



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

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**SPECIAL ORDER**

No. 2023 - 650

**SUBJECT: UPDATING DENR SPECIAL ORDER NO. 2020-530 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT, GEF GOLD MONGOLIA-PHILIPPINES: CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE ELIMINATION OF MERCURY IN THE ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING (ASGM) SECTOR: FROM MINERS TO REFINERS**

In accordance with the developments in project site selection process and change in administration which affected the composition of the National Project Steering Committee of the Project, *GEF GOLD Mongolia-Philippines: Contribution Toward the Elimination of Mercury in the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector: From Miners To Refiners*, the DENR Special Order 2020-530 is hereby amended as follows:

**A. National Project Steering Committee (PSC)**

Chair: DENR Undersecretary Supervising Mines and Geosciences Bureau  
Co-Chair: DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs  
Members: DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change (as GEF Operational Focal Point for the Philippines)  
DOF Assistant Secretary for Sustainable Finance, Disaster Risk Finance and Special Projects  
DOLE Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations, Labor Standards and Special Concerns Cluster  
DENR-Environmental Management Bureau Director  
DENR- Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service Director  
BSP-Regional Operations Sub-Sector Managing Director  
DILG-Bureau of Local Government Supervision Director  
NCIP-Office of Empowerment and Human Rights Director  
NEDA-Policy and Planning Group – Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Staff Director  
Artisanal Gold Council Executive Director  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Philippines Representative  
DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Cordillera Administrative Regional Director  
DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Region V Regional Director  
Provincial Governor of Mountain Province or his/her authorized representative  
Provincial Governor of Camarines Norte or his/her authorized representative  
National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines, Inc. President  
  
Secretariat: Project Management Unit

In the absence of the Chair and Co-Chair, the DENR Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects shall assume Chairmanship.

The National PSC shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

1. Function as the main strategic and decision-making body for the project;
2. Review and approve project work plans and reports;
3. Provide the conduit for the flow of information between the project and other decision-making agencies and local government units;
4. Facilitate project coordination within the Department and with other partners and stakeholders both inside and outside the country;
5. Promote synergy with other country initiatives to maximize benefits, reduce cost, and avoid redundancy;
6. Support the overall project communication strategy by providing leadership and guidance on key messaging in the various communication platforms that will be employed; and
7. Approve the creation of appropriate Technical Working Groups (TWG) for the project at various levels.

The National PSC shall meet at least once annually or as deemed necessary to discuss implementation status and define solutions to any implementation issues/concerns. For the Committee's decisions to be valid, a quorum, which is defined as the simple majority or more than half of the total number of fixed National PSC membership, must be reached.

The National PSC may engage resource persons from other offices/agencies, as necessary, to provide technical advice and support/assistance to the Project implementation.

The Chair of the National PSC shall be the official representative of the Philippine government to the Regional Project Steering Committee.

## **B. Project Management Committee (PMC)**

Chair:	DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director
Co-Chair:	DENR-Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service Director
Members:	AGC National Project Manager
	DOF Assistant Secretary for Sustainable Finance, Disaster Risk Finance and Special Projects
	DOLE Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations, Labor Standards and Special Concerns Cluster
	DENR-Environmental Management Bureau Director
	BSP-Mint and Refinery Operations Department Director
	DILG-Bureau of Local Government Supervision Director
	NCIP-Office of Empowerment and Human Rights Director
	NEDA-Policy and Planning Group – Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Staff Director
	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Philippines Representative
	DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau-CAR Regional Director
	DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Region V Regional Director
	Provincial Governor of Mountain Province or his/her authorized representative

Provincial Governor of Camarines Norte or his/her authorized representative  
National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines, Inc.  
President

Secretariat: Project Management Unit

The PMC shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

1. Provide guidance to the day-to-day decisions during project execution, in-between PSC meetings, that the NPM needs assistance on;
2. Provide the platform for coordination among project partners;
3. Facilitate communication and information dissemination efforts;
4. Form part of the governing body in charge of the management of the revolving fund for ASGM; and
5. Review project work plans and reports for endorsement to the National PSC.

For the Committee's decisions to be valid, a quorum, which is defined as the simple majority or more than half of the total number of fixed PMC membership, must be reached.

The PMC shall meet every first Tuesday (1:00 p.m.) of the last month of the standard calendar quarter unless otherwise stated by the PMC Chair through the Secretariat. Special PMC meetings may also be convened to address urgent project issues or concerns.

The PMC may engage resource persons from other offices/agencies, as necessary, to provide technical advice and support/assistance to the Project implementation.

### C. Project Management Unit (PMU)

The Artisanal Gold Council shall act as the Project Management Unit with functions and responsibilities as stipulated in the Project Document and its Annexes.

All expenses in pursuit of this Order shall be chargeable against the Project funds, subject to the Executing Agency's accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain valid and in force until the termination of the Project.

  
MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA  
Secretary

