



PRO-BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATIONISTS IN UGANDA (PROBICOU)

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Website: www.probiodiversity.org

Our Ref: 02/PROBICOU-UNEP/08

Date: August 26, 2008

Your Ref:.....

The Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch,

Dear Sir/ Madam;

Re: Letter of Support to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership:

My name is Muyambi Ellady. I work with Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU) as the Finance and Administration/ Biodiversity Conservation Officer. PROBICOU is a non for profit non governmental organization and has mainly three Programme areas; that is; - biodiversity conservation, waste management and chemical management. It is a member of the Global Partnership for Mercury Reductions in Products.

Uganda being a developing country is experiencing difficulty in the area of chemical management and safety. Many industrial products/chemicals that contain mercury are being imported into the country but very little is known about them. These include paints, household appliances, electronics, batteries, automobile switches, medical equipments, fungicides, thermometers, among others. In fact, Uganda does not only use but also produce products that contain mercury.

In Uganda, Mercury is also used historically in schools' laboratories. Many school laboratories still have containers of mercury or mercury compounds in storage such as thermometers, barometers and elemental mercury which is used to demonstrate the concept of density and various mercuric salts are used in chemical experiments. In classrooms and other facilities, there are also mercury-containing thermostats, silent wall switches and fluorescent light bulbs. These fluorescent light bulbs became more increasingly used because they were encouraged by the government after an increase in the price of electricity. Thus, the government encouraged them as light saving bulbs.

In medical rooms, mercury is found in thermometers and blood pressure measuring devices which normally contain several grams of mercury. There are also certain nasal sprays and contact lens solutions that contain thimerosal, phenyl mercuric acetate, or, phenyl mercuric nitrate. Topical disinfectants contain mercurochrome or tincture of mertiolate. All these compounds have mercury in them and have mercury free alternatives.

All these products are not properly managed. They are spread far and wide by air, water or humans. Uganda is endowed with a diversity of natural resources and therefore these mismanaged industrial mercury products do not only compromise the quality of life but also destroy the ecological structure and human substance basis. The most economically incapacitated (poor), women and children and people with depressed immune systems such as HIV/AIDS patients are susceptible from such products.

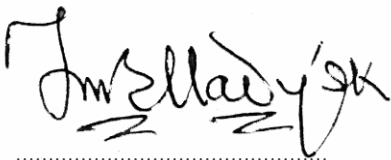
The purpose of this letter therefore is to express our organization's commitment in contributing to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership as well 2002

sustainable ecology and environment are fundamental factors for continued civilized existence on earth

Johannesburg World Summit on sustainable development: *“by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health”*. Our Organization hereby commits itself to contribute to this goal by;-

- Creating public awareness about the need to reduce global mercury releases to air, water, or land that may occur during manufacturing and industrial processes and during the disposal or recycling of mercury -added products and wastes.
- Advocating for an effective global mercury control regime that should be accomplished through the adoption of a legally binding instrument that requires all countries to work together.
- Creating public awareness on the need to reduce mercury in products or specific product supply chains in Uganda such as the health sector, battery manufacturing, and in other sectors where mercury is used.
- Improving awareness and information exchange on non-mercury substitutes and effective regulatory or voluntary approaches to reducing mercury use in products.
- Developing and improving product inventories, mercury use inventories, and other databases that help government officials and other stakeholders to understand and track mercury uses and releases.
- Developing or implementing technical models and protocols for mercury reduction by applying best management practices for reducing releases from product manufacturing.
- Exploring possibilities for economic and financial incentives as well as loans for technology conversion/ change over in order to reduce mercury in the waste stream from products used or manufactured;
- Providing economic and educational benefits to partners and the general public by promoting commercially competitive and environmentally responsible solutions for reducing the use of mercury added products.
- identifying where mercury is used in products and manufacturing sectors and implement effective strategies for promoting the use of feasible alternatives to mercury-added products, tracking reductions in mercury use, and addressing waste collected from products containing mercury.
- Increasing collaboration with key international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), World Business Council for Sustainable Development, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and encouraging as many stakeholders in Uganda as possible to be partners in reducing products that contain mercury.

Sincerely yours,



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ELLADY MUYAMBI

Finance & Administration/ Biodiversity Conservation.

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

This information sheet is intended to provide an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners. Further information is available at the following web address: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm>

What is the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

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

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership complements and supports the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3.

As of June 2008, the following partnership areas have been initiated:

- 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; and
- mercury waste management.

Other partnership areas are in the process of being considered and initiated.

What is the Overall Goal of the UNEP Global Mercury 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.

What does joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership mean for prospective partners?

- Supporting the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contributing resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities.
- Networking with other organizations/agencies/individuals addressing mercury issues.

How does an organization join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

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, and specifying how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Such letters should be submitted to:

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

In submitting this letter, UNEP asks partners to also complete the attached registration form. Participation to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP through a letter of confirmation. Your letter of support will be posted on the UNEP Chemicals web site.

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM *

Partnership Area	<p>Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> artisanal and small scale gold mining <input type="checkbox"/> mercury cell chlor alkali production <input type="checkbox"/> mercury air transport and fate research <input type="checkbox"/> mercury in products <input type="checkbox"/> mercury releases from coal combustion <input type="checkbox"/> mercury waste management <p>Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.</p>
Organization Name	Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU)
Name, Functional Title of Representative	Ellady Muyambi Finance & Administration /Biodiversity Conservation Officer
Address of Organization	Plot 181 Bombo Road, Crown House Building (Ku-Biiri) P.O Box 34407 Kampala, Uganda
Tel. No	+256-414-532676, +256-712-213888
Email	elladmuyambi@yahoo.com , e.muyambi@probiodiversity.org
Fax No.	+256-414-533384
Website/URL	www.probiodiversity.org
Type of Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Regional economic integration organization <input type="checkbox"/> Non-government Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific community <input type="checkbox"/> 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:

**Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch,
DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva,
Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail:
mercury@chemicals.unep.ch**