# CLIMATE CHANGE AND ARTISANAL MINING

Please refer to the conference background paper “Climate Change and ASM: The facts and Implications” by Estelle Levin

# Climate Change and ASM

FROM

“IS CLIMATE CHANGE HAPPENING”

TO

“WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT IT?”

# Climate Change and ASM

## DOES ASM CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

- Contribution to Greenhouse Gases ($CO_2$, $CH_4$ etc.) emission is negligible
- But impacts on environment – clearing forests, river pollution, deforestation/charcoal etc. - contribute to climate change through damaging "GHG sinks", undermining ecosystems and affecting people' adaptive capacity.

# Climate Change and ASM

LIKELY IMPACTS ON ASM

- Lower agriculture productivity: induced increase of ASM
  - Recent examples: Ecuador, Mongolia
  - Impacts on high ASM vs agriculture countries (India?)
- Migration flows towards ASM potential areas and conflicts with local communities
- Increased competition and conflicts for access to resources (minerals, water etc..)
- Increased risk exposure to risks related to malnutrition/hunger, health, inadequate infrastructure

# Climate Change and ASM

- To regulate and formalize ASM is more important than ever
- Development of non-agriculture activities – including ASM – important for social resiliency
- To get ASM communities out of poverty would increasingly contribute to reduce the vulnerability of people to climate change impacts in rural areas and

# Climate Change and ASM

THE NEED FOR AN ASM CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

- Set-up of a CASM Climate Change Working Group
- Research themes
  - Regional and minerals specifics assessments to identify potential “hotspots”
  - Identify high risk countries with large ASM sector, assess ASM development and climate change strategies
- Policy development and education
  - Share experiences (e.g. Ecuador, Mongolia, East Africa) and government policies to facilitate the development of adequate ASM strategies in rural areas
  - Climate change should now be part of any ASM country strategy and policy development
- Actions
  - Integrate an ASM component  into climate change strategies at global or, mainly, regional or country levels