



Development of Minamata Convention Initial Assessment (MIA) for Sultanate of Oman

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

Project Type

EA

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT

CBIT

Project Title

Development of Minamata Convention Initial Assessment (MIA) for Sultanate of Oman

Countries

Oman

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

The Environment Authority Oman, UNEP Regional Office for West Asia

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Taxonomy

Chemicals and Waste, Focal Areas, Mercury

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

| Type of Reports | Submission Date | Expected Implementation Start | Expected Completion Date | Expected Report Submission to Convention |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) | 4/6/2021 | 6/1/2021 | 6/30/2023 | 7/31/2021 |

Duration

24in Months

Agency Fee(\$)

19,000.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

| Objectives/Programs | Trust Fund | GEF Amount(\$) | Co-Fin Amount(\$) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| CW-EA | GET | 200,000.00 | |
| | | Total Project Cost(\$) | 200,000.00 |
| | | | 0.00 |

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Facilitate the early implementation of the Minamata Convention through the use of scientific and technical knowledge and tools by national stakeholders in Oman.

| Project Component | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Global technical support for MIA development | National stakeholders in Oman have the scientific and technical knowledge and tools for the early implementation of the Minamata Convention | 1.1 Technical assistance provided to Oman to develop the MIA while building sustainable foundations for its future implementation | 10,000.00 | |
| 2. Development and validation of the Minamata Initial Assessment | | 2.1. Basic capacity, tools, documents and institutional arrangements are in place for project implementation 2.2. National overview of mercury management and inventory of mercury emissions and releases developed 2.3 Final MIA report developed | 157,000.00 | |

| Project Component | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3. Monitoring and Evaluation | | 3.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF | 15,000.00 | |
| | | Sub Total (\$) | 182,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC) | | | | |
| | | | 18,000.00 | |
| | | Sub Total(\$) | 18,000.00 | 0.00 |
| | | Total Project Cost(\$) | 200,000.00 | 0.00 |

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

N/A

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

| Agency | Trust Fund | Country | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Amount(\$) | Fee(\$) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| UNEP | GET | Oman | Chemicals and Waste | Mercury | 200,000 | 19,000 |
| Total Gef Resources(\$) | | | | | 200,000.00 | 19,000.00 |

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. 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.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury defines, in paragraph 5 of Article 13, a financial mechanism for the provision of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources. The financial mechanism is to support eligible parties to the Minamata Convention such as Oman in implementing their obligations under the Convention.

Under paragraph 6 of article 13 of the Convention, the financial mechanism is to include two components: the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund and a specific international programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance. As per paragraph 10 of article 13, at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference and the entities comprising the financial mechanism agreed upon the arrangements to give effect to the operation of the mechanism. The Conference of the Parties agreed on the eligibility criteria, overall strategies and policies, programme priorities and indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support through its decision UNEP/MC/COP.1/8 ? Annex I ? Appendix I.

Sultanate of Oman is a party of Minamata Convention since 23 June 2020, and therefore meets the eligibility criteria for access to and utilization of financial resources for Minamata Initial Assessment enabling activity.

This is the first project implemented in Oman aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Minamata Convention. The project is a country-driven initiative in conformity with the Minamata Initial Assessment overall strategies, policies and guidance approved by the Conference of the Parties in its first session.

The project is in conformity with the GEF VII Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy, which addresses mercury under its Program 4: Support enabling activities under the Minamata Convention, including Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) and artisanal and small-scale gold mining National Action Plans (ASGM NAPs).

The project contributes to the achievement of the expected accomplishment A under the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) biennial Programme of Work (PoW) 2020-2021. ?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)?. Oman will use the UNEP Mercury Inventory Toolkit to quantify mercury emissions and releases in the country, and will use the inventory results in the development of an action plan for the early implementation of the Minamata Convention.

A.1. National baseline information:

Sultanate of Oman occupies the south-eastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula between latitudes 16° 40' and 26° 20' North and Longitude 51° 50' and 59° 40' East. It has a coastline extending almost 3,165 km from the Strait of Hormuz in the north to the borders of the Republic of Yemen in the south including the islands. Oman is bound by three seas: the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. The Sultanate is bordered in the northwest by the United Arab Emirates, in the west by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the southwest by Republic of Yemen, and the Arabian Sea in the east. The major sectors of economic activities in Oman are: oil and natural gas exploitation, mining, agriculture and fisheries and secondary industry.

The Oman vision 2020-2040 has adopted a firm policy for preserving environment sustainability and ensuring that people are protected from harmful environmental impacts under its economy and development pillar.

Sex-disaggregated data from population at risk from mercury exposure in Oman is largely missing.

A.2. Other relevant projects under implementation in Oman

Oman had participated in the following GEF funded project:

- GEF ID 9120: ?Support to Preparation of the Third National Biosafety Reports to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Asia Pacific Region?. This project is regional biodiversity project implemented by UNEP
- GEF ID 5697: Enabling the Sultanate of Oman to Prepare Its Second National Communication (SNC) and Biennial Update Report (BUR) to the UNFCCC. This is a country enabling activity project under climate change focal area and implemented by UNEP.

- GEF ID 1940: Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs): National Implementation Plan for the Sultanate of Oman. This project was implemented by UNEP
- GEF ID 1429: National Capacity Building to Enable the Sultanate of Oman to Prepare its National Action Plan and First National Communication. This project was implemented by UNDP

A.3. Mercury sources, emissions and releases

According to the Global Mercury Assessment 2018^[1], the main sources of mercury emissions and releases in Oman are described in the table below:

Table 1: Mercury sources, emissions and releases

| <i>Sector Code</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Activity Code</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Emission estimate (kg)</i> | <i>Low range estimate s (kg)</i> | <i>High range estimate s kg</i> | <i>Waste group</i> |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>CEM</i> | <i>Cement production (raw materials and fuel, excluding coal)</i> | <i>CEM</i> | <i>cement (fuels excl.)</i> | <i>383.07</i> | <i>135.261</i> | <i>1985.354</i> | |
| <i>CREM</i> | <i>Cremation emissions</i> | <i>CREM</i> | <i>Cremation emissions</i> | <i>0.102</i> | <i>0.076</i> | <i>0.119</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>NFMP</i> | <i>Non-ferrous metal production</i> | <i>AL-P</i> | <i>aluminum (primary production)</i> | <i>4.713</i> | <i>1.597</i> | <i>8.899</i> | |
| <i>NFMP</i> | <i>Non-ferrous metal production</i> | <i>CU-P</i> | <i>copper (primary production)</i> | <i>2.306</i> | <i>0.823</i> | <i>13.168</i> | |
| <i>OR</i> | <i>Oil refining</i> | <i>CO-OR</i> | <i>oil refining</i> | <i>3.455</i> | <i>1.555</i> | <i>5.7</i> | |
| <i>SC-DR-gas</i> | <i>Stationary combustion of gas</i> | <i>NG-DR</i> | <i>natural gas</i> | <i>0.037</i> | <i>0.008</i> | <i>0.072</i> | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------|
| <i>SC-DR-oil</i> | <i>Stationary combustion of oil (domestic/residential, transportation)</i> | <i>CO-LF-DR</i> | <i>light fuel oil</i> | <i>3.816</i> | <i>0.859</i> | <i>7.346</i> | |
| <i>SC-IND-gas</i> | <i>Stationary combustion of gas (domestic/residential, transportation)</i> | <i>NG-IND</i> | <i>natural gas</i> | <i>2.235</i> | <i>0.503</i> | <i>4.302</i> | |
| <i>SC-IND-oil</i> | <i>Stationary combustion of oil (industrial)</i> | <i>CO-LF-IND</i> | <i>light fuel oil</i> | <i>0.792</i> | <i>0.178</i> | <i>1.525</i> | |
| <i>SC-PP-gas</i> | <i>Stationary combustion of gas (power plants)</i> | <i>NG-PP</i> | <i>natural gas</i> | <i>2.274</i> | <i>0.512</i> | <i>4.378</i> | |
| <i>SC-PP-oil</i> | <i>Stationary combustion of oil (power plants)</i> | <i>CO-LF-PP</i> | <i>light fuel oil</i> | <i>0.303</i> | <i>0.068</i> | <i>0.583</i> | |
| <i>SSC</i> | <i>Secondary steel production</i> | <i>SP-S</i> | | <i>35.01</i> | <i>13.031</i> | <i>167.057</i> | |
| | | | <i>secondary steel production</i> | | | | |
| <i>WASOTH</i> | | <i>WASOTH</i> | | <i>199.233</i> | <i>59.77</i> | <i>597.7</i> | <i>2</i> |
| | <i>Waste (other waste)</i> | | <i>other waste</i> | | | | |
| <i>WI</i> | <i>Waste incineration (controlled burning)</i> | <i>WI</i> | <i>waste incineration</i> | <i>5.805</i> | <i>1.741</i> | <i>17.415</i> | <i>2</i> |

The project will apply the level 2 of the mercury inventory toolkit to develop a more precise assessment of national sources of mercury emissions and releases.

[1] Technical background Report to the Global Mercury Assessment 2018_ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/29831/gma_tech.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

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

B.1. Project objective: facilitate the early implementation of the Minamata Convention through the use of scientific and technical knowledge and tools by national stakeholders in Oman.

Project Goals: the project will achieve its objective by reaching 4 goals as specified in the GEF guidelines (GEF/C.45/Inf.05 paragraph 19), as well as a fifth goal on mainstreaming, as follows:

- a) Review and assessment of legislation and policies in regard to the implementation of the provisions of:
 - Article 3: Mercury supply sources and trade
 - Article 5: Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used
 - Article 8: Emissions within the national context - standards and regulations
 - Article 9: Identify and categorize sources of releases according to the national capacity to do so
- b) Undertake a detailed Minamata Convention Initial Assessment in the following categories:
 - Stocks of mercury and/or mercury compounds and import and export procedures including an assessment of the storage conditions
 - Supply of mercury, including sources, recycling activities and quantities
 - Sectors that use mercury and the amount per year, including manufacturing processes
 - Trade in mercury and mercury containing compounds
- c) Identification of national:
 - Emission sources and releases of mercury;
 - Release sources of mercury to land and water.
- d) Assess institutional and capacity needs to implement the Convention

Institutional capacity of governmental institutions and agencies will be assessed to determine the gaps and needs that exist for the implementation of the Convention and propose interventions to strengthen them. The assessment will also review the systems needed to report to the Convention under article 21 from the work already undertaken under a previous GEF Capacity Building project.

Proposed actions will be discussed and agreed upon among the key stakeholders through several rounds of discussions. The expected outcome will be a description of the following key areas:

- National mercury profile, including significant sources of emissions and releases, as well as inventories of mercury and mercury compounds
- Structures, institutions, legislation already available to implement the Convention
- Barriers that would hinder or prevent implementation of the Convention

- Technical and financial needs required for the implementation of the Convention, including resources from the GEF, national sources, bilateral sources, the private sector and others

e) Mainstreaming

Raising the importance of Hg priority interventions at national level through mainstreaming in relevant national planning process and procedures.

The development of the Minamata Initial Assessment has three components described in detail below:

Component 1: Global technical support for MIA development

The objective of this component, executed by the Global Mercury Partnership, is to ensure the high quality of the final outputs and the project sustainability. In relation to the high quality of the final outputs, the Global Mercury Partnership has already successfully supported other countries in the development of their Minamata Initial Assessment by ensuring the emission factors in all the translated versions of the toolkit are correct and updated; and the final Minamata Initial Assessments had an independent final quality check with recommendations for improvement. In relation to the project sustainability, the Global Mercury Partnership has initiated the identification and development of a roster of national experts trained on the development of mercury inventories and national stakeholders participating in awareness raising activities disaggregated by sex.

Besides the above-mentioned support, new activities have been added to this component leading to further sustainability and cost efficiency. The Global Mercury Partnership will be engaged in assisting Oman in the development of outreach materials to facilitate understanding on the main findings of the Minamata Convention in the country and access to information to reduce human and environmental exposure to mercury.

Expected outputs and planned activities:

1.1 Technical assistance provided to Oman to develop the MIA while building sustainable foundations for its future implementation

1.1.1 Quality check of the final MIA developed, including the final review of the toolkit calculation;

1.1.2. *Final report with a statistical analysis of the MIA and the identification of priorities for the implementation of the Minamata Convention;*

1.1.3. *Development of support materials to facilitate outreach and steps to reduce mercury exposure;*

1.1.4. *Continue checking the accurateness of the translated versions of the Mercury toolkit.*

Component 2: Development and validation of the Minamata Initial Assessment

The objective of this component executed by Environment Authority Oman is to provide technical and administrative assistance to Oman in the development of the Minamata Initial Assessment. The MIA development will follow the document "Minamata Initial Assessment Report suggested structure and contents", February 2017 version, developed by UNDP and UNITAR and approved by the IOMC[1].

Expected outputs and planned activities:

2.1. Basic capacity, tools, documents and institutional arrangements are in place for project implementation

The national focal point of the Minamata Convention; a representative of the Global Mercury Partnership and representatives from the Executing and Implementing Agencies will meet through webinars to define the scope and objective of the MIA process in Oman. This activity will be complemented by a national inception and training workshop in Oman to finalize and endorse the draft tools and documents developed and build the capacity of key national stakeholders for the MIA development.

2.1.1. National inception and training workshop

Preparatory activities

The draft administrative tools to be developed or agreed upon are:

- a) Project workplan, budget, procurement plan and quarterly forecast of project expenditures;
- b) Develop the documents needed for the agreement between the Executing Agency and the national partner;
- c) Have a common understanding of the reporting and monitoring processes.

The institutional arrangements to be identified are:

- a) Identify key stakeholders at the national level and assign roles;
- b) Write the Draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the National Coordination Mechanism.

The documents to be developed are:

- a) Awareness raising strategy aimed at national stakeholders throughout the project;
- b) Gender strategy for the project;
- d) Draft ToRs for international and national consultants;
- e) Draft agenda and list of participants for the national inception and training workshops;
- f) Knowledge and data management mechanism identified.

National inception and training workshops

- a) First National Coordination Mechanism meeting to finalize and endorse the documents developed in the preparatory meetings;
- b) Training on the Minamata Convention and the development of the mercury inventory.

2.2. National overview of mercury management and inventory of mercury emissions and releases developed

2.2.1. Identify the national background situation in relation to mercury management. This may include a national assessment on existing sources of information (studies);

2.2.2. Write the country profile in the context of mercury issues and overall environmental conditions and priorities in the country;

2.2.3. Assess the national infrastructure and capacity for the management and monitoring of mercury, including the existing national regulatory and legal framework^[2];

2.2.4. Development of a mercury inventory using the UNEP mercury inventory level 2;

*2.2.5. Identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds over 50 metric tons, as well as sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year, that are located with the territory of Oman. This inventory is done using the **Draft guidance on identification of individual***

stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons, as well as sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year [3]^{3?};

2.2.6. *Develop and agree upon a strategy for the identification of contaminated sites;*

2.2.7. *Develop a preliminary review of potential populations at risk and potential health risks[4]⁴;*

2.2.8. *Assessment of the potential gender dimensions related to the management of mercury[5]⁵.*

2.3. Final MIA report developed

2.3.1. *Prioritization of measures to be taken in order to implement the Convention as well as required financing for its implementation;*

2.3.2. *Write the final MIA document following the structure of the UNDP Guidance version 2017.*

Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation

Day-to-day project management and monitoring will be the responsibility of the Executing Agency. The project monitoring will start with the national inception workshop and the development of a detailed workplan, budget and detailed monitoring and evaluation plan with key stakeholders. The Executing Agency will develop and submit to UNEP 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.

UNEP will monitor the project progress according to the workplan on a regular basis and provide guidance to the Executing Agency to progress according to the workplan. Yearly during the GEF PIR UNEP will provide information about the status of the project implementation and the disbursements made.

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

The terminal report and final statement of accounts developed by the Executing Agency at the end of the project closes the Executing Agency 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 UNEP up to three 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 UNEP. There is no template for the final financial audit.

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 UNEP using UNEP's templates;

3.1.2. UNEP 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 UNEP at project end;

3.1.4. Submit final financial audit to UNEP.

B2. Preliminary stakeholder assessment

At the international and level, the project will include:

a) **UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch:** as a GEF Implementing Agency, UNEP will provide technical oversight and administrative support to the National Coordinating agency and the National Coordinator. UNEP will also provide the global perspective and experience from other countries;

b) **UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA)** 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. ROWA is currently executing several GEF enabling activities in the region such as NIP Iraq, MIA Iraq, NIP Bahrain, as well as NIP Yemen. For this project. ROWA will provide

administrative support to the Environment Authority Oman in relation to the recruitment and onboarding of international consultants;

- c) The **Minamata Convention Secretariat** will provide guidance materials and opportunities to exchange information and to understand the Minamata Convention from a regional and global perspective;
- d) The **Global Mercury Partnership**: the partnership works closely with stakeholders to assist in the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention. It will support the implementation of the project through knowledge management, quality check and access to the technical tools needed for the mercury assessment;
- e) **Oman's The Environment Authority**: The Environment Authority was established on the eighteenth of August 2020 according to the Royal Decree No. 106/2020, after the process of environmental work passed through several organizational and structural stages. And the development of the project to return the Arabian Oryx to its natural habitats, the Environment authority is considered one of the government agencies responsible for developing plans and programs to protect the environment and preserve its natural resources through the application of its policy to ensure the safety of the environment, combat pollution and preserve the various environmental systems within the framework of the basic objectives of sustainable development, protection of wildlife and preservation Nature and the preservation of renewable resources and work to exploit them in a sustainable manner.

The authority is tasked with issuing environmental laws and legislation as required by the environmental interest, implementing laws and legislations related to natural reserves, the marine environment and biological diversity, and introducing the principle of environmental management as a basic means to raise the efficiency of development projects in all fields in addition to paying attention to environmental control and inspection as the main observatory to identify the environmental situation And assess the environmental impacts and take the necessary measures to confront them. More details available in the website: <https://www.meca.gov.om>.

At the National level the Project will include:

Table 2: preliminary list of national stakeholders

| Stakeholder | Role in the project/institutional arrangement |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Government</i> | |
| <i>The Environment Authority</i> | National Coordinating Agency for the implementation of this project in Oman. |

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Ministry of Health</i> | Member of the National Coordination Mechanism. The Ministry will assist in collecting information on potential public health impacts of poor mercury management in Oman and facilitate the development of public health campaigns to raise awareness and reduce mercury exposure. |
| <i>Ministry of commerce and Industry</i> | Member of the National Coordination Mechanism. The Ministry will assist in collecting information on mercury management in production processes. |
| <i>Oman Environmental Service Holding Company S.A.O.C (be?ah)</i> | Member of the National Coordination Mechanism. Be?ah was granted <i>the mandate and the legal status as the entity responsible for solid waste management in Oman in 2009 by a Royal Decree No. 46/2009.</i> Be?ah will assist in collecting information related to waste management. https://www.beah.om |
| <i>Ministry of Energy and Minerals</i> | Member of the National Coordination Mechanism. The Ministry will assist in the localization of mining areas and well as oil refining operations. |
| <i>Ministry of Labour</i> | Member of the National Coordination Mechanism. The Ministry will inform on chemical storage and work safe control and regulation. |
| <i>Planning and Economy Ministry</i> <i>Ministry of Interior</i> | Members of the National Coordination Mechanism. These institutions will ensure that concerns and priorities related to their domains of expertise are taken into account. They will also facilitate the access to relevant information. |
| <i>Civil society organizations</i> | |
| <i>Will be identified during inception</i> | Member of the National Coordination Mechanism. The Association will assist in the identification of national NGOs working on similar topics that could be interested in participating/contributing to the project. |
| <i>Academia/Research Institutes</i> | |

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>The Sultan Qaboos University and others</i> | <p>Students and other experts may be recruited to assist in data collection and to participate in awareness raising and capacity building activities.</p> <p>The institutions will play a key role in helping to identify existing documentation to avoid duplication of work. They will also be involved in key research programmes on mercury and mercury waste management and delivery of training programmes on hazardous waste management.</p> |
| Private Sector | |
| <i>Mineral Development Oman, and others will be identified during inception</i> | Private sector entities will be identified and invited to be involved in the project especially that related to oil refining, industries, cement, etc. |

B.3. Gender equality and women empowerment

Generally, two groups are more at risk for the effects of mercury. Fetuses and people who are regularly exposed (chronic exposure) to high levels of mercury (such as populations that rely on subsistence fishing or people who are occupationally exposed or exposed through use of cosmetics). As mercury is passed on from mother to child, and fetuses and children are most susceptible to developmental effects from mercury, the MIA will pay particular attention to assessing national capacity to keep such risk groups safe. Recommendations on how to improve gender dimensions and gender mainstreaming related to mercury, and priorities actions in this area will be highlighted in the project document and the MIA report.

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**[6]⁶ (Sustainable Development Goal 5).

The project will collect sex-disaggregated data when assessing specific mercury exposure scenarios in Oman. The three components of the "Guidance for Identifying Populations at Risk from Mercury Exposure"[7] developed by the World Health organization, namely the risk assessment, risk management and risk communication will be applied.

The project will also be sensitive to the government's efforts in reaching gender equality in Oman and will actively promote women's empowerment. At the project inception, a culturally sensitive strategy with SMART indicators aimed at gender mainstreaming throughout the project implementation will be developed in consultation with key national stakeholders. The purpose is to ensure national ownership over this process.

Below some of the elements that could be considered in this strategy:

- (i) What could prevent woman's participation in project meetings and trainings? How will the project facilitate the equitable access of men and women to information and training?
- (iii) What could prevent women's participation in the project's national coordination mechanism? How will the project be encouraging the equitable participation of men and women?
- (iv) How to ensure equity between man and women in the recruitment of consultants?
- (v) Is there potential for cooperation with other initiatives in Oman aimed at gender equality?
- (vi) Is the monitoring mechanism gender responsive?

[1] Available at

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Environment%20and%20Energy/Chemicals%20and%20Waste%20Management/undp-ce-wastemgt-Minamata-Initial-Assessment-Report-Guidance-Feb2017.pdf>

[2] Checklist of legal authorities to implement Minamata Convention on Mercury (NRDC)

http://docs.nrdc.org/international/files/int_15101301a.pdf

[3] Available at http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/meetings/inc7/English/7_4_e_stock.pdf

[4] Available at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/risk-mercury-exposure/en/>

[5] Available at <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>

[6] <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>

[7] <https://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/chem/mercuryexposure.pdf?ua=1>

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

For project activities, please consult section B

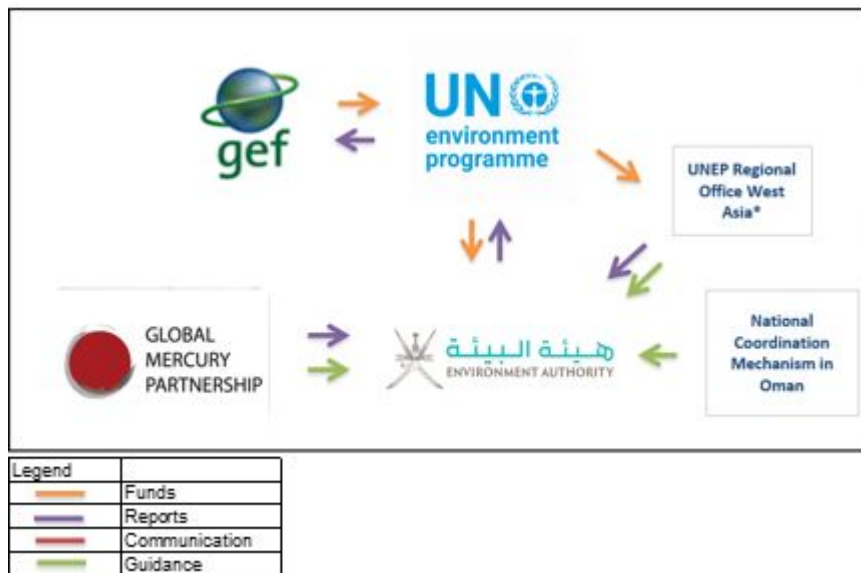
Implementing Agency (IA): This project will be implemented by UNEP. As Implementing Agency, UNEP will be responsible for the overall project supervision, overseeing the project progress through the monitoring and evaluation of project activities and progress reports, including on technical issues. In close collaboration with its Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean, UNEP will provide administrative support to the Executing Agency.

UNEP will support the execution of this project, as part of the Mercury Partnership Programme, and will provide assistance to signatories to the Minamata Convention or countries taking meaningful steps to ratify the Convention such as organizing regional/global awareness raising/training workshops, reviewing technical products, sending technical experts to key meetings, etc. Furthermore, through its Programme of work, UNEP will identify suitable Divisions and Branches that can provide additional support to Oman and complement project activities.

Executing Agency (EA): Environment Authority Oman will execute 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 local consultants necessary for technical activities and supervise their work. It will acquire equipment and monitor the project. The EA will organize an independent audit in order to guarantee the proper use of GEF funds. Financial transactions and audit will be carried out in accordance with national regulations.

UNEP Regional Office West Asia (ROWA): ROWA will support the execution of this project through hiring international consultants and coordination of regional information exchange and provision of documents and inventories from other countries in the region. ROWA is currently executing MIA Iraq project. **ROWA** 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.

A National Coordination Mechanisms (NCM) will meet regularly during project implementation. The NCM will include key national stakeholders and will evaluate the progress of the project and 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 Executing Agency.



Graph 1: Implementation arrangements

*UNEP Regional Office West Asia will be responsible for hiring international consultants only

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

The project will complement the country's efforts to reduce significantly the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful global pollutants. Utilization of GEF resources will support the government of Oman and its partners in understanding the various uses of mercury in the country including its associated risks to both human health and the environment. Further, Oman will be supported to develop a baseline inventory on mercury sources and releases including the existing

national capacity for mercury management as well as the policy and regulatory framework governing mercury management. Strategies to minimize or remove the environmental and health risks associated with mercury will be developed. Awareness campaigns will be conducted throughout the project's lifespan. All these activities will be supported by the GEF resources. Using the GEF resources, the project will also assist in the broad dissemination of project achievements nationally to promote and support future projects.

To ensure cost effectiveness, the infrastructure and human resources of each governmental counterpart involved in the project will be efficiently utilized. Once they will be trained, most project activities will be carried out by national experts. This will not only result in reduced implementation costs but will also enhance the national capacity to manage mercury in the future. As such, current capacity for chemicals management present in the Environment Authority Oman through the Chemicals Department Directorate will be relied upon including existing coordination mechanisms.

The project will also consider any previous efforts to collect information on national mercury sources, emissions and releases and studies on mercury impacts (please refer to activity 2.2.1.).

The Environment Authority Oman will be supported by UNEP's Regional Office in West Asia, which is located in Bahrain. ROWA has already supported other countries in the region on the development of MIAs, such as Iraq (GEF ID 9690). ROWA also has experience in executing enabling activities in the chemicals and waste focal area such NIP Bahrain (GEF ID 9734). Additionally, Environment Authority Oman has had past experiences in developing enabling activities such as the preparation of the NIP to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which is currently being reviewed. This activity was supported by GEF's resources.

The project will coordinate closely with the Chemicals Division at UNEP and with the different mercury programmes and projects in place.

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

| M&E activity | Purpose | Responsible Party | Budget (US\$)*1 | Time-frame |
|--------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
|--------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|

| | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|--------------|---|
| National Inception and training workshop | Awareness raising, detailed work planning and development of key tools and documents | Project coordinator (EA) | \$10,000 | Within two months of project start |
| Inception workshop report | Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring | Project coordinator (EA) | \$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 | UNEP | from IA fees | Regularly |
| Technical Progress reports | Describes progress against annual work plan for the reporting period and provides activities planned for the next period | Project coordinator (EA) | \$0 | Quarterly by 30 April covering January to March; by 31 July covering April to June; by 31 October covering July to September; by 31 January covering October to December |
| Financial Progress Reports | Documents project expenditure according to established project budget and allocations | Project coordinator (EA) | \$0 | Quarterly by 30 April covering January to March; by 31 July covering April to June; by 31 October covering July to September; 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. | Project coordinator (EA) | \$5,000 | 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 EA | From PMC | Within 3 months of the project technical completion |
| Total indicative M&E cost*1 | | | \$15,000 | |

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. Juma Said Al-Maskari | Operational Focal Point | CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY | 3/23/2021 |

B. Convention Participation

| Convention | Date of Ratification/Accession | National Focal Point |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Minamata Convention | 6/23/2020 | MR. MOHAMMED MAJID ALKASBI |

ANNEX A: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

| | | BUDGET ALLOCATION BY PROJECT COMPONENT/ACTIVITY | | | | | | ALLOCATION BY CALENDAR YEAR | | | |
|--|---------------------|---|---|------------|------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | Component 1 | Component 2 | | | Component 3 | Project Management | Total | Year 1 | Year 2 | Total |
| | | Global technical support for MIA development | Development and validation of the Minamata Initial Assessment | | | Monitoring and Evaluation | | | | | |
| | | Output 1.1 | Output 2.1 | Output 2.2 | Output 2.3 | Output 3.1 | | | | | |
| UNEP BUDGET LINE/OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE | | US\$ | US\$ | US\$ | US\$ | US\$ | US\$ | US\$ | US\$ | US\$ | US\$ |
| PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1100 | Project Personnel | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 1101 | Project coordinator | | | | | | 13,000 | 13,000 | 7,000 | 6,000 | 13,000 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1102 | Project assistant | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 1199 | Sub-Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 7,000 | 6,000 | 13,000 |
| 1200 | Consultants w/m | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 1201 | Legal Consultant | | | 15,000 | | | | 15,000 | 15,000 | | 15,000 |
| 1202 | Inventory data consultant | | | 20,000 | 13,000 | | | 33,000 | 16,000 | 17,000 | 33,000 |
| 1203 | International consultant | | 10,000 | 15,000 | 10,000 | | | 35,000 | 15,000 | 20,000 | 35,000 |
| 1299 | Sub-Total | 0 | 10,000 | 50,000 | 23,000 | 0 | 0 | 83,000 | 46,000 | 37,000 | 83,000 |
| 1300 | Administrative Support | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 1301 | Project financial officer | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 1600 | Travel on official business (above staff) | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 1601 | Travel and DSA | | | 20,000 | | | | 20,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 20,000 |
| 1699 | Sub-Total | 0 | 0 | 20,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 20,000 |
| 1999 | Component Total | 0 | 10,000 | 70,000 | 23,000 | 0 | 13,000 | 116,000 | 63,000 | 53,000 | 116,000 |
| SUB CONTRACT COMPONENT | | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 2100 | Sub contracts (UN Organizations) | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| 2101 | Sub-contract Global Mercury Partnership | 10,000 | | | | | | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 2199 | Sub-Total | 10,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,000 | 0 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 2200 | Sub contracts (SSFA, PCAs, non UN) | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 2202 | Sub-contract national activities in Oman | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 2299 | Sub-Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2999 | Component Total | 10,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,000 | 0 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| TRAINING COMPONE NT | | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 3200 | Group training (field trips, WS, etc.) | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 3201 | Training on inventory development | | | 13,000 | | | | 13,000 | 13,000 | | 13,000 |
| 3299 | Sub-Total | 0 | 0 | 13,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 0 | 13,000 |
| 3300 | Meetings/conf erences | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 3301 | National coordination meetings | | | | | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 6,000 | 4,000 | 10,000 |
| 3302 | National project inception workshop | | 10,000 | | | | | 10,000 | 10,000 | | 10,000 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 3302 | National MIA Results Workshops | | | | 10,000 | | | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 3399 | Sub-Total | 0 | 10,000 | 0 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 0 | 30,000 | 16,000 | 14,000 | 30,000 |
| 3999 | Component Total | 0 | 10,000 | 13,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 0 | 43,000 | 29,000 | 14,000 | 43,000 |
| EQUIPMENT and PREMISES COMPONENT | | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 4100 | Expendable equipment (under 1,500 \$) | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 4101 | Operational costs | | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | | | 6,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 6,000 |
| 4102 | Office premises | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 4199 | Sub-Total | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0 | 0 | 6,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 6,000 |
| 4200 | Non expendable equipment | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 4201 | Computer, projector, etc | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 4202 | Software | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 4299 | Sub-Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4999 | Component Total | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0 | 0 | 6,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 6,000 |
| MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT | | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| 5200 | Reporting costs (publications, maps, NL) | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 5201 | Summary reports, visualization and diffusion of results | | | | 9,000 | | | 9,000 | 2,000 | 7,000 | 9,000 |
| 5202 | Preparation of final report | | | | 5,000 | | | 5,000 | | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 5299 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14,000 | 0 | 0 | 14,000 | 2,000 | 12,000 | 14,000 |
| 5300 | Sundry (communications, postages) | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 5301 | Communications (postage, bank transfers, etc) | | 500 | | 500 | | | 1,000 | 500 | 500 | 1,000 |
| 5399 | Sub-total | 0 | 500 | 0 | 500 | 0 | 0 | 1,000 | 500 | 500 | 1,000 |
| 5500 | Evaluation | | | | | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| 5501 | Independent Terminal Evaluation | | | | | 5,000 | | 5,000 | | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 5502 | Independent Financial Audit | | | | | | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 5599 | Sub-Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 10,000 | 0 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 5999 | Component Total | 0 | 500 | 0 | 14,500 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 25,000 | 2,500 | 22,500 | 25,000 |
| TOTAL | | 10,000 | 22,500 | 85,000 | 49,500 | 15,000 | 18,000 | 200,000 | 97,500 | 102,500 | 200,000 |