



Global Mercury Partnership  
1<sup>st</sup> Waste Management Area meeting in 2024

---

11 March 2024



Opening remark

---



Progress since the last WMA meeting

---

Outcome of the Minamata COP5



# Outcome of 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

---

Global Mercury Partnership Waste Management Area Meeting, 11 March 2024

Secretariat of the Minamata convention

# Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties



## Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-5)

Geneva, Switzerland, 30 Oct 2023 - 03 Nov 2023



More than 800  
participants and 115  
Parties represented

21 decisions  
adopted

## COP-5 Decisions

- ❖ 5/1: The effects of mercury pollution on Indigenous Peoples and on local communities
- ❖ 5/2: Mercury supply sources and trade
- ❖ 5/3: Study of the global supply, trade and use of mercury compounds
- ❖ 5/4: Amendments to annexes A and B
- ❖ 5/5: Preparation of a report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- ❖ 5/6: Information on the Economic and Technical Feasibility of Mercury-Free Catalysts in VCM Production
- ❖ 5/7: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- ❖ 5/8: Mercury emissions
- ❖ 5/9: Guidance on BAT/BEP to control releases
- ❖ 5/10: Mercury waste thresholds
- ❖ 5/11: Review of the financial mechanism
- ❖ 5/12: Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer
- ❖ 5/13: National reporting
- ❖ 5/14: First effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- ❖ 5/15: Gender action plan
- ❖ 5/16: Knowledge management
- ❖ 5/17: Contribution of the Minamata Convention to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- ❖ 5/18: Enhanced international cooperation and coordination
- ❖ 5/19: Cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the BRS secretariat
- ❖ 5/20: Programme of work and budget for 2024-2025
- ❖ 5/21: Dates and venue of COP-6

Compilation of decisions available from [Convention website](#).

[Follow-up letter](#) sent to Parties and stakeholders.

## Decision MC-5/10: Establishment of mercury waste thresholds

- Decides to establish **15 mg/kg total concentration of mercury** as the **threshold for wastes contaminated with mercury**, subject to the following:
  - A Party may, as an alternative to the threshold above, use a different approach to determine whether a given waste is a waste contaminated with mercury, provided that that Party has documented waste management measures in place to protect human health and the environment, including measures to ensure that mercury waste is managed pursuant to Article 11(3), and also including measures to identify mercury waste using approaches such as those based on national definitions of mercury wastes or hazardous wastes, listing approach, hazardous characteristics or risk considerations, leachate thresholds or total concentration thresholds.
  - A Party making use of this alternative approach is to submit to the secretariat its documented waste management measures as described above.
- Requests the Secretariat to maintain a public register of the information submitted in accordance with above.
- Invites Parties and relevant stakeholders to submit to the Secretariat any scientific and regulatory data and information on the effectiveness of the threshold in protecting human health and the environment, as well as on challenges and experiences related to its use, for consideration at COP-7.
- Invites Parties to use the guidance document on the test methods for the tier-2 threshold for tailings from mining other than primary mercury mining as set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/13.

# Mercury waste thresholds



## Minamata Convention Article 11

2. For the purposes of this Convention, mercury wastes means substances or objects:

- (a) **Consisting of mercury or mercury compounds;**
- (b) **Containing mercury or mercury compounds;** or
- (c) **Contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds,**

in a quantity above **the relevant thresholds** defined by the COP, in collaboration with the relevant bodies of the Basel Convention in a harmonized manner, that are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law or this Convention.

## COP Decisions 3/5 and 5/10

**No threshold needs to be established for waste consisting of mercury,** and waste listed in Table 1 shall be regarded as such mercury waste.

**No threshold needs to be established for waste containing mercury,** and mercury-added products that are disposed of, are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of, including those listed in Table 2, will be regarded as such mercury waste;

COP established **15 mg/kg total concentration of mercury as the threshold for waste contaminated with mercury,** allowing Parties to use alternative approaches to define such waste.

**Table 1: List of mercury waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds**

- Recovered elemental mercury
- Elemental mercury
- Mercury (I) chloride and mercury (II) chloride
- Mercury (II) oxide (mercuric oxide)
- Mercury (II) sulfate (mercuric sulfate)
- Mercury (II) nitrate (mercuric nitrate)
- Cinnabar concentrate
- Mercury sulfide

**Table 2: Non-exhaustive list of waste containing mercury or mercury compounds**

- Non-electronic measuring devices containing mercury (barometers, hygrometers, manometers, thermometers, sphygmomanometers)
- Electrical and electronic switches, contacts, relays and rotating electrical connectors with mercury
- Fluorescent bulbs, high intensity discharge (HID) bulbs (mercury vapour bulbs, metal halide and high-pressure sodium bulbs), neon/argon lamps
- Batteries/accumulators containing mercury
- Biocides and pesticides containing mercury and their formulations and products
- Paints and varnishes containing mercury
- Pharmaceuticals containing mercury for human and veterinary uses, including vaccines
- Cosmetics and related products containing mercury
- Dental amalgam
- Scientific instrument used for the calibration of medical or scientific devices containing mercury



## Decision MC-5/10: Establishment of mercury waste thresholds (cont.)

- Invites Parties in a position to do so to provide support to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the identification, analysis and other elements of the environmentally sound management of mercury waste.
- Decides to consider at COP-7 whether any updates are necessary to the lists in tables 1, 2 and 3 of the annex to Decision MC-3/5, recognizing the request in paragraph 9 of that decision.
- Invites Parties to submit to the secretariat **by 31 October 2024** information regarding their waste management regulations and programmes as mentioned in Article 11(3)(a), with a focus on matters not addressed by the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines (UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.6/Rev.1).
- Requests the Secretariat to collect and organize the submitted information and distribute it to the parties by 1 January 2025.
- Invites Parties to review the submitted information in their preparations for COP.6
- Invites the Basel Convention COP to consider illegal traffic of mercury waste, as appropriate, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to ensure the protection of human health and the environment.
- Requests the Secretariat to transmit the present decision to the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention and to invite them to take the present decision into account, as appropriate.

Art. 11 (3)(a) Each Party shall take appropriate measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account the guidelines developed under the Basel Convention **and in accordance with requirements that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt in an additional annex in accordance with Article 27.** In developing requirements, **the Conference of the Parties shall take into account Parties' waste management regulations and programmes.**

COP-5 report para 123: With respect to the question of legal clarity pertaining to the relationship between the Basel and Minamata Conventions, the contact group had discussed different scenarios and found that Article 11(3)(c) was clear in setting out the applicable legal regime. Only one party to the Minamata Convention was not a party to the Basel Convention. As that one party traded with parties to the Basel Convention, Article 11(3)(c) was clear regarding the situation with that party. Even for parties that would take advantage of the alternative approach, which could lead parties with different mercury thresholds to trade with each other, Article 11(3)(c) made clear that the Basel Convention governed the transboundary movement of mercury waste under the Minamata Convention, and that the regime of the Basel Convention was able to deal with a situation in which the scope of the waste varied between the parties of import, export or transit under Article 6(5) of the Basel Convention. A party would therefore be able to refuse an import of mercury waste with a mercury content higher than what applied in its country. There was therefore no gap and no need for further action by COP-5.

## Capacity building on mercury trade, mercury-added products and mercury waste



- The Government of Switzerland supports the Secretariat to roll out online capacity building on mercury waste management, in cooperation with Basel Convention and the Global Mercury Partnership.
  - Development of capacity-building material in six languages
  - Webinar on mercury waste in six languages in Q4 2024.
  - Partners – BCRC Senegal, BCRC Argentina, BCRC China, Pro Mediu (NPO in Moldova) and PERSGA (Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden)
- Some GEF-funded projects have component on waste management (e.g. projects on [dental amalgam](#) and [medical devices](#))
- Specific International Programme (SIP) support parties in implementing Article 11.



Progress since the last WMA meeting

---

Outcome of the PAG meeting



© Juhana Ronkainen

**UNEP  
GLOBAL  
MERCURY  
PARTNERSHIP**

Meeting of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Area on Hg Waste Management

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

# Key outcomes of the PAG-14

## Update from the Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership

11 March 2024

UNEP EVENT

# Partnership Advisory Group Meeting 14

19 December 2023  
Online



Welcomed new co-chair: Bianca Hlob'sile Dlamini from Eswatini.

## New partners

Since PAG-13, 16 organizations had joined the Partnership, bringing to over 250 the total number of partners to date

Since PAG-14 – 2 more Partners:

- Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of **Ecuador**
- **Dentists Committee for a Mercury Free Africa**, NGO

## Key updates

### Mercury in products

#### WEBINAR - Phasing down the use of dental amalgam and managing its associated waste: from knowledge to action

18 December 2023  
Online



### Mercury cell chlor-alkali production

the Mexico GEF-funded project, aiming at converting two mercury cell facilities and support resulting **waste** management in the country - soon to be launched

### ICMGP

Opportunity to feature mercury waste topics through conference workshops and sessions.

### Mercury supply and storage

Further engagement with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on the solution exchange platform put in place under the **Waste Management Area**

### IOMC

continue organizing technical sessions in preparations for COP-6 - the next ones most likely being on **mercury waste and trade** related issues.

## Exploring opportunities for cross-cutting collaboration



### Trade and flow

- **Need for further** discussions on mercury compounds, including the identification of key mercury compounds, the potential trade of certain compounds that could be converted again in elemental mercury and other related issues

### Biodiversity, climate change and mercury

- **Explore further** use of mapping tools to visualize ASGM impacts on biodiversity, as well as the promotion of land restoration and tailings management for mine closure
- **Further explore** linkages between other mercury related sectors and biodiversity and climate change.

## Improving the overall effectiveness of the Partnership in moving forward



- **Co-leads** continue to coordinate the organisation of the partnership area meetings, including events initiated within their area of work.
- **Partnership areas** to identify financing opportunities to further support their activities, as well as develop communication materials to share relevant information among their partners.
- **The secretariat to** continue leading the organization of cross-cutting events, webinars and other activities, membership management, cross-cutting communication and outreach etc.
- **Partnership activities report** - synchronization of the reporting to the PAG with the reporting cycle to the COP meetings, with a reduced format for the intermediate year reporting.



In this new edition, learn more about recent and upcoming events, latest mercury-related publications and initiatives, including interactive tools and meet our new members. Good reading!

The Secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

### HIGHLIGHTS



**The 12th meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group on 11 and 14 March 2022** saw attendance of close to 100 participants to exchange on recent activities by Partnership Areas, key findings and next steps of the work on mercury from oil and gas and non-ferrous metals, as well as future priorities, including with respect to mercury flows and its impacts on biodiversity. [More info here.](#)



**Minamata COP4 (Bali, 21-25 March 2022)** closed with global commitment on effectiveness evaluation, new products for phase-out and gender mainstreaming. COP4.2 also adopted updated guidance on ASQM national action plans, now also covering tailings management. [See meeting report](#) and call for information in follow up to COP4.2 decisions.



**Basel Convention COP-15 (Geneva, June 2022)** adopted updated Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds. [Read more](#) about COP outcomes. The updated guidelines

The screenshot shows the homepage of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership website. It features a header with the organization's name and a navigation menu. The main content area is titled "Latest highlights" and includes several news items with images and brief descriptions. The items include: 1) A meeting in 2022 by UNEP Global Mercury Partnership to construct the first and second phases of the Global Mercury Partnership. 2) A webinar titled "Strengthening mercury research capacity in developing countries for science-based policy making" held on 30 June 2022. 3) The 15th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP) "Reducing Mercury Emissions to achieve a Greener World" held virtually from 25 to 29 July 2022. 4) The OECD Global Forum on Environment dedicated to Mercury on 7 and 8 November 2022. The page also features a "Mercury waste management Partnership Area" and a "Study report on Mercury from Non-ferrous Metals Mining and Smelting".



The **Mercury air transport and fate research Area** will meet on **29 June 2022, from 9:00 - 11:00 AM (EST)** in an online setting. [More information available on the event page.](#)



A webinar **Strengthening mercury research capacity in developing countries for science-based policy making** organized by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention will be held on **30 June from 2:00 to 3:00 pm CEST**. The event will introduce ongoing activities implemented by UNEP to assist scientists, researchers and policy makers.



The **15th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP)** "Reducing Mercury Emissions to achieve a Greener World" will be held virtually from **25 to 29 July 2022**. View programme for the Conference and preceding workshops (**18 to 22 July**).



**OECD Global Forum on Environment dedicated to Mercury on 7 and 8 November 2022** will focus on "Working towards the elimination of mercury while reducing its harmful impacts on human health and the environment". Event will be hybrid, with both in-person and online attendance options. Further details on the event page.



Listen to **Monika Stankiewicz**, Minamata Convention Executive Secretary, on the occasion of the **International Day for Biological Diversity** on the importance of mercury pollution on global biodiversity loss, and read [exploratory study on the interlinkages between the chemicals and waste MEAs and biodiversity.](#)



Read **WHO March 2022 first briefing note on oral health** focusing on **Prevention and treatment of dental caries with mercury-free products and minimal intervention and 2021 Report on the informal global WHO consultation with policymakers in dental public health.**



Check out **UNITAR's latest tools, guidelines and online courses on waste management and circular economy, sound management of chemicals and wastes and fundamentals on the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions.**

[VIEW ALL PUBLICATIONS >>](#)

### READ MORE ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP AREAS

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

[Mercury releases from coal combustion](#)

[Mercury air transport](#)

Reminder – Newsletter E-mailings

Opportunity to raise awareness and feature highlights by Partnership areas and partners, events, resources, etc.

New website: [Home](#) | [Global Mercury Partnership \(unep.org\)](#)

Currently updating PAs webpages, Business Plans and Factsheets



**Any question?**

**For further information and assistance,  
contact the Global Mercury Partnership  
Secretariat:**

[metals@un.org](mailto:metals@un.org)

**Thank you very much!**



## Planned activities for 2024

---

Update on upcoming ICMGP



**ICMGP 2024**  
CAPE TOWN • SOUTH AFRICA • 21 - 26 JULY

**From Minamata to Africa and Beyond:  
Addressing Mercury Challenges in Global Environment Change**





ICMGP 2024  
CAPE TOWN • SOUTH AFRICA • 21 - 26 JULY

[HOME](#) [WELCOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [REGISTRATION](#) [ABSTRACTS](#) [PROGRAMME](#) [TRADE](#) [NEWS](#) [TRAVEL](#) [CONTACT US](#)

21 - 26 JULY 2024 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

# ICMGP 2024



**Count Every Second  
Until The Conference.**

134 : 10 : 47 : 49  
Day(s) Hour(s) Minute(s) Second(s)

## 6 Plenaries

- Conference Theme  
*From Minamata to Africa and Beyond/CC*
- Policy:  
Effectiveness Evaluation
- ASGM
- Next Generation (3X 20 min Talks)  
New and emerging research
- Hg and Biodiversity
- Hg and Industry/Oil and Gas  
ESKOM and SASOL

## Program at a Glance

- Sessions starts @ 830am
- 6 Plenary Sessions during the week, 2 on Monday
- 3 Poster Session (Mo, Tue & Thu)
- Oral Sessions will be 15 min
- 4&5 Concurrent Sessions/
- Several Special Sessions

# WORKSHOPS taking place on Sunday 21 July

Presenter/s	Duration	Topic
<b>Koichi Haraguchi</b>	<i>3hrs</i>	Strengthening the Capacity for Research on Mercury in Low and Middle-Income Countries: Focusing on Vulnerable Populations
<b>Balaji Rao</b>	<i>3hrs</i>	Mercury characterization in Aquatic Sediments – Tools to evaluate Hg biogeochemistry and remedial strategies.
<b>Sofi Jonsson, David Amouroux</b>	<i>3hrs</i>	Perspectives on mercury compounds (de)methylation in the environments – Current knowledge gaps and future advances
<b>David Hunter</b>	<i>3hrs</i>	Mercury waste and contaminated sites – bringing solutions to communities
<b>David Evers, Kristin Eccles, Laurie Chan</b>	<i>3hrs</i>	Biomonitoring to achieve goals in Minamata Convention
<b>David Gay, Lynwill Martin, Alexandra Steffen, Guey-Rong Sheu</b>	<i>3hrs</i>	Air monitoring to achieve goals in Minamata Convention
<b>Rodges Ankrah, Eisaku Toda, and others (tbc)</b>	<i>3hrs</i>	Global Mercury Partnership areas addressing mercury
	<i>3hrs</i>	Minamata Convention activities to address mercury



# SPECIAL SESSIONS

**Special Session:** Mercury Pollution in Asia: Challenges, Impacts, and Solutions

**Special Session:** The Impact of Mercury Across the Oil and Gas Value Chain

**Special Session:** Implications of Mercury Contamination During the Decommissioning of Oil and Gas Infrastructure

**Special Session:** Mercury Research in the Southern Hemisphere

- Mercury at Contaminated Sites
- Fossil Fuel & Energy
- Mercury Control Technologies

**Special Session/Round Table Discussion:  
ICMGP Community contribution towards SPP**

# ICMGP and the GMP RELATIONSHIP

ASGM

Hg in Coal

Air Fate and Transport

Mercury cell chlor-alkali production

Mercury in products

Mercury waste management

Mercury supply and storage

Mercury releases from the cement industry

Oil & Gas

Non-Ferrous Metals



**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES**  
**31 MAR 2024**

**SEE YOU IN CAPE TOWN IN JULY**

***“The fairest Cape in all the world” Sir Francis Drake  
(1580)***



Post 2024 Activity of the WMA

---

# WMA Activity Plan (2022-2024) and objective of informal meeting

- WMA Activity Plan was developed to set prospective activities of the WMA from 2022 to 2024, taking into account the results of questionnaire survey to identify challenges on the management of mercury wastes.
- Three activity areas were identified as priority, and respective Working Groups were established.
  - Resource development
  - Capacity-building and awareness-raising
  - Solution exchange
- In moving forward to the “beyond 2024”, **future modalities of WMA’s work should be considered based on lessons learned from 2022-2024 activities.**

## UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Waste Management Area Activity Plan (2022-2024)

### I. Introduction

Initiated in 2005 by a decision of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council<sup>1</sup>, the Global Mercury Partnership (hereinafter referred to as the “Partnership”) is a voluntary initiative aimed to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land. The Partnership plays an important role in catalyzing global actions on mercury and offering information, capacity-building and awareness raising in support of implementation of the Minamata Convention. The Partnership is structured around eight priorities for action or so-called “Partnership Areas”, amongst which one dedicated to the environmentally sound management (ESM) of mercury wastes is the Mercury Waste Management Area (WMA).

According to Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) reports, many developing countries recognize that management of mercury wastes is one of the most prominent challenges to be prioritized for actions. For the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention, ensuring the ESM of mercury wastes, particularly in developing countries is essential where the WMA can contribute at the global, national and local level.

As of August 2021, the WMA consists of more than 100 Partners, including from governments, inter-governmental organizations, civil societies, private sectors, scientific communities and others. The WMA is currently co-led by Dr. Misuzu Asari, Kyoto University and Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ). Since its establishment in 2008, the WMA has undertaken various activities to promote the ESM of mercury wastes with its previous objective<sup>2</sup> until the end of 2021 and the updated one afterwards:

*To promote the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes by developing and disseminating relevant materials, enhancing capacities and awareness and providing specific solutions at the global, regional, national, and local levels.*

Following priority actions were identified under the current objective:

- a. **Identify and disseminate measures to prevent the generation of and promote environmentally sound source separation, storage, collection, transportation, treatment and disposal techniques and practices for different kinds of mercury wastes, taking into account the variety of technological and socio-economic circumstances in different countries.**

# Planned WGs Activities in the current Activity Plan

## WG1



### Resource development

- Mapping of facilities related to mercury wastes treatment facilities
- Digitalization of the Catalogue on wastes technologies and services
- Development of factsheets on ESM of specific types of mercury wastes
- Other training materials, if any

## WG2



### Capacity-building & Awareness-raising

- Webinars together with other Partnership areas
- Compilation and sharing of case studies with lessons learned, successful factors and challenges
- Workshop for scientists and practitioners

## WG3



### Solution exchange

- Developing/operationalizing a platform for matchmaking between stakeholders in need and resource-holders

# Achievements of the WG1 and lessons learned (note by the WMA secretariat)



## Achievements

- Developed the template and list of wastes for prioritization for factsheets for the ESM of mercury wastes.
- Developed a factsheet on measuring devices containing mercury in cooperation with ISWA.
- Close to reaching a consensus on developing a factsheet on oil and gas.

## Success!

- Collaboration with ISWA is greatly appreciated
- Factsheets have garnered significant interest from other stakeholders
- Substantial engagement with various partners and WG members

## Note by Secretariat

## Challenges...

- Less progress, considering the initial planning, due to lack of resources
- Dissemination strategy of outcomes
- Further engagement with other partners and WG members

**Introduction**

What is mercury in wastes? Mercury (Hg) is a silver-white metal that occurs naturally, and is toxic to living organisms. It is found in various forms in the environment, including in wastes.

Mercury is a toxic metal, and is found in various forms in the environment, including in wastes. It is found in various forms in the environment, including in wastes.

**Key Figures**

Global data can be accessed from the [Hg mercury inventory Dashboard](#) where NEMOs are part of subcategories 5.5 and 5.6

Quantity of mercury from NEMOs

- Thermometers: 27 Tkg
- Other Medical Device: 2.2 Tkg
- Other Medical Device: 42.2 Tkg
- Mercury: 100 Tkg

There are also significant inventories in:

- East and West Pacific: 1.1 Tkg
- EU & Central Asia: 2.5 Tkg
- Latin America & Caribbean: 1.1 Tkg
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 41.1 Tkg

**Impact on Health and the Environment**

**Impact on the Environment**

Mercury compounds can be found in living organisms all over the world. Mercury is an element that can be found in the environment. The concentration of mercury that makes it a health and environmental problem are its toxicity and persistence in the environment, and its ability to accumulate and biomagnify as methylmercury in fish and other organisms. Mercury is also found in the environment in the form of methylmercury, which is highly toxic.

**Impact on Health**

Mercury is toxic and has an impact on human health. Mercury is found in various forms in the environment, including in wastes. It is found in various forms in the environment, including in wastes.

**Main references**

- Policy Instruments & Technical Guidelines
- Mercury Dashboard
- Mercury Dashboard in mercury waste package and waste management (WMA)

Information note for all NEMOs, this phase is possible. The need of information can be a topic. Information, looking for the use of the ESM or the information can be a topic. Information, looking for the use of the ESM or the information can be a topic.

# Achievements of the WG2 and lessons learned (note by the WMA secretariat)



## Achievements

- Organized or participated in many different types of webinars, contributing to providing knowledge and solutions.
- Collaboration with other stakeholders (other partnership areas, Minamata Convention secretariat, Basel Convention secretariat).



## Success!

- Organization/participation in webinars
- Decent engagement by private sectors partners



## Note by Secretariat

## Challenges...

- Lack of engagement by stakeholders other than private sectors
- Lack of strategy to engage with actual practitioners on the ground
- One-way information-sharing (lack of interaction with stakeholders)
- Further elements on capacity-building are needed
- Less progress in activities other than webinars



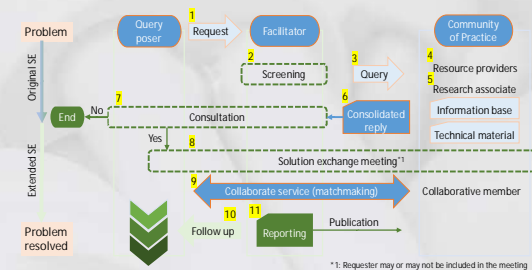


# Achievements of the WG3 and lessons learned (note by the WMA secretariat)



## Achievements

- Established concepts and prepared documentation, such as operating manuals and outreach materials, for the solution exchange platform.



## Success!

- Established and prepared relevant concepts and documentation
- Attracted decent interests of other stakeholders
- Considered a mechanism to collect actual needs and problems

## Challenges...

- Lack of engagement by stakeholders other than leader to contribute to the platform to transit into pilot phase and actual operationalization

Note by  
Secretariat



## Moving forward to beyond 2024... observation by the WMA secretariat

- **Significant progresses** in all activities but the **lack of engagement** is inherent challenges in all WGs.
  - Need to acknowledge that each partner has different interests and motivation in participating in the WMA. Future activities should be considered in a way that partners feel great benefit in engaging with that works, noting that the UNEP-Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary framework.
  - Existing needs and challenges, however, should not be overlooked.
- Useful to consider **how other areas are working**.
  - Looks like not many areas are working as “a collaborative single entity” – each partner shares their own activities related to the area they belong to and seek any opportunities for collaboration or synergies.
  - Some areas receive requests of work directly from the Minamata Convention COP.
    - COP3/4 requested the Minamata Sec. to cooperate with the ASGM area in updating and disseminating the guidance on a NAP.
    - COP3 requested the Minamata Sec. to cooperate with the Products area in drafting a guidance related to custom code.
- **Opportunities exist**.
  - Partnership Advisory Group (PAG) is interested in addressing environmentally sound disposal of mercury-added products. Phase-out date of many mercury-added products under the Convention is 2020 and more to come.
  - Collaboration with existing projects (e.g., GEF, SIP) may be sought.
  - Seeking out and participation in events organized in developing countries (e.g., ICMGP16 in South Africa).

## Moving forward to beyond 2024... Guiding questions

1. From your viewpoints or positions, what would you expect from the WMA? Which types of activities do you believe would best benefit and in which are you willing to engage on a voluntary basis?
  - Governments: Issues important within a country? Institutional issue? Technical support?
  - Private sectors (industry): Promotion of your technologies and services? Looking for solutions for challenges on mercury wastes?
  - NGOs: Mainstreaming specific/general issues?
  - IGOs: Project-level collaboration? Global promotion of ESM?
2. What is the best approach to understanding the actual needs and challenges regarding mercury wastes that the WMA can contribute to addressing? How should we strengthen the interface between needs and seeds?
  - Questionnaire survey? Using or modifying the solution exchange concept?
  - Inviting relevant stakeholders engaging with projects supported by GEF, SIP and others? Review of relevant reports?
  - Strengthening the interface by organizing events?
3. How should we best leverage the outcomes of WGs or lessons learned thereof?
  - Brief strategy for dissemination or communication?
4. How should the future modalities of the WMA and WGs look like, considering the other partnership areas?
  - Continuation of WGs? New WGs?
  - Any other forms of implementation?
  - Revised WMA Activity Plan?

# Suggestions from the informal meeting on 06 March

## 1. Expectation/Activity

- Expand the focus beyond merely introducing facilities for Environmental Sound Management (ESM) to include the sharing of practical knowledge on waste handling, while taking into account the complex on-the-ground realities such as resource limitations, cost-related barriers to transboundary movement, and national regulations.
- Creation of a “knowledge Hub”.
- Case studies on the transboundary movement may be useful.

## 2. Approach to understand needs and challenges

- Consider if the WMA can get involved in relevant projects (GEF/SIP). Get to know such projects and talk with relevant agencies.
- Use lesson learned from WG3 on how to identify needs and challenges.
- Understand local needs and regional solutions, particularly where the infrastructure is lacking.

## 3. How to leverage the outcome of WGs

- Lack of dissemination strategy may have lead to lack of engagement – should consider developing a strategy of dissemination. A dedicated website may also be useful.
- Ask for support to existing platforms for outreach – e.g, ISWA congress
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the information and advice disseminated by WMA, taking into account local circumstances.

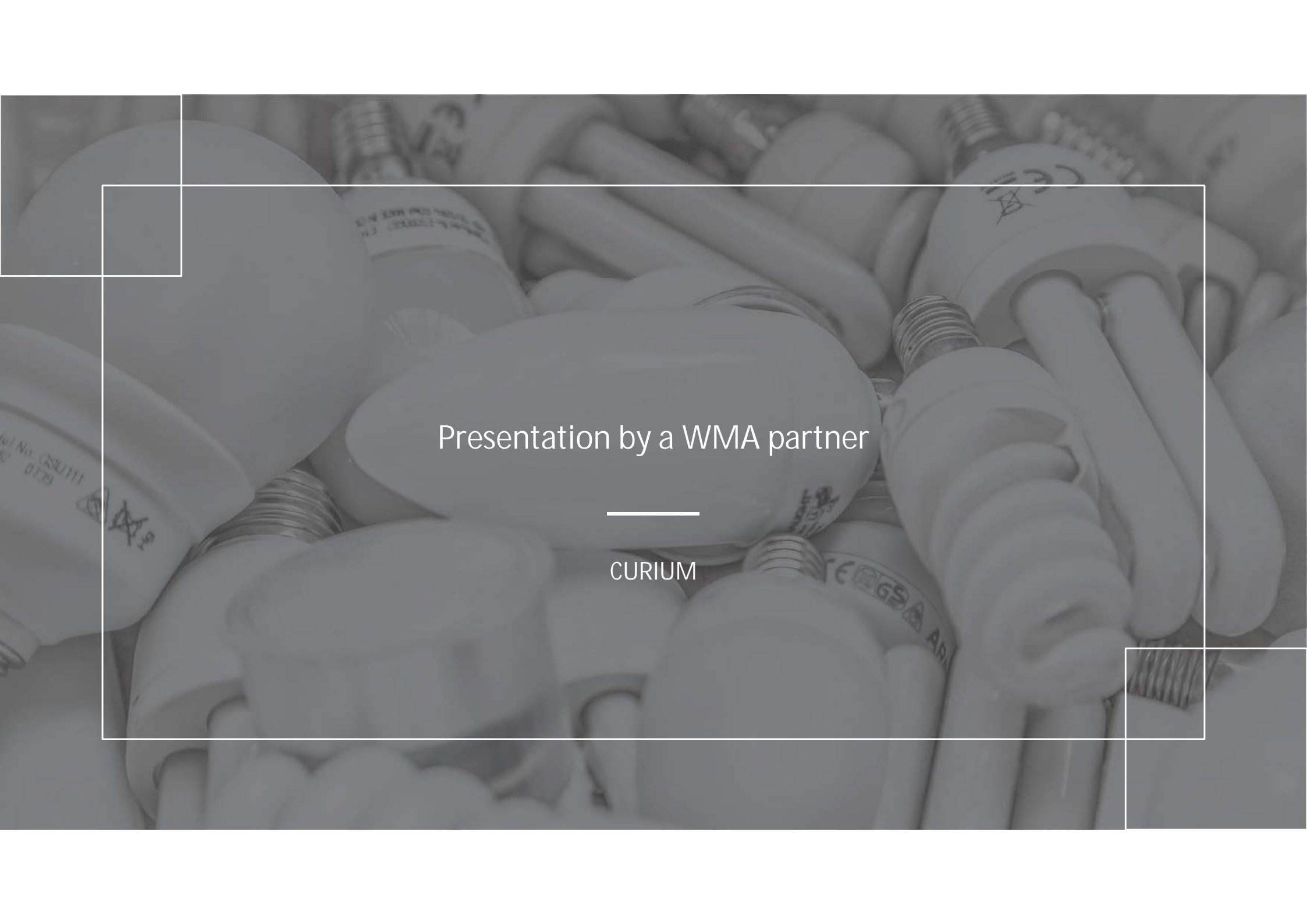
## Suggestions from the informal meeting on 06 March (2/2)

### 4. Future modalities of the WMA

- Strengthen collaboration with existing activities (oil/gas, non-ferrous metals, other partnership areas) to make best use of resources.
- Revisit the WMA activity plan in coordination with other partnership areas – waste is cross-cutting.
- Strengthen the interaction between WMA partners (face-to-face, if possible). Effective coordination by leads are encouraged.
- Useful to have contact person/s within the WMA, who can act as a go-to-person to make connections between those with specific needs and those with expertise on that issue.
- Periodic informal ad-hoc meetings on specific topics could be useful for facilitating matchmaking, without requiring substantial resources

### 5. Others

- Some partners/leads have resource limitations and harnessing existing financial resources could promote engagement.
- Coordination between the WG1, WG2 and WG3 could be improved. Future activities of the WMA should consider a holistic approach, emphasizing on engagement between various activities being undertaken by different individuals within the WMA.



Presentation by a WMA partner

---

CURIUM



**CURIUM**  
TO CURE YOUR ENVIRONMENT

**MERCURY WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**11.03.2024**

# ABOUT US

Founded in France in 1994, CURIUM is a fast-growing company with a large network of partners all around the world.

**30** years of experience

**22** countries we work in

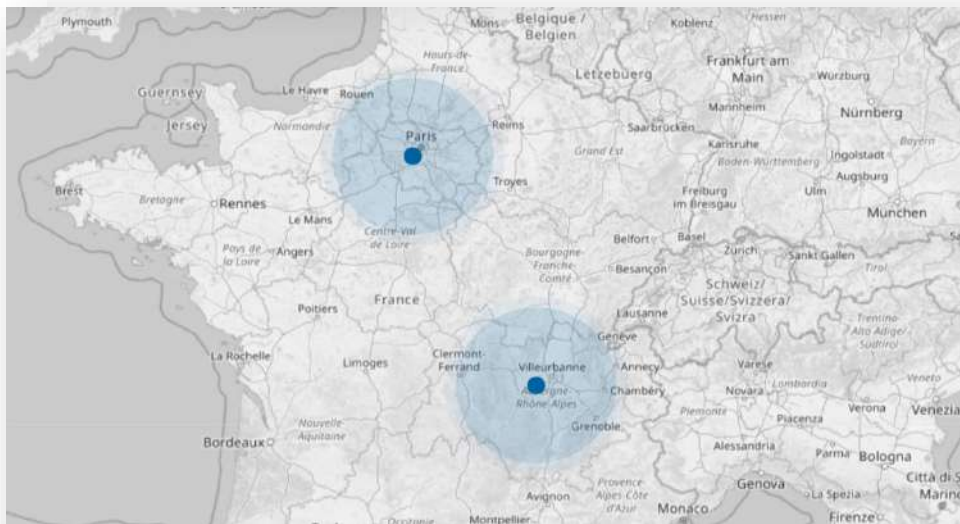
**10** spoken languages

**8,5M€** annual turnover in 2022

**2** laboratory cells

**50** employees

Our multicultural team is composed of experienced chemists and engineers involved in the **management of chemical, radioactive and biological risks**, as well as combined risks.



**2 offices in France :**

-  **Montagny (Lyon)**
-  **Massy (Paris)**



# OUR INTERVENTION CONTEXT

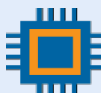
CURIUM delivers **engineering expertise and fields works** in help with our in-house laboratory across the following industries & sectors :



Chemical industry



Pharmaceutical industry



Semiconductors industry



Nuclear sector, NPP



R&D laboratories



Defence sector



Oil and gas industries

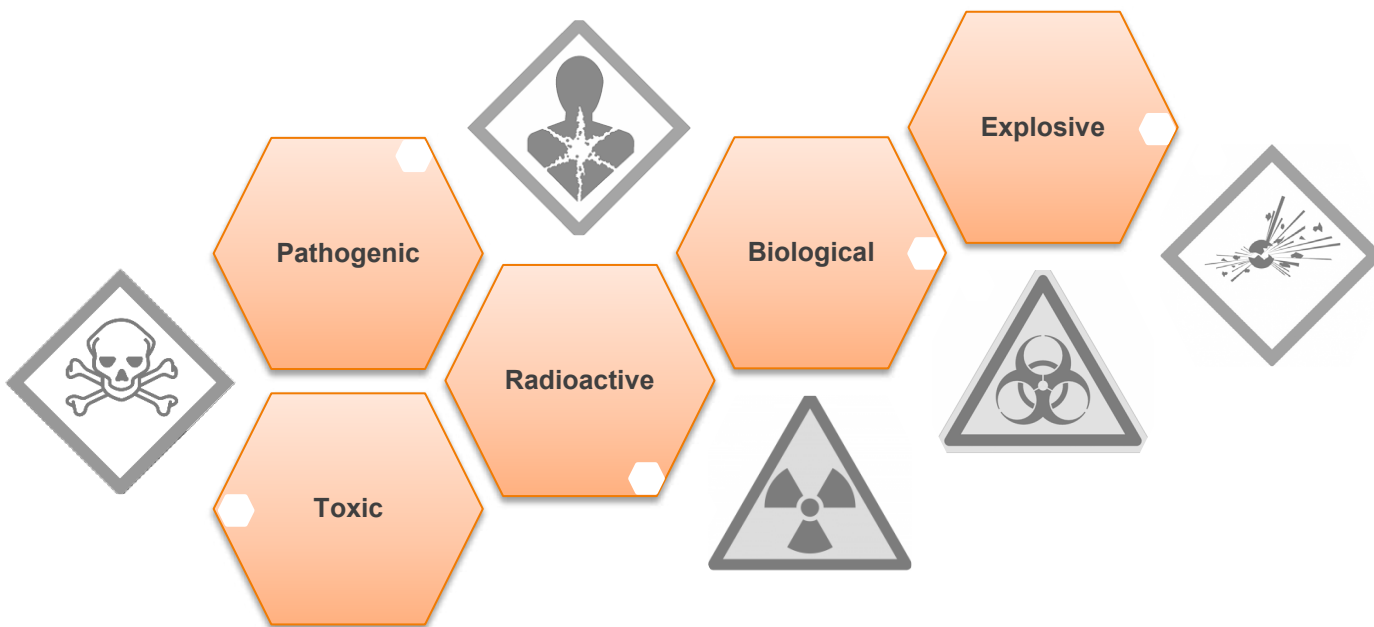


Mineral extraction



Classified facilities

Industrial wastelands



*We control radiological, chemical, asbestos and biological risks on solid, liquid and gas matrices.*

# OUR SKILLS AND SERVICES

CURIUM is a highly qualified team designing solutions for the **management of hazardous substances**, from technical studies to in-situ works and large scale project management.

## ENGINEERING & CONSULTING



- Technical expertise
- Contamination diagnosis
- Project management assistance
- Laboratory for analyzes and tests
- Sizing of effluent treatment facilities

## WORKS ON SITE



- Decontamination
- Dismantling / Depollution
- Hazardous waste management
- Management of production change/shutdown involving hazardous products
- Construction and operation of effluent treatment units

## ON-CALL & EMERGENCY RESPONSE



- On call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Emergency response due to chemical accident or transport of dangerous substances
- Management of incidents related to hazardous substances

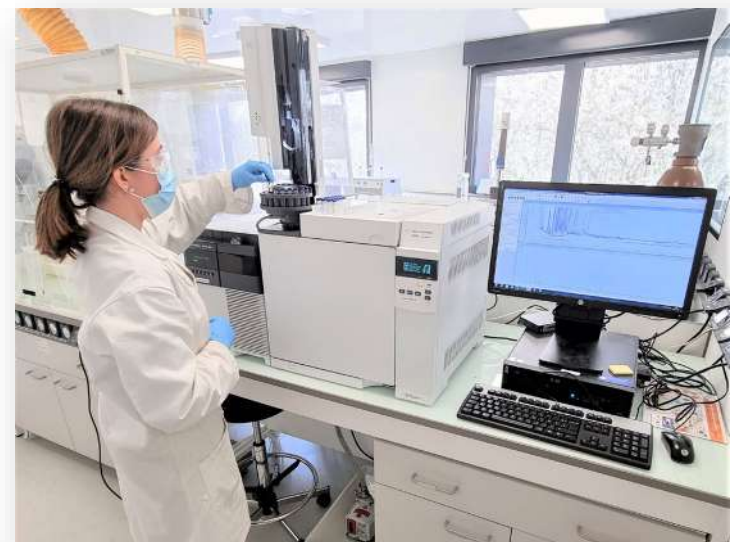


*Scan for more details  
about our services!*



# OUR TECHNICAL MEANS & LABS

- ✓ **In-house laboratory & pilot zone for complex analyses and experimental studies** with adaptable air treatment (high efficiency filter, gas scrubber, activated carbon)
- ✓ **Precision analyses** : GC-MS, TOC meter, Gamma spectrometer, Visible spectrometer, ICP-AES & MS, pyrolyzer, liquid scintillation, ATD/ATG...
- ✓ **Methods and materials for sample preparation** (e.g. microwave mineralizer, Rotary evaporator, crusher,...)
- ✓ **Laboratory tests** (process development, compressive strength, leaching, pyrophoricity, corrosivity, cumbrance, explosivity, putrescibility, viscosity, degassing, ...)
- ✓ **Mobile laboratory for on site analyses** : equipments depending on the need like radiological, chemical analyses and quick analyses with portable mercury vapour analyser, IR & XRF spectrometers, rapid chemical and pyrotechnic kits, alpha, beta, gamma, mercury, VOC measuring devices, etc.



Authorisation T690950



N° RA2022-185

Recognized in Belgium and  
the Netherlands



Certification N° 1251-E



# OUR METHODOLOGY

TECHNICAL STUDIES,  
CONSULTING

CONTAMINATION  
DIAGNOSTICS

PROJECT  
MANAGEMENT

ON SITE WORKS



# CASE STUDY

## SECURING AND DISMANTLING OF MERCURY ELECTROLYSIS UNIT

**Client :** Ministry of Environment Tunisia

**Site :** SNCPA, Alfa pulp producer

**Location :** Kasserine, Tunisia

**Shutdown :** in 1998



# CASE STUDY

## SECURING AND DISMANTLING OF MERCURY ELECTROLYSIS UNIT

### Operational hazards & risks :

- Liquid mercury
- Mercury vapors
- Caustic soda
- Chlorine, gaseous
- Hydrogen: explosive gas
- Abestos
- Unstable structures



Health Hazard



Corrosive



Flammable



Oxidizer



Acute Toxic



Irritant



Environmental  
Hazard

# CASE STUDY

## SECURING AND DISMANTLING OF MERCURY ELECTROLYSIS UNIT

### CURIUM's mission included:

- Preliminary studies: mercury, asbestos and lead diagnoses ; development of demolition methodologies.
- Installation of protection for the gasometer and temporary shoring of the electrolysis structure.
- Mercury emptying from decomposers, pipes and tanks of the electrolysis building and preparation of the area for cleaning of contaminated materials.



# CASE STUDY

## SECURING AND DISMANTLING OF MERCURY ELECTROLYSIS UNIT

### CURIUM's mission included:

- Management of demolition works, including support process units of the electrolysis room
- Destruction of the upper floors
- Removal of the 10 electrolysis cells
- Cutting of the cells, tanks
- Scrap metal and decontamination washing
- Demolition of the building





# CASE STUDY

## SECURING AND DISMANTLING OF MERCURY ELECTROLYSIS UNIT

### Safety on site :

Personal protective equipment :

- Chemical gloves, overshoes, single use suits, air supplied helmets with mercury-specific filters (high contamination areas)
- Asbestos shower

Measuring devices :

- FX spectrometry
- MVI



# CASE STUDY

## SECURING AND DISMANTLING OF MERCURY ELECTROLYSIS UNIT

- ✓ 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> of industrial units were dismantled
- ✓ 25 liters of liquid mercury were collected and transferred to ADR tanks
- ✓ 225 m<sup>3</sup> of mercury-stained waste
- ✓ 25 m<sup>3</sup> of fiber cement were conditioned
- ✓ 3 buildings were demolished and a storage building was constructed





[p.maslovaloques@curium.world](mailto:p.maslovaloques@curium.world)

+33 (0)4 72 90 95 09

[www.curium.world](http://www.curium.world)



## Planned activities for 2024

---

Update on planned GMP Activities



### Planned outreach events/webinars

- **11<sup>th</sup> March** - Waste PA meeting
- **12<sup>th</sup> March** – Co-leads meeting
- **21<sup>st</sup> March** - Webinar non-ferrous metals smelting
- **Second half of April**: webinar on ASGM/NAPs in French with a focus on francophone African countries
- **Week of May 21**: second meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholders
- **June** : ASGM and biodiversity



Any Other Business

---