



## Terms of Reference

### National Expert on Public Awareness

<b>Position:</b>	Expert on Public Awareness on the “Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Minamata Initial Assessment”
<b>Location:</b>	Suriname (with travel to interior remote locations)
<b>Vacancy Type:</b>	External
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	23 February 2018 (15:00h local time)
<b>Type of Contract:</b>	Individual Consultant
<b>Starting Date:</b>	5 March 2018 ( <i>date when the selected candidate is expected to start</i> )
<b>Language required:</b>	Dutch/English
<b>Duration of Contract:</b>	45 working days over a period of six (6) months

#### 1. Background

In January 2013, a UN agreement was reached for the establishment of a globally legally binding Convention on Mercury “The Minamata Convention on Mercury”. The Convention was adopted and opened for signature on 10 October 2013, at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries (Diplomatic Conference) in Kumamoto, Japan. To date 128 countries have signed the Convention, while 10 countries have ratified it. The government of Suriname although not in the position to sign the Minamata convention at the time of it being available for signature has stated that it does fully support the objective of the convention to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and release of Mercury. The Convention will enter into force 90 days after it has been ratified by 50 nations. The Minamata Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. The major highlights of the Minamata Convention on Mercury include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, control measures on air emissions, and the international regulation of the informal sector for artisanal and small-scale gold mining. To facilitate the early entry into force of the Convention, a Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA) will provide a basis for any further work towards ratification and implementation.

Mining is a vital sector of Suriname's economy and has grown significantly over the last decade, particularly gold mining, contributing an estimated 1.62 billion USD in 2012 versus 34 million USD in 2000. In 2011, small-scale gold mining was believed to provide 20,000 direct jobs as well as a significant number of jobs in subsidiary services. The majority of mining is taking place in Suriname's Greenstone Belt, in which the majority of gold deposits are to be found. Unfortunately, due to its largely unregulated and uncontrolled nature, mining, and in particular artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM), is causing significant negative environmental impacts on forests, freshwater, fish and other groups of species due to the abundant use of mercury and siltation of waterways.

Although Suriname hasn't signed the Minamata Convention, the country is taking meaningful steps towards becoming a party to the Convention, considering its experience and commitment to the other 30 multilateral environmental agreements (MEA's) of which Suriname is part of.

Therefore, the project's objective is for the Government of Suriname to undertake a Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA) to establish a national foundation to undertake future work towards the implementation of the Convention.

The National Institute for Environment and Development (NIMOS) is the implementing partner for the MIA project. NIMOS has undertaken a series of national consultations and developed a policy roadmap that will support the national Government in the accession process, and it is actively following the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Mercury. Currently, Suriname lacks an integrated framework on environmental legislation. The existence of challenges on the mercury-related issues in the country is acknowledged, but a deeper analysis must be undertaken to understand the degree of emissions, releases and their impacts, as well as alternatives that can meet Suriname's needs. This proposed MIA Enabling Activity should enable Suriname to assess the current situation pertaining to the management of Mercury and to carry out a detailed assessment of the impacts of the Minamata Convention.

In this regard, NIMOS as the Implementing Partner, is seeking to recruit suitably qualified and experienced consultant(s) or consulting firm to provide awareness services.

## **2. Scope of Work**

The main objective of this consultancy is to draft an overarching awareness strategy targeting decision makers, the general public and population groups at risk.

### ***Objective of the consultancy:***

To raise awareness on the environmental and health impacts of Mercury among the key stakeholders.

### ***Tasks and duties:***

- Perform a stakeholder mapping to identify different profile, relationships, concerns and expectations that need to be addressed in the awareness raising program;
- Design a comprehensive awareness strategy targeting specific groups and determining the type and content of the mercury awareness program;
- Identify governmental policy objectives under the Minamata Convention and include these in the overarching awareness strategy;
- Develop key - ready to be implemented - Mercury awareness raising activities designed specifically targeting the three groups: decision makers, the general public and population groups at risk.

## **3. Deliverable / Key Functions**

Under the guidance of NIMOS and the UNDP, the Consultant is expected to, and will be responsible for the:

- Stakeholders mapping of key partners/institutes, describing their roles, responsibilities, sensibilities and all other characteristics relevant to the overall goal;
- Design of an overarching awareness strategy for the next ten (10) years;
- Identify and prepare key ready to implement awareness raising activities targeting decision makers, the general public and population groups at risk.

#### **4. Qualifications**

##### ***Education:***

- a. At least a Bachelor's degree or equivalent in communications or a related field;

##### ***Experience:***

- b. Minimum 5 years' proven professional experience in the social marketing and Public Relations management, Communication and Environmental Awareness raising, or related field;
- c. Demonstrated experience in awareness raising programs, strategies and activities;
- d. Demonstrated experience in institutional capacity building and strengthening in a multi-stakeholder setting;
- e. Demonstrated experience working with national and regional governments, research institutes, and diverse stakeholder groups for a minimum of 5 years;
- f. Experience in designing and successfully implementing awareness campaigns in Suriname;
- g. Experience in dealing with campaigns involving indigenous and maroon groups and rural communities;
- h. Knowledge regarding the Minamata Convention, Mercury, Artisanal and Small-scale gold mining related environmental, social and health impacts is an asset.

##### ***Skills:***

- i. Proficiency in the use of MS Office;
- j. Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Dutch, good working understanding of Sranang tongo;
- k. Working understanding of Portuguese is an asset.

#### **5. Documents to be included when submitting the proposal**

1. A letter confirming interest and availability for this consultancy;
2. Technical proposal with the methodology on how you will approach and complete the assignment and an tentative time table;
3. Curricula Vitae (CV/s), speaking specifically to the abovementioned education, experience and skills under point 4;
4. Financial Proposal. In your bid, please include a separate provisional sum to be used in whole or in part to facilitate fees and expenses incurred should site visits be required.