

Terms of Reference (Consultant) - Tailings Management Expert

Project title:	planetGOLD Philippines: “Contribution toward the elimination of mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector: from miners to refiners”
Contract duration	60-90 working days (may be assumed intermittently starting from January 2021)
Salary	Will be determined by experience and qualifications and paid in local currency
Deadline	Open until filled

BACKGROUND

Organizational context

Based in Victoria, Canada, the Artisanal Gold Council (AGC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the work conditions and opportunities, as well as environment, and health of the millions of people involved in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) in the developing world. The AGC helps to improve the global gold sector by promoting better practices in ASGM through technology transfer, policy development, and awareness raising in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The AGC consists of a core staff, associates, and a council of experts (Board of Directors) in areas of ASGM, economics, sustainable development, social responsibility, human and environmental health, and gold production and extraction. For more information about the AGC and its projects, please visit www.artisanalgold.org

Project description

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF)-supported program “Global Opportunities for the Long-term Development of the ASGM sector (planetGOLD)” has been designed to address the key issues linked to continued mercury use and provide sustainable development opportunities for the communities involved. The Program is composed of eight (8) child projects implemented in 9 countries including the Philippines.

The objective of the planetGOLD Philippines project is to contribute towards the elimination of mercury in the ASGM sector by applying a supply chain approach from the miners to refiners. The Project has four components. UN Environment is implementing components 1, 2 and 4 on (i) formalization, (ii) finance and market access, and (iv) knowledge management, respectively, while UNIDO is responsible for component 3 on technology transfer.

The Project is expected to demonstrate: 1) government incentives to formalize the ASGM sector in Mongolia and Philippines are increasingly adopted by miners, 2) national governments guiding the creation of ASGM fund to allow miners to invest in mercury-free technologies and access responsible gold markets; miners able to sell their gold directly into a transparent supply chain, 3) reduced mercury releases by the ASGM sector in both countries, and 4) ASGM communities and government agreeing on an approach to reach all ASGM communities in each country.

Rationale

It is consistently observed that the ASGM sector in general does not put focus on proper tailings management practices. The use of mercury to recover gold proved to be convenient, easy and quick in generating income for regular sustenance at the expense of environmental degradation as well as health and safety. Under the Component technology transfer(iii), the Project is tasked to install, operate, and manage mercury-free processing facilities (MFPT) as an alternative to the traditional amalgamation process employed by the ASGM sector.

Thus, the Project is seeking for a consultant with expertise in developing a strategy for managing MFPT tailings.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

To develop and produce a tailings management plan, strategy and/or guideline including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Recommendations on design and construction of appropriate tailings management facilities (TMF)
- b. Tailings characterization analyses and/or contamination profile
- c. Effluent treatment methods to remove cyanide and other contaminants as per DENR standards
- d. Strategies on solid waste management and/or tailings repurposing

SCOPE OF WORK

The pre-identified project sites include *Minahang Bayan* areas in (i) Itogon, Benguet, (ii) Rosario, Agusan del Sur, (iii) Buenavista, Quezon, and (iv) Paracale, Camarines Norte, where samples may be taken to avoid inconsistencies between laboratory and actual plant setups. Other areas may be identified and added.

DELIVERABLE(S)

The consultant is expected to produce a Tailings Management Plan containing items stated in the objective of the assignment as well as report on methodologies, laboratory raw data/results, and analyses.

WORKPLAN

Submission of a workplan after the contract signing will be requested by the Project.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's degree (minimum) in Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Mineral Processing, Metallurgical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Mining Engineering, or other related field;
- 7-10 years (minimum) of experience in a similar role
- Work experience in the mining/metals extractive industry is an advantage
- Extensive experience in performing studies on tailings management and/or treatment of mine wastes or similar researches as shown by publications or papers;
- Experience in working with international and national organizations under pressure and within a limited timeframe;
- Excellent written communication skills as shown by previous studies conducted on related fields;
- Absence of conflict of interest;
- Strong problem-solving and creative analytical thinking skills;
- Self-motivated, able to prioritize, and work with minimal guidance;
- Fluency in written and spoken English is required.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply to this position, please send a cover letter and resume, in English, stating the job title in the subject line, to careers@artisanalgold.org, npm.ph@artisanalgold.org, and tech.ph@artisanalgold.org.

Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Please know that only those selected for interviews will be contacted. If your skills do not suit this position, but you believe you would be a great asset to the Artisanal Gold Council, we would like to hear from you. Send a letter of interest and CV to careers@artisanalgold.org.