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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT(S) **Assessment of the establishment of the Environmental Fund**

Overall project name:	Improving Environmental Management in the Mining Sector of Suriname, with Emphasis on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM), EMSAGS Project.
Assignment Title:	Assessment of the establishment of the Environmental Fund of the Environmental Framework Act
Post Level:	International consultant(s)
Client:	National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS)
Partners:	Ministry of Natural Resources UNDP CO in Suriname
Duration of Assignment:	Up to 30 working days within a period of 3 months
Duty Station:	Home-based and indicatively one mission to Suriname for 4 – 5 days
Expected start date:	April 2024
Expected places of travel:	Paramaribo, Suriname

1. Context

The **Environmental Framework Act** for Suriname is enacted by Parliament and has come into effect. The Environmental Framework Act in article 19 foresees in an “**Environmental Fund**”. According to the Act an environmental fund will be established to help finance activities in the context of:

- a. the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the environment;
- b. the introduction of incentive measures to curb environmental pollution;
- c. stimulating research in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss;
- d. increasing environmental awareness in Suriname; and

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- e. Other activities for the conservation and restoration of the environment or that are beneficial to protection of the environment that cannot be financed from other sources.

The Environmental Fund, which will be established in accordance with the Environmental Framework Act, can also be proposed for financial management of the "Rehabilitation Fund". Currently, an initial draft Implementation Regulation of the Environmental Fund (*Besluit Milieufonds*) has been prepared, which need to be further discussed with relevant stakeholders.

In accordance with the Environmental Framework Act, particularly article 19 para 2, incorporating most recent policy views from government of Suriname, the board charged with management of the Environmental Fund will be constituted.

The **Project "Improving Environmental Management in the Mining Sector of Suriname, with Emphasis on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining", EMSAGS**, is a GEF funded project being implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS) as national implementing partners, the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (ROM) as Beneficiary and with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The project seeks to improve the environmental management of mining in Suriname, particularly small-scale gold mining, which is the largest driver of deforestation in the country and contributes to biodiversity loss (through habitat degradation and pollution), climate change (through deforestation) and unsustainable land, water and forest management. The project will address policy and institutional constraints to improve the management of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector as well as to create an enabling environment for the dissemination of environmentally responsible mining practices.

To do so, the project works at the policy level (Outcomes 1 and 2) with government stakeholders, as well as with miners themselves (Outcome 3) to demonstrate the environmental and economic benefits of environmentally responsible mining practices

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(ERMPs) and technologies. The model proposed is one that relies on the identification of benefits for miners that arise from the application of ERMPs, including social and economic benefits, as well as the design of a system of national level financial, fiscal and regulatory incentives to help re-orient the market towards more responsibly sourced gold. Based on the lessons learned from this model, the project will implement an upscaling strategy that will include knowledge sharing at local and national level, as well as with neighboring countries (Outcome 4).

A key condition for the long-term sustainability of the EMSAGS project outcomes, and for the broader upscaling and replication of ERM practices is the availability of reliable sources of finance at local levels, among public and private stakeholders. Key gaps in finance were identified during the project preparation, for example: there are insufficient funds from national budgets allocated to environmental restoration and biodiversity conservation in mining areas; the institutions in charge of promoting and disseminating ERM practices are underfunded and lack operational capacity; and small-scale miners do not have access to sufficient resources to implement ERM practices. Some large scale mining companies dedicate a portion of their profits to corporate social responsibility activities, including the financing of the Suriname Environmental and Mining Foundation (SEMIF), for biodiversity related activities and support to local communities. However, in relative terms the funding remains limited, and insufficient to leverage the required level of impact on health and environment.

The EMSAGS project will seek to address these financing gaps by assisting the government (through OGS and NIMOS) in designing adequate financing mechanisms that can increase resource flows towards ERM practices and environmental rehabilitation in mining areas. It is also expected that miners who apply ERM practices as demonstrated through this project will increase their earnings, and that this will create a powerful long-term incentive for the continued application of these technologies.

Under output 1.2, the project will help the government of Suriname design a sustainable financing strategy which will take into account ongoing efforts on sustainable environmental financing strategies, and include an exploration of public-private partnerships with large scale mining companies, the creation of a Rehabilitation Fund, mobilization of national

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budget allocations, and the design of fiscal instruments (e.g., levies on fuel sales) to increase the amount of funds channelled towards environmentally responsible mining and environmental rehabilitation in particular.

In addition, the project will assist the Ministry of Natural Resources in exploring options and designing a “Rehabilitation fund” to generate financing dedicated specifically to decommissioning and rehabilitating abandoned or orphaned mines and to the promotion of sustainable end-of-cycle management practices, including re-landscaping and restoration in ASM areas. The project will study different avenues to replenish this Fund, including a mechanism whereby a percentage of the revenues from gold would be collected from miners individually, or where a portion of existing (or increased) royalties (currently at 1%) collected by the Government would be allocated to decommissioning and rehabilitation. The project will assess the best financial management structure and governance mechanism to support the fund, such as management by NGOs or other independent entities. In addition, the project will support the exploration of price-related, fiscal or tax incentives for the application of ERM practices, including for example reducing the cost of permits or permit applications for miners committing to a more stringent set of environmental management practices (or miners adhering to the Fairmined standard or another relevant standard), re-evaluating the amount of fines, or providing tax credits on ERM equipment.

Output 1.2 will suggest mechanisms that would make funds available to address the negative impacts of ASGM along the whole mine life cycle, and will create a long-term sustainability strategy for the EMSAGS project.

Under the EMSAGS Project, currently a Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) in Suriname’s mining sector is being conducted. The TSA will carry out a valuation study to assess the economic contribution of ecosystems services to the mining sector’s productivity and the economy.

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2. Objectives and scope of work

The overall objective of the consultancy is to

- conduct a gender responsive assessment of the establishment of the Environmental Fund, and
- recommend on how the Environmental fund can be operationalized in Suriname and
- advise how the Rehabilitation fund can be best managed under the Environmental Fund,
- design a roadmap to the development of a sustainable financing strategy which will take into account ongoing efforts on sustainable environmental financing strategies, also including the creation of a Rehabilitation Fund.

3. Duties and responsibilities

The international consultant(s) will be supported by a national consultant to reach the different deliverables (for specific tasks of the national consultant(s), please refer to the **“TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NATIONAL CONSULTANT(S) Assessment of the establishment of the Environmental Fund”**)

In close collaboration with NIMOS and the EMSAGS Project Management Unit (PMU), the international consultant(s) will perform the following tasks:

1. Research and review relevant plans, programs, studies and legal documents:
 - Review the Environmental Framework Act, draft Implementation Regulation on the Environmental Fund;
 - Review of other relevant national and international laws and regulations on establishing funds;
2. Conduct assessment for Establishment of Environmental Fund:
 - Conduct a gender responsive assessment of the establishment and operationalization of the Environmental Fund,

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- Benchmark the Environmental Fund (as proposed in the implementing regulation) with international environmental funds.
 - Prepare and conduct meetings/ interviews with relevant partners and stakeholders during mission to Suriname to solicit their views on the establishment of such a Fund, including governance and accountability mechanisms.
 - Based on the assessment/ research findings, recommend on the scope, structure and set up of the Environmental Fund and how the financing mechanisms that can increase resource flows towards ERM practices and environmental rehabilitation in mining areas can be best managed under the Environmental Fund.
3. Design a roadmap to the development of a national sustainable environmental financing strategy which will take into account ongoing efforts on sustainable environmental financing strategies, also including the creation of a Rehabilitation Fund.
 4. Give a one-day seminar on sustainable environmental financing strategies/ options to key stakeholders:
 - Conduct a one-day seminar on sustainable environmental financing options/ strategies, including, among others, the workings of fiduciary trust funds, payment for environmental services, Green bonds, debt for nature swaps, Rehabilitation funds, etc.

4. Expected outputs/ deliverables

Deliverables/outputs Payment, upon satisfactory delivery of:	Target due date	Payment (%)
Inception report, including a detailed work plan with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description of activities, timeline, financial proposal - Stakeholder List of and timeframe for consultation meetings/ interviews 	Two weeks after contract signing	20%
Summary report with findings of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of relevant plans, programs, studies and legal documents 	6 weeks after	25%

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings/ interviews with relevant partners and stakeholders - Outline with table of content for the gender responsive Environmental Fund Assessment report - 	approval of inception report	
One day “Sustainable Financing Options” Seminar	10 week after approval of inception report	35%
Draft gender responsive Environmental Fund Assessment Report Draft report: gender responsive roadmap towards the design of a national sustainable environmental financing strategy, including the creation of a Rehabilitation Fund.	10 weeks after approval of inception report	
Final gender responsive Environmental Fund Assessment Report Final report: gender responsive roadmap towards the design of a national sustainable environmental financing strategy, including the creation of a Rehabilitation Fund.	1 week after receiving feedback on the draft reports.	20%
		Total: 100%

5. Minimum Qualifications

Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master’s degree in economics, Finance or a closely related field, or another field combined with relevant work experience, preferably a focus on environment/biodiversity. • A PhD in relevant field is an asset.
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<p>Experience:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 5 years of working experience and successful track record in the area of international and national environmental finance, environmental accounting, environmental economics or related field. • Demonstrated skills in collecting, analyzing and processing data. • Proven experience in leading assessments of various international funds, preferably international green/ environmental/ climate related funds/rehabilitation funds and the design and operations of such Trust funds. • Experience with financial asset or portfolio management; • Exposure to and/or strong knowledge on gender analysis, environmental conservation and natural resources management is an asset. • Demonstrated knowledge of and preferably experience with environmentally responsible mining. • Preferably experience in working with international development partners, preferably with UN Agencies.
<p>Competencies:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong analytical skills and ability in both oral and written communication. • Proven ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders and present ideas clearly and effectively. • Able to gather and process data and information. • Very good understanding of forestry, natural resource management, environmentally responsible mining developments at international, national and local levels.
<p>Language Requirements:</p>	<p>Fluency in English (spoken and written). Fluency in Dutch will be considered an asset.</p>

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Application Process

The Consultant(s) must submit:

1. Technical proposal

- Indicating the consultant(s)'s understanding of the TOR and how they propose to carry out the task including a workplan with timeline;
- Application letter with statement of why the consultant(s) considers her/him/itself suitable for this consultancy; SUPPORTED BY: CV of the consultant(s) as per attached Personal History Form, indicating all past experience, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the consultant(s) and at least three (3) professional references.

2. Financial Proposal

- Financial proposals must indicate an all-inclusive daily fee. The daily fee in the financial proposal must consider the various expenses the applicant expects to incur during contract, including: the daily professional fee, communications, utilities and consumables, life, health and any other insurance; and any other relevant expenses, related to the performance of services under the contract. Costs for travelling to the field/ interior and meeting costs associated with consultations should not be included in the proposal.

SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF PROPOSALS

All proposals must be submitted to the email address: info-EMSAGS@nimos.org, with the subject reading as follows: Application for international consultant(s) assessment of the establishment of the Environmental Fund.

Please ensure that the Application letter, Personal History Form, Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal are submitted as SEPARATE FILES in one email. Any proposal that arrives after the deadline for submission of proposals as mentioned in the advertisement shall not be considered.