

Head, Chemicals and Health Branch Industry
and Economy Division United Nations Environment Programme
Palais des Nations
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E-mail: metals@un.org

Subject: UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Request

To whom it may concern,

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Given the complementarities between the Partnership's mission and those of our Organisation, The Impact Facility would like to formally apply to be a partner at the Global Mercury Partnership. The Impact Facility is a UK-based social enterprise and impact investment fund founded in 2018 with a growing footprint in East and Central Africa.

We are fueled by blended finance, bringing together impact investors, donors and corporate partners to drive the professionalisation of artisanal mineral producers (AMPs) through our SME incubator model. This model is informed by a set of stepped ESG criteria, aligned with international voluntary standards, to incentivise mine improvements as a pre-condition to additional investments.

i) Introducing The Impact Facility & our work

We work across East and Central Africa, with the East African Programme focused on the provision of mine equipment to AMPs to increase the operational efficiency and productivity of their operations, while the DRC programme is focused on the cobalt sector under the Fair Cobalt Alliance, of which The Impact Facility is a co-founder and serve as the permanent secretariat of the alliance.

Under our gold programme, artisanal mineral producers benefit from the following:

- Technical experts: To accelerate continuous ESG improvements and business literacy, mine operators are supported by our network of in-house and external project finance, mining, and environmental experts.
- Downstream demand: Minerals originating from our partner mines are marketed as ESG-assured status and channelled into global supply chains.
- Financing: for small-scale mine operators from impact investors that is managed by

our team and allocated to modern technology and equipment focusing on:

- O Clean energy adoption: to support the transition to climate-smart mining
- O Biodiversity protection: through the elimination of toxic chemical use.
- O Increased value retention: by optimizing mine production and processing

ii) The value of a UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Given the prevalence of mercury use at the mine sites, The Impact Facility prioritises gravitational and mercury-free equipment. We have in the past provided mercury retorts to some AMPs and are now keen to support the communities we work in the gradual adoption of mercury-free technologies for gold processing. As part of our ambitions, we are in the process of:

- Establishing a site of excellence at one of the sites we have engaged - a cluster of over 30 mines in Western Kenya with whom we seek to facilitate the creation of sites of good practice focused on mercury-free processing.
- Piloting a range of concentration and other techniques to control and eliminate the use of mercury in the mining communities of Geita, Tanzania, as we set up leaching operations in the country.

All our investments take on an investment-led approach, a pivot away from grant donation to incentivise best practices - as capital investments by AMPs enable operators to assume ownership over time and push for a more proactive role in adopting new technologies, coupled with technical expertise and periodic operational health and safety support driven by our team.

The Impact Facility's experience in the sector would lend support to the Partnership's stakeholders, proving an East African Centric approach to ASM investment and mercury sensitisation. Our participation in the partnership group will enrich the quality of our work, given the partners' vast experience worldwide.

While mercury use is still prevalent, there is a growing appetite and infrastructure set up for leaching plants in artisanal mining communities, the majority of which is detrimental to the environment given the lack of environmental governance, the use of mercury-contaminated tailings and the poor build of the leaching tanks. As we look to scale our work, we assess how we can sensitise AMPs on proper chemical management at the site to limit environmental and health effects associated with such activities. The Partnership would lend to keep us in the loop for innovations that will support mining communities in East Africa.

We look forward to hearing from you.

On behalf of The Impact Facility team,
Candice Jumwa



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:

www.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 releases 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 2005¹, 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.

¹ 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 240 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:

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