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**Letter of support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership**

15. September 2023

Dear Jacqueline Alvarez,

With this letter of support, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany, would like to express its commitment to join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

GEOMAR explores the global ocean from the seafloor to the atmosphere to understand the ocean system and to enable the development of sustainable solutions to pressing societal issues. With our research and our commitment to transfer of knowledge and technology, we contribute to preserving the function of the ocean and safeguarding it for future generations.

One of GEOMAR's strategic instruments are the Integrative Research Foci (IRFs), which address relevant societal challenges via integrating expertise across all research areas at GEOMAR. One IRF is dedicated to Metals in the Ocean (<https://www.geomar.de/en/research/irf/metals-in-the-ocean>). In this context, our main interests are the release, transport and fate of mercury in the marine environment, via the atmosphere, rivers, sediments, hydrothermal vents and deep-sea mining activities. We are also interested in processes associated with the uptake of Hg by biota, such as toxicity and bioaccumulation and mercury as dietary tracer in deep-sea foodwebs, in particular in mid trophic levels and invertebrates to study biomagnification, and also in the context of benthopelagic coupling

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GEOMAR would be delighted to join forces and stands ready to support the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership to accelerate the development of sound scientific information on the global mercury cycle and its patterns, which is one of the priority actions the “Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research” partnership area. As such we are prepared to strengthen the monitoring of mercury in the marine environmental and contribute with our research to a better understanding of the biological and biogeochemical pathways of mercury in the ocean.

We believe that the mission and vision of GEOMAR, and specifically the IRF Metals in the Ocean, align very well with the goals and priorities of the UNEP Mercury Partnership, and thus a beneficial partnership can be created to work together to protect human health and the environment. Hence, we, as team GEOMAR, would be very pleased to receive confirmation to become a member of this partnership.

To facilitate effective communication within the cooperation, we have appointed Prof. Dr. Sylvia Sander ([ssander@geomar.de](mailto:ssander@geomar.de)), Helmholtz Distinguished Professor for Marine Mineral Resources, as the point of contact. Prof. Dr. Sander has been involved in the Minamata Convention and the Global Mercury Partnership in the past, while working for the Environmental Laboratories of the IAEA.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. K. Matthes



# UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

## INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

This information sheet provides an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners. Further information is available at:

[www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/](http://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/)

### GOAL OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is to protect human health and the global environment from the releases of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land.

### PARTNERSHIP AREAS

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship between various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve its goal.

Initiated in 2005<sup>1</sup>, the Partnership today focuses its work on supporting timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; on providing state of the art knowledge and science on mercury; and on delivering outreach and awareness raising towards global action on mercury.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/9

The Partnership is structured around eight areas:

- 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

### OUR PARTNERS

Over 240 partners from governments, IGOs, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions:

- Support the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contribute resources or expertise to the development and implementation of Partnership activities.
- Network with other organizations, agencies, entities and individuals addressing mercury issues.

### BECOMING A PARTNER

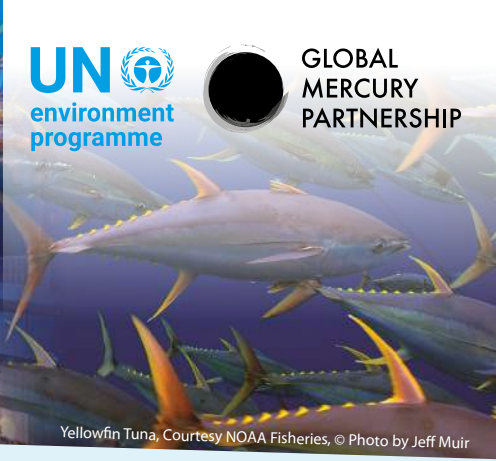
To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal. The letter should also specify how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the Partnership.

Together with this letter, UNEP requests interested entities or individuals to also complete and submit the registration form (see reverse). Participation in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP. Partners' letters of support will be made public through the UNEP's website.

### SUPPORT LETTER AND REGISTRATION FORM SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO:

**Head, Chemicals and Health Branch  
Industry and Economy Division  
United Nations Environment Programme**  
Palais des Nations  
8-14 avenue de la Paix  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
E-mail: [metals@un.org](mailto:metals@un.org)

# 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 releases from coal combustion

Mercury cell chlor-alkali production

Mercury waste management

Mercury air transport and fate research

Mercury supply and storage

Mercury in products

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 / private sector
- Academia / scientific institution
- 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:

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