

Call for proposal from the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

The project described below will contribute to the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, with a focus on developing strategies for **reducing mercury use in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM)**.

Invitation for a proposal

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The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is a federation of over 170 members from 36 countries which counts more than 30 million individual supporters. The EEB is the largest and most inclusive European network of environmental citizens' groups – and the only one that works on such a broad range of issues. The EEB's mission is to advocate for progressive policies to create a better environment in the European Union and beyond.

The EEB started in November 2004, in collaboration with the (international) Ban Hg Working Group and the Mercury Policy Project (MPP), the 'Zero Mercury' Campaign. In 2005, EEB and MPP formed the Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG), an international coalition including today more than 110 public interest environmental, consumer and health non-governmental organizations from over 55 countries. The ultimate objective is 'Zero' emissions, demand and supply of mercury, from all sources we can control, in view of reducing to a minimum, mercury in the environment at EU level and globally. The ZMWG's mission is to advocate and support the adoption, implementation, and enforcement of the Minamata Convention.

1. Background and context

The Minamata Convention on Mercury entered into force in August 2017 and 131 countries have now ratified it. Three Conferences of the Parties (COP) have taken place and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (COP4) will be held in two segments: online (1-5 November 2021) and in-person (first quarter of 2022 in Bali, Indonesia).

The focus of EEB/ZMWG 's work is to continue strengthening the Treaty, and assist developing countries in its implementation and enforcement. This call for proposal focuses in particular to Art 7 of the Convention, that reports measures that apply to artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in which mercury amalgamation is used to extract gold from ore. The Art 7 requests that Parties where artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing is more than insignificant shall notify the Secretariat, develop and implement a national action plan in accordance with Annex C and submit it to the Secretariat in due time. In addition, these Parties shall take steps to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in gold mining. This is a particularly

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important sector because mercury releases to air, water and land from artisanal and small-scale gold mining are estimated to be over 2000 tonnes each year. It is the sector demanding the largest quantity of mercury, and the largest source of mercury emissions in the air.

2. Overall objectives of the project

The ACP MEAs Phase III programme aims to build capacity in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions to support them in fulfilling their obligations as parties to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

Under this programme, funded by the European Commission (EC) through the UN Environment, the EEB/ZMWG is carrying out the project, “Contributing to the implementation /enforcement of the Minamata Convention on mercury, with a focus on developing strategies for phasing out mercury-added products and on reducing mercury use in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM)”.

Focusing on the ASGM sector, this project would aim to provide technical assistance to selected countries contributing to the development of their National Action Plans (NAPs) for reducing mercury in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) as per the Minamata Convention. Such assistance would usually be provided to NGOs who would collaborate with their government to contribute to this work.

The project aims to build on the tools and experiences from the earlier [EEB/ZMWG project carried out under ACP MEAs Phase II on ASGM](#), for example the [Miners’ consultation guide](#).

3. Purpose of this call for proposal

Through this call for proposals, the EEB/ZMWG aims to identify and select two public interest Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) one in Africa and one in the Caribbean to act as technical NGO partners to work on this project.

The NGOs would need to propose project-activities which include one or more of the following elements:

- Contribute to the development of the country NAP
- Contribute to national efforts towards reducing the use of mercury in ASGM, including raising awareness among ASGM communities about the dangers of mercury use
- Are likely to be embraced by the government, to build upon.
- Bring in expertise and perspectives that the normal government processes may have not considered or looked at in depth (e.g. bringing miners’ voice/needs on the table).
- Contribute to the process more efficiently if delivered by NGOs rather than other stakeholders (e.g. because miners may trust more NGOs rather than government agents).
- Build on earlier developed EEB/ZMWG relevant tools.
- Contribute to and/or showcase mercury free ASGM techniques.
- Take into consideration the gender dimension and the impact of ASGM on women.

The proposed activities should be contextualised and the candidate should clearly explain why and how they contribute to the above objectives in the country.

4. Expected Project Activities and Outcomes

Overall, the NGOs selected will:

1. be key partners engaged in working collaboratively with the EEB/ZMWG
2. find avenues for engaging with government when executing the project and/or when sharing results
3. provide their on-the-ground experience and connections on policy matters as well as on technical issues; and.
4. report back to EEB/ZMWG regularly and in a timely manner.

When writing the proposal, clearly explain the background of the country situation, the project objectives and context, the tasks and indicators, specify measurable deliverables and expected outcome per task.

The proposal may include, but not be limited to, the following illustrative kinds of substantive activities:

- i. Prepare a short desk study about mercury use by the ASGM sector in the country. Relevant information, national reports and experiences acquired from the country will be considered along with any other pertinent information.
- ii. Organise and attend one or more meetings to present the project to miners and miners' associations, to educate miners about the dangers of mercury and about mercury-free ASGM alternatives, 'train the trainer' etc;
- iii. Collect and analyse the data from the miners to tailor the proposed follow up actions on their needs;
- iv. On the basis of miners' needs organise practical workshops promoting exchange and discussion among miners;
- v. Develop/improve mercury free techniques in collaboration with miners;
- vi. Organise practical awareness raising initiatives, with local champion;
- vii. Disseminate results and information at national/regional level;

Proposals should include a workplan that includes the following project management activities

- Establish contacts with the ministries, the relevant agencies (e.g. World Bank) and stakeholders relevant to ASGM, carry out bilateral meetings to discuss about mercury use in ASGM. It is critically important that focal points at the relevant Ministries are identified, engaged with and encouraged to participate/cooperate with the project.
- Host/organise workshops and/or trainings and/or meetings accordingly to the presented proposal.

5. Project duration

The proposed project/activities will need to be carried out by end of 2022.

6. Requirements for Submission

6.a. Cost Estimate

Please provide a cost estimate for carrying out the work under this project with a maximum of 12,000 Euro.

An activity-based budget will need to be developed (in Excel format, as per provided template) showing at the same time equivalent of full-time persons working, salary rates, units used and quantities related to participants of workshops, travel etc.

6.b. Proposed Workplan

Please provide a narrative on how the NGO plans to implement the proposed activities and by when.

Please draft a one-page summary workplan/table per month with the different steps to be taken until end 2022.

6.c. Qualifications of your organization

Please provide a description of the qualifications of your organization to carry out this work (3 pages max). Note that the following organizational requirements need to be considered/responded when applying for the call for proposal. The selected organisation should demonstrate that it is:

1. A non-governmental, public interest not-for-profit organisation;
2. Officially registered in the Country;
3. Have minimum 3years of existence, with at least 2 years of experience in working on mercury-related issues;
4. Able to demonstrate its engagement in pursuing the protection of the environment at national and international level. Particularly, activities linked with the chemicals products-related policies will be taken into consideration;
5. Able to demonstrate a strong network of contacts with the national Government, with Governmental Institutions and authorities at National in the relevant ministries;
6. Demonstrate previous participation in international projects as a partner or lead;
7. Able to communicate with EEB/ZMWG in a timely and effective manner and demonstrate that you have the equipment necessary to carry out this project in an effective and efficient manner to ensure timely completion and submittal of progress, reports, etc.

In addition to the required information specified in the points above, the candidature -if the candidate have not worked under contract with the EEB before, must also include:

8. Organisation's national registration number with the national authorities

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9. Organisation's statute and/or description of its current management policy and internal organisation. If available provide the organisation's gender policy, sustainability policy and affiliation to an international NGOs network/coalition
10. Description of its current activities, including the specification of the staff involved (2 pages max)
11. Website and/or social media links
12. The Annual report of the organisation for 2020 or 2019, or most recent year that is available including information on turnover of the organisation. Are projects/accounts audited annually?
13. Do there seem to be any external risks which may hinder the work of the organisation? (e.g. COVID, ongoing conflicts in the area, political instability- elections, disease, travel issues, players opposing the organisation's activities).

6.d. Proposed personnel

Please include a brief description of the experience and CVs of the proposed staff who would be committed and available to work on the project for the next 18 months. Please provide contact details of the staff person who will be the contact point and responsible for the ongoing work at national level. This person must be reachable during working days and available for conference calls projects' partners and video chats and be in regular email contact of at least once per week. Also, please confirm that the staff involved in the implementation of the project will be able to effectively communicate in English, French or Spanish both verbally and in writing.

7. Selection of NGO

The selection of the chosen NGOs will be done in cooperation with an advisory committee. The overall management of the project will be done by the EEB. The selected NGO will sign a contract with the EEB and will be supported with technical assistance for the duration of the project.

8. Proposal submission and due date

Proposals in response to this request should be submitted **before close of business, 18:00 Brussels time 20 June 2021**, by email to elena.lymberidi@eeb.org and rina.quadagnini@eeb.org.