

Annex I

Expert Consultation Meeting on Mercury Monitoring on Soil and Biota

13-14 May 2019, Monaco
International Atomic Energy Agency, Environment Laboratories,
Principality of Monaco

Concept Note

1. Background and Context

Between 2014 and 2018, the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) implemented and executed the project “Development of a Plan for Global Monitoring of Human Exposure to and Environmental Concentrations of Mercury” funded by the Global Environment Facility.

The project aimed at identifying approaches, existing monitoring networks and worldwide capacities to analyse mercury. It developed, among others, elements to consider when designing monitoring plans, Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the assessment of prenatal exposure to mercury, and Manual Instructions for passive air sampling of mercury in ambient air.

The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Minamata Convention, that took place from 19-23 November 2018 decided to add two additional matrices of interest to the monitoring work, namely soil and biota. In light of this decision the Chemicals and Health Branch of UN Environments intends to organize an expert coordination meeting with the aim to initiate a discussion and gather information on the analytical and monitoring methods of mercury in these two matrices.

2. Overall Goal and Objectives

The goal of the meeting is for experts to share information and knowledge on the monitoring of mercury in biota and soils. This with the aim to contribute to the discussion of the ad hoc group of experts on effectiveness evaluation set up by the COP.2 to Minamata Convention for providing it with comparable monitoring data, and elements of an effectiveness evaluation framework.

The meeting will be hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency Environment Laboratory.

The main objectives of the meeting are to:

1. Gather Information about methods for the analysis of mercury in soil and biota matrices
2. Gather Information for the global monitoring of mercury in soil and biota matrices
3. Discuss the future opportunities and next steps beyond the GEF-funded project

3. Participants

The expert consultation meeting will bring together around 15 participants including relevant experts, delegates from Global Environment Facility, Minamata Convention Secretariat, UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch and national representatives.

The tentative list of funded participants is attached to the note as Annex II.

4. Programme and Methods

The meeting will have brief introduction to the agenda items followed by an interactive session.

The provisional agenda is attached as Annex I.

5. Partners

This meeting will be organized by the UN Environment in collaboration with the Environment Laboratories of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

6. Evaluation

At the end of the meeting, UN Environment will promote discussion on the extent to which the project and the meeting has achieved its objectives, the next steps will be identified, and feedbacks obtained.