

**Solomon Islands Sustainable Mining Development Technical Assistance Project (SISMDTAP)**  
**Exploration and Mining Specialist (Component 2.1.ii(A))**  
**Terms of Reference**

**1.0 Purpose**

Engagement of an Exploration and Mining Specialist to strengthen and support the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification's (MMERE) capacity to carry out the management of the mining sector more efficiently and to implement its functions effectively in terms of minerals exploration and mining management processes, especially as data acquisition, management, evaluation and interpretation.

This Exploration and Mining Specialist will also review existing exploration and mining activities and practices with the view to identify gaps or even difficulties/challenges in the systems, policies and regulations and suggest recommendations for improvements. Additionally, the specialist will provide technical advice and conduct a series of workshops and training for the MMERE staff and other stakeholders who are directly involved in managing the mining sector in Solomon Islands on related topics/subjects.

**2.0 Background and Rationale:**

The Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification (MMERE) is responsible for the sustainable development and management of Solomon Islands' mineral, petroleum, water and energy resources. It is also mandated to undertake studies to assess and document the country's natural history in terms of geology, and the assessment, management and mitigation of associated geological and hydrological hazards.

Management of mineral resources is now guided by the National Minerals Policy 2017-2021 and the Mines and Minerals Act 1990 and other relevant regulations, which all aim to strengthen governance, make decisions more transparently and inclusively, offer greater investment certainty and create a system that better protects community interests. To support the implementation of these Regulations and Policy, the Sustainable Mining Development Technical Assistance Project (SMDTAP) will build capacity of the Solomon Islands Government to achieve sustainable mining investment and benefit flows through; i) completing the design of a regulatory framework in line with the National Mining Policy following enactment of a new Mining Act, ii) building capacity of government regulatory institutions to fulfil their functions effectively, and iii) supporting MMERE to overcome near term operational challenges. Financing for the project has been obtained by MMERE from a World Bank grant.

With an endorsement from the Permanent Secretary of MMERE, the SISMDTAP is seeking the services of an **Exploration and Mining Specialist** to strengthen regulatory institutional structures, functions and capacity, and to improve the assessment and management of the country's mineral resources.

**3.0 Key Objectives for the Exploration and Mining Specialist:**

The main objectives of this assignment are:

- i. To conduct a brief desktop technical review of prospecting and mining in Solomon Islands on both the onshore and offshore based on current policies, regulations, international mining standard practices and latest developments in the global mining industry and identify gaps

and challenges within MMERE's functions, mandates and structures and recommend improvements.

- ii. Provide technical advice and Conduct support training for the regulatory institutions and her staffs, including relevant stakeholders.
- iii. Coordinate related stakeholder engagement consultation with the ESHS specialists
- iv. Provide timely and relevant strategic advices where needed or overlooked throughout engagement with MMERE. This will include the provision of advice into the formation of a local Geoscience Society.

#### **4.0 Scope of Work/Expected Outputs**

The consultant is assigned to implement the following activities:

- i. To assess whether current monitoring and reporting requirements and guidelines are implemented according to standard mining practices as JORC Code 2012 etc, especially on mineral resources and reserves classification, exploration results, mining and mineral processing operations, including waste handling and the production, storage and disposal of minerals, and the production of mining work plans and budgets, assaying, reporting, inspection and evaluation.
- ii. Conduct a brief desktop review of current exploration and mining activities with respect to current policies, regulations and standard mining practices and identify gaps.
- iii. Following from (ii), to provide guidance and develop realistic work programs and policies (through training) based on technical, environmental and economical reasoning that will promote, enhance and attract investment in the local mining industry.
- iv. Conduct series of relevant workshops and trainings for MMERE and other relevant stakeholders on topics as Standard Mining Practice as JORC Code 2012, etc., including financing of exploration and mining work programs, ore resource/reserve calculation, mining production statistics/databases, etc.

#### **5.0 Deliverables**

The specialist is expected to achieve and provide the following during and at the end of the assignment:

- i. A desktop compliance review report of exploration and mining in Solomon Islands, with recommendations targeting areas of immediate interest/attention and improvements, including and focusing on issues as adherence to international standard mining practices, investment potential promotion, and alleviation/reduction of sovereign risk.
- ii. Monitoring and reporting requirements designed to cover mineral resources and reserves, and exploration results according to JORC Code 2012, mining and mineral processing operations, including waste handling and the production, storage and disposal of minerals.
- iii. A Guideline into mining obligations that should include production work plans and budgets, assaying, reporting, databases, inspection and evaluation.
- iv. Training for MMERE Division staffs to enhance their Capacity in the areas of Mine Production information and data management. This includes providing On-The-Job Training for selected staff.
- v. Advice on the setting up of a local Geoscience Society.

#### **6.0 Resources Required**

The Exploration and Mining Specialist will be providing his/her own working equipment ~~tools~~ such as laptops.

Other reports and materials to be utilised by the specialist are available at MMERE, which may include the following:

- Company reports (prospecting and mining)
- Other technical (Geology) reports/memoirs
- Mines and Minerals Act and Regulation
- National Minerals Policy
- Etc..

## **7.0 Reporting & Supervision**

The Exploration and Mining Specialist will be required to work closely with the Director of Mines, and the relevant division staff at MMERE for guidance on a day to day basis.

The Exploration and Mining Specialist reports to the Permanent Secretary of MMERE through the Director of Mines at the end of every working month.

## **8.0 Requirement for Qualification & Experience**

### *8.1 Minimum education qualification:*

- First or higher degrees in minerals exploration and mining or economic geology in general and with knowledge and experience in the relevant GIS applications.

### *8.2 Experience/Skills:*

- Minimum 10 Years of working experience in similar geological setting and mineralization styles on an island arc setting as the Solomon Islands, including the planning, financing, execution and monitoring of prospecting and mining work programs.
- Excellent understanding of international mining standard practices as JORC Code 2012 and other related subjects as ore resource/reserve calculations, mine planning and budgeting, processing, marketing and investment promotion.
- Able to facilitate trainings to different level of stakeholders.

### *8.3 Competencies:*

- Has good inter-personal skills and present them in English
- Good analytical and expert judgment
- Ability to engage with partners in consultation and negotiations

## **9.0 Duration of Contract:**

- Title: Exploration and Mining Specialist(s)
- Period: 6 Months (or 180 days)
- Commencing Date: June 2023

## **10.0 Environment and Social Frameworks (ESF).**

The Annex below is part of this TOR. The applicant is expected to be familiar with and must comply with the content of this annex.

### **Annex A. Technical Assistance Environmental and Social Risk Management Clauses**

1. Outcomes and outputs, such as policy, studies, recommendations and advice, must be consistent with the World Bank ESF and its standards, the project E&S risk management documents (SEP,

LMP, POM, ESCP), IFC Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for mining, Solomon Islands law and good mineral rights management principles,

2. Outputs must include an analysis of the compatibility of current relevant legislations/regulations and practices to identify gaps to be addressed and recommend gap filling measures (if relevant).
3. Recommendations must consider downstream impacts on community and worker health and safety and avoid recommendations that would negatively impact safe working conditions and/or community health and safety.
4. Recommendations must consider the downstream impacts on resource use efficiency and refer to relevant good international industry practice (GIIP), including the mitigation hierarchy, for pollution control.
5. Recommendations must consider the downstream impacts on land acquisition and access and livelihoods and where necessary, include a requirement for minimizing or avoiding involuntary land acquisition, involuntary resettlement or involuntary restriction of access to assets.
6. Recommendations must consider whether vulnerable and traditionally disadvantaged groups (as identified in the Project SEP) will be disproportionately impacted.
7. Recommendations must consider the downstream impacts on land clearance, natural habitats such as forests, and reduction in biodiversity.
8. Recommendations must avoid any negative downstream impacts of activities on critical natural habitats.
9. Recommendations must avoid direct or indirect impacts on both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including burial sites, tambu areas etc.
10. If applicable, the consultant/s must undertake due diligence on any good, hardware, or software procured to ensure that it causes no adverse environmental, social or health and safety impacts.
11. The consultant/s must carry out a stakeholder gap analysis to identify any relevant stakeholders that might not have been identified during the development of the Project SEP.
12. The consultant/s must consult with and engage relevant stakeholders, and the public where necessary, throughout the activity to gather and share information in accordance with the Project SEP.
13. Consultations must be inclusive and those with barriers to participation given extra support. These include vulnerable groups, in particular women, youth, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities, as detailed in the Project SEP.
14. Free, prior and informed consultation (FPIC) of potentially affected people, stakeholders, traditionally disadvantaged and vulnerable groups is required in all community consultations and engagements. FPIC shall be adequately delivered, gender and youth inclusive, and well documented and in compliance with the Project SEP.
15. The consultant/s will submit any relevant outputs (studies etc.) to the PMU ESF and Stakeholder Engagement Officer to review for compliance with the World Bank ESF and its standards, the Solomon Islands Sustainable Mining Development Technical Assistance Project (P173018) ESF Instrument – Overarching Project Terms of Reference | March 2021 project E&S risk management documents (SEP, LMP, POM, ESCP), IFC Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for mining, and Solomon Islands law.
16. The consultant/s, with the assistance of the PMU ESF and Stakeholder Engagement Officer, will disclose the outputs and studies developed which [the Project Director] determines are disclosable.
17. Workshops and outreach events must be COVID-19 safe. Events organized under this contract must avoid large group gatherings (20 people or fewer) and allow for adequate physical distancing (at least 1 metre of separation between participants). The consultant shall register the attendance of all attendees for contact tracing purposes and require attendees to follow standard precautions such as hand hygiene, physical distancing, and mask wearing. Ensure to liaise with Ministry of Health and Medical Services -COVID 19 oversight focal contact prior to workshops and trainings.