



Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in The Bahamas

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

Project Type

EA

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT

☐ CBIT

Project Title

Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in The Bahamas

Countries

Bahamas

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s):

BCRC Caribbean

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Taxonomy

Chemicals and Waste, Focal Areas, Emissions, Industrial Emissions, Mercury, Sound Management of chemicals and waste, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Local Communities, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Strategic Communications, Beneficiaries, Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Large corporations, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Exchange, South-South, North-South, Knowledge Generation, Training, Workshop, Learning, Theory of change

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)	4/1/2020	6/1/2020	5/31/2022	5/31/2022
Duration	24In Months			
Agency Fee(\$)				

14,250

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CW-EA	GET	150,000	
		Total Project Cost(\$)	150,0000

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 The Bahamas

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Global technical support and capacity building for MIA development	National stakeholders in The Bahamas have the scientific and technical knowledge and tools for the early implementation of the Minamata Convention	1.1 Technical assistance provided to The Bahamas to develop the MIA while building sustainable foundations for its future implementation	7,500	
2. Development and validation of the Minamata Initial Assessment	National stakeholders in The Bahamas have the scientific and technical knowledge and tools for the early implementation of the Minamata Convention	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 are developed 2.3 MIA validated by national stakeholders	113,864	

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3. Monitoring and Evaluation	National stakeholders in The Bahamas have the scientific and technical knowledge and tools for the early implementation of the Minamata Convention	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 evaluation developed and made publicly available	15,000	
Sub Total (\$)			136,364	0
Project Management Cost (PMC)				
			13,636	
Sub Total(\$)			13,636	0
Total Project Cost(\$)			150,000	0

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	Bahamas	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	150,000	14,250
Total Gef Resources(\$)					150,000	14,250

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 developing country parties such as The Bahamas and parties with economies in transition 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.

The Bahamas acceded to the Minamata Convention on 12 February 2020 and meets the eligibility criteria for access to and utilization of financial resources. This is the first project implemented in The Bahamas 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) 2020-2022. “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)”. The Bahamas 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.

National baseline information :

The Bahamas was not able to sign the Minamata Convention on Mercury before it was closed to signature on 09 October 2014. However, the Government took a number of steps to support the objective of the Minamata Convention and, on 12 February 2020, the Government of The Bahamas deposited its instrument of accession, thereby becoming the 117th Party to the Minamata Convention. The main activities that the Government took part in to assess its readiness to access the Minamata Convention are summarised below:

- The Bahamas participated in the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Globally Legal Binding Instrument on Mercury (INC4) in Punta del Este Uruguay from 27 June – 2 July 2012.
- The Bahamas participated in the Latin America and the Caribbean region preparation for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC5) to prepare a globally legally binding instrument on mercury in Geneva, Switzerland from 13 – 18 January 2013.
- The Bahamas attended the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC7) in Dead Sea, Jordan from 10-15 March 2016.
- The Bahamas participated in Sub-regional Workshop for Caribbean countries in support for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 19-21 January 2015 in which a Road Map for ratification was developed.
- The Bahamas participated in the Health Sector in the Minamata Convention on Mercury Workshop in Jamaica from 18-19 October 2016.
- The Bahamas attended the Latin America and the Caribbean regional consultations in preparation for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 25-28 July 2017.
- The Bahamas also attended a follow up meeting, the Caribbean Sub-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-1) and Introductory Multilateral Environmental Agreements Negotiation Training, in Port of Spain, Trinidad from 12-14 September 2017.
- As a result the Bahamas was involved as an observer at COP-1 in 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.

According to the Global Mercury Assessment 2013^[1], the three (3) main sources of mercury emissions in The Bahamas are linked to Waste and other losses due to breakage and disposal in landfill, Cremation and Incineration of waste on various islands within its archipelago.

Table 1: The three (3) main sources of mercury emissions in The Bahamas

Sector/Activity	Estimate (min)	Emission estimate (Kg)	Estimate (max)
Waste and other losses due to breakage and disposal in landfill, etc.	4.682	18.006	59.419
Cremation	0.054	0.220	0.737
Incineration of waste (large incinerators)	0.015	0.056	0.185

National Priorities:

- Conduct a national inventory of mercury sources and releases developed using the UNEP Mercury Toolkit Level II and strategy for the identification of mercury contaminated sites;
- Develop an action plan for effective implementation of the Minamata Convention into national development plans;
- Develop national institutional and regulatory framework and national capacity on mercury management;
- Development an effective and efficient monitoring plan to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

Legislation:

The Constitution of The Bahamas promotes the conservation of the environment and natural resources. In The Bahamas, the following are environmental laws that may be relevant:

- Bahamas Petroleum Offshore Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Regulations 2016
- Collection and Disposal of Waste Regulations 2004
- Environmental Health Services Act 1987
- Environmental Planning and Protection Act 2019
- Environmental Protection Control of Plastic Pollution Act 2019
- Forestry Regulations 2014
- Forestry Act 2010
- Health Rules Chapter 231
- Pollution Control and Waste Management Regulations
- Water and Sewerage Corporation Act 1976

The Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission was established in 1994 and manages the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and reviews environmental impact assessments and environmental management plans for development projects in The Bahamas. The BEST Commission works closely with various agencies to achieve the country's goals of a comprehensive system of environmental management. Issues related to mercury in The Bahamas falls under the following Ministries and Departments:

- The Ministry of the Environment and Housing,
- Department of Environmental Health Services,
- Ministry of Health and the Department of Public Health,
- Bahamas Customs, and,
- Bureau of Standards.

The Commission and its environmental officers work on coordinating the review of commercial, industrial, and residential development projects under consideration by the Government of The Bahamas.

The Ministry of Environment Act 2019 established the Department of Environmental Planning and Protection to provide for the prevention of control of pollution, the regulation of activities and the administration, conservation and sustainable use of the environment; and for connected purposes. The enabling legislation provides the Government with comprehensive environmental protection to provide for and ensure the integrated protection of the environment of The Bahamas and ensure the sustainable management of its natural resources. The date of assent for the Act was 19 December 2019. The Act shall come into force on such date as the Minister may appoint by notice published in the Gazette. The Environmental Planning and Protection Act entrusted the Department of Environment Planning and Protection with a broad range of functions relating to the

protection of the environment, including providing for and ensuring the integrated protection of the environment of The Bahamas and ensuring the sustainable management of its natural resources.

The objectives of the Act are as follows:

- To ensure the establishment of an integrated environmental management system;
- To protect the environment of The Bahamas while providing for development in a way that maintains the ecological integrity and the social and economic welfare of local communities;
- To provide a legal framework for the protection, enhancement, and conservation of the environment, and for the sustainable management, use, development and enjoyment of the environment by the people of The Bahamas, including present and future generations;
- To provide for the prevention and mitigation of pollution for the purposes of maintain quality of the environment;
- To facilitate compliance and implementation of obligations under any regional and international agreements or conventions to which the Government of The Bahamas has ratified or acceded to;
- To allocate the costs of environmental protection and restoration equitably and in a manner that encourages responsible use of and reduced harm to, the environment, which polluters bearing an appropriate share of the costs that arise from their activities, products, substances and services.
- To promote best practice in environmental management and to minimise harm to the environment through strategic planning, public consultation and effective policies;
- To develop a robust climate change regime that applies adaptation and mitigation technologies to address vulnerabilities;
- To establish a mechanism for effective public participation in decision making and the formulation of environmental policy and;
- To promote and encourage among all persons a better understanding and appreciation of the environment.

Research:

As one of the world's hotspots in terms of biological diversity, The Bahamas is a haven for researchers. The BEST Commission is currently responsible for reviewing applications and issuing permits for academic research; reviewing the environmental aspects of various government infrastructure projects and; responding to queries regarding the environment and environmental planning and protection.

A wide variety of marine and terrestrial research has been completed in The Bahamas. However, a cursory search of the information does not provide an overview of the information sources and there is no data on archive of mercury assessments in the local population.

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

The Bahamas will benefit from new and updated information about the mercury situation in the country and from increased capacity in managing the risks of mercury. The sharing of experiences and lessons learned throughout the project is also expected to be an important contribution to other similar countries.

[1] <http://www.amap.no/documents/doc/technical-background-report-for-the-global-mercury-assessment-2013/848>

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

B1. Project Objective: facilitate the early implementation of the Minamata Convention through the use of scientific and technical knowledge and tools by national stakeholders in The Bahamas.

Project Components and Activities: The development of the MIA provides support to The Bahamas for the implementation of the Minamata Convention and has three components indicated 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 The Bahamas 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:

Expected outputs and planned activities:

1.1 Technical assistance provided to The Bahamas 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;*

Component 2: Development and validation of the Minamata Initial Assessment

The objective of this component is to provide technical and administrative assistance to The Bahamas 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 the IOMC^[1].

This component seeks to complement an already established Project Steering Committee (PSC) which will facilitate oversight of the project. It is envisaged that the PSC will evaluate the overall progress of the project, provide technical backstopping and take the necessary measures to ensure that the project is achieving its objectives. The PSC already comprises of national focal points representatives from each of the participating countries in the Regional MIA Projects (GEF ID 9991^[2] 9865^[3] and 9455^[4]) and the BCRC-Caribbean Project Management Unit. It will now also comprise of a focal point from The Bahamas.

The PSC will meet on an as-needed basis throughout the course of the project. It is anticipated that the PSC meetings will utilize technology such as SKYPE or Microsoft Teams in order to facilitate remote meetings.

The Bahamas will also establish a National Coordination Mechanism for Mercury in the form of a National Working Group (NWG) (such as the mechanisms that may already be in existence for current chemicals management like the National Coordination Group for POPs and/or for SAICM) to coordinate and guide the project implementation. The NWG will seek synergies and join activities with existing and relevant planned chemical related activities. Additionally, it will identify existing competencies and roles of institutions and organizations in chemicals management, particularly on mercury. Sectors to participate in the process as part of the Minamata NWG will include representatives from emergencies, health, environment, labor, finance, economy, industry, energy, external affairs and planning sectors, trade unions and civil society organizations.

During this project component implementation, the MIA NWG and its Terms of Reference will be formalized and reinforced in The Bahamas. The Terms of Reference will include information on members, the frequency of meetings and the modality of work and roles in the project. The Terms of Reference for the NWG will seek for a balanced structure, including representatives from the civil society and mercury affected communities. A gender specialist will be identified in the country to participate actively in the NWG. This project component also aims at enhancing stakeholders’ involvement and commitment to the development of the MIA and gaining political support for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in The Bahamas.

After the establishment of the NWG, this component will also review and assess the national capacities (technical, administrative, infrastructure and regulatory) on mercury management. This will be aided by a legal consultant who will analyze the policy, legislative and regulatory framework related to mercury management. This review and assessment will result in a preliminary identification of national needs and gaps for the implementation of the Minamata Convention. The assessments produced under this component will provide The Bahamas with strong arguments for the implementation of the Minamata Convention and prioritization of mercury management on the national agenda. Once the Convention is ratified, this component’s outputs will be essential to comply with the reporting obligations of the Convention and to monitor its implementation. This component will ensure that the gender issues and the interests of vulnerable populations are fully taken into account in the assessments. The Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC) Checklist of legal authorities to implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury is to be used to support the institutional assessment.

The national assessment will be complemented by improved data on national mercury sources, emissions and releases. The UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases has been revised in 2019. The Bahamas will apply the Level II version, which is a comprehensive description of all mercury sources, as well as a quantitative analysis of mercury. More specifically, the mercury toolkit will assist The Bahamas to address: a) Mercury supply sources and trade (Article 3); (b) Mercury-added products

(Article 4); (c) Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used (Article 5 (e) Emissions (Article 8); and (f) Releases (Article 9). It will also include a description of mercury storage conditions.

An international/regional consultant will analyse the inventory data in a timely fashion and will train the National Project Coordinator (Inventory) (NPC) in The Bahamas throughout the whole inventory process. The NPC's main role will be to carry out the on-the-ground daily activities involved in the collection and input of data into the inventory. The NPC's Terms of Reference will be formalized and reinforced in The Bahamas. The aim is to ensure the high quality and comparability of the final inventory with those produced by other countries and build national capacity to use the UNEP Toolkit. This project component will also analyse existing information on mercury contaminated sites and will formulate a strategy to identify and assess mercury contaminated sites, using internationally agreed or any existing criteria successfully used elsewhere.

Taking into consideration the assessment of national capacities, infrastructure and regulatory framework, and the mercury inventory, this project component will be completed by an assessment of the challenges, needs and opportunities to implement the Convention on priority sectors. The main output under this project component is a needs assessment and further recommendations to implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury, taking into consideration the role of all key players and their responsibilities, in particular gender concerns, and the special needs of vulnerable groups. The MIAs will have a chapter with a socio-economic assessment and recommendations to approach the social and gender aspects of mercury exposure.

Finally, during this project component the draft MIA will be reviewed and validated by national stakeholders. This process of wide consultation will likely include NWG meetings, workshops with key sectors and stakeholders, written communications and discussions leading to a final MIA document that will allow the Government to implement the Convention based on a sound national assessment of the mercury situation. Awareness raising and dissemination of key MIA outputs will also be performed under this project component under activity 2.6. Lessons learned identified throughout this project and, in particular in the final results/lessons learned workshops, will also be made available and will assist in identifying opportunities for regional/global cooperation and synergies between countries working on their MIAs.

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 The Bahamas. This activity will be complemented by a national inception and training workshop in The Bahamas 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[5];*
- 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 The Bahamas. 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 [6]**”;*
- 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[7];*
- 2.2.8. *Assessment of the potential gender dimensions related to the management of mercury[8].*

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 IOMC Guidance version 2017.*

2.3.3. *Organize one (1) National Results Workshops for dissemination of results to relevant stakeholders for validation;*

2.3.4. *Validate National MIA Report*

Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation

Day-to-day project management and monitoring will be the responsibility of the co-executing agencies. The project monitoring will start with the national inception workshop and the development of a detailed work-plan, budget and detailed monitoring and evaluation plan with key stakeholders. The co-executing agencies will develop and submit to UNEP technical and financial reports every quarter describing the progress according to the work-plan and budget, identifying obstacles that occurred during implementation and the remediation actions to be taken.

UNEP will monitor the project progress according to the work-plan on a regular basis and provide guidance to the co-executing agencies to progress according to the work-plan. Yearly during the GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR), UNEP will provide information about the status of the project implementation and the disbursements made.

The terminal report and final statement of accounts developed by the co-executing agencies at the end of the project closes the co-executing agencies monitoring activities for this project. The final financial audit will review the use of project funds against budget and assess probity of expenditure and transactions. The final audit is to be developed by an independent audit authority (a recognized firm of public accountants or, for governments, a government auditor). The final audit is to be sent to 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. The TE 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 – BCRC-Caribbean in particular. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the independent external consultant in an open and transparent manner. Project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the independent external consultant when the evaluation report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

Expected outputs and planned activities:

3.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF.

3.1.1 *Executing Agency develops and submits 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.*

3.2 Independent terminal review developed and made publicly available.

3.2.1. 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.*

B2. Project Stakeholders:

This project will involve stakeholders at two levels: international and national.

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 Latin America and the Caribbean:** 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** 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) The **Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean)** is the inter-governmental organization for environment and sustainable development in the Caribbean. In the area of waste management and pollution control, BCRC-Caribbean has assisted Caribbean Countries and territories to build capacity to implement waste, chemicals and pollutants programmes. BCRC Caribbean will provide technical support to The Bahamas on the implementation of this project.

At the national level, relevant national stakeholders, international intergovernmental agencies, as well as donors, private sectors, national representations of WHO and UN organizations NGOs, etc., will be invited to participate in the project (e.g. as part of the National Coordination Mechanism). In addition, participating ministries with responsibility for the environment will be regularly briefed on the progress made on the project and will also be requested to take action on key project activities (e.g. validation of MIA). All

these measures will ensure adequate and effective coordination as well as continuous information exchange among the Implementing Agency (IA), the Executing Agency (EA) and the National co-Executing Partner, donors, and domestic stakeholders in The Bahamas to link to the broader national chemicals management agenda. Table 3 below shows a preliminary list of domestic stakeholders in The Bahamas.

Other key stakeholders, in particular civil society and industry representatives will be identified in the national inception workshop.

Table 3: Preliminary list of stakeholders

KEY STAKEHOLDERS	ROLE IN THE PROJECT
Government Level	
BEST Commission	Lead agency at the national level for the project implementation (National Co-Executing Partner)
Ministry of Health	Regulate dental clinics and mercury related medical equipment
Public Analyst Laboratory, Department of Environmental Services and Public Hospital Authority	Manage and dispose of all solid waste in The Bahamas; provide data on the different types of materials being disposed; also assist with water air and soil analysis
Bahamas Customs Department	Regulate the importation of mercury related medical equipment
Local Government	Regulates waste management issues on the Family of Islands
Ministry of Agriculture, Local Fisheries, and Local Government	Manage fisheries and protect The Bahamas marine life
Royal Bahamas Police Force (Fire Unit)	Enforce environmental laws
The Bahamas Bureau of Standards	Establish accountable standards in food and cosmetics, etc.
Rand Memorial Hospital	Utilize best available technologies in its regulation and surveillance activities to ensure efficiency and effectiveness from all any and infection acquired from these chemicals; Support health research projects and surveys, including epidemiological health surveys.
Public Hospital Authority	
Private Sector	
Bahamas Medical & Surgical Supplies Ltd	Ensure the phase out of imports of Hg containing medical equipment
The Bahamas Dental Association	Ensure the phase out of amalgam
The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce	Ensure trade does not negatively impact the society of the Bahamas
Bahamas Waste	Ensure that this service provider utilizes updated technology for incineration and follow the proper disposal procedures
NGOs	
Bahamas National Trust	Conserve and preserve the environment of The Bahamas wildlife management; Reduce

Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation	risks of exposure through coordination with BEST Commission and regional programmes.
The Nature Conservancy- Bahamas Office	
Andros Nature Conservancy and Trust (ANCAT)	
Academia	
University of The Bahamas	Educate and implement programmes and club branches that deal with the combating pollution; Put into action proposals and recommendations for improvement of the University of the Bahamas; Support health research projects and surveys, including epidemiological health surveys; Conduct promotion research.
Communications	
Bahamas Information System	Ensure effective communications between the government and the people of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas by providing a central channel through which may flow information to and inquiries from local, regional and international media and the public.
Legal	
Attorney General Office and Ministry of Legal Affairs	Provides timely legal advice to the government and statutory bodies; Provides the most efficient and effective legal representation for the government in national and international matters; Drafts legislation; Promotes access to justice for all and transparency in the legal system.
Social Services	
Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development, Department of Gender and Family Affairs	Coordinates, advocates and informs policy for, and on behalf of, women and girls and men and boys, as well as the family unit.

B.3. Gender equality and women empowerment

In most of the countries the reduction of mercury has a special positive impact on poor populations. The financially disadvantaged (and specifically women and children) are often those most affected by the adverse impacts of mercury exposure. Addressing the environmental and health hazards associated with mercury is therefore crucial to ensure that hard won development gains are not compromised.

In coastal countries such as The Bahamas, contaminated seafood is most likely the major pathway of human mercury exposure. The human exposure to mercury in The Bahamas has not yet been assessed, and more detailed studies are still needed^[1]. Through the inventory process, and the mapping of key mercury pollution sources, the project will start defining at-risk populations across The Bahamas, together with the development of national priority actions to address such risks. Project activities will also involve consultation with at risk communities with the aim of increasing their understanding about the dangers of mercury exposure and providing communities at risk with clear, practical information to protect themselves.

Regarding gender, the project will ensure there are opportunities for women to contribute to, and benefit from, the project outcomes. A gender specialist will be identified to advise on the project implementation. The final MIA will have a socio-economic assessment of the implementation of the Minamata Convention in The Bahamas and the socio-economic assessment will include a chapter with the main findings and recommendations to approach the gender dimension of mercury exposure. For instance, it is well known that mercury exposure is particularly concerning for women of childbearing age. Developing organ systems, such as the foetal nervous system, are the most sensitive to the toxic effects of mercury, although nearly all organs are vulnerable.

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

The project will collect sex-disaggregated data when assessing specific mercury exposure scenarios in The Bahamas. The three components of the “Guidance for Identifying Populations at Risk from Mercury Exposure^[3]” 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 The Bahamas 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 The Bahamas aimed at gender equality?
 - (vi) Is the monitoring mechanism gender responsive?
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[1] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6615743/>

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

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

[2] Belize

[3] Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada and St. Vincent and Grenadines.

[4] Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia.

[5] Checklist of legal authorities to implement Minamata Convention on Mercury (NRDC) http://docs.nrdc.org/international/files/int_15101301a.pdf

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

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

[8] 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>

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

The institutional framework for this project is as follows:

Implementing Agency – This project will be implemented by the UNEP and executed by the BCRC-Caribbean. As the 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 backstopping on technical issues. In close collaboration with the Executing Agency, the 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 and countries taking significant measure to become parties to the Minamata Convention, such as organizing regional/global awareness raising and training workshops and attendance at key meetings. Furthermore, through its programme of work, UNEP will identify suitable divisions and branches that can provide additional support to The Bahamas which will complement their activities.

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

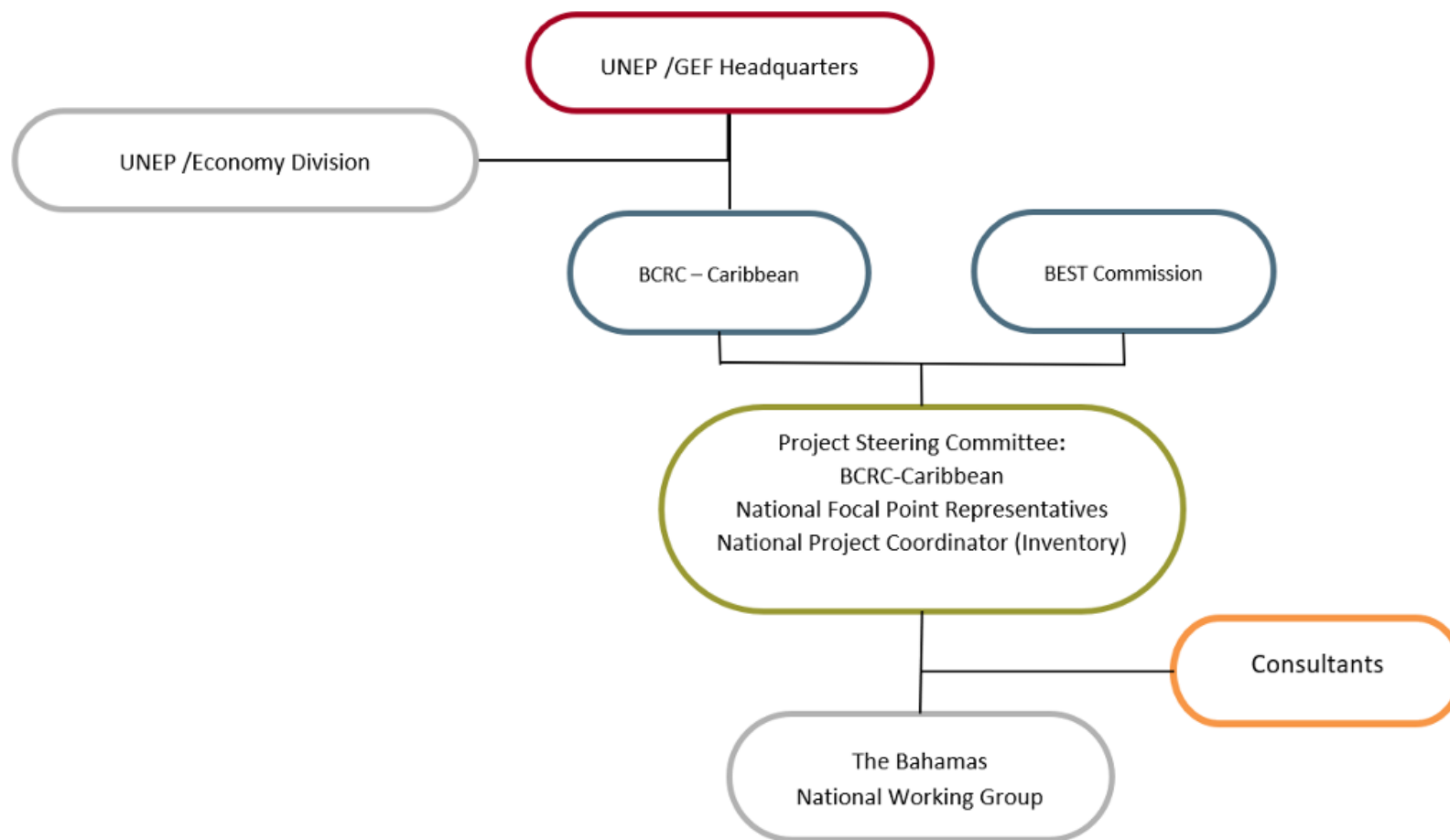
The BEST Commission will act as the co-executing agency and will oversee the national project activities. It will establish a National Supervisor who will support coordination and regularly evaluate project progress in relation to the fulfilment of the goals and objectives related specifically to The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

Project Steering Committee – This committee will be established and meet during the course of the project and will comprise members from the BCRC- Caribbean, the National Project Coordinator (Inventory) from The Bahamas and the other countries participating in the Regional Caribbean MIAs. The Project Steering Committee will evaluate the progress of the project, providing advice, assessing progress and taking the necessary measures in order to ensure the achievement of the objectives of this project. A National Coordinating Mechanism will be established by The Bahamas to facilitate work in the individual country.

National Coordination Mechanism (National Working Groups) will meet regularly during project implementation. The NWG 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 NWG will take decisions on the project in line with the project objectives and these decisions will be implemented by the Executing Agency.

Global Mercury Partnership (GMP): the partnership works closely with stakeholders to assist in the implementation of the Minamata Convention. Reducing mercury use in products and processes and raising awareness of mercury-free alternatives is one of the partnership areas and it supports countries by providing information on best available techniques and best environmental practices and on the conversion of mercury-based processes to non-mercury based processes, among other initiatives. The partnership will ensure The Bahamas has access to all the expertise and experience of its members to implement the project.

A schematic of the proposed implementation arrangements is illustrated below:



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

This proposal for funding is a replication of a previously approved project being developed in the Caribbean Region. This project seeks to cover The Bahamas and the previous projects covered nine (9) countries and will therefore position the region to ratify and/or implement the Minamata Convention and ultimately meet the objectives.

The development of this proposal for funding will draw upon the previous experiences of the already approved projects.

By increasing the regions ability to inventory its mercury sources and quantities, the requested funding will be applied in a cost-effective way. A key element to increase the cost effectiveness of this project capitalization on institutional networks built during the development of the previous projects and through other waste and chemical projects.

The project will partner with and build on the projects detailed below:

1. Development and Implementation of a Sustainable Management Mechanism for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in the Caribbean – (GEF ID 5558);
2. Mercury Storage and Disposal in the Caribbean: Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago – (SSFA/2016/DTIE/Chemicals Branch/BCRC Caribbean);
3. Minamata Initial Assessments for Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago (GEF ID 9991, 9865 and GEF ID 9455).
4. Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island States (ISLANDS) – (GEFID 10185 and 10472).

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 2: Monitoring and Evaluation Budget

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)*1	Time-frame
National inception workshop	Awareness raising, building stakeholder engagement, detailed work planning with key groups, defining key sectors in The Bahamas	UNEP Economy Division Chemicals and Health, BCRC-Caribbean	0	Within two (2) months of project start
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring	BCRC-Caribbean PMU	5,000	Within four weeks of the Inception Workshop
Technical Progress reports	Describes progress against annual work plan for the reporting period and provides activities planned for the next period	BCRC-Caribbean	0	Bi-annually

Financial Progress reports	Documents project expenditure according to established project budget and allocations	BCRC-Caribbean	0	Bi-annually
Project Review by Project Steering Committee	Assesses progress, effectiveness of operations and technical outputs; Recommends adaptation where necessary and confirms implementation plan.	BCRC-Caribbean	0	Month 1 or 2, 12 (TC) and 24
Terminal report	Reviews effectiveness against implementation plan highlights technical outputs identifies lessons learned and likely design approaches for future projects, assesses likelihood of achieving design outcomes	BCRC-Caribbean	0	At the end of project implementation (Month 24)
Independent Terminal evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation, coordination mechanism and outputs; Identifies lessons learned and likely remedial actions for future projects; Highlights technical achievements and assesses against prevailing benchmarks. 	UNEP – Economy Division, Independent external consultant	10,000	At the end of project implementation (Month 24)
Independent Financial Audit	Reviews use of project funds against budget and assesses probity of expenditure and transactions.	BCRC-Caribbean		At the end of project implementation (Month 24)
Total indicative Monitoring & Evaluation cost*1			15,000	

*Project steering committee meetings (3) and inception workshop (1) will be carried out back to back with other technical meetings, such as the initial training and inception workshop (1) and through teleconference, therefore cost efficiency will be maximised.

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

n/a

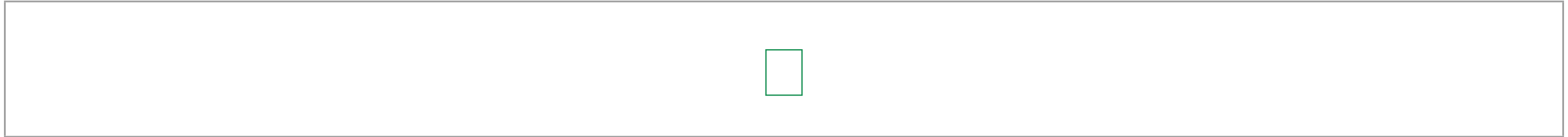
Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

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
Mrs. Rochelle Newbold	Director	Ministry of the Environment and Housing	3/13/2020

B. Convention Participation

Convention	Date of Ratification/Accession	National Focal Point
Minamata Convention	2/12/2020	Ms Rochelle Newbold



Submitted to GEF Secretariat Review

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