NRGI Background:

For the one billion people living in poverty in resource-rich countries, the oil, gas and mining sectors have failed to deliver on the promise of better quality of life. Instead of fact-based public debate, populist promises dominate many political systems. Corruption and state capture have spread, and democracy is under threat. Those who demand accountability face harassment and violence. The climate crisis looms large and the transition to green energy risks replicating governance misdeeds in the sector. Unless governance improves, half of the world’s poor will live in resource-rich countries by 2030.

The Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) mission is to support informed, inclusive decision-making about natural resources and the energy transition. We partner with reformers in government and civil society to design and implement just policies based on evidence and the priorities of citizens in resource-rich developing countries. We seek to address power imbalances, both nationally and globally. Our approach accounts for political realities, and advances equity in voice, influence, and access to information.

Purpose of the consultancy:

NRGI is starting the implementation of a project in Chile on lithium governance. The overall objective of this project is to improve the economic and climate justice dimensions of lithium governance for the benefit of all Chilean citizens.

The specific objectives are: i) Increased transparency and adoption of international standards in the governance of Chile’s lithium industry, ii) Reforms around lithium increase the economic benefits for Chilean citizens and advance development strategies for subnational producing regions, iii) Policy decisions integrate socio-environmental concerns of lithium-producing areas, and iv) Chilean experiences inform Latin American debates and promote regional cooperation on lithium governance.

To strengthen the execution of project activities, NRGI seeks to hire an experienced consultant in public policies applicable to lithium and with experience in project implementation in collaboration with civil society and government actors.

The project includes grants and partnerships with civil society partners, and a cooperative implementation of some of the project components, but NRGI has ultimate responsibility for the coordination and execution of all components.

Responsibilities of the consultant

1. Research:
   a. Keep up to date on Chile trends, developments, and issues in governance of extractives, with a focus on lithium / mining policies, climate justice and tax issues.
   b. Stay informed on relevant research and learnings on mining governance to apply pertinent insights.
c. Write, review, and publish research findings, in coordination with NRGI staff.
d. Participate in peer reviews and provide feedback on research carried out by relevant partners.

2. Ensuring Impactful Implementation
   a. Support team efforts in building relationships and coordinating with stakeholders in government, CSOs, the media and private sector in Chile.
   b. Assist NRGI’s team in providing technical assistance, expert opinion, and policy analysis.
   c. Run specific capacity development interventions, workshops and webinars, including detailed planning and coordination.
   d. Follow up on partners’ narrative and financial reports.
   e. Provide technical support to grantees to increase the impact of their work.
   f. Monitor, track and collate data for project reports, draft sections of project reports in collaboration with NRGI’s development team.
   g. Follow up with sub-grant recipients to ensure accountability requirements are met and deliverables achieved on time and up to standard.

3. Influencing and communicating
   a. Support the dissemination of research and events.
   b. Help identify and write impact / success stories, insights, and key messages.
   c. Lead or support drafting blogs or articles to be published in the media.
   d. Participate in networking events and other opportunities to build relationships.
   e. Speak at workshops; help produce content and presentations.

Deliverables:
1. Monthly reports (short summaries) on the evolution of reforms related to lithium governance in Chile
2. Collaborate with civil society partners in the strategic design and implementation of reforms to reduce opacity & safeguard against elite capture in the lithium sector in Chile
3. Support the organization of a workshop convening representatives of the OECD / NRGI / EITI Expert Group on Critical Minerals Anticorruption & Chilean stakeholders to identify recommendations for Chile's lithium industry
4. Participate in the writing of a policy brief addressing strategies to maximize local development opportunities, with emphasis on revenue sharing, economic linkages, and mitigation of negative environmental and social impacts.
5. Give feedback to a synthesis report of the social and environmental challenges of the salt flats territories in relation to extractives, with recommendations to improve local governance and environmental performance through the process of private certification schemes based on the cases of the Atacama salt flats.
6. Participate in the writing of a critical report documenting lithium extraction in Chile and situating the case in the regional context.
7. Collaborate on the development of a module on lithium governance in NRGI’s regional course on resource governance and energy transition, which will include the case of Chile - aimed at both Chilean and regional civil society organizations.
8. Develop quarterly monitoring reports.
9. Participate in the organization, in coordination with NRGI staff, of a Mid-term learning event.
10. Participate in an end of project review/lessons learnt process.

Requirements:

- Minimum 5 years directly relevant work experience in policy research or analysis, advocacy, and project management.
- Excellent Spanish language skills, both written and spoken; proficient in English (important aspects of the project, meetings and preparation of documents, will be held in English)
- Ability to manage projects in an international development context.
- Ability to write critical reports and policy briefs on mining governance issues.
- Effective in multi-cultural settings.
- Broad understanding of the natural resource governance sector.
- Experience working in capacity development and/or advocacy initiatives.
- Able to initiate and develop strong, credible relationships and influence stakeholders at a project level.
- Able to work with autonomy and in a virtual environment.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor’s degree in relevant field (social sciences, economics, law, political science, international affairs, etc.) is required.
- An advanced degree in relevant field (social science, political science, economics, law or international affairs, etc.) is preferred.

Working Environment:

- NRGI does not have an office in Chile, it is expected that the candidate will be based in Santiago, online work from home is expected.
- There might be occasional travel within Chile depending on project development and sanitary conditions, and potentially assistance to regional events in Latin America (one or two, to be determined) but regular travel outside of Chile is not expected.

Duration:

It is a fixed-term contract, with full-time dedication, for about 16 months. Starting in December 2022 through March 31, 2024.

Compensation:

Payment is competitive and subject to applicant's qualification and relevant experience.

How to apply:

To apply for the consultancy, please send an email to savila@resourcegovernance.org which must include your resume, a letter of interest, and your financial expectation. Applications will be received until November 11.