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Latest news from the Global Mercury Partnership - February 2025

The end of 2024 was rich in significant events, including the fifteenth meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group (PAG-15), international meetings, as well as regional workshops under ongoing GEF funded projects on mercury-containing products.

As we enter the new year, the Secretariat of the Partnership, partnership areas leads and the PAG co-chairs have initiated actions to further strengthen the support to the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention. The PAG-15 also appointed Ms. Anne Nakafeero (National Environment Management Authority, Uganda) as co-chair alongside Mr. Rodges Ankrah (Environmental Protection Agency, USA).

This first edition of 2025 offers an overview of the recent advances in global action towards a mercury-free society, including activities planned for the coming months.

Additionally, you'll find information on new stakeholders who have recently joined our efforts and the latest resources that have been developed.

With our best wishes for the New year,

The Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership

HIGHLIGHTS



PAG-15 was held online on **10 December 2024**. The meeting took stock of recent and upcoming activities, and was the opportunity to learn more about progress made in implementing decisions from the [fifth Conference of the Parties](#). The PAG also discussed potential ways to enhance its support for the Convention's implementation, including under the upcoming partnership's 20th anniversary. Meeting resources on [event page](#).

From 20 to 24 January 2025, the Republic of Gabon hosted a regional workshop under the framework of the GEF project on [Eliminating mercury-containing skin-lightening products](#). The event brought together representatives from 12 African countries, featuring also a special High-



Level Segment which saw the adoption of the Libreville Declaration on phasing out the use of skin-lightening cosmetics. More information on the dedicated event page in [English](#) or in [French](#).



The Governing Board of the Specific International Programme met in Geneva from **22 to 24 January 2025** and [approved ten projects for over USD 2 million](#). Thirty-six applications were submitted by Parties to the Fourth Round. Successful projects from Brazil, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Georgia, Madagascar, Montenegro, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, will be contacted in due course by the Secretariat.



As part of its targeted technical assistance provided under the GEF-funded project on [phasing down the use of dental amalgam](#), the Global Mercury Partnership attended the first WHO Global Oral health meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand on **26-29 November 2024**. The 3 days meeting gathered about 400 stakeholders to technical sessions, side events and a High-Level Segment. More information and key highlights accessible on the [WHO page](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS



On **Thursday, 13 February, from 13:00 to 14:00 CET**, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury will provide an overview of upcoming deadlines and events in preparation for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-6) to be held in Geneva on 3-7 November 2025. It will also provide information on possible amendments to the Convention that may be considered at COP-6. [Register here!](#)

[Unmasking Mercury and Colorism in Cosmetics](#) co-organized by the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Geneva Environment Network, on **5 March 2025**, the conference will feature leading voices to highlight the need of addressing the underlying socio-cultural norms



surrounding skin-lightening products. For in-person or online participation [Register here!](#)



The [second in-person meeting of the Open-Ended Scientific Group](#) for evaluating the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention will be held from **17 to 21 March 2025** in Minamata, Japan. OESG members and technical experts will compile, analyze, and synthesize mercury emissions and releases and monitoring data to provide a scientific basis for determining whether implementation of the Convention has contributed to changes in mercury levels.



The [Mercury Waste Management Area](#) of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will hold its first meeting of the year on **21 March 2025**, in an online setting. The meeting will be the occasion to share updates on the work of the groups, as well as key highlights on the implementation of ongoing projects. More information will be added on the [meeting page](#).

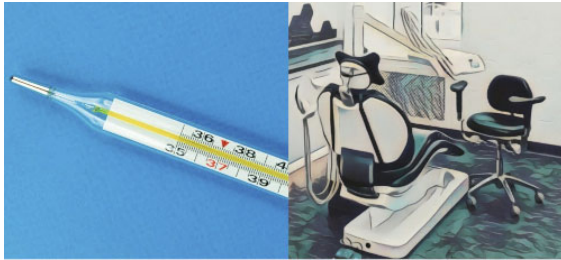
RECENT EVENTS



Mercury-containing lamps are being phased out at the Geneva International Environment House. In line with the objective of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the building housing the offices of the Convention Secretariat as well as the offices of the Secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, is [transitioning to mercury-free lighting](#).



The Stakeholders Group of the ongoing project [Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products](#) held its third meeting on **30 January 2025**. The meeting offered project countries the chance to share their progress and present a draft report on Cosmetics Listed in Part I of Annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Participants also had the opportunity to hear from stakeholders about their experiences. Further details on the [event page](#).



On **9 December 2024**, the Partnership areas of work on [mercury in products](#) and [mercury waste management](#) teamed up with WHO for an information-sharing session on the sound management of mercury waste from dental amalgam and medical devices. Resources are available on the [event page](#).



In the margins of the [WHO Global Oral Health meeting](#), the WHO Oral Health team held an in-person side event on **28 November 2024** to share updates on the ongoing GEF7 Phasing Down Dental Amalgam Project and showcase the experiences, progress and achievements made by project countries. [More information](#).



The SIP project “Facilitating capacity-building with technology assistance and technology transfer for monitoring and managing mercury in Central Africa” established the [Central Africa Region Mercury Monitoring and Evaluation Network \(CARMEN\)](#). From **28 October to 2 November 2024** in Libreville, Gabon, the first Training and Networking Workshop discussed establishing monitoring plans, sample collection, and laboratory capacity building.

LATEST RESOURCES



Take a look at the dashboard illustrating [Trends in mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants](#) in the newly published **knowledge hub** on [Emissions reduction scenarios from the coal sector](#). The project's objective is to demonstrate carbon dioxide, mercury, and persistent organic pollutants emissions reduction potential from coal-fired power plants and industrial boilers to support governments in implementing control and reduction strategies for new and existing installations.

From thermometers to sphygmomanometers, [mercury containing medical measuring devices](#) have been used for centuries. A new GEF-funded project has been launched in Albania, Burkina Faso, India, Montenegro and Uganda, with the overall objective to eliminate uncontrolled releases of mercury from healthcare settings, preventing human and environmental exposure to this dangerous heavy metal. Visit our recent



knowledge hub for [more information](#).



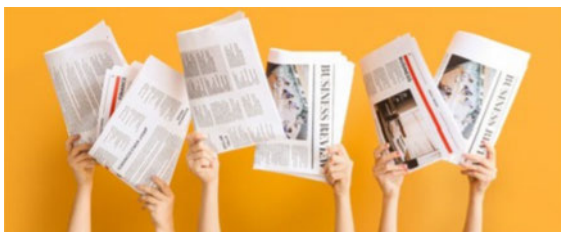
From February to November 2025, the [fifth season of Minamata Online](#) will feature webinars on implementation review, mercury science and preparation for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-6) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Minamata Online is a series of webinars designed to provide insights on the implementation of the Convention's provisions, as well as to explore policy and scientific aspects.



The technical document [Monitoring mercury in and around ASGM sites](#) focuses on developing well-designed, scientifically valid, and clear mercury monitoring plans that can generate reliable data. This data can be used to enhance understanding of the dynamics of mercury around artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sites and generate prediction scenarios.



The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention has recently developed capacity-building materials and convened webinars on [mercury waste management in six UN languages](#).



The Zero Mercury Working Group newsletter, published monthly, provides interesting news covering several work areas of the Global Mercury Partnership. You might want to read previous editions or register to receive future ones. [More information](#).



Biodiversity Research Institute assessments of emerging threats to wildlife and ecosystems include mercury work. Their newsletter is available for reading. [More information](#).

Published monthly, the Minamata Convention Updates provides the latest updates on work to protect human health and environment from the

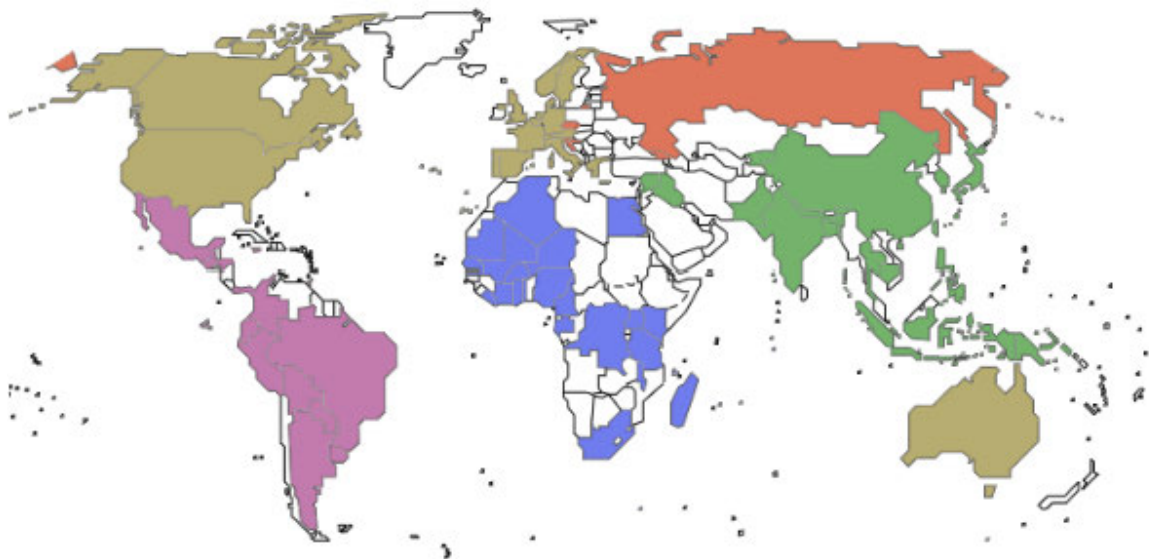
WELCOME OUR NEW PARTNERS

The Partnership has reached over 270 members, including the following recent ones we warmly welcome.

[Bureau d'Expertise en Santé de l'Environnement](#) [Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center](#)
[Dominican Republic](#) [Prefectural University of Kumamoto](#)
[Environmental Defender Law Center](#) [ThioTech Ltd](#)
[GEO-Project](#)

[INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER >>](#)

Consult our [dashboard](#) to learn more about our partners.



READ MORE ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP AREAS

**Artisanal and small-scale
gold mining**

**Mercury releases from
coal combustion**

**Mercury air transport
and fate research**

Mercury waste management

**Mercury cell chlor-alkali
production**

Mercury supply and storage

Mercury in products

**Mercury releases from
the cement industry**

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