



CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL APPLICATIONS FOR 2026–2027 FUNDING CYCLE

INTRODUCTION

The Centre of Excellence on Small-Scale Mining Development (CoESSM) at the School of Mines and Geosciences (SoMG) and UDSM-MRI, anchored at the University of Dar es Salaam, is a multidisciplinary consortium that integrates world-class facilities, collaborative partnerships, and innovative research to advance sustainable mineral development and address complex challenges across the mining sector.

Contributions are invited from researchers focusing on advanced and interdisciplinary approaches to address complex challenges across the mineral-mining sector under the **UDSM-BARRICK PROJECT ON TANZANIA MINING DEVELOPMENT**, with emphasis on harnessing mineral resources. Of particular interest are innovative technologies and methodologies that support locating resources through exploration and sustainable mining and mineral processing relevant for Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM). CoESSM will support up to 5 (five) research projects for a period of 12-months, commencing on 1st of November, 2026. The financial budget for each project should not exceed 50 million Tanzanian Shillings.

The main foci of this call are to leverage Earth Geological Resources, Mining and Mineral Processing technologies to address present and future challenges in ASM for sustainable development in Tanzania. The projects also intends to improve data systems, strengthen stakeholder collaborations, comprehensively provide training to small-scale miners on environmental and occupational safety, and promote technology transfer for increased productivity and enhanced socio-economic benefits. The central to this year's call will involve investigations in the Nzega-Tabora and Msalala-Kahama areas in gold mining areas.

The projects will be supported by **UDSM-BARRICK PROJECT ON TANZANIA MINING DEVELOPMENT** through Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited and North Mara Gold Mine Limited.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

Project proposals shall meet the following criteria:

- The project must be multidisciplinary involving researchers from UDSM, in collaboration with other government entities and organizations.
- The PIs must possess a PhD degree relevant to the areas of this call. The PI or co-PI must be affiliated with either SoMG or UDSM-MRI. Each project team include atleast one member from UDSM-MRI and should involve a student participant to promote-competence-based training.
- Projects should be completed within 12 months.



- Project proposals should focus on one or more of the research topics of the call.
- Each proposal must include a clear implementation schedule and a detailed research plan outlining the scientific contribution of each member of the team. The plan should emphasize the development of innovative and practical solutions that advance sustainable mining practices.
- The proposal should clearly explain how responsibility and tasks are shared among collaborators, including the specific and expected contributions of all project team member.
- Research plan must be accompanied by a detailed budget, indicating anticipated cost items and their allocation. Affordable equipment can be purchased for the project budget as long as the overall cost does not exceed 5% of the total budget.

Project outputs with impacts will be the key evaluation criteria, with priority given to tangible and usable products or solutions that address real ASM sector problems.

POTENTIAL TOPICS

We encourage the submission of proposals covering different topics, from pure, fundamental research to more applied demonstrations and integrated case studies, including:

Topic 1: Exploration and Information Acquisition

Focuses on resource exploration, data acquisition, interpretation, and management to support informed decision-making in ASM.

Topic 2: Geo-hazards, Environmental Pollution, Safety, and Health

Addresses ASM-related risks, including geohazards, environmental pollution, and occupational health and safety, to enhance resilience and sustainable practices.

Topic 3: Ore Characterization for Mining, Metallurgy, and Investment

Examines mineral formation, distribution, and properties to support efficient extraction, processing, resource estimation, and investment decisions.

Topic 4: Social Welfare at Individual, Community, and National Levels

Investigates the social impacts of ASM and promotes inclusive development, livelihoods, and sustainable transitions for communities and the broader economy.

Topic 5: Mining and Mineral Processing Operations Efficiency

Focuses on improving mining and processing technologies, geotechnical practices, and metallurgical performance to enhance productivity and value chain development.

THE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION SHALL INCLUDE

- Research proposals must be fully completed in all sections according to the provided template and duly signed by both the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co Principal Investigator (Co PI). These designated individuals will also be responsible for facilitating and signing the collaborative agreement between UDSM and the partner institution(s). Detailed CV of the PI and co-PI.
- Short resumes of other researchers on the team.
- Reference letter(s) from researcher's institution
- Any other relevant documents (e.g., good track record on project management).



The proposal document shall be a single signed PDF document containing all supportive documents (e.g., CVs, reference letters):

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

| Deliverables | Deadline |
|--|-----------------|
| Initial background information searching and project organization | Within 1 month |
| Progress reports shall be submitted on a quarterly basis and must include materials prepared for public dissemination and presentations. In addition, management reserves the right to request supplementary reports whenever the need arises, ensuring that project progress and outcomes remain transparent, accessible, and responsive to institutional and stakeholder requirements. | Within 3 months |
| Preliminary findings, outreach programs, training, demonstrations, or prototypes | Within 6 months |
| Open-source research code and data repository, including a demonstration workflow/visualization – online accessibility of data to ASM | Within 9 months |
| Workshop for findings dissemination to policy makers, ASM practitioners, and invited stakeholders. Open-access (recommended) peer-reviewed scientific publication (draft or submitted) | November, 2027 |

EVALUATION

CoESSM is committed to a consistent, fair, and transparent project selection process to identify, select, and allocate funding to projects that best fit the call for proposals' expected outcomes. All contribution proposals must clearly illustrate how the proposed project aligns with the evaluation criteria and minimum requirements. A committee of experts will evaluate proposals with members delegated by CoESSM management. The assessment committee will review and evaluate complete proposals for technical merit, alignment with program objectives, feasibility, and potential impacts to ASM. The following criteria will be considered:

- Level of innovation of the project application with relevance to the topics of the call.
- Addressing the specific needs in Tanzania's ASM.
- Scientific soundness and rigor
- Innovative gold recovery method with minimal environmental pollution.
- Issues pertaining to geo-hazards, health and safety in the ASM sector.
- Impact on fostering the use of evidence-based interpretation of geological exploration data.
- Commitment to inclusivity and gender equity.
- Experience of principal investigators in the Tanzanian Mineral and Mining Sector.
- Project outputs with priority given to tangible and usable products or solutions that address real mining sector problems.



ELIGIBILITY

The call seeks to fund integrated research projects that foster collaboration among UDSM researchers, researchers from other institutions, and government entities and organizations. Proposals must clearly demonstrate effective collaboration, interdisciplinary engagement and efficient use of available resources to achieve impactful and sustainable outcomes.

SUBMISSIONS

All research project proposals will be peer-reviewed in accordance with the CoESSM established procedures. A customized proposal template (attached to the call) must be adopted in all applications. We intend to disseminate final decisions by 14th August 2026 and communicate with fund recipients shortly afterwards.

Submissions should be sent via email dean.somg@udsm.ac.tz as PDF documents containing all supporting documents (e.g., CV).

IMPORTANT DATES

- Submission starts: 29th June 2026
- Proposals Submission Deadline: 29th July 2026
- Acceptance/rejection notification: 14th August 2026.

[Click here to Download Research Project Proposals Application Template Forms](#)