

LOCAL INSIGHTS INTO THE INFORMAL GLOBAL MERCURY TRADE

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MERCURY & ASGM

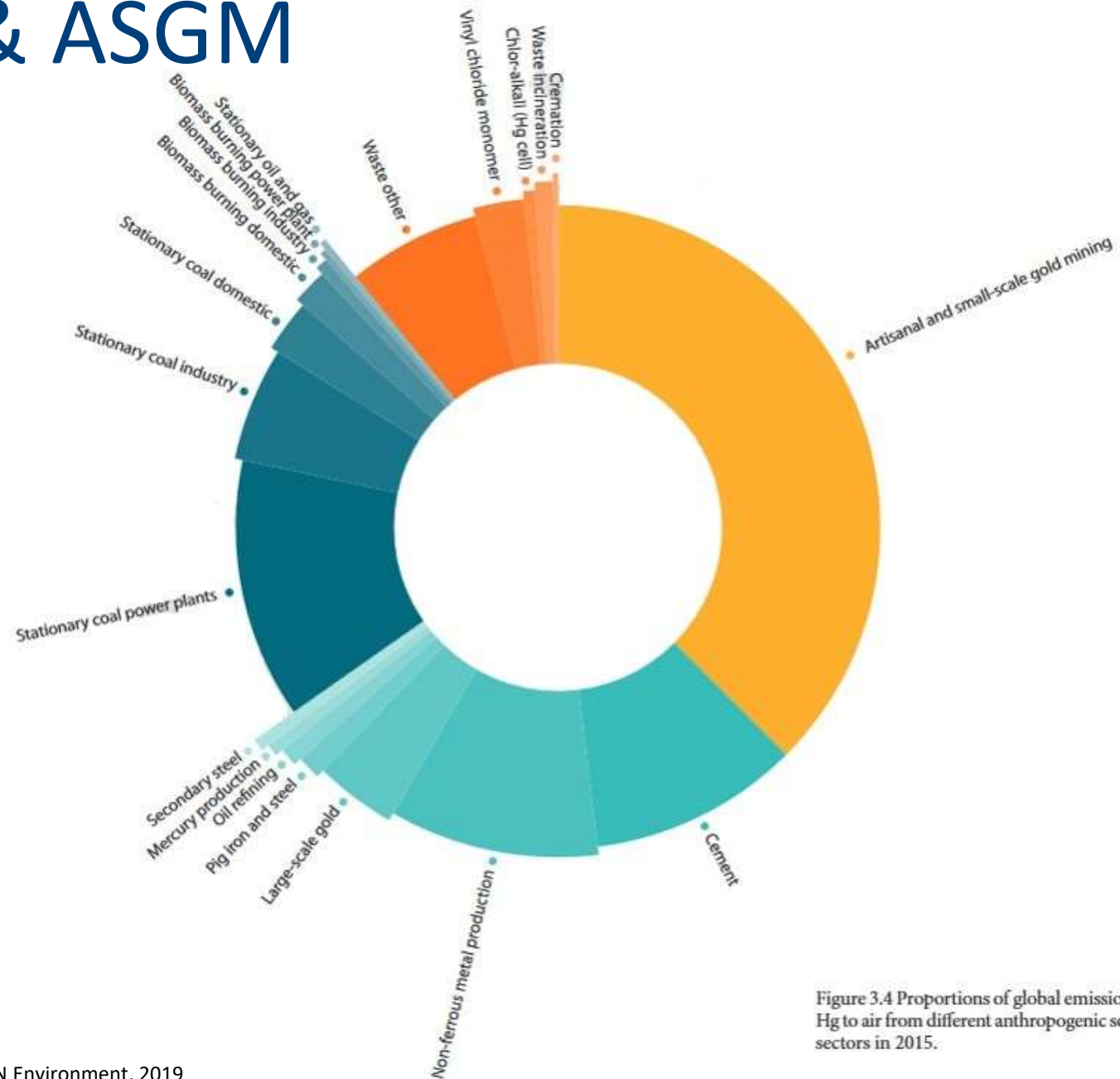
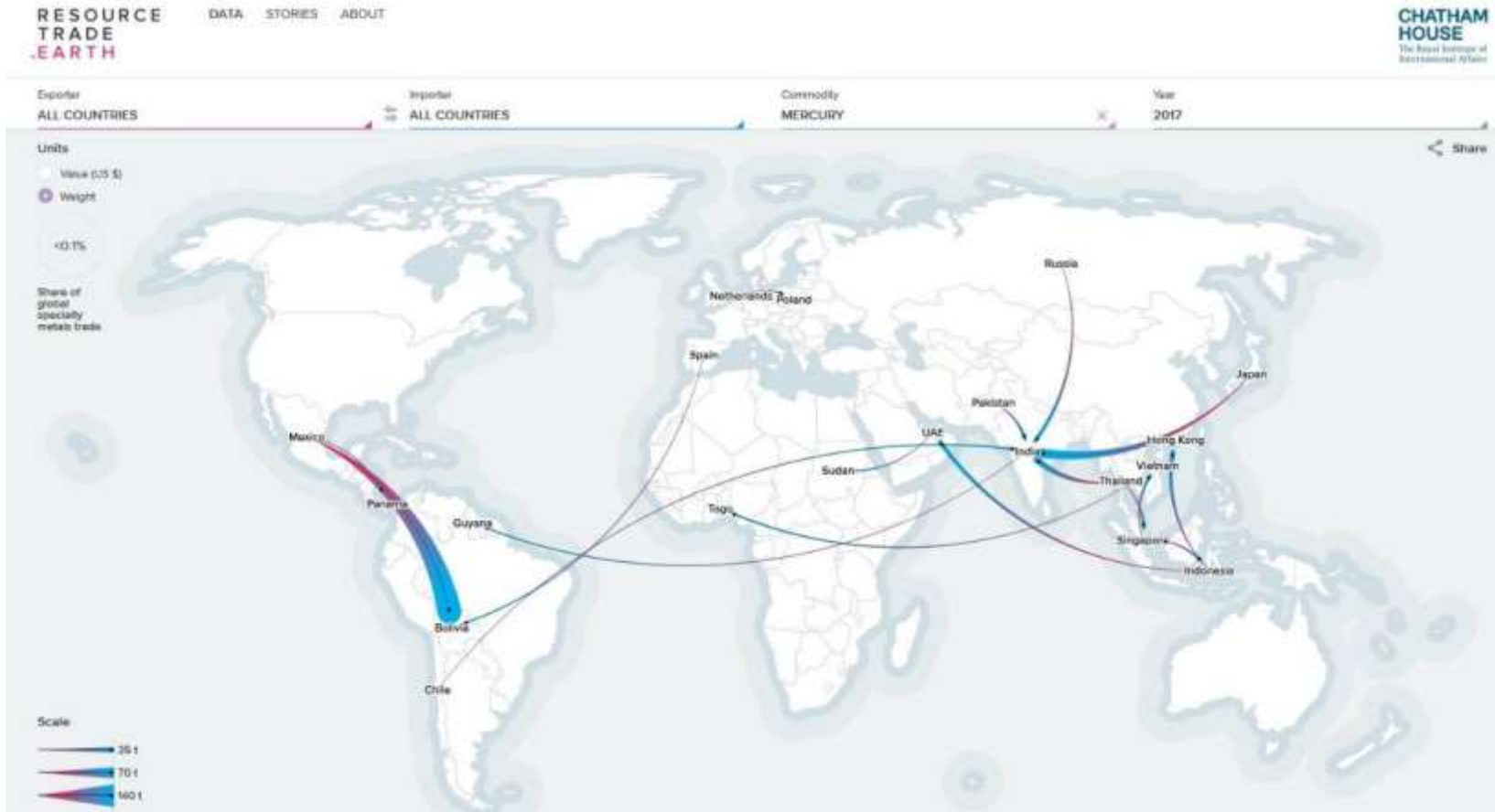
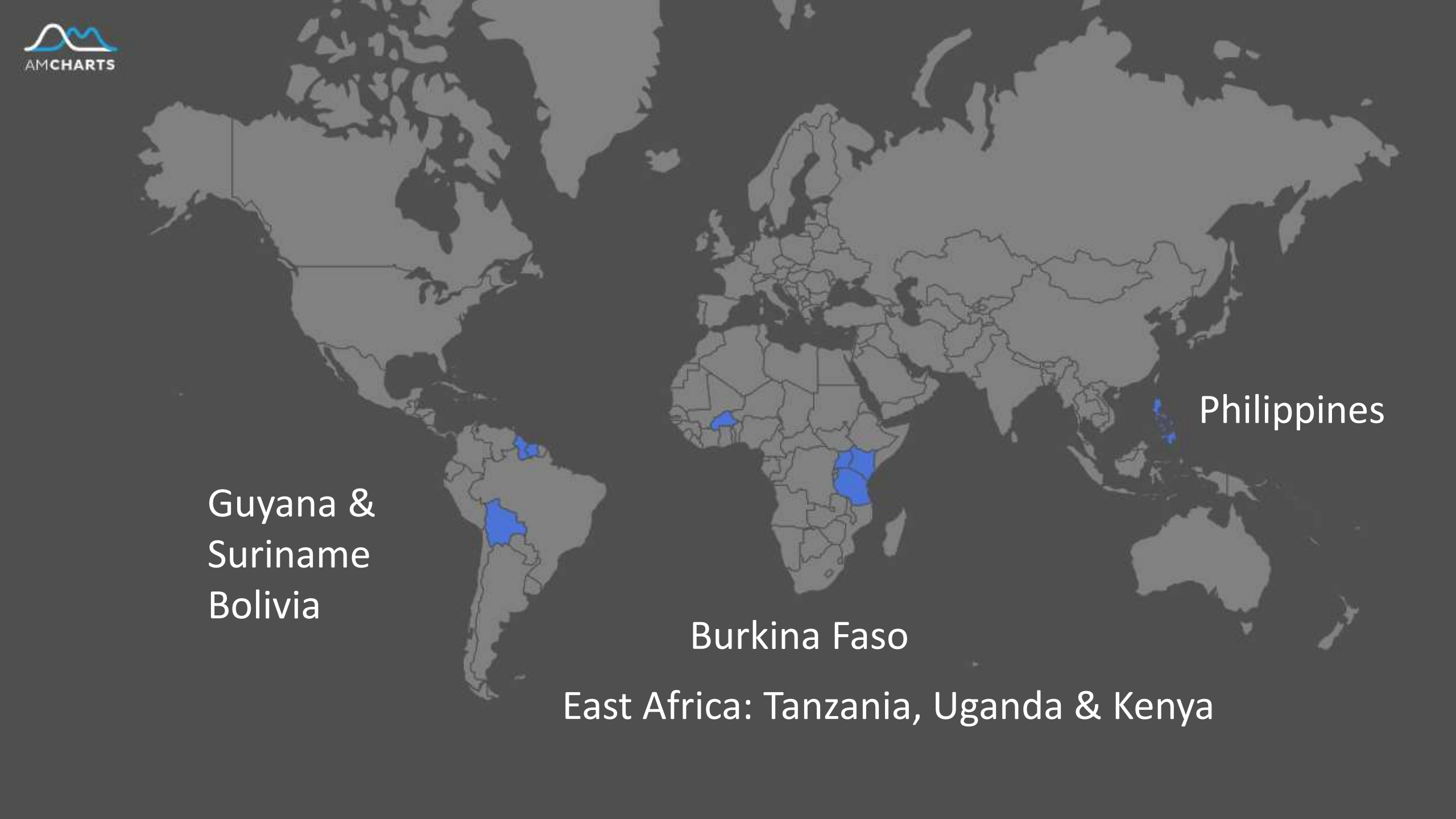


Figure 3.4 Proportions of global emissions of Hg to air from different anthropogenic source sectors in 2015.

Official data vs reality



1. Import/Export discrepancies
2. Discrepancies of data and on ground realities
3. Most data on ASGM and mercury based on estimates



A world map with a dark gray background and light gray outlines of continents and countries. Several regions are highlighted in a bright blue color: Guyana and Suriname in South America, Bolivia in South America, Burkina Faso in West Africa, East Africa (Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya) in East Africa, and the Philippines in Southeast Asia.

Guyana &
Suriname
Bolivia

Burkina Faso

East Africa: Tanzania, Uganda & Kenya

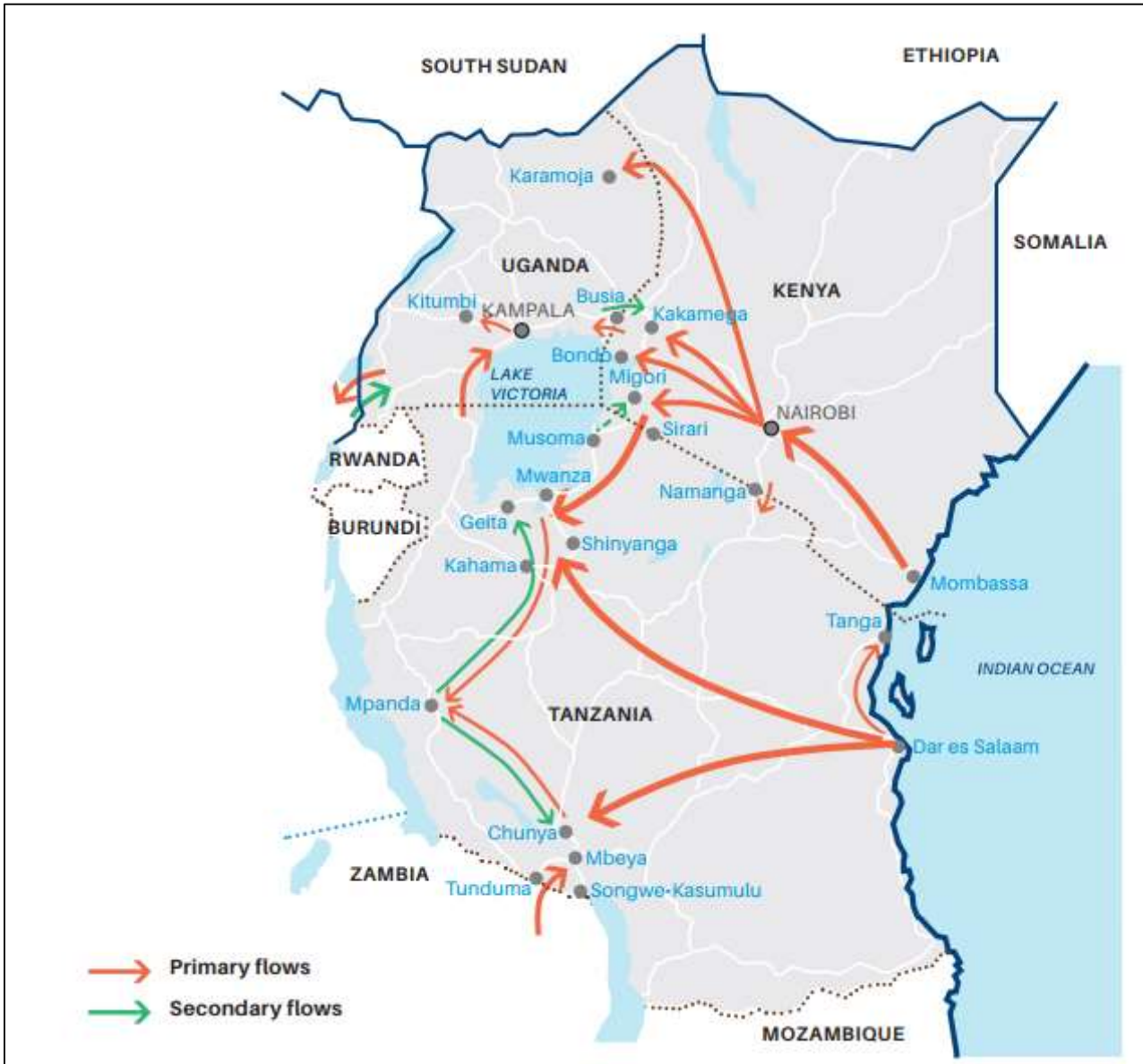
Philippines

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. understanding Hg flows, trade hubs & key players
2. enhancing governance of Hg in ASGM
3. showcasing that it's a global issue



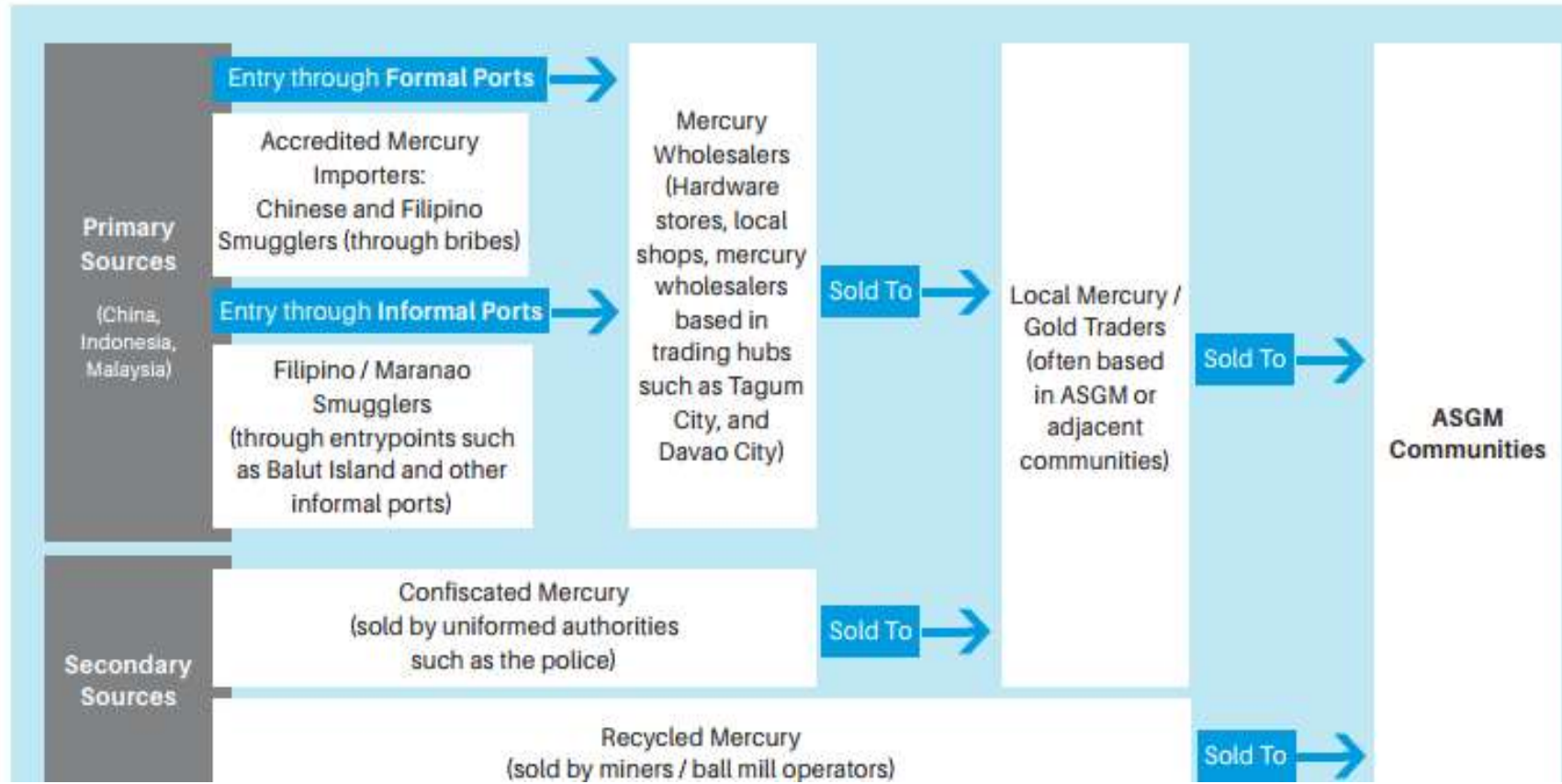
East Africa



- Most imports into Kenya (for industrial use) -> informally diverted to ASGM
- Cross-border trade common and easy
- Trade flows depend on supply, demand and price
- Cartel-like structures that operate in secrecy
- Mercury trade is lucrative
- Gold traders are controlling mercury trade

Philippines

- Only very small amounts of formally imported mercury
- Strong link between gold & mercury trade
- Miners often have no choice but to keep using mercury



KEY FINDINGS

- Factors hindering understanding:
 - Little hard data on ASGM (informality of the sector)
 - Large discrepancies in reporting of mercury imports & exports
 - Informality of trade (cartel-like structures)
- Factors contributing to Hg use
 - “Tradition”
 - Poverty
 - Market & Supply chain mechanisms -> gold/mercury trade
- Driving force are not miners but actors higher in the supply chain
- Governance issues



Photo credit Bram Ebus

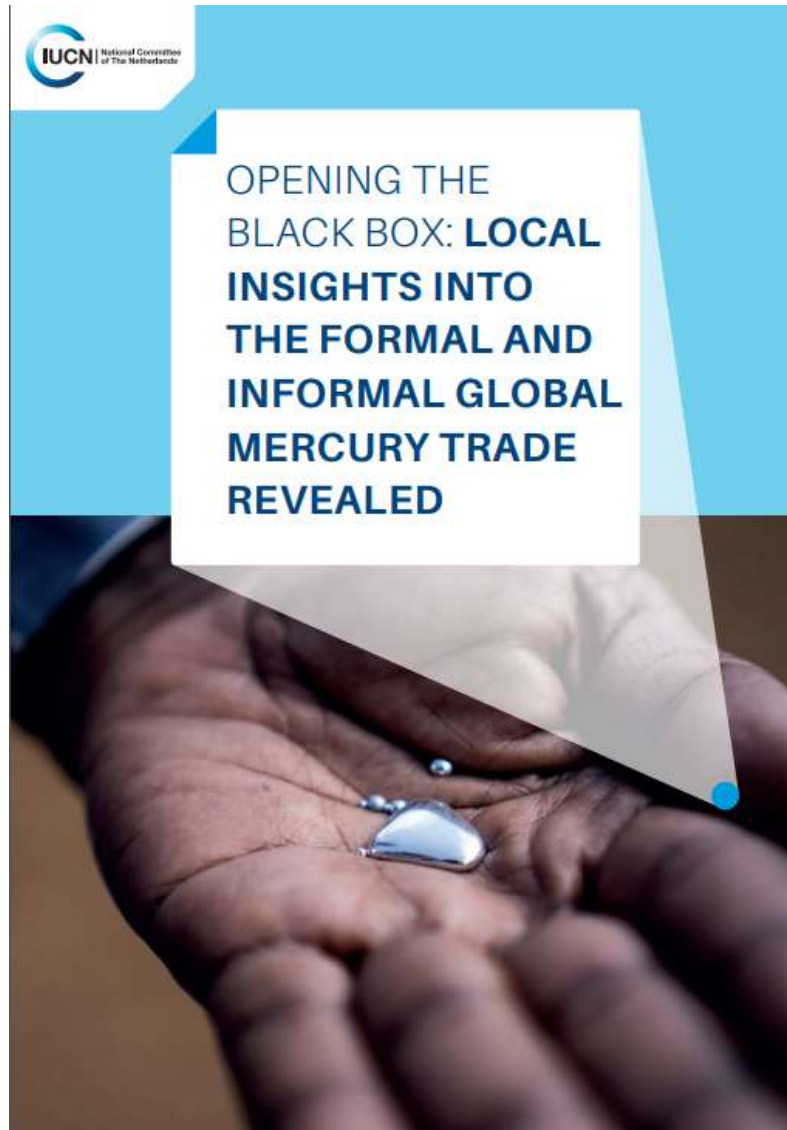
How to tackle the problem?

- **formalize the ASGM sector**
- increase **enforcement, strengthen border controls & train custom officials**
- **clarify laws and regulations & create a licensing and monitoring scheme** for domestic mercury trade
- create **appropriate, environmentally sound interim storage facilities** for confiscated mercury
- increase **collaboration** between regional, national and international agencies

- **strengthen linkages with formal gold and mercury markets**
- improve **economic opportunities** for miners
- support the **transition to mercury-free technologies** with institutionalized, long-term support

Global mercury report
available in English,
Spanish and French

Additionally:
In depth
country/regional reports
for all focus countries



Online platform on
mercury trade in
Guiana Shield:
<https://mercurio.infoamazonia.org/en/>