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Item 5 (e) (i) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the
Conference of the Parties: financial mechanism:
Global Environment Facility**

**Report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the
Conference of the Parties at its third meeting**

Note by the secretariat

The report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury at its third meeting is set out in the annex to the present note. The report is reproduced as received, without formal editing.

* UNEP/MC/COP.3/1.

Annex

Report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury at its third meeting

**Report of the Global Environment Facility
to the Third Meeting of the Conference of the
Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

September 4, 2019

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFLDC	African Least Developed Countries
ASGM	Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining
BRS	Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions
COP	Conference of the Parties
FSP	Full-Size Project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IEO	Independent Evaluation Office
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
ISLANDS	Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS Program
LDC	Least Developed Country
MIA	Minamata Initial Assessment
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP	Medium-Size Project
NAP	National Action Plan
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substance
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
SGP	Small Grant Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UPOP	Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutant

Executive Summary

1. Article 13 of the Minamata Convention includes the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the Financial Mechanism to provide new, predictable, adequate, and timely financial resources to meet costs in support of implementation of this Convention as agreed by the Conference of the Parties (COP).
2. This report presents the work of the GEF in fulfilling its mandate under the Minamata Convention between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 and how the GEF has responded to the guidance received from the COP to date.
3. During the reporting period, the GEF has approved three full-size projects (FSPs) covering 15 countries, one single country medium-size project (MSP), one program covering 27 countries, and four single country enabling activity projects.
4. The resources committed during the reporting period for the implementation of the Minamata Convention is \$22.6 million.¹
5. During the reporting period, GEF resources have supported one Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA). To date GEF resources have supported 111 countries to conduct MIAs.²
6. Four National Action Plans (NAPs) for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) were also supported, with 35 countries receiving support to date.
7. The GEF chemicals and wastes portfolio, which includes mercury, leveraged \$13 for every \$1 GEF invested from co-financing during the reporting period.³
8. The GEF-7 results framework includes a core indicator to measure results in the chemicals and wastes focal area.⁴ This core indicator has a target of 100,000 metric tons of chemicals and wastes including mercury. There is no stand-alone target for mercury in GEF-7. The GEF expects that 1,163 metric tons of mercury will be addressed by the projects that were approved during this reporting period.
9. The GEF reports progress on the results framework via the Corporate Scorecard. The first scorecard for the GEF-7 period was presented at the 56th GEF Council meeting in June 2019. The scorecard reports only on the aggregate core indicators, and it reports that approved chemicals and wastes projects contributed to 30.9 percent of the GEF-7 core indicator where mercury is included.⁵ The scorecard also showed that the GEF had programmed 8 percent of the notionally allocated mercury resources for GEF-7.

¹ Excluding Agency Fees and project preparation grants (PPGs).

² The GEF has supported MIAs starting in GEF-5.

³ Co-financing includes programs, full-size projects, medium-size projects, and enabling activities. PPGs and Agency Fees are excluded.

⁴ GEF, 2018, *GEF-7 Programming Directions*, Council Document GEF/R.7/19.

⁵ GEF, 2019, Corporate Score Card. The score card compiles Global Environmental Benefits at GEF Council approval and CEO Endorsement stages.

10. The GEF Council, at its 56th meeting, approved the Memorandum of Understanding adopted by the second COP, and requested the GEF Secretariat (hereafter the Secretariat) to transmit its approval to the COP.⁶

⁶ GEF, 2019, Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, Council Document GEF/C.56/10/Rev.01

Introduction

1. This report presents the work of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 (the reporting period). The report is presented in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Council of The Global Environment Facility.

Part I: GEF's Work on Mercury during the Reporting Period

2. This section provides information on the GEF's support of the Minamata convention for the reporting period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Response to Initial Guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention

3. The first COP to the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held September 24-29, 2017. The COP provided guidance to the GEF on overall strategies, policies, programme priorities and eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources. The COP also provided guidance on an indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support from the GEF Trust Fund.⁷ There was no additional guidance to the GEF from COP 2 in 2018. Table 1 below is the complete list of guidance and an update to the GEF's cumulative response.

Table 1: Response to Initial Guidance from Conference of Parties to Minamata Convention

COP Guidance		GEF's Response
Eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources		
2	To be eligible for funding from GEF as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a country must be a Party to the Convention and must be a developing country or a country with an economy in transition.	The GEF's eligibility policy for mercury incorporates the criteria for funding enabling activities. The guidelines for these enabling activities are found in the information document of the 45 th meeting of the GEF Council, revised in January 2014. ⁸ During GEF-6, prior to the first Conference of the Parties, both signatory countries and Parties were eligible to receive funding from the GEF. In GEF-7, only Parties are eligible to access GEF resources.
3	Activities that are eligible for funding from the GEF trust fund are those that seek to meet the objectives of the Convention and are consistent with the present guidance.	According to the GEF Instrument, paragraph 6 (e), the GEF shall: Operate as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, pursuant to its Article 13, paragraphs 5, 6, and 8. In such respects, the GEF shall operate under the guidance of, and be accountable to the Conference of the Parties, which shall

⁷ In the annex to decision MC-1/5

⁸ GEF, 2014, Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities for the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Council Document, GEF/C.45/Inf.05/Rev.01.

COP Guidance		GEF's Response
		provide guidance on overall strategies, policies, program priorities and eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources. In addition, the GEF shall receive guidance from the Conference of the Parties on an indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support; and shall provide resources to meet the agreed incremental costs of global environmental benefits and the agreed full costs of some enabling activities, pursuant to Article 13, paragraph 7, of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
4	Signatories to the Convention are eligible for funding from GEF for enabling activities, provided that any such signatory is taking meaningful steps towards becoming a Party as evidenced by a letter from the relevant minister to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.	<p>Up to June 30, 2018, the GEF supported a total of 110 countries through GEF-5 and GEF-6 to implement MIAs and 32 countries to conduct their ASGM NAPs. 78 out of 89 Signatories received funding for these enabling activities. Of the remaining 11 countries, 6 have become Parties as of June 30, 2018. Twenty-three countries that were non-signatory and non-Party have accessed enabling activity resources; at the request of the sixth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury (INC6) to allow non-signatory, non-Party States to access resources for enabling activities from the GEF, the GEF Council varied the eligibility criteria through a decision by mail on January 14, 2015. This variation of the eligibility for non-signatories, non-Parties is longer applicable, as the COP 1 guidance only applies to signatories and Parties with respect to access of funding of enabling activities.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: Up to June 30, 2019, the GEF supported a total of 111 countries to implement MIAs and 35 countries to conduct their ASGM NAPs.</p>
II. Overall strategies and policies		
5	<p>In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the GEF trust fund shall provide new, predictable, adequate, and timely financial resources to meet costs in support of implementation of the Convention as agreed by the Conference of the Parties, including costs arising from activities that:</p> <p>(a) Are country-driven;</p> <p>(b) Are in conformity with programme priorities as reflected in relevant guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>(c) Build capacity and promote the utilization of local and regional expertise, if applicable;</p> <p>(d) Promote synergies with other focal areas;</p>	<p>This guidance has been used to inform the programming in GEF-6 and GEF-7 and has been addressed in the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations, which concluded in April 2018. The new strategy is included in the summary of negotiations of the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.⁹</p>

⁹ GEF, 2018, Report On The Seventh Replenishment Of The GEF Trust Fund, Council Document GEF/A.6/05/Rev.01.

COP Guidance		GEF's Response
	<p>(e) Continue to enhance synergies and co-benefits within the chemicals and wastes focal area;</p> <p>(f) Promote multiple-source funding approaches, mechanisms and arrangements, including from the private sector, if applicable; and</p> <p>(g) Promote sustainable national socioeconomic development, poverty reduction and activities consistent with existing national sound environmental management programmes geared towards the protection of human health and the environment.</p>	
III. Programme priorities		
6	In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the GEF trust fund shall provide resources to meet the agreed incremental costs of global environmental benefits and the agreed full costs of some enabling activities.	This is reflected in the strategies of the GEF. In GEF-7, \$206 million is notionally allocated for the implementation of the Minamata Convention. The GEF has programmed resources to meet the full cost of the MIAs and the ASGM NAPs. The GEF has programmed resources for several projects that are aimed at early implementation, particularly in the ASGM sector.
7	<p>In particular, it should give priority to the following activities when providing financial resources to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition:</p> <p>(a) Enabling activities, particularly Minamata Convention initial assessment activities and national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining;</p> <p>(b) Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention, affording priority to those that:</p> <p>(i) Relate to legally binding obligations;</p> <p>(ii) Facilitate early implementation on entry into force of the Convention for a Party;</p> <p>(iii) Allow for reduction in mercury emissions and releases and address the health and environmental impacts of mercury.</p>	<p>This guidance has been used in the programming in GEF-6 and GEF-7 and has been addressed in the programming priorities of the GEF-7 chemicals and wastes focal area strategy. All projects and programs in GEF-7 that seek to implement the Minamata Convention were consistent with this guidance.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: During the reporting period, four enabling activities, including one MIA and three ASGM NAPs were approved in accordance with (a). All full-size projects approved meet the guidance under (b).</p>
8	In providing resources for an activity, GEF should take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its costs in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article 13 of the Convention.	In GEF-7, projects with potential for significant mercury reduction have been approved. The GEF continues to work with countries and Agencies to look at the potential reduction of mercury relative to its cost.
IV. Indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support		
A. Enabling activities		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minamata Convention initial assessments 2. Preparation of national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 7 and Annex C 3. Other types of enabling activities as agreed by the Conference of the Parties 	<p>This guidance has been used to inform the programming in GEF-6 and GEF-7 and has been addressed in the programming priorities of the GEF-7 chemicals and wastes focal area strategy. In GEF-6 and GEF-7, all eligible enabling activities that were submitted to the GEF have received funding.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: The GEF-7 notional allocation for Minamata Convention enabling activities is \$14 million.</p>

COP Guidance	GEF's Response
B. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention	
1. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that relate to legally binding obligations	
<p>9 When providing financial resources to eligible Parties for activities to implement the provisions of the Convention, GEF should afford priority to those activities that relate to legally binding obligations of Parties under the Convention and should take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its costs. Such activities could include those related to the following areas, listed in no particular order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury supply sources and trade; • Mercury-added products; • Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used; • Artisanal and small-scale gold mining; • Emissions; • Releases; • Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury; • Mercury wastes; • Reporting; • Relevant capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer in relation to the above. 	<p>These have been included in the GEF-7 chemicals and wastes focal area strategy. This guidance has been used to inform the programming in GEF-6 and GEF-7.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: Projects approved during this reporting period follow this guidance. One project address mercury sources and trade. All projects include capacity building and other projects, including the GEF program Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) program and the Scaling-up Investment and Technology Transfer to Facilitate Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in African LDCs project address mercury wastes and mercury containing products.</p>
2. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that facilitate early implementation on entry into force of the Convention for a Party	
<p>10 When considering activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that facilitate early implementation on entry into force, GEF should also consider providing support for activities that, although they are not the subject of a legal obligation under the Convention, may significantly contribute to a Party's preparedness to implement the Convention upon its entry into force for that country.</p>	<p>This will be addressed during programming in GEF-7 and will be reported on at subsequent COPs.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: GEF projects primarily focus on implementing obligations of the convention that reduce mercury. Others are considered on a case by case basis. Projects typically include technical assistance and capacity building that address a legally binding obligation. For example, training of customs officers in the GEF ISLANDS program will support the countries meeting the phase-out date in Annex A mercury containing products and devices.</p>
<p>11 Within the context of the GEF mandate, such activities could include, inter alia, support for:</p> <p>(a) With regard to emissions, the development by Parties with relevant sources of emissions of national plans setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions and their expected targets, goals and outcomes;</p> <p>(b) With regard to releases, the development by Parties with relevant sources of releases of national plans setting out the measures to be taken to control releases and their expected targets, goals and outcomes;</p> <p>(c) With regard to contaminated sites, capacity-building for the development of strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury</p>	<p>This will be addressed during programming in GEF-7 and will be reported on at subsequent COPs.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: GEF projects primarily focus on implementing legal obligations of the Convention and reducing mercury. Other activities are considered on a case by case basis. Activities that are not subject to legal obligation under the Convention were considered in projects funded during this reporting period, such as,</p>

COP Guidance		GEF's Response
	<p>compounds and, as appropriate, the remediation of those sites;</p> <p>(d) Information exchange;</p> <p>(e) Public information, awareness and education;</p> <p>(f) Cooperation in the development and improvement of research, development and monitoring;</p> <p>(g) Development of implementation plans following initial assessments.</p>	<p>information exchange, public awareness, and development of implementation plans.</p>
3. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that allow for the reduction of mercury emissions and releases and address both the health and environmental impacts of mercury		
12	<p>Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that allow for the reduction of mercury emissions and releases and address both the health and environmental impacts of mercury may encompass activities relating to both binding and non-binding provisions, with priority to the legally binding provisions discussed above, that accord with the GEF mandate to deliver global environmental benefits and reflect the GEF chemicals and wastes focal area strategy.</p>	<p>This will be addressed during programming in GEF-7 and will be reported on at subsequent COPs.</p> <p>Update for COP 3: The projects approved during the reporting period will contribute to the reduction of 1,163 metric tons of mercury.</p>
V. Review by the Conference of the Parties		
13	<p>In accordance with paragraph 11 of Article 13, the Conference of the Parties will review, no later than at its third meeting, and thereafter on a regular basis, the level of funding, the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to GEF as one of the entities entrusted with operationalizing the mechanism established under this Article and the mechanism's effectiveness and ability to address the changing needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. On the basis of such review, the Conference of the Parties will take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, including by updating and prioritizing as necessary its guidance to GEF.</p>	<p>At the request of the COP, the GEF has provided information as it relates to the review described in paragraph 11 of Article 13 of the Minamata Convention.</p>

Programming during the Reporting Period

4. During the reporting period, \$24.96 million of GEF resources were utilized for programming to support the implementation of Minamata Convention in 47 Countries. This amount consists of GEF project grants of \$22.6 million, \$260,000 for PPGs,¹⁰ and \$2.1 million for Agency Fees.¹¹

5. Of the mercury funding, \$1.7 million was allocated to four enabling activities (MIAs and/or NAPs for ASGM) in four countries. \$875,000 was allocated to a medium-sized project (MSP) in one country. \$15.3 million was allocated to full-size projects (FSPs) that provided resources to 15 countries. \$4.8 million was allocated to one Program (PFD) in 27 countries.

¹⁰ PPG is calculated for the project as a whole and not just mercury components.

¹¹ Co-financing includes programs, full-size projects, medium-size projects, and enabling activities. PPGs and Agency Fees are excluded.

6. The projects approved support 12 Least Developing Countries (LDCs) and 27 small island developing States (SIDS).
7. The four enabling activity projects supported one MIA and three ASGM NAPs, bringing the total number of countries receiving GEF support for MIAs to date to 111 and ASGM NAPs to 35. See full list of MIAs and NAPs in Annex 3.
8. The full list of projects is presented in Annex 1.

Table 2: Resources Programmed for Implementation of the Minamata Convention for the reporting period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Project Type	GEF Resources (US\$ million) ¹²
Enabling Activities (MIAs and NAPs)	1.7
Medium-Size Projects	0.9
Full-Size Projects	15.3
Programs	4.8
Total	22.6

Table 3 presents the number of countries that received support from the resources described above.

Table 3: Number of Countries Receiving Support for the reporting period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Type of Project	Number of Countries
Minamata Initial Assessment	1
National Action Plans	3
Medium-Size Projects	1
Full-Size Projects	15
Programs	27

9. The projects approved during the reporting period support Minamata Convention implementation are estimated to reduce 1,163 metric tons of mercury.
10. Implementation of the Minamata Convention is funded under the chemicals and wastes focal area, and as such there are several projects that combine resources for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and other focal areas with mercury resources. In this regard, the co-financing ratio is not calculated for mercury alone in combined projects. In the reporting period, the overall average co-financing ratio for projects that included resources for the Minamata Convention was 1 to 13.
11. The GEF has responded to new chemicals conventions and the movement towards integration and synergies among the conventions by evolving its strategy to accommodate these transitions. GEF support has shifted from separate focal area programming that responded the phase out of ozone depleting substances (ODS) covered by the Montreal Protocol and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) covered by the Stockholm Convention, to now having one, fully integrated chemicals and wastes focal area, which incorporates the previous

¹² Excludes Agency Fees and PPG.

POPs and ODS focal areas and adds mercury and work to implement the strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM).

12. The GEF-7 strategy¹³ supports eligible countries to implement the convention obligations. The GEF interventions will expand on previous support towards ratification and entry into force taking convention guidance on implementation into account.

13. Three of the four of the FSPs and programs funded during the reporting period tackle issues related to both the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention which allows for multiple benefits at the national level and facilitates synergies of the Conventions. Because of this increased synergy in the portfolio, in addition to mercury reductions, the projects approved are estimated to achieve other global environmental benefits, including reducing 7,368 metric tons of POPs, 28,781 metric tons of POPs containing material, 547 gTEQ POPs emissions, 2,000 hectares of landscapes improved, and 310,400 metric tons of marine litter avoided.

14. The projects approved during the reporting period respond to the guidance from the COP and prioritize legal obligations and mercury reductions, while also supporting capacity building and activities that support implementation of the convention. For example, the portfolio deals with mercury in products, mercury waste, and mercury supply, in addition to updating regulations and policies to properly manage mercury. Below are some in-depth examples.

15. The GEF funded a project to address primary mercury mining covered under Article 3 of the Minamata Convention, titled “Reducing Global Environmental Risks Through the Monitoring and Development of Alternative Livelihood for the Primary Mercury Mining Sector in Mexico”. This project will prevent the risks to environment and human health from mercury through the establishment of a comprehensive strategy to control primary mercury mining and to enable environmentally and socially sound alternative economic activities and livelihoods in Mexico. Mexico has a significant primary mercury mining sector active in areas that are rich in biodiversity, such as the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve. Much of the mercury mined in Mexico is exported to South America for use in the ASGM sector. The project will support the government of Mexico in monitoring primary mercury mining to fulfill its obligations under the Convention and introduce alternative livelihoods so that miners to adopt alternative income generation activities. This project will deliver global environmental benefits, by reducing 560 tons of mercury and lead to 2,000 hectares of landscapes under improved practices over the project lifetime. It will also help reduce the flow of mercury to the ASGM sector.

16. The GEF ISLANDS program and the African Least Developed Countries 2 (AFLDC-2) project, among other activities, will enable countries to phase out the use of mercury-added products covered under Article 4 of the Convention and support the environmentally sound management of mercury waste covered under Article 11 of the Convention.

17. The GEF Council approved all project proposals included in the two Work Programs during the reporting period, in December 2018 at the 55th Council and in June 2019 at the 56th Council.

18. In accordance with paragraph 9 (b) of the MOU, the GEF can report that there are 60 projects being implemented during the reporting period in relation to mercury with a total of \$112.5 million GEF resources and \$416.9 million of co-financing, in addition to the projects

¹³ GEF, 2018, *GEF-7 Programming Directions*, Council Document GEF/R.7/19.

newly approved during the reporting period. Annex 4 shows the complete list of projects, including the implementation status of each one.

Cooperation with Secretariat of Minamata Convention

19. Since the adoption of the Convention in October 2013, the Secretariat has initiated formal cooperation and communication with the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention to enhance coordination, share information, and collaborate on issues related to the implementation of the Convention. Since COP 2, cooperation has continued with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention.

20. A robust delegation from the GEF Secretariat participated in COP 2 to the Minamata Convention, held during November 19-23, 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. The GEF hosted a side event titled “Options for Addressing Emissions and Releases of Mercury,” in which the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention participated. The Secretariat representatives participated actively on the discussion related to the GEF, including Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the COP and the GEF Council, and effectiveness evaluation.

21. The COP adopted the MOU between the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility as noted in paragraph 83 of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the work of its second meeting.¹⁴ The MOU contains sections on: definitions; purpose; guidance from the COP; conformity with guidance from the COP; reporting; monitoring and evaluation; cooperation between secretariats; reciprocal representation; amendments; interpretation; entry into effect; and termination.

22. The legal counsels of the Convention and the GEF agree that the MOU can enter into effect on the adoption by the GEF Council.

23. The MOU was presented to the 56th GEF Council Meeting and was approved by the Council. The Council requested the Secretariat to transmit its approval to the COP.¹⁵

24. The COP considered the review of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention. The COP decided to request the Convention Secretariat to compile information to be provided by the GEF, the Specific International Programme, Parties, and other relevant sources as identified by Article 13(11) as being necessary for the review and present it with a synthesis to COP 3 for consideration. COP 2 did not provide additional guidance to the GEF.

25. The Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention attended the 55th meeting of the GEF Council in December 2018. The GEF Council was provided with the outcomes of COP 2 during the Convention heads panel, part of the session on relations with Conventions at the GEF Council meeting.

26. The Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention attended the 56th meeting of the GEF Council in June 2019. The GEF Council was provided with updates for COP 3 during the

¹⁴ Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the work of its second meeting, UNEP/MC/COP.2/19

¹⁵ GEF, 2019, Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, Council Document GEF/C.56/10/Rev.01

Convention heads panel, part of the session on relations with Conventions at the GEF Council meeting.

27. The GEF routinely organizes chemicals and wastes task force meetings regarding the chemicals and wastes work stream in the context of the GEF. The meeting participants include representatives from the GEF implementing and project agencies, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the GEF, and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, and the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention. During the reporting period, a meeting was held in April 2019 to discuss programming for GEF-7 and shared information on project concepts and their statuses. Representatives of the Minamata Secretariat attended this meeting.

Part II: Other GEF Activities Related to the Minamata Convention

Chemicals and Wastes Portfolio in the Small Grants Programme

28. The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by United Nations Developing Program (UNDP), promotes the implementation of the Minamata Convention at the local and community level by providing financial and technical support to civil society organizations in addressing mercury management issues. SGP tests and pilots community-based approaches to the prevention, reduction, and elimination of mercury use in ASGM, and promotes safe collection and disposal of mercury-containing products and waste, such as health care and electronic waste. Furthermore, SGP supports local communities to develop their awareness and capacities in mercury management. The GEF SGP provides grants of up to \$50,000 (\$25,000 on average) directly to civil society organizations and community-based organizations to undertake global environmental projects. Since its inception, the GEF SGP has supported a cumulative total of more than 23,500 projects implemented by civil society groups in 131 countries, across all GEF focal areas. While the portfolio on chemicals and wastes, including mercury management, is still small compared to other portfolios, it is a growing area among many countries and partners. The GEF has cumulatively supported 714 SGP projects related to chemicals and wastes, totaling over \$20.5 million.

29. During the reporting period, the first phase of GEF-7 SGP was approved (GEF Grant of \$64 million) with a component on chemical and waste management of \$5.8 million. In GEF-7, SGP plans to provide at least \$11.7 million to support chemicals and wastes projects, including those addressing the Minamata Convention

30. In addition, during the reporting period, SGP has supported 16 projects on mercury management with a total of \$393,980 GEF funding, which generated \$306,186 in co-financing. Annex 3 lists the projects supported by SGP during this period. Moreover, SGP launched an innovation program on ASGM to support activities addressing mercury use and contamination in the ASGM sector in Antigua and Barbuda, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guyana, Guinea-Conakry, Lao PDR, Liberia, Mali, Mongolia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Each country program will have a coordinated portfolio of up to \$200,000 funding to address issues related to ASGM at the community level. SGP will coordinate capacity development and knowledge sharing on community-based ASGM initiatives among these country programmes. Additionally, a global project was launched in 2018, executed by European Environment Bureau's Zero Mercury Working Group, to provide targeted trainings to civil society organizations for the implementation of the Minamata Convention, including awareness raising for global

environmental conventions and campaigns to influence government policies. Three regional training workshops conducted in Bangkok, Lusaka, and Panama trained more than 100 civil society organization representatives in mercury management. The full list of SGP projects is presented in Annex 2.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Mercury Projects in GEF-7

31. GEF projects and focal area portfolio are monitored by the Secretariat through its Annual Portfolio Monitoring Report are evaluated by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). The GEF IEO is responsible for undertaking independent evaluations that involve a set of projects from more than one Implementing or Executing Agency. These evaluation results are presented in the following reports:

- (a) Annual Performance Reports
- (b) Annual Country Portfolio Evaluations
- (c) Thematic Evaluations: programs, processes, and cross-cutting or focal areas
- (d) Comprehensive Evaluations of the GEF: Conducted every four years as inputs to the replenishment process.

32. The GEF IEO supports knowledge sharing and follow-up of evaluation recommendations. It works with the Secretariat and the GEF Agencies to establish systems to disseminate lessons learned and best practices emanating from monitoring and evaluation activities and provides independent evaluative evidence to the GEF knowledge base.

33. No new IEO evaluations on the GEF's mercury portfolio were completed during the reporting period.

GEF-7 Results

34. In GEF-7, a new results framework was proposed and approved by the GEF Assembly. This framework includes several core indicators which will monitor the progress of implementation of the GEF-7 programming strategy. The Secretariat prepared the first GEF-7 Corporate Scorecard for the 56th GEF Council, held in June 2019, including the results of chemicals and wastes focal area in: (i) contribution to the generation of global environment benefits; and (ii) cumulative summary of GEF-7 utilization of funds against the notional allocation for the Minamata Convention.¹⁶

35. The Corporate Scorecard prepared for the 56th Council showed that the GEF-7 chemicals and waste projects approved contributed to 31.9 percent of the GEF-7 corporate target of 100,000 tons for chemicals reduction, including mercury. The scorecard also showed that the GEF had programmed 8 percent of the notionally allocated mercury resources for GEF-7.

¹⁶ GEF, 2019, GEF-7 Corporate Score Card.

Part III: Seventh Replenishment Policies Update and Performance of the Minamata Portfolio with these Policies

Knowledge Management

36. The GEF approach to Knowledge Management (KM) was approved by GEF Council in June 2015 and has been under implementation since 2016. It aims to improve the impact of GEF funded projects and programs and to inform global, regional, and national policy dialogues to reverse global environmental degradation. The GEF emphasizes knowledge sharing and learning across the GEF Partnership while mainstreaming knowledge management into GEF project and program design and implementation.

37. An analysis by the Secretariat of GEF-7 programs and projects submitted to date suggests improved alignment with the GEF KM approach and indicates that project proposals are incorporating knowledge management approaches to varying degrees. The analysis of GEF-7 projects, including several mercury projects that aim to contribute to the goals of Minamata Convention, showed that at "Initial Submission" stage:

- 80 percent of PIFs have proposed tools and methods for knowledge exchange, learning, and collaboration;
- 78 percent have pointed to specific knowledge outputs to be produced and shared with stakeholders;
- 67 percent have proposed processes to capture, assess and document info, lessons, best practice, and expertise generated during implementation;
- 42 percent have mentioned plans to learn from relevant projects, programs, initiatives and evaluations.

38. For example, a proposed FSP, “Environmentally Sound Management of POPs, Mercury and other Hazardous Chemicals” in Argentina aims to establish a knowledge and information exchange platform for dissemination and sharing of project knowledge products. The platform will use social media to disseminate materials and presentations among selected audiences, including decision makers. The project also proposes to collect and disseminate lessons learned, best practices, and experiences at national, regional, and global levels to support replication. Activities, results, and lessons-learned will also be published in individual case study reports, which will help ensure that the wider stakeholder community can access the experiences, failures, and successes of the activities undertaken by the project.

39. Another proposed FSP, “Reducing Global Environmental Risks Through The Monitoring And Development Of Alternative Livelihood For The Primary Mercury Mining Sector” in Mexico aims to establish a Community of Practice under the UN Environment Live platform, providing stakeholders from project countries, as well as around the globe, a space to share ideas, data, and knowledge, with and from other similar projects and initiatives, and ensure opportunities for networking and communication through the use of technology and social media.

40. Finally, the global ISLANDS Program has a coordination, knowledge management, and communication project that specifically targets sharing of lessons learned between regions and facilitation of access to information and experience.

Gender

41. GEF's new approach to gender equality reflects the increased recognition by the Parties to the Minamata Convention of the need to consider the impact of poor management of hazardous chemicals and wastes on vulnerable groups such as women and young children. The GEF Policy on Gender Equality¹⁷ that came into effect on July 1, 2018 introduces new principles and requirements to address gender equality in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all GEF-financed activities.

42. A May 2019 analysis by the Secretariat of GEF-7 programs and projects suggests compliance with the Policy and validates that projects are incorporating gender-responsive approaches.¹⁸ The analysis of GEF-7 projects¹⁹ further showed that 85 percent of projects explicitly stated that they expect to develop sex disaggregated and gender sensitive indicators; and that 94 percent of projects are tagged to contribute to closing gender gaps and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in areas such as:

- Ensuring women's participation and role in natural resources decision-making processes;
- Targeting women as specific beneficiaries and investing in women's skills and capacity; and
- Supporting women's improved access, use, and control of natural resources.

43. The detailed review of the GEF-7 chemical and wastes portfolio shows that GEF enabling activities supporting preparation of National Action Plans on Mercury, for example, include plans to develop strategies to: (i) prevent exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age to mercury use in the ASGM sectors; and (ii) mitigate gender inequality and prevent child labor in ASGM. Similarly, the ISLANDS Program recognized that gender dimensions are important factors related to its objectives to prevent the build-up of materials and chemicals in the environment and managing and disposing of existing harmful categories. As such, the Program incorporates plans to mainstream gender, including targeted gender analyses and development of gender-disaggregated indicators. Specific plans also include efforts to consider gender in the chemicals and wastes value chain.

Private Sector

44. Since 2008, the GEF has developed a track record in blended finance by investing in projects with a wide array of non-grant instruments such as debt, equity, and guarantees. These instruments were key to de-risking project financing and to attracting private sector investment. The Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund includes a Non-Grant Instrument Program that builds on the lessons learned in blended finance during GEF-6 and expands the envelope of blended finance from \$110 million in GEF-6 to \$136 million. In June 2019, the GEF launched a call for proposals to its partner agencies to receive project proposals and investment opportunities for the use of non-grant instruments with a focus on scalability, innovation, and digital and technology solutions for environmental protection. The GEF also formalized collaboration with an ad hoc working group of financial experts to assist the GEF in the technical and financial review of the project proposals.

45. Recent guidance received from the Minamata Convention encouraged the GEF to further enhance engagement with the private sector. As a result, one of the key components of the

¹⁷ GEF, 2017, *Policy on Gender Equality*, Council Document GEF/C.53/04.

¹⁸ For further information please see progress report on the GEF Gender Implementation Strategy (GEF/C.56/Inf.03)

¹⁹ Review of 47 PIFs included in GEF-7 Work Programs as of May 2019.

chemicals and waste strategy approved under GEF-7 is to facilitate the reduction of chemicals through the shift of sustainable production and consumption, as well as stronger private sector engagement and public-private sector investments. Chemicals and waste projects submitted for GEF Council approval in June 2019, consistently included coordination mechanisms with the private sector. Private sector engagement in these projects materialized through regulatory enforcement and awareness raising but also through direct investments. In two specific projects, private sector companies are co-investing in the projects with loans or equity.

Stakeholder Engagement

46. The GEF's policy on stakeholder engagement, which became effective in July 2018, establishes minimum requirements for GEF Agencies to engage stakeholders at all stages of the GEF's programs and projects cycle (from design to execution to monitoring). The main objective of the policy is to promote the inclusive and meaningful participation of stakeholders in GEF's governance and operations in support of GEF's mandate to protect the global environment.

47. Inclusive and meaningful participation starts with early consultations in project design. In this regard, the analysis of the portfolio under the chemicals and waste focal area, which aims at addressing mercury pollution²⁰ indicates that 100 percent of the projects conducted consultations with civil society organizations as well as with private sector stakeholders and 67 percent included consultations with indigenous peoples.²¹ These are positive findings as early consultations with non-state stakeholders may provide valuable inputs and improve project design.

48. With regards to engagement of stakeholders in the project, the portfolio analysis²² indicates that 80 percent of the projects will engage civil society as well as private sector in an active role (beyond consultation) and 30 percent of projects foresee a role for indigenous peoples. Civil society and indigenous peoples were identified mostly as beneficiaries of the projects' outcomes.

²⁰ This portfolio includes three FSPs and one program for which information on consultations is requested.

²¹ Not all projects have indigenous peoples as stakeholders; therefore, the percentages are expected to be lower than those reported for civil society.

²² This portfolio includes three FSPs, one program and four enabling activities.

Annex 1: Projects Approved in the Reporting Period (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019)

GEF grant includes the GEF project grant allocated to mercury components only, excluding associated fees and project preparation grant.

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²³	Co-financing (US\$)
Guyana	Development of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in the Co-operative Republic of Guyana	EA	UNEP	500,000	
Rwanda	National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Rwanda	EA	UNIDO	500,000	58,500
Angola	National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Angola	EA	UNIDO	500,000	58,500
Rwanda	Minamata Convention: Initial assessment for Rwanda	EA	UNIDO	200,000	18,400
Nigeria	Circular Economy approaches for the electronics sector in Nigeria	MSP	UNEP	875,000	13,086,582
Argentina	Environmentally Sound Management of POPs, Mercury and other Hazardous Chemicals in Argentina	FSP	UNDP	1,846,100	34,500,000
Mexico	Reducing global environmental risks through the monitoring and development of alternative livelihood for the primary mercury mining sector in Mexico	FSP	UNEP	7,035,000	40,850,000
Regional, Africa, Angola, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Senegal	AFLDC-2 Scaling-up Investment and Technology Transfer to Facilitate Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in African LDCs	FSP	AFDB	6,390,000	800,440,519

²³ Includes GEF grant for mercury only. Does not include Agency Fees or PPG.

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²³	Co-financing (US\$)
Global, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Comoros, Cook Islands, Dominican Republic, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guyana, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)	PFD	UNEP, IADB, FAO, UNDP	4,750,000	389,214,560
Total				22,596,100	1,278,227,061

Annex 2: List of Mercury Projects Supported by Small Grants Programme in the Reporting Period (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019)

No	Country	Grantee Name	Project Title	Duration	SGP Grant (US\$)	Co-financing (US\$)
1	Belarus	Batchinskiy Rural council	Start with Yourself: Caring about the Environment of Your Land	08/2018-12/2019	6,570	6,570
2	Belarus	Center of Environmental Solutions	Information support on chemical safety and waste issues	04/2017-12/2018	26,000	26,230
3	China	Governance and Community Institute	Recycling and Environmentally Sound Management of Domestic Hazardous Waste in Residential Community	09/2018-08/2020	49,853	21,045
4	Ghana	Firm Health Ghana Foundation	Building the Capacity of Artisanal and Small-scale Miners in Eliminating Mercury and Innovative Mercury-free Processes	01/2019-12/2019	38,000	40,050
5	Ghana	Ghana Institute of Sustainable Development	Developing local level capacities to create networks and formalize the regulation of the Community Licensed Small-scale Mining Activities within the Black Volta Basin	01/2019-06/2020	24,000	44,700
6	Ghana	Moaduri Women Development Projects	Promoting Community mining and Mercury Free Technologies among artisanal and small-scale miners in Gbane (Kejetia, Obuasi and Bantama) and Dakoto in the Talensi Nabdum District of the Upper East Region	01/2019-06/2020	40,800.00	N/A
7	Ghana	Zintang Healers Association	Sustainable Community Group Artisanal and Small-scale Mining and Remediation of Degraded/Mercury Polluted sites within the Nadowli/Kaleo District of the Upper West Region of Ghana	02/2019-06/2020	41,800	65,000
8	Ghana	Langmaal Centre For Rural Development Initiatives	Managing waste and chemicals for community wealth creation and sustainable environmental management in Banda Nkwanta within the Black Volta Basin	02/2018-08/2019	8,000	22,500
9	Ghana	Green Waterhut	Promoting mercury management among artisanal miners and processing of plastic waste into fuel in Wakawaka, Jama, and Banda Nkwanta, within the Black Volta Basin	11/2016-7/2018	23,500	24,000
7	Guyana	Global Youth Movement - Guyana	Community Environment, Health and Recycling Project	2/2014-6/2015	50,000	65,908

No	Country	Grantee Name	Project Title	Duration	SGP Grant (US\$)	Co-financing (US\$)
8	Macedonia	Planktonium	Establishing a system for collecting electrical and electronic waste and waste batteries in Skopje and Bitola	09/2017-11/2018	22,599	14,555
9	Mongolia	Women-Environment and Development	Green earth and restriction of mercury use	4/2017-12/2017	17,497	4,794
10	Nepal	Center for Public Health and Environmental Development	Reduction of POPs and mercury from health sector of Nepal through awareness rising, helping CTFs set up & policy influences	05/2017-06/2019	44,985	44,789
11	Sierra Leone	Tewoh Community Development Organization	Community action against the use of Chemicals in Fishing and Mining	10/2018-9/2019	5,000	365
12	Tanzania	Organization for Knowledge Opportunity and Aid in Tanzania	Improve the health of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASG) communities and reducing environmental pollution through promotion of sound chemical management	07/2017-12/2018	46,913	22,442
13	Uganda	Environmental women in action for development (EWAD)	EWAD eliminating mercury use in gold mines	04/2017-03/2019	30,000	7,363
14	Ukraine	Dzherelo-3000	Establishment of system for mercury lamps utilization	08/2018-05/2019	49,985	49,960
15	Ukraine	Ecological life	Minimizing chemicals hazardous effect on environment and livelihoods	08/2018-05/2019	49,600	26,450
16	Global	European Environment Bureau Zero Mercury Working Group	Implementing the Minamata Convention: building NGO coalitions to reduce mercury use, release and exposure	1/2018-12/2019	150,000	150,023

Annex 3:

List of Countries that Received GEF Support for Enabling Activities

To support ratification of the convention, the GEF prioritized funding enabling activities. To date, the GEF has funded MIAs for 111 countries and 35 ASGM NAPs.²⁴ The countries that have received support through July 1, 2019 are presented in the following table.

List of Countries that Received GEF Support for Enabling Activities through July 1, 2019

Minamata Initial Assessments		ASGM National Action Plans	
Parties	Non-Parties	Parties	Non-Parties
Antigua and Barbuda	Albania	Burkina Faso	Angola
Argentina	Angola	Ecuador	Burundi
Armenia	Azerbaijan	Gabon	Central African Republic
Benin	Bangladesh	Ghana	Congo
Bolivia	Belarus	Guinea	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
Botswana	Belize	Guyana	Eritrea
Brazil	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Honduras	Kenya
Burkina Faso	Burundi	Indonesia	Kyrgyzstan
Chad	Cabo Verde	Lao PDR	Mozambique
Chile	Cambodia	Madagascar	Myanmar
China	Cameroon	Mali	Tanzania
Costa Rica	Central African Republic	Mongolia	Uganda
Djibouti	Colombia	Niger	Zimbabwe
Dominican Republic	Comoros	Nigeria	
El Salvador	Congo	Paraguay	
Gabon	Cook Islands	Peru	

²⁴ This figure is the total number of countries receiving GEF support, including countries funded in GEF-5.

Minamata Initial Assessments		ASGM National Action Plans	
Parties	Non-Parties	Parties	Non-Parties
Gambia	Côte d'Ivoire	Rwanda	
Ghana	Dominica	Senegal	
Guinea	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Sierra Leone	
Guyana	Eritrea	Suriname	
Honduras	Ethiopia	Eswatini (Swaziland)	
India	Georgia	Zambia	
Indonesia	Grenada		
Jamaica	Guatemala		
Jordan	Guinea-Bissau		
Kiribati	Iraq		
Lao PDR	Kazakhstan		
Lesotho	Kenya		
Madagascar	Kyrgyzstan		
Mali	Macedonia		
Mauritania	Malawi		
Mauritius	Malaysia		
Mexico	Maldives		
Moldova	Marshall Islands		
Mongolia	Micronesia		
Namibia	Montenegro		
Niger	Morocco		
Nigeria	Mozambique		
Palau	Myanmar		
Panama	Nepal		
Paraguay	Niue		
Rwanda	Pakistan		
Samoa	Papua New Guinea		

Minamata Initial Assessments		ASGM National Action Plans	
Parties	Non-Parties	Parties	Non-Parties
Sao Tome & Principe	Philippines		
Senegal	Serbia		
Seychelles	South Africa		
Sierra Leone	St Lucia		
Sri Lanka	St Vincent & Grenadines		
St Kitts & Nevis	Sudan		
Suriname	Tanzania		
Eswatini	Tonga		
Togo	Trinidad and Tobago		
Viet Nam	Turkey		
Zambia	Uganda		
	Vanuatu		
	Yemen		
	Zimbabwe		
54	57	22	13

Annex 4: List of Mercury Projects Implemented in the Reporting Period (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019)

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
Guyana	Development of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in the Co-operative Republic of Guyana	EA	GEF - 7	UNEP	500,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Rwanda	National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Rwanda	EA	GEF - 7	UNIDO	500,000	58,500	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Angola	National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Angola	EA	GEF - 7	UNIDO	500,000	58,500	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Rwanda	Minamata Convention: Initial assessment for Rwanda	EA	GEF - 7	UNIDO	200,000	18,400	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Marshall Islands	Development of A Minamata Initial Assessment in Marshall Islands	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	125,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Belize	Development of Minamata Initial Assessments (MIA) in the Caribbean (Belize)	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	150,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Micronesia	Development of a Minamata Initial Assessment in the Federated States of Micronesia	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	125,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Niue	Development of A Minamata Initial Assessment in Niue	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	125,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared

²⁵ Includes GEF grant for mercury only. Does not include fees or PPG.

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
Argentina	Minamata Initial Assessment for Argentina	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Development of Minamata Initial Assessments (MIA) in the Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines)	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	600,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Myanmar	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Myanmar	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	700,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Indonesia	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Indonesia	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	700,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
El Salvador	Development of a Minamata Initial Assessment in El Salvador	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	200,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Ecuador	National Action Plan on Mercury in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Ecuador	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	500,000	81,000	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Belarus	Development of a Minamata Initial Assessment	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	200,000	62,000	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Burkina Faso	National Action Plan on Mercury in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Burkina Faso	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	500,000	216,000	Under Implementation

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
Kazakhstan	Minamata Initial Assessment	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	400,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Iraq	Develop the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Minamata Initial Assessment for the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Iraq	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	200,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Mongolia	Advanced Minamata Initial Assessment in Mongolia	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	200,000	18,600	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Kyrgyz Republic	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment and Updating of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	700,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Eritrea	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Eritrea	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	700,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Lao PDR	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment and Updating of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	700,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
Maldives	Development of a Minamata Initial Assessment in Maldives	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	200,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Guinea, Niger	Development of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in Guinea and Niger	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	1,000,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Mongolia	Development of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	500,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Mali, Senegal	Development of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining Mali and Senegal	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	1,000,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
South Africa	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in South Africa	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	1,000,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Suriname	Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) National Action Plan (NAP) for Suriname	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	500,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Ghana	National Action Plan on Mercury in the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining Sector in Ghana	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	500,000	55,250	Under Implementation
Peru	National Action Plan on Mercury in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Peru	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	500,000	217,000	Under Implementation
Madagascar	Development of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Madagascar	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	500,000		Under Implementation

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
Tanzania	Development of National Action Plans for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in the United Republic of Tanzania	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	500,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia)	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	600,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Sierra Leone	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Sierra Leone	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	700,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Congo DR	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	1,000,000		Under Implementation
Serbia	Minamata Initial Assessment	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000	97,220	Under Implementation
Ghana	Development of Minamata Convention Initial Assessment (MIA) for Ghana	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000		Under Implementation
Nigeria	National Action Plan on Mercury in the Nigerian Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining sector	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	500,000	373,000	Under Implementation
Guatemala	Minamata Convention: Initial Assessment in Guatemala	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	200,000	78,600	Under Implementation

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
Honduras	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Honduras	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	700,000		Under Implementation
Paraguay	Development of National Action Plans for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Paraguay	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	500,000		Under Implementation
Suriname	Minamata Initial Assessment for Suriname	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000		Under Implementation
Sri Lanka	Minamata Convention: Initial Assessment in Sri Lanka	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	200,000	38,600	Under Implementation
Sudan	Minamata Convention: Initial assessment in the Republic of Sudan	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	200,000	118,600	Under Implementation
Turkey	Minamata Convention: Initial Assessment in Turkey	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	500,000	29,000	Under Implementation
Morocco	Strengthen the National Decision Making Mechanism to Ratify the Minamata Convention and Strengthen National Capacities for the Implementation of its Futures Provisions	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000		Under Implementation
Azerbaijan	Strengthen National Decision making towards Ratification of the Minamata Convention and Build Capacity towards Implementation of Future Provisions	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000		Under Implementation

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
Cabo Verde, Sao Tome and Principe	Minamata Convention: Initial Assessment in Cabo Verde and Sao Tome and Principe	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	400,000	187,200	Under Implementation
Jordan	Strengthen National Decision Making towards Ratification of the Minamata Convention and Build Capacity towards Implementation of Future Provisions	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000		Under Implementation
Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic, Kenya, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Regional Project on the Development of National Action Plans for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Africa	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	4,000,000	50,000	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina Decision-making Towards Becoming a Party to the Minamata Convention and Build Capacity Towards Implementation of Future Provisions.	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000		Under Implementation
Montenegro	Minamata Initial Assessment for Montenegro	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000	20,000	Under Implementation
North Macedonia	Development of a Minamata Initial Assessment	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	200,000		Under Implementation

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
Papua New Guinea	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in Papua New Guinea	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	300,000		Under Implementation
Cook Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Tonga, Vanuatu	Development of Minamata Convention Mercury Initial Assessment in Pacific	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	500,000	20,000	Under Implementation
Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	800,000	61,000	Under Implementation
Djibouti	Development of a Minamata Initial Assessment in Djibouti	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	200,000		Under Implementation
Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo	Development of Minamata Convention Mercury Initial Assessment in Africa	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	1,000,000	60,000	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Cameroon	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in Cameroon	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	200,000		Under Implementation
India	Improve Mercury Management in India	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	1,000,000		CEO Endorsement Cleared
Gabon	National Action Plan on Mercury in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining sector in Gabon	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	500,000	161,000	Under Implementation
Nepal	Minamata Initial Assessment in Nepal	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	200,000	108,600	Under Implementation

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
Malaysia	Minamata Convention Initial Assessment in Malaysia	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	250,000	250,000	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Albania	Minamata Initial Assessment for Albania	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000		Under Implementation
Guinea, Mali, Senegal	Minamata Convention Initial Assessment in Francophone Africa I	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	600,000	175,800	Under Implementation
Chad	Minamata Convention Initial Assessment in Chad	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	200,000	78,600	Under Implementation
Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo	Minamata Convention Initial Assessment in Francophone Africa II	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	800,000	134,400	Under Implementation
Panama	Minamata Initial Assessment for Panama	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000		Under Implementation
Colombia	Minamata Convention Initial Assessment (MIA) in the Republic of Colombia	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	200,000	8,000	Under Implementation
Mozambique	National Action Plan on Mercury in the Mozambican Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining sector	EA	GEF - 6	UNIDO	500,000	84,000	Under Implementation
Seychelles	Strengthen National Decision Making Towards Ratification of the Minamata Convention and Build Capacity Towards Implementation of Future Provisions.	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	199,100	25,000	Under Implementation
Global	Strengthen national decision making towards ratification of the Minamata Convention and build capacity towards implementation of future provisions	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	1,000,000		Under Implementation

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
Angola, Malawi, Angola, Zimbabwe	Development of Minamata Convention on Mercury Initial Assessment in Africa	EA	GEF - 6	UNEP	547,945	505,000	Under Implementation
Guyana	Minamata Initial Assessment for Guyana	EA	GEF - 6	UNDP	200,000		Under Implementation
Guyana	A GEF GOLD/ Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana's ASGM Sector: El Dorado Gold Jewelry Made in Guyana	FSP	GEF - 6	CI	2,652,294	3,136,600	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Peru	GEF GOLD Peru - Integrated Sound Management of Mercury in Peru's Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM)	FSP	GEF - 6	UNDP	3,990,000	35,233,512	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Colombia	GEF GOLD Colombia: Integrated Sound Management of Mercury in Colombia's ASGM sector	FSP	GEF - 6	UNDP	6,000,000	23,444,511	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Kenya	Integrated Sound Management of Mercury in Kenya's Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) or IMKA	FSP	GEF - 6	UNDP	4,200,000	17,819,711	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Indonesia	Integrated Sound Management of Mercury in Indonesia's Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ISMIA)	FSP	GEF - 6	UNDP	6,720,000	28,600,880	CEO Endorsement Cleared

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
Global	Global Knowledge Management and Exchange of Child Project Results Through Networking and Outreach Activities for the GEF GOLD Program	FSP	GEF - 6	UNEP	8,000,000	17,767,604	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Mongolia, Philippines	GEF GOLD Mongolia-Philippines: Contribution Towards the Elimination of Mercury in the ASGM sector From Miners to Refiners	FSP	GEF - 6	UNIDO	11,700,000	48,208,145	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Guyana	Strengthening the Enabling Framework for Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Mercury Reduction in Small and Medium-scale Gold Mining Operations	FSP	GEF - 6	UNDP	892,759	29,662,745	CEO Endorsement Cleared
China	Capacity Strengthening For Implementation Of Minamata Convention On Mercury	FSP	GEF - 6	World Bank	8,000,000	8,000,000	Under Implementation
Ecuador	National Program for the Environmental Sound Management and Live Cycle Management of Chemical Substances	FSP	GEF - 6	UNDP	4,145,000	40,571,428	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Colombia	Reducing UPOPs and Mercury Releases from Healthcare Waste Management, e-Waste Treatment, Scrap Processing and Biomass Burning	FSP	GEF - 6	UNDP	250,000	32,915,018	Under Implementation

Country(ies)	Project Title	Project Type	GEF Phase	Lead Agency	GEF Grant (US\$) ²⁵	Co-financing (US\$)	Project Status
China	Demonstration of Mercury Reduction and Minimization in the Production of Vinyl Chloride Monomer in China	FSP	GEF - 6	UNIDO	16,200,000	100,400,000	Under Implementation
Nigeria	Circular Economy approaches for the electronics sector in Nigeria	MSP	GEF - 7	UNEP	875,000	13,086,582	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Burkina Faso	GEF GOLD: Contribution Towards the Elimination of Mercury and Improvement of the Gold Value Chain in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector	MSP	GEF - 6	UNIDO	2,000,000	7,310,819	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Vietnam	Application of Green Chemistry in Vietnam to Support Green Growth and Reduction in the Use and Release of POPs/Harmful Chemicals	MSP	GEF - 6	UNDP	469,800	8,400,000	CEO Endorsement Cleared
Tunisia	Improve Mercury Management in Tunisia	MSP	GEF - 6	UNIDO	600,000	2,350,000	Under Implementation