

National Action Plan on Primary Mercury Mining in Kyrgyzstan

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Kyrgyz Republic**

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International developments and national action

- UNEP Governing Council's decisions to address mercury have led to action in Kyrgyzstan;
- Kyrgyzstan has received international assistance from Switzerland, UNITAR, UNEP, the United States of America and Norway to-date, under the Global Mercury Partnership;
- These international developments have assisted the State Agency on Protection of Environment and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic to raise awareness in Kyrgyzstan about the global situation;

Action Plan development

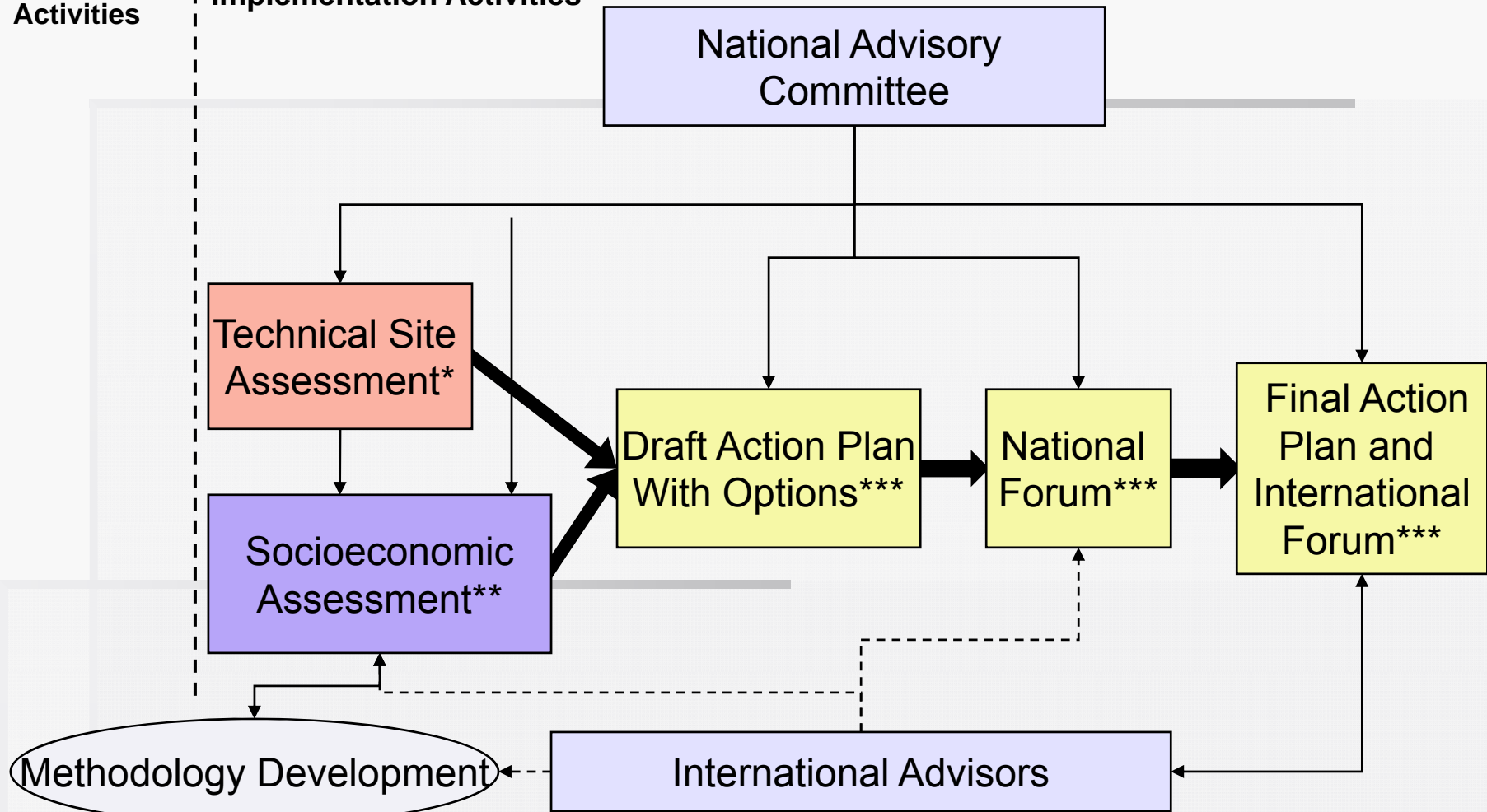
- In 2007, UNITAR approached the Kyrgyz Government regarding possibility of an Action Plan project;
- An April, 2008 mission to Kyrgyzstan from UNITAR, UNEP and Switzerland raised awareness about the project among government officials and other stakeholders;
- Memorandum of Agreement was signed between UNITAR and the Kyrgyz Government in August, 2008;
- The development of a technical assessment, socio-economic study and action plan commenced after that time;

Action Plan Development (cont'd)

- Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on March 10, 2009
#101-r: “An Inter-ministerial Working Group on developing of a Plan of measures on the issues of production of primary mercury and reduction of its impact on the environment in the Kyrgyz Republic”
- A series of interviews also took place among workers and residents of Khaidarkan

Preparatory
Activities

Implementation Activities



• National execution with support from UNEP

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*** National execution with support from UNEP and UNITAR

** National execution with support from UNITAR

Action Plan Development (cont'd)

Composition of Inter-Ministerial Working Group

- Lead Agency: State Agency on Protection of Environment and Forestry
- Key Ministries:
 - Ministry of Industry, Energy and Fuel Resources
 - State Agency on Geology and Mineral Resources
 - Ministry of Health
 - Ministry of Emergencies
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Ministry of Finance
 - Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
 - National Statistics Commission
 - Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
 - Batken Oblast Administration
 - Khaidarkan Mercury Mining Complex
 - Kyrgyz Mining Association
 - State Committee on State Property

Action Plan Goals

- Identify activities to eliminate the hazardous impact of the Khaidarkan mine on the environment;
- Elaborate, with the aim of improving the legal basis related to mining in Kyrgyzstan;
- Address issues related to the social and economic development of Khaidarkan community;
- Explore issues related to two options:
 - Upgrading and improvement of production or;
 - Reorientation of mercury mining activities at Khaidarkan towards to other less environmentally harmful economic activities
- Raise public awareness on the risks related to primary mercury production

Action Plan Development (cont'd)

- Technical and economical information summarized in Technical Assessment;
- Socio-Economic information also addressed;
- Action Plan followed methodology developed by UNITAR for country use;
- Draft Action Plan reviewed by Inter-Ministerial Working Group (July, 2009 National Forum);
- Action Plan officially endorsed by the Office of the Prime Minister on 12 October 2009

Main Results/Options

- The Action Plan recommended actions to lead to the consideration of closing the Khaidarkan Mine;
- Various options to facilitate the economic development and environmental/health protection in the community/region were also developed;

Main Results/Options

- These options include:
 - Development of lower seams of the “Novoye” deposit containing fluorite, antimony and some mercury;
 - Commissioning of a Cluster Gold Extracting Plant (GEP);
 - Production of cement from cinder resulting from mercury manufacture process;
 - Production of the gypsum building plaster;

Main Results/Options (cont'd)

- Bentonite Production;
- Assessment of an actual condition of the environment of territory of the Khaidarkan and the former mercury productions (Chuvay, Ulu-Too, etc.);
- Construction of a factory for fire-resistant bricks and magnesite powder production;
- Remediation of sludge sedimentation ponds and sediment bowls with high concentration of mercury containing wastes.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The Khaidarkan mine is faced with several pressures that put its future into question. These include:
 - Decreasing ore quality;
 - Limited resources;
 - Difficult conditions for mining mercury ore;
 - Awareness of developments at the international level on a legally binding instrument;

However, the Khaidarkan Plant Administration asks the Government to assistance and benefits in order to increase mercury production

Conclusions and Recommendations (cont'd)

- In light of these developments, a decision to address the future of the mine through the identification of alternatives has been made by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Alternatives have been developed for consideration by the international community for advice/support in an international forum in Bangkok in October 18, 2009;
- This international forum is a significant next step for ensuring the protection of the environment/human health from primary mercury mining;
- There was requested an assistance in recovering mercury-polluted and polluted with toxic metals mining areas such as Chauvay, Ulu-Too, Symap and Khaidarkan

THANK YOU!
Благодарю за внимание!