TOXIC SITES IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

INVESTIGATOR- INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT AGREEMENT

TERMS OF REFERENCE

TOXIC SITES IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM (TSIP)

The Toxic Sites Identification Program (TSIP) is a joint effort by Pure Earth, UNIDO, the European Commission, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to identify and assess polluted places in low- and middle-income countries. Based on the existing Pure Earth database of over 2,000 polluted sites and Initial Site Assessment protocol, this project seeks to add information about known sites and discover new pollution hotspots and communities impacted by toxic pollutants.

Focused specifically in developing countries and those with economies in transition, the TSIP is concerned primarily with identifying sites where pollution may be impacting human health, and conducting an Initial Site Screening that can be used as a starting point for the design of future interventions. Other information related to the site and its stakeholders is also collected and complied in an online database.

The Toxic Sites Identification Program aims to identify and assess the following type of sites:

1. In low- and middle-income countries (as designated by the World Bank)
2. Where toxic pollution exists in concentrations above health standards
3. From a “point-source” (fixed locations, not cars, trucks or large area problems)
4. Where there is a human exposure pathway
5. And a likely human health impact

**Summary of the Investigator’s Activities**

To identify potentially polluted sites, conduct assessments of potentially polluted sites, and to enter information obtained in assessments into Pure Earths online database, all following Pure Earth’s sampling protocols and guiding principles (see Investigator Handbook). The overall purpose is to help Pure Earth generate an inventory of sites, with technical assessment data, detailing pollution problems in the Independent Investigator’s specified country.

**Key Areas of Responsibility**

1. Represent Pure Earth and the Toxic Sites Identification Program appropriately.
2. Attend a country specific training session to learn about the Initial Site Screening process and protocol.
3. Identify polluted sites in the specified country and communicate planned site visits with the TSIP Country Coordinator.
4. Set up and conduct meetings at potential polluted sites with appropriate local authorities and residents in a professional and non-confrontational manner.
5. Coordinate with the TSIP Country Coordinator with respect to locations of site visits, timeframes for visits, budget, and other issues as required.
6. Visit and conduct Initial Site Assessments at polluted sites throughout the country, following protocols and systems developed by Pure Earth.
7. Enter site visit and assessment data into the TSIP online database accurately and completely, as soon as possible after the site visit (preferably the same day).
8. Keep all expense receipts and record all expenses using the designated format and report expenses to Pure Earth’s New York office.
9. Prepare monthly reports on your activities within the assigned region for submission to the TSIP Country Coordinator.
10. Review sites in the online database for quality assurance and control purposes.
11. When required, improve quality of site entries.

**Data Collection During Site Assessments**

Independent Investigators are expected to complete all sections of the Initial Site Screening, and fill in all text boxes in the online database. The number and location of site assessments conducted each month will be determined by the TSIP Country Coordinator to ensure that sites are not screened more than once and that TSIP activities are being implemented within the confines of the country specific budget. During site visits, Independent Investigators are expected to collect the following types of information:

1. Pollutant types and concentrations at the site (via soil, water or air sampling).
2. Physical and geographical descriptions of the site, the pollution source, the affected area, and the surrounding community.
3. Information about the pollutant’s migration routes, pathway into humans, and any reported health effects in the community.
4. GPS coordinates of the site and individual samples.
5. Information about the company or facility that is responsible for the pollution.
6. Information about site stakeholders, including government offices, NGOs, and other relevant groups.
7. Photographs showing the source of the pollution, the pathway to people, and the affected community.
8. Samples from potentially polluted areas, which may include soil, air or water samples.
9. Documents containing pollution data, site maps, and other relevant information.

All sampling should be conducted according to the protocol outlined in the TSIP Handbook.

**Required Knowledge, Skills and Experience:**

* Education or experience in environmental engineering, environmental science, public health, or a related field. Specific knowledge and experience related to toxic pollutants is desired.
* Good knowledge of the geography and pollution issues within the country.
* Good network of contacts related to toxics within the country and understanding about where and how to obtain information about potentially polluted sites.
* Ability to conduct ISS’s quickly and efficiently. It is expected that one site can be reviewed in one to two days, including input to the on-line system.
* Ability to efficiently travel to polluted sites and work effectively at these sites.
* Awareness of potential health and safety issues related to pollutants and polluted site assessments and the measures necessary to protect oneself during the performance of the hired services.
* Ability to perform the hired services effectively and with tact with community residents, business owners, government officials during site investigations.
* Good written and oral communication skills, including fluency in appropriate local languages. Written and oral fluency in English is desirable but not essential.