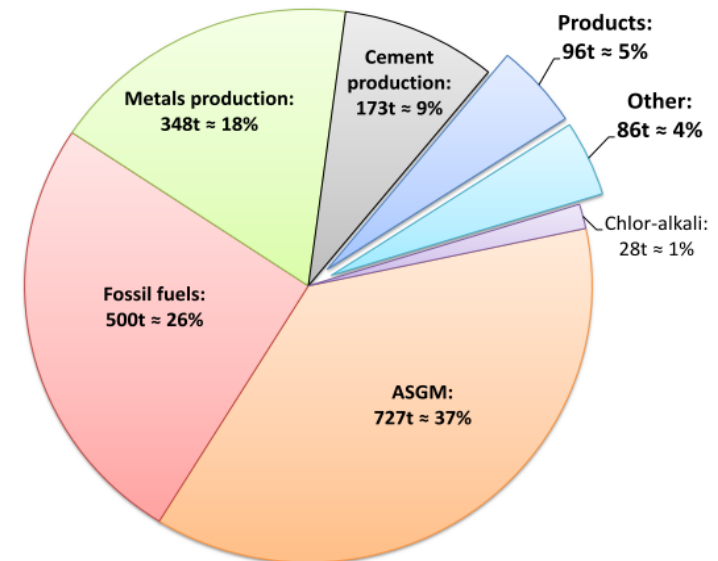


# ASGM IN THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

“...to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.”

David Piper, UNEP DTIE Chemicals Branch  
2nd Global Forum on ASGM  
Lima, Peru 3 to 5 September 2013

Anthropogenic Hg Emissions to Air (2010 estimates)



# Relevant Articles

## Article 2. Definitions

(a) “Artisanal and small-scale gold mining” means gold mining conducted by individual miners or small enterprises with limited capital investment and production;

(k) “use allowed” means any use by a Party ...consistent with this convention including... Articles 3,4,5,6 and 7

## Article 7. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

1. “... shall apply to artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing **in which mercury amalgamation is used to extract gold from ore.**”

## Annex C. ASGM; National action plans

# Other Articles of relevance:

- 3: Mercury supply sources and trade**
- 10: Environmentally sound interim storage, other than waste mercury**
- 11: Mercury wastes**
- 12: Contaminated sites**
- 16: Health aspects**
- 17: Information exchange,**
- 18: Public information, awareness and education**
- 19: Research, development and monitoring**
- 20: Implementation plans**
- 21: Reporting**

## Also

- 13: Financial resources and mechanism**
- 14: Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer**

# Article 7: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

2. **Each Party** that has artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to this Article within its territory shall **take steps to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, such mining and processing.**





## Article 7: (cont.)


3. **Each Party shall notify the Secretariat** if at any time the Party determines that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in its territory is **more than insignificant**. If it so determines the Party shall:

(a) **Develop and implement a national action plan in accordance with Annex C;**

(b) **Submit its national action plan to the Secretariat no later than three years after entry into force of the Convention for it or three years after the notification to the Secretariat, whichever is later; and**

(c) **Thereafter, provide a review every three years of the progress made in meeting its obligations under this Article and include such reviews in its reports submitted pursuant to Article 21.**

## Article 7: (cont.)

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4. Parties may **cooperate** with each other and with relevant intergovernmental organizations and other entities, as appropriate, to achieve the objectives of this Article. Such cooperation may include:
    - (a) **Development of strategies** to prevent the diversion of mercury or mercury compounds for use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing;
    - (b) **Education, outreach and capacity-building initiatives;**
    - (c) **Promotion of research into sustainable non-mercury alternative practices;**
    - (d) **Provision of technical and financial assistance;**
    - (e) **Partnerships to assist in the implementation of their commitments under this Article; and**
    - (f) **Use of existing information exchange mechanisms** to promote knowledge, best environmental practices and alternative technologies that are environmentally, technically, socially and economically viable.

# Annex C: ASGM National action plans

1. Each Party that is subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 7 shall include in its national action plan:

a) **National objectives and reduction targets;**

b) **Actions to eliminate:**

(i) **Whole ore amalgamation;**

(ii) **Open burning of amalgam or processed amalgam;**

(iii) **Burning of amalgam in residential areas; and**

(iv) **Cyanide leaching in sediment, ore or tailings to which mercury has been added without first removing the mercury;**



c) **Steps to facilitate the formalization or regulation of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector;**

d) **Baseline estimates of the quantities of mercury used and the practices employed in artisanal and small scale gold mining and processing within its territory;**

# ASGM National action plans (cont.)

## Strategies for

- (e) **Promoting the reduction of emissions and releases of, and exposure to, mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing, including mercury-free methods;**
- (f) **Managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury and mercury compounds from both foreign and domestic sources to use in artisanal and small scale gold mining and processing;**
- (g) **Involving stakeholders in the implementation and continuing development of the national action plan;**
- (h) **A public health strategy on the exposure of artisanal and small-scale gold miners and their communities to mercury. Such a strategy should include, inter alia, the gathering of health data, training for health-care workers and awareness-raising through health facilities;**
- (i) **Strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining;**
- (j) **Strategies for providing information to artisanal and small-scale gold miners and affected communities; and**
- (k) **A schedule for the implementation of the national action plan.**



A vertical strip of seven small images on the left side of the slide. From top to bottom: a small plant growing from a mound of earth; a field of wind turbines; a modern building facade; a woman shopping in a supermarket; a circular inset showing a person working; a group of people in a meeting; and a close-up of a patterned fabric.

## ASGM National action plans (cont.)

2. Each Party may include in its national action plan additional strategies to achieve its objectives, including  
**the use or introduction of standards for mercury-free artisanal and small-scale gold mining and market-based mechanisms or marketing tools.**



**THANK YOU!**

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/>  
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[metals.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:metals.chemicals@unep.org)

