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ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF GOLD MINING IN MONGOLIA

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*Summary*

With growing global population and fast advances in technology, our demand for raw materials gradually increases. Gold belongs to the most valuable resources, being also relatively rare. As gold deposits available to hard rock mining are limited, extraction of fine fractions of this metal becomes more important. In order to maximize extraction of dispersed gold, mercury is often used to amalgamate with the metal. This method is very popular with artisanal miners all over the world, including Mongolia. In this article we present environmental and social threats posed by artisanal gold mining in Mongolia.