



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 PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY EXPERT

REF. NO: #BCRC_10153_2019_007

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, *in accordance with Annex C of the Minamata Convention*, (and under the guidance of the BCRC-Caribbean and MNR) conduct health assessments for the ASGM sector that can be used by relevant health authorities to inform the development of the national public health strategy that will be part of the NAP and elaborate an outreach strategy to raise awareness in the country about the impacts of mercury to human health.

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 and, strategy development and drafting of the NAP Report with the other 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:

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

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- Known information on overall environmental impacts, contaminated sites, mercury releases in soil, air and water;
- Information about access to basic education, health care (including health effects of mercury exposure) and other services in mining communities;
- 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 health aspects of ASGM at national and local levels.
- Experiences in addressing health factors in ASGM;
- Information gaps at the local and national scale that can be addressed.

MAIN FUNCTIONS AND DELIVERABLES

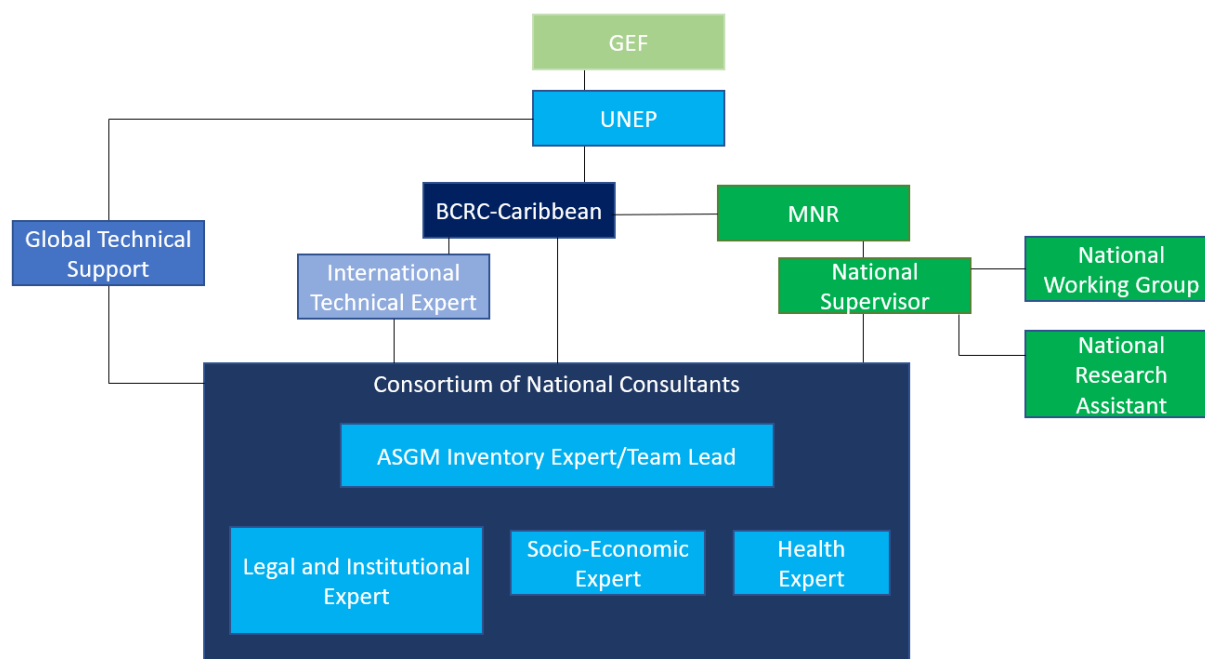
The Consultant, under the guidance of, and reporting directly to the BCRC-Caribbean and the MNR, is expected to:

- 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 4-day National Inception and Training Workshop/Field Visits tentatively scheduled for 5th- 8th November 2019 which all Consultants are expected to attend.
- Develop a work plan, ***in collaboration with other field consultants under the project***, with clear deliverables and indicators for the overall tasks assigned;
- Assess the institutional capacity of the health system to provide medical services to miners, their communities and nearby/downstream communities, as well as the health situation of miners and their communities. Previous related research conducted such as the Minamata Initial Assessment Report should also be assessed;
- Collect and analyse data during field research trips (e.g. visit mining sites and medical centres, interview miners and their families, etc.) for the institutional capacity and rapid health situation assessments;
- Conduct focus group discussions and awareness raising events during field research trips, in coordination with the Team Lead;
- Finalise analysis of data collected, identify core capacity gaps to be strengthened and intervention points;
- Meet government officials from relevant Ministries and key stakeholders for consultation during development of public health strategy;

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- Develop public health strategy² in collaboration with designated government health representatives;
- Present data collected and draft of public health strategy for discussion and feedback during National Working Group meetings;
- Prepare outreach strategy to raise awareness and disseminate information on impacts of mercury use in different sectors to human health;
- Collaborate with the national consultants in the consortium to propose a formalisation strategy for the ASGM sector in accordance with the NAP guidance provided.
- Submit monthly progress reports and a final report on tasks undertaken and findings for review and approval by the BCRC-Caribbean and MNR.
- Participate in national project workshops as deemed necessary by the BCRC-Caribbean and the MNR.

PROJECT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



² During the field work conducted by the other national consultants in the consortium, technical, social, economic, legal and other relevant considerations may also be identified that could impact the health strategy 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:

- Advanced university degree (Master's and/or Ph.D.) in Public Health or related health field;
- Knowledge of policy development process and health system in the country;
- Experience conducting health field research, supervising staff and working with remote rural communities, ideally in Guyana;
- Experience supporting the development of health policies and working with government bodies;
- Basic understanding of occupational health and safety as it relates to mining;
- Knowledge of ASGM social, legal, technical, economic, and environmental issues is an asset.

DURATION OF CONSULTANCY

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

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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:

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| 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 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

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.*

USEFUL LINK: [Guidance Document](#)

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