



Center for Environmental Impact Analysis (CEIA)

Terms of Reference for Scientific Study “Assessing Human Right violations and Security of residents in artisanal small-scale gold mining communities in Ghana, Mali and Guinea

Background:

The West Africa sub-region is endowed with rich mineral resources such as gold, diamond just to mention a few. Economies of these countries are dependent on the aforementioned minerals. The extractive industries across the sub-region is largely by multinational large-scale mines with artisanal small-scale mines. Despite promulgation of several legislation to regulate the artisanal small-scale mining sector in these resource rich countries, they have been unsuccessful. For instance, several ASM miners, infants, children, women of child bearing age (potentially pregnant), and breast-feeding women, work and/or live in ASM communities and are at risk of mercury exposure. Many are unaware of the dangers. Mercury vapors in the air around amalgam burning sites can be alarmingly high and almost always exceed the WHO limit for public exposure of 1,000 nanogram/cubic meter. This risks the health of workers and also those in the communities surrounding the processing centers. Exposure to levels of mercury vapors above 1,200,000 nanogram/cubic meter can be fatal (UNEP 2012). The unsustainable ASM operations in mineral rich countries in West Africa such as Ghana, Mali, Guinea just to mention a few have led to environmental pollution, loss of socio-economic livelihoods, weak governance and legislation, human health and human rights violations and security issues.

Proposed Consultancy:

Artisanal small scale mining (ASM) in most of the countries in West Africa is inclusive of both legal and illegal operators (Shoko, 2002). ASM can be an individual or collective activity that is highly labour absorptive and involves the exploitation and raw material processing of mineral deposits (Bryceson, 2015). The activity is generally characterized by a lack of technical and management skills, as well as the production of minerals from uncertain reserves. Capacity deficit of ASM operators i.e., both legal and illegal as well as inability of regulatory agencies in countries such as Ghana, Mali, and Guinea to regulate ASM activities in their respective countries has led to unsustainable mining practices.

Despite the progress made so far at the sub-regional level (promulgation of the ECOWAS mining code which requires member countries to take adequate steps towards formalisation of ASM sector with the view of addressing most of the human right and security issues associated with the sector) as well as country specific level towards formulation of relevant policies and laws to allow ASM to operate in countries such as Ghana, Mali and Guinea, changes in public opinion, there are still huge polarized views on ASM amongst regulators, policy makers, law enforcing agents and residents in mineral rich communities. In addition the current legal framework has limitations to formalize ASM and consequently the majority of miners remain informal and marginalized. At central and local levels, some institutions have maintained negative views and opinions on ASM and have not implemented the current legal framework. Most institutions do so contrary to their Human

Rights obligations as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International human rights Treaties ratified by Ghana, Guinea and Mali, International and relevant laws in Ghana, Guinea and Mali which require these governments to respect and protect the rights of citizens to decent and safe working conditions, clean environment, water, air among others are missing in most of these ASM communities in mineral rich countries in West Africa.

Common human rights violations on small scale miners include “right to live in dignity, to be free from torture”, inhuman or degrading treatment, “right to be equal before the law”. Other rights include i) right to work and live in healthy and secure environment, ii) access to clean water; iii) land rights and titles, iv) access to health care, social security, v) right to adequate standard of living including right to earn for livelihood and vi) right to residency of choice and so on.

It is to understand the extend of human right violations and security issues associated with ASM operations in Ghana, Guinea and Mali that the Centre for Environmental Impact Analysis(CEIA) is requires the services of a consultant or research institute or think tank to undertake this assignment.

Eligibility Criteria:

The preferred consultant (s) or research institute/think tank must possess the following:

- Demonstrable track record of undertaking similar exercise;
- Demonstrable working knowledge in English and French;
- Coordinate data collection exercise in Ghana, Guinea and Mali
- Demonstrable ability of working with partner CSOs in Ghana, Guinea and Mali as well as ASM miners, Regulatory Agencies, Law enforcing agents, community members, etc;
- Demonstrate the ability to take on board suggestions from an Editorial Board

Expected Output:

- Develop and submit research instruments for data collection in the 3 countries, i.e., Ghana, Guinea and Mali to the Editorial
- Train research assistants to assist him/her in the data collection and analysis in the 3 countries; and
- Produce a scientific report in English and French.

Duration of Consultancy:

It is expected the report will be ready as soon as possible but not later than three months from the date of signing agreement of consultancy.

How to apply:

Interested consultants, Research Institutes and Think Tank must submit a 5 page concept note (in English and French) detailing how they intend to carry out the exercise (work plan, instruments for data collection and analysis), budget and 2 page CV of the lead scientist to the Project Coordinator, CEIA, P.O. Box AD 738, Cape Coast, Ghana or infoceia2005@gmail.com and copied kwesikwabo@gmail.com not later than 9th November, 2020.

If your proposal is accepted, you will be contacted by End of November 2020. You are eligible to receive financial support only after your proposal has been accepted and you have received a written confirmation from CEIA.