



## RESPONSIBLE ARTISANAL GOLD SOLUTIONS FORUM

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 AND OUTCOMES

The Forum has three main goals:

1. **Assess, design, implement, and scale up supply chain(s)** from Eastern DRC to partner refiners, downstream manufacturers, retailers, and other end users, so artisanal gold from the legitimate DRC sources is 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 implementing due diligence, scaling up responsible artisanal gold trade in the GLR, and encouraging industry engagement in the DRC and GLR.

**In August 2018, Forum partners achieved a major milestone: the first export of conflict-free artisanal gold from DRC to an LBMA refiner or a US jeweler.**

The Forum has created a suite of **tools and white papers** to support shared learning and responsible sourcing, such as the **Artisanal Gold Due Diligence Toolkit**, available at [www.ragsforum.org](http://www.ragsforum.org).

### RESPONSIBLE ARTISANAL GOLD SOLUTIONS FORUM – ACTIVITIES

TESTING & SHARED LEARNING PLATFORM + SOURCING ASSESSMENT, PILOT, AND SCALING UP

Upstream 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, communicate lessons learned, and encourage expanded industry engagement.



#### IN-REGION SOURCING

Great Lakes Region-based partners test and manage responsible production and trade from mine to export, including establishing a sustainable business model

#### 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

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.

Current Forum participants include the following:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Companies committed to enabling responsible export or sourcing from these pilots | Apple, Asahi Refining, Fair Congo Initiatives, Google, MKS PAMP, Signet Jewelers, Richline Group   |
| NGOs and other entities serving in an advisory capacity                          | Enough Project, RESOLVE ( <i>secretariat</i> )   |
| Implementing partners establishing responsible artisanal gold supply             | Tetra Tech ARD   |
| Observers sharing expertise on their respective organizational mandate or system | International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, London Bullion Market Association, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Responsible Jewellery Council, US. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of Labor, 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

RESOLVE serves as the Forum facilitator, supported by contributions from Signet, Richline, Google, USAID, and Apple. **For more information, please contact RESOLVE (Jennifer Peyser, [jpeyser@resolv.org](mailto:jpeyser@resolv.org)).**



## JOURNEY OF GOLD

The Forum produced *Journey of Gold*, a short virtual reality film to educate companies and consumers and encourage engagement in responsible sourcing of gold from the DRC.

Visit [www.journeyofgold.org](http://www.journeyofgold.org) to experience how artisanal gold is produced, meet the miners and cooperative leaders working to produce legal, safe, and conflict-free gold, and learn how companies and consumers can get involved.