



*Promoting Multi-Dimensional Planning and Monitoring of Water & the Environmental Sanitation*

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# Expression of Interest In the Global Mercury Partnership

**To:**

Head, Chemicals and Health Branch,  
Economy Division  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Palais des Nations 8-14 avenue de la Paix  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
E-mail: [metals@un.org](mailto:metals@un.org)

## About WEHDI

WEHDI – Water Environment & Human Development Initiative - is a Swiss-based not-for-profit development membership organization (established in 2018) that works with partners to promote transformational change for all, through joint action, while respecting the environment.

WEHDI's *vision* is a water and environmental development practice in which policy actions and decisions on planning, management, and monitoring are based on evidence and realize inclusive, transformative and sustainable human development.

WEHDI's *Mission* is to facilitate networking, partnerships and joint water and environmental actions at all levels of planning, management and monitoring that promote accountability while minimizing negative social, economic and environmental impacts.

WEHDI works through three main pillars namely:

- i) Political Economy and Governance Assessments - to provide intelligence for investments, programming and monitoring of water and environment-related activities;
- ii) Support for Multi-Dimensional Programming and Monitoring – to influence cross-sector policy & development practice.
- iii) Design and implementation of cross-sector water quantity/quality monitoring initiatives – to promote the respect of human rights, regarding water and environmental safety while contributing to sustainable development.

Linking these three drivers requires strengthened capacity for both management and governance to not only empower individuals, organization's and society as a whole, but to also create a more effective, transparent, inclusive and equitable governance of natural resources and ecosystems. WEHDI's capacity strengthening efforts move beyond the traditional water and environment ministries to encompass actors like the finance, planning and line ministries, civil society groups and the private sector.

## Why WEHDI is interested in the Global Mercury partnership

One of WEHDI's key focus areas of work is Trade and Water. WEHDI acknowledges that while water is critical for socio-economic development, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself, there is widespread unsustainable use of this natural resource by the economic sectors, and the trends in water quality are decreasing in most watersheds, aquifers and coastal areas, and dependence on infrastructure for water provisioning is increasing. As a result, water pollution has worsened in almost all rivers in Africa, Asia and Latin America since the 1990's. The world's freshwater ecosystems are therefore degrading at an alarming rate due to the land-use activities, largely due to the impact of trade and other economic activities.

Without a multi-dimensional approach to planning, programming and monitoring, these actions will continue to affect the well-being of populations, while posing threats and undermining the gains made, for instance, under the Aichi Targets and those anticipated under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WEHDI is currently part of the Swiss Water Partnership, as well as part of the Grand Coalition on Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) the latter of which seeks breakthrough innovations that are implemented at ASM sites to prevent, remediate, or restore impacts from ASM to water, hydrology, land, biodiversity, human health, and/or ecosystems. With partners, WEHDI is engaged in policy dialogues on the environmental and health impacts of ASM activities, and in shaping innovations that will contribute to responsible sourcing, production and consumption.

WEHDI is interested in joining the Global Mercury partnership in order to engage stakeholders in joint initiatives based on the mutual interest to advance clean and safer sustainable environment and actions that protect the rights of the operators and the communities in along the value chain. In its mission, WEHDI contributes to the realization of the mandate of United Nations Environment, and directly to the objective of the Global Mercury partnership.

WEHDI and partners are dedicated to contributing to on-going efforts of protecting human health and the environment from the impacts of mercury, and to reducing global environmental releases of mercury.

WEHDI works closely with the Group on Earth Observation (particularly with the Global water Sustainability Initiative and with Aquawatch).

WEHDI and its partnership presents to the Global Mercury partnership a range of global expertise that approaches water, hydrology, land, biodiversity, human health, ecosystems from a multi-dimensional cross-sector perspective.

It is our believe that WEHDI will add value to the UN Environment work at the different scales and in generating products and services and contributing to policy and decision-making that aligns with the international, regional and national commitments for a more sustainable and safer environment.

WEHDI is interested in contributing to reducing mercury in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM).

## Contact

### **Rose Alabaster**

Director, Policy & Programme Development

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# UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

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

## 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:

[web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership](http://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership)

### 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 between various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve its goal.

Initiated in 2005<sup>1</sup>, the Partnership today focuses its work on supporting timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; on providing state of the art knowledge and science on mercury; and on delivering outreach and awareness raising towards global action on mercury.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/9

The Partnership is structured around eight areas:

- 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 releases from the cement industry

### OUR PARTNERS

Over 190 partners from governments, IGOs, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions:

- Support the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contribute resources or expertise to the development and implementation of Partnership activities.
- Network with other organizations, agencies, entities and 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. The letter should also specify how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the Partnership.

Together with this letter, UNEP requests interested entities or individuals to also complete and submit the registration form (see reverse). Participation in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP. Partners' letters of support will be made public through the UNEP's website.

### SUPPORT LETTER AND REGISTRATION FORM SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO:

**Head, Chemicals and Health Branch  
Economy Division  
United Nations Environment Programme**  
Palais des Nations  
8-14 avenue de la Paix  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
E-mail: [metals@un.org](mailto:metals@un.org)



# UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

## PARTNERSHIP AREAS

Please check the partnership area(s) 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 releases from the cement industry

> Please specify in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the selected partnership area(s).

## ORGANIZATION APPLYING TO BECOME A PARTNER

Name of Organization:

Type of Organization:

- Government
- Intergovernmental Organization
- Non-governmental Organization

- Industry
- Academia
- Other, please specify

Mailing Address:

Postcode:

City:

E-mail:

Telephone:

Website:

## ORGANIZATION'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Ms.

First Name:

Last Name:

Functional Title:

Section / Department:

E-mail:

\* 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 its 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:

**Head, Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division  
United Nations Environment Programme**

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