



**BASEL CONVENTION**

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

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

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### NATIONAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

REF. NO: #BCRC\_NAP\_002

### BACKGROUND

The Minamata Convention on Mercury was adopted in October 2013 and entered into force on August 16, 2017 with one hundred and ten (110) countries, to date, as Parties to the Convention, including Guyana. One of the major highlights of the Convention includes the international regulation of the informal sector for artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM). 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 in 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 finalized the implementation of the Minamata Initial Assessment 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 were outlined in the Minamata Initial Assessment Report. Following this, a ten (10) year phased National Implementation Plan (formerly referred to as their national action plan) was proposed in December 2017 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 projected.

The 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 Minamata Convention and build initial 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 no later than August 2020.

#### Parties consenting to be served by the Centre

Antigua and Barbuda   Commonwealth of the Bahamas   Barbados   Belize   The Republic of Cuba   The Commonwealth of Dominica   The Dominican Republic

The Republic of Guyana   Jamaica   The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis   Saint Lucia   Saint Vincent and the Grenadines   Suriname   The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## 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.

In this regard, the Basel Convention Regional Centre-Caribbean (BCRC- Caribbean) in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), is seeking to recruit a suitably qualified professional for the role of National Research Assistant (NRA).

## MAIN FUNCTIONS AND DELIVERABLES

Under the guidance of the BCRC-Caribbean and the National Supervisor in the MNRs, the NRA will work in close coordination with all project stakeholders, working groups and international/national consultants to assist in the implementation of project activities, in particular, with respect to the on-the-ground daily activities involved in the collection and input of data into the National Action Plan report. The NRA will be asked to perform tasks including:

1. Developing a work plan for tasks with clear deliverables and indicators for the development of the draft National Action Plan;
2. Conducting a desktop study of the ASGM sector and use of mercury as it relates to the current situation in Guyana;
3. Coordinating with relevant stakeholders and consultants which will include performing the duties of the Secretary to the National Working Group established under the project for the duration of the tenure. The responsibilities of the Secretary include scheduling group meetings, making sure that accurate minutes are kept and following up with participants and matters discussed afterward, as needed;
4. Assisting with data collection and analysis;

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5. Submitting detailed progress reports of project status and drafts of the National Action Plan report, as deemed necessary;
6. Facilitating national project workshops, as deemed necessary;
7. Assisting the BCRC-Caribbean and National Supervisor with other project management duties as required.

## **PAYMENT**

Payment shall be made in instalments based on key deliverables identified within the letter of engagement for the consultancy and agreed on between the BCRC-C, National Supervisor and the NRA.

## **QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS**

### Functional competencies:

- Ability to analyse technical scientific documents and make constructive suggestions;
- Strong interpersonal skills, communication and diplomatic skills, ability to work in a team;
- Knowledge of good practice in the conduct and reporting of survey research;
- Capacity building skills;
- Excellent writing and reporting skills;
- Good presentation skills;
- Ability to work under pressure and stressful situations, and to meet tight deadlines.

### Education and Experience:

- B.Sc. (or equivalent) in natural sciences, environmental sciences or management, chemical and/or process engineering, or related fields.
- Professional experience preferably in areas relevant to waste and chemicals management;
- Good knowledge of the local context and infrastructure as it relates to waste and chemicals management (knowledge in mercury use, storage and disposal is an asset);
- Experience in the implementation of environmental programmes;
- Experience in the conduct of research, desktop reviews and field surveys;
- Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office.

## **DURATION OF THE CONSULTANCY**

The duration of the consultancy is ten (10) months.

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### *Parties consenting to be served by the Centre*

## APPLICATION

Please send Curriculum Vitae (CV) and cover letter 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](mailto:jewel.batchasingh@bcrc-caribbean.org) and

Copy the following contacts:

- Mariscia Charles, Policy Analyst, Ministry of Natural Resources  
[mcharles@nre.gov.gy](mailto:mcharles@nre.gov.gy)
- Tahlia Ali Shah, Project Execution Officer, BCRC-Caribbean  
[tahlia.alishah@bcrc-caribbean.org](mailto:tahlia.alishah@bcrc-caribbean.org)

Applications must be submitted **on or before 6:00 pm (GMT -4) on August 19, 2019.**

The successful candidate will be expected to start work as of September 9, 2019.

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