



Mercury: global policy, immediate action

Mercury Two country (Panama and Mexico)
Storage and Disposal Project

Inception Workshop
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Panama City, Panama

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Outline of presentation



- Why mercury?
- Introduction to the **Intergovernmental negotiations** of a global legally binding instrument on mercury
- The UNEP **Global Mercury Partnership**

Why mercury?



Of global concern...

evidence of significant:

- **atmospheric transport**
- **atmospheric residence**
- **health impacts through environmental exposure routes**

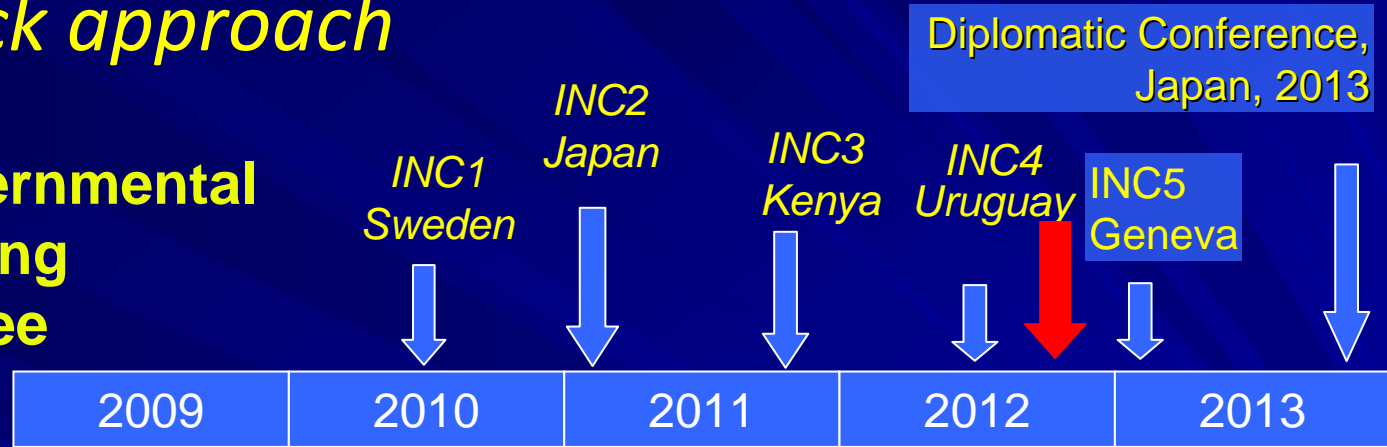
Other heavy metals considered of common concern

UNEP Global Mercury Programme:

A twin track approach

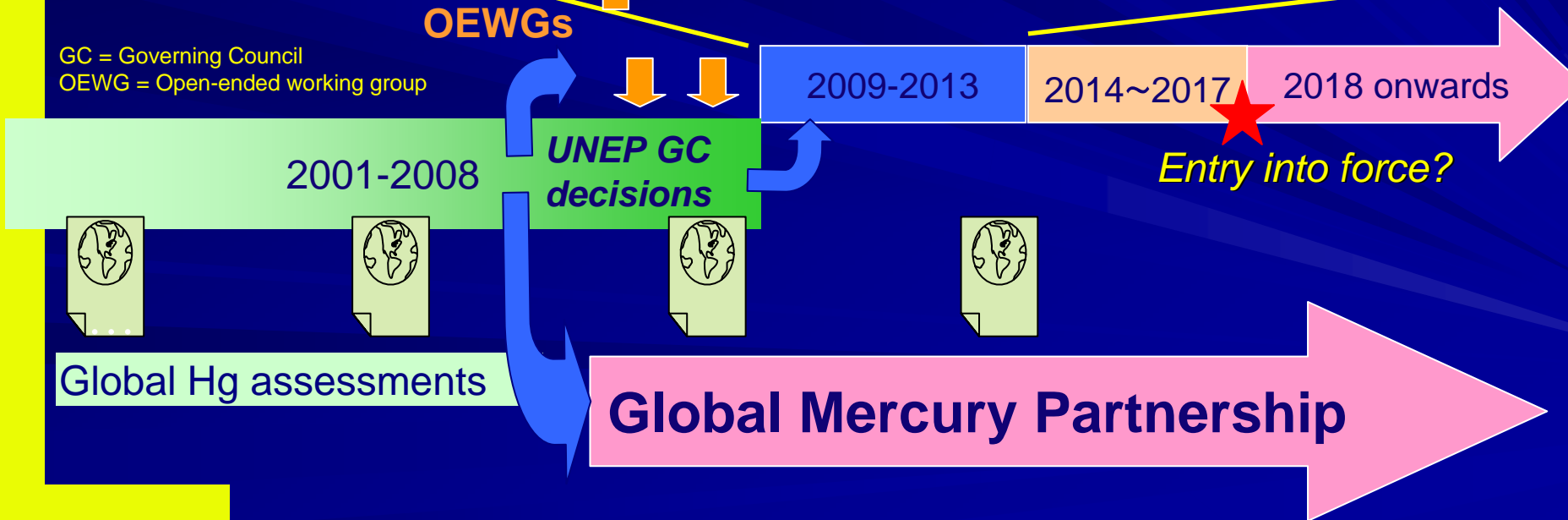


**Intergovernmental
Negotiating
Committee**



GC = Governing Council
OEWG = Open-ended working group

OEWGs



Negotiating the global treaty



UNEP Governing Council decision 25/5 III (Feb 2009):

Requested UNEP to convene and support an intergovernmental negotiating committee beginning work in 2010 ... (and) ... to complete negotiations prior to February 2013

Each INC:

>125 Governments

>500 participants

Observers:

UN Agencies,

Civil Society

Academia

Industry



Drafting the treaty



Treaty articles are grouped into sections, substantive articles reflect the mandate and principles set out by UNEP Governing Council:

- A. Preamble
- B. Introduction
- C. Supply
- D. International trade in mercury
- E. Products and processes
- F. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- G. Emissions and releases
- H. Storage, wastes and contaminated sites
- I. Financial resources and technical and implementation assistance
- J. Awareness-raising, research and monitoring, and communication of information
- K. Institutional arrangements
- L. Settlement of disputes
- M. Further development of the Convention
- N. Final provisions

Scientific and technical knowledge informs policymaking

Next steps



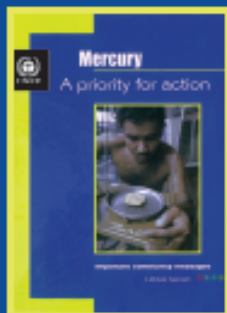
"Pez-Peste", Nicolas Garcia Uriburu

- **the chair of the INC** has been entrusted to prepare a further draft treaty text for consideration and negotiation at INC 5
- **INC 5** in Geneva, 13 to 18 January 2013
- Convention opens for signature at a **Diplomatic Conference** to be held in Japan in October 2013
- The convention **enters into force** following the 50th government ratification of the treaty.



Mercury

A priority for action



Global Mercury Partnership

Protecting human health and the global environment by reducing risks from mercury.

Key actions:

- Reducing mercury use and releases from products and processes.
- Promoting alternatives in artisanal and small scale gold mining.
- Providing storage options and improving waste management practices.
- Understanding air emissions and transport in the atmosphere.



The Global Mercury Partnership

- Initiated in 2005
- 8 partnership areas + business plans
- Partnership Advisory Group
- UNEP coordinates as secretariat
- >200 official partners

Air transport and fate → *improving knowledge*

Chlor-alkali → *transforming ~ 100 facilities in 44 nations*

Products → *identifying, promoting alternatives to Hg*

Supply & storage → *reducing supply to dwindling demand*

Waste management → *promoting sound disposal*

ASGM → *linking mercury-free mining to development drivers*

Coal combustion → *seeking pollution control co-benefits*

Cement → *retaining not emitting*

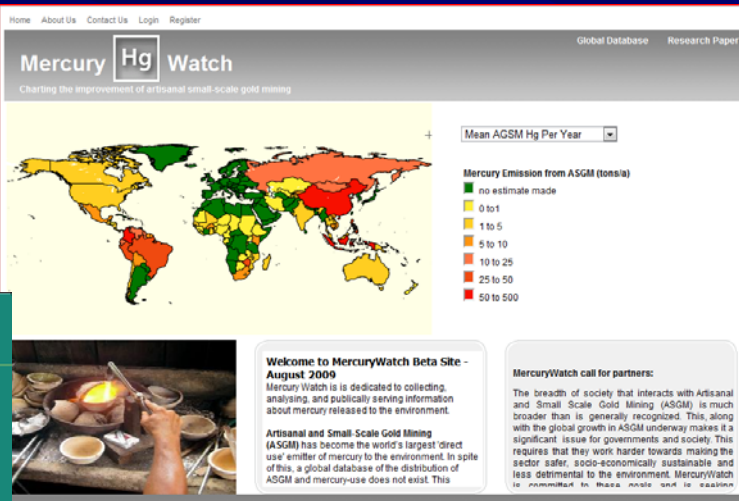


Main delivery tools and mechanisms



• Advocacy, awareness raising

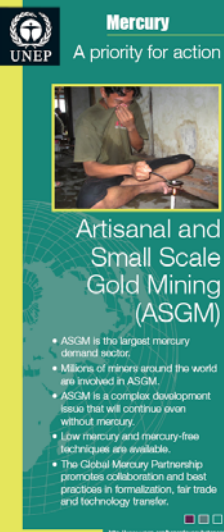
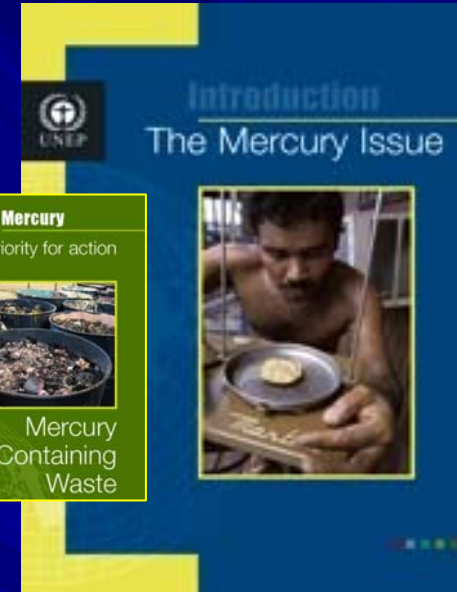
• Information gathering + exchange



• Development of guidance materials

• National and regional strategic planning

• Demonstration projects



Addressing unintentional emissions



Understanding emissions from key sectors and managing resulting residues and wastes

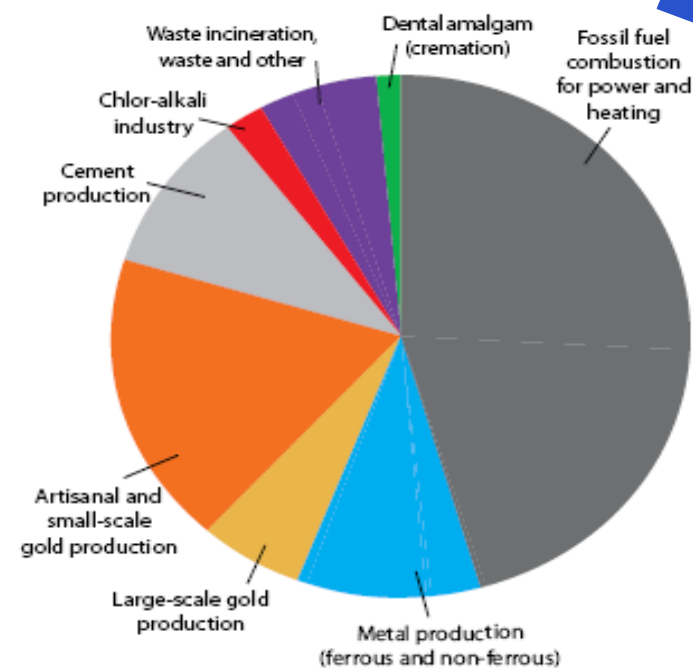


Mercury

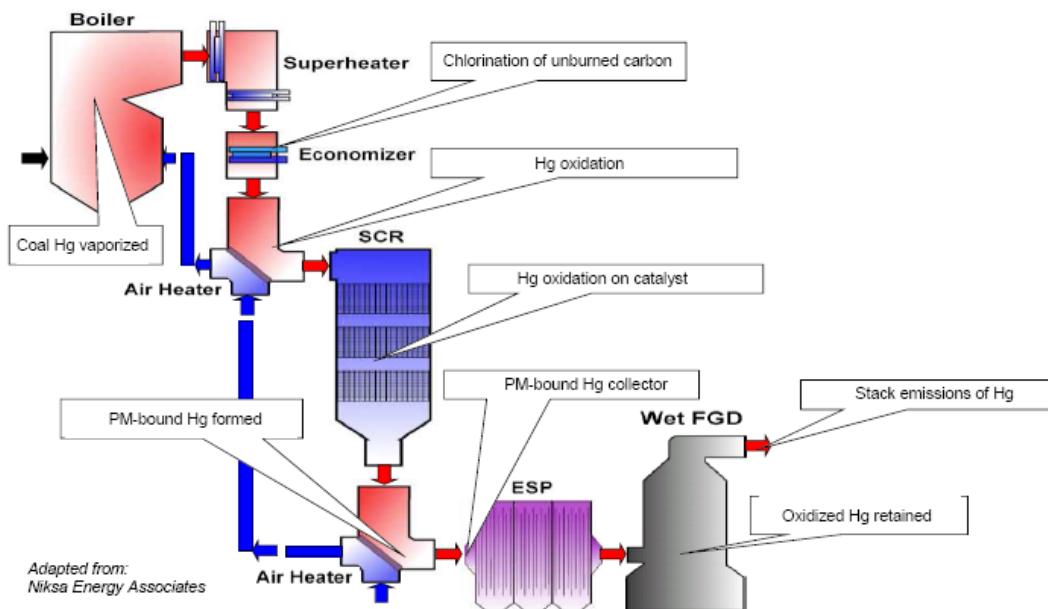
A priority for action



Mercury Control From Coal Combustion



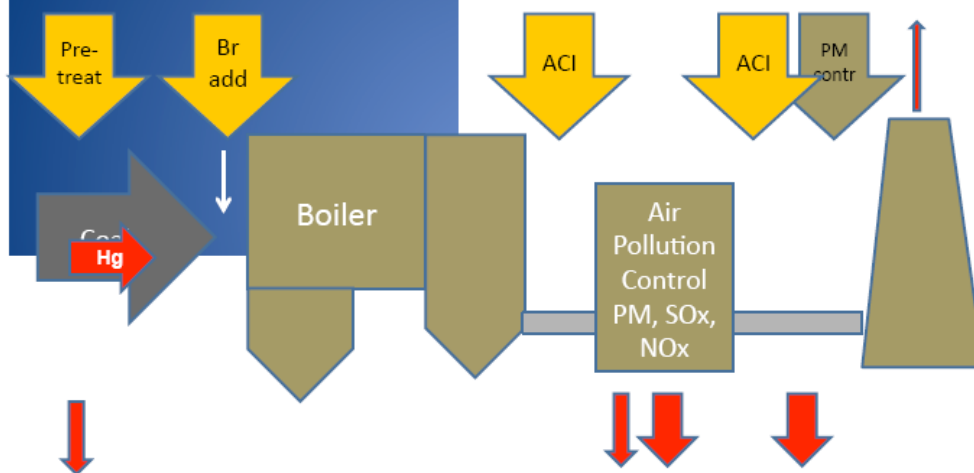
Hg behavior in coal combustion is very complex



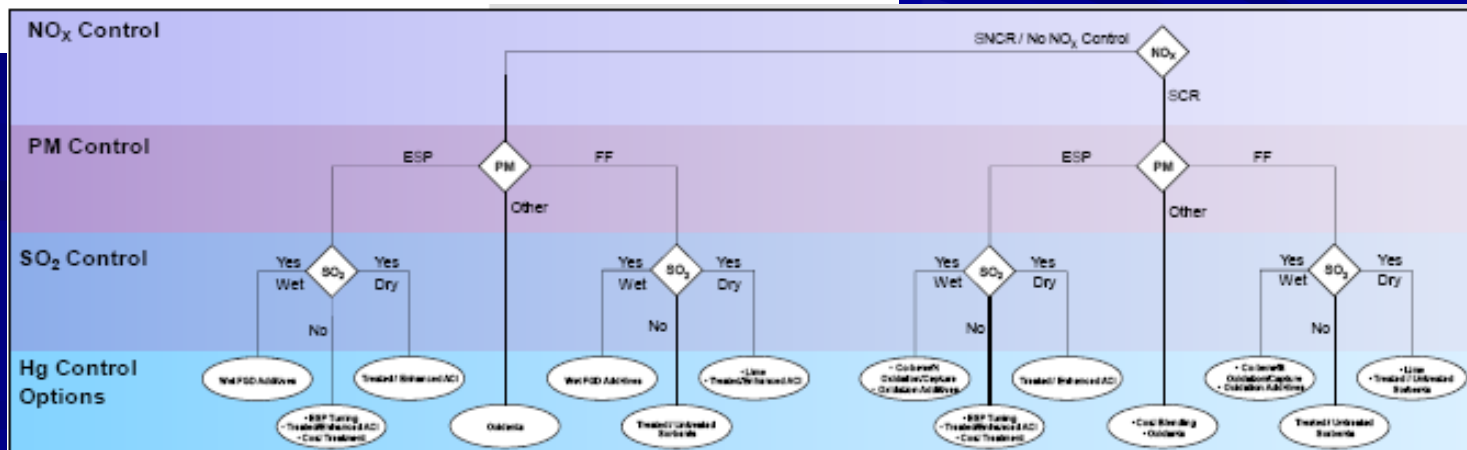
Policy and process optimization



Coal-fired power plants – Hg specific controls



Outlining sources of release, techniques to capture and their cost-benefits

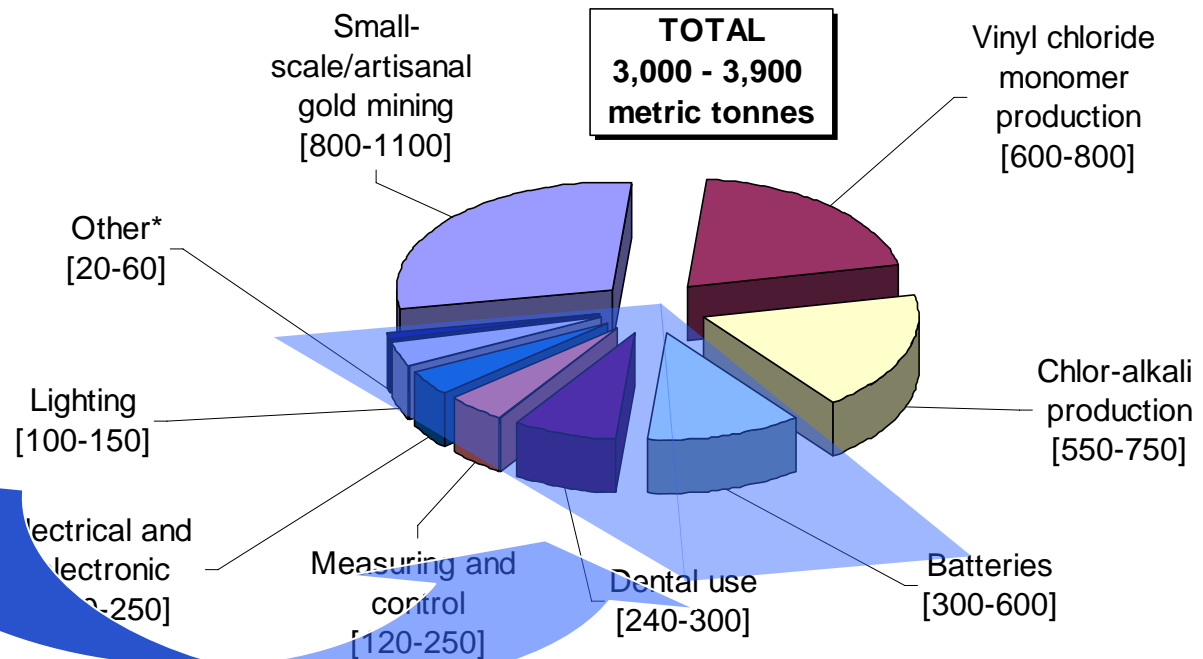


Use of mercury: processes and products



*Products:
towards
mercury-free
alternatives for
key products ...*

Global mercury demand by use, 2005 (metric tonnes)



* Laboratory, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, cultural/traditional uses, etc.

P. Maxson, "Mercury flows and safe storage of surplus mercury," for the Environment Directorate, European Commission, August 2006 (with data ranges). See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/mercury/pdf/hg_flows_safe_storage.pdf

Mercury containing products



Product Category	Est. Global demand 2005	GMP 2015 Goal
Batteries (button cells)	300-600 t	< 50 t
Electronic devices	150 – 300 t	< 50 t
Measuring and control devices	150 – 300 t	< 50 t
Lighting	100 – 150 t	< 100 t
Dental	240-300 t	< 230 t
Other (lab, cultural ...)	30-60 t	< 30 t

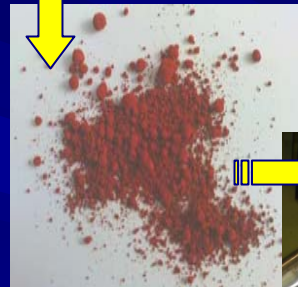
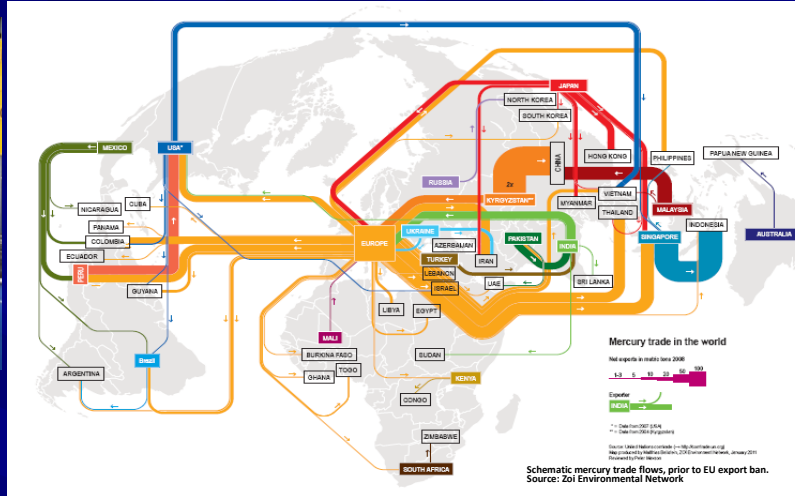
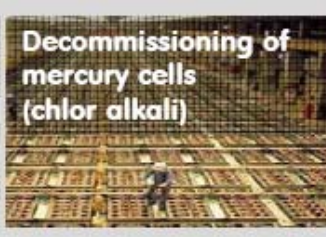
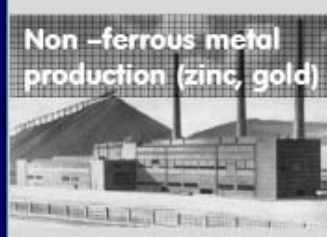
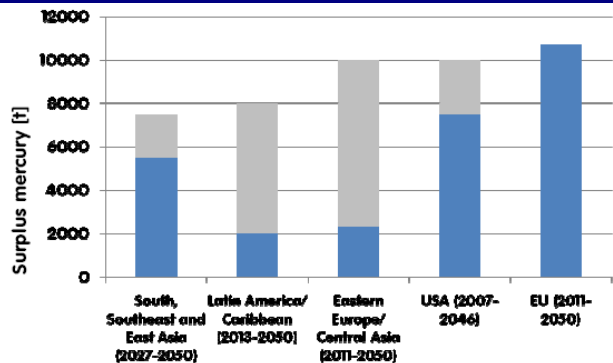
Supply, trade, storage, disposal



Examining options for storage, stabilization and encapsulation for mercury storage and disposal

- Supply > demand in all regions < 2020
- Surplus to 2050 estimated

$$\sum_{xs \text{ min}} 28,000 \text{ t}, \sum_{xs \text{ max}} 46,000 \text{ t}$$



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Thank you

