

**Title of Consultancy: Impact of COVID on corruption in mining approvals**  
**Application Closing Date: 28 October 2020**  
**Consultancy Start and End Date: 9 November 2020- 31 December 2020**  
**Location of Consultancy: Open**

## 1. BACKGROUND

Transparency International (TI) is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. Through more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, Germany, TI raises awareness of the damaging effects of corruption and works with partners in government, business and civil society to develop and implement effective measures to tackle it.

TI's Accountable Mining programme is led by Transparency International Australia (TIA). **The Accountable Mining Programme is seeking a consultant to design, research and deliver a paper analysing the current and future impacts of COVID on the mining approvals process.**

The Accountable Mining Programme, led by a Global Programme Team within TIA, is one of Transparency International's four Global Thematic Network Initiatives or specialised centres of thematic expertise. The Programme seeks to enhance the contribution of mining to sustainable economic and human development through a focus on enhanced **transparency and accountability in awarding mining-related permits, licences and contracts** across a range of countries. The programme focuses specifically on corruption risks at the approvals stage of the mining value chain, as well as issues of corruption affecting compliance with conditions imposed or guarantees given at the approvals stage throughout the project life cycle.

The programme engages with a wide range of actors to create an enabling environment for change, and to positively influence improvements in government and business practices in the mining sector. Participating TI Chapters and their local partners work together to support:

- **civil society and affected communities** in accessing, interpreting and monitoring information and decisions relating to the allocation of mining permits, licences and contracts;
- **mining companies** and industry associations in adopting, implementing and enforcing transparency and accountability standards; and
- **governments** in adopting, enabling and enforcing effective transparency and accountability policies, procedures and practices.

The Accountable Mining Programme is now in its fifth year 23 TI chapters around the world have now completed the research using the [Mining Awards Corruption Risk Assessment](#) tool. All participating Transparency International Chapters are implementing their three-year National Action Plan which details their proposed strategy to address the corruption risks identified. More information is available on our [website](#).

The Global Programme Team is currently undertaking a strategic planning process to determine its focus beyond the current phase of the programme. We are keen to understand the impact of COVID-19, and associated regulatory responses and business practices, on the mining approval process across countries and to understand emerging trends or issues.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the paper are to:

1. Understand the impact of COVID-19 on the mining approvals process, both in terms of the legal framework and its implementation, as well as likely future trends
2. Identify and analyse corruption risks emerging in mining approvals and their consequences – now due to COVID-19, and in the post-COVID recovery phase, and likely future trends. The focus should be on both the approvals stage and also on compliance with conditions imposed or guarantees given through the mine life cycle.
3. Analyse whether, and if so in what way, countries with stronger governance processes are better placed to respond to the corruption risks and related challenges that COVID-19 is posing to

mining approvals processes. Also consider how the political and legislative response to COVID-19 and associated economic recovery is affecting the corruption risks and related challenges to mining approvals.

4. Provide recommendations as to how the Accountable Mining Programme should incorporate issues related to COVID-19 into our future work, as well as any specific areas of focus and approaches/ methods we should consider in the context of COVID-19.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

The paper is to be based on a strong research framework involving both desk-based research and stakeholder interviews. The consultant is ultimately responsible for the overall methodological approach and design of the paper and is expected to propose methods that they consider most appropriate to achieve the aims of this paper for agreement with TIA.

It is expected that the consultant will use a combination of desk-based research and structured interviews with key stakeholders in relevant countries, including with TI Chapter staff, government officials, industry representatives and members of civil society. Case studies will be required as part of this research paper.

The consultant should use a participatory and gender-sensitive approach to engaging relevant staff at TIA and in implementing partners in TI country offices (Chapters) and external stakeholders.

Note that the research is not necessarily to be limited to those countries in which the Accountable Mining Programme is currently being implemented. The exact geographical focus and scope of the research will be agreed between the consultant and TIA.

The consultant is expected to refine the scope and methodology of this research during the scoping phase in cooperation with the Global Programme Team in TIA and provide a plan for the delivery of report and outputs. The consultant should present a detailed statement of the proposed methodology in the proposal.

### **4. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE**

The consultant is expected to deliver:

- A concept note outlining the proposed methodology and timeframe of planned activity developed in the scoping phase for approval by the TIA Global Programme Team.
- A literature review
- A draft paper, including case studies (exact number to be agreed), for review and comment by the TIA Global Programme Team including annexes covering interviews conducted, questionnaires and list of reviewed documents.
- A session with the TIA Global Programme Team and TI Secretariat staff (as appropriate) to discuss the draft report
- A final report, including recommendations

The Final Report should not be longer than 60 pages, excluding the annexes and the executive summary. All report deliverables are to be submitted in English, in electronic form, in accordance with the deadlines stipulated and agreed between the parties. The consultant is responsible for editing and quality control of language.

### **5. SELECTION CRITERIA**

Applicants should have the following skills and experience:

- A proven research background including highly developed analytical skills, with a track record of undertaking both primary and secondary research including through remote interviews
- Highly developed technical knowledge of mining sector governance, and ideally of the mining approvals process, across multiple countries

- Experience engaging and communicating with senior representatives from government and the mining industry
- Experience engaging and communicating with civil society and an understanding of approaches to advocacy and influencing
- An understanding of corruption risks and challenges
- Excellent people skills including experience in working across cultures, with acute sensitivity to working with partners whose first language is not English
- Regional experience and good understanding of political, socio-economic and human rights issues in Africa, Asia and/or Latin America
- A demonstrated commitment to integrity and independence with the ability to analyse complex information from diverse stakeholders and provide unbiased independent insights and recommendations
- Excellent command of English to a native speaker's level. Spanish and French an asset

## 6. REMUNERATION AND COSTS

The Consultant should provide a detailed breakdown, before any tax or other charges, of all their estimated costs, including but not limited to; total fee as a lump sum or standard daily or hourly rates, (if applicable), work materials and other associated costs. It is not intended that the Consultant undertake any travel for this consultancy but you will need to have reliable internet and the ability to conduct interviews remotely on video or telephone.

## 7. LOGISTICS AND WORK PLAN

The consultancy is due to start in early November and end by 31 December 2020. A detailed timeline will be agreed at the beginning of the assignment.

Preparation/ Scoping Phase	Desk review and analysis Design of the approach including geographic scope and agreement on case studies (inclusive discussion and agreement with TIA Global Team)
Implementation	Research including drafting of literature review Data collection: Interviews with relevant staff at TI and external stakeholders
Documentation	Draft report Presentation to TI team summarising the findings Final report, with recommendations to TIA Global team

## 8. CONTACT INFORMATION

Applications must be sent by email to [nicole.bieske@transparency.org.au](mailto:nicole.bieske@transparency.org.au) by close of business on **28 October 2020**. Applications should contain these documents in English:

- A proposal of how the assignment will be approached, including a budget.
- A letter of motivation, specifically providing concrete examples of relevant experience relating to the Selection Criteria.
- Curriculum Vitae with full description of the applicant's profile and experience.
- Contact details for at least three independent referees with in-depth and proven knowledge of the applicant's expertise and relevant work experience for this Terms of Reference.
- A sample research paper with recommendations, as first author, published in the last two years.