



## **Development of National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Cambodia**

### **Part I: Project Information**

#### **GEF ID**

#### **Project Type**

EA

#### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

#### **CBIT**

CBIT No

#### **Project Title**

Development of National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Cambodia

#### **Countries**

Cambodia

#### **Agency(ies)**

UNEP

#### **Other Executing Partner(s)**

Department of Hazardous Substance Management, Ministry of Environment

#### **Executing Partner Type**

Government

#### **GEF Focal Area**

Chemicals and Waste

#### **Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Chemicals and Waste, Sound Management of chemicals and waste, Mercury, Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Participation, Local Communities, Communications, Awareness Raising, Strategic Communications, Education, Beneficiaries, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Trade Unions and Workers Unions, Community Based Organization, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Gender

Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Professional Development, Training, Seminar, Workshop, Enabling Activities, Capacity Development

**Sector**

Enabling Activity

**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
ASGM National Action Plan (ASGM NAP)	2/14/2022	4/4/2022	3/29/2024	3/29/2024

**Duration**

24In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

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 Cambodia 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	Cambodia is enabled to 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 relevant national stakeholders in Cambodia to develop and implement a NAP as per Annex C of the Minamata Convention	50,000.00	

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
2. National Action Plan Development	Cambodia is enabled to 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	395,000.00	

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3. Monitoring and Evaluation	Cambodia is enabled to 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 GEF  3.2 Independent terminal review developed and made publicly available	10,000.00	
Sub Total (\$)			455,000.00	0.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)				
			45,000.00	
Sub Total(\$)			45,000.00	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

Agenc y	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Cambodi a	Chemical s 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:

- ? the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund; and
- ? 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).

Cambodia participated actively in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) negotiations supported by UNEP. In October 2013, Cambodia became a signatory of the Minamata Convention. In April 2021, Cambodia ratified the Minamata Convention. On 1st October 2021, Cambodia notified the Minamata Secretariat, according to article 07 paragraph 3 of the Convention, that "artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in its territory is more than insignificant". Hence, Cambodia shall develop and implement a National Action Plan in accordance with Annex C and submit its Plan to the Secretariat no later than September 2024.

Ministry of Environment appointed Department of Hazardous Substance Management as an executive agency to supervise the national project activities.

In terms of past projects, the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia has worked and been working with UNEP in numerous occasions on mercury related projects including:

- Development of an Action Plan on the Management of Releasing Mercury in Cambodia (SAICM QSP, 2008-2010)
- Cambodia Mercury Inventory Report (2008)
- National Mercury Waste Management Plan (2011-2015)
- Technical Guideline on Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury Waste (2011).
- Strategic Plan on Management of Mercury in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (SPASGM) 2012-2016. The plan was developed in response to various concerns on safe use and sound management regarding intentional mercury use in ASGM.
- Mercury Initial Assessment (2018)
- Institutional Strengthening in Cambodia for Efficiency and Coordinated Implementation of Chemicals and Waste Conventions (Special Programme 2020-2022)

The NAP project will coordinate and use the information/data generated from the previous projects through involvement of key agencies, mainly Ministry of Environment, from project inception. Although Cambodia has conducted several studies and inventories related to mercury and also management plans for the ASGM sector, they are relatively outdated (conducted prior to entry into force of the Convention) and have not used the current recommended baseline assessment tools (developed by UNEP since 2015) for estimating mercury usage in the sector and also setting objectives and targets for the reduction of mercury in the sector, including health aspects. Therefore, as a Party to the Minamata Convention and with obligation to submit its formal NAP to the Secretariat, Cambodia needs to conduct the assessment of the sector once more using the most updated guidelines, tools and expertise available.

Besides contributing to the implementation of the Minamata Convention, the project also contributes to the achievement of the UNEP Biennial Programme of Work (PoW) 2021-2022, **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, Cambodia will have used UNEP 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 Cambodia (2019-2023)**<sup>11</sup>

The proposed project will have contribute directly to Outcome 3 of the UNDAF Cambodia Cooperation Framework by promoting a safer, healthier, more secure and ecologically balanced environment for women and men in Cambodia. This will also include sustainably management of natural resources, environmental protection and conservation. The project will also contribute towards SDGs 5 (gender equality), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 10 (reduced inequalities), 14 (life below water), and 15 (life on land).

#### **National Background ASGM in Cambodia**

Like most artisanal mining sites, ASGM often occurs as a major poverty-driven activity particularly for the indigenous peoples in the area, coming second only to rice cultivation as the main source of income. In fact, it is estimated that around 80% of all gold miners in Cambodia may be classified as poor. However, artisanal and small-scale gold mining is an important source of income among rural communities in Cambodia. It is also an increasingly important profession in Cambodia both for professional migrant miners and for local farmers who rely on mining as an additional source of income. Some of the miners were local farmers who conducted mining between agricultural seasons to supplement their income. Other miners were full-time professional migrant workers who specialized in mining and often formed communities of hundreds (and in some cases thousands,). It is estimated that there are 5,000 to 6,000 people engaged in artisanal mining activity. Majority of ASGM activities are operated without licenses and use various chemicals reprocessing tailings from larger, mechanized operations using mercury amalgamation, cyanide and acid nitric to extract gold. Moreover, the continuous use of chemicals such as mercury and cyanide has led to a number of negative environmental and health impacts.

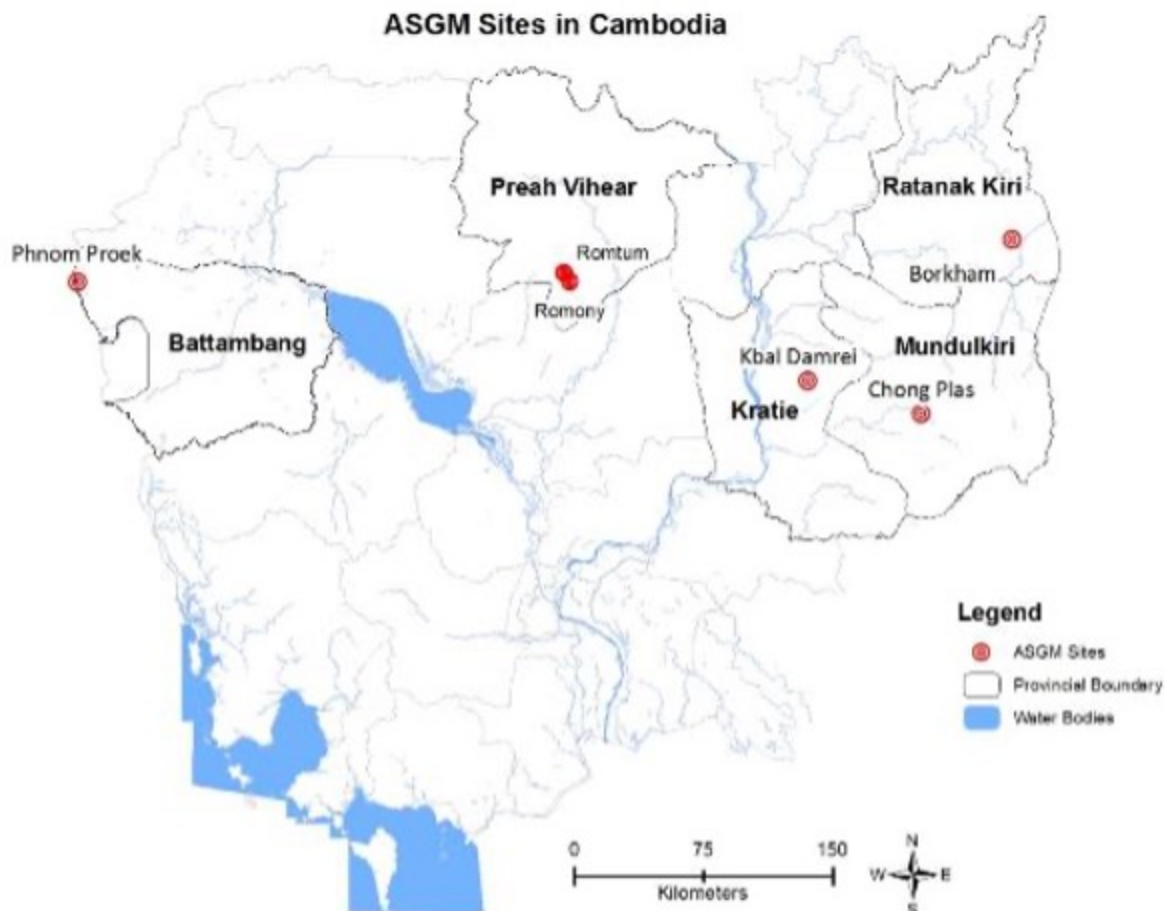
Three common techniques are used by miners. First technique is called Raeng Chhnang which translates to extracting gold using a big plate. The technique is considered to be less expensive and is

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thus more popular among artisanal gold miners working individually, including women mine workers. In Raeng Chhnang, the gold miners make use of a wooden pan filled with water, and then swish and shake it to separate the gold from the gangue materials. Small amount of mercury used with this method and smelt the amalgam at home with charcoal until it turns into a semi-refined gold. Although Raeng Chhnang is a popular gold extraction technique, the method still only recovers a small amount of gold per cycle. After selling the amalgam to gold buyers, the gold is then refined even further use borax and/or nitric acid. Second technique, Raeng Sbai, is a mining method that uses a moderate amount of mercury, with miners utilizing basins to process the gold. The gold miners first grind the ore and then sluice it with water through a piece of cheese cloth placed in the drain spout. At the bottom of the drain, they use a thin sheet of leather to catch gold concentrates. Although it uses more mercury than Raeng Chhnang, it is still popular with miners because it still generally consumes less mercury. At the final stage of processing, gold miners utilize a pan similar to the Raeng Chhnang method by panning the concentrate and using mercury to extract the gold. Likewise, the Raeng Sbai method still only recovers a small amount of gold depending on the quality of the ore. After extraction, the recovered gold will then be smelt and refined using borax by local gold smiths. Lastly, miners use a technique similar to Raeng Chhnang called Raeng Thas, but with stark differences in the use of mercury. In Raeng Thas, gold miners lace the launder plate (or a copper tray) with a small amount of mercury to catch the gold. Gold miners grind ore and sluice it with the launder using water. As more ore is grinded, mine workers inject more mercury to the plate as needed using a syringe or a plastic water dipper. Afterwards, the mercury amalgam is scraped from the copper tray and the gold is squeezed out with the use of a hammock cloth. Local mine workers attest that this method results in more gold produced than the previous methods, however, video footage from visits to the mine sites also reveal that this method utilizes the most mercury out of the three methods. Like the previous methods, gold amalgam is further refined by gold buyers with the use of borax.

Mercury use per cycle is estimated 50 ? 100 grams. The amount of gold recovered depends heavily on ore quality, with fresh ores recovering at least 2 grams and tailings yielding less than a gram of gold. The high price of gold and the lack of employment opportunities are cited as main driven factors that attract people to engage in mining. ASGM generates employment in the rural areas and contributes to the local economy. However, it has been linked to mercury use and is seen as one of the primary sources of mercury pollution in Cambodia. It is also estimated that mercury use in ASGM between 34.5 g to 1,182 kg annually across different sites.



***Figure 1: Location gold mining sites in Cambodia***

<https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/cambodia>

## **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 Cambodia takes the first step to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compound in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from gold mining and processing through the development of a NAP in accordance with Annex C of the Minamata Convention.

The project objective is to assist Cambodia 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<sup>[1]</sup>. 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 UNEP 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 sector;
- 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 Cambodia will also benefit from the support of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

### **Expected Outputs and activities:**

- 1.1 Initial training and guidance provided to relevant stakeholders in Cambodia 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 UNEP 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 proper project planning and management throughout the process. The National Coordination Mechanism should include members from relevant governmental 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 workplan 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 a more effective participation of key stakeholders in the development of the NAP.

In addition, the National Coordination Mechanism will identify a Stakeholder Advisory Group, composed 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 Inter-ministerial Working Group on chemicals and waste conventions including Minamata Convention on Mercury is already functional in Cambodia 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*

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

- ? Legal and regulatory status of ASGM;
- ? Policies surrounding ASGM at the local, national and levels;
- ? Baseline estimates of mercury emissions and releases from the ASGM sector;
- ? Structure of the ASGM sector (i.e., single family miners, community mines, etc.);

- ? Geographic distribution of ASGM, including potential future areas of exploitation;
- ? 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;
- ? Size of the formal and informal ASGM economy;
- ? 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);
- ? Information on the location and demographics of ASGM miners that operate without the use of mercury and the techniques that they use;
- ? Information on gold processing practices/burn off of mercury in gold processing shops or community retorts;
- ? 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;
- ? Studies and other information on mercury exposure, through various media, and studies on impacts in ASGM communities and downstream communities;
- ? Information about access to technical assistance for miners;
- ? Leadership and organization of ASGM at national and local levels;
- ? Experiences in addressing ASGM;
- ? Information gaps at the local and national scale that can be addressed;
- ? Mercury Distribution Networks

The methodology for this work will be decided by stakeholders in Cambodia 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.

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### 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:

- ? Final problem statement, goals, objectives and reduction targets;
- ? 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 impacts of their implementation as livelihoods impairment and will identify alternatives to avoid these negative impacts;
- ? Workplans, outreach plans, timelines and overall budgets for the implementation of the plans and their periodical review;
- ? 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 Department of Hazardous Substance Management (DoHSM). 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 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.

The Department of Hazardous Substance Management (DoHSM), the national executing partner, will oversee the national project activities and will be also work in close collaboration with key line agencies. Within the DoHSM, a National Project Coordinator 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 Cambodia;
2. Support the coordination of project activities; and
3. Maintain correspondence with the EA 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.

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 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 UNEP. 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 UNEP and executing partners ? DoHSM 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 publically 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 UNEP using UNEP 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.*

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 UNEP Task Manager and make it publicly available in the UNEP website.*

**Project Stakeholders:**

At the international level, the project will include:

a) **UNEP Chemicals and Wastes:** UNEP 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. UNEP Chemicals and Wastes is the UNEP 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) **UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific:** UNEP has six regional offices supporting different groups of countries in their efforts towards sustainable development. The UNEP Regional Office for Asia and Pacific based in Thailand 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:

***Stakeholder Participation in Cambodia (preliminary list to be strengthened during the national inception workshops)***

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Mine and Energy
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery
- Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Women Affairs
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Information
- General Department of Custom
- Local Authorities
- Royal Academy of Phnom Penh
- Royal University of Phnom Penh
- NGOs

***Suggested national stakeholders for the national advisory group:***

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Mine and Energy
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Women Affairs
- Royal Academy of Phnom Penh

**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**<sup>[2]</sup>(Sustainable Development Goal 5).

It is already known that in many ASGM areas women perform tasks where toxic exposure occurs since they do not require strength. 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.<sup>[3]</sup> Moreover, with an estimated 4.5 million women working in artisanal mining, many of childbearing age, low-level exposure to infants during gestation and breast-feeding is a risk.<sup>[4]</sup> 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.<sup>[5]</sup>

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

? 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;
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(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.

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[1] Available

at: [http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/forms%20and%20guidance/English/ASGM\\_guidance\\_e.pdf](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

For project activities, please section B

**Implementing Agency (IA):** this project will be implemented by UNEP and executed by Department of Hazardous Substance Management (DoHSM), Ministry of Environment. 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.

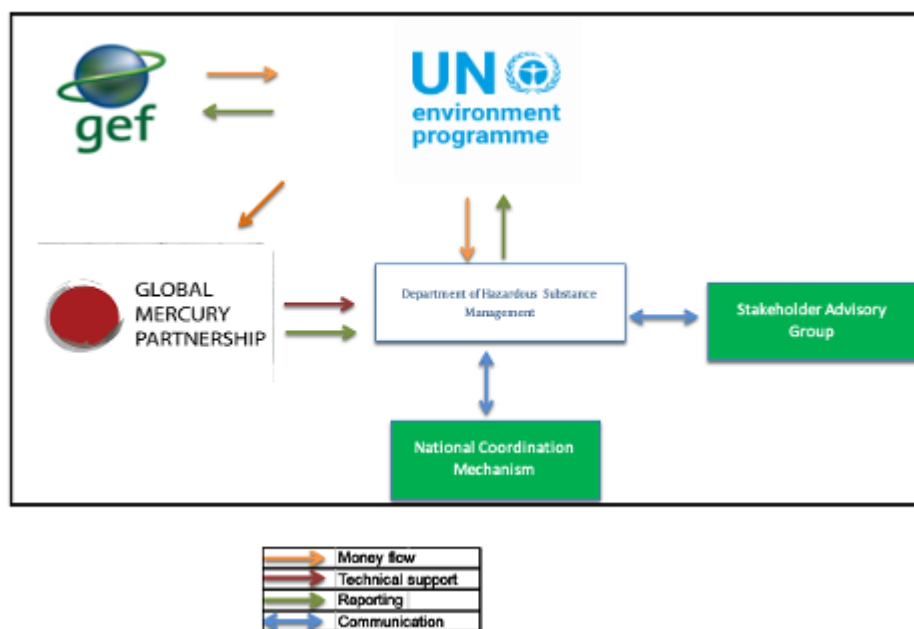
**Executing Agencies (EA):** The DoHSM will execute, manage and be responsible for the project and its activities on a day-to-day basis. It will establish the necessary managerial and technical teams to execute the project. It will search for and hire any consultants necessary for technical activities 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 UNEP procedures. The DoHSM will provide regular administrative, progress and financial reports to UNEP Chemicals.

**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. 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 Cambodia has access to all the expertise and experience of its members to implement the project.



*Figure 2: Implementation arrangements*

#### **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 Cambodia put in place during the MIA development with support from UNEP as the GEF Implementing Agency. Cost-effectiveness will be achieved through fully utilizing the infrastructures and human resources available through the DoHSM.

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 DoHSM and UNEP project manager will ensure that only essential travel is undertaken and that where possible videoconferencing/Skype conference calls are utilized. For essential travel, the DoHSM 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 1. Monitoring and Evaluation Budget**

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	EA			Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	EA			1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project progress and performance indicators	EA			Annually
Baseline measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators (Tracking tools?)	EA (tracking tool not applicable)			Project inception
Mid-point measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators (Tracking tools?)	EA (tracking tool not applicable)			Mid Point
End-point measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators (Tracking tools?)	EA (tracking tool not applicable)			End Point
Quarterly Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	EA			Within 1 month of the end of reporting period (quarterly)
Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings and National Steering Committee meetings	EA			Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings	EA			Annually
Project Implementation Review (PIR) report	Not applicable for enabling activities			Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to field sites	EA			As appropriate
Mid Term Review/Evaluation	Not applicable for enabling activities			At mid-point of project implementation

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Terminal Review/Evaluation ( <i>whether a project requires a management-led review or an independent evaluation is determined annually by UNEP's Evaluation Office</i> )	IA	10,000		Typically initiated after the project's operational completion
Audit	EA	10,000 (under PMC)		Typically initiated after the project operational completion
Project Operational Completion Report	EA			Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report (including supporting evidence for in-kind co-finance)	EA			Reported on the project operational completion report
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	EA			Report as part of quarterly reports & Project Final Report

**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>
Tin Ponlok	Secretary of State	Ministry of Environment	1/4/2022



## B. Convention Participation

Convention	Date of Ratification/Accession	National Focal Point
Minamata Convention on Mercury	4/8/2021	

## ANNEX A: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

				BUDGET ALLOCATION BY PROJECT COMPONENT/ACTIVITY				
				Component 1	Component 2	Component 3		
				Global Technical Support for National Action Plan development	National Action Plan development	Monitoring and Evaluation	Project Management	Total
				Output 1.1	Output 2.1	Output 3.1 and 3.2		
UNEP BUDGET LINE/OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE				US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
10	UMOJ A CODES	PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT						
		1100	Project Personnel					
	1161	1101	Project coordinator				35.000,00	35.000,00
	1161	1102	Project assistant					0,00
		1199	Sub-Total	0,00	0,00	0,00	35.000,00	35.000,00
		1200	Consultants w/m					
	1161	1201	Int'l consultant for inventory training and development or review	0,00	30.000,00			30.000,00
		1202	National consultants for national activities		253.546,00			253.546,00
		1203	Expert on NAP development and validation	50.000,00				
		1299	Sub-Total	50.000,00	283.546,00	0,00	0,00	283.546,00
		1300	Administrative Support					
	1161	1301	Project Financial Officer					0,00

		<b>1600</b>	<b>Travel on official business (above staff)</b>					
	1561	1601	Travel Project coordinator/project staff		10.000,00			10.000,00
		1699	Sub-Total	0,00	10.000,00	0,00	0,00	10.000,00
		<b>1999</b>	<b>Component Total</b>	<b>50.000,00</b>	<b>293.546,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>35.000,00</b>	<b>328.546,00</b>
<b>20</b>		<b>SUB CONTRACT COMPONENT</b>						
		<b>2100</b>	<b>Sub contracts (UN Organizations)</b>					
		2101	UN Sub-contract					0,00
		2199	Sub-total	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
		<b>2999</b>	<b>Component Total</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>
<b>30</b>		<b>TRAINING COMPONENT</b>						
		<b>3200</b>	<b>Group training (field trips, WS, etc.)</b>					
	3302 and 3303	3201	Training on inventory development for the ASGM sector (incl. Provision of materials)		25.454,00			25.454,00
		3299	Sub-Total	0,00	25.454,00	0,00	0,00	25.454,00
		<b>3300</b>	<b>Meetings/conferences</b>					
	3302 and 3303	3301	National project inception workshop		15.000,00			15.000,00
	3302 and 3303	3302	Final national lessons learned workshop		15.000,00			15.000,00
	3302 and 3303	3303	National Coordination Mechanisms meetings		8.000,00			8.000,00
		3399	Sub-Total	0,00	38.000,00	0,00	0,00	38.000,00
		<b>3999</b>	<b>Component Total</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>63.454,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>63.454,00</b>
<b>40</b>		<b>EQUIPMENT and PREMISES COMPONENT</b>						
		<b>4100</b>	<b>Expendable equipment (under 1,500 \$)</b>					
	4261	4101	Operational costs		10.000,00			10.000,00
		4199	Sub-Total	0,00	10.000,00	0,00	0,00	10.000,00
		<b>4200</b>	<b>Non expendable equipment</b>					

	4261	4201	Computer, fax, photocopier, projector		2.000,00			2.000,00
	4261	4202	Software		2.000,00			2.000,00
		4299	Sub-Total	0,00	4.000,00	0,00	0,00	4.000,00
		4999	Component Total	0,00	14.000,00	0,00	0,00	14.000,00
50		MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT						
		5200	Reporting costs (publications, maps, NL)					
	5161	5201	Summary reports, visualization and diffusion of results		15.000,00			15.000,00
	5161	5202	Preparation of final report		7.000,00			7.000,00
		5299	Sub-Total	0,00	22.000,00	0,00	0,00	22.000,00
		5300	Sundry (communications, postages)					
	5161	5301	Communications (postage, bank transfers, etc)		2.000,00			2.000,00
		5399	Sub-total	0,00	2.000,00	0,00	0,00	2.000,00
		5500	Evaluation					
	5581	5501	Independent Terminal Evaluation			10.000,00		10.000,00
	5161	5502	Independent Financial Audit				10.000,00	10.000,00
		5599	Sub-Total	0,00	0,00	10.000,00	10.000,00	20.000,00
		5999	Component Total	0,00	24.000,00	10.000,00	10.000,00	44.000,00
		TOTAL		50.000,00	395.000,00	10.000,00	45.000,00	450.000,00