

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Study on Aligning Sierra Leone's Critical Minerals Strategy (2026–2031) with the EU Critical Raw Materials Agenda: Investment Opportunities and Sustainable Governance

1.0 Introduction

With funds from the European Union Delegation (EUD) in Sierra Leone, NMJD is implementing a two-year project titled: *“Civil Society Engagement for Enhancing Transparency and Participation in the Governance of the Mining Sector”* in six mining-affected districts across the country. The six districts are: Kono, Kenema, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Bonthe and Moyamba. The goal of the project is to contribute towards creating an inclusive and accountable mineral sector governance in Sierra Leone, which will ably support national development. Sierra Leone is richly endowed with various types of mineral resources, but almost 96 years since mining started in the 1930s, the country has very little to show for this rich minerals' deposits, apart from the monumental destruction left behind for the affected mining communities to grapple with. Specifically, the project seeks to:

- Promote mining sector transparency and accountability through public disclosures and local-level accountability forums;
- Facilitate citizens' participation in the policy dialogue and policy review; and
- Strengthen the capacity of mining sector non-state actors, including civil society, local authorities, CDAs and affected mining communities with knowledge of the relevant mining laws and policies for long-term sustainable advocacy engagement for the transparent, accountable, inclusive, responsible and beneficial management of the minerals sector in Sierra Leone.

One of the activities of the project is to facilitate and support three studies/public surveys as follow-ups to critical issues emerging from the project implementation process. These studies/public surveys are meant to evidence assumptions that are in the project documents, as well as emergent issues in the course of implementing the project or as requested by the EU Delegation in Sierra Leone. The findings of these studies will help to strengthen and support evidence-based advocacy of mining affected communities

2.0 Background

The global transition to clean energy technologies, digital infrastructure, and low-carbon economies has increased demand for critical raw materials (CRMs) such as lithium, graphite, rare earth elements, bauxite, and rutile. Through the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) and related regulatory instruments, the European Union (EU) seeks to secure sustainable and diversified sources of these strategic minerals. Sierra Leone possesses significant critical mineral resources and has recently developed the Critical Minerals Strategy 2026–2031 to guide the responsible development of the sector. This presents an opportunity to position Sierra Leone as a reliable partner in the EU's critical minerals supply chain while promoting sustainable economic development.

It is against this background that NMJD is seeking the services of a Consultant to undertake the assessment of Sierra Leone's Critical Raw Minerals strategy and its potential for responsible and profitable investment to reflect citizens socio-economic security and environmental justice.

3.0 Objective of the Consultancy

The main objective of this consultancy is to assess opportunities and feasibility for EU investment in Sierra Leone's critical minerals sector and identify policy, legal, and governance measures required to support responsible, sustainable, and mutually beneficial partnerships.

4.0 Specific Tasks

The Consultant is to perform the following tasks:

1. Examine:
 - Critical minerals of strategic importance to the EU;
 - Opportunities for EU investment along the mining value chain;
 - Existing policy incentives and investment barriers;
 - Potential for local value addition, employment, and economic diversification.
2. Assess the extent to which Sierra Leone's legal and policy framework, including the Mines and Minerals Development Act 2023 and the Critical Minerals Strategy 2026–2031, aligns with key EU requirements relating to:
 - Responsible sourcing;
 - Environmental and social safeguards;
 - Supply-chain due diligence;
 - Community development and benefit sharing;
 - Transparency and accountability.
3. Identify practical measures to ensure that future investments contribute to sustainable socio-economic development while minimizing environmental and social risks.
4. Compare Sierra Leone's legal and regulatory framework with the EU instruments.

5.0 Duration and Timeframe

The consultancy is expected to last for a period of 7 weeks, commencing from the date of the signing of the contract.

6.0 Deliverables

The Consultant will produce a comprehensive report detailing findings and providing evidence-based recommendations to support responsible EU investment in Sierra Leone's critical minerals sector and contribute to the implementation of the Critical Minerals Strategy 2026–2031 while promoting sustainable economic growth, environmental protection, and community benefits.

7.0 Required Qualifications and Experience

The consultant should possess:

1. A degree in Law, Research, Social Sciences, Humanities or related fields of study.
2. Proven experience of engaging in legal research and analysis.
3. Demonstrated ability to work under tight schedules and with different stakeholders and with less supervision.
4. Excellent analytical, writing, and communication skills.

8.0 Evaluation Criteria

EOI will be evaluated based on:

1. Relevant experience and expertise
2. Demonstrated understanding of the assignment
3. Quality and clarity of technical approach
4. Financial competitiveness

9.0 Expression of Interest Submission

Interested individual consultants are invited to submit:

1. A cover letter expressing interest and demonstrating an understanding of the assignment;
2. A technical proposal detailing approach, methodology, and work plan;
3. A financial proposal indicating consultancy fees and other expenses;
4. Curriculum vitae (CVs); and
5. Evidence of relevant experience (sample reports or references from previous similar work).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in sealed envelopes to the address below OR by e-mails to the address below by 12 hours GMT on Friday 31st July 2026

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