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Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area



Mercury Waste Management Partnership Area Meeting
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Purpose

- Describe the overall goals and structure, current efforts, lessons learned, and future opportunities of the Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area
- Highlight the nexus between the Products and Waste Management Partnerships
- Provide brief summary of global trends in supply, demand, and movement of mercury in products and processes
- Discuss potential solutions for long-term storage of mercury in the United States



UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

- Guided by UNEP Governing Council decisions 23/9 and 24/3
- U.S. strongly supports each of partnership efforts of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnerships
- The partnership approach aims for immediate, tangible mercury reductions and effective actions by leveraging:
 - Resources
 - Technical expertise
 - Technology transfer
 - Information exchanges



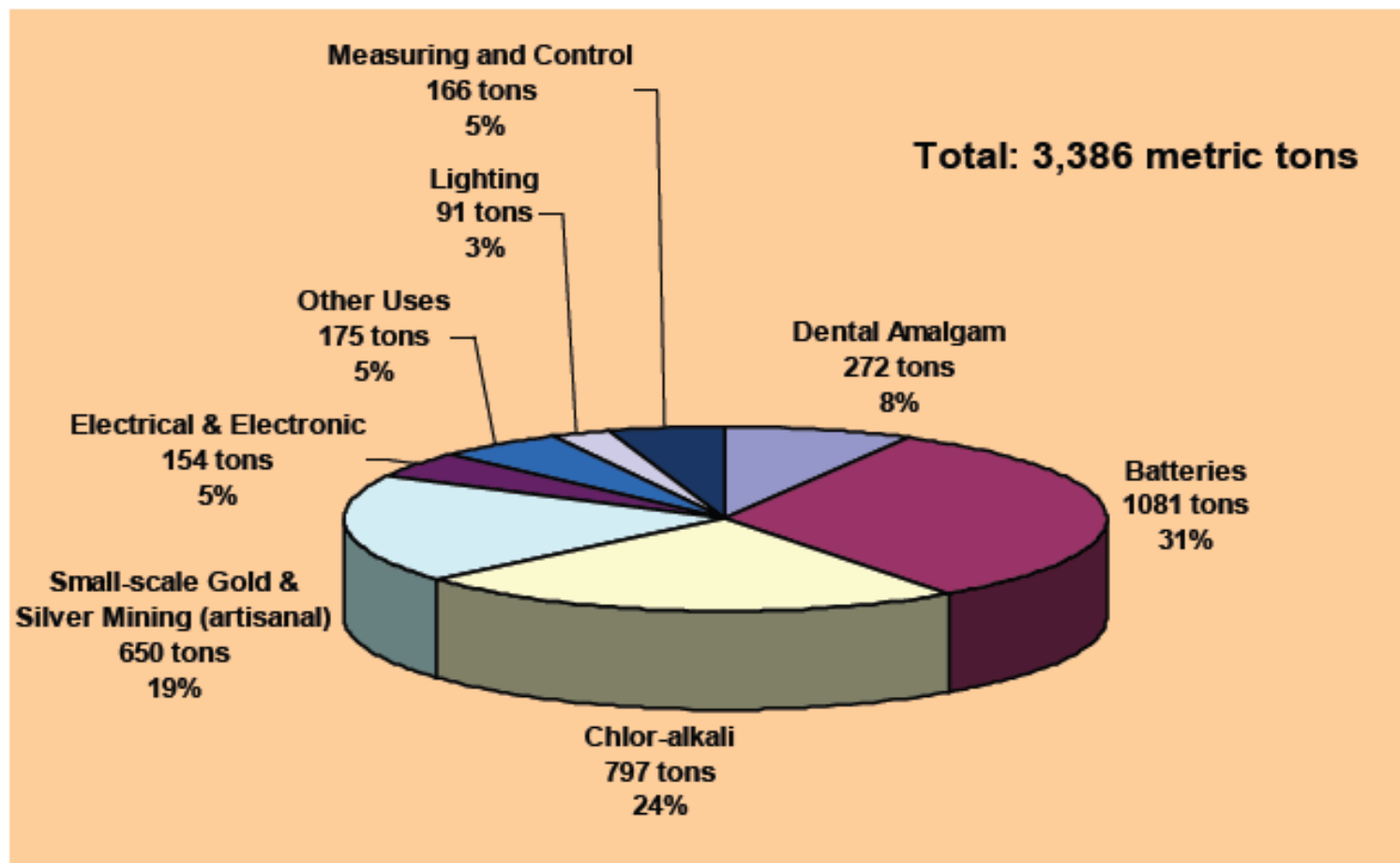
Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area

- Overall Objectives
 - To phase out and eventually eliminate mercury in products and to eliminate releases during manufacturing and other industrial processes via environmentally sound production, transportation, storage, and disposal procedures
 - To identify and implement successful approaches for reducing or eliminating mercury in products where there are effective substitutes



Global Demand in Products and Processes

Global Mercury Demand (2000)

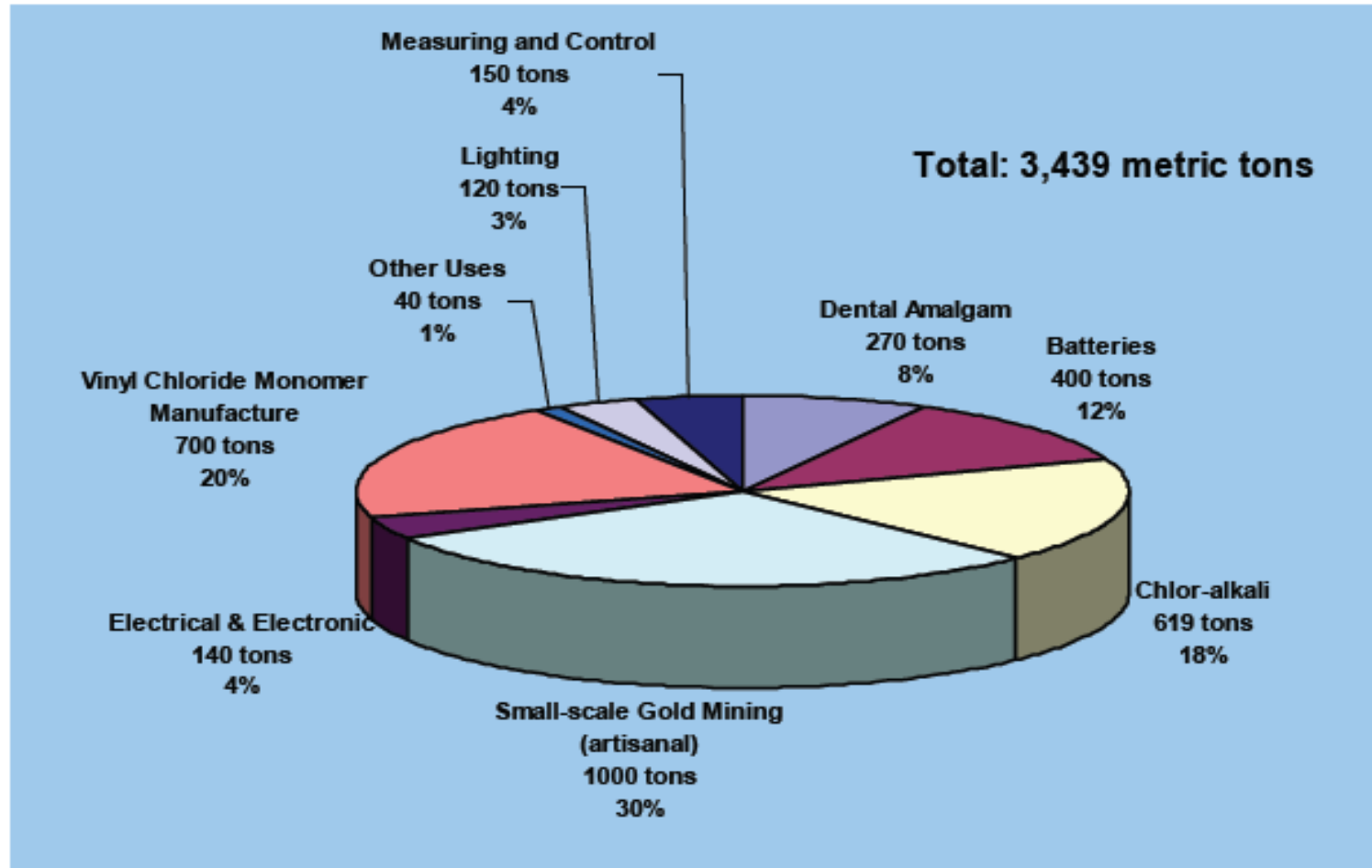


Maxson, P.A., 2004, Mercury Flows Report: Mercury Flows in Europe and the World, the Impact of Decommissioned Chlor-alkali Plants. European Commission. Accessible at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/mercury/pdf/report.pdf>.



Global Demand in Products and Processes (cont'd)

Global Mercury Demand (2005)





Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area (cont'd)

- Medium Term Objectives
 - Batteries
 - Measuring and control devices
 - Electrical and electronic equipment
 - Lighting
 - Dental amalgam
 - Other uses (paints, laboratory, pharmaceutical, cultural/traditional)



Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area (cont'd)

- Priority Actions

- Reduce global mercury demand related to use in products and production processes
- Encourage and implement use of best available technique (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) to reduce or eliminate mercury consumption and releases into the environment
- Promote substitution and support conversion to mercury free products and production processes
- Develop suitable alternatives to mercury-containing products where none currently are available and promote non-mercury technologies where feasible



Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area (cont'd)

- Priority Actions (cont'd)
 - Encourage and implement environmentally sound management of mercury waste, by following a lifecycle management approach
 - Increase knowledge on mercury inventories, human and environmental exposure to mercury, mercury environmental monitoring, and socio-economic impacts of mercury
 - Improve global awareness on mercury exposure, use, production, trade, disposal, and release through exchange and dissemination of information
 - Provide technical support to developing countries in making mercury-free products available at reasonable costs



Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area (cont'd)

- Project Period
 - Formed in February 2005 per UNEP GC Decision 23/9
 - Held global teleconferences in October 2007 and June 2008
 - Most recent update to Business Plan and Partnership Evaluation in February 2009
- Participants
 - Led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - Includes more than 20 members from Governments and non-governmental organizations



Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area (cont'd)

- Budget

– FY 2007-2008	\$1,383,774 USD
– TOTAL	\$4,387,524 USD

- Funding Sources

- Vary by individual projects

- Includes

- Comision Centroamericano de Ambiente y Desarrollo
- Health Care Without Harm
- North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation
- UNEP Mercury Trust Fund
- United States
- World Health Organization



Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area (cont'd)

- Major Activities
 - Health Care Facilities
 - Develop and implement mercury management plans and product inventories
 - Provide assistance, where possible, in achieving product substitution
 - Projects in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and India
 - Schools
 - Provide outreach and training for safe mercury and chemical management
 - Conduct “train the trainer” workshops for governments, education officials, and students
 - Projects in Cambodia, the Philippines, and Thailand
 - Inventories and Risk Management
 - Develop local, national, and regional mercury emissions and products inventories
 - Provide outreach and planning for risk management strategies
 - Projects in Latin America and Africa



Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area (cont'd)

- Major Activities (cont'd)
 - Retirement, Collection, and Management
 - Represent nexus between mercury product and waste management
 - Focus on waste management from hospitals and health care facilities
 - Many countries lack infrastructure to deal with mercury waste
 - Led to collaboration with the Basel Convention Secretariat
 - Seek to engage in “lifecycle” management of mercury
 - Provide outreach to develop and incorporate plans for environmentally safe management for retired mercury-containing products
 - Projects in Latin America and the Russian Federation



Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area (cont'd)

- Lessons Learned
 - Strengths
 - Active and growing membership
 - Global recognition of the effectiveness of stemming mercury-containing product use and waste throughout the product lifecycle
 - Weaknesses
 - Finding appropriate mechanisms to provide tangible assistance to achieve product substitution or to develop storage and disposal solutions
 - Keys to Success
 - Responding to dynamic trends and goals in global efforts to address mercury in products
 - Drawing upon the expertise and insights of partners and interested parties to shape new projects and goals



Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area (cont'd)

- Opportunities
 - Expand efforts for health care and other sectors as particular product demand trends and interest from partners dictate
 - Coordinate with the Mercury Waste Management Partnership Area to enhance product lifecycle solutions and synthesize product and waste objectives



Long-Term Storage – United States

- Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008
 - Bans the export of elemental mercury generated in the United States after 2013
 - Immediately bans the conveyance, sale, or distribution of elemental mercury by U.S. Government (USG) entities, except for the sole purpose of long-term storage
 - Requires USG to designate and manage an elemental mercury long-term disposal facility for elemental mercury generated within the United States by 2013
- National Action
 - USG stores approximately 5,600 metric tons of elemental mercury; this mercury must remain in storage
 - USG is required to provide long-term storage facility for mercury from private and public individuals and organizations in the United States
 - The proposed facility must be available when export ban goes into effect; physical arrangements, monitoring, and other aspects of storage will be patterned after strict EPA standards for management of hazardous waste
 - Storage will be voluntary, but the government will charge a fee to store the mercury and accept liability
 - USG has begun the process of finding a location for the storage site
 - The public, including local and State governments, must approve the storage site



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