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United Nations Environment Programme
Palais des Nations
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
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E-mail: metals@un.org
VIA EMAIL

Berlin, February 24th, 2022

Support letter – Global Mercury Partnership

Dear Madams and Sirs,

Our team at BlackForest Solutions GmbH (BFS) warmly greets you and addresses you with this letter to express our intent to join and collaborate with the Global Mercury Partnership on the topic of mercury waste management. After a brief introduction of our team and scope of work, examples of our projects involving emergency response to mercury contamination, ESM of mercury wastes, as well as capacity building shall follow. Our current involvement in other networks and proposal for collaboration and support are also briefly stated below.

BFS is a company specialized in hazardous waste management, based in Berlin, Germany. Our projects include technical consultancy and transboundary shipment of hazardous wastes under the Basel Convention. Within the consultancy framework, our team's activities involve developing feasibility studies, national or regional master plans for ministries, bankable business model creation, capacity building, training, and information dissemination initiatives. With regards to transfrontier shipments of hazardous waste, BFS offers classification, handling, collection, transport, and disposal of hazardous waste in accordance with all necessary national and international regulations.

Our team inter alia carried out an emergency response project in 2017, where contamination with liquid mercury occurred at Dubai Airport (the world's second-largest airport); in response, the implementation of a security concept, spillage cleaning, followed by the repackaging, safe intermediate storage, and export under ADR/IMDG and Basel Convention agreement regulations (road and sea transportation regulation) for the disposal of waste in an ESM took place. A second example involving transboundary movement of mercury waste from the gold mining sector in Guatemala took place in 2020: BFS, together with its local partner Repelsa, offered the A-Z disposal service of the wastes in question (for the first time in Guatemalan history).

Finally, from a consultancy perspective, in 2021, our team inter alia carried out a project for Caricom, an organization integrating twenty states in the Caribbean, to support enforcement and compliance of the Minamata Convention. One of the project's targets was to achieve environmentally sound management and the safe disposal of mercury and mercury-added products by training relevant stakeholders. Our projects take social aspects very seriously and our team firmly believes in awareness raising and knowledge as an essential part of empowerment.

Our team actively engages in a PREVENT Waste Alliance working group, association initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The group's focus for the past semester and upcoming year is on the Basel Convention. We have started to exchange our experiences and services concerning the transboundary movement of hazardous waste with the working group. A recent development is we are trying to find joint approaches with a specific group member to find an economical and environmental sound solution for the disposal of hazardous waste in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our organization's values and scope of work align adequately with the GMP's objectives; therefore, we would like to contribute with our expertise to activities in the "Mercury waste management" area. As described above, our team has international experience in projects ranging

from disposal to awareness creation and training. We believe our technical focus in projects can be valuable to the GMP network and are very eager to address mercury issues worldwide.

We are looking forward to your positive response and beginning collaboration with the Partnership.

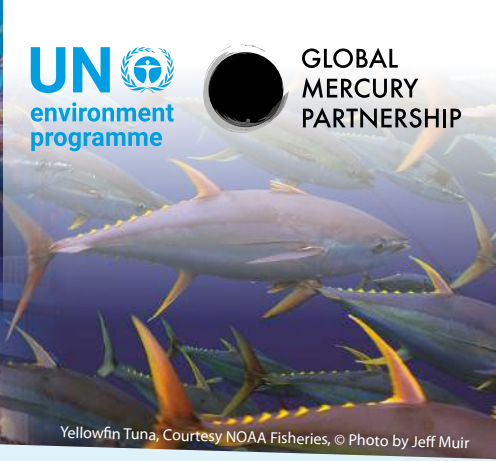
Yours sincerely,



Aurora Ríos Islas, Project Development
BlackForest Solutions GmbH



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP



Yellowfin Tuna, Courtesy NOAA Fisheries, © Photo by Jeff Muir

PARTNERSHIP AREAS

Please check the partnership area(s) 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 releases from the cement industry

> Please specify in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the selected partnership area(s).

ORGANIZATION APPLYING TO BECOME A PARTNER

Name of Organization:

Type of Organization:

- Government
- Intergovernmental Organization
- Non-governmental Organization

- Industry
- Academia
- Other, please specify

Mailing Address:

Postcode:

City:

Country:

E-mail:

Telephone:

Website:

ORGANIZATION'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Ms.

First Name:

Last Name:

Functional Title:

Section / Department:

E-mail:

* 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 its 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, Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division United Nations Environment Programme

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