



**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 (ASGM) IN THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### INTERNATIONAL EXPERT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL OVERVIEW OF THE ASGM SECTOR, INCLUDING BASELINE ESTIMATES OF MERCURY USE AND PRACTICES

REF. NO: #BCRC\_10153\_2019\_003

### 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 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 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.

#### 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 National Action Plan 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.

## DESCRIPTION OF REQUIRED SERVICES FOR THIS CONSULTANCY

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 to provide technical backstopping and training to national consultants and national project stakeholders in the development of a national overview of the ASGM sector, for the overall development of a National Action Plan in accordance with Annex C of the Minamata Convention. Under Component 1 of the project, training materials and relevant methodologies will be made available by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for use under this consultancy.

The Consultant shall:

- a) Provide training to national consultants and stakeholders on:
  - Baseline estimates of mercury, usage, emissions and releases from the ASGM sector for the development of an inventory;
  - Gold processing practices/burn-off of mercury in gold processing shops or community retorts;
  - Estimating the size of the formal and informal ASGM economy;
  - Conducting a socio-economic and health study;
  - Collecting information on mining practices, including information on ore bodies exploited, processes used, the amount of mercury used, the number

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of people directly involved in ASGM and indirectly exposed to mercury (disaggregated by gender and age), etc.

- Preparing maps of the ASGM sector and potential mercury hotspots.

## **OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES**

The Consultant, under the guidance of, and reporting directly to the BCRC-Caribbean and the MNR, is(are) expected to deliver the required services by:

a) Participating in an approximately five (5) day country visit (*tentatively scheduled for mid-October 2019*) which will include:

- A national inception workshop with key government stakeholders and consultants to provide theory training in techniques to undertake the baseline estimates of mercury releases as well as the socio-economic and health study;
- Field work for practical training in mercury measurement techniques and other data collection techniques;
- An in-office debriefing session with the national working group and consultants to discuss and review the data collected and techniques learned for the development of a national overview of the ASGM sector.

b) Providing consultations for the analysis of data collected by national experts from the baseline study and mapping of the mining sites (approximately 5 working days);

c) Providing guidance for and reviewing the national synopsis of ASGM and strategies developed as outlined in Annex C of Minamata Convention (approximately 5 working days);

d) Participating in the national lessons learned workshop towards the end of the project execution timeline following the development of the National Action Plan.

*NOTE: The Consultant shall provide further technical support outlined in b) to c) via electronic means. Both in-person or electronic participation in the national lessons learned workshop outlined in d) can be considered.*

## **QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS**

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;
- Ability to work under pressure and stressful situations, and to meet tight deadlines.

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### Education and Experience:

- Minimum educational background: Master's degree in Mining, Geology, Environmental Management/Science, Natural Science, etc;
- A PhD in the above fields will be considered an asset;
- At least ten (10) years of professional experience in the mining sector with special emphasis on ASGM;
- Experience conducting field research (social and/or technical) and field training in the ASGM communities;
- Experience working with remote rural communities and labour associations;
- Preferably, knowledge and experience using the UNEP or Artisanal Gold Council methodology for assessing the ASGM sector, or any other methodology based on these;
- Past consulting experience in related topic will be considered an asset;
- Knowledge of national, regional and international legislations including on international conventions will be considered an asset.

## **DURATION OF THE CONSULTANCY**

The duration of the consultancy is approximately forty-five (45) days over the course of a twelve (12) month period, based on the outlined outputs and deliverables of the consultancy.

The successful candidate will be expected to start work as of September 23, 2019.

## **PAYMENT**

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

## **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 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;

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

## QUERIES

Interested bidders may submit all queries via email to:

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

Interested bidders are invited to apply by submitting a detailed proposal **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](mailto:jewel.batchasingh@bcrc-caribbean.org)

and **CC.** [tahlia.alishah@bcrc-caribbean.org](mailto:tahlia.alishah@bcrc-caribbean.org) and [mcharles@nre.gov.gy](mailto:mcharles@nre.gov.gy)

The deadline for the submission of proposals is **6:00 pm (GMT - 4) on August 29, 2019.**

## NOTES:

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

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### Parties consenting to be served by the Centre