

**Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelene
Geneve
Switzerland**

Subject: UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Application

Dear Sirs.

INRB IP/IPIMAR is the governmental research organization in Portugal in the area of fisheries and living marine resources, integrated in the National Institute for Biological Resources (INRB) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries. INRB IP/IPIMAR aims to: (i) promote and support a sustainable and competitive fishing industry and aquaculture; (ii) manage fish stocks in order to maintain maximum sustainable exploitation; (iii) contribute for the protection of marine environment; (iv) monitor and upgrade the quality of fishery and aquaculture products. INRB IP/IPIMAR undertakes a wide range of research projects and monitoring activities financed by the Ministry of Agriculture, National Research Council, European Community and Public and Private Companies.

Mercury research at INRB IP/IPIMAR has been an important scientific area since late 90's. Mercury research team is integrated in the Aquatic Environment Research Unit and is composed by one researcher, one post-doc student and two PhD students. This team has strong collaborations with mercury experts worldwide namely in Canada, France, Spain, India, UK and USA. The work developed at INRB IP/IPIMAR are mainly focus on the mercury fate and biogeochemistry in estuaries and coastal areas with particular emphasis to the processes responsible for mercury methylation and mercury transport across interfaces (sediment/water and water-vegetation/air). Recent works in the mercury team has also being dedicated to the studies of mercury toxicity in fish particularly studies related to the effect of aquatic live exposure to mercury and its compounds and the consequently sub-lethal effects. Based in our knowledge we believe that INRB IP/IPIMAR can give an important contribution to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership particularly in the area of mercury air transport and fate.

Therefore, INRB IP/IPIMAR strongly supports UNEP Global Mercury Partnership in his mission to protect human health and global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land.





Ministério da
Agricultura,
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Rural e das Pescas

INRB, I.P.

Instituto Nacional
dos Recursos Biológicos, I.P.

INRB IP/IPIMAR will be represented by the head of the mercury team, Dr. João Canário (PhD), which is responsible for the last decade mercury studies in Portuguese estuaries, Indian mangroves, Canadian lakes and with some works in Canadian arctic in collaboration with Canadian experts. Dr. Canário has been also involved as coordinator in two projects in the mercury highly contaminated Tagus estuary. With the experience of his work and his team I believe that we could contribute to a better knowledge of the regional and global mercury cycle particularly with the one related with the aquatic cycle and the processes and fluxes between interfaces.

With my best regards,

Carlos Vale
(Investigador Coordenador)



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM*

PARTNERSHIP AREA

Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:

- artisanal and small scale gold mining
- mercury cell chlor alkali production
- mercury air transport and fate research
- mercury in products
- mercury releases from coal combustion
- mercury waste management
- mercury supply and storage

Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.

ORGANIZATION NAME

INRB, IP./IPIMAR

NAME, FUNCTIONAL TITLE OF REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. João Canário (PhD), RESEARCHER

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TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

- Government
- Regional economic integration organization
- Non-government Organization
- Industry
- Scientific community
- Other, please specify: _____

*UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Forms are to be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving the partnership goal.

The support letter should specify how the organization intends to contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Please submit the support letter and registration form to:

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