

**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
VOLCANIC ERUPTION EMERGENCY PROJECT**

**Request For Expressions of Interest  
Consulting Services – Individual Consultant**

**Assignment Title:  
Environmental Specialist for the Volcanic Eruption Emergency Project  
SVG-VEEP-CS-INDV-25**

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (GoSVG) has received financing from the International Development Association (The World Bank) and the European Commission under the Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility Single-Donor Trust Fund, towards the Volcanic Eruption Emergency Project (VEEP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds towards consultancy services for an environmental specialist.

The Project Development Objective of the VEEP is to support Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to (i) provide short-term income support, (ii) improve the capacity of the government to prepare for and respond to emergencies, and (iii) build back better critical services in the wake of the La Soufriere volcano eruptions. To execute the Project, the GoSVG has established an implementation unit which requires the services of an environmental specialist to assist the Project Coordinator in managing the environmental safeguards under the VEEP.

The Environmental Specialist is expected to coordinate with the Social Safeguards Specialist and any other safeguard officers executing services for this Project, to support the project management in ensuring that environmental issues and environmental management activities are mainstreamed into the various components of the Project so that it is compliant with the country's regulations, with the Environmental and Social Standards of the World Bank, and with the Social and Environmental Assessment provisions developed for this Project.

The position of the Environmental Specialist is a contracted full-time staff position and work will be performed on site at the office of the Public Sector Investment Programme Management Unit (PSIPMU) of the Economic Planning Division, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology located in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found below.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Required qualifications and experience include, inter alia, the following:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in relevant discipline (e.g., Environmental Engineering,

Environmental Studies, Environmental Management, Natural Resources Management, or other related discipline).

- At least five (5) years of experience on preparation and supervision of EHS aspects of infrastructure Projects
- Demonstrated experience working on projects that have applied the Environmental and Social Standards and/or Safeguards Policies of the World Bank, **or** experience applying similar policies in other organizations.
- Experience in the preparation of ESMPs, ESIAs, and/or other environmental risk management instruments like those required by the World Bank.
- Experience in facilitating workshops and training.
- Ability to work in teams and communicate effectively; and demonstrated resourcefulness and initiative.
- Fluency in English with excellent oral and writing communication skills as well as report writing.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III. Governance, paragraphs 3.14 - 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" Fifth Edition: September 2023, that sets forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant (IC) Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations. Further information can be obtained at the address below during the hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) by **May 3, 2024**. The desired commencement date is **June 01, 2024**.

**Recardo Frederick**

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# GOVERNMENT OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## Volcanic Eruption Emergency Project (VEEP)

### Terms of Reference

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

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##### I. Background

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has received financing from the International Development Association (The World Bank) and the European Commission under the Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility Single-Donor Trust Fund, towards the Volcanic Eruption Emergency Project (VEEP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds towards consultancy services for an environmental specialist.

The Project Development Objective of the VEEP is to support Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to (i) provide short-term income support, (ii) improve the capacity of the government to prepare for and respond to emergencies, and (iii) build back better critical services in the wake of the La Soufriere volcano eruptions. The VEEP comprises three components that seek to achieve the development objectives. A detailed description of the project components is provided in Annex 1. To execute the project, the GoSVG has established an implementation unit and now requires the services of an environmental specialist to assist the Project Coordinator in programing, managing and delivering environmental and health & safety risk management to ensure the project is delivered in accordance with requirements.

##### II. Objective

The Environmental Specialist will ensure that environmental issues and environmental management activities are proactively mainstreamed into the various components of the Project so that it is compliant with the country's regulations, with the Environmental and Social Standards of the World Bank, and with the Social and Environmental Assessment provisions developed for this project.

##### III. Terms of Assignment

The Environmental Specialist will report to the Project Coordinator, and work closely with other members of the project implementation unit, including the VEEP Engineer and VEEP Procurement Specialist. The Environmental Specialist is expected to coordinate with the Social Safeguards Specialist, the assistant safeguards officer. The Environmental Specialist will take the leading role with respect to the application of the following Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs):

##### Environmental Specialist:

- Environmental and Social Standard 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts: The main instruments are the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs).
- Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions. Elements of Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) will fall under this ESS, for which measures will be described in the ESMF and ESMPs.

- Environmental and Social Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management. Measures are part of the ESMF and ESMPs.
- Environmental and Social Standard 4: Community Health and Safety. Most of the measures under this ESS will be part of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs).
- Environmental and Social Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources. Measures are part of the ESMF and ESMPs.
- Environmental and Social Standard 8: Cultural Heritage. Measures to address these potential impacts will be defined in the ESMF and ESMPs.

The Environmental Specialist will support the Social Safeguards Specialist on the application of the other ESSs more relevant to social aspects including:

- Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions. The main instrument for social aspects under ESS2 is the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for which the Environmental Specialist will provide support to the lead role of the Social Specialist.
- Environmental and Social Standard 4: Community Health and Safety. Some aspects of this ESS are related to social issues, for which the Environmental Specialist will provide support to the lead role of the Social Specialist. Measures are part of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs).
- Environmental and Social Standard 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement. The main instruments are the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), Abbreviated Action Plan (ARAP).
- Environmental and Social Standard 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure. The main instrument is the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

#### **IV. Duties and Responsibilities**

The Environmental Specialist will be responsible for proactively ensuring that activities are developed in accordance with EHS requirements. This will require the timely preparation, review, and approval of all necessary EHS documents, advice, surveys, information, assessments etc. to inform the engineering designs, consents/permits and national regulatory processes, procurement of works and works supervision processes, and monitoring/oversight of implementation so that project activities are delivered in accordance with the project requirements.

The Environment Specialist will support the Project Coordinator in programming and scheduling the EHS activities to ensure that the Project's ultimate environmental aims are achieved and that any adverse impacts are effectively avoided and/or mitigated in a timely manner. The duties/responsibilities of the Environmental Specialist include, but are not limited to:

1. Develop and maintain a master plan of project activities indicating when and what EHS actions need to be undertaken, including with respect to identifying the engineering design standards, EHS design development, consent documents/requirements, procurement specifications, contract EHS kick-off meetings, etc. and share with relevant PIU staff, including project engineer, procurement specialists and the Project Coordinator.

Ensuring that EHS advice/information/documentation is available: to support the Engineering design development of sub-projects; to achieve national consents/permits and WB requirements including

ESMP/ECOP (Environmental Codes of Practices) etc.; to inform the preparation and evaluation of Works and SE tender documents; to hold an effective kick-off meeting the appointed contractors and SE; and to support the implementation through appropriate supervision and monitoring

2. Monitor the implementation of the ESCP and ensure the application of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs).
3. Prepare quarterly regular monitoring reports, as indicated in the ESCP, on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project; on the implementation of the ESCP; and on the status of preparation and implementation of ESS documents and actions as required under the ESCP.
4. Conduct screening as described in the ESMF, to determine eligibility of sub-projects and the types of environmental instruments needed (ESMPs, Environmental and Social Impacts Assessment (ESIA), ECOPs etc.).
5. Review the effectiveness of the ESMF if there is any change in the project design and at mid-term review and if required, update the ESMF as agreed by the Government and the World Bank.
6. Develop Environment, Social, Health and Safety (ESHS) measures for bidding and procurement documents to assist in the selection of appropriate contractors and supervising engineers and to ensure that contract requirements are robust to deliver the project EHS requirements, including with respect to Construction Worker Induction training. Support with monitoring, to ensure that the consultants/contractors comply with the ESHS requirements of their respective contracts.
7. Provide inputs on environmental and social issues so that all terms of reference for studies, capacity building, training and any technical assistance activities carried out under the Project duly incorporate and take into consideration, the requirements (as applicable) of the Environmental and Social Standards of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) of the Bank and the provisions of the ESCP, ESMF, and ESMPs.
8. Provide orientation to contractors and workers on the preparation and application of C-ESMPs, Occupational Health and Safety Manual, and support their compliance with same.
9. Work closely with key agencies including line ministries and beneficiary agencies, to ensure that environmental aspects of infrastructure, transport, water resources, health, solid waste management, etc. are understood, taken into account through ESMPs and/or other instruments, and implemented.
10. In collaboration with the Social Safeguards Specialist, and as indicated in the ESCP, prepare and/or support subprojects/contractors with reports on incidents or accident, ensuring an appropriate investigation to identify the immediate, underlying and root cause of the incident, and to propose measures to prevent their recurrence.
11. Prepare necessary documents, such as environmental guidelines and tools in consultation with stakeholders and help the client in commissioning and managing additional and/ or special studies/ assessments, if necessary.
12. Assist the project team in preparing the EHS technical aspects of reports relevant to civil works.
13. Perform any other tasks assigned by the Project Coordinator consistent with the project's objectives, expected results and in line with this ToR.

## **V. Outputs/deliverables**

1. Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for the various civil works activities.
2. Support outreach and stakeholder engagement with information to understand EHS issues and implications.
3. Training on environmental and health and safety awareness, implications, and requirements to contractors, supervising engineers and line agencies.
4. Verification of contractor EHS performance by regular but random checks in the field where supervision consultants are in place, and report to supervision consultants where contractor compliance with contract requirements is found to need improvement.

5. Routine supervision of contractor EHS performance against contract requirements, where supervision consultants are not in place, and agree measures to ensure contractors meet their obligations.
6. Participation in weekly or monthly site meetings and coordinate with the construction contractors.
7. Review of supervision consultant and contractor reports to ensure that environment health and safety matters are properly included and addressed during works execution.
8. Technical progress and assessment reports on a quarterly basis that consolidate the Environmental and Social Performance of the project and as inputs to the project's quarterly report. It will cover the environmental, health and safety (EHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to, the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required, and others.

#### **VI. Skills and Qualifications (Minimum Requirements)/selection criteria**

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in relevant discipline (e.g., Environmental Engineering, Environmental Studies, Environmental Management, Natural Resources Management, or other related discipline).
- At least five (5) years of experience on preparation and supervision of EHS aspects of infrastructure Projects
- Demonstrated experience working on projects that have applied the Environmental and Social Standards and/or Safeguards Policies of the World Bank, **or** experience applying similar policies in other organizations.
- Experience in the preparation of ESMPs, ESIAs, and/or other environmental risk management instruments like those required by the World Bank.
- Experience in facilitating workshops and training.
- Ability to work in teams and communicate effectively; and demonstrated resourcefulness and initiative.
- Fluency in English with excellent oral and writing communication skills as well as report writing.

#### **VII. Contract Duration**

The contract of the Environmental Specialist will be for the duration of the project, subject to an annual renewal based on measurable performance in satisfying the objective of this position or depending on material changes to project design or budget.

#### **VIII. Remuneration**

Remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications and experience

#### **IX. Contract Performance Evaluation**

The Environmental Specialist may be subject to evaluation of performance based on the Performance Indicators as per Annex 2.

## **ANNEX 1 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The VEEP has three components through which the Project Development Objective will be achieved:

**Component 1:** Early recovery income support (US\$7.5 million):

*Subcomponent 1.1:* Temporary cash transfers and social support services program (US\$4.3 million);

*Subcomponent 1.2:* Labour intensive temporary employment (LITE) program (US\$3 million);

*Subcomponent 1.3:* Strengthening of institutional capacity to administer and monitor the income support programs (US\$0.2 million);

**Component 2:** Restoration and “Build Back Better” of critical services, and strengthening of emergency preparedness and response capacity (US\$31 million);

*Subcomponent 2.1:* Support to reconstruction planning that incorporates climate change considerations;

*Subcomponent 2.2:* The restoration and reconstruction of critical infrastructure services;

*Subcomponent 2.3:* Strengthening of emergency preparation and response.

**Component 3:** Project Management (US\$ 3 million)

### **Component 1 – Early Recovery Income Support**

#### **Early recovery income support (US\$7.5 million).**

The objective of this component will be to provide temporary cash transfers to selected poor and vulnerable populations affected by the volcanic eruptions of La Soufrière and other climate-related events. The activities under Component 1 are embedded within the Government’s broader social protection strategy, which focuses on shock-responsive social assistance. This component comprises three subcomponents:

1.1: Temporary cash transfers and social support services program

1.2: Labour-intensive temporary employment program (LITE)

1.3 Strengthening of institutional capacity to administer and monitor the income support programs

#### **Sub-component 1.1 – Temporary Cash Transfers and Social Support Services Program**

##### **Temporary cash transfers and social support services program (US\$4.3 million).**

The objective of this subcomponent is to support the continuation, expansion, and strengthening of the ongoing temporary cash transfers and complimentary social support services. This sub-component will finance goods (material and equipment) and consulting services (life skills facilitators) required for delivery of the family education program which will provide follow-up psycho-social support to beneficiaries.

#### **Sub-component 1.2 – Labour-Intensive Temporary Employment (LITE)**

##### **LITE Program (US\$3.0 million)**

The subcomponent will support, on an as-needed basis, the implementation of a LITE Program to provide income support and short-term employment to mitigate economic impacts after the occurrence of climate-related disasters (including risks associated with heavy rains mobilizing ashfall and volcanic debris). It will also support the longer-term resilient recovery of community infrastructure.

The LITE Program will build on the existing experience of the Roads, Buildings, and General Services Authority (BRAGSA) in implementing the Road Clean-Up Program, which is a cash for work seasonal program aimed at basic public infrastructure maintenance and the creation of short-term employment benefiting unemployed working-age people.

The program will be facilitated by direct payments to BRAGSA which will target unemployed individuals over 18 years of age from the target communities. Thus, the only procurement under this subcomponent is for goods (tools and safety gear for workers/beneficiaries) of the LITE Program and consultant services to improve BRAGSA's capacity to plan, prepare and supervise the execution of the subprojects for the LITE Program.

#### Sub-component 1.3 – Institutional Strengthening - MoNM

**Subcomponent 1.3. Strengthening of institutional capacity to administer and monitor the income support programs (US\$0.5 million).** This subcomponent will aim to strengthen the capacity of the MoNM to administer and monitor the existing income support programs and will include (i) a payment mechanism to deliver cash transfers to beneficiaries and (ii) expansion of the current information system to administer and monitor the income support programs.

Contracts to be procured under this sub-component will be for goods and consulting services required for institutional strengthening to monitor and administer the program and expansion of the MoNM's information system.

#### Component 2 – Restoration and “Building Back Better” of Critical Services, and Strengthening of Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity

**Restoration of critical services, resilient reconstruction, and strengthening emergency preparedness and response capacity (US\$ 31.0 million - indicative)**

Component 2 will support the rapid restoration and resilient reconstruction of critical infrastructure damaged by the volcano eruption and subsequent debris flows and lahars while strengthening Government's emergency preparedness and response capacity. Investments under this component will focus on three main areas: (i) support for reconstruction planning; (ii) investments in rapid restoration and resilient reconstruction of priority infrastructure; and (iii) strengthen emergency preparedness and response systems and capacity. Candidate activities for the first 18 months across sectors are summarized below.



## Component 3 – Project Management

### Component 3: Project Management (US\$3.5 million)

This component will support the administrative management of the Project by the PSIPMU and implementing partners through, but not limited to the following individual consultants, (a) a project coordinator; (b) financial management (FM) and procurement specialists to carry out the fiduciary aspects of the Project; (c) monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialists; (d) technical experts needed for environmental management and social protection specialists); and (e) technical focal points in the MoA, CWSA, MoNM and MoTW/BRAGSA. The PSIPMU will coordinate the provision of training and workshops<sup>1</sup> and manage the financing of necessary goods, equipment, and operating costs, including costs associated with convening and reporting to the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

## **ANNEX 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

### PERFORMANCE METRICS for ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

	Performance metric	Complied*	Rating*
<b>1. Compliance with E&amp;S safeguards and commitments</b>			
1.1.	Screened E&S risks and impacts of site-specific subproject		
1.2.	In coordination with other PIU staff and relevant stakeholders, developed an ESMP for site-specific subproject.		
1.3.	Led consultations with relevant stakeholders on the ESMP for site-specific subproject.		
1.4.	Summary of stakeholder consultations and feedback was integrated into ESMP for site-specific subproject.		
1.5.	Disclosed ESMP for site-specific subproject within a week of WB no Objection.		
1.6.	Provided EHS input for bidding and contracting documents.		
1.7.	Coordinated with contractors to communicate ESHS requirements, requested and obtained regular reports on compliance.		
1.8.	Undertook regular site-specific E&S monitoring of subprojects to verify contractor performance.		
1.9.	Provided contributions to the regular quarterly and annual progress reports on projects' implementation within a week of being requested those inputs by the Project Coordinator.		
1.10.	Prepared and submitted monthly reports on time		

<sup>1</sup> Workshops will include technical discussions and capacity-building activities around the utilization of climate and disaster risk information and the prioritization of reconstruction and rehabilitation activities to strengthen climate and disaster resilience.

<b>3. Strengthening of E&amp;S capacity</b>			
3.1.	Provided at least once a year a basic awareness raising and training workshop on E&S issues and compliance with participation of PIU staff, and other relevant staff and potential beneficiaries.		

\*Complied:

- Yes
- No
- N/A (not applicable) for the assessed period.

\*Rating:

- 5 Outstanding
- 4 Good
- 3 Adequate
- 2 Marginally adequate
- 1 Unsatisfactory