

12/09/19

Head, Chemicals and Health Branch Economy Division  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Palais des Nations  
8-14 avenue de la Paix  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Dear Head, Chemicals and Health Branch Economy Division,

Pure Earth would like to remain a member of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. The included documents contain updated information.

Pure Earth is a US-based, non-profit organization dedicated to reducing public health risks from toxic pollution in low- and middle-income countries. Since 1999, Pure Earth has conducted more than 120 projects around the world to remediate contaminated sites and reduce public exposures to chemicals and heavy metals. Many of Pure Earth's projects are designed to identify, assess and reduce public and occupational exposures to mercury contamination.

Pure Earth has developed a Global Mercury Program that aims to help governments reduce public and occupational health risks from mercury exposure among gold miners, their families and the global population. The program achieves this goal by reducing the unsafe use and release of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining communities, including the incorporation of mercury-free gold technologies and by developing cost-effective methods of remediating and restoring land and waterways contaminated with mercury.

Pure Earth's multidisciplinary strategy to reduce mercury emissions and exposures includes:

- Environmental testing and health risks assessment activities
- Developing national databases of toxic hotspots
- Trainings for miners in effective mercury-free methods
- Health education on mercury risks among mining communities
- Capacity-building for local and national environmental and health agencies
- Hazardous waste (mercury) management
- Remediation of contaminated sites
- Restoring forests and land degraded by mining
- Working with governments to comply with the Minamata Convention

- Work with the jewelry industry to raise awareness about dangers of mercury use in gold, and stimulate demand for mercury-free gold, through an auction of mercury-free gold jewellery and consumer facing programs promoting responsibly sourced gold.

These activities provide miners with the tools and incentives to convert to mercury-free mining processes, and provide government service providers and regulators the tools to encourage safe mining practices and identify potential health threats.

In addition to implementing the types of activities described above, Pure Earth works to integrate its mercury programs into larger national priorities and initiatives. In particular, the mercury program aims to complement and facilitate national efforts to comply with obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Pure Earth created a guidance document with recommendations on how to design and implement a national program to identify and assess sites contaminated with mercury for the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Pure Earth would like to remain an active participant in the Global Mercury Partnership. We are interested in protecting human health and the global environment from exposures to mercury and would like to be involved in projects that can utilize our skills and experience. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Marraccino  
Senior Director of Development  
Pure Earth



# UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Yellowfin Tuna, Courtesy NOAA Fisheries, © Photo by Jeff Muir

## INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

This information sheet provides an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners. Further information is available at:

[web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership](http://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership)

### GOAL OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is to protect human health and the 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.

### PARTNERSHIP AREAS

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship between various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve its goal.

Initiated in 2005<sup>1</sup>, the Partnership today focuses its work on supporting timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; on providing state of the art knowledge and science on mercury; and on delivering outreach and awareness raising towards global action on mercury.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/9

The Partnership is structured around eight areas:

- 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
- Mercury releases from the cement industry

### OUR PARTNERS

Over 190 partners from governments, IGOs, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions:

- Support the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contribute resources or expertise to the development and implementation of Partnership activities.
- Network with other organizations, agencies, entities and individuals addressing mercury issues.

### BECOMING A PARTNER

To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal. The letter should also specify how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the Partnership.

Together with this letter, UNEP requests interested entities or individuals to also complete and submit the registration form (see reverse). Participation in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP. Partners' letters of support will be made public through the UNEP's website.

### SUPPORT LETTER AND REGISTRATION FORM SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO:

**Head, Chemicals and Health Branch  
Economy Division  
United Nations Environment Programme**  
Palais des Nations  
8-14 avenue de la Paix  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
E-mail: [metals@un.org](mailto:metals@un.org)

