



Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10153

Project Type

EA

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT

CBIT No

Project Title

Development of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

Countries

Guyana

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

BCRC Caribbean

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Sector

Taxonomy

Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Equality, Focal Areas, Chemicals and Waste, Mercury, Stakeholders, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

No Contribution 0

Climate Change Adaptation

No Contribution 0

Biodiversity

Land Degradation

Type of Reports	Submission Date	Expected Implementation Start	Expected Completion Date	Expected Report Submission to Convention
ASGM National Action Plan (ASGM NAP)	4/29/2019	7/1/2019	6/30/2021	4/30/2021

Duration

24In Months

Agency Fee (%)

11/8/22, 8:29 PM

Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operations

ΛΥΣΗ ΓΕΦ(Σ)

47,500.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CW-EA	GET	500,000.00	
		Total Project Cost(\$)	500,000.00
			0.00

B. Project description summary**Project Objective**

To assist Guyana in the development of its National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector, raise national awareness on the Minamata Convention and build initial national capacity for the early implementation of the National Action Plan and the Minamata Convention

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Global Technical Support for National Action Plan development	Guyana is enabled to develop and implement its NAP and contribute to the protection of the human health and the environment from the emissions and releases of mercury from the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector	1.1 Training and guidance provided to the relevant stakeholders in Guyana to develop and implement NAP as per Annex C of the Minamata Convention	50,000.00	
2. National action plan development	Guyana is enabled to develop and implement its NAP and contribute to the protection of the human health and the environment from the emissions and releases of mercury from the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector	2.1 National Action Plan developed as per Annex C of the Minamata Convention	379,546.00	

3. Monitoring and Evaluation	Guyana is enabled to develop and implement its NAP and contribute to the protection of the human health and the environment from the emissions and releases of mercury from the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector	3.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the Global Environment Facility 3.2 Independent terminal review developed and made publicly available	25,000.00	
Sub Total (\$)			454,546.00	0.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)			45,454.00	
Sub Total(\$)			45,454.00	0.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			500,000.00	0.00

Please provide justification

C. Source of Co-Financing for the Project by Name and by Type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
			Total Co-Financing(\$)	

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

D. GEF Financing Resources Requested by Agency, Country and Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Guyana	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	500,000	47,500	547,500.00
Total Gef Resources(\$)					500,000.00	47,500.00	547,500.00

Part II. Enabling Activity Justification

A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury that entered into force in 16 August 2017. The major highlights of the Convention include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, control measures on air emissions, and the international regulation of the informal sector for artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM).

The Minamata Convention on Mercury, under Article 13, identifies and describes two entities that will function as the Financial Mechanism to support capacity building and technical assistance:

- ü the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund; and
- ü a Specific International Programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance.

The GEF financial support of mercury related activities is included in the GEF VII Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy, which addresses mercury issues under the Program 4: Support enabling activities under the Minamata Convention, including Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) and Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining National Action Plan (ASGM NAP).

Guyana participated actively in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) negotiations supported by UN Environment. In October 2013, Guyana became a signatory of the Minamata Convention. In September 2014, Guyana ratified the Minamata Convention.

In July 2016, Guyana notified the Minamata Secretariat, according to article 07 paragraph 3 of the Minamata Convention, that “artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in its territory is more than insignificant”. Hence, Guyana shall develop and implement a National Action Plan in accordance with Annex C and submit its Plan to the Secretariat no later than August 2020.

In 2016, the Government of Guyana finalized the implementation of the Minamata Initial Assessment project which was funded by the GEF and received technical assistance from the UNDP. Under this project, a special emphasis was given to the ASGM sector and a number of priorities for action to implement the Minamata Convention obligations for this sector were outlined in the Minamata Initial Assessment Report. These included the need to improve information sharing and data collection frameworks; the promotion and development of incentives and training for adoption of non-mercury technologies for ASGM; the promotion of learning of rehabilitation of old mining sites; and the continuation of the preparation of the national action plan among other recommendations.

Following the completion of the 2016 Minamata Initial Assessment project, the Government of Guyana proposed a ten (10) year phased national implementation plan (formerly referred to as their national action plan) in December 2017 to support the reduction and ultimate elimination, where feasible, of the use and release of mercury from all major sources in Guyana. Within the plan, the goal of a phased reduction in the use of mercury in artisanal, small and medium-scale gold mines to 75% of baseline consumption by 2027 was identified. This plan was developed with funding support from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC). It was noted that this would include the adoption of best management/mining practices; elimination of worst practices; promotion and the transition to the use of mercury-free processing methods; and provision of technical support and financial incentives. Public health aspects and awareness raising were also identified as key areas of focus. The strategy and schedule outlined by this plan will be assessed and further refined by the NAP. Further to the Minamata Initial Assessment Project, the Government of Guyana has participated and continues to participate in numerous related activities for ASGM management such as:

- . In 2000, the Canadian International Development Agency funded a project in collaboration with the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC). The Guyana Environmental Capacity Development (GENCAPD) Mining Project aimed to strengthen the capacities of key national mining sector institutions with respect to environmental management. The project was conducted in two phases with the first phase being undertaken from 2000 to 2007 and the second phase being undertaken in 2007 for a three-year period. A number of activities were carried out under the project, including biomonitoring which better informed the mining sector and enhanced capabilities for more sustainable industry operations at the time.
- . The “GEF GOLD Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana’s Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector: El Dorado Gold Jewellery- Made in Guyana” initiative launched in September 2018 through funding by the GEF. The project is being implemented by Conservation International (CI) -Guyana with support from GGMC and other project partners and aims to assist Guyana with converting to mercury-free mining by 2025 by directly involving business enterprises with a profit motive in leading the shift in the development of a mercury-free ASGM supply chain and downstream El Dorado Gold brand jewellery.
- . A project, “Addressing Drivers of Deforestation in Guyana and Peru” is also ongoing under the CI Responsible Gold Initiative with funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) which aims to foster greater responsibility and sustainability in Guyana’s ASGM sector by reducing the negative effects of the sector - in particular impacts to forests and the use of mercury- and improving productivity and profitability.
- . The WWF is in the final stages of developing a project to support the gradual phase-out of mercury in the Guianas through piloting, testing, demonstrating and providing access to solutions for the ASGM sector. The project will have a local, national and regional focus and be implemented through partnerships.
- . An improved mineral recovery initiative is currently under development by the GGMC’s Mineral Processing Unit in collaboration with CI-NORAD and possibly WWF, which aims to improve technical service support to the industry in order to promote best practices in mining, mineral processing and reclamation. Numerous related activities are also being led by the GGMC.

The NAP project will also coordinate and aim to collaborate with the work being done under the above-mentioned and any additional related activities through involvement of the key agencies from the project’s inception.

Besides contributing to the implementation of the Minamata Convention, the project also contributes to the achievement of the UN Environment Biennial Programme of Work (PoW) 2018-2019, **expected accomplishment A** “Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for sound chemicals management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)”. In fact, as a result of this project, Guyana will have used UN Environment analysis and guidance and will have applied a multi-sectoral approach in developing an Action Plan that promotes sound chemicals management and the implementation of a relevant multilateral environmental agreement, the Minamata Convention.

UNDAF (Guyana)

The following section draws on the **UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)** of Guyana. In order to ensure that this project contributes to the UNDAF outcomes, representatives from the United Nations Country Team (e.g. UNDP National Representation) will be invited to attend the inception workshop and to take part in the National Coordination Mechanism. It is important to indicate that the participation of the United Nations Country team in the National Coordination Mechanism will result in a closer analysis and assessment of the progress made in terms of National Priorities.

The UNDP is currently in the developmental stages of the project, “Strengthening the enabling framework for biodiversity mainstreaming and mercury reduction in small scale gold mining operations” in Guyana. This project will better inform the implementation of the NAP project and vice versa. UNDP is also a key agency represented in the Guyana National Working Group on the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

The NAP future implementation also has the potential to contribute to the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals in (country):

ü Sustainable Development Goal (3) ensures healthy lives and promotes well-being for all at all ages. The NAP has strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations to mercury emissions and releases from the ASGM sector and consequently contributes to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals (target 3.9). Indirectly, the positive impacts over population's health also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goal (1) - end poverty in all its forms everywhere. Many ASGM miners are trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty due, among others, to the burden with the costs associated with the deterioration of the miner's health (target 1.2);

. Sustainable Development Goal (8) promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all. The NAP will identify the steps needed to facilitate the formalization of the ASGM sector and will develop strategies to promote the reduction of emissions and releases, and exposure to mercury in the ASGM sector, while safeguarding the livelihoods of miners and citizens in adjacent communities. The implementation of these measures will improve the working conditions of miners, in particular through the elimination of worst practices of mercury use in ASGM and a broader access to mercury-free methods (target 8.3, 8.4);

. The project will also indirectly contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (5) achieve gender equality and empower women and girls. This will be done through the inclusion of women miners, the collection of sex-disaggregated, the participation of stakeholders from both sexes in the consultations and the inclusion of gender sensitive indicators in the project logical framework. As part of the NAP, strategies to prevent exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury use in ASGM will be developed. This strategy will contribute to the development of national sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels (target 5c). For more information on the gender dimensions of this project, please refer to this specific session at pages 14 and 15 of this document;

. Sustainable Development Goal (6) – ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The implementation of the NAP will contribute in particular to achieve the target 6.3 improving water quality by reducing the release of hazardous chemicals in the ASGM areas and surrounding communities;

. Sustainable Development Goal (12) – ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. The implementation of the NAP will directly contribute to achieve the target 12.4 under this goal that is to achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their air emissions and release to water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment. The NAP contributes to the environmentally sound management of mercury by facilitating the early implementation of the Minamata Convention.

The following information was obtained from the Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2016.

In Guyana, the gold industry is among the top contributors to the economy. In 2013, the value of Guyana's gold exports was estimated to be \$648.5 million Guyanese dollars. Guyana's population is divided into ten (10) regions with gold mining practices being fairly developed in four (4); Barima-Waini, Cuyuni-Mazaruni, Potaro-Siparuni and the Upper Takutu Essequibo regions. All types of mining (large, medium and small-scale) are regulated under the Mining Regulations. According to the 2016 Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) Report conducted, there are two (2) large scale gold mines in Guyana that use methods other than amalgamation. These large-scale operations are fairly recent and further information would be needed in the future to determine the extent of activities.

In Guyana, artisanal miners are known as "pork-knockers" or "punters" (very artisanal miners). It was estimated that there are approximately 5,000 to 10,000 Pork-knockers operating across the country. Their activities include the use of mercury and range from using tools such as spades and batels to using excavators, backhoes, wash plants and crushers. It has been estimated that between 20-40 tonnes of mercury are used per year by these miners, resulting in yearly mercury air emissions of 8,023- 16,046 kilograms based on the UNEP Level 1 Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases.

Pork-knockers/punters and their families typically represent the most vulnerable and poor sub-population of Guyana. According to a 2016 Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Study conducted, the majority of miners and community members were aware to some degree of the negative health effects of mercury, however, due to its efficiency and low cost, mercury use was still widespread. Small-scale jeweller manufacturers and shop owners in the mining districts also handle mercury to sell in small bottles or use it in their workshops to remove impurities from the gold obtained from miners. Mercury exposure is high in these instances as mercury amalgam may be burned in open pans in poorly ventilated workshops.

It has been noted that while ASGM miners are typically male, in many indigenous communities in mining districts, women tend to work as punters part-time and are often related to the male miners in camp sites. The Guyana Women Miners Organisation (GWMO) have also stated that children are known to join their parents in mining activities after school. The extent of women and children's involvement in ASGM practices is not well known and further research is recommended.

While many miners are aware that mercury is dangerous, their understanding of its impacts is limited, and they have indicated that they are worried about the future of mining with the ban of mercury. It has been recommended that education and awareness programs on the dangers of mercury be developed for the gold mining communities. Training in mercury-free alternatives is also a key recommendation for the ASGM sector.

It was noted that mercury imports are strongly associated with its use in gold mining. Mercury was imported mainly through seaports such as Georgetown and Morwana. Import data from 2010-2014 indicated that an average of 80,668 kilograms of mercury were imported legally per year. As an interim formative measure to address the issues of mercury importation and use, in latter half of 2018, the importation of mercury now requires the permission and approval of the Minister of Natural Resources. However, it has been noted that mercury also crosses into Guyana's porous geographical borders. In closest proximity and relevance to the transboundary movement of mercury are the countries of Suriname and Colombia. Both countries have banned the importation of mercury with Colombia outlawing the overall use of mercury in the ASGM sector. This has led to an increase in the illegal trade of mercury across borders and as there is limited border patrol, the transshipment of mercury has been difficult to track and manage. Based on 2016 data, it was estimated that 12,801 kilograms of gold were produced with the use of mercury according to the inventory conducted under the Minamata Initial Assessment. Mercury amalgamation is the main type of process used in medium and small-scale gold mining activities in Guyana. Based on field visits conducted under the MIA, it was assumed that of these operations, 60% was done using retorts and 40% without the use of retorts. While mercury emissions are typically higher when retorts are not used, it was observed that indoor mercury recycling retorts used in some areas which could contribute to high indoor pollution levels.

Indigenous communities located near mining areas are also exposed to mercury directly due to release of mercury to air or the environment during activities or indirectly as mercury released into waterways from ASGM practices accumulates in various fish species such as catfish (*Siluriformes sp.*) and aimara (*Hoplias aimara*) which make up a large part of the diets of the indigenous residents.

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES

The proposal should briefly justify and describe the project framework. Identify also key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable. Describe also how the gender equality and women's empowerment are considered in project design and implementation

The goal of this project is that Guyana takes the first step to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from ASGM gold mining and processing through the development of a NAP in accordance with Article 7 and Annex C of the Minamata Convention.

The project objective is to assist Guyana in the development of its NAP, raise national awareness on the Minamata Convention and build initial national capacity for the early implementation of the NAP and the Minamata Convention.

The project framework follows the guidance on the preparation of NAPs by parties addressing the issue of artisanal and small-scale gold mining that is more than insignificant, as agreed at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties ^[1]. The guidance has been developed with the intention of addressing ASGM in a holistic manner and includes a review of legal, educational, economic, regulatory and enforcement frameworks, and provides guidance on developing budgets and workplans and identifying potential sources of funding and partners.

Project Components and Activities: The NAP development has three components, which consist of the outputs and activities indicated below.

Component 1: Global Technical Support for NAP Development

The UN Environment Global Mercury Partnership has successfully supported countries globally on the development of their NAPs. As a result of the previous NAP projects, a roster of international, regional and national experts on NAP development and implementation was developed. The roster lists over 70 experts in eight areas of ASGM expertise: (i) technical aspects of gold recovery, (ii) formalization, (iii) baseline estimates and inventories, (iv) mercury supply and trade, (v) public health, (vi) awareness raising and outreach in ASGM communities, (vii) market mechanisms for the mercury-free gold, and (viii) gender issues/ child labour. The roster contains experts with diverse regional experience, ranging from Latin America, to Africa, Central and East Asia and Southeast Asia, speaking over 20 languages (including English, French, Spanish, Swahili, Portuguese, Arabic).

A key set of tools and methodologies has also been developed in response to country needs as listed below:

- 1) **ASGM Inventory Toolkit** – methodology to collect and analyse the ASGM baseline data;
- 2) **Mobile data collection tool** – to store and manage the collected ASGM data;
- 3) **MapX platform for NAPs** – to map and monitor the collected ASGM data and to facilitate knowledge management and information exchange;
- 4) **Handbook for Developing National ASGM Formalization Strategies** within National Action Plans;
- 5) **Quick Start Guide for managing mercury trade** in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining, to fulfil obligation under Minamata Convention National Action Plan”;
- 6) **Illustrated Guide to mercury free ASGM** – an interactive, online guide that synthesizes and connects existing information on mercury-free practices in the ASGM sect;
- 7) Other outreach materials.

Experts from different regions were trained on the use of the NAP guidance and were supported on its application. Finally, government representatives were invited to participate in information exchange groups on the national institutional and regulatory framework needed to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention in the ASGM sector.

Through this project, Guyana will also benefit from the support of the UN Environment Global Mercury Partnership.

Expected Outputs and activities:

- 1.1 Initial training and guidance provided to relevant stakeholders in Guyana to develop and implement a NAP as per Annex C of the Minamata Convention.
 - 1.1.1 *Enhance the existing roster of experts; collection and development of tools and methodologies for NAP development;*
 - 1.1.2 *Quality check of the NAP project products including e.g. national overview of the ASGM sector, draft of the NAP document and the final quality check by an independent consultant;*
 - 1.1.3 *Technical support and capacity building on key elements of the NAP as needed, including e.g. baseline inventories of mercury use in ASGM;*
 - 1.1.4 *Knowledge management and information exchange through the UN Environment Global Mercury Partnership website and or Partners websites and tools;*
 - 1.1.5 *Final regional workshop to identify lessons learned and opportunities for future cooperation in the NAP implementation.*

Component 2: NAP development

Step 1: Establishing a coordinating mechanism and organization of process

At the national level, the successful development of the NAP will rely on the formation of a National Coordination Mechanism that will guide the NAP development through all its phases and ensure that there is effective project planning and management throughout the process. The National Coordination Mechanism should include members from relevant government ministries or departments. The national inception workshop will:

- (i) clearly define the relative roles and responsibilities of the members of the National Coordination Mechanism;
- (ii) agree on the budget allocation and work plan for the project;
- (iii) develop an awareness raising strategy on mercury use in ASGM and its environmental and health impacts to be implemented throughout the whole project;
- (iv) develop a gender strategy to be implemented throughout the project;
- (v) develop a capacity building plan for more effective participation of key stakeholders in the development of the NAP.

National Coordination Mechanism will identify a Stakeholder Advisory Group of stakeholders who possess relevant knowledge and information, and whose collaboration and cooperation will be needed for the successful formulation and implementation of the NAP. The Stakeholder Advisory Group will include relevant members of civil society with experience and knowledge in the ASGM sector. The National Coordination Mechanism will engage with the advisory group at regular intervals and during all phases of the NAP development and direct feedback on the NAP will be provided through a mechanism to be agreed upon by the National Coordination Mechanism in the inception meeting. A list of suggested members of the NAP National Coordination Mechanism and of the stakeholders' advisory group can be found at pages 16-19 to the guidance document. It is noted that a National Working Group on the Minamata Convention on Mercury is already functional in Guyana and can continue as the Stakeholder Advisory Group with possible additions. Key agencies involved in other related projects and activities will also be included to ensure a coordinated effort for ASGM management.

Step 2: Developing a national overview of the ASGM sector, including baselines estimates of mercury use and practices developed as part of the mercury inventory activity

Guyana will develop a national overview of the ASGM sectors with information on the following:

- ü Legal and regulatory status of ASGM;
- ü Policies surrounding ASGM at the local, national and levels;
- ü Baseline estimates of mercury emissions and releases from the ASGM sector;
- ü Structure of the ASGM sector (i.e., single family miners, community mines, etc.);
- ü Geographic distribution of ASGM, including potential future areas of exploitation;
- ü Economics, such as earning per capita, mercury supply, use and demand, information on gold trade and export, cost of living, access to finance for miners, social welfare options for miners and their communities;
- ü Size of the formal and informal ASGM economy;

- ü Information on mining practices, including information on ore bodies exploited, processes used, the amount of mercury used, the number of people directly involved in ASGM and indirectly exposed to mercury (disaggregated by gender and age);
- ü Information on the location and demographics of ASGM miners that operate without the use of mercury and the techniques that they use;
- ü Information on gold processing practices/burn off of mercury in gold processing shops or community retorts;
- ü Known information on mercury level of the environmental media (as baseline data), overall environmental impacts, contaminated sites, mercury releases in soil, air and water, including distribution relative to population centres;
- ü Studies and other information on mercury exposure, through various media, and studies on impacts in ASGM communities and downstream communities;
- ü Information about access to technical assistance for miners;
- ü Leadership and organization of ASGM at national and local levels;
- ü Experiences in addressing ASGM;
- ü Information gaps at the local and national scale that can be addressed.
- ü Mercury Distribution Networks

The methodology for this work will be decided by stakeholders in Guyana at the national inception workshops but will certainly involve the identification of national consultants with expertise in different areas as legal; public policies; economy; geology and public health. This national expert teams will be supported by the National Coordination Mechanism; Stakeholder Advisory Group and the Global Mercury Partnership.

Step 3: Setting goals and objectives

Based on the results of the national overview of the ASGM sector, national workshops will be organized with the executing body and the stakeholders' advisory group to agree on:

- ü Final problem statement, goals, objectives and reduction targets;
- ü Implementation strategy with specific activities for each of the NAP elements described in Annex C of the Minamata Convention. The NAP will be linked as often as possible to high level national development goals and initiatives, such as poverty reduction strategies and Sustainable Development Goals-based National Development Plans. The NAP will identify potential negative social and cultural impacts of their implementation as livelihoods impairment and will identify alternatives to avoid these negative impacts;
- ü Workplans, outreach plans, timelines and overall budgets for the implementation of the plans and their periodical review;
- ü Identification of roadmaps for NAP endorsement and submission.

Expected Outputs and activities:

2.1. Draft NAP developed as per Annex C of the Minamata Convention

2.1.1. National Inception workshop to (i) develop ToRs for the National Coordination Mechanism and Stakeholder Advisory Group; (ii) agree on the budget allocation and workplan for the project; and finally (iii) develop an awareness raising strategy on mercury use in ASGM and its environmental and health impacts to be implemented throughout the whole project (iv) develop a gender strategy to be implemented throughout the project; (v) develop a capacity building plan for a more effective participation of key stakeholders in the development of the NAP.

2.1.2. Development of the national overview of the ASGM sector according to the NAP guidance;

2.1.3. Development of draft NAP;

2.1.4. Organize national consultations and trainings to finalize the NAP, raise awareness, build capacity for early implementation and agree on a roadmap for NAP endorsement and submission to the Minamata Secretariat;

2.1.5. Submit the endorsed NAP to the Minamata Secretariat.

Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation

Day-to-day project management and monitoring will be the responsibility of the Executing Agency: The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean). The project monitoring will start with the inception workshop and the development of a detailed workplan, budget and detailed monitoring and evaluation plan with key stakeholders. The BCRC-Caribbean will develop and submit to UN Environment

technical and financial reports every quarter describing the progress according to the workplan and budget, identifying obstacles occurred during implementation and the remediation actions to be taken.

The BCRC-Caribbean will also work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the national executing partner that will oversee the national project activities. Within the Ministry of Natural Resources, a National Supervisor will be identified whose general functions will be to:

1. Evaluate the progress of the project and suggest necessary measures to guarantee the fulfilment of the goals and objectives related specifically to Guyana;
 2. Support the coordination of project activities; and
 3. Maintain correspondence with the BCRC-Caribbean for the duration of the project, in order to ensure effective communication between the Project's Executing Agency, the country's Government, and other high-level stakeholders. This can be done either in person or through electronic means.
- UN Environment will monitor the project progress according to the work plan on a regular basis and provide guidance to the Executing Agency to progress according to the work plan. Yearly during the GEF PIR UN Environment will provide information about the status of the project implementation and the disbursements made.

Monthly or weekly calls between the Executing Agencies and the Implementing Agency will be agreed upon if the project is not progressing according to the work plan.

The terminal report and final statement of accounts developed by the Executing Agencies at the end of the project closes the Executing Agencies monitoring activities for this project. The final financial audit will review the use of project funds against budget and assess probity of expenditure and transactions. The final audit is to be developed by an independent audit authority (a recognized firm of public accountants or, for governments, a government auditor). The final audit is to be sent to UN Environment up to six months after the technical completion of the project.

Templates for the quarterly progress and financial report, terminal report and final statement of accounts will be provided by UN Environment. There is no template for the final financial audit.

An independent terminal review (TR) will take place at the end of project implementation, latest 6 months after completion of the project. An independent consultant will be responsible for the TR and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager at the Chemicals Branch of the Economy Division throughout the process. The TR will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UN Environment and executing partners – the BCRC-Caribbean in particular. The direct costs of the review will be charged against the project review budget. The TR report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the independent consultant in an open and transparent manner. Project performance will be assessed against standard review criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the independent consultant when the review report is finalised. The review report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

Expected outputs and planned activities:

- 3.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF.
 - 3.1.1 *EA develops and submit technical and financial reports quarterly to UN Environment using UN Environment's templates;*
 - 3.1.2 *UN Environment communicates project progress to the GEF yearly during the PIR using GEF's template;*
 - 3.1.3 *Develop and submit terminal report and final statement of accounts to UN Environment at project end;*
 - 3.1.4 *Submit final financial audit to UN Environment.*
- 3.2 Independent terminal review developed and made publicly available.
 - 3.2.1 *Independent consultant carries out the terminal review upon the request of the UN Environment Task Manager and make it publicly available in the UN Environment website.*

Project Stakeholders:

At the international level, the project will include:

- a) **UN Environment Chemicals and Wastes:** UN Environment is the only United Nations organization with a mandate derived from the General Assembly to coordinate the work of the United Nations in the area of environment and whose core business is the environment. UN Environment Chemicals and Wastes is the UN Environment Branch that works specifically to minimize the adverse effects of chemicals and waste on human health and the environment. The implementation of this project contributes directly to reach the main mandate of the Branch;
- b) **UN Environment Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean:** UN Environment has six regional offices supporting different groups of countries in their efforts towards sustainable development. The UN Environment Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean based in Panama will identify opportunities for regional synergies and areas of cooperation. Some examples may include: coordination of regional information exchange and provision of documents and inventories from other countries in the region, identification of regional experts, etc;
- c) The **Minamata Convention Secretariat** based in Geneva, Switzerland, exert the Secretariat role of the Minamata Convention according to Article 24. The Minamata Convention Secretariat will be regularly informed on the progress in the implementation of the project to be able to identify opportunities to facilitate assistance to Parties in the implementation of the Convention;
- d) The overall goal of the **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. The Partnership works closely with stakeholders to assist in the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Reducing mercury in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining is one of the eight Partnership areas, and will support the implementation of the project by facilitating the access to resources and experts identified or developed by the Partnership;
- e) The **World Health Organization** (WHO) works to achieve better health for everyone, everywhere. Mercury is among the health topics of WHO and has responded to this health and environmental issue of concern through the development of studies, tools and guidance materials. The Global Mercury Partnership will facilitate the access to these materials and will also inform the World Health Organization on identified needs for additional support;
- f) The **International Labour Organization** (ILO) brings together governments, employers and workers to set labour standards, policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for women and men. ILO has already supported initiatives to reduce child labour and improve working conditions in artisanal and Small-scale gold mining. These social aspects will be taken into account in the NAP development; particularly with the formalization or regulation of the ASGM sector and by developing strategies to prevent exposure of vulnerable populations.

The international partners will provide ongoing support to the project and their engagement will be discussed and agreed upon in the inception meetings.

National stakeholders involved in the NAP National Coordination Mechanism and Stakeholder Advisory Group:

Table 1: Stakeholder Participation in (Guyana) (preliminary list to be strengthened during the national inception workshops)

Government/Ministries	Responsibility/areas of expertise
Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)	Functions as the National Executing Partner agency for the project.
Ministry of the Presidency, Department of Environment (DoE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Focal point for the national implementation of the project. In charge of environmental laws, issues, and regulations and assessment of environmental impacts.
The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)	Mines and Mining policy formulation and implementation. Functions under the Ministry of Natural Resources which will also provide statistics and data on ASGM.
Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)	Health policy formulation and implementation in relation to ASGM.
Ministry of Finance	The Ministry will contribute in particular with information about the economic importance of ASGM and market based mechanisms for reducing mercury use and incentives for transition to mercury free technology
Ministry of Agriculture Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB)	Mercury importation, management, distribution, inspection
Ministry of Education Ministry of Public Communication	Strategies for community outreach and stakeholder involvement.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mercury trade; · Formalization; · Market-based mechanisms for reducing mercury use.
Ministry of Social Protection (MoSP)	Formalization of ASGM sector.
Police – Ministry of Public Security	Law enforcement.

Table 2: Suggested national stakeholders for the national advisory groups

ASGM Stakeholder Groups	Contribution to Development of NAP
Miner organizations (e.g., cooperatives and/or associations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · GWMO, · Guyana Gold and Diamonds Miners Association (GGDMA), · National Mining Syndicates (NMS) 	Understand how to organize miners.
Miners/miner representatives	Provide realistic view of current practices and barriers to change.
Community leaders and local government from ASGM areas	Assist with development and implementation of plan within ASGM communities.
Indigenous groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Toshoas Council (NTC) 	Represent vested interests in ASGM operations in indigenous areas.
Technical expert in gold mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Understanding of technical alternatives to mercury use; ü Provide training opportunities.
Environmental and human health organizations	Represent vested interests in reducing environmental impacts of ASGM and the risks of exposure to the public.
Academic and research organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Guyana (UG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Provide valuable information and conduct future research; ü Provide training opportunities from ASGM specialists.
Legal professionals	Understand national legislation as it relates to ASGM including relevant regulation on mercury use and trade regulation.
Representatives from large scale mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Contribute to finding innovative solutions and provide insights on mining regulatory issues; ü Potential partner with small scale miners on technical improvements to mining practice.
Other relevant land holders	Represent interest in land conflicts and in reclaiming impacted lands; risk of mercury exposure.
Police and Customs officials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Natural Resources, Compliance Department • Guyana Geology and Mines Commission • Environmental Protection Agency 	Understand role of enforcement.
Gold buying agents, gold traders, mercury traders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Provide insight into market dynamics, and barriers to formalization; ü Important focal point for community health and emissions.
Waste management specialists	Provide insight into available mechanisms to handle mercury wastes generated by ASGM and how to clean/restore contaminated sites.
Private sector partner (e.g., large scale mining company)	ü Technical capacity

Private sector partner (e.g., large-scale mining company or equipment provider)	ü Technical capacity; ü Potential public/private partnership.
Financial/banking sector	Small and commercial-sized loans to miners to assist with financing transition towards better practices.
Representatives of the United Nations Country Teams.	Ensure the project is contributing to the country priorities as identified by the National United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.
Representatives of related ongoing projects/initiatives. E.g. Conservation International (CI) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Provide valuable information and possible opportunities for collaboration on activities related to ASGM management and NAP development.

Gender dimensions

In practice, gender mainstreaming means identifying gaps in gender equality through the use of sex disaggregated data, developing strategies to close those gaps, putting resources and expertise into implementing strategies for gender equality, monitoring and implementation and holding individuals and institutions accountable for results. Gender mainstreaming is not an end in itself; is a process whose ultimate goal is to **achieve gender equality**^[2] (Sustainable Development Goal 5).

While male miners typically outnumber female miners, many women also perform tasks in the ASGM process that may increase their risk of exposure to mercury. These jobs include pouring the mercury into the ball-mills or mixing the mercury in panning, and burning the amalgam, often with their children or babies nearby. In some countries, women also carry the rocks from the mining sites to the processing plants.^[3] Moreover, with an estimated 4.5 million women working in artisanal mining worldwide, many of childbearing age, low-level exposure to infants during gestation and breast-feeding is a risk.^[4] As a potent neurological toxicant that interferes with brain functions and the nervous system, mercury has been shown to be particularly harmful to neurological development of babies and young children.^[5]

As identified in the Guyana Minamata Initial Assessment 2016, it has been noted that while ASGM miners are typically male, in many indigenous communities in mining districts, women tend to also work in the sector part-time and are often related to the male miners in camp sites. The Guyana Women Miners Organisation (GWMO) have also stated that children are known to join their parents in mining activities after school. The extent of women and children's involvement in ASGM practices is not well known and further research is recommended.

This project has the opportunity to promote gender equality and women empowerment by:

ü Developing a strategy with SMART indicators aimed at gender mainstreaming throughout the project implementation at the national level. It's recommended that the focal points of the Minamata Convention follow the UN training "Introduction to gender equality" for a better understanding of the topic before working on the strategy. Below some of the elements that could be considered in this strategy:

- (i) Facilitating the equal access to information and training;
- (ii) Encouraging the equal participation in the national coordination mechanisms and other national consultations;
- (iii) Fostering the equal recruitment of consultants to deliver the project outputs;
- (iv) Collecting sex-disaggregated data on vulnerable population;
- (v) Developing tools to facilitate the development of the strategy to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

^[1] Available at: http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/forms%20and%20guidance/English/ASGM_guidance_e.pdf

[2] <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/environment-energy/www-ee-library/chemicals-management/chemicals-management-the-why-and-how-of-mainstreaming-gender/Chemicals%20Management%20and%20Gender%20Mainstreaming.pdf>

[3] <http://www.wecf.eu/english/articles/2013/10/minamata-sideevent.php>

[4] See Telmer and Veiga (2009)

[5] See United States EPA (1997); Bose-O'Reilly et al. (2010)

C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A

Implementing Agency (IA): This project will be implemented by UN Environment and executed by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources. As Implementing Agency, UN Environment will be responsible for the overall project supervision, overseeing the project progress through the monitoring and evaluation of project activities and progress reports, including on technical issues.

Executing Agencies (EA): The BCRC-Caribbean will co-execute, manage and be responsible for the project and its activities on a day-to-day basis. It will establish the necessary managerial and technical teams to execute the project. It will search for and hire any consultants necessary for technical activities and supervise their work. It will acquire equipment and monitor the project; in addition, it will organize independent audits in order to guarantee the proper use of GEF funds. Financial transactions, audits and reports will be carried out in accordance with national regulations and UN Environment procedures. The BCRC-Caribbean will provide regular administrative, progress and financial reports to UN Environment Chemicals.

The Ministry of Natural Resources of Guyana will act as the co-executing agency and will oversee the national project activities. It will establish a National Supervisor who will support coordination and regularly evaluate project progress in relation to the fulfilment of the goals and objectives related specifically to Guyana. The National Supervisor will work in close collaboration with the BCRC-Caribbean to ensure effective communication between the country's Government and other high-level stakeholders.

National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) will meet regularly during project implementation. The Committee will include key National Stakeholders and will evaluate the progress of the project and will take the necessary measures to guarantee the fulfillment of its goals and objectives. The NCM will take decisions on the project in line with the project objectives and these decisions will be implemented by the EA.

Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG): This group will include relevant stakeholders who possess relevant knowledge and information, and whose collaboration and cooperation will be needed for the successful formulation and future implementation of the NAP. In Guyana, a National Working Group on the Minamata Convention on Mercury is already operational which can continue to operate under the project as the SAG. The NCM will engage with the advisory group at regular intervals and during all phases of the NAP development and direct feedback on these documents will be provided through a mechanism to be agreed upon by the NCM.

Global Mercury Partnership (GMP): The partnership works closely with stakeholders to assist in the timely ratification and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention. Reducing Mercury in ASGM is one of the partnership areas and it has supported countries in its efforts to reduce mercury uses and releases in the ASGM sector; eliminate the worst practices in ASGM and explore innovative market-based approaches to enable the transition away from mercury. The partnership will ensure Guyana has access to all the expertise and experience of its members to implement the project.

D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT

EA NAP implementation will be supported by the currently existing capacities and expertise in Guyana put in place during the MIA development with support from UN Environment as the GEF Implementing Agency. Cost-effectiveness will be achieved through fully utilizing the infrastructures and human resources available through the BCRC-Caribbean.

The involvement of the International Experts is limited to tasks that could not be accomplished by national consultants. E.g. review of technical documents, training in conduct of inventories. Suitably qualified research assistants will be identified locally through the local stakeholders. This will foster an increase in local and national capacity to manage mercury and contribute to the cost-effectiveness of the project through reduced consultancy fees and travel expenses.

The BCRC-Caribbean and UN-Environment project manager will ensure that only essential travel is undertaken and that where possible videoconferencing/Skype conference calls are utilized. For essential travel, the BCRC-Caribbean will endeavour to maximize resources allocated for travel for workshops and necessary consultations, by booking in advance and travelling during low season, where possible.

The project global component will also identify needs across countries working with UNEP to propose common approaches that lead to reduced transaction costs.

E. DESCRIBE, DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN

More detailed information about project monitoring and evaluation can be consulted in the project component 3 monitoring and evaluation.

Table 3. Monitoring and Evaluation Budget

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)* ¹	Time-frame
National inception and training workshops	Awareness raising, building stakeholder engagement, detailed work planning with key groups at the national level	BCRC-Caribbean/MNR		Within one month after the regional inception workshop
National inception reports	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring at the national level	BCRC-Caribbean/MNR	0	Within two weeks following national inception workshop
Project Supervision and Monitoring	Technical and Administrative support provided on a regular basis ensuring that the project is being carried out according to the agreed work plan and budget	UN Environment	0	Regularly
Technical Progress reports	Describes progress against annual work plan for the reporting period and provides activities planned for the next period	BCRC-Caribbean	0	Quarterly by 30 April covering January to March; by 31 July covering April to June; by 31 October covering July to September;
Financial Progress Reports	Documents project expenditure according to established project budget and allocations	BCRC-Caribbean	0	by 31 January covering October to December
Terminal report	Reviews effectiveness against implementation plan; Highlights technical outputs; Identifies lessons learned and likely design approaches for future projects, assess the likelihood of achieving design outcomes.	BCRC-Caribbean	0	Within one month of the project technical completion
Independent Financial Audit	Reviews use of project funds against budget and assesses probity of expenditure and transactions	Independent auditor recruited by the BCRC-Caribbean	10,000	Within 3 months of the project technical completion
Terminal evaluation	Single report that reviews effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation, coordination mechanisms and outputs; Identifies lessons learnt and likely remedial actions for future projects; Highlights technical achievements and assesses against prevailing benchmarks.	Independent consultant recruited by UN Environment	15,000	Within six months of the project technical completion
Total indicative M&E cost* ¹			25,000	

F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE)

N/A

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And GEF Agency(ies)**A. Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):**

Focal Point Name	Focal Point Title	Ministry	Signed Date
Dr Vincent Adams	Executive Director	Environment Protection Agency	2/1/2019

B. Convention Participation

Convention	Date of Ratification/Accession	National Focal Point
Minamata Convention	9/24/2014	Marisca Charles

ANNEX A: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.