



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

NATIONAL ASGM INVENTORY EXPERT/ TEAM LEAD

REF. NO: #BCRC_10153_2019_004

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.

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 (NAP) 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(s) to, *using the methodology developed by United Nations Environment Programme*, develop a national baseline inventory of mercury use and practices employed in ASGM and propose relevant strategies for the management of the ASGM sector in accordance with Annex C of the Minamata Convention.

This consultancy will form part of a consortium of consultants¹ selected to establish a national overview of the ASGM sector 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, the National ASGM Inventory Consultant(s) will be expected to lead the coordination of project activities such as field visits, stakeholder consultation and drafting of the NAP Report with the other consultants, under the direction of the BCRC-Caribbean and MNR.

Also, under the guidance of the BCRC-Caribbean and the MNR, the Consultant(s) is expected to conduct:

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

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1. A desk study that will entail compiling all available information on ASGM. The desk study will be complemented by the interviews with the key stakeholders at the national, regional and local level;
2. Field visits at selected ASGM sites in the country in order to collect more in-depth information via interviews with mining community, observations and physical measurements.
3. Written reports on findings.

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

- Baseline estimates of mercury emissions and releases from the ASGM sector;
- Geographic distributions and size of formal and informal ASGM activities. This will include the mapping of ASGM sites and potential mercury hotspots;
- Information on mining practices, including information on ore bodies exploited, processes used, the amount of mercury used, the number of people directly involved in ASGM and indirectly exposed to mercury (disaggregated by gender and age);
- Information on gold processing practices/burn-off of mercury in gold processing shops or community retorts;
- Known information on overall environmental impacts, contaminated sites, mercury releases in soil, air and water;
- Information about access to technical and financial assistance for miners to phase out mercury use in their practices;
- Leadership and organization 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), 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 and NAP Report. This will be conducted under the project as part of the 4-day National Inception and Training Workshop/Field Visits *tentatively scheduled for 5th- 8th November 2019* which all Consultants are expected to attend.
- Supervise and coordinate the work of the team of consultants;

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- Develop a work plan, ***in collaboration with the consortium of consultants identified under the project*** with clear deliverables and indicators for the overall tasks assigned;
- Conduct desktop research about mercury use, emissions and releases from the ASGM sector and main mining districts across Guyana. Previous related research conducted such as the Minamata Initial Assessment Report should also be assessed;
- Plan field trips (e.g. choose areas to visit, schedule trip, etc) and make needed logistical arrangements which should include conducting pre-field visit meetings with the ASGM community leaders of selected inventory sites in order to inform them of the purpose of the study and foster good relationships and cooperation;
- Purchase necessary equipment for field trips;
- Collect and analyse data during field research trips (e.g. visit mining sites, interview miners and their families, etc.);
- Finalise inventory (ready to be integrated in the NAP document);
- Develop a strategy document inclusive of a problem statement list, for the elimination of worst practices and the promotion of the reduction of emissions and releases of mercury²;
- Coordinate the compilation of work conducted by the consortium of consultants and ***draft the NAP document*** according to the guidance provided;
- Participate in regularly scheduled meetings/calls with the BCRC-Caribbean, MNR, Inventory Expert(s) and National Working Group as deemed necessary;
- Submit monthly progress reports and a final report on tasks undertaken and findings for review and approval by the BCRC-Caribbean and MNR.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

Functional competencies:

- Strong interpersonal skills, communication and diplomatic skills, ability to work in a team and with different levels of stakeholders;
- Strong team management experience and ability to manage a multidisciplinary team;
- Capacity building skills;
- Excellent writing and reporting skills;

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

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- Good presentation skills;
- Proficient in use of Microsoft Office suite;
- Ability to work under pressure and stressful situations, and to meet tight deadlines;
- Practical knowledge of terrain and possession of a driver's permit will be considered an asset.

Education and Experience:

- Advanced university degree (Master's and/or Ph.D.) in Environmental Management/Science, Geology, Mining, or related field;
- At least ten (10) years of professional experience in the mining sector and preferably understanding of the ASGM sector and its various components (mining, processing, economics, environmental and health impacts, etc.);
- Experience conducting field research (social and technical);
- Experience in supervising staff and team leading;
- Experience working with remote rural communities and labour associations (ideally miners' associations);
- Past consulting experience in related topic will be an added advantage;
- Knowledge of national, regional and international legislations including on multilateral environmental agreements will also be an added advantage.
- Skills in data acquisition and management, and basic knowledge of the scientific method;
- Team management experience would be considered an asset;
- Experience in working with international organisations is an asset.

PAYMENT

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

DURATION OF CONSULTANCY

Six (6) months. The successful candidate will be expected to start work as of October 22nd, 2019.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications are open to all Guyana-based consultants who meet the qualifications of this consultancy service.

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;
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) inclusive of contact information for at least three (3) references for relevant past project/work experience.

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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:

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

Interested bidders are invited to apply by submitting 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 **extended** deadline for the submission of proposals is **6:00 pm (GMT -4) on October 2nd, 2019.**

NOTES:

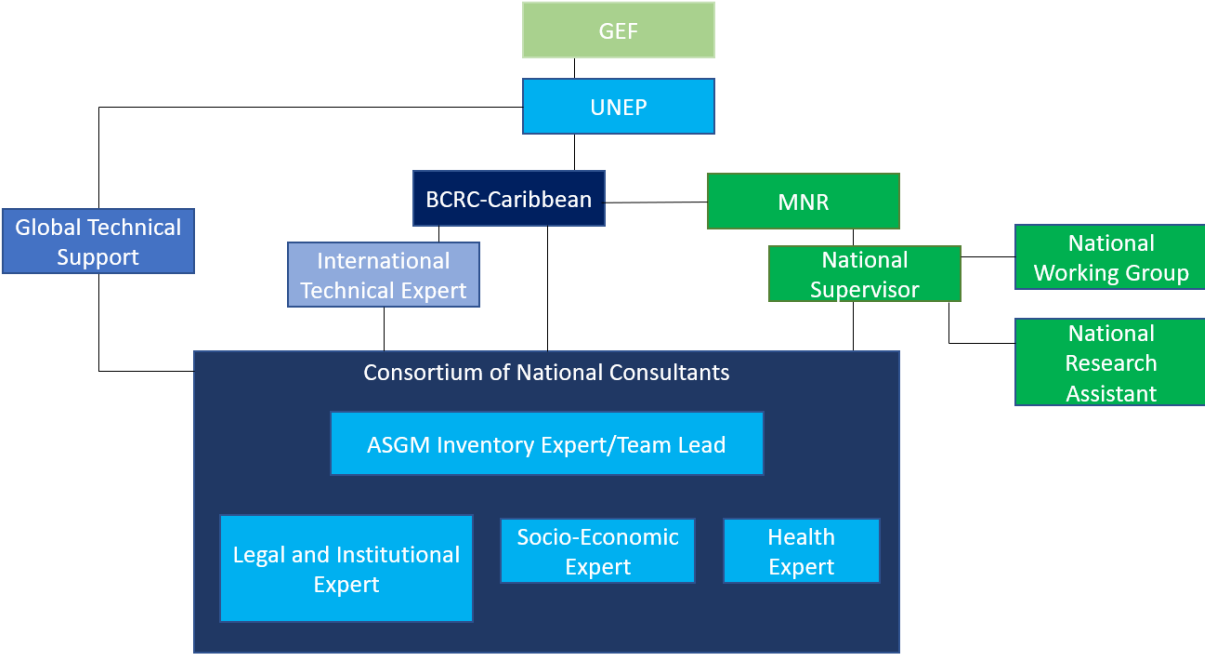
- *The working language of the BCRC-Caribbean is English.*
- *When submitting bids, bidders must ensure that all documents are labelled clearly.*
- *Bid documents shall remain the property of the BCRC-Caribbean.*
- *The BCRC-Caribbean reserves the right to reject any application if any information provided 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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USEFUL LINK:

[Guidance Document](#)

PROJECT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE:



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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