

RIVER OF GOLD

Resource Guide

A film by Amazon Aid Foundation

Narrated by Herbie Hancock & Sissy Spacek



DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR GOLD COMES FROM?

“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.”

--Kofi Annan

AMAZON AID FOUNDATION'S “RIVER OF GOLD” DOCUMENTARY FILM

Narrated by Academy Award winners Sissy Spacek and Herbie Hancock, *River of Gold* is the disturbing account of a clandestine journey bearing witness to the apocalyptic destruction of the Amazon rainforest in the pursuit of illegally mined gold.

The consequences of illegal gold mining, mercury poisoning, and deforestation not only have cataclysmic consequences on the world's largest area of biodiversity, but also on global climate change that is irreversibly impacting our planet.

THE “RIVER OF GOLD” RESOURCE GUIDE

The *River of Gold* Resource Guide will be a vital part of the Amazon Aid Foundation's (AAF) [River of Gold Project](#). This downloadable tool box will accompany Amazon Aid's documentary film “River of Gold,” its Global Impact Campaign, and Education Curriculum. The goal is to create

awareness about the destructive practices of illegal and unregulated gold mining and to promote a transparent and clean supply chain of gold.

For the first time, resources about the *what, why and where* of the gold supply chain will be consolidated into one place, providing easy access to the miners and the consumers so they can be part of the movement to demand cleanly sourced gold.

The Resource Guide's valuable repository of critical information will be produced in tandem with AAF partners, experts, and organizations from around the world to educate a full spectrum of audiences, from industries to the consumer. The issues are complex, and will require a holistic set of solutions to mitigate the situation.



Photo by Tomás Munita

The Amazon is at a tipping point.

Over 1/5 of the Amazon Rainforest has been cleared since the 1970s, and at the current rate of destruction the Amazon could be gone in 40 years.



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“River of Gold” is an essential watch for those not only in the jewelry industry, but for anyone who wants to understand the current state of climate change, responsible sourcing and the impact of our everyday decisions on the planet.”

Susan Wheeler Geraghty
Founder, Chicago Responsible
Jewelry Conference
Board Member, Ethical Metalsmiths

THE GOLD MINERS' HANDBOOK

This Resource Guide will provide current information from organizations globally working to promote best mining practices, mercury free technologies, block chain resources, land recovery initiatives, and protective health initiatives for mitigating mercury exposure.

THE CONSUMER HANDBOOK

This Resource Guide will include information for both the members of the jewelry industry and the general consumer about responsible mines, the gold refineries, sources for responsibly mined gold and materials, and best questions to ask when buying products made with gold.

“The Amazon is at a tipping point that could usher in dire consequences if the destruction isn't stopped.”

Sissy Spacek, narrating *River of Gold*



River of Gold post-screening panel discussions and audience Q & A, The United Nations in Geneva with officials from ILQ, Minamata Treaty, and Responsible Jewellery Council (near right); ARPA Film Festival in Los Angeles with veteran social impact campaign architect Bonnie Abaunza (far right).

THE SITUATION IS URGENT!

While Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) can be an important economic opportunity to help people in poverty, actions are needed to formalize and regulate the sector, remove illegal and organized crime, and implement a clean and transparent supply chain for gold.

Today, ASGM employs approximately 25 million people, is found in 80 countries and is responsible for being the number one source of mercury released into the atmosphere. Mercury is used in the mining process as a magnet to capture and bind with the gold. Furthermore, environmental degradation and human degradation are irrevocably intertwined as illegal gold mining is directly tied to corruption, human trafficking, narcotics, and organized crime, leaving toxic wastelands in its wake.

One can wonder what has the real value--Mother Earth or the dirty gold?



Amazon Aid's **“River of Gold”** Resource Guide will give individuals and organizations worldwide information and tools that promote environmentally friendly practices, safer working conditions and a clean and responsible supply chain for gold.