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### Latest news from the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership - April 2020 (Newsletter #1)

As the world is facing an unprecedented crisis, we would like to express our heartfelt thoughts to all affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

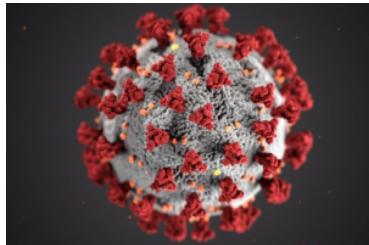
We are pleased to share with you the first edition of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Newsletter, which will provide you with latest highlights, upcoming events - such as the launch this month of experts consultations on mercury from oil and gas as well as non-ferrous metals mining and smelting - new partners and resources developed by Partnership areas and partners.

With our best wishes,

The Secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

## HIGHLIGHTS

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**Monitoring the impacts of Covid-19 on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM)**  
Covid-19 is having profound impacts throughout the world. What's happening to ASGM miners, their communities, and the country project teams of the GEF-funded planetGOLD programme?



**Partnership Advisory Group 10th meeting (Geneva, November 2019)** discussed amongst others future priority actions, outreach, awareness-raising, and the revision of the Partnership Overarching Framework.



**Group** Ms. Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand) and Mr. Rodges Ankrah (Environmental Protection Agency, USA) have been appointed for the next 2-year term.



**Minamata Convention COP3 (Geneva, November 2019)** called for cooperation with the Partnership on customs codes and ASGM tailings, and invited submissions in preparation for COP4 (Indonesia, November 2021). In view of Covid-19, certain deadlines have been extended.



**ASGM Partnership area reviewed outcome of Minamata Convention COP3** including in relation to the revision of the ASGM national action plans guidance and ASGM tailings, and discussed GEF-funded planetGOLD programme.



**4th round of applications under the Special Programme** to support institutional strengthening for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, Minamata Convention and SAICM. Deadline for submission is extended to 4 September 2020.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARTNERS

**Centre Africain pour la Santé Environnementale  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
International Solid Waste Association  
Licata Energy & Environmental Consultants, Inc.**

**SICK AG  
The Chambers Federation  
Uniper Technologies Ltd  
University of Florence - Department of Earth Sciences**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**gas – online kick off meeting on 23 April 2020**

(**1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. CET**) Interested partners and stakeholders are invited to initiate discussions with the overall objective to identify potential useful contributions from the Partnership.

**Expert consultations on mercury from non-ferrous metals mining and smelting – online kick off meeting on 29 April 2020 (1.00 p.m. to**

**2.30 p.m. CET**) Interested partners and stakeholders are invited to initiate discussions with the overall objective to identify potential useful contributions from the Partnership.



Themes for upcoming information-sharing webinars: Please take a few minutes to **respond to our online survey and tell us more about your interest and priority topics for future information-sharing webinars** to be convened by the Partnership.

## LATEST PUBLICATIONS / RESOURCES

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**PlanetGOLD programme** platform now available to learn more about the 45-million USD collaborative effort funded by the GEF to develop innovative models and support artisanal and small-scale gold miners improve their livelihoods while reducing mercury use.



**Defining the road ahead: challenges and solutions for developing and implementing national action plans to reduce mercury use in ASGM**  
Insightful report by UNEP on African countries experiences shared at 2019 regional workshop in Eswatini.



**2020 Catalogue of technologies and services on mercury waste management**  
prepared by the Partnership area on Mercury Waste Management, selection of solutions by partners for the sound management of mercury waste.

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[Artisanal and small-scale gold mining](#)

[Mercury releases from coal combustion](#)

[Mercury air transport and fate research](#)

[Mercury waste management](#)

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Our mailing address is:

Secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership  
Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix  
Geneva 1211  
Switzerland

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