

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING (ASGM) IN THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SOCIO-ECONOMIC EXPERT

REF. NO: #BCRC_10153_2019_006

BACKGROUND

The Minamata Convention on Mercury was adopted in October 2013 and entered into force on August 16, 2017 with one hundred and eleven (111) countries, to date, as Parties to the Convention, including Guyana. One of the major highlights of the Convention includes the international regulation of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector. According to Article 7 of the Minamata Convention, a Party that has ASGM and processing within its territory shall take steps to reduce, and where feasible, eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in its processes as well as its emissions and releases to the environment. Guyana has notified the Minamata Secretariat that “artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in its territory is more than insignificant”.

In 2016, the Government of Guyana finalised the implementation of the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) project under which a special emphasis was given to the ASGM sector, and several priorities for action to implement the Minamata Convention’s obligations for this sector. In the drafting of its national implementation plan (formerly referred to as their national action plan) in December 2017, a ten (10) year phased reduction of the use of mercury in the ASGM to support the sound management of mercury from all major sources in Guyana. Within the plan, the goal of a phased reduction in the use of mercury in artisanal, small and medium-scale gold mines to 75% of baseline consumption by 2027 was identified.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded and UNEP implemented project, “Development of National Action Plan for ASGM in the Co-operative Republic of Guyana” (NAP Guyana) was developed to assist Guyana to determine a strategy for the reduction, and where feasible, elimination of the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from ASGM activities in the country.

This will include activities to raise national awareness on the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and build national capacity for the implementation of the National Action Plan for the ASGM sector and the Minamata Convention in alignment with the country's proposed 10-year phased reduction plan.

The National Action Plan shall be developed in accordance with Annex C and Guyana shall submit its Plan to the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention no later than August 2021.

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COMPONENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT

The overall project components and their related activities are:

1. Global Technical Support for National Action Plan Development

- 1.1 Training and guidance provided to relevant national stakeholders in Guyana to develop and implement a NAP as per Annex C of the Minamata Convention

2. National Action Plan Development

- 2.1 National Action Plan developed as per Annex C of the Minamata Convention

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 3.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF;
- 3.2 Independent terminal review developed and made publicly available.

The Basel Convention Regional Centre-Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), is seeking to recruit a suitably qualified Consultant(s)/Consulting Team to, *using the methodology recommended by United Nations Environment Programme*, develop a national comprehensive socio-economic and gender assessment of the ASGM sector.

This consultancy will form part of a consortium of consultants¹ selected to establish a national overview of the ASGM sector and propose relevant strategies for its management in order to assist the Government of Guyana to develop the NAP in compliance with the Minamata Convention. Under the required services for this consultancy, a National ASGM Inventory Consultant will be selected to lead the coordination of project activities such as field visits, stakeholder coordination and NAP Report drafting with all national consultants under this project, under the direction of the BCRC-Caribbean and MNR.

This consultancy must contribute to the national overview of the ASGM sector and development of strategies for its management by including the following:

- Information on mining practices, the number of people directly involved in ASGM and indirectly exposed to mercury;
- Social structure of the ASGM sector disaggregated by gender, age and background (indigenous communities, single family miners, etc.), with particular

¹ Terms of Reference for all consultants are available at: [Guyana-based Consultancy Notice](#)

NOTE: Bidders may be apply separately or as a team for the consortium.

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focus on information on the role of women, children and indigenous communities in the ASGM sector;

- Information about access to basic education, health care and other services in mining communities;
- Economic factors related to the ASGM sector, such as earnings per capita, mercury supply, use and demand, information on gold trade and export, cost of living, and access to finance for miners. This information should also inform an assessment on the ASGM sector contribution to the national economy and potential for community development;
- Information on the reasons for engagement of persons in the ASGM sector and for the use of mercury in the processes
- Studies and other information on mercury exposure, through various media, and studies on impacts in ASGM communities and downstream communities. The project will search for known information disaggregated by gender and age;
- Leadership and organisation of the socio-economic aspects of ASGM at national and local levels.
- Information on previous or ongoing public and/or private sector activities to address the issue of mercury in the ASGM sector;
- Information gaps at the local and national scale that can be addressed.

MAIN FUNCTIONS AND DELIVERABLES

The Consultant(s)/Consultancy Team, under the guidance of, and reporting directly to the BCRC-Caribbean and the MNR, is expected to:

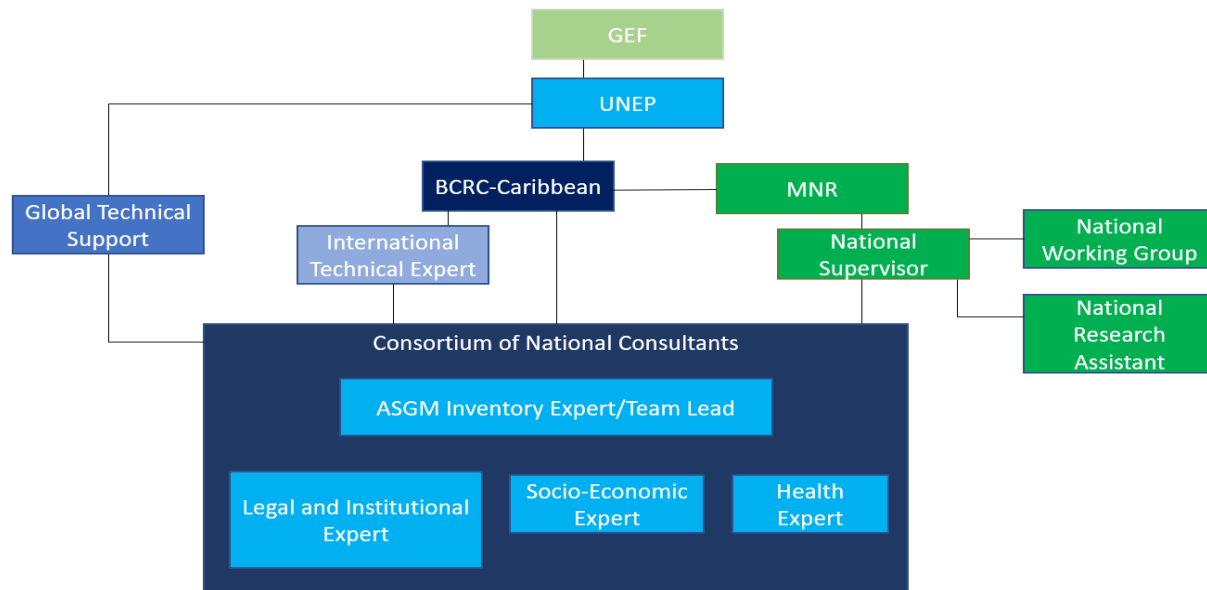
- Receive training from the Global Technical Component and International Expert(s) in the methodology for the development of a national overview of the ASGM sector. This will be conducted under the project as part of the 5-day National Inception and Training Workshop/Field Visits tentatively scheduled for 5th – 9th November 2019 which all Consultants are expected to attend.
- Develop a work plan, ***in collaboration with the consortium of consultants under the project***, with clear deliverables and indicators for the overall tasks assigned;
- Conduct desk research on the information including e.g. demographics, gender, youth employment and child labour, poverty rates, access to public services such as health care, social security and social protection. Previous related research conducted such as the Minamata Initial Assessment Report should also be assessed;
- Collect and analyse the socio-economic data on the ASGM community;

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- Assess the contribution of ASGM into family income (extended family and relatives); and the community development;
- Assess the contribution of the ASGM into local and national economy;
- Analyse the effects of global commodity price fluctuations on ASGM and the effects of government policies and programmes on the livelihood of miners;
- Assess the mercury trade and supply chains;
- Draft a socio-economic strategy document for the ASGM sector in accordance with the obligations under Article 7 and Annex C of the Minamata Convention².
- Collaborate with the national consultants in the consortium to propose a formalisation strategy for the ASGM sector in accordance with the NAP guidance provided;
- Participate in regularly scheduled meetings/calls with the BCRC-Caribbean, MNR, Inventory Expert(s) and National Working Group;
- Submit monthly progress reports and a final report on tasks undertaken and findings for review and approval by the BCRC-Caribbean and MNR;

PROJECT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



² During the work conducted by the other national consultants in the consortium, technical, health and other relevant considerations may also be identified that could impact the socio-economic recommendations. Collaboration and coordination for information sharing is therefore expected in order to enhance the overall level of work.

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QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

Overall Functional competencies:

- Strong interpersonal skills, communication and diplomatic skills, ability to work in a team;
- Capacity building skills;
- Excellent writing and reporting skills;
- Good presentation skills;
- Proficient in use of Microsoft Office suite;
- Ability to work under pressure and stressful situations, and to meet tight deadlines.

Education and Experience:

- Minimum B.Sc. in Economics, Sustainable Development, Gender and Development, or related field. An advanced university degree (Master's and/or Ph.D.) will be considered an asset;
- At least 5 years working in the domain;
- Good knowledge of environmental/social/economic/cultural situation of Guyana and/or ASGM countries;
- Knowledge in policy analysis, policy development process;
- Experience working in and/or with government bodies;
- Experience working with rural communities in Guyana/ similar ASGM communities;
- Good understanding of the Minamata Convention on Mercury is highly desired;
- Good command of socio-economic data collection and analysis methodologies;
- Experience in working with international organizations is an asset.

DURATION OF CONSULTANCY

Six (6) months. The successful candidate will be expected to start work as of October 28, 2019.

PAYMENT

Payment shall be made in instalments based on key deliverables identified within the contract and agreed on between the BCRC-Caribbean and the Consultant.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications are open to all **regional consultants** who meet the qualifications of this consultancy service. Preference will be given to Guyana-based consultants.

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DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

1. Technical Proposal describing how one will approach and complete the assignment. This should include the Consultant's/Consultancy Team's methodology and work implementation plan, qualifications and experience of personnel, and non-financial resources to be assigned where applicable;
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) inclusive of contact information for at least three (3) references for relevant past project/work experience.
3. Financial Proposal, which is to be separated into Consultant fees and detailed expenses in United States (US) Dollars, matched up against key milestones and deliverables;

QUERIES

Interested bidders may submit all queries via email to:

<p>Ms. Tahlia Ali Shah Project Execution Officer BCRC-Caribbean Email: tahlia.alishah@bcrc-caribbean.org Phone: (868) 628-3829 / 9372</p>	<p>Ms. Mariscia Charles Policy Analyst, Ministry of Natural Resources Email: mcharles@nre.gov.gy Phone: (592) 231-2519 ext. 252</p>
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BID SUBMISSION

Interested bidders are invited to apply by submitting detailed proposals **via email** to:

Ms. Jewel Batchasingh

Director (Ag.)

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and
Technology Transfer for the Caribbean

#8 Alexandra Street, St. Clair,

Port-of-Spain,

Trinidad and Tobago.

Email: jewel.batchasingh@bcrc-caribbean.org

and CC. tahlia.alishah@bcrc-caribbean.org and mcharles@nre.gov.gy

The deadline for the submission of proposals is **6:00 pm (GMT -4) on October 13th, 2019.**

NOTES:

- *The working language of the BCRC-Caribbean is English.*
- *When submitting bids, bidders must ensure that all documents are labelled clearly.*

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- *Bid documents shall remain the property of the BCRC-Caribbean.*
- *The BCRC-Caribbean reserves the right to reject any application if any information provided is found to be a misrepresentation, exaggeration or complete falsification and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to the award of Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder.*
- *The successful bidder will be notified in writing of the award of contract and provided with an authorization to proceed. The successful bidder shall be required to enter into an appropriate Contract on the basis of the tender documents and incorporating any other appropriate provisions within that period of time.*

USEFUL LINK: [Guidance Document](#)

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