



National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Liberia

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10134

Project Type

EA

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT

CBIT No

Project Title

National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Liberia

Countries

Liberia

Agency(ies)

UNIDO

Other Executing Partner(s)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ministry of Health as co-executing partner

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Taxonomy

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

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)	6/10/2022	8/1/2022	8/2/2024	8/2/2024

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

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(\$)
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Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Improve understanding on the scope of mercury use/prevention measures in the ASGM sector and strengthen national capacity to manage mercury in the sector in compliance with the Minamata Convention	1.1 National capacity (awareness, technical skills, expertise) is enhanced to effectively manage mercury in accordance with the Minamata Convention	<p data-bbox="696 331 834 541">1.1.1 Information disseminated and national coordination on mercury established</p> <p data-bbox="696 638 862 1087">1.1.2 National comprehensive analysis of ASGM sector completed to support the development and implementation of a road map to prevent and reduce mercury use, emissions and releases</p> <p data-bbox="696 1184 834 1486">1.1.3 Institutional and capacity needs assessment completed to implement a public health strategy on ASGM</p> <p data-bbox="696 1583 862 2041">1.1.4 Rapid health situation assessment conducted; drafting of the public health strategies including a curriculum for professionals initiated and awareness raising workshop organized</p>	340,000.00	

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2. Finalization of the NAP for endorsement	2.1 NAP finalized for the endorsement from relevant stakeholders	2.1.1 NAP drafted, finalized and presented to relevant stakeholders for iterative feedback	90,000.00	
3. Monitoring and evaluation	3.1 Project achieves objective on time through effective monitoring and evaluation	3.1.1 Periodic monitoring and terminal evaluation of project implementation completed	25,000.00	
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

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	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

In response to growing international concern, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) formalized the Global Mercury Partnership in 2008 to systematically eliminate anthropogenic mercury releases through strategic intervention and collaboration with national governments. In 2009, UNEP's governing council entered into negotiations for the preparation of a legally binding global instrument on mercury to safeguard human and ecosystem health. Negotiations were successfully completed in January 2013 with 147 governments agreeing to the draft text for the Minamata Convention on Mercury. At the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held from 9 to 11 October 2013 in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan, the "Minamata Convention on Mercury" was formally adopted and opened for signature.

Liberia is undertaking significant steps towards ratification. As of June 2022, the ratification instruments are in administrative procedure with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Liberia.. Aware of the threats mercury can impose on human health and the global environment, the Government has been an active participant in international programmes and agreements to address mercury releases and uses, led by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia.

The treaty has a phased approach to reduce, and where possible, eliminate mercury use in key industrial sectors. Provisions of the Convention include deadlines established for supply sources and trade, mercury added products, artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM), and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used. As the ASGM sector is a major source of mercury release and environmental pollution in the world, Article 7 of the Convention requires countries with more than insignificant use of mercury in ASGM operations to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) in order to reduce the use of mercury and mercury compounds within three years of the treaty entering into force. As the use of mercury is more than insignificant in Liberia, the country has notified the Interim Secretariat of the Convention on 1 August 2018 and requires assistance to develop the NAP. A notification letter quoting that ASGM is more than insignificant has been also sent to the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention as of March 2022.

According to Article 7 and Annex C of the Convention, each Party that is subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of the article shall include in its NAP:

- (a) National objectives and reduction targets;
- (b) Actions to eliminate:(i) Whole ore amalgamation; (ii) Open burning of amalgam or processed amalgam; (iii) Burning of amalgam in residential areas; and (iv) Cyanide leaching in sediment, ore or tailings to which mercury has been added without first removing the mercury;
- (c) Steps to facilitate the formalization or regulation of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector;
- (d) Baseline estimates of the quantities of mercury used and the practices employed in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory;
- (e) Strategies for promoting the reduction of emissions and releases of, and exposure to, mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing, including mercury-free methods;

- (f) Strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury and mercury compounds from both foreign and domestic sources to use in artisanal and small scale gold mining and processing;
- (g) Strategies for involving stakeholders in the implementation and continuing development of the national action plan;
- (h) A public health strategy on the exposure of artisanal and small-scale gold miners and their communities to mercury. Such a strategy should include, inter alia, the gathering of health data, training for health-care workers and awareness-raising through health facilities;
- (i) Strategies 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;
- (j) Strategies for providing information to artisanal and small-scale gold miners and affected communities; and
- (k) A schedule for the implementation of the national action plan.

While not an explicit focus of the health activities of this project, the proposed project will also lay the ground work for actions called for under Article 16 of the Convention. The NAP will also include a road map to reduce the use of mercury in the sector including potential funding sources to implement it and an assessment and cost-benefit analysis of technically available and economically feasible techniques and technologies to replace and prevent the use of mercury.

Worldwide, among the most important environmental issues related to small-scale mining are the use of mercury for gold amalgamation and the use of cyanide, sometimes in combination with mercury. The ASM sector is the world's largest source of mercury pollution from intentional uses (the second largest emission source after coal-fired power plants) as Mercury is simple to use, cheap and easily available.

Gold mining in Liberia reportedly began at the turn of the 19th century with the first significant rush taking place in 1943 in Grand Cape Mount County. Liberia's commercial gold reserves are located in Ndablama and Weaju. The New Liberty Gold Mine, which is Liberia's First and largest commercial gold mine started commercial production in 2016. It is estimated that about 100,000 people are engaged in the artisanal mining sector of Liberia (INMF, 2008), mainly extracting gold and diamonds.

Previous studies commissioned by USAID put the estimates of miners without license at approximately 95%. Liberia is actively promoting the industrialization of diamond and gold mining making ASM a low priority in its mining code and policies.

Some of the most lucrative mines are located in remote and inaccessible areas in forest regions, and the government lacks the necessary resources or capacity to monitor mining activities. The ministry's objective is to encourage artisanal miners to organize their mining activities through cooperatives that would attract foreign investors into the sector.

Despite the apparent abundance of mineral deposits, most mining is currently undertaken on an artisanal scale. Small-scale mining for gold and diamonds is a major economic activity in many parts of the country. MLME estimates that there are over 100,000 artisanal miners operating in Liberia. FDA estimates that in Sapo National Park alone, there are over 6,000 illegal artisanal miners and reports that illegal artisanal mining is taking place in nearly all of Liberia's protected areas. The procedures for the application and renewal for artisanal mining licenses remains burdensome and there are currently 48 legal ASM miners operating in Liberia. The impact of over 100,000 artisanal miners may have individually insignificant effects on biodiversity and tropical forests but cumulatively significant effects (USAID, 2008).

The lack of environmental considerations in artisanal mining is clearly visible (Green advocates, 2009), including vegetation clearing, removal of soil, stocking of mining tailings and sedimentation and siltation of rivers, streams, and creeks. Artisanal and small-scale miners do not undertake land filling and land reclamation in the various mining claims in which they operate. These claims, as a result, are left bare and allowed to erode as torrential rain falls.

As part of the study on Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners undertaken by Green Advocates in partnership with the Gold and Diamond Workers Union of Liberia ? GODIMWUL (Green Advocates, 2009), it was concluded that there has been limited awareness raising or sensitization on land reclamation or land filling strategies related to artisanal mining (in the counties Weasua, Sackie and Zingbeku). According to WWF (2012) there is some awareness of environmental stewardship in Sapo National Park as miners indicated that the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy (MLME) agents informs them they are required to backfill, by a process referred to as ?dig hole, cover hole.? However, in practice this procedure is not commonly applied.

According to Green Advocates (2009), despite their knowledge of Mercury, miners indicated that they have never used chemicals in their community to extract gold because it is too expensive. They also noted their dislike for mercury as it reduces the weight of gold after burning. However, the report concluded that in some ASGM communities, such as Weaju, Grand Cape Mount County, Mercury is used to recover gold. If such practices are being used in Weaju they might also hold for other mining communities across Liberia and mercury is also suspected to be used in other areas, and further research in this respect is needed.

According to the EPA Mercury has been widely used in the past to mine gold in Liberia but in the in last few years the use of mercury has drastically reduced in part due to the hike in price of the chemical and the unavailability of mercury on the local market. The availability of cheaper technologies (carpeting, panning and jigging respectively) has also contributed to the reduction in the use of mercury.

A case study report prepared by WWF (2012) on historical and contemporary artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) in and around Sapo National Park (SNP), finds that ASGM activities are also currently undertaken by mining communities to the north of the Sapo National Park. According to WWF, containing this situation will become increasingly difficult especially if, as suspected, legal ASM will continue to grow north of the Park. Furthermore, given the prevalence of mercury use in artisanal gold operations in West Africa generally and the high cross-border flows of people and labour within the region, the adoption of mercury or other hazardous chemicals in Liberia may happen.

The artisanal mining sector is facing numerous challenges, some of these are related to law enforcement (payment of taxes, licensing processes) and the role of Mining Agents; security implications and hold ups; abandoned gravel or pit; child labor; land reclamation; chemical applications; lack of access to health facilities and education; deplorable road conditions; poor shelter, among others.

The Government is committed to attracting and enabling private sector investments for the development of mineral deposits, particularly iron ore mines, and to promote new investments in exploration and development of gold, diamonds, base metals and other mineral deposits. Since 2006, Liberia has made significant progress towards improving the governance framework around natural resource management with a policy based on the Africa Mining Vision policy. Liberia also established a Mineral Cadastral and enacted a Public Procurement and Concession (PPC) Act, which requires open, transparent and competitive bidding for known resources. Before the 2004 amendments, the 2000 Mining Code made no reference to ?artisanal mining? the term was substituted by ?small-scale mining?.

Currently in Liberia, the effect of gold mining using amalgamation technique has not been thoroughly investigated. Specifically, the fate of Hg in the environment is virtually unknown, and the total amount of Hg used for the recovery of gold unascertained. [1]¹

Liberia has expressed interest in addressing these issues and developing ASGM in alignment with its current reform on the ASGM sector. Therefore, the development of a NAP focused on the ASGM sector will enable the country to achieve the goals of the implementation phase of the Convention.

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.

The efforts made by Liberia, mentioned above, demonstrate that this project is fully in line with the country's goal to map and prevent mercury related environment and health problems in the ASGM sector and invest in technological solutions to fulfill obligations under the Minamata Convention.

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 outcomes of the proposed project will be the enablement of participatory stakeholders to manage mercury in the ASGM sector, as well as the NAP's finalization for the endorsement of relevant stakeholders and future submission by the government to the Minamata Convention secretariat. The activities of the project will fill the gaps required to develop the NAP, by assisting the government of Liberia and ASGM partners in the formulation of strategies to prevent, reduce, and where feasible eliminate mercury emissions and by increasing awareness of risks to human and ecosystem health. This will include:

- (a) Analysis of the ASGM sector, including main mining areas, miners/private sector involved, relevant stakeholders, level of formalization and other relevant information, as well as an assessment on the involvement of women and children;
- (b) inventory on the quantities of mercury used and practices employed in the ASGM sector within the country;
- (c) assessment of institutional capacity in the health sector, particularly in locations/areas host to ASGM activities, to gather basic health information related to mercury and ASGM, and conduct training and awareness raising activities;
- (d) baseline of any other harmful chemicals, including cyanide and acids;
- (e) options for elimination of the practices specified in Annex C of the Convention; ;
- (f) strategies to prevent exposure to mercury together with the health authorities, which are inclusive of a special focus on vulnerable populations including women and children;
- (g) definition of steps and presentation of models to formalize the ASGM sector;
- (h) strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury into the ASGM sector;
- (i) strategies for involving stakeholders in the implementation and continuing development of the NAP;
- (j)

awareness raising activities for ASGM miners and affected communities, as well as for national and regional-level policy makers; and (k) a road map for the reduction of mercury in the sector, including intervention options and potential funding sources to implement it.

Under this project a comprehensive national assessment of all ASGM activities where mercury is heavily used in the ASGM sector will be undertaken. GEF resources will help Liberia to identify and prioritize hotspot areas for future investments and intervention in the country to promote sound chemicals management as a key component of green industrial growth. The majority of socio-economic benefits associated with this project will contribute to the achievement of SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production). Key stakeholders will be consulted and engaged through the project implementation process 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 **project execution arrangement** will be administered by UNIDO according to the UNIDO General Terms and Conditions.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia is the Government entity responsible for the formulation of policies on all aspects of the environment. The agency's functions include liaising and cooperating with other Government agencies; collaborating with foreign and international agencies, as necessary; conducting investigations into environmental issues; coordinating the activities of bodies concerned with the technical aspects of the environment for the purpose of controlling the generation, treatment, storage, transportation, and disposal of industrial waste; ensuring compliance with environmental impact assessment procedures; issuing environmental permits and pollution abatement notices; making recommendations to the Government for the protection of the environment; prescribing standards and guidelines related to the pollution of air, water, and land; protecting and improving the quality of the environment; and securing the control and prevention of discharge waste into the environment among several other functions. The EPA will serve as the main governmental counterpart providing national leadership. The Minamata Convention focal point of Liberia 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. The EPA will also act as the chair and secretariat of the National Steering Group (NSG). These activities will be executed under project execution agreement between UNIDO and EPA, according to the UNIDO General Terms and Conditions.

The NSG will be established as an inter-ministerial Steering Group comprised of EPA, UNIDO representatives, technical and policy experts, and other relevant ministries, authorities and associations (including industrial, mining and gender-related) as needed to provide overall guidance and coordination. Participation in the NSG will be consulted with EPA and UNIDO. 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).

The Ministry of Mines and Energy of Liberia and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will provide national leadership and technical support for ASGM related activities.

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (National Public Health Institute) will provide national leadership and technical support for health-related activities.

ASGM stakeholders including academia, NGOs, and the private sector will be engaged to assist in the development of the NAP. This network of stakeholders will liaise with miners to increase awareness, share knowledge and promote technology transfer to prevent and reduce mercury use in the ASGM sector within the enabling activities framework and to develop a responsible and sustainable ASGM sector.

An expert team comprised of national and international consultants and technical specialists will be recruited to provide technical support for the NAP implementation. The team will be selected based on technical expertise to assist in the development of a national comprehensive analysis of ASGM sector and plan activities for national capacity building. 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 play a key role in the development of the NAP and will be an integral part of the project activities. This will be addressed based on UNIDO's gender policy, among others by involving women and vulnerable groups at the sector level in the information sharing and dissemination events, in the project coordination unit and national committee, and at the stakeholder level (e.g. by consulting women during the analysis of the ASGM sector and the assessment of health impacts of mercury use on women).

Special attention will be paid to gender equality when evaluating and inviting members to participate in the National Committee and attending the awareness workshops. Strategies to mitigate gender inequality and prevent child labor in ASGM will be part of the proposed NAP.

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 improve the national capacity for the management of mercury in the ASGM sector, through the preparation of a National Action Plan (NAP). Outputs from the project will also provide a basic situation evaluation and inventory/characterization of the ASGM sector that will assist in the design of future interventions to meet the obligations of the Convention. The NAP will generate global environmental and socio-economic benefits, as well as enable Liberia to place mercury management at the leading edge of their sustainable development agenda. Inputs and data collected from the NAP proposed in this project will provide key information on the use and reduction of mercury in the ASGM sector. The planned activities per output are listed below:

Output 1.1.1: Information disseminated and national coordination on mercury established:

Activity 1.1.1.1: Conduct national start-up workshop;

Activity 1.1.1.2: Establish mercury coordination mechanism at the national level;

Activity 1.1.1.3; Develop strategies to involve stakeholders in the implementation and continued development of the NAP, including the recruitment of inventory trainees;

Activity 1.1.1.4; Develop communication materials taking into account the impacts of mercury on different gender groups;

Activity 1.1.1.5; Organize and conduct information sharing and dissemination events and workshops adapting time and location of the events to different gender groups? needs.

Output 1.1.2: National comprehensive analysis of ASGM sector completed to support the development and implementation of a road map to prevent and reduce mercury use, emissions and releases:

Activity 1.1.2.1; Collect and analyze data on the ASGM sector (e.g. quantities of mercury used and practices employed; number of main mining sites and miners; relevant stakeholders including /miners private sector; and level of sector formalization);

Activity 1.1.2.2; Define national objectives and reduction targets;

Activity 1.1.2.3; Define steps to facilitate the formalization or regulation of ASGM sector;

Activity 1.1.2.4; Finalize strategies to promote reduction of mercury emissions and releases in ASGM and actions to eliminate worst practices mentioned on Annex C of Minamata Convention;

Activity 1.1.2.5; Identify potential sources of necessary funding to implement the road map as part of the NAP.

Output 1.1.3: Institutional and capacity needs assessment completed to implement a public health strategy on ASGM:

Activity 1.1.3.1; Consult representatives of various ministries and other stakeholder groups;

Activity 1.1.3.2; Identify institutional capacity gaps/barriers;

Activity 1.1.3.3; Finalize institutional and capacity needs assessment report on public health.

Output 1.1.4: Rapid health situation assessment conducted; drafting of the public health strategies initiated including a curriculum for professionals and awareness raising workshop organized*:

Activity 1.1.4.1; Plan and adapt survey tools to Liberia?s context;

Activity 1.1.4.2; Conduct consultation with community and with health care providers in selected ASGM locations;

Activity 1.1.4.3; Analyze collected data and prepare recommendations;

Activity 1.1.4.4; Facilitate the drafting of a public health strategy for the ASGM sector, considering the vulnerabilities of different gender groups.

*Note: Primary monitoring (i.e. human bio-monitoring) is considered out of the scope of the rapid health situation assessment and of the project. The principle objective of the rapid assessment is to identify patterns of health care seeking behavior among ASGM miners and their family members so as to determine the most effective entry point for engagement with them. For example in cases where ASGM miners do not utilize health services, promotional and awareness raising efforts may need to be conducted through mobile clinics or as part of other social mobilization efforts carried out by the health sector. The rapid health situation assessment will also identify current capacities in local health centres to identify and address ASGM related health issues. This latter information is needed to inform the training activities to be conducted under the NAP.

Output 2.1: NAP drafted, finalized and presented to relevant stakeholders for interactive feedback:

Activity 2.1.1: Draft NAP according to the national comprehensive analysis report (Output1.2);

Activity 2.1.2: Conduct stakeholder consultation meetings;

Activity 2.1.3: Finalize NAP;

Activity 2.1.4: Define NAP implementation schedule.

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

GEF resources will assist the government of Liberia and partners in understanding the use of mercury and how to minimize it in the ASGM sector, and increase awareness of risks to human and ecosystem health. It will also assist in the broad dissemination of project achievements nationally to promote future projects. GEF resources will not only help to streamline interventions and related capacity building efforts in the ASGM sector, but also ensure that the key stakeholders involved in the compliance of Article 7 and Annex C under the Convention are sufficiently aware of and appropriately engaged in the design and delivery of the activities identified in the road map.

To ensure cost effectiveness, infrastructure and human resources at each governmental counterpart 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 execution is expected to remain at low risk. UNIDO has solid experience in promoting environmentally sound management of mercury in the ASGM sector and plays an important role as co-lead of the sector under the Global Mercury Partnership ? the main mechanism and technical advisory group of the Minamata Convention created by UNEP in 2008. UNIDO has also extensive experience with enabling activities through the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs), NIP updates, MIAs and NAPs. The local and regional presence of UNIDO through the field offices will also help to ensure the smooth development of project activities.

Enabling activities to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) have already been developed in Liberia with GEF's resources. The NAP will complement the country's efforts to reduce significantly the exposure of harmful chemicals and wastes of global importance to humans and the environment.

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 through annual supervision visits to Liberia. 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 Ghana office, which is in charge of 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 UNIDO?s project manager with support from UNIDO?s Evaluation Group and reports submitted to the donor within 90 days of project end. The terms of reference for the evaluator will be developed with the support of UNIDO?s project manager under UNIDO?s guidance.

Programmatic M&E: the main executing partner, EPA, will be responsible for day-to-day execution of the project, reporting semi-annually to UNIDO, which will be responsible for overall management and evaluation. 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 standard UNIDO accounting procedures. A terminal evaluation will be submitted to the GEF within 90 days of the project end.

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)	
		GEF Grant	Co-financing
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	25,000	0
Total M&E cost		25,000	0

*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
Minamata Convention on Mercury		ED, EPA OF LIBERIA
Minamata Convention on Mercury		ED, EPA OF LIBERIA
Minamata Convention on Mercury		ED, EPA OF LIBERIA
Minamata Convention on Mercury		ED, EPA OF LIBERIA
Minamata Convention on Mercury		ED, EPA OF LIBERIA
Minamata Convention on Mercury		ED, EPA OF LIBERIA
Minamata Convention on Mercury		ED, EPA OF LIBERIA
Minamata Convention on Mercury		ED, EPA OF LIBERIA
Minamata Convention on Mercury		ED, EPA OF LIBERIA
Minamata Convention on Mercury		ED, EPA OF LIBERIA
Minamata Convention on Mercury		EPA OF LIBERIA

ANNEX A: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Project Components	Type of expense	Budget USD		Total	Execution modality / PEE
		Year 1	Year 2		
Outcome 1.1: National capacity (awareness, technical skills, expertise) is enhanced to effectively manage mercury in accordance with the Minamata Convention					
Output 1.1.1. Information disseminated and national coordination on mercury established - - -	National technical expertise	12,000	15,000	27,000	EPA
	Project travels and site visits	8,000	5,000	13,000	EPA
	Training/Workshops	15,000	15,000	30,000	EPA
	Miscellaneous (office supplies, documents publishing, printing, media)	2,000	3,000	5,000	EPA
Output 1.1.2. National comprehensive analysis of ASGM sector completed to support the development and implementation of a road map to prevent and reduce mercury use, emissions and releases - -	International Expertise subcontracting	45,000	40,000	85,000	EPA
	National gender expert	5,000	5,000	10,000	EPA
	Project travels and site visits	5,000	4,000	9,000	EPA

-	Training/Workshops	10000	6000	16,000	EPA
Output 1.1.3. Institutional and capacity needs assessment completed to implement a public health strategy on ASGM	National expertize	18000	18000	36,000	MOH
-	Project travels and site visits	5000	5000	10,000	MOH
-	Training/Workshops	7000	5000	12,000	MOH
-	Miscellaneous (office supplies, documents publishing, printing, media)	2000	2000	4,000	MOH
Output 1.1.4. Rapid health situation assessment conducted; drafting of the public health strategies including a curriculum for professionals initiated and awareness raising workshop organized	National technical expertize	12,000	12,000	24,000	MOH
-	Gender expert	3000	3,000	6,000	MOH
-	Project travels and site visits	10000	6000	16,000	MOH
-	Heath professionals strategists	13000	8000	21,000	MOH
-	Training/Workshops	7000	5000	12,000	MOH
-	Miscellaneous (office supplies, documents publishing, printing, media)	4000		4,000	MOH
Subtotal of Component 1.1	-	183,000	157,000	340,000	

Outcome 2.1 NAP drafted, finalized and presented to relevant stakeholders for iterative feedback					
Output 2.1.1: NAP drafted, finalized and presented to relevant stakeholders	National expertise	18000	15,000	33,000	EPA
	Project travels and site visits	12000	13000	25,000	EPA
	Stakeholders Workshops Organization	7000	15000	22,000	EPA
	Miscellaneous (office supplies, documents publishing, printing, media)	5000	5000	10,000	EPA
Subtotal of Component 2.1		42000	48000	90,000	
Outcome 3.1: Project achieves objective on time through effective monitoring and evaluation					
Output 3.1.1: Periodic monitoring and terminal evaluation of project implementation completed	Independent National Expert and Midterm	4000	4000	8,000	UNIDO
	Intl Term. Evaluation Expert		8000	8,000	UNIDO
	Roundtable Workshop on TE		9000	9,000	UNIDO
Subtotal of Component 2.1				25,000	
Subtotal of all Outcomes (1.1+2.1+3.1)		4000	21000	455,000	

Project management costs					
	National Project coordinator	13000	1000	14,000	EPA
	National Technical Expert(s)	15000	8000	23,000	EPA
	Project Assistant	6000	2000	8,000	EPA
Subtotal of PMC		34000	11000	45,000	
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS		263,000	237,000	500,000	