

**Solomon Islands Sustainable Mining Development Technical Assistance Project (SISMDTAP)**  
**Feasibility, Mine Impact and Closure Specialist (Component 2.1.i (C&D))**  
**Terms of Reference**

**1.0 Purpose**

Engagement of a 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 building capacity through training on the design of criteria, procedures and documentation for conducting reviews of exploration, mining and mine closure plans submitted for approval by applicants based on mining standard practices and legislations.

The Feasibility, Mine Impact and Mine Closure (FMIMC) Specialist will be required to build the capacity of the relevant staffs in the Government set up in vetting, reviewing of exploration and mining reports, and feasibility studies through training. Further the specialist is required to provide technical advice and training on issues relating to standard mining practices, mine rehabilitation, closure plans and obligations.

The FMIMC specialist will conduct a series of workshops and training for the MMERE staff and other authorities or stakeholders who are directly involved in managing the mining sector in Solomon Islands on these 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.

Adherence to standard mining practices is a very strict requirement of the current legislation, however, the capacity of MMERE in implementing these standards is insufficient, which normally resulted in approving proposals and submissions that are not of the required standard and in compliance with standard international mining practices. This training is therefore very critical for MMERE and other regulatory authorities to receive as they manage the industry.

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 a **Feasibility, Mine Impact and Closure Specialist** to build the capacity of MMERE and

other relevant Government Authorities vet/review mining proposal/documents as Feasibility Study and to strengthen institutional capacities to improve the assessment and management of the country's mineral resources.

### **3.0 Key Objectives for the Specialist**

The main objectives of this assignment are:

- i. To build the capacity of MMERE staff and other relevant Government Authorities on the design of criteria, procedures and documentation for conducting reviews of exploration, mining and mine closure plans and reports submitted for approval by applicants.
- ii. To provide technical advice to all relevant Government authorities on all matters relating to mine rehabilitation and closure obligations.
- iii. To carry out an assessment of the current level of capacity that existed in MMERE and other regulatory authorities that are involved in managing the minerals sector.
- iv. Recommend short and long term training that is required to build the required capacity of MMERE to effectively manage the minerals sector.
- v. To coordinate stakeholder engagement consultations with the ESHS Specialist.

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

The specialist is assigned to implement the following activities:

- i. Build the capacity of MMERE and other Government Regulatory Authorities that are directly involved in the minerals sector through training on the design of criteria, procedures and documentation for conducting reviews of:
  - a. All exploration and mining reports submitted by tenement holders and their consultants.
  - b. Feasibility Studies. Strong emphasis is placed on adherence to standard mining practices, so training devoted to JORC Code 2012 is highly desirable.
  - c. Subjects of importance to cover includes, Ore resource and reserve, Mining plans, Processing, Marketing, Financial Modelling, Rehabilitation, Mine Closure, etc.
- ii. It would be good if one or two of the projects can be used as case examples for the training.

### **5.0 Deliverables**

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

- i. Training guidelines and/or manuals or materials, where appropriate on all the training topics, especially on standard mining practices (JORC Code 2012), screening/vetting of commercial discovery and feasibility study reports, financial modelling, rehabilitation and mine closure plans. A project can/will be selected and used as examples for the training.
- ii. A guideline into managing mine rehabilitation and closure issues and obligations, identifying areas requiring immediate action and attention. Current mining activities can be used as case examples.
- iii. An assessment report of the current capacity of MMERE and related Government authorities in managing the minerals sector with respect to vetting of technical reports, assessment of feasibility studies, and vetting and monitoring of mine closure plans.
- iv. A report with findings and recommendation on the training needs and plans of MMERE in order to competently manage the minerals sector.

### **6.0 Resources Required**

The FMIMC Specialist will be providing his/her own working equipment such as laptops.

Other reports and materials to be utilised by the specialist are available at MMERE.

### **7.0 Reporting & Supervision**

The FMIMC Specialist will be required to work closely with the, Permanent Secretary, Director of Mines, and the relevant divisions at MMERE for guidance on a day to day basis.

The FMIMC Specialist reports to the Permanent Secretary of MMERE, through 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 computer applications to implement the training.

#### *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.
- Knowledge of applicable mapping or other relevant software as ARCGIS, etc. to be used in the training is required.
- Has a high level of understanding of the styles of mineral deposits and mineralization in Solomon Islands, with strong emphasis on porphyry and epithermal base and precious metal deposits, nickel laterites, bauxites, rare earths, gemstones, industrial minerals, etc., including VMS deposits in the offshore.
- 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: Feasibility, Mine Impact, and Closure ~~Trainer~~ Specialist
- Period: 6 Months (or 180 days)
- Commencing Date: May 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 meter 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.