Request for Expression of Interest

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

The application deadline is June 19, 2020

The Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility is requesting Expressions of Interest from individual consultants located in Ecuador or Peru for an evaluation of the Global Environment Facility’s Artisanal Gold Mining portfolio.

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).

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 global programs. The most recent initiative is the planetGOLD Programme, which includes seven projects in eight countries with the aim 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. 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.

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:

- 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?
- Is the program working at the stages of the gold supply chain where intervention will make the most impact on reducing mercury emissions?
- 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?
- How effectively does the planetGOLD Programme build on the outcomes and lessons of previous ASGM projects?
- To what extent has the program design accounted for factors that influence sustainability and progress towards long-term impacts?

One of the evaluation’s focal geographical areas is the Andes region of South America, specifically Ecuador and Peru. GEF invested in an ASGM project implemented on the border region between Ecuador and Peru from 2012-2016 and currently has national-level projects in both Ecuador and Peru. The focus on this region will allow the evaluation to study how GEF programming in one geographical area has changed over time.

**Tasks and Deliverables**

To assist in the evaluation, specifically examining the sustainability of the completed project in the border region of the two countries, IEO is seeking the services of one (1) local consultant in the field of ASGM—located in either Ecuador or Peru. The following is a non-exhaustive list of tasks to be performed by the selected consultant:

1. Review documents related to completed and ongoing GEF ASGM projects in the case study area (Ecuador and Peru) along with any scientific and technical literature and other pertinent manuscripts related to the ASGM sector in the case study area.
2. Compile scientific and technical monitoring data from ASGM stakeholders in the Puyango river basin region that provide evidence of the sustainability of project objectives since project completion.
3. Perform field visits to at least two (2) project sites in the case study area (the Puyango river basin along the border of Ecuador and Peru) and interview completed project staff, stakeholders and beneficiaries to assess completed project outcome sustainability. If travel is not possible due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, these visits will be replaced by phone interviews.
4. Perform phone or in-person interviews with completed project staff, stakeholders and beneficiaries to assess completed project sustainability and design of ongoing projects.
5. Complete one (1) GEF IEO post-completion evaluation tool for the completed project in the case study area.
6. Contribute to one (1) case study report for Ecuador and Peru that integrates the post-completion evidence gathered on the completed project with other evidence from the ongoing projects.

The main deliverable of this assignment will be the post-completion tool and the support of the case study report through provision of interview summaries, notes and any other data gathered. 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 consultant will work in close communication with the ASGM evaluation team. The assignment will start in July 2020. The post-completion tool will be due in July 2020 and contributions to the final evaluation report will be due in August 2020. The aggregate effort required is estimated to be 15 working days for the consultant.

Selection criteria

The IEO invites highly motivated and experienced consultants based in Ecuador or Peru 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. A Master’s or Bachelor’s degree in a subject matter related to artisanal mining, chemicals and waste, small-scale mining policy and financing or related areas in Ecuador and/or Peru, and at least 10 years’ relevant experience.

ii. Background and experience in project evaluation, especially in the environmental, natural resource management, mining or chemicals and waste sectors.

iii. Preferred knowledge of and/or direct experience with the GEF and its Agencies.

iv. Strong quantitative and qualitative data gathering and analysis skills.

v. Proven ability to write concise reports and excellent speaking skills in English and Spanish.

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 15 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, to gefevaluation@thegef.org with “Artisanal Gold Mining Evaluation - Latin America 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.