

Study Title: **An evaluation of the current exploitation and demand for minerals in the Eastern Province and recommendations to improve the current management and further exploitation of mineral resources in the Eastern Province**

Study Area: **Eastern Province of Sri Lanka**

Study Objective: To provide an overview of the current status of mineral mining in the Eastern Province and an assessment of the potential for further expansion of mineral mining activities to enable planners at the provincial, district, divisional and local government level to make technically informed decisions in respect of licensing and or promoting mineral mining operations in the Eastern Province.

Scope of Work: The Consultant will review all available data pertaining to mineral deposits and natural processes resulting in the production and movement of minerals, particularly sand, in the Eastern Province. After identifying the major mineral deposits and known major mineral mining locations in the Eastern Province the Consultant will undertake a rapid assessment of known mineral deposits and major mineral mining locations (i.e. terrestrial, riverine and marine), estimate the quantities of minerals currently mined, establish the status of each mining operation and evaluate the current impact of mineral mining at each location. The Consultant will summarise the current status of the exploitation of minerals in the Eastern Province and using available secondary data will review the past, present and future demand for mineral internationally, nationally and at the local level in the Eastern Province, as appropriate. Finally the Consultant will prepare guidelines to improve the management / exploitation of existing major and minor mineral deposits and submit recommendations for the any possible expansion or diversification of mineral mining in the Eastern Province.

A single commercial mining operation is located in the Eastern Province at Pulmoodai, which extracts minerals including illmanite from sea sand for export. Deposits of minerals are recorded in others coastal areas (e.g. Thirukovil), but little is known locally of the potential for development. Sand is the most commonly mined mineral in the Eastern Province. Although the demand for sand in the Eastern Province is relative low when compared to other provinces in the country, the development plans that have been proposed for the Eastern Province, together with the growing populations in densely populated areas such as Kalmunai, Kattankudy, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Kinniya all indicate that demand for this key coastal resource will only increase in the future.

To enable planners at the local, divisional, district and provincial level to make informed decisions when granting permission for mineral exploration and sand mining in particular, planning staff need up to date information, guidelines and recommendations on which to make informed planning decisions, this is particularly the case in respect of any future expansion or diversification of sand mining in the province, such as sea sand mining.

Terms of Reference: In consultation with the NECCDEP, the Consultant will undertake to:

1. Collect and review all available information pertaining to mineral deposits and processes involved in the formation or movement of sand and identify all major deposits (terrestrial, riverine and marine) in the Eastern Province.
2. Undertake a rapid review of known major mineral mining locations in each district, estimate mining production, local, national and international markets (as appropriate) and the summarise the environment impact of each location.
3. Using secondary data estimate the present and future demand for minerals sand in the Eastern Province.
4. Draft guidelines to improve the management / exploitation of existing mineral mining operations and prepare recommendation for the expansion or diversification of mineral mining in the Eastern Province.

Suggested Staff

	Nature of Consultant	Experience	Duration
01	Team Leader Geologist / Mining Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, implementation and management of mineral or mining research projects • A thorough understanding of geology / mining / coastal processes of sand generation, transportation and deposition • A demonstrated ability to undertaken environmental impact assessments involving environmental resources 	2 months
02	Research Assistant Geologist / Mining Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of of mineral or mining research projects An understanding of of mineral or mining research projects 	4 months
03	Field Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field research experience in mineral / mining projects 	2 months

Timeframe: The estimated timeframe for the proposed *An evaluation of the current exploitation and demand for minerals in the Eastern Province and recommendations to improve the current management and further exploitation of mineral resources in the Eastern Province* is four (04 months), from the date of signing the contract.

Reporting: The Consultant will submit the following reports at the specified time periods

1. An Interim Report submitted within one (01) month from the commencement of the contract
2. A Draft Final Report to be submitted one (01) month before the completion date of the Contract
3. A Final Report to be submitted on the date of completion of the Contract