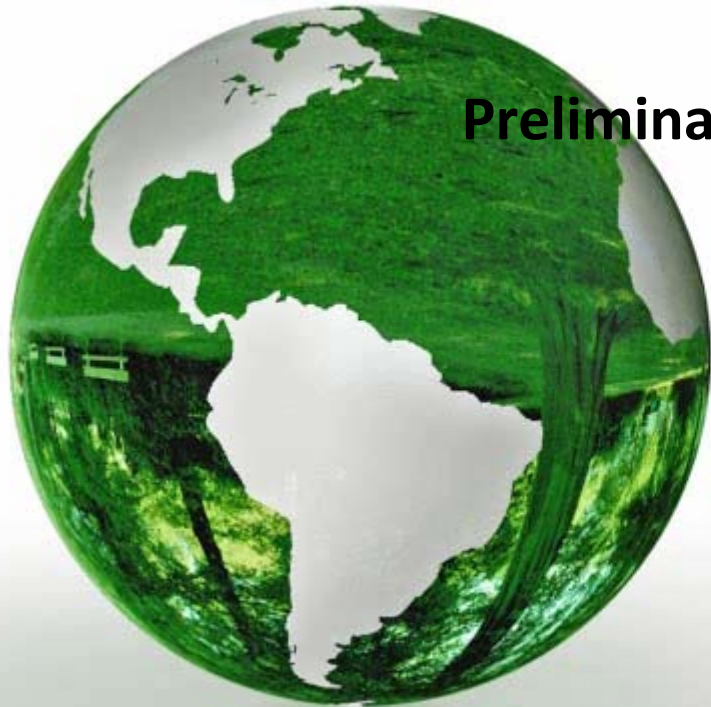


Inception Workshop: Mercury Storage and Disposal Project

Preliminary Situation of mercury in Panama

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Background

- 2008 Inventory of mercury using the 1st version of toolkit (UNITAR)
- 2008 National Strategy on Mercury
- 2010 Brief analysis of the situation of mercury products in health's sector
- 2011 Draft resolution to control some healthcare products containing mercury.



International goals of the Inventory Mercury Project



Hg



- Strengthen capacities to identify and measure Hg emissions and transfers, including products containing mercury
- Generate data on usage patterns and Hg emissions, including point and diffuse sources
- Explore the institutionalization of the annual report Hg emissions through a PRTR
- Strengthen capacities to identify and evaluate risk management options to reduce emissions of Hg
- Develop and test guidance materials focused to assist governments to identify and reduce Hg emissions



Mercury's Inventory. Conclusions.

- The developed inventory highlighted the need of establishing controls in hospitals and clinics for the entry, use, handling and disposal of equipment and materials containing mercury.
- It is possible to conclude that the Commercial sector and the Health sector in Panama are generating the major amounts of waste containing mercury. We can establish the following areas as priorities for developing future strategies for reducing mercury emissions:
 1. Laboratory chemicals and equipment (Health Sector, Commercial Sector)
 2. Minerals and materials with mercury impurities (Mining Sector, Commercial Sector)
 3. Waste Management (use, treatment and disposal of waste containing mercury)
 4. Products containing mercury (Health Sector)
 5. Mercury use in religious rituals and folklore medicine (Health Sector, Commercial Sector)



Conclusions

- According to the results of this inventory, the major route of mercury release occurs through the air as a result of Cement Production activities, waste disposal and electrical switches.
- It is important to consider that the implementations of instruments for inventory preparation has a limited application at the national reality.
- Panama does not manufacture products containing mercury, so that the life cycle approach applies to the stages of use and disposal.
- The constraints in our customs create biases in the results presented in this inventory for calculating the estimated mercury emissions, therefore it could not be estimated representative releases for the subcategory Chemicals and Laboratory Equipment.



Conclusions

- Waste management regarding the collection and disposal is very limited throughout the national territory, which indirectly affects the real estimation of mercury releases at sites destined for disposal.
- It is required the implementation of the National Policy on Integrated Management of Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste, approved by Executive Decree No. 34 of February 26, 2007.



Existing legislation and institutional responsibilities

- Currently, there are over 40 legal instruments (laws, decrees and resolutions) that are relevant to address the import, use, emissions, disposal and storage of mercury in Panama. Panama also has more than 20 agreements ratified in relation to chemical control. (Mercury Action Plan, 2008)



Identification of priorities for an action plan

- **Priority Categories**

- Use of product containing mercury
- Management of mercury wastes
- Use of mercury in artistic and religious rituals

- n **Related Problems**

- n Quantification of the inputs (import and use)
- n Specifications of the products containing it
- n Lack of awareness of the risks for both users and the public
- n Final disposal



Action Plan

Goal of the Plan

- Protecting health and environment from the risks of mercury

Plan's purpose

- Strengthen the integrated risk management of mercury in the Republic of Panama



Strategy objectives

- Strengthen the national legal framework regarding the import, sale and use of mercury.
- Improving mechanisms for register, sharing and dissemination of information of the inventory of mercury.
- Assist efforts to optimize the management of waste and hazardous waste, particularly mercury.
- Raise awareness and capacity building of stakeholders on the risks associated with the use and disposal of mercury.



Objectives	Products	Indicators	Activities
1. Strengthen the national legal framework with regard to the import, sale and use of mercury.	Importation and use of inputs that contains reduced mercury	Legal instrument approved and published in the Official Gazette	1.1 Development, adoption and implementation of regulations that control the importation and use of consumer products containing mercury
	Use of mercury-containing products in artistic and religious activities	Legal instrument approved and published in the Official Gazette	1.2 Development, adoption and implementation of legislation prohibiting the sale and use of mercury or consumer products containing it in artistic and religious activities
	National management plan of mercury's risks implemented	Legal instrument approved and published in the Official Gazette	1.3 Establishing commitments and coordination of the responsible group (government institutions, companies) for managing risks of mercury through a legal instrument
2. Improve mechanism for recording, sharing and dissemination of information of mercury inventory	An initiated national PRTR	Meeting Acts, workshop reports	2.1 Assistance to efforts to establish a national PRTR
	Suitable instrumental mercury Institutionalized inventory of mercury	Suitable documents measuring instruments, published and available	2.2 Fitness of the measurement instrumentation and institutionalization of mercury inventory
	Optimized national environmental information systems	Alternative information systems built with embedded variables of mercury	2.3 Identify and harmonize with other environmental information systems and/or existing databases (INEE, SIA) to incorporate and exchange relevant data on mercury

3. Contribute efforts to the optimization of integrated waste management and hazardous waste, particularly from mercury	Optimized hazardous waste disposal	Number of industries and institutions in the collection and recycling program for fluorescent lamps Amount (in units or weight) collected and recycled	3.1 Development of a pilot program for the collection and recycling of lamps
	Environmental impact caused by mercury in landfills and reduced dumps	Number of hospitals and clinics free of mercury	3.2 Implementation of a pilot program for mercury free hospitals promoting collection and temporary storage and sound disposal of mercury, as well as use of mercury free products.
4. Raise awareness and capacity building of stakeholders of the risks associated with the use and disposal of mercury	Stakeholders informed and aware	Number and type of informative material Number of NGOs, industries involved in the issue	4.1 Development of a raise awareness campaign on mercury for the different stakeholders, including preparation and dissemination of informative materials (brochures, guidelines, videos, etc.)
	A trained institutional sector	Number of trained officials	4.2 Development and management of a capacity building program on mercury addressed to institutions

Strategy for institutionalizing mercury's issue

Goal: to reduce mercury emissions by different sources over a period of six years.

Objective 1: to institutionalize a systematic and periodic register of major sources of mercury pollution in the framework of a national PRTR, enabling decision making for a proper and comprehensive management of mercury pollution.

Objective 2: disseminate to relevant stakeholders (public in general, private sector and government institutions) information about the risks of mercury and alternatives for control and/or elimination.





Thank you!