The MTEC in these two sites will be set up in a central and accessible location, while the demonstration team will move with the equipment from one mine site to the next. To the extent possible, MTECs would be located in existing buildings, though some funds are provided by the project for rehabilitation, renovation and/or construction as necessary.