

CONCEPT NOTE

BUILDING A RESPONSIBLE, INVESTABLE AND INCLUSIVE ARTISANAL & SMALL-SCALE MINING SECTOR IN KENYA'S FRONTIER COUNTY

Theme: **Shaping Responsible Mining: Governance, Markets, and Safeguards for ASM in Turkana County**

Date: 15th to 17th September 2026 | **Venue:** The Cradle Hotel, Lodwar

OVERVIEW

Brought together by a shared commitment to advancing responsible artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) in Kenya, **Solidaridad ECA**, the **Kenya Oil and Gas Working Group** (KOGWG), **Turkana County Association of Miners** (TCAM), **Geomine Consulting Limited**, the **Mining Engineers Society of Kenya (MESK)**, the **Kenya Chamber of Mines**, the **Turkana County Government**, and the **State Department of Mining** proudly present the **Turkana Gold Summit & Minerals Expo 2026**

The Summit will serve as Turkana County's premier mining investment, policy, and stakeholder engagement platform, bringing together government leaders, miners, investors, financial institutions, equipment suppliers, development partners, and industry experts to unlock the county's growing mineral potential.

Positioned as a strategic conference, exhibition, and networking forum, the event aims to position Turkana as a destination for responsible mining investment while promoting sustainable livelihoods, access to finance, modern technology, and stronger governance within the ASM sector.

WHY THE SUMMIT MATTERS

Turkana County is rapidly emerging as one of Kenya's most resource-rich regions, with growing artisanal gold mining activities complementing its petroleum, renewable energy, and other mineral resources.

Gold mining has become an important source of income for many communities, particularly youth and women, yet the sector remains largely informal, underfinanced, and disconnected from responsible markets.

At the same time, investors, financial institutions, and equipment suppliers require a predictable and well-governed environment before committing resources. The Summit provides a unique platform to unlock:

i. Investment opportunities in Turkana's growing ASM gold sector.
ii. Access to finance and equipment for miners and cooperatives.
iii. Policy dialogue on responsible mining, regulation, and formalisation.
iv. Technology transfer and safer, environmentally responsible mining practices.
v. Partnerships between government, private sector, and development organisations.
vi. Spearhead an inclusive mining sector in Turkana County that respects and protects women and children.

KEY THEMES

The Summit is designed around strategic themes that promote sustainable growth and investment:

1. Governance and Regulation: Strengthening licensing, compliance, and coordination in ASM.
2. Access to Finance: Connecting miners with banks, SACCOs, investors, and financial institutions.
3. Technology and Innovation: Showcasing modern mining equipment, processing technologies, and safety solutions.
4. Responsible and Sustainable Mining: Promoting environmental stewardship, occupational safety, and ESG principles.
5. Markets and Responsible Gold Trade: Enhancing traceability, fair pricing, and responsible sourcing.
6. Public-Private Partnerships: Creating collaborative pathways for long-term investment and sector development.

7. Gender and social inclusion: Promoting the meaningful participation and empowerment of women, youth, and marginalised groups while protecting their rights and fostering safe, inclusive, and equitable practices across the ASM sector.

STRUCTURE OF THE SUMMIT

The Turkana Gold Summit & Minerals Expo will be a three-day event combining policy dialogue, exhibitions, and field engagement.

Day/Date	**Scheduled events**
Day One Conference Tuesday, the 15th, September 2026	- Opening ceremony and keynote addresses by national and county leaders. - High-level panel discussions on governance, investment and responsible ASM. - Policy dialogue on licensing, regulation, gender/social inclusion and sustainable mining.
Day Two Exhibition & Business Forum Wednesday, the 16th, September 2026	- Mining equipment and technology exhibitions. - Business matchmaking between miners, financiers, investors, and service providers. - Networking sessions and partnership opportunities
Day Three Mine Tour Thursday, the 17th, September 2026	- Guided visits to selected artisanal gold mining sites in Turkana County. - Practical demonstrations of mining operations and community engagement. - Firsthand exposure to opportunities and challenges within the ASM sector.

The Summit is expected to attract over 300 delegates from across the mining value chain, including government agencies, artisanal and small-scale miners, cooperatives, financial institutions, mining companies, equipment manufacturers, investors, development partners, researchers, and civil society organisations.

Participants will gain insights into responsible mining practices, financing opportunities, regulatory developments, and emerging technologies while building strategic partnerships that support the growth of Turkana's mining sector.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Increased formalisation and regulatory compliance within Turkana's ASM sector.
2. Improved access to finance and modern mining equipment for miners and cooperatives.
3. Stronger partnerships between government, investors, financial institutions, and mining communities.
4. Greater adoption of responsible mining technologies and environmental safeguards.
5. Enhanced investment confidence and positioning of Turkana as a leading destination for responsible mineral development.
6. Normalisation of respect and protection of the rights of women, the youth and children in Turkana's ASM sector

Final Remarks

The ***Turkana Gold Summit & Minerals Expo 2026*** is more than a conference; it is a catalyst for investment, innovation, and inclusive economic transformation. By bringing together key stakeholders under a shared vision, the Summit will help shape a responsible, competitive, and sustainable mining sector that benefits communities while positioning Turkana as a leading frontier for mineral development in Kenya.