

MID-TERM REVIEW

Project ID:	10086
Project Name:	Reducing global environmental risks through the monitoring and development of alternative livelihood for the primary mercury mining sector in Mexico
Countr(ies):	Mexico
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Reducing global environmental risks through the monitoring and development of alternative livelihood for the primary mercury mining sector in Mexico

Country

Mexico

GEF ID
10086

Implementing Agency
UNEP

Executing Entity

INECC

Trust Fund
GET

Project Type
FSP

Objective

Prevent the risks to environment and human health from mercury through the control of primary mercury mining and enabled environmentally and socially sound alternative economic activities and livelihoods in the state of Queretaro

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval
12/5/2020

Agency Approval
2/19/2021

Implementation Start
6/7/2021

First Disbursement
7/2/2021

Expected MTR
9/30/2024

MTR Submission
7/9/2025

Actual MTR
5/31/2025

Expected Completion
12/31/2026

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

The project faced major delays from COVID-19, outdated assumptions, and weak management. Still, it succeeded in raising awareness, building trust in some communities, and promoting alternative livelihood pathways. However, the project fell short of meeting original targets due to flawed design and shifting local

conditions. A no-cost extension and strategic realignment focused on livelihoods is Page 71 recommended to achieve meaningful outcomes

B. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement was strong in breadth and effort but faced critical early misunderstandings. Many miners believed the project would offer direct financial aid, leading to disillusionment when it did not. Workshop attendance declined over time, and trust eroded. However, engagement with 7 This does not apply to Enabling Activities Page 70 female stakeholders in Bucareli has been more successful. Stakeholder participation was rated 'Moderately Satisfactory'

C. Gender Equality

The project incorporated gender considerations from its inception and implemented genderresponsive activities, particularly in Bucareli, where women are highly vulnerable. Daycare support enabled women's participation in workshops, and awareness campaigns reached female mercury roasters in San Joaquin. Despite logistical barriers, these efforts have begun addressing gender gaps and health risks. Rated 'Moderately Satisfactory'

D. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management was weak. Project reports lacked clarity, were poorly structured, and failed to link findings to project outcomes. Public communication caused confusion about the project's role and funding. Although some awareness on mercury hazards improved, the evaluator recommends stronger editorial oversight and better synthesis in reports. Communication was rated 'Moderately Unsatisfactory'

III. Core Indicators

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2000	2000		

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Other forest	1,000.00		0.00	

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE
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Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 9 Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
560.00	140.00	50.00	0.00

Indicator 9.1 Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)

POPs type	Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 9.2 Quantity of mercury reduced (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
560.00	140.00	50.00	

Indicator 9.3 Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Reduced/Phased out (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.4 Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
1			

Indicator 9.5 Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.6 POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.7 Highly Hazardous Pesticides eliminated

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.8 Avoided residual plastic waste

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	500	53,000	17,000	
Male	500	47,000	40,000	
Total	1000	100,000	57,000	0

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)
Recipient Country Government	SEMARNAT - DGGIMAR	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	967,555.00	
Recipient Country Government	SEMARNAT - UCAI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	725,829.00	
Recipient Country Government	SERMARNAT - INECC	Equity	Recurrent expenditures	2,482,718.00	
Recipient Country Government	SERMARNAT - INECC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	430,000.00	
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Wellness	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150,000.00	
Recipient Country Government	SERMARNAT - QRO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,862,742.00	
Recipient Country Government	State of Queretaro – Sustainable Development	Loans	Investment mobilized	40,000,000.00	
Other	University of Queretaro	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,150,000.00	

GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00	
Total Co-financing				51,068,844.00	0.00

Comments

The total co-financing at the moment has been \$9,448,269 and the figure was taken from the 2024 PIR. However, it is currently not possible to list the actual sources of co-financing since this is not clear and is the subject of one of the MTR report's recommendations.

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

N/A

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title 10086 - Primary mercury mining in Mexico - MTR Report_final (1)
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