

Request for Proposals (RfP)

Title: Circuit Sampling for Gold - A GEF/GOLD supply chain approach to eliminating mercury in Guyana's ASGM sector: El Dorado gold jewelry – made in Guyana

Type: Firms and Individuals

Procurement: Competitive

Duration: Eight (8) months

Date of Issuance: November 19, 2021

Overall Objective: The objective of this consultancy is to conduct regular metallurgical analyses to inform management of a Mercury-free mining demonstration circuit within Region 7 and Region 8.

1. Background

The Planet GOLD (Guyana) Project titled “A GEF GOLD/Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana’s Artisanal Small and Medium Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector” aims to assist Guyana with converting to mercury-free mining by directly involving business enterprises with a profit motive in leading the shift in the development of a mercury-free ASGM supply chain. The project is part of the Responsible Mining Initiative (RMI), coordinated by CI-Guyana, that aims to foster greater responsibility and sustainability in Guyana’s ASGM sector by reducing negative effects of the sector – particularly impacts on the forest and the use of mercury – while improving productivity and profitability.

The project has six strategically linked components:

- Component 1: Appropriate mercury-free technologies mainstreamed in Guyana’s ASGM sector;
- Component 2: Mechanism for financing capital investments for mercury-free technologies established and functional;
- Component 3:** Markets established for branded mercury-free gold from Guyana; a chain of custody process, verification mechanism for gold and an El Dorado Gold branding scheme is developed and institutionalized;
- Component 4: A national policy on responsible gold production and value added as well as requisite laws/regulations are revised/drafted to support a responsible gold commodity chain;
- Component 5: Regular Monitoring and Evaluation of project activities, targets, and outcomes against a Results framework; risks will be managed and reported on semi-annually;
- Component 6: Communications and Knowledge Management. A strategic communication plan and materials targeting key stakeholders, including miners, decision-makers and other local and international actors within the supply chain for awareness raising and policy are developed and implemented.

2. Project Overview

Gold plays a central role in Guyana’s economy, accounting for 15 percent of GDP, 78 percent of the value of mineral production, and 24 percent of exports (Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, 2015).

Guyana’s ASGM sector accounts for approximately 70 percent of the country’s gold production annually. This sector has been in existence for more than one hundred years and enjoys legal

status under the Mining Act (1989); artisanal miners are considered legal under the Mining Act, once they have registered and hold active mining claims and other permission.

The importance of this sector is further underscored when its extensive backward and forward linkages to the retail and services sectors are considered. It is the main source of employment and revenue for many hinterland communities, including indigenous communities and, provides direct employment for over 18,000 persons (NAP 2016), many of whom are youths that would be otherwise unemployed. Guyana has a long-established jewelry sector, with approximately 273 small goldsmith enterprises producing hand-crafted artisanal gold jewelry that is highly sought after throughout the Caribbean, and seven major jewelry manufacturing houses that also produce jewelry for local use and export.

Notwithstanding the economic and social benefits to be derived, the way mining is currently carried out causes environmental problems. It is the biggest driver of deforestation, presenting a real challenge to Guyana's status as a high forest cover low deforestation country and its global climate commitments. Along with deforestation, the main environmental impacts of the ASGM sector in Guyana are land degradation and mercury contamination. The project seeks to encourage miners to utilise prospecting methods to establish the presence of viable deposits of gold in an area ahead of the removing of large amounts of forest.

Further the use of mercury in the gold recovery process, often leads to mercury poisoning for miners who work close to the mining operation. Mercury also gets into waterways and rivers which results in poisoned fish, often consumed by nearby communities. In addition, the operators of gold shops who collect the raw gold from miners, burn the raw gold for purification purpose. Here again, mercury emissions are released into the air in the surrounding communities and impacts their health negatively.

Through the establishment of demonstration sites, the project aims to persuade miners that mercury-free gold processing circuits, could lead to the recovery of gold in amounts and at costs that compare favourably with gold processes that include mercury use. In addition, the mercury-free process would protect the health of miners and their families. To monitor gold production in the mercury-free circuit, metallurgical analysis must be done. This is the process of assaying samples of materials to estimate the amount of gold passing through each piece of equipment along the circuit. This information will inform the optimisation of the circuit. Good sampling techniques and quality control are necessary to preserve the integrity of the data and the conclusions drawn from its analysis.

3. Scope of Work

To realize the above stated objectives, the Consultant will be required to undertake the following specific activities:

1. Attend the pre-production meeting to discuss and agree on schedule of activities and to clarify issues.
2. Create a sample collection plan based on the circuit set up and Demonstration site plan.
3. Secure samples and report on data collected on each sample.
4. Assay samples and submit reports that will identify gold content and any other relevant data.

4. Deliverables

	Deliverables/Reports	Due Date
1	An Inception report including a Plan of Work for the execution of the consultancy for Region 7. The Report must include: i) Sampling Period ii) Personnel Rotation iii) Sample Preparation for Assaying iv) Quality Control	10 Days after signing
2	A report on the mineral content of each of the samples collected and processed for Region 7.	15 Days after inception report
3	Deliverable 2 will be repeated every 7 days for the remainder of the consultancy .	Every 7 Days after Sample Report
4.	An Inception report including a Plan of Work for the execution of the consultancy for Region 8. The Report must include: v) Sampling Period vi) Personnel Rotation vii) Sample Preparation for Assaying viii) Quality Control	10 Days after completion of Deliverable 3.
5	A report on the mineral content of each of the samples collected and processed for Region 8.	15 Days after inception report
6	Deliverable 2 will be repeated every 7 days for the remainder of the consultancy .	Every 7 Days after Sample Report

5. Submission Details

- a. **Deadline.** Proposals must be received no later than December 31, 2021 no later than 11:59 PM. Late submissions will not be accepted. Proposals must be submitted via email to applicationsci@conservation.org All proposals are to be submitted following the guidelines listed in this RFP.
- b. **Amendments.** If at any time prior to the deadline for submission of proposals, CI may, for any reason, modify the RFP documents by amendment which will be posted to the CI website and/or communicated via email.

6. Minimum Requirements

- An advanced Degree in Geological Engineering with at least 2 years working experience particularly in geological exploration, grade control and geological sampling
OR
- A Bachelor's Degree in Geological Engineering with at least 5 years working experience particularly in geological exploration, grade control and geological sampling

- Experience in the preparation of Technical Reports that reflect analysis of gold deposits in ore samples

7. Proposal Documents to Include

- Signed cover page on bidder's letterhead with the bidder's contact information.
- Signed Representation of Transparency, Integrity, Environmental and Social Responsibility (Attachment 1)
- Technical Proposal.
 - Demonstrated experience through past performance.. Please include descriptions of similar projects or assignments undertaken recently.
 - Qualifications of Key Personnel. Please attach CVs that demonstrate how the proposed team meets the requirements listed in section 5 (Minimum Requirements).
 - Technical Approach, Methodology and Detailed Work Plan. The Technical Proposal should describe in detail how the bidder intends to carry out the requirements described in the Scope of Work
- Financial Proposal in response to the Deliverables listed in section 4.

8. Evaluation Criteria

In evaluating proposals, CI will seek the best value for money considering the merits of the technical and costs proposals. Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Score (out of 100)
An advanced Degree in Geological Engineering with at least 2 years working experience particularly in geological exploration, grade control and geological sampling OR A Bachelor's Degree in Geological Engineering with at least 5 years working experience particularly in geological exploration, grade control and geological sampling	25
Clarity of methodology presented: logic of plan and sequence of activities	10%
Demonstration of past performance including recent experience doing similar work?	20%
Alignment of proposed personnel with the specific technical expertise required for the assignment?	20%
Experience in the preparation of Technical Reports that reflect analysis of gold deposits in ore samples	15%
Cost Proposal	10%

9. Proposal Timeline

RFP Issued	November 2021
Complete proposals due to CI	December 2021
Final selection	January 2022

10. Resulting Award CI anticipates entering into an agreement with the selected bidder by January 2022. Any resulting agreement will be subject to the terms and conditions of CI's Services Agreement. A model form of agreement can be provided upon request.

This RFP does not obligate CI to execute a contract, nor does it commit CI to pay any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of the proposals. Furthermore, CI reserves the right to reject any and all offers, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of CI. CI will, in its sole discretion, select the winning proposal and is not obligated to share individual evaluation results.

11. Confidentiality All proprietary information provided by the bidder shall be treated as confidential and will not be shared with potential or actual applicants during the solicitation process. This includes but is not limited to price quotations, cost proposals and technical proposals. CI may, but is not obliged to, post procurement awards on its public website after the solicitation process has concluded, and the contract has been awarded. CI's evaluation results are confidential and applicant scoring will not be shared among bidders.

12. Code of Ethics All Offerors are expected to exercise the highest standards of conduct in preparing, submitting and if selected, eventually carrying out the specified work in accordance with CI's Code of Ethics. Conservation International's reputation derives from our commitment to our values: Integrity, Respect, Courage, Optimism, Passion and Teamwork. CI's Code of Ethics (the "Code") provides guidance to CI employees, service providers, experts, interns, and volunteers in living CI's core values, and outlines minimum standards for ethical conduct which all parties must adhere to. Any violation of the Code of Ethics, as well as concerns regarding the integrity of the procurement process and documents should be reported to CI via its Ethics Hotline at www.ci.ethicspoint.com.

13. Attachments:

Attachment 1: Representation of Transparency, Integrity, Environmental and Social Responsibility

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CI relies on the personal integrity, good judgment and common sense of all third parties acting on behalf, or providing services to the organization, to deal with issues not expressly addressed by the Code or as noted below.

I. **With respect to CI's Code of Ethics, we certify:**

- a. We understand and accept that CI, its contractual partners, grantees and other parties with whom we work are expected to commit to the highest standards of Transparency, Fairness, and Integrity in procurement.

II. With respect to social and environmental standards, we certify:

- a. We are committed to high standards of ethics and integrity and compliance with all applicable laws across our operations, including prohibition of actions that facilitate trafficking in persons, child labor, forced labor, sexual abuse, exploitation or harassment. We respect internationally proclaimed human rights and take no action that contributes to the infringement of human rights. We protect those who are most vulnerable to infringements of their rights and the ecosystems that sustain them.
- b. We fully respect and enforce the environmental and social standards recognized by the international community, including the fundamental conventions of International Labour Organization (ILO) and international conventions for the protection of the environment, in line with the laws and regulations applicable to the country where the contract is to be performed.

III. With respect to our eligibility and professional conduct, we certify:

- a. We are not and none of our affiliates [members, employees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants] are in a state of bankruptcy, liquidation, legal settlement, termination of activity, or guilty of grave professional misconduct as determined by a regulatory body responsible for licensing and/or regulating the offeror's business
- b. We have not and will not engage in criminal or fraudulent acts. By a final judgment, we were not convicted in the last five years for offenses such as fraud or corruption, money laundering or professional misconduct.
- c. We are/were not involved in writing or recommending the scope of work for this solicitation document.
- d. We have not engaged in any collusion or price fixing with other offerors.
- e. We have not made promises, offers, or grants, directly or indirectly to any CI employees involved in this procurement, or to any government official in relation to the contract to be performed, with the intention of unduly influencing a decision or receiving an improper advantage.

- f. We have taken no action nor will we take any action to limit or restrict access of other companies, organizations or individuals to participate in the competitive bidding process launched by CI.
- g. We have fulfilled our obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country where the contract is to be performed.
- h. We have not provided, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that we do not and will not knowingly provide, material support or resources to any individual or entity that commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitate, or participated in terrorist acts, and we are compliant with all applicable Counter-Terrorist Financing and Anti-Money Laundering laws (including USA Patriot Act and U.S. Executive Order 13224).
- i. We certify that neither we nor our directors, officers, key employees or beneficial owners are included in any list of financial or economic sanctions, debarment or suspension adopted by the United States, United Nations, the European Union, the World Bank, or General Services Administration's List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement or Non-procurement programs in accordance with E.O.s 12549 and 12689, "Debarment and Suspension". [\[Include additional sanctions lists of the country of a public donor, if required by the donor.\]](#)

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____