Request for Expression of Interest

Philippines Consultant for the Evaluation of the Global Environment Facility’s Artisanal Gold Mining Portfolio

The application deadline is June 19, 2020


Background

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an international financial institution that provides grants to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for projects that address global environmental concerns related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and persistent organic pollutants. The governance structure of the GEF includes an Assembly, a Council, a Secretariat, a Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel and an Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). The GEF also receives additional guidance from the international environmental Conventions and Protocols for which it is the financial mechanism. This includes the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Projects financed by the GEF are managed by eighteen GEF Agencies. These include several international financial institutions, an important number of United Nations agencies, funds and programs, and other international as well as national institutions active in environmental conservation.

Within the Chemicals and Waste focal area, GEF has responded to the objective of the Minamata Convention to reduce the use of mercury within the artisanal small-scale gold mining sector (ASGM) with ongoing programming to increase formalization of the sector and the use of non-mercury technologies. The GEF ASGM portfolio, which began in 2002, has included several multi- and single-country projects, smaller initiatives to help countries create national action plans for their ASGM sectors and most recently the planetGOLD Programme, which includes seven projects in eight countries. The planetGOLD Programme’s ultimate goals are to reduce mercury emissions from ASGM through institutional strengthening, promote investment options for miners and their communities, introduce better and more efficient non-mercury technologies and practices and communicate findings through knowledge management.

To date, there has been no comprehensive evaluation of GEF’s interventions in ASGM nor of the economic and social benefits of GEF support to the informal mining sector. For this reason, the GEF-7 work plan of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) approved at the 56th GEF Council Meeting in June 2019 includes an evaluation of the planetGOLD Programme. To better evaluate the planetGOLD
Programme’s design, all prior and ongoing GEF ASGM projects will be included in the evaluation to understand how GEF’s approach to ASGM has changed over time and if the program responded to lessons learned from earlier projects. The Philippines case study has a special focus on the interventions that have engaged micro, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs) and ASG miners. The case study aims to quantify the economic and social outcomes generated by completed projects to benefit these stakeholder groups in the process of also generating global environmental benefits and assess the sustainability of these outcomes post-project.

Evaluation Overview

The purpose of this evaluation is to provide GEF stakeholders with evaluative evidence on the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of GEF interventions in the ASGM portfolio. The evaluation’s target audience are the GEF Council members, other GEF stakeholders, as well as the general public and professionals interested in ASGM and chemical waste management. Key questions that the evaluation will seek to answer include:

1. Are the planetGOLD Programme’s strategies to reduce mercury in ASGM the most appropriate and innovative strategies given the current state of technology, science and global experience?
2. Is the program working at the stages of the gold supply chain where intervention will make the most impact on reducing mercury emissions?
3. Is the GEF’s ASGM portfolio relevant to objectives of the Minamata Convention, the GEF Chemicals and Waste strategy and coherent with other development and environmental projects working in the same geographies?
4. How effectively does the planetGOLD Programme build on the outcomes and lessons of previous ASGM projects?
5. To what extent has the program design accounted for factors that influence sustainability and progress towards long-term impacts?

The Philippines case study in particular will also aim to answer the following questions, using a quasi-experimental approach where feasible:

1. How does the GEF support MSMEs and the informal sector within the Philippine ASGM value chain?
2. What are the environmental, economic and social impacts generated through GEF-supported interventions?
3. Which factors have contributed to or hindered the generation of these impacts?
4. To what extent has GEF support contributed to these impacts?

Tasks and Deliverables

To assist in the evaluation, IEO is seeking the services of a local consultant with expertise in the fields of evaluation research and ASGM. The following is a non-exhaustive list of tasks to be performed:

1. Review documents related to completed and ongoing GEF ASGM projects in the Philippines along with any scientific and technical literature related to the ASGM sector in the Philippines.
2. Develop and verify the theory of change for GEF-supported interventions against the needs and constraints of the ASGM value chain in the Philippines.
3. Conduct phone or in-person interviews as necessary with project staff, stakeholders and beneficiaries at the national and site levels to assess design of ongoing projects and outcome sustainability of completed projects, as appropriate.
4. Identify and analyze relevant local datasets on health, income, air and water quality, and other data on the ASGM sector in the Philippines, especially at site level.
5. Identify organizations that can facilitate access to populations in the project sites.
6. Identify and design optimal data collection methods and tools (e.g. interview questions, survey sampling design and questionnaire) for field data collection in collaboration with GEF IEO staff.
7. Collect and analyze data from project sites on both GEF-supported and non-supported populations on multiple indicators corresponding with the GEF-supported intervention’s theory of change.
8. Complete one (1) GEF IEO post-completion evaluation tool for a completed ASGM project in the case study area.
9. Complete one (1) formative evaluation tool for one ongoing ASGM project in the Philippines.
10. Complete one (1) case study report for GEF ASGM projects in the Philippines, based on post-completion and formative evaluation tools and other gathered information on ASGM projects and their impacts at the site and the national levels.

The main deliverables of this assignment will be 1) a Philippines case study report assessing the sustainability of the completed project’s main outcomes and economic and social impacts on the informal mining sector along with the design of the ongoing ASGM project and 2) the filled-out post-completion and formative evaluation tools for the completed and ongoing ASGM projects in the Philippines, respectively, 3) field data collection tools, and 4) datasets on environmental, social and economic benefits. The IEO will provide documentation, research assistance support and will introduce the consultant to GEF project staff, however the consultant will be responsible for identifying and contacting pertinent stakeholders and beneficiaries to interview. The assignment will start in July 2020. The post-completion tool and contributions to the formative evaluation will be due in July 2020 and the case study report will be due in August 2020. The aggregate effort required is estimated to be 40 working days.

Selection criteria

The IEO invites highly motivated and experienced senior consultants to indicate their interest in providing their services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (CV and cover letter). Please note that the total size of all attachments should be less than 5MB. Selection criteria include:

i. Bachelor’s or preferably higher degree plus at least 10 years’ field experience in artisanal mining, chemicals and waste, small-scale mining policy and financing, development projects in ASGM communities, environmental science or related areas.
ii. Background and experience in project evaluation, especially in the environmental, natural resource management, mining or chemicals and waste sectors.
iii. Experience with ASGM sector in the Philippines.
iv. Knowledge of and/or direct experience with the GEF and its Agencies preferred.
v. Strong quantitative and qualitative data gathering and analysis skills.
vi. Proven ability to write concise reports and excellent speaking skills in English. Knowledge of local languages in the project sites will be considered an advantage.
vii. Consultant must be based within the Philippines to be considered for these positions.
Terms of the contract

All contracts with the IEO are World Bank contracts and follow the relevant rules and regulations of the Bank. The contract offered to the selected candidate is for a maximum of 40 days from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020. Any need for additional days and compensation will be discussed and approved by the IEO prior to the beginning of extra work. The consultancy will take place both at the consultant’s own place of work. The consultant will also be expected to travel on at least one field mission in the case study areas mentioned above.

Submission requirements

Interested consultants are hereby invited to submit expressions of interest in English, gefevaluation@thegef.org to with “Artisanal Gold Mining Evaluation - Philippines STC” in the subject. The application should include a CV and a cover letter expressing how their work experience fits the qualifications above. The application deadline is June 19, 2020.