



**Global Mercury Partnership
Partnership Advisory Group
Fourth meeting**
Rome, 27-28 September 2012

Reporting of the mercury emissions from Supply and Storage partnership area

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Note by the Secretariat

Individual partnership area evaluations have been prepared by the partnership areas in response to Annex I Section 3.f.iv of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Overarching Framework. The mercury releases from supply and storage partnership area has drafted a partnership area evaluation. It is available in the annex to this document for information.

Reporting Format, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

4.0 Proposed Reporting Format for individual partnership areas

1. GENERAL INFORMATION	
1.1 Individual partnership area:	Mercury Supply and Storage
1.2 Individual partnership area lead:	Government of Spain: Ana García González (MAGRAMA) aggonzalez@magrama.es Manuel Ramos Pino (CTNDM) mramos@ctndm.es Government of Uruguay: Judith Torres (DINAMA) judith.torres@dinama.gub.uy
1.3 Reporting year/period:	2010-2012
1.4 How many meetings were held over the reporting period?	Number of face to face meetings: 2 Number of teleconferences: at least 3 Other: Bilaterals with UNEP Secretariat
1.5 How many partners are parts of this partnership area?	The Partnership currently has 14 official partners; Additional stakeholders participate in teleconferences and other discussions.
1.6 How much funding was raised through this partnership area? What about in-kind assistance?	Kyrgyz Republic Mercury Mining Phase Out Project: 500,000\$ provided by the government of Norway, Switzerland and the United States. Mercury storage activities: Projects funded by the governments of Norway and the United States The Government of Spain provided 90,000€ to organize the workshop in Brasilia (May 2012) and in kind assistance contributions were also provided for this activity by The Governments of Brazil and Uruguay. Waste-Storage projects: Projects funded by UNEP and the Governments of Uruguay and Norway
1.7 What is the objective of the individual partnership area?	
Minimization and, where feasible, elimination of mercury supply considering a hierarchy of sources, and the retirement of mercury from the market to environmentally sound management.	
2. MONITORING PERFORMANCE	
(tracking partnership activities and partner contributions)	
2.1 Please provide a short overview of key partnership area efforts completed since the previous Governing Council (brief description, outcomes, costs, timeframe).	
<p>Mercury supply activities: The Kyrgyz Republic Mercury Mining Phase Out Project Partnership led by UNEP aims at moving forward in phasing out of the state-owned mercury mining sector and replacing it with sustainable and socially responsible alternative economic activities. So far, the Governments of Switzerland, Norway and the United States have respectively played active roles in this partnership and made financial contributions. A Small Capital Grant Facility (SCGF) was established and institutionalized. Fourteen small grant project proposals were identified and funded. Over 130 people in the community benefited from training events aimed at improvement of skills and knowledge in the farm management and technologies of agriculture, business planning, and various types of non-farm business activities. Technical reports and assessments have been drafted and can be found at the Partnership website.</p> <p>Mercury storage activities: With the support of the government of Norway, a Project entitled "Reduce Mercury Supply and Investigate Mercury Storage Solutions" was implemented in the Asia Pacific and the Latin American and Caribbean Region from 2009 to 2011. Reports estimating the quantities of excess mercury expected in these regions through 2050 were reviewed and evaluated. As a follow-up, Project Executive committees (Exe-com) were established for these two Regions and were tasked to catalyze regional action. Two options analysis studies for the environmentally sound management of surplus mercury respectively were carried out in the regions. The USA Department of State supported the finalization of the options analysis study in the A-P Region. Six</p>	

meetings were held in the respective regions to further discuss the content and progress of these studies. The Eastern Europe and Central Asia area was also identified as potentially needing an options analysis for storage. A preparatory study on the flows of mercury in the region was completed by April 2010.

Workshop on Mercury Management in the Latin American and Caribbean Region. Governments of Spain, Brazil and Uruguay organized a workshop on mercury management in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, 21-22 May 2012. The workshop had a very broad and diverse participation bringing together all relevant stakeholders; the workshop assessed the situation and existing challenges related to mercury management in the region and raised some conclusions:

- It is crucial to have all the different perspectives in the discussions and involve all the relevant stakeholders to know in depth all around the mercury issue and to be able to present balanced and realistic solutions.
- It was recognized that the mercury waste management should be carried out at the place where it is generated to reduce exposure and risk for greater numbers of workers as well as population (principles of self sufficiency and proximity).
- Stabilization is one of the possible ways used for solving the management of metallic mercury, given the fact that, being liquid is the one that presents more difficulties, technical uncertainties and risks.
- It was pointed out that a specific, clear and applicable legislation is needed, including adequate analytical capacities as well as all necessary technologies for collecting, managing and processing mercury and for its safe final disposal.
- Studies carried out by UNEP estimate that, on a global scale, about 46,000 tonnes of metallic mercury will be generated throughout the next 40 years. These quantities are moderate and most of them are located in advanced industrial sectors that have the know-how for their management.
- LAC representatives of the gold mining industry and of the chlor-alkali industry recognized that their sectors could, in principle, assume the costs to implement the mercury management measures which will derive from the future agreement; however they stated that besides the costs to assume the measures of the future agreement appropriate time limits would have to be considered and discussed with the relevant sectors.
- It was identified that the Latin America and the Caribbean region appears to have less resources for the waste management and, more specifically, tools and technologies for processing and for the final disposal of wastes containing mercury.

Information about this workshop is available at:

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/SupplyandStorage/Activities/WorkshoponMercuryManagement/tabid/104297/Default.aspx>

Waste-Storage pilot projects:

- 1) With the support of the Governments of Uruguay and Norway, UNEP and the Network of Regional Centers for Basel and Stockholm Convention, and the cooperation of the World Chlorine Council, a **workshop on the global, regional and national situation of mercury** was organized in Montevideo, Uruguay, 7 April 2011. The workshop aimed at presenting the situation of mercury globally, inform about the situation of mercury in the LAC Region and present the preliminary results of several projects related to mercury in Uruguay.
- 2) Under the financial support of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP FECO) of China undertook the project of **developing an awareness raising toolkit for managing mercury waste at household and community level** from March to April 2011.

Outcomes: A Guide for Managing Mercury Waste at Household and Community Level, Posters for raising the awareness of mercury waste management at household and community level, Activity logos and promotional gifts and a questionnaire designed to assess the dissemination effect of the toolkit were produced. The study concluded that it was necessary and urgent to carry out awareness-raising dissemination for mercury waste, a targeted dissemination and proper promotion approaches and an active development of other supporting mercury pollution prevention measures management and mercury pollution prevention at household and community level.

- 3) The United States Department of State has launched two projects in Indonesia and Philippines, with NGOs in the Southeast Asian Region, BaliFokus and Ban Toxics, to develop a national

strategic plan for the two countries on mercury storage. The project aims to engage various sectors on developing mercury storage at a national and sub-national level and also seeks to generate data on the local costs, requirements, and other social criteria for the successful establishment of mercury storage in the two countries.

- 4) In April 2012, **Argentina and Uruguay** successfully concluded their respective **national mercury storage and disposal projects** supported by UNEP with funding from Norway ODA. Project activities included assessment of relevant national legislation/regulatory framework and inventory of hazardous waste treatment facilities that will serve as temporary mercury storage facilities. National coordinating mechanisms to safely store and treat mercury waste were created and/or strengthened. The project resulted in national action plans aimed at the environmentally sound storage and disposal of mercury in both countries. Information about this workshop is available at

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/SupplyandStorage/Activities/LACMercuryStorageProject/MercuryStorage2CountriesProject/tabid/79070/Default.aspx>.

Glossary of terms: Draft document that presents general descriptions of important terms related to storage and disposal, and refers to relevant definitions from chemical and waste conventions.

2.2 Please provide a short overview of the key current partnership area efforts (brief description, expected outcomes, budget, timeframe).

Mercury supply activities: Phase II of “Creating Alternative Job Opportunities in Khaidarkan” Project is being initiated through a UNEP-UNDP Letter of Agreement with 200,000 USD support from the United States of America. Phase II is designed to continue to address the local main socio-economic development challenges of Khaidarkan. The activities during Phase II will be primarily focused on strengthening the conditions to fostering local entrepreneurship and improving agricultural practices and thus to further expand economic opportunities for local community. This will be done through providing enhanced capacity development support, strengthening marketing linkages, ensuring access to marketing information and financial capital. All implementation will be closely coordinated with national and local authorities and will engage local population through participatory decision making.

2.3 Please provide a short overview of any key upcoming, planned partnership area efforts (brief description, expected outcomes, budget, timeframe).

- Support additional bilateral projects to transition away from primary mercury mining to industries or activities that are more environmentally sound and economically sustainable.
- Encourage the environmentally safe storage/disposal of mercury from major sources, such as but not limited to, decommissioned plants in the chlor-alkali industry and from by-product mercury generated by the large scale mining industry.
- Encourage linkages with the chlor-alkali partnership and request their assistance in gathering data on estimated quantities of surplus mercury worldwide projected to be available in the near future.
- Encourage development and implementation of national policies which restrict trade in mercury and sequester rather than export mercury in countries with significant mercury exports.
- Support to options analysis/ feasibility studies and follow-up work on mercury sequestration in Asia Pacific and Latin America/Caribbean regions, and initiation of mercury storage projects in other regions such as the EECA.

2.4 Identify the priority actions for the forthcoming reporting cycle (2 years).

- Working with partners, governments and other interested stakeholders to reduce or eliminate the production and export of mercury from large scale primary mining;
- Working with the relevant industry sectors, governments, and other interested stakeholders to determine how much mercury will become available from decommission of mercury chlor-alkali plants; and the quantity of by-product mercury generated from non-ferrous metal processing, gold mining and oil/gas production;
- Working with relevant industry sectors, governments and other relevant stakeholders to establish a nation by nation global mercury inventory.
- Developing industry sector plans for the storage of mercury from chlor-alkali plants, non-ferrous metal processing, and oil/gas production;
- Gathering additional data on the extent to which the existing waste infrastructure could be used for

<p>elements of the surplus mercury storage needs for the near term at least.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing and facilitating availability of options and technologies for storage or final disposal of excess mercury supply from other sources; Promoting the celebration of workshops related to mercury management with the participation of all relevant stakeholders in order to disseminate information and initiatives at regional level; and Facilitating the implementation of export ban legislation in additional countries or regions.
<p>3. TRACKING PERFORMANCE RELATED TO UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL PRIORITIES</p>
<p>3.1 In response to Governing Council Decision 25/5, paragraph 34/c: Please summarize the key results achieved to date by the partnership area in terms of the following areas (as applicable).</p>
<p>i) Providing information on best available techniques and best environmental practices and on the conversion of mercury-based processes to non-mercury based processes;</p> <p>Dissemination of information about stabilization technologies for metallic mercury to facilitate its safe and environmentally sound storage.</p>
<p>ii) Enhancing development of national inventories on mercury;</p>
<p>iii) Raising public awareness and supporting risk communication;</p>
<p>iv) Providing information on sound management of mercury;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaboration of options analysis studies on environmentally sound management of mercury in the Asia-Pacific and Latin American and Caribbean Region. These studies have provided relevant information aimed at assisting governments to find environmentally sound storage options for projected excess or surplus mercury. Celebration of 6 meetings in the A-P and LAC Regions for further discussion on the content of the options analysis studies on environmentally sound management of mercury. Organization of 2 workshops on environmentally sound mercury management in the LAC Region. Awareness raising toolkit for safely managing mercury waste at household and community level. Argentina and Uruguay national mercury storage and disposal projects.
<p>3.2 (a) Please specify whether the promotion of non-mercury technologies (where suitable economically feasible alternatives do not exist) is relevant to the partnership area. Yes or No</p> <p>(b) If it is relevant, how is the partnership area specifically addressing the promotion of non-mercury technologies?</p>
<p>4. ASSESSING EFFECTIVENESS (measuring the impact of partnership activities on target beneficiaries)</p>
<p>4.1 What are the partnership area indicators of progress? If no indicators, please specify why.</p> <p>There are currently no quantifiable indicators identified. Indicators must be agreed among all the members of the partnership area.</p>
<p>4.2 Please report on progress in terms of each of the partnership area indicators outlined within the partnership area business plan. N/A</p>
<p>4.3 What are the strengths of the partnership area?</p> <p>It is crucial to have all the different perspectives in the discussions and involve all the relevant stakeholders to know in depth the mercury problems and to be able to present balanced and realistic solutions.</p> <p>Based on the experience of the Brasilia workshop: all the relevant stakeholders are open to have an active participation in current discussions on mercury management. Information directly provided by the relevant stakeholders is more accurate and updated allowing more consistent conclusions. Key industrial sectors related to mercury supply such as the gold mining or the chlor-alkali industries are involved in the partnership area work.</p>
<p>4.4 What are the weaknesses and/or major challenges for this the partnership area?</p> <p>Communication among the different members of the partnership area could be improved.</p>
<p>4.5 Can the weaknesses or major challenges be addressed through the partnership? If yes, what is</p>

the best strategy to address such weaknesses / major challenges in moving forward?
The lead countries will put their best to improve the communications among the different members of the Partnership area, promoting the celebration of teleconferences or meetings.
4.6 In view of above, how should the partnership area be modifying its approach in the coming two year cycle? Should the objective and indicators of the partnership area be revised in moving forward?
<p>Small scale projects and activities have allowed collect important information relevant for decision-making and enable the dissemination of initiatives at regional level, thus facilitating their consideration for possible application at national level. The organization of workshops involving all relevant stakeholders would improve the dissemination of initiatives and other information related with mercury supply and storage in regions such as Asia-Pacific, Africa or Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and therefore should be enhanced.</p> <p>The mercury waste management should be carried out at the place where it is generated to reduce exposure and risk for greater numbers of workers as well as population (principles of self sufficiency and proximity). Therefore, the partnership area should try to identify, at regional level, which are the main problems related to mercury supply and storage, in order to find regional solutions.</p>
5. FUTURE COLLABORATION
5.1 Please identify whether there are potential areas of effort for the partnership that would benefit from enhanced collaboration within the overall UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mercury in wastes partnership area, particularly storage aspects. Coordination with projects on the environmentally sound management of mercury waste (UNEP Chemicals-SBC projects in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, Pakistan, Philippines and the USEPA-SBC projects in Argentina, Costa Rica, and Uruguay (joint project with Products partnership area). Follow up on the initiatives of the Waste partnership on relevant documents (e.g. Good practices) - Chlor alkali partnership area. The phase out of mercury cells from chlor-alkali facilities should be coordinated with this S&S partnership area regarding the fate of the metallic mercury. An updated inventory of the amount of mercury that will be available after the conversion of the facilities to mercury free technologies could be made. - Products partnership area (in addition to Products-Wastes projects with the SBC). Coordination with hospitals and schools projects geared to reduce the use of mercury containing equipment and products, as well as to explore possibilities for proper storage and disposal. In addition, the Products partnership is seeking to expand its work to develop mercury products and emissions inventories
6. OTHER
6.1 Please outline how this report was drafted and who was consulted with in doing so.
This report was drafted by the lead countries and circulated and consulted with the Supply and Storage partners
6.2 This section is intended for other relevant comments.