Lesotho’s Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) found that consumer products such as thermometers, blood pressure gauges, fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, etc. account for 51% of the total releases and emissions of mercury into the environment. It also found that mercury use in religious rituals and folkloric medicine was a high priority requiring Government intervention.

It is for this reason that this project aims to strengthen Lesotho’s capacity to meet its obligations as a Party to the Minamata Convention by improving the management framework of mercury-added products and their wastes. The envisaged outcome of the project is a steady and gradual reduction in the use of mercury-added products, which has been identified in the Lesotho’s exemption registration.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the project is to strengthen institutional capacity to implement Article 4 of the Minamata Convention in order to protect human health and the environment from mercury releases originating from the intentional use of mercury-added products.

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

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**PROJECT RESULTS**

- **MEASURE 1**: Strengthen Minamata national coordination mechanism
- **MEASURE 2**: Conduct inventories to evaluate mercury added products’ extent of use
- **MEASURE 3**: Conduct market research on alternatives
- **MEASURE 4**: Conduct a cost benefit analysis for switching to alternatives
- **MEASURE 5**: Develop a phase out/down strategy to switch to alternatives
- **MEASURE 6**: Undertake awareness raising activities
- **MEASURE 7**: Monitoring and evaluation and financial audit

This will be achieved through developing and reinforcing the technical capacity of Lesotho in undertaking mercury assessments necessary for developing the phase out and phase down strategy of mercury added products. The assessments will include inventories, market research analysis on alternatives and cost benefit analysis. Capacity will equally be built through the trainings that will be conducted for identified key stakeholders in phasing out mercury added products.

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

The day-to-day management and administration of the project will be handled by the Project Coordinator and her team in the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture. The Africa Institute will be the executing agency for the project.

The project steering committee will be the existing Chemicals Management Committee, which was adopted as the Minamata National Coordination Mechanism. The committee will be responsible for monitoring progress, providing information to consultants and reviewing reports.

**RELEVANT SDGs**

- **3 Good Health and Well-being**
- **5 Gender Equality**
- **6 Clean water and sanitation**
- **7 Affordable and clean energy**
- **10 Reduced inequalities**
- **12 Responsible consumption and production**
- **13 Climate action**
- **14 Life below water**

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**CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SPECIFIC TRUST FUND (2018)**