

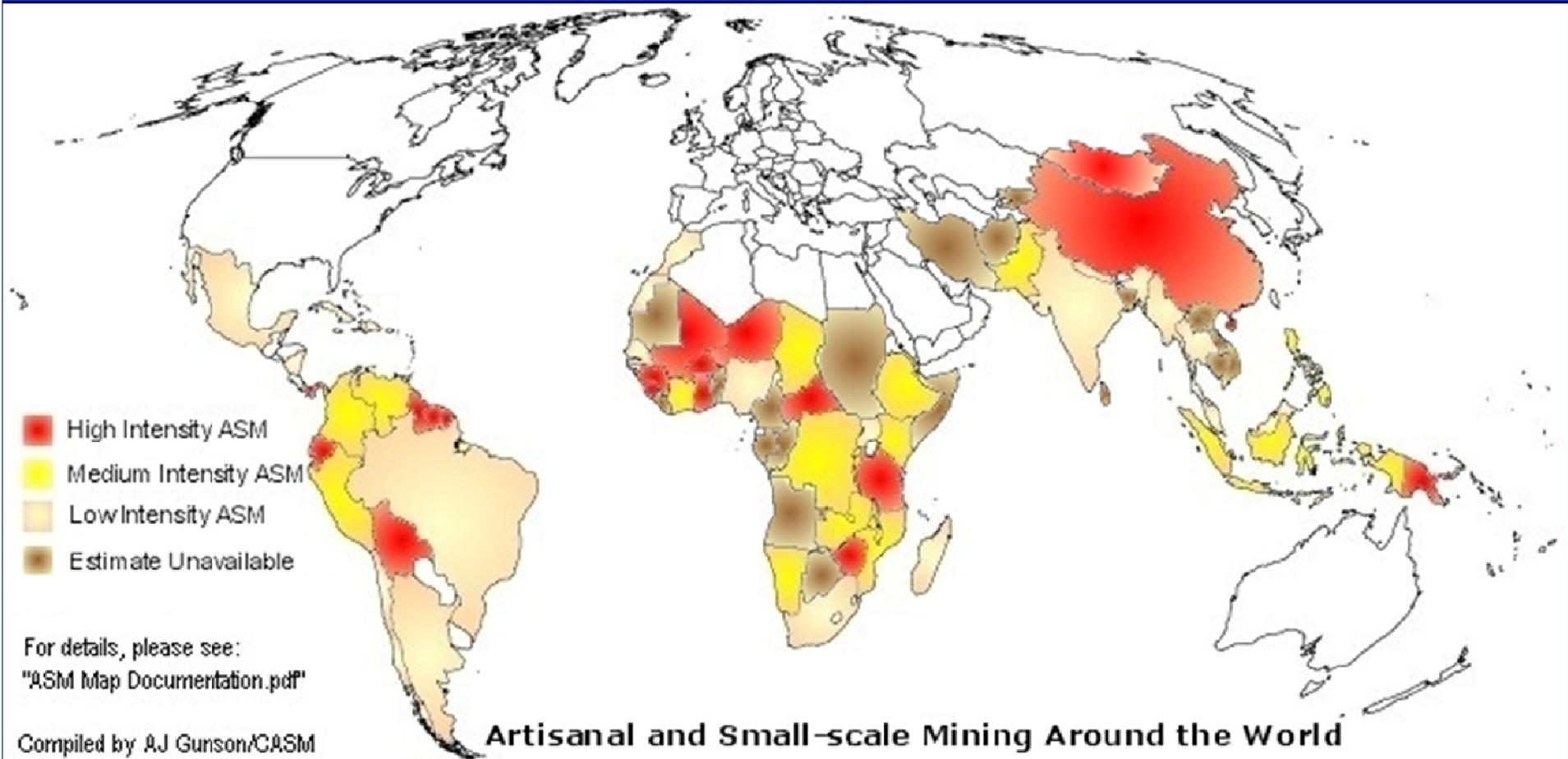
Artisanal mining and rural livelihoods in Africa: Change, challenges and policy options

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Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM)

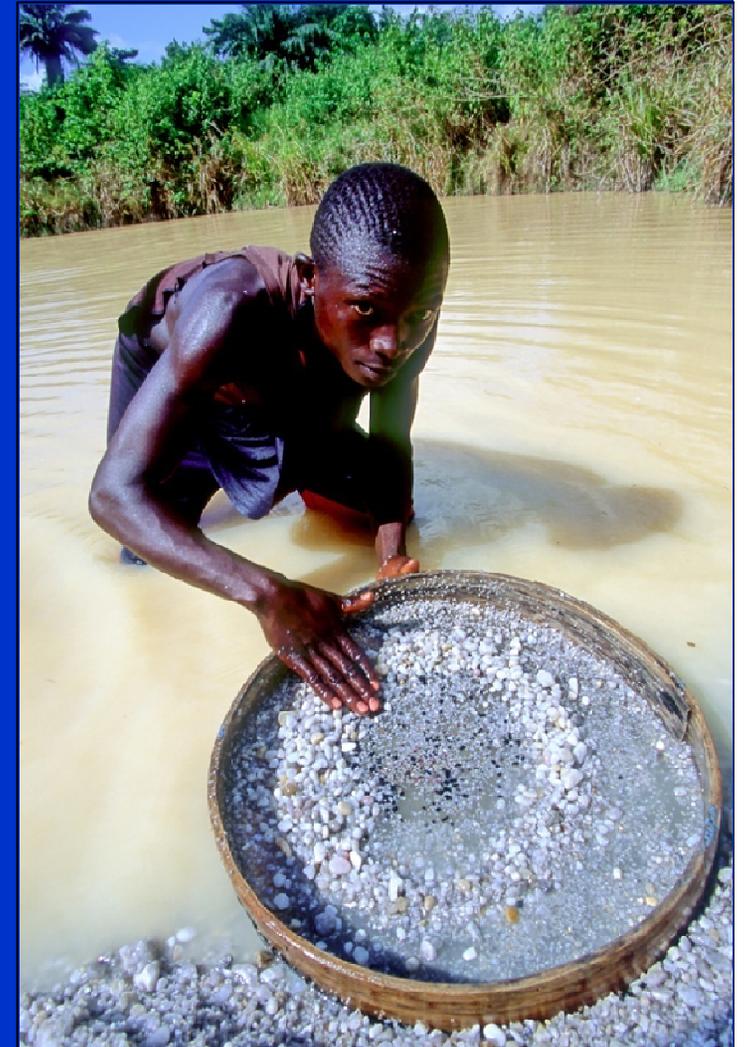
- A vibrant, widespread activity – employs 15-20 million people globally
- Particularly important in Africa where a second scramble for resources is taking place
- Fraught with challenges, both in policy and practice



My Research in Sierra Leone

Question – what role should mining play in post-conflict social development?

1. Natural resource governance initiatives – at different scales
2. Livelihoods, diversification and change in artisanal and small-scale mining communities
3. Integration of ASM policies into broader local development strategies and poverty reduction policies



Governance matters, but...



- How do governance initiatives shape diamond management and local development?
- Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)
- Diamondiferous Area Community Development Fund (DACDF)
- Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI)
- Governance matters but so does understanding local contexts – complex, messy and laden with politics
- Diamonds particularly prone to elite-capture

Livelihoods diversification

- Dynamic, resilient livelihood portfolios
- ‘Dovetailing’ of mining and farming economies
- Market-driven food production for miners
- Policy cross-linkages and more flexible policies that allow for movement between productive activities to improve and safeguard livelihood bases



Integration of ASM policies into broader development strategies and poverty reduction policies

- ASM must be incorporated into broader local development initiatives and poverty reduction strategies (e.g. PRSPs, MDGs)
- More appropriate alternative livelihoods
- Employment creation – especially for youth
- Organisation of miners – cooperatives and associations
- Opening up spaces for citizen engagement in natural resource management decision-making



Conclusion

- ASM – significant contributions to make to livelihoods and poverty reduction strategies
- But also significant challenges to address
- Any attempt to formalize ASM must be informed by detailed field-based research
- Policy options should focus on:
 - Understanding local governance contexts, particularly the unequal power relationships which exist at different scales
 - Fostering cross-linkages between policies, and creating more flexible policies that allow for diversification and movement between productive activities to improve and safeguard livelihood bases
 - Opening up spaces for citizen engagement in natural resource governance – focus on cooperatives/associations and more meaningful alternative livelihood creation