



**Part I: Project Information**

**GEF ID**

10132

**Project Type**

EA

**Type of Trust Fund**

GET

**CBIT**

CBIT No

**Project Title**

Minamata Convention: Initial assessment for Rwanda

**Countries**

Rwanda

**Agency(ies)**

UNIDO

**Other Executing Partner(s)**

Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA); UNITAR.

### Executing Partner Type

Others

### GEF Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

### Sector

### Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Chemicals and Waste, Mercury, Cement, Coal Fired Power Plants, Coal Fired Industrial Boilers, Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining, Non Ferrous Metals Production

### 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
Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)	11/6/2018	6/1/2019	5/31/2021	5/31/2021

### Duration

24In Months

### Agency Fee(s)

ΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΟΣ 2022

19,000.00

## A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CW-EA	GET	200,000.00	18,400.00
		<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b> 200,000.00	<b>18,400.00</b>

**B. Project description summary****Project Objective**

Post-ratification activities under the Minamata Convention completed to enable policy and strategic decision making and to prioritize areas for future interventions.

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Needs assessment of institutional and national capacity to implement the Minamata Convention	1.1 National capacity improved to prepare for implementation of the Minamata Convention	Output 1.1.1: Project coordination mechanism established and institutional gaps identified	172,000.00	12,000.00
		Output 1.1.2: Review of existing mercury related regulations and identification of needed policy reforms to prepare for implementation of the Convention completed		
		Output 1.1.3: National mercury profile established based on the initial inventory and key sectors identified for intervention and investment to reduce and where possible,		

eliminate, mercury  
use, release, and  
emissions

Output 1.1.4:  
Dissemination of  
information among  
relevant stakeholder  
groups (academia,  
public and private  
sectors, and civil  
society) conducted

2. Monitoring and Evaluation	2.1 Project achieves objectives on time through effective monitoring and evaluation	Output 2.1.1: Periodic monitoring and terminal evaluation of project implementation completed	10,000.00	5,000.00
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>			<b>182,000.00</b>	<b>17,000.00</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>				
			18,000.00	1,400.00
<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>			<b>18,000.00</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>200,000.00</b>	<b>18,400.00</b>

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(\$)
GEF Agency	UNIDO	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	9,200.00
GEF Agency	UNIDO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	9,200.00
			<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>	<b>18,400.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

NA

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNIDO	GET	Rwanda	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	200,000	19,000	219,000.00
<b>Total Gef Resources(\$)</b>					<b>200,000.00</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>	<b>219,000.00</b>

## 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. The legally binding global instrument was agreed at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, 19 January 2013. The treaty was formally adopted and opened for signature at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held from 9 to 11 October 2013 in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan and it entered into force on 16 August 2017. Up to June 2018, 128 countries had signed the treaty and 94 had ratified it. Rwanda became a Party on 29 June 2017.

The Minamata Convention has a phased approach to reduce, and where possible, eliminate mercury use in key industrial sectors. Provisions of the Convention include phase out deadlines established for supply sources and trade, mercury added products, and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used. Based on these targets, the Convention is designed to systematically reduce emissions and releases to land and water and phase out the use of mercury where alternatives exist.

For Rwanda to meet obligations under the Convention the treaty, several barriers must be addressed. These include:

- (a) Institutional barriers: lack of institutional capacity to implement the Convention;
- (b) Policy barriers: gaps in political and legislative frameworks to support Convention provisions;
- (c) Capacity barriers: lack of data on sources of emissions and releases;
- (d) Awareness barriers: low awareness of health risks associated with mercury among the public and government officials, with limited occupational safety mechanisms in place to reduce community exposure to mercury; and
- (e) Technological barriers: lack of knowledge on non-mercury technologies.

With the adoption of the Convention, Rwanda will require assistance to formulate and apply sector wide programs through cost effective approaches within the context of its national development efforts. In the last years, Rwanda has promoted initiatives to tackle the negative impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment. The country is party to the Stockholm and Basel Conventions, and has updated its National Profile on chemicals and waste management projects. The country does not currently have any mercury specific regulations.

A preliminary national survey to map out different institutions and priority areas suspected to have Mercury and Mercury Compounds was conducted. ASGM, health, ICT, Transport, water and informal sector were identified as priority sectors with mercury use. The outcome of the survey also provided advisory guidance on the Interim management Mechanisms of Mercury and Mercury Compounds. The concerned institutions like Ministry of Health and Ministry of Trade have internal regulations that ban the use of Mercury, but not yet nationalized/harmonized. Refer to annex D for a summary of the finding and recommendations identified in the national survey. Despite the efforts made until now, the country has not produced a detailed national mercury inventory and no mercury-related projects have been implemented. Important baseline data remains largely unknown in Rwanda, such as:

- (a) the quantity and distribution of mercury stocks, supplies, trade and trans-boundary movement;
- (b) the amount of mercury being used and disposed from various sectors;
- (c) the handling of waste mercury; and
- (d) the extent of mercury pollution.

In Rwanda, mercury is used in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining, health, ICT, Industry, water, construction, transport and informal Sector.

As sound mercury management is not yet integrated into sustainable development planning, insufficient mechanisms to handle hazardous wastes may weaken the basis for effective environmental management in Rwanda. The situation tends to worsen, as the country does not have the resources, or the capacity needed to address mercury-related problems and promote the uptake of low mercury or mercury free technologies.

The development of the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) will address these issues by providing the basic and essential information to enable policy and strategic decisions to be made and by assisting the development of plans to identify priority sectors and activities within the country.

## 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 request of financial support from the Chemicals and Wastes focal area of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is justified through investment in enabling activities to assist nations to fulfill essential communication requirements related to the Convention, make informed policy decisions and assist in prioritizing activities.

Enabling activities have already been developed in Rwanda with GEF's resources in order to assist the country in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The MIA enabling activities will complement the country efforts to reduce significantly the exposure of harmful chemicals and wastes of global importance to humans and the environment.

The project will strengthen Rwanda's national capacity to fulfill obligations under the Minamata Convention and promote effective implementation of its provisions. In order to reach that, the activities proposed will assist the Government and industrial partners to better understand the national operations on mercury, as well as its emissions, and to increase awareness of risks to human and ecosystem health.

With the support of GEF, pollution sources can be identified systematically to select areas for future intervention, while institutional and capacity needs assessment, as well as policy analysis, can assist Rwanda to identify potential barriers to implement the Convention. GEF resources will also assist the country to disseminate project achievements in the national level and help to leverage international support, as well as investments for additional projects in Rwanda to promote sound chemicals management as a key component of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

The key stakeholders involved in the project are as follows:

UNIDO will act as the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the project. The UNIDO project manager will provide project implementation oversight.

The Rwanda Environment Management Agency (REMA) will serve as the main governmental counterpart providing national leadership. The Minamata Convention focal point at REMA will be responsible for the day-to-day compliance with the treaty and its provisions. A National Project Coordination (NPC) team will be established and hosted by REMA to provide overall project coordination of all GEF funded mercury related projects and ensure information sharing, coherence and maximum effectiveness. REMA will appoint the national project coordinator and its credential should be shared with UNIDO for review. REMA will also act as the chair and secretariat of the National Steering Group (NSG) and will host the local project management office. These activities will be executed via subcontract to the REMA. The subcontracting process will be administered by UNIDO according to the "UNIDO General Terms and Conditions".

The UNITAR will act as the co-executing agency, providing technical expertise for the development of all Minamata initial assessment related activities. These activities will be executed via subcontract to UNITAR. The subcontracting process will be administered by UNIDO according to the "UNIDO General Terms and Conditions".

The NSG will be established as an inter-ministerial Steering Group comprised of UNIDO representatives, technical and policy experts from REMA and UNITAR, relevant ministries and associations (including industrial and gender-related) to provide overall guidance and coordination for the execution of activities, providing strategic inputs and contributions to project management as needed. All project amendments will be done in accordance with the UNIDO rules and regulations and GEF policies, in particular documents "GEF project and programmatic approach cycle" (GEF/C.39/Inf.3) and "GEF project and program cycle policy" (GEF/C.50/08/Rev.01).

Industry Association Federations (Civil Society Organizations), including academia and NGOs, will act as a bridge to connect Government institutions, technical experts, and relevant industries to assist in the development and implementation of policies to fulfill obligations under the Convention. This network of associations will liaise with primary mercury extractors and users to increase awareness, share knowledge and promote technology transfer to reduce mercury use within the enabling activities framework.

An expert team comprised of national and international consultants and technical specialists will be recruited to provide technical support. The team will be selected based on technical expertise to support appropriate policy and legal gap analysis, assist in development of the national mercury profile and plan activities for institutional capacity development. In agreement with national counterparts, experts will be appointed by REMA and their credentials will be shared with UNIDO for review.

The project will not have an impact on indigenous people groups as they are not present in the region where the project will be executed.

With regard to gender equality, working with Rwandese partners to encourage a multi-stakeholder and gender-sensitive approach in this project is an overarching priority that will help ensure the success and sustainability of all subsequent interventions to assess and strengthen Rwanda's mercury management regime under the Minamata Convention. Therefore, under this project, gender mainstreaming will be promoted at all levels of the project. This will be addressed based on UNIDO's gender policy.

Women usually undertake a range of tasks within ASM mining operations (e.g. digging, panning, processing, transporting, cooking and cleaning), but their engagement is often concentrated around lower paid and lower value activities. Since women tend to be also under-represented in the decision-making processes relating to the ASGM sector and mercury management, both in the political and socio-economical spheres, affirmative steps will be needed to ensure adequate participation of all stakeholders, and especially women, in the activities of the projects:

Gender mainstreaming will be achieved by setting objectives and collecting when possible gender-disaggregated data in terms of women representation (as reflected in the indicators in annex C) for the key stakeholders that will be involved throughout the process (i.e. the relevant ministries of Rwanda, industry associations, laboratories, universities, NGOs, civil society organizations, etc.). The gender-sensitive approach and promotion of women participation will also be accomplished by, for example, reaching out to NGOs, and other groups with significant representation of women and other vulnerable groups. Stakeholder institutions invited to participate in the national steering group will also be encouraged to nominate women as representatives if possible. During recruitment process, female candidates will be encouraged to apply. For candidates with similar technical qualifications, preference will be given to women. These key steps are expected to achieve strong participation of women throughout projects activities, in particular during the establishment of a coordination mechanism (output 1.1.1), the training on mercury inventory (output 1.1.3) and the dissemination of information (output 1.1.4). The involvement and participation of women and vulnerable groups will be summarized in the initial inventory report and gender disaggregated data collected to provide a basis for prioritization, development of sectoral intervention plans and future projects.

With regard to the development of training more specifically (output 1.1.3), the biases in the education between men and women (e.g., participating women might be less equipped to understand, cope with, and anticipate the implications of chemicals exposure and environmental change or resource conditions) will be taken into account.

When carrying the review of mercury related policy and regulatory framework (output 1.1.2), social factors that influence human exposure to mercury will be identified and covered. In particular, the gender division of labor in ASGM activities in Rwanda will be duly taken into account, as well as the different social and economic implications of mercury pollution for men and women in the country. The implementation of needed policy reforms in the aftermath of the project is not only expected to reduce human and in particular women exposure to mercury, but also to contribute to longer term gender related goals associated with the SDGs such as increased maternal health, lower child mortality and cleaner water.

Further, the MIA and other relevant documents will be reviewed by gender experts.

More generally, engaging with relevant industries and enterprises during the project may also be a powerful focal point for change. Environmental and social responsibility are on the rise in Rwanda and involving the private sector in stakeholder consultations throughout the process could contribute to the future development of codes of conduct and other steps to reduce mercury hazards for workers and populations, and in particular women.

Finally, the majority of socio-economic benefits associated with this project will manifest when the interventions required under the Convention are implemented, contributing to the achievement of SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production).

Refer to annex B for a flow chart of various stakeholders. Refer to annex E for a description of the gender equality context and barriers in Rwanda.

### 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

This project sets out the activities necessary to prepare an MIA to support efficient implementation of the Minamata Convention within the national context. The project will assist Rwanda to plan these post-ratification activities while mainstreaming sound mercury management into legal and institutional structures that are fully in line with national priorities.

The initiative will also help the country to collect baseline information on mercury use, emissions and releases that will serve as input to the design of future interventions required by the treaty, such as the development of a National Implementation Plan that may be required by the Conference of Parties within a few years of its entry into force. The treaty is expected to enter into force in two to three years.

The planned activities per output are listed below:

Output 1.1.1: Project coordination mechanism established and institutional gaps identified:

Activity 1.1.1.1: Conduct national project coordination meetings;

Activity 1.1.1.2: Establish an inter-ministerial Steering Group (National Steering Group);

Activity 1.1.1.3: Identify institutional capacity gaps and barriers;

Activity 1.1.1.4: Organize capacity development workshops and trainings.

Output 1.1.2: Review of existing mercury related regulations and identification of needed policy reforms to prepare for implementation of the Minamata Convention completed:

Activity 1.1.2.1: Evaluate existing structures, policies, strategies, laws and regulations;

Activity 1.1.2.2: Sensitize policy makers regarding policy gaps;

Activity 1.1.2.3: Prepare a list of needed mercury related regulations while considering the vulnerabilities of different gender groups.

Output 1.1.3: National mercury profile established based on the initial inventory and key sectors identified for intervention and investment to reduce, and where possible eliminate, mercury use, release, and emissions:

Activity 1.1.3.1: Conduct national mercury inventory training;

Activity 1.1.3.2: Collection data for the initial national mercury inventory;

Activity 1.1.3.3: Draft initial national mercury inventory;

Activity 1.1.3.4: Identified key sectors for intervention;

Activity 1.1.3.5: Develop intervention plans.

Output 1.1.4: Dissemination of information among relevant stakeholder groups (academia, public and private sectors, and civil society) conducted:

Activity 1.1.4.1: Develop communication materials taking into account the impacts of mercury on and vulnerability of different gender groups;

Activity 1.1.4.2: Organize and conduct awareness raising campaigns and workshops adapting time and location of the events to different gender groups' needs.

Refer to the attached logical framework in Annex C for specific outputs and their associated indicators, verifications and assumptions.

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

The project is expected to be highly cost effective as it is fully in line with the goals of Government of the Republic of Rwanda to fulfill its obligations under the Convention, as well as regulate anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury in order to protect human health and the environment. With the GEF support, patterns of mercury consumption and release will be assessed to facilitate the design of targeted interventions, which in turn provide global and local benefits through reduced emissions to the environment. Through institutional capacity development and enhancement at the national level, potential contamination risks from the use of mercury-added products will also be minimized.

To ensure cost effectiveness, infrastructure and human resources of the government counterpart and executing agency involved in the project will be efficiently utilized. Most project activities will be carried out by national experts. This will foster an increase in local and national capacity to manage mercury and will contribute to the cost effectiveness of the project through reduced consultancy fees and travel expenses.

Project implementation and execution is expected to remain at low risk. UNIDO has solid experience in promoting environmentally sound management of mercury and plays an important role as co-lead of the ASGM sector under the Global Mercury Partnership. UNIDO acquired extensive experience with enabling activities through the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and NIP updates. UNIDO has subsequently assisted many countries to develop and implement their Minamata Initial Assessments and National Action Plans.

Lessons learned and experience gained by UNIDO in the Africa region through the development of mercury-related projects, as well as capacity building initiatives on POPs, are comparative advantages to the implementation of the project. The local and regional presence of UNIDO in the field will also help to ensure the smooth development of project activities.

UNITAR has supported a number of countries to strengthen their national capacities to manage mercury and comply fully with the national obligations of the Minamata Convention. Areas of support include: capacity-building and training, policy reform, development of national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) and Minamata Initial Assessments and supporting phase-out activities. These capacity-development activities are geared towards addressing the main global objectives of reduction of mercury releases and emissions to the environment and ensuring the sound management of mercury in different sectors.

## E. DESCRIBE, DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for this project will rely on several levels of review, quality control and feedback. Overall M&E will be conducted by UNIDO through annual supervision visits to the country. The National Steering Group, including the main project stakeholders, will meet annually to: (a) review annual work plan, (b) assess progress against M&E targets as indicated in the Project Results Framework, (c) review interim and final reports, and (d) assess any gaps or weakness and make appropriate adaptive management decisions based on progress and achievements. Work plan for year two will be based on the results achieved in the first year, including associated budget allocations, in agreement with the GEF and UNIDO's documents, rules and guidelines, in particular documents "Rules and Guidelines for Agency Fees and Project Management Costs" (GEF/C.39.09), "GEF project and programmatic approach cycle" (GEF/C.39/Inf.3) and "GEF project and program cycle policy" (GEF/C.50/08/Rev.01). UNIDO's office in Rwanda will assist and participate in monitoring and evaluation visits as needed. The final evaluation, to be conducted by an independent evaluator, will be arranged by the UNIDO project manager with support from UNIDO's Evaluation Group and reports submitted to the donor within 90 days of project end. See below for a summary of the monitoring and evaluation plan, as well as the related budget breakdown.

Programmatic M&E: the main executing partner, REMA, will be responsible for day-to-day management and execution of the project, reporting semi-annually to UNIDO. Progress of activities and outputs against the targets and desired outcomes will be assessed bi-annually by the executing partners using the means of verification and impact indicators for measurement explained in the Project Results Framework.

Financial Monitoring: All project costs will be accounted for and documented. Financial reports will be required from the executing agency according to UNIDO standard accounting procedures.

According to the Monitoring and Evaluation policy of the GEF and UNIDO, follow-up studies like Country Portfolio Evaluations and Thematic Evaluations can be initiated and conducted. All project partners and contractors are obliged to (a) make available studies, reports and other documentation related to the project and (b) facilitate interviews with staff involved in the project activities.

Legal context clause: The Government of the Republic of Rwanda agrees to apply to the present project, mutatis mutandis, the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and the Government, signed on 27 April 1977 and entered into force on 17 April 1978.

Monitoring and evaluation table

M&E activity	Time	Budget (USD)	
		Cash	In-Kind
Start-up workshop report*	Within 3 months of project start	0	0
Project review by NSG at the end of year 1*	Month 12	0	0
Project review by NSG at the end of the project*	Month 24	0	0
Terminal evaluation	At project closure	10,000	5,000
Total M&E cost		10,000	5,000
*Funded by Project Management Costs			

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

Not applicable.

**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):**

<b>Focal Point Name</b>	<b>Focal Point Title</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Signed Date</b>
Coletha U. Ruhamy	Director General/CEO	Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)	8/20/2018

**B. Convention Participation**

<b>Convention</b>	<b>Date of Ratification/Accession</b>	<b>National Focal Point</b>
Minamata Convention	6/29/2017	REMA

**ANNEX A: Project Budget Table**

**Please attach a project budget table.**