



Switzerland, Peru (September 2023)

Swiss Better Gold Association & Inca One Gold Corporation announce the first step 1 accreditation of a Processing Plant in Peru

The Swiss Better Gold Association (SBG Association) is a non-profit industry association dedicated to improving social and environmental conditions in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) communities and facilitating the entry of responsible artisanal gold to the Swiss market. To reach its objectives, the SBG implements a simple, market driven ASGM inclusion approach consisting of supporting ASGM producers in gradually achieving a number of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria.

Today, the Association is happy to announce its **first Step 1 accreditation of a processing plant in Peru**. This milestone achievement was made possible through cooperation and alignment with **Inca One Gold Corporation**, a Canadian-based mineral processing company running two gold milling facilities in Peru.

Inca One Gold Corporation operates in Peru, a country known for its rich mineral resources and important gold production. The company provides crucial processing services to government-permitted artisanal and small-scale miners, who rely on authorized milling facilities to process their gold-bearing material.

The step 1 accreditation of Inca One's processing plant marks an important step for the SBG to achieve its objectives of significantly growing the number of artisanal and small-scale miners involved in responsible supply chains and giving them access to international markets.

Diana Culillas, Secretary General of the SBG Association, comments:

"We are excited to partner with Inca One Gold Corporation to advance our mission of ASGM inclusion and improving conditions in the sector. Together with the Inca One team, we identified a precise list of ASGM ore producers, visited and assessed the eligibility for our Step 1 accreditation for each of these producers. From now on we will work on supporting these miners to achieve the next level of their ESG performance (Step 2). Initiated on a pilot approach, this supply chain is meant to grow in the near future. However, already now it constitutes a new fully traceable and segregated ASGM source available for our members!"

Ivan Salas, Country Manager from Inca One, comments:

"Our partnership with the SBG is a major milestone. Along with the SBG we will be in a better position to support our mineral suppliers in developing more sustainable operations, providing better opportunities for the miners to have a positive impact in their communities and families. We consider this partnership as a transformational opportunity for the ASGM sector in Peru, allowing Inca One



and its mineral suppliers to have a positive contribution in the formalization process and being part of a responsible supply chain for gold”.

The partnership between the Swiss Better Gold Association and Inca One Gold Corporation demonstrates a strong commitment of the parties to contribute to positive change in the ASGM sector. And while this accreditation represents a first milestone, both the SBG and Inca One acknowledge challenges laying ahead and the importance of continuous improvement to achieve this ambitious goal. This collaboration sets an important step for the creation of enabling conditions and finding practical solutions in allowing more ASGM producers access to ASGM premium market models such as the Swiss Better Gold and, consequently, fostering social and environmental improvements directly benefitting the sector and producing regions.

Notes for editors

The **Swiss Better Gold Association** is a non-profit organisation that was set up by Swiss businesses active in gold supply chains, including refiners, jewellers, watchmakers and financial institutions. It aims to improve working and living conditions in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) communities and facilitate the entry of responsible artisanal gold to the Swiss market.

The Swiss Better Gold Association partners with the Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) in a public-private partnership: the **Swiss Better Gold Initiative**. Established in 2013, the initiative acts directly on the field by catalysing tangible better social and environmental conditions in artisanal and small-scale mining. It accompanies miners towards responsible sourcing practices and helps in building inclusive supply chains that benefit ASGM communities. This pioneering solution is aimed at creating transparency, responsibility and profitability in the ASGM gold sector.

Inca One Gold Corporation is a Canadian-based mineral resource and processing company operating gold milling facilities in Peru. The company provides vital services to government-permitted artisanal and small-scale miners, enabling them to process their gold-bearing material responsibly.

Contacts

Inca One Gold Corporation

Ivan Salas

ivan.salas@incaone.com

www.incaone.com

Swiss Better Gold Association

Diana Culillas

info@sbga.ch

www.swissbettergold.ch