Minamata Initial Assessment in Liberia

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10133

Project Type
EA

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT
CBIT **No**

Project Title
Minamata Initial Assessment in Liberia

Countries
Liberia

Agency(ies)
UNIDO

Other Executing Partner(s)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Chemicals and Waste

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

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
Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)	6/10/2022	8/1/2022	8/1/2024	8/1/2024

Duration

24In Months

Agency Fee($)

19,000.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

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

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Early implementation activities under the Minamata Convention completed to enable policy and strategic decision making and to prioritize areas for future interventions.

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
1. Needs assessment of institutional and national capacity to implement the Minamata Convention	1.1 National capacity improved to prepare for implementation of the Minamata Convention	Output 1.1.1: Project coordination mechanism established and institutional gaps identified	172,000.00	12,000.00
		Output 1.1.2: Review of existing mercury related regulations and identification of needed policy reforms to prepare for implementation of the Convention completed		
		Output 1.1.3: National mercury profile established based on the initial inventory and key sectors identified for intervention and investment to reduce and where possible, eliminate, mercury use, release, and emissions		
		Output 1.1.4: Dissemination of information among relevant stakeholder groups (academia, public and private sectors, and civil		

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
2. Monitoring and Evaluation	2.1 Project achieves objective on time through effective monitoring and evaluation	Output 2.1.1: Periodic monitoring and terminal evaluation of project implementation completed	10,000.00	5,000.00
		Sub Total ($)	**182,000.00**	**17,000.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)				
		18,000.00		1,400.00
Sub Total($)		**18,000.00**		**1,400.00**
Total Project Cost($)		**200,000.00**		**18,400.00**

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($)
GEF Agency	UNIDO	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	9,200.00
GEF Agency	UNIDO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	9,200.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**18,400.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

NA.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNIDO	GET	Liberia	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	200,000	19,000	219,000.00
				Total Gef Resources($)	**200,000.00**	**19,000.00**	**219,000.00**

Part II. Enabling Activity Justification

A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

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

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. The legally binding global instrument was agreed at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, 19 January 2013. The treaty was formally adopted and opened for signature at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held from 9 to 11 October 2013 in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan and it entered into force on 16 August 2017. Up to June 2022, 128 countries had signed the treaty and 137 had ratified it. Liberia has taken major steps towards ratification; the instruments of ratification are currently in administrative procedures under the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Liberia.

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

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

(a) Institutional barriers: lack of institutional capacity to implement the Convention;

(b) Policy barriers: gaps in political and legislative frameworks to support Convention provisions;

(c) Capacity barriers: lack of data on sources of emissions and releases;

(d) Awareness barriers: low awareness of health risks associated with mercury among the public and government officials, with limited occupational safety mechanisms in place to reduce community exposure to mercury; and

(e) Technological barriers: lack of knowledge on non-mercury technologies.

With the adoption of the Convention, Liberia will require assistance to formulate and apply sector wide programs through cost effective approaches within the context of its national development efforts. In the last years, Liberia has promoted initiatives to tackle the negative impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment. The country is party to the Stockholm and Basel Conventions, and has updated its National Profile on chemicals and waste management projects.

Import of mercury in the country is subject to an import permit declaration from the Ministry of Commerce (Administrative notice MCI/No.008/06/2013), with a notification to the EPA who issues Environmental should issue Chemical Importation License. However, there has been gap with the EPA involvement in this process. No other mercury specific regulation is in place in Liberia, but rather a general regulation on chemical substances importation as spelled out in the 2002 Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia.

Despite the efforts made until now, the country has not produced a mercury inventory and no mercury-related projects have been implemented. Important baseline data remains largely unknown in Liberia, such as:

(a) The quantity and distribution of mercury stocks, supplies, trade and trans-boundary movement;

(b) The amount of mercury being used and disposed from various sectors;

(c) The handling of waste mercury; and

(d) The extent of mercury pollution.

In Liberia, mercury is used in the ASGM sector, cement industry, medical and dental sectors (e.g. vaccines, measuring devices and dental plaque), and cosmetic products (e.g. skin depigmentation, soap and ointment).

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

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

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES

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

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

Enabling activities have already been developed in Liberia with GEF?s resources in order to assist the country in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The MIA enabling activities will complement the country efforts to reduce significantly the exposure of harmful chemicals and wastes of global importance to humans and the environment. No inventory of mercury sources and emissions has been conducted previously in Liberia.

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

With the support of GEF, pollution sources can be identified systematically to select areas for future intervention, while institutional and capacity needs assessment, as well as policy analysis, can assist Liberia to identify potential barriers to implement the Convention. GEF resources will also assist the

country to disseminate project achievements in the national level and help to leverage international support, as well as investments for additional projects in Liberia to promote sound chemicals management as a key component of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

The key stakeholders involved in the project are as follows:

UNIDO will act as the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the project. The UNIDO project manager will provide project implementation oversight, supported by appropriate coordination and consultation with the UNIDO Field Office covering Liberia located in Ghana.

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

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

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

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

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

Please refer to annex B for a flow chart of various stakeholders.

Recognizing that the level of exposure to mercury and its related impacts on human health are determined by social and biological factors, women, children and men might be exposed to different kinds, levels and frequency of mercury. Therefore, gender mainstreaming will be included as part of the project. This will be addressed based on UNIDO?s gender policy, among others by involving women and vulnerable groups at the stakeholder level, in the information sharing and dissemination events. The involvement and participation of women and vulnerable groups will be summarized in the

initial inventory report and gender disaggregated data collected to provide a basis for prioritization, development of sectoral intervention plans and future projects.

Special attention will be paid to gender equality when evaluating and inviting members to participate to the National Steering Group and when inviting stakeholders to awareness raising workshops. During recruitment process, female candidates will be encouraged to apply. For candidates with similar technical qualifications, preference will be given to women.

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

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

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

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

The initiative will also help the country to collect baseline information on mercury use, emissions and releases that will serve as input to the design of future interventions required by the treaty, such as the development of a National Implementation Plan that is required by the Conference of Parties since its entry into force. The treaty entered into force on August 16 2017.

The planned activities per output are listed below:

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

Activity 1.1.1.1: Conduct national project coordination meetings;

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

Activity 1.1.1.3: Identify institutional capacity gaps and barriers;

Activity 1.1.1.4: Organize capacity development workshops and trainings.

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

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

Activity 1.1.2.2: Sensitize policy makers regarding policy gaps;

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

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

Activity 1.1.3.1: Conduct national mercury inventory training;

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

Activity 1.1.3.3: Draft initial national mercury inventory;

Activity 1.1.3.4: Identified key sectors for intervention;

Activity 1.1.3.5: Develop intervention plans.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

E. DESCRIBE, DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for this project will rely on several levels of review, quality control and feedback. Overall M&E will be conducted by UNIDO. The National Steering Group, including the main project stakeholders, will meet annually to: (a) review annual work plan, (b) assess progress against M&E targets as indicated in the Project Results Framework, (c) review interim and final reports, and (d) assess any gaps or weakness and make appropriate adaptive management decisions

based on progress and achievements. Work plan for year two will be based on the results achieved in the first year, including associated budget allocations, in agreement with the GEF and UNIDO?s documents, rules and guidelines, in particular documents ?Rules and Guidelines for Agency Fees and Project Management Costs? (GEF/C.39.09), ?GEF project and programmatic approach cycle? (GEF/C.39/Inf.3) and ?GEF project and program cycle policy? (GEF/C.50/08/Rev.01). UNIDO?s office in Ghana (covering Liberia) will assist and participate in monitoring and evaluation visits as needed. The final evaluation, to be conducted by an independent evaluator, will be arranged by the UNIDO project manager with support from UNIDO?s Evaluation Group and reports submitted to the donor within 90 days of project end. Please see below for a summary of the monitoring and evaluation plan, as well as the related budget breakdown.

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

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

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

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

Monitoring and Evaluation table

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

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

Not applicable.

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

A. Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Focal Point Name	Focal Point Title	Ministry	Signed Date
Wilson K. Tarpeh	Executive Director/CEO	Environmental Protection Agency	3/28/2022

B. Convention Participation

Convention	Date of Ratification/Accession	National Focal Point
Minamata Convention		Environmental Protection Agency

ANNEX A: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Project Components	Type of expense	Budget (USD)		Total (USD)	Execution modality/ PEE
		Year 1	Year 2		
Outcome 1.2. National capacity improved to ratify and prepare for implementation of the Minamata Convention					
Output 1.1. 1. *Institutional gaps identified and national coordination mechanism established*	International expertize subcontracting	5,000	5,000	10,000	EPA
	National expertize	8,000	8,000	16,000	EPA
	Training/Workshops	7,000	2,000	9,000	EPA
	Miscellaneous (ofice supplies, documents publishing, printing, media)	1,000	1,000	2,000	EPA
Output 1.1.2. *Review of existing mercury related regulations and identification of needed policy reforms to prepare for implementation of the Minamata Convention completed*	International expertize subcontracting for Toolkit training	5,000		5,000	EPA
	National expertize	7,000	-	7,000	*EPA*
	Training/Workshops	3,000	-	3,000	*EPA*
Output 1.1.3. *National mercury profile established based on the initial inventory and key sectors identified for intervention and investment to reduce, and where possible eliminate, mercury use, release, and emissions*	International expertize subcontracting for Inventory Toolkit trainings	25,000	21,000	46,000	EPA
	National expertize	10,000	7,000	17,000	EPA
	Training/Workshops	14,000	9,000	23,000	EPA
	Miscellaneous (ofice supplies, documents publishing, printing, media)	5,000	4,000	9,000	EPA
Output 1.1.4.*Dissemination of information among relevant stakeholder groups (academia, public and private sectors, and civil society) conducted*	International expertize - regional / international dissemination of results	2,000	8,000	10,000	EPA
	National expertize - short term experts for publication design	-	5,000	5,000	EPA
	Awareness events (workshop)		7,000	7,000	EPA
	Miscellaneous (ofice supplies, documents publishing, printing, media)	-	3,000	3,000	EPA
Subtotal	-	***92,000***	***80,000***	***172,000***	
Outcome 2.1 MONITORING AND EVALUATION					
Output 2.1.1: Periodic monitoring and terminal evaluation	Independent National expert		4,000	4,000	UNIDO
	Roundtable workshop on TE		6,000	6,000	UNIDO
Subtotal			***10,000***	***10,000***	
PROJECT MANAGEMENT COSTS					
Project management costs	National Project coordinator	4,000	3,000	7,000	EPA
	National Technical Epert(s)	4,000	2,000	6,000	EPA
	Project Assistant	3,000	1,000	4,000	EPA
	Office supplies	500	500	1,000	EPA
Subtotal		***11,500***	***6,500***	18,000	
Grand Total		***103,500***	***96,500***	***200,000***	