

Head of Branch
UNEP Chemicals Branch DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anemones
CH-1219 Chatelain
Geneva, Switzerland
E-mail: metals.chemicals@unep.org

Honorable members of the Global Mercury Partnership,

Mwamba Mining supports the efforts of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commits to working with its members to achieve its stated goals. Specifically, Mwamba seeks to support the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership in the elimination of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM).

Mwamba is creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future for the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector. Current processing techniques rely on the use of mercury, which is both inefficient and toxic. By providing partnering miners with access to modern infrastructure, we intend to eliminate the use of mercury and turn ASGM into a potent and sustainable poverty alleviating mechanism for rural communities in developing countries.

Developing modern processing infrastructure is a superior long-term investment to currently utilized mercury-based methods, but miners are not properly capitalized to bear the upfront cost. The success of resource sharing initiatives by large mining corporations to reduce mercury in ASGM has been limited by the inaccessibility of ASGM communities and the limited lifespan of large-scale mining exploits. Mwamba specializes in identifying, developing, and deploying sustainable solutions in ASGM. Our initiative does not bend to corporate interests and builds on a vision of lasting change for the sector.

We are currently implementing a miner sponsorship program in Katoro to help undercapitalized miners gain access to existing processing infrastructure. Mwamba pays to have the miner's ore moved and processed, receiving payment from the gold produced. Many miners engage in mercury processing as a mechanism to produce enough "fast gold" to pay for the processing of their remaining materials. By providing the capital for miners to use locally available processing, we eliminate the incentive for miners to engage in mercury processing methods.

In the Katoro region, we have surveyed over 150+ mines, taking samples from every ore reserve and active shaft seen. This exercise is a beneficial practice that enables closer partnerships with miners and to explain our model to local stakeholders. The information we gather helps us to understand the processing needs of specific miners, and more effectively process their material.

Through our survey efforts, we have built a map showing the location of every mining community, mining plot, and existing processing center in this region of Tanzania. With this information, we can establish which mining communities are most underserved and in need of new processing infrastructure. We are currently developing our first directly owned processing facility, and we are providing a bridge of trust to increase private investment in local ASGM communities.

Mwamba Mining's stated goal is to eliminate the use of mercury in Tanzania's ASGM sector. We do not plan to stop at Tanzania but bring our innovative model to ASGM communities globally that are suffering from reliance on mercury processing techniques. Our core vision directly aligns with those of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, and we hope to work hand in hand to realize our shared goals.

Sincerely,
Thomas Cornew, CEO
Mwamba Mining LLC



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 the following web address:
www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances

GOAL OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is 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.

PARTNERSHIP AREAS

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship amongst various parties, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to take immediate actions to achieve the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Established in 2008, the partnership supports immediate actions on mercury in parallel to the negotiations of a mercury convention.

The following partnership areas have been initiated:

- 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; and
- mercury releases from cement industry.

OUR PARTNERS

More than 100 partners from IGOs, NGOs and private sector:

- Support the overall goal of the Partnership;
- Contribute resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities;
- Network with other organizations/agencies/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, and specifying how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Letters should be submitted to :

Head of Branch
UNEP Chemicals Branch DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland
E-mail: metals.chemicals@unep.org

In submitting this letter, UNEP requests partners to complete the registration form (see reverse). Participation in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be acknowledged by UNEP. Your confirmation letter will be posted on the UNEP Chemicals Branch web site.



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

PARTNERSHIP AREA

Please check the partnership areas to which your organization intends to contribute to:

- 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 supply and storage
- mercury releases from the cement industry

Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.

ORGANIZATION NAME

NAME, FUNCTIONAL TITLE
 OF REPRESENTATIVE

ADDRESS OF
 ORGANIZATION

TEL. No.

EMAIL

FAX No.

WEBSITE/URL

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

- Government
- Regional economic integration organization
- Non-government Organization
- Industry
- Scientific community
- Other, please specify: _____

*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 the partnership 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: