



ESTELLE LEVIN LTD

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7 December 2015

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland
E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

Re: UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Dear Head of UNEP Chemicals,

Estelle Levin Ltd. (ELL) is a UK registered consultancy, dedicated to the responsible sourcing of minerals and best practice artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). We work along mineral supply chains and around it, with donors, civil society, development agencies, governments, and interested businesses to better understand the challenges of ASM in fragile economies, and to develop the sector responsibly and impactfully.

We would like to contribute to the following area of the Global Mercury Partnership:

- Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining.

We have a global reach. ELL has conducted field work in 32 countries globally, undertaken desk-based research on 46 countries, and presently has associates in 16 countries, spanning 5 continents. Much of our work has been in Africa and we also have experience, associates, and networks in Latin America and Asia.

We understand that ASGM is an important and viable route for sustainable development, if undertaken responsibly. To achieve this, it is necessary to prevent environmental degradation and reduce the risks to the health of the miner through the depletion of mercury use in the amalgamation and separation of gold from the substrate, common to ASGM. We also appreciate the importance of formalising not just the ASGM activity, but the supply chains of gold that emanate from the mining activities, and we have expertise and experience in both areas. ELL are specialists in supply chain due diligence, to help clients drive improved social and environmental performance at every tier from mine to market.

ELL has worked to reduce the impact of ASM to the environment whilst supporting the livelihoods of the miners themselves. In collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), we initiated the ASM-PACE program to limit the environmental damage of small scale mining in protected areas and critical ecosystems. Conducting field based research in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Gabon, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Madagascar, and desk-based research in 30 other countries, we developed a Global Solutions Study and a Methodological Toolkit to mitigate the impacts of ASM on the environment, including mercury management.



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Furthermore, ELL has partnered various organisations to enable the development of certifications guaranteeing fair pay, environmental safeguards and responsible development of the sector. These include, amongst others, Fairtrade Gold, Fairmined Gold, and the Responsible Jewellery Council's Code of Practices and Chain of Custody Standard. In all of our work, we strive to protect the environment, the miners, and local communities from the harmful impacts of ASGM, including mercury. This is a core part of developing the mineral sector, and ensuring sustainable practice.

ELL is familiar with, and supportive to, the goals of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. We are committed to facilitating the reduction of the release of mercury by minimising its use in the ASGM sector. ELL would be proud to contribute to the global reach and potential impact of the UNEP GMP.

Detailed objectives of our commitment to the partnership are as follows:

- Supporting ASGM formalisation, including of gold supply chains;
- Improving controls over mercury supply chains;
- Coordinating teams of consultants and organisations for implementation of the Minimata Convention;
- Integrating mercury management due diligence into existing projects with ELL clients where appropriate and feasible;
- Integrating mercury use assessment and strategic planning into existing work with developing country governments, where applicable and feasible;
- Capacity building artisanal and small-scale miners and duty-bearers (government agents) to professionalise their activities, so increasing their ability to manage mercury use better and eventually eliminate it;
- Creating and using knowledge and impact networks or hubs to support GMP goals;
- Offering expertise to the UNEP GMP secretariat and network;
- Raising awareness about the Global Mercury Partnership and the impacts of mercury use in ASGM.

Attached to our letter is the Partnership Registration Form. ELL looks forward to a partnership with UNEP GMP.

Yours sincerely,

Estelle Levin,
Director, ELL



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

PARTNERSHIP AREA

Please check the partnership areas to which 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 mercury supply and storage
- mercury releases from the cement industry

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

ORGANIZATION NAME

Estelle Levin Ltd.

NAME, FUNCTIONAL TITLE OF REPRESENTATIVE

Estelle Levin-Nally, Director

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TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

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

*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:

