



Eliminating mercury skin lightening products

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10810

Project Type

MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

Project Title

Eliminating mercury skin lightening products

Countries

Global

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

World Health Organization (WHO), Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Taxonomy

Chemicals and Waste, Focal Areas, Mercury, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Communications,

Awareness Raising, Education, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Participation, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Trade Unions and Workers Unions, Non-Governmental Organization, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Waste Management, Sound Management of chemicals and waste, Large corporations, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, North-South, South-South, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Workshop, Training

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date

4/9/2021

Expected Implementation Start

8/1/2021

Expected Completion Date

7/31/2024

Duration

36In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

190,000.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CW-1-1	Strengthen the sound management of industrial chemicals and their waste through better control, and reduction and/or elimination	GET	2,000,000.00	14,808,401.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			2,000,000.00	14,808,401.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Reduce the risk of exposure to mercury-added skin lightening products

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. National capacity building on legislation, enforcement, compliance, and awareness raising strategies	Technical Assistance	1.1 Project countries regulate mercury SLPs in line with the Minamta Convention	1.1.1 Project countries have established or improved legislation based on developed model regulations	GET	568,090.00	2,332,350.00
			1.1.2 Project countries have strengthened capacity to develop enforcement and compliance strategies to support legislation on SLPs			
			1.1.3 Health professionals and the general public in target countries have increased awareness of health risks associated with mercury SLPs			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2. Reduce or stop production, trade, distribution of SLPs in project countries	Technical Assistance	2.1 Target countries have reduced local production, trade and distribution of mercury SLPs	<p>2.1.1. Ministries of Health in project countries demonstrate increased awareness of local markets for SLPs, including production, distribution and usage</p> <p>2.1.2. Manufacturers, traders, and distributors in target countries demonstrate increased awareness of the danger associated with mercury SLPs</p> <p>Output 2.1.3 Authorities in target countries have increased capacity to identify, monitor and report on the market for SLPs</p>	GET	309,487.00	3,393,980.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3. Knowledge management at global level	Technical Assistance	3.1 Global manufacturing and trade of mercury SLPs reduced	3.1.1 Global awareness increased through policy support 3.1.2 Global awareness increased through advocacy campaign and international meetings	GET	950,275.00	8,137,173.00
4. Monitoring and evaluation	Technical Assistance	4.1 Project achieves objectives on time through effective monitoring and evaluation	4.1.1 Project monitored and evaluated	GET	40,000.00	44,898.00
Sub Total (\$)					1,867,852.00	13,908,401.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
			GET	132,148.00	900,000.00	
			Sub Total(\$)	132,148.00	900,000.00	
			Total Project Cost(\$)	2,000,000.00	14,808,401.00	

C. Sources 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	UNEP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000.00
Other	World Health Organization (WHO)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,430,921.00
Civil Society Organization	Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	402,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Zero Mercury Working group (ZMWG)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150,000.00
Civil Society Organization	European Environmental Bureau (EEB)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	165,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Occidental College	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	529,480.00
Civil Society Organization	Label Beaut? Noire	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,000,000.00
Private Sector	Sema Jonsson: ?Patheon of Women Who Inspire?	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	5,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	BeautyWell	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	250,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Sierra Club	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	130,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Health (Sri Lanka)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	18,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment (Sri Lanka)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	253,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Health (Jamaica)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	20,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Health (Gabon)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	24,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment (Gabon)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	36,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				14,808,401.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Not Applicable

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNEP	GET	Global	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	2,000,000	190,000
Total Grant Resources(\$)					2,000,000.00	190,000.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNEP	GET	Global	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	50,000	4,750
Total Project Costs(\$)					50,000.00	4,750.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 9 Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
0.00	2.90	0.00	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)

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)
	2.90		

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)

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 Quantity of 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)
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Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		8,821,425		
Male		764,730		
Total	0	9586155	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Based on the population and percentages of skin lightening products (SLP) usage by men and women in all three target countries, the estimated mercury reduction through the project is approximately 2.9 tons per year (Gabon: 0.0043 tons per year; Jamaica: 1.395 tons per year; Sri Lanka: 1.5456 tons per year). This includes a replication factor of 2 through the national and global awareness activities. According to available literature and studies, the usage rate in Jamaica is 11% and in Gabon 33%. Data for Sri Lanka were not readily available, therefore, a 40% usage rate was used based on studies conducted in Pakistan. Further assumptions were made that one individual would use, on average, 12 jars of SLPs per year containing approximately 3 grams of mercury. Note that based on official records, only 10-15% of SLPs sold and used globally contain mercury, however, many SLPs containing mercury are sold on the black market, making them difficult to identify and track effectively. In terms of demographics, the percentage of men and women SLP users was calculated against the entire population using a 1:1 women vs. men ratio. In reality, however, not all age groups would be using SLPs. For simplicity purposes, consumption rates and age of users were applied homogenously across the three countries. 2.9 tons x 50% (reduction and avoidance) X 2 (replication factor) = 2.9 tons * Please refer to Appendix 12 for detailed explanation on calculation related to mercury reduction and expected direct beneficiaries through the project.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

1.1 Global environmental and health problems

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Mercury (Hg) is a toxic substance and a global pollutant that poses adverse effects to human health and the environment. Mercury pollution exposes populations, regardless of proximity to source, to the harmful effects of the chemical. It is found in the environment in three different forms ? elemental, organic and inorganic. Inhalation of mercury vapor can produce harmful effects on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, lungs and kidneys, and may be fatal. The inorganic salts of mercury are corrosive to the skin, eyes and gastrointestinal tract, and induce kidney toxicity if ingested. When released into the environment, inorganic mercury can transform by bacteria to methylmercury, the most poisonous form, and subsequently enter the foodchain and travel long distances. Pregnant women who consume fish containing methylmercury can transfer mercury to their fetuses, that can result in neurodevelopmental deficits in children.

Inorganic mercury (mercury salts = mercurous chloride) is a common ingredient found in skin lightening products (SLPs). It is highly effective in blocking melanin-producing functions in the human skin leading to a lighter skin tone (more melanin in the body, darker the skin). SLPs come in different forms, including creams and soaps. Other chemicals in SLPs include hydroquinone, corticosteroids, arsenic, and kojic acid. The toxic composition of this mixture is a strong reason for the WHO to discourage the use of all skin lightening cosmetics, not replacing one product for another, which can risk exposure to other hazardous chemicals with impacts on public health and the environment when improperly disposed. SLPs containing mercury can have negative environmental impacts on water quality and exposure to fish and other organisms, eventually contaminating human food supplies. Through showering, the mercury in creams, soaps and other cosmetic products that haven't evaporated are eventually discharged into waste water.

Adverse health effects of inorganic mercury with exposure above 1 part per million (ppm) include: kidney damage, skin rashes, skin discoloration and scarring, reduction in skin's resistance to bacterial and fungal infection, anxiety, depression, psychosis and peripheral neuropathy^[1]. Level of exposure can be quantified through measurements in blood and urine. Aside from the users of the products, exposure through other means may occur, for example by using contaminated bedding/towels/furniture that came in contact with SLPs and inhalation of mercury vapour, and babies and children being in contact with skin to which SLPs have been applied.^{3,[2]} Copan et al. (2015) found exposure to mercury salts in the households with skin bleaching creams resulted in clinical signs of toxicity in members of the family, where hospitalization was required. Symptoms included: hypertension, irritability, difficulty sleeping, weakness in legs, muscle twitching of the extremities, and others.

Skin lightening, sometimes called skin bleaching, is a trend in many parts of the world. For some, the reasoning behind this usage may seem mysterious. In many nations, naturally pale individuals often darken themselves in tanning beds with harmful UV lights that could lead to premature aging or even cancer. Many people with naturally darker skin seek the very opposite, going to extreme measures to brighten their complexions. SLPs are used by both men and women in most regions around the world, including Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean, Europe, and North America. Sometimes not only for a lighter skin tone, but also used for fading freckles, blemishes, age spots, and treating acne (often by adolescents). Although mainly a personal preference and action, SLP usage is directly influenced by historical context and the beauty standards promoted by media, advertising and marketing in specific countries/regions. Some cultures place a higher value on light skin tones as a sign of social status for reasons that date back to colonialism or other major moments in a country's history. Celebrities, media and prominent people in power can also have an effect on people's perception of their own skin tones.

Furthermore, the global skin lightening industry is one of the fastest growing beauty industries worldwide and is estimated to be worth US\$ 31.2 billion by 2024^[3]. This rapid growth is being fueled by a growing middle class in the Asia-Pacific region and changing demographics in Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. A 2017-2018 Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) / Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) collaborative pilot study testing over 300 SLPs collected from over 20 countries found that approximately 10% of such creams have well over 1 ppm of mercury, including many exceeding 100 ppm of mercury; only one of these creams listed mercury as an ingredient.^[4] Other studies have found even higher concentrations of mercury in SLPs.

Mercury-containing skin lightening products are manufactured in many countries and areas including Bangladesh, China, Dominican Republic, Hong Kong SAR (China), Jamaica, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States of America (USA). Despite having been banned in many countries, mercury-containing SLPs are often easily obtainable, and consumers may be unaware of the harmful effects of the chemicals in these products. Mercury-containing skin lightening products are available for sale over the Internet, promoted online on social media sites, and sold through mobile apps. According to the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), these products are often manufactured abroad and sold illegally in the United States, often in small shops and informal markets catering to Latino, Asian, African or Middle Eastern communities. Consumers also purchase them in other countries and bring them back to their country.^[5]

With the entry into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Parties to the Convention are required to phase out the manufacture, import, and export of mercury-containing products subject to the provisions of Article 4. The phase out is also related to other articles, including Article 16 (health aspects), Article 17 (information exchange), and Article 18 (public information, awareness and education). These products include cosmetics with mercury content above 1ppm, including skin lightening creams and soaps. Mercury can be eliminated from SLPs by engaging different parts of society. To protect the public from negative health effects of mercury in SLPs, the proposed project seeks to support Parties implementing the Minamata Convention.

This project also presents an opportunity to educate people to admire and be proud of their natural skin tone and to stop using SLPs. Youth engagement to alter perceptions and misconception of different skin colors will be introduced through the project at both national and global levels. Support from celebrities and artists will be used as a powerful tool to help resist the peer pressure

and society preferences related to skin tone. The toxic trade of often illegal mercury-added SLPs is a global crisis expected to only worsen with increasing demand, especially in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Therefore, immediate action is warranted.

1.2 Root causes and barriers to be addressed

Important barriers for change are the cultural and social biases which imply that lighter skin should be desired. The result is that whitening creams continue to be amongst the best-selling beauty products in many countries around the world. Numerous cases of mercury poisoning have been reported after using whitening creams to bleach their skin.⁵ In India, popular skin bleaching beauty product lines target both women and men with darker skin. The fact that skin bleaching cosmetics persist over centuries signals the enduring legacy of this cultural bias. That is why significant emphasis needs to be placed on media of all kinds to promote the beauty of all shades of skin color, and to address the use of SLPs in general, not only those containing mercury.

Despite legal bans of mercury SLPs in some countries, the products remain easy to obtain.⁵ Developing legislation is relatively easy and not costly, but it is not sufficient in isolation. Systems of enforcement need to be developed, as well as widespread public awareness raising about the hazards of SLPs overall and mercury SLPs in particular. Without a holistic approach targeting the supply and demand sides of the equation use is likely to continue to increase. The holistic approach needs to include legislation, enforcement, and public awareness raising. Until this approach is adopted, access to these dangerous products will continue to be as easy as it is today. A systems approach includes: a) proactive customs agents working with laboratories capable of testing high levels of mercury in SLPs; b) ministries of health, environment, customs and commerce (and others) collaborating in the areas of legislation, public awareness, advocacy, and education; development of mercury waste containment strategies; and c) ensuring health workers have the information they need to recognize signs of mercury toxicity, advise patients, and be public advocates for behavior change.

In summary, barriers to reducing/eliminating SLPs containing mercury, include:

- ? Lack of national regulation of mercury SLPs, or regulation that does not fully meet obligations under the Minamata Convention;
- ? Inadequate compliance and enforcement of existing laws, including customs controls on imports, controls on informal production of SLPs and sale in local markets;
- ? Lack of access to laboratory capacity in detecting SLPs with mercury content over 1 ppm;
- ? Low level of awareness among the general public and health care professionals about the health risks associated with mercury SLPs;
- ? Poor labeling of SLPs;
- ? Paucity of data on global production, trade and distribution of mercury SLPs;
- ? Lack of global harmonization efforts in terms of enforcement and trade of SLPs;
- ? Lack of, or inadequate, monitoring and surveillance of national and international markets on mercury SLPs; and
- ? Insufficient information about the types of industries producing mercury SLPs, including informal and cottage industries.

1.3 Country Selection

The selection of countries for this project was based on multiple criteria, with an overarching interest in targeting one country in each of three regions that has extensive SLP use: Africa, Americas, and Asia. The factors used for county selection included:

- Party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
- Diverse country features ? different regions, different levels of development, language diversity;
- Level of mercury measured in cosmetics from peer-reviewed papers, gray literature, and identified in counties from MIA inventory;
- Nature of the mercury SLP market in the country (imported and/or manufactured); and
- Level of interest from the government, especially Ministry of Health.

Through application of the above criteria three countries from different geographical regions have been identified for inclusion in this project:

- ? In the Americas, Jamaica is a known major manufacturer of SLPs and the Ministry of Health expressed serious concern about the widespread use of the products and a high level of cottage industry production.
- ? In Asia, the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka expressed serious concern regarding widespread purchase, use, and cultural promotion of SLPs in the country with very little information available, as well as significant cottage industry production.
- ? In Africa, the government of Gabon demonstrated interest to be a leader in the region on the elimination of mercury containing SLPs. **Although the amount of SLP usage is not as great as compared to some other countries in Africa, Gabon has expressed strong interests in becoming a leader of SLP management of the African continent. Furthermore, BRI is currently working with Gabon on other projects and experiences have shown that stability and interests are strong in country.** Lastly, it is advantageous to include a French speaking country for greater global reach and future replication and dissemination of knowledge products developed by this project, so increasing the numbers of potential beneficiaries.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

2.1. Skin lightening cosmetics analysis and use around the world

Numerous studies were conducted on SLPs in the recent years and they are described below:

- In a global study conducted by ZMWG and BRI in 2017-2018, 338 skin lightening creams from 22 countries were collected by seventeen non-governmental organization (NGO) partners from around the world and tested for mercury. A total of 34 creams (10% of the samples) had mercury concentrations ranging from 93-16,353 parts per million (ppm). These levels significantly exceeded not only the legal standard established by countries that regulate these products, but also the provisions set forth in the Minamata Convention prohibiting (after 2020) the ?manufacture, import or export? of cosmetics with a mercury content above 1ppm. In Bangladesh, almost 50% of the creams sampled and tested had mercury content exceeding 1ppm. In the Dominican Republic and Indonesia 33% and 31%, respectively, of samples tested contained mercury levels exceeding 1ppm . In Mauritius, one out of 15 creams was found to contain more than 1ppm (7%). Nineteen per cent of samples from the Philippines exceeded 1ppm mercury content, while the Thai samples reached 63%. Finally, in Trinidad and Tobago, 20% of the samples tested also exceeded the Minamata Convention limits. Sampling was carried out following established protocol in 2017 and further streamlined in 2018.³

- In another recent global study^[6], a total of 549 SLPs, manufactured in 32 countries, were purchased online in: the United States, Taiwan, China, and Japan and in stores in the United States, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Japan and Sri Lanka. Cosmetics were screened for mercury content above 200 ppm using a low-cost portable x-ray fluorescence spectrometer. Of the 549 tested products, 6.0% (n = 33) contained mercury above 1,000 ppm. In all, 45% of mercury-containing samples contained mercury in excess of 10,000 ppm. Of SLPs purchased in the United States, 3.3% were found to contain mercury in excess of 1,000 ppm.

- Based on a recent study in Jamaica^[7], the market of SLPs was mapped and a total of 60 SLPs were analyzed for mercury and 384 users were interviewed. Observed findings identified that around 53% of SLPs were imported from Ivory Coast, the European Union and Lebanon. Twenty-three SLPs did not provide country of origin, suggesting faulty labeling. Mercury analysis, using a handheld XRF instrument, indicated that 57 SLPs samples were below 10 ppm (detection limit of XRF instrument), while three out of 60 products contained concentrations above 400 ppm, with the peak above 17,000 ppm. The latter was manufactured in Jamaica, with mercury listed as an ingredient, whereas the others above 400 ppm, known as 'white cream' and 'yellow cream,' did not have information regarding their country of manufacture or commercial names. Products with mercury levels above 400 ppm were reported to be used by at least 50% of respondents. The study indicated the common practice of SLP users mixing different products for potency improvements. Mercury results from twenty-five samples analyzed by cold vapor atomic absorption spectrometry (CVAAS) were in the range of 0.05 to 3.68 ppm. The majority of respondents reported using SLPs more than once per day.⁶ Very likely, the informal manufacture of SLPs in Jamaica implies the relevance of the cottage industry, which requires special attention for mercury legislation purposes. The wide range of mercury results require attention to methodological sampling design.

- In Trinidad and Tobago, fourteen of the fifteen samples analyzed contained mercury in the range of 0.47 to 0.77 ppm. One sample had a mercury content above 14,000 ppm.^[8] The findings of mercury concentration in the range of 14,000 and 17,000 are from the same product (Silken) that lists in its label the ingredient of 3% ammoniated mercury. Mohammed et al (2017) refers to a previous study by Hamman et al (2014) that found levels above 13,000 ppm in Nadinola cream, indicating this as a predecessor product of Silken. In addition to mercury, salts of the element arsenic, also a toxic heavy metal, are used in skin bleaching products. Arsenic can cause serious adverse health effects, such as vomiting, diarrhea and nausea, as well as skin disorders and it is associated with skin, lung, bladder, kidney and liver cancers.^[9] Mohammed et al. (2017) tested 15 skin bleaching products in Trinidad and Tobago and found all of them contained mercury and /or arsenic.

- Schroff (2018)¹ also explored the use of SLPs among 1,992 women and men aged 16-60 years in Mumbai, India. A total of 38% of the population sampled reported using skin fairness products, with women being two times more likely than men to use these products. Among current users, 17% reported past experiences of adverse side effects, and 'Media/TV/Adverts' were the most common prompts for using such products, followed by 'Friends and Family'. The skin fairness industry represents 50% of India's entire skincare market, with estimates of its worth approximately \$530 million (the findings only account for products not reported as illegal).

Consumers in India believe that fairer skin will provide them with higher status and personal success, and media advertisements reinforce this notion. In a study with university students, the authors found that 18.9% of 799 Indian undergraduate students sampled reported using skin fairness products, and their use was associated with depression, risky sexual behaviors, lack of personal control, and low social support. Furthermore, a recent experimental online study found that women in India who were primed temporarily to feel disempowered were likely to indicate a stronger preference for medically risky skin fairness products (i.e., those containing more active and potentially harmful ingredients) as compared to less risky cosmetic products, in addition to finding the products more relevant and useful.^[1] These patterns in behaviors are a helpful backdrop to understand cultural approaches toward skin lightening creams in the region and are particularly relevant for Sri Lanka.

- A case study in Pakistan revealed that out of 59 whitening cosmetics tested only three were <1ppm mercury.^[10] Another case study in Barbados found the source of high mercury in hair (external contamination) and urine turned out to be skin lightening creams, and reported symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, and fatigue consistent with mercury exposure.^[11]

- Global Industry Analysts, Inc. sells detailed reports of companies, products, lists of ingredients and more information is available in "Obsession with Lighter Skin Tones in Asia, the Middle East & Africa drives opportunities in the Global Skin Lighteners market, March 2018." They report that among North America, Europe, and Asia, there are 107 companies that manufacture these cosmetics (not all have a mercury content). The report states that growing consumer awareness about the toxicity of many ingredients drives companies to invest in natural, herbal, and organic ingredients.

- The California Department of Public Health's Environmental Investigations Branch (EHIB) has been conducting poisoning investigations involving mercury in blemish- and spot-removing face cream products since 2010, continuing to the present. Some of the products that have tested positive for mercury have caused serious health problems, even hospitalizations, for California residents and their families. Products found used in California among different populations originated in the following countries: Mexico; China; Philippines; Pakistan; Taiwan, China; Thailand; Japan; Cambodia; and France. Name-brand products are sometimes adulterated, sold, and brought to other countries by families and friends.^[12]

Based on the number of studies already conducted on SLPs, there is clearly a global concern on the manufacturing, trade, distribution, usage and waste management of these beauty products in both developed and developing countries around the world. With clear obligations to phase out such products under the Minamata Convention, in addition to environment and health risks, Parties will have to dive deeper into the social, economic and historical reasons and implications why people are using such products to fully tackle the issue. Existing data from previous studies will be used in each project country as appropriate, especially information on the regional manufacturing, trade and distribution patterns of mercury SLPs. For the national and global awareness activities, the proposed project will also build on previous efforts made and engage national experts working in the field to strengthen public awareness of the issue.

2.2 Organizations and communities working to reduce mercury SLPs

In terms of GEF support, there is a African Development Bank (AfDB) project (GEF ID 10218), entitled "AFLDC-2 Scaling-up Investment and Technology Transfer to Facilitate Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in African LDCs", that contains an output on increasing engagement of civil society organizations, communities and consumers in designing, promoting and implementing ESM for chemicals and wastes with a focus on SLPs. This project is currently under revision by the AfDB, however, could have potential complementarity with the proposed project.

The following organizations are working on reducing and ultimately to phase out SLPs in the global market. Some of them have committed as a co-financing partner to the proposed project. WHO is listed first as an UN partner and the rest of the organizations are listed in alphabetical order.

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) is actively leading and working to eliminate the use of mercury SLPs and to discourage the use of SLPs overall. In response to the health-related issues or activities and articles of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly adopted and approved Resolution WHA67.11 (2014): *Public health impacts of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds: the role of World Health Organization (WHO) and ministries of public health in the implementation of the Minamata Convention*.¹³ The Resolution calls on WHO Member States to address the public health aspects of mercury and mercury compounds in the context of the health sector by identifying measures and preparatory actions to be taken by their health ministries for implementation of the health-related articles of the Convention. The Resolution also calls upon the WHO Secretariat to create tools, offer guidance, and provide training materials to support Member States in managing the public health impacts of mercury and mercury compounds. Through various projects and publications, WHO provides guidance and support to ministries of health in planning measures to implement the health-related articles of the Minamata Convention and to protect public health from exposure to mercury. WHO provides guidance to health ministries to plan not only obligatory measures under the Convention, but voluntary measures as well.

BeautyWell

The BeautyWell project is an organization that was founded to address communities in the U.S. impacted by the issue of skin lightening practices and chemical exposures. The organization's mission is to develop healthy individuals, families and communities through education, research, empowerment, policy and systems changes. BeautyWell develops educational materials for the general public, public health practitioners and health care providers that are culturally responsive for the impacted communities. It also engages communities and raises awareness on the health impacts that are associated with skin lightening practice and mercury exposure by conducting community educational forums as well as sharing information through radio, podcast, TV and social media. Furthermore, BeautyWell conducts train the trainer training programs for influential community members and leaders, trains health care providers and public health practitioners on the issue and effective ways to communicate with their patients/clients. Lastly, BeautyWell builds partnerships with communities and governments through coalitions that consist of government officials and community members and share information continuously to create feedback loops. It continues to evaluate and research in order to identify additional products and level of human exposure.

Biodiversity Research Institute

Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) is a non-profit research group based in Portland, Maine, United States. BRI has formally worked on Minamata Initial Assessments for 35 countries, as an executing agency (for UNIDO) and as staff serving as international technical experts (for UNEP and UNDP). Cosmetics were recorded in the mercury inventories for many of these countries and BRI worked closely with the Ministries of Health and the Environment to analyze SLPs for 10 of the countries with analyses of another eight countries planned. Through the MIA process, BRI staff have developed methodologies of sampling and analyzing SLPs and have worked closely with Ministries and other stakeholders to present findings and increase awareness with the public. Additionally, BRI has worked on two global projects to develop profiles of mercury content in SLPs for key regions, such as the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.³

Embrace Melanin Initiative

The Embrace Melanin Initiative is a non-governmental organization that was founded to eradicate colorism and harmful skin lightening practices in Africa and raise a generation of young Africans who embrace their melanin and are empowered, educated and self-aware. It has five objectives:

1. Raise awareness on the harmful effects of skin lightening practices and change the perception of dark skin through outreach to the media and specialised programs;
2. Empower youth to be 'proudly African' through personal development, capacity building, skill acquisition and community development;
3. Influence policies that restrict the sale of harmful skin lightening products in Africa and address colorism especially in the workplace;
4. Provide dermatological and psychosocial services for people who suffer from adverse effects of skin lightening practices and set up a skin rehabilitation clinic, the first of its kind in Africa; and
5. Start a skin care line exclusively for African skin suitable for healthy, glowing skin without altering the skin tone.

European Environmental Bureau

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations. It brings together over 160 civil society organisations from more than 35 European countries. The EEB has over 40 years of EU environmental policy expertise, tackling Europe's most pressing environmental problems, sustainable development, good governance, participatory democracy and the rule of law in Europe and beyond. In 2004, the EEB started the Zero Mercury Campaign and in 2005 together with the Mercury Policy Project (MPP), the EEB co-founded and is co-leading the Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG). The ZMWG strives for zero supply, demand, and emissions of mercury from all anthropogenic sources, with the goal of reducing mercury in the global environment to a minimum. EEB's mission is to now support the implementation of the Minamata convention and strengthen it, assuring it fulfils its objective 'to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.'

The toxic trade of often illegal mercury-added skin-lightening products is a global crisis expected to only worsen with increasing demand. In response, the EEB in collaboration with MPP, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and the ZMWG, started a global NGO campaign in 2017 to raise awareness and reduce exposure to skin lightening products contaminated with mercury. The focus of the campaign is in support of national government efforts to ban the manufacture, import, export and use of mercury-added cosmetics in line with the Minamata Convention provisions under Article 4 and listed product bans. The campaign will be continuing at least until 2021.

Label Beauté Noire

Label Beauté Noire is an NGO based in France that has been working globally for 20 years to inform, support the development of legislation, and raise awareness about the health hazards of skin bleaching. Label Beauté Noire has organized WorldSkinBleachingDay20, 16 November, 2020, with the support of the Ministry of Health, France. This NGO focuses on working with medical professionals to raise awareness about how to treat black skin. They conduct trainings for

doctors, allied health professionals, pharmacists and beauticians. They also have brought together cosmetics industry associations to develop legislation. They are an important partner in this project. The Founder of Label Beaut? Noire is originally from Gabon and has conducted a great deal of work in Gabon against skin bleaching, as well as in other African countries.

The Melanin Foundation

The Melanin Foundation is a non-governmental organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, has an awareness campaign against abusive skin bleaching products and promotes skin health programs. Its main mission is widespread education on the damaging physical, psychological and social effects of skin bleaching products, and advocacy to key international, regional and national decision makers for the development of policies required to control the manufacturing and commercialization of these products, and to discourage their use.

Occidental College ? Urban and Environmental Policy Department

The Occidental College - Urban and Environmental Policy Department, based in Los Angeles, California, U.S. does research on chemical exposures through beauty product use, covering the use of skin lighteners with harmful ingredients, including mercury. For the last three years, research on consumer product use among women ages 18-49 in California was conducted to better understand the role of synthetic chemicals in adverse health outcomes. One component of this study has focused on beauty product use, including skin lightening cream use. In addition, in March 2020, the department started a study specifically focused on drivers of skin lightening product use in immigrant communities across the United States, with a focus in Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and New York City. This research includes partners Amira Adewe, Executor Director of BeautyWell and Sonya Lunder with Sierra Club?s Gender, Equity, and Environment Program.

Sema Jonsson: ?Pantheon of Women Who Inspire?

Sema Jonsson?s *Pantheon of Women Who Inspire* is a unique art exhibition of 400 portraits of women, promoting gender equality and beauty in all skin colors. The exhibition serves as a means of communication towards compassion, tolerance, and peace through the world of women?s talent, contribution, and determination. The mission of *Pantheon of Women Who Inspire* is to use these women?s stories to inspire and empower young people through the arts. The collection travels to schools, universities, organizations, foundations, galleries, special events, meetings, and more, to raise awareness of beauty in all skin colors, gender equality, and women?s potential that can only be realized through self-empowerment. Exhibitions include presentations, discussions, and media coverage. The portraits are not for sale: the long-term goal is a women?s portrait museum. Until that time the collection is a ?global pop-up museum? of *Pantheon of Women Who Inspire* to raise awareness.

Sierra Club

For the past two years Sierra Club?s Gender, Equity and Environment program has campaigned in conjunction with other US-based NGOs to raise awareness of the harmful exposures faced by people who use skin lightening creams in the United States. In both 2018 and 2019 Sierra Club was involved in the purchasing and testing of mercury skin lightening creams sold by internet retailers Amazon and eBay. In 2019, Sierra Club also developed and ran advertisements targeting Amazon?s role in perpetuating these harmful exposures among people of color in the U.S. They also supported travel expenses for BeautyWell Executive Director Amira Adawe to attend the UN Minamata Convention in Geneva and share her advocacy and research with conference attendees. Sierra Club envision continuous involvement in the coming years.

Zero Mercury Working Group

Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) is spearheading global efforts to convince e-commerce giants worldwide to halt sales of high mercury cosmetics. ZMWG surveyed, reported on and received extensive global media coverage on the availability of illegal skin lightening products on several internet platforms, including: Amazon, eBay, Bidorbuy, Jumia, Flipkart Lazada (the largest e-commerce platform in South East Asia) and Daraz. (Chinese global e-commerce platform Alibaba has a controlling stake in Lazada and Daraz). Letters from ZMWG were sent to Amazon and eBay urging greater vigilance in halting such third party sales. Both pledged to remove the items referenced in ZMWG report from their websites in the US and the UK, as they violated their internal policies. Follow up activities will target all internet marketers around the globe to comply with the provisions of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. For more information on ZMWG's campaign, see: <https://www.zeromercury.org/mercury-added-skin-lightening-creams-campaign/>.

As indicated above, various national and global initiatives occurred or are currently ongoing in reducing and phasing out mercury SLPs and SLPs in general. Most of the activities do involve awareness raising components, however, they are mostly either national or regional in scope. In addition, funding is limited to carry out global scale activities to reach a broader audience. Therefore, the proposed project aims to bring together partners that are already working in the field, use collected data, information and experience, to upscale the issue at global level through existing functional networks, especially WHO, in sharing the knowledge and improve efforts to phase out mercury SLPs and SLPs in general.

2.3 Legislation and enforcement

The European Union and many other countries have regulations banning mercury-containing cosmetics. These include Canada, Philippines, and the United States, as well as a number of African nations, including Ghana, Nigeria, and Uganda. Many countries however, have not enacted such legislation. Even where legislation prohibiting mercury-containing products exists and where distribution is banned, availability of mercury-containing products remains problematic. The products are easy to obtain and consumers often may be unaware of the harmful effects of the chemicals in SLPs.² As well as sale over the internet, the products may be produced locally and sold in informal markets. Little is known about the degree to which the problems have been solved through enforcement and policing of illegally imported cosmetics. Some countries do not have adequate laboratory testing facilities to support enforcement. As previously stated, beauty standards promoted by the media, advertising and marketing all reinforce the belief that lighter skin tone is more desirable. In response, major media campaigns are needed to stop promoting white and light skin colors as the more desirable and the ones leading to greater personal, social and economic success. Banning these products alone will likely force the industry to go underground as long as the 'light is beautiful' message and reality persist.

2.4 Country specific baseline

Gabon

A national strategy was developed by the Directorate of Medicines and Pharmacies (DMP) in connection with the General Health Inspectorate, and put in place in 2017 to control the sale and distribution of SLPs in Gabon. SLPs are prohibited both in the pharmaceutical sector as well as through public markets. DMP is also currently in the process of developing a strategy to effectively combat SLPs, including management of imported cosmetics as most of the SLPs are not manufactured in Gabon. In addition, Gabon currently does not have any laboratory capacity to test SLPs. Although some actions have been taken to address product imports, insufficient trainings are available for custom agents.

In terms of usage, approximately 30% of women and young people in Gabon use SLPs and about 3% of men use them. It is a larger issue among young people in music and the arts as they believe people with lighter skin are prettier and better off than others. In the MIA report, Gabon estimated a total of 4,385 kg of mercury per year from cosmetics, including SLPs.

In summary, SLPs are governed by an informal, purely commercial market which makes it difficult to manage the products. While legislation is in place in Gabon, compliance and enforcement are not very effective.

Jamaica

In Jamaica, the Ministry of Health regulates cosmetics to ensure they meet required standards (under Section 12 of the Food and Drug Act of 1975, last amended in 1996). The Act prohibits the sale of cosmetics that have any substance that may cause harm to health of the user. Registration with the Ministry of Health is required prior to advertising or selling cosmetics products. The Bureau of Standards has regulatory authority to ensure that products meet the appropriate standards established by legislation. However, the Food and Drug Act does not contain any provisions that prohibit the manufacture, import and export of cosmetics. Food and Drug Act Regulation 40 provides that a person shall not sell, manufacture, import or distribute a drug unless the drug has been registered with the Ministry of Health. Regulation 41 goes on to provide that a permit is required for manufacturing drugs. Regulation 43 requires an import permit for drugs to be imported into Jamaica. Unfortunately, these provisions do not apply to cosmetics. In addition, mercury SLPs in Jamaica are mostly manufactured by local cottage industries and in other regions then purchased on-line, which makes regulation extremely problematic.

In 2004, approximately 10-15% of patients seen by dermatologists had been using skin bleaching products.^[14] SLPs are promoted through advertisements, marketing strategies and popular culture influencers, aimed particularly at African-Jamaican women. While both men and women have been found to use skin lightening products in Jamaica, research has shown that the practice is more predominant among women who believe that lighter skin would equate to more social and economic determined advantages, such as increased pay in the workforce, marriage, and social acceptance. ^[15], ^[16], ^[17], ^[18] A study conducted in Tanzania that is comparable in Jamaica due to its historical context, also believes that SLP use has been attributed to longstanding color complex issues traced back to stigmas generated during colonialization.^[19]

It was noted that some skin lightening creams on the local market contain other melanin suppressors such as hydroquinone rather than mercury. However, more testing of the products being sold in Jamaica should be performed to accurately determine the mercury levels. Generally, while certain products list mercury as an ingredient, many are unlabelled, mislabelled, counterfeit or labelled in a foreign language. The risk of using any of these products is thus increased as consumers are not able to identify their components. The identification of the number of skin lightening creams imported into Jamaica could not be quantified during the MIA development process. The manufacture and export of skin lightening creams do occur in Jamaica. However, so far, information from manufacturers has been very difficult to obtain. Lewis et al. (2011) also noted that many of these creams have been found to be sold on the black market, which indicates that they are likely unaccounted for by customs officials.

In a reports, skin lightening products from a number of countries such as China, Japan, Philippines, Thailand and Jamaica were analysed for mercury content and all were found to have mercury levels between 1,729 - 42,875 parts per million (ppm). Mohammed et al. (2017) analysed fifteen common skin lightening creams from the European Union, India and Jamaica and found the highest mercury content in a product from Jamaica at a concentration of approximately 14,508 ppm. Analysis of a similar product from Jamaica by BRI published in a 2018 report indicated a

mercury concentration exceeding 29,000 ppm. The mercury presence in this product was due to the use of ammoniated mercury as an active ingredient. Stakeholder discussions during the MIA inventory process noted that as of 2015, the product manufacturers in Jamaica no longer list ammoniated mercury as an active ingredient. It is therefore recommended that further testing of recent batches of this product be done through the proposed project to determine its mercury content.

Below are the identified areas that need improvement based on the MIA report, and all of them will be addressed through the proposed project:

- ? Amend the Food and Drug regulations to extend the permit system to the manufacturing, import, and export of cosmetics;
- ? Under the Standards Act, national standards could be established for the manufacturing of SLPs; the existing statutory provisions of the Standards Act would be sufficient to promulgate the required national standards;
- ? Compile a local inventory of mercury-containing cosmetics to better inform government and the public;
- ? Conduct public awareness campaigns;
- ? Develop and enforce proper labeling standards;
- ? Establish waste disposal facilities equipped with the ability to stabilize and solidify mercury contaminated cosmetics, and other products which cannot be recovered or recycled;
- ? Promote the use of cost-effective mercury free alternatives; and
- ? Ban the manufacture, import, and export of mercury added cosmetics.

In addition to national leadership by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment, two potential champions in the country include: the Caribbean Poison Information Network (CARPIN) at the University of Technology, College of Health Sciences, providing education and training programs and disseminating WHO materials, including a chemical intoxication prevention campaign; and the University of West Indies, where researchers are working on mercury analysis, market surveys and awareness raising activities related to SLPs.

Sri Lanka

SLPs are popular in Sri Lanka. Based on the MIA, there are 23 official local cosmetics and pharmaceutical manufacturing industries involved in the production of cosmetics and soaps in Sri Lanka. Out of them, 68% responded through questionnaire surveys and telephone interviews. None of the responding industries were found to intentionally use mercury as an ingredient or additive during their production process.

According to the information obtained from the cosmetics unit of the Ministry of Health, registration for cosmetic products was based on the Sri Lanka Standards (SLS) until 2015. The specifications for raw materials of skin creams and lotions were given under SLS 457, Part 2, and cosmetics were regulated through the Cosmetics, Drugs, and Devices Act No. 27 of 1980. Prior to 2015, all cosmetics were required to apply for registration with the Cosmetics Drugs and Devices Authority then referred to the cosmetic subcommittee of the Ministry of Health, where assessment of heavy metals (Cd, Hg, Pb, As) were taken from the approved laboratory (ITI) before granting registration. Further, the labeling of the product to include key ingredients and raw materials was assessed using the SLS standards list (maximum allowed mercury concentration for cosmetics was 1ppm). The validity of the registration was for five years.

In 2015, provisions to propose/amend regulations of related cosmetics were disabled by Section 144 of National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act No 5. Hence, imported cosmetic products registration was no longer carried out and currently there is no legislation nor regulations to control the mercury content of cosmetics and skin whitening creams or soaps (importing and manufacturing) in Sri Lanka. The maximum permissible mercury concentration for skin creams, lotions, and powders stipulated by the existing SLS specifications is 1 mg/kg (1 ppm). However, mercury limits are not specified for soaps. The Harmonized System (HS) code under which

cosmetic products are imported includes a wide range of products. Therefore, it is practically impossible to find the fraction of skin lightening creams and soaps from the total imports under the relevant HS codes. Also, a reliable data source of skin lightening cosmetic product importers is not available, due to the lack of a cosmetic product registration procedure in the country. Hence this sub-category was excluded from the level 1 mercury inventory in the MIA report.

Research conducted by the Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) found very high levels of mercury in many skin whitening cream brands available in the local market in Sri Lanka. In 25 out of 46 samples, detected mercury concentrations were in the range of 0.06-30,137.66 ppm. Most of the cosmetics with elevated mercury concentrations were found to be imported, mainly from China, where the language on the label and the information leaflet is in either Mandarin or Thai. There were no warning messages on the labels or in information leaflets for the respective cosmetics. With regard to locally manufactured skin whitening creams, two product brands out of five had concentrations higher than the permissible level. It was also found that contamination detection is a batch process coming from the base material due to the fact that two samples from the same brand do not indicate the same results. Hence, it was evident that skin whitening cream products in the local market contain dangerous amounts of mercury, which varies with the cosmetic product batch and size.

In summary, Sri Lanka's main barriers in the management of SLPs are:

? No functioning authority for registration of cosmetics in Sri Lanka after dissolving of the Cosmetics, Devices and Drugs Regulatory Authority in Sri Lanka in March 2015 and establishment of the separate National Medicines Regulatory Authority, which does not include management of cosmetics.

? There are no accredited laboratories to assess the contents of mercury. Laboratory of the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) and Bureau Veritas are the approved laboratories but not yet accredited for testing of mercury. The National Drugs Quality Assurance laboratory of the Ministry of Health does not have adequate facilities to analyze heavy metals.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health has requested to increase testing in the proposed project to better understand commercial and informal markets in Sri Lanka.

In terms of other related projects, Sri Lanka has been selected as one of the countries under the 2019 Specific International Programme of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (SIP). SIP is the second financing mechanism under the Convention to increase capacity in developing country Parties to implement their obligations. This technical assistance project is planned for 30 months from 2019 to 2022 with a budget of USD\$178,659 to support Sri Lanka in managing mercury added products, sound interim storage of mercury and mercury wastes. The project also includes activities focusing on institutional capacity building and awareness raising of the general public. While the project does not cover SLPs specifically, it will increase Sri Lanka's national capacity in managing mercury containing products as a whole.

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project

The objective of the project is to reduce the risk of exposure to mercury added SLPs. Therefore, in order to address the above-mentioned barriers and ultimately eliminate mercury SLPs in both global and national context, the project will work with health, environment and customs ministries to: establish or improve legislation; implement compliance and enforcement strategies for legislation, including training for customs agents and identification of manufacturers and supply chains; strengthen laboratory capacity to test for mercury in SLPs; conduct awareness raising campaigns run by national health authorities to inform consumers about the health risks of skin lightening products, including those containing mercury; and to increase awareness among health professionals about the health risks associated with SLPs, including those containing mercury, to inform and educate patients and the community. Furthermore, the project will conduct a global advocacy campaign to provide access to technical and knowledge products, good practice experiences, as well as technical support to reduce, and possibly eliminate SLPs from the market.

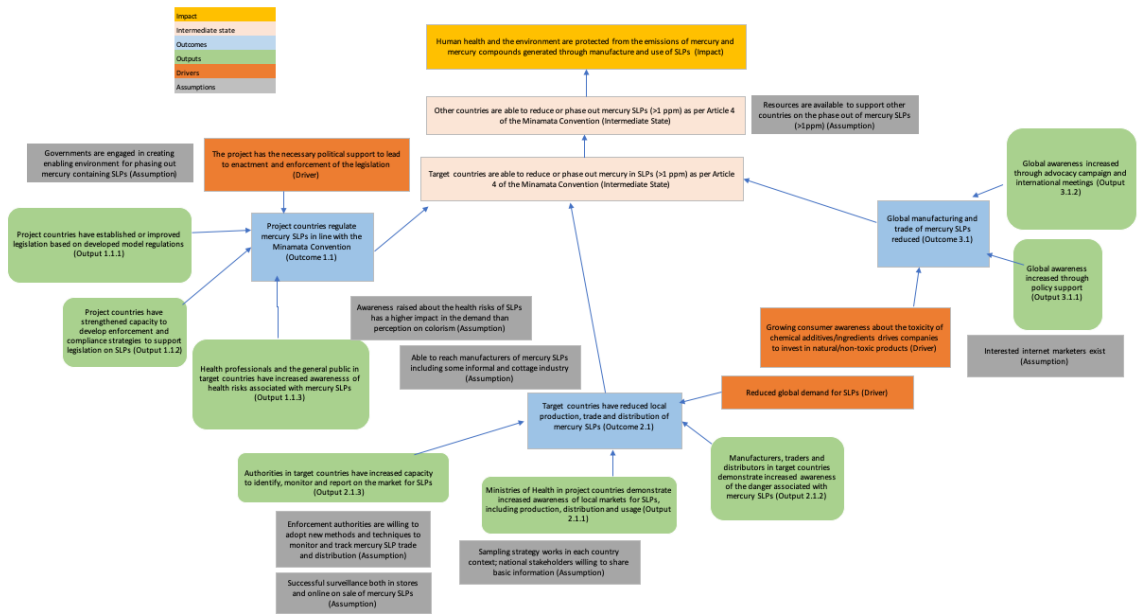


Figure 1: Theory of Change

Expected impact and intermediate impact

There are recognised and concrete evidence showing environmental and health risks associated with mercury added SLPs. Therefore, the impact of the proposed project is aimed to protect human health and the environment from emissions of mercury and mercury compounds generated through manufacture and use of SLPs. The three target countries will demonstrate the effects of Minamata Convention implementation on reducing and phasing out SLPs in their respective national context and provide a set of globally accessible tools (on legislation, analysis, compliance, enforcement, and awareness raising) for utilization by all Parties of the Convention. The expected **intermediate impact** of the project is that globally countries are able to reduce or phase out mercury SLPs (>1 ppm) as per Article 4 of the Minamata Convention. The direct beneficiaries of the project are the users of mercury SLPs. With the political support leading to enactment and enforcement of legislation to regulate mercury SLPs and increased awareness by health professionals, general public, manufacturers, traders and distributors of mercury SLPs, global demand for such products will decrease and ultimately result in phase out.

Project Description

The project will be implemented through the below outlined components and outputs. The WHO and BRI will be the main executing agencies for the project.

Component 1 will focus on promoting and supporting governments in the three project countries to develop or improve existing legislation, and provide guidance on enforcement and compliance strategies to phase out mercury SLPs in line with the Minamata Convention.

As described in the baseline analysis, all three target countries need regulatory strengthening to manage their respective SLP markets. The project will provide support and facilitate the process in improving or establishing regulations. This work will be informed by global guidance on legislation to phase out mercury SLPs to be developed under component 3. For Gabon which has SLP ban regulations in place, emphasis will be placed on improving enforcement and compliance aspects of the existing regulation.

Also under this component, WHO will provide support to the Ministries of Health in target countries to develop a national campaign for awareness raising among the public and among health workers, who can provide information to patients and communities, about the dangers of mercury SLPs, and SLPs overall. Ministries of Health will be provided a grant to develop their national awareness raising campaigns. The aim is to reduce demand for SLPs at the national level through extensive awareness raising activities. Information dissemination will be carried out through various means developed by each country under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, including at least 2 awareness raising/outreach events in each country.

Strategies for post-project awareness-raising in the countries is to be developed during the project. The strategies and activities for post-project continuity, including a sustainability plan for the ways in which the countries will continue to use the materials they have produced, will be defined by and decided upon by each country with assistance from the project. Through a separate project, BRI is working with Gabon to build a laboratory to create sustainable national capacity to analyze mercury levels in skin lightening products. Enforcement of legislation is a long term commitment by the countries. A protocol will be developed so that countries' future enforcement activities include embedding in the training of custom officials activities based on the trainings conducted in the project.

Outcome 1. Project countries regulate mercury SLPs in line with the Minamata Convention

Output 1.1.1 Project countries have established or improved legislation based on developed model regulations

Activity 1.1.1.1 ? facilitate the process of establishing or improving existing regulations in project countries based on the model regulations (to be developed under component 3)

Output 1.1.2 Project countries have strengthened capacity to develop enforcement and compliance strategies to support legislation on SLPs

Activity 1.1.2.1? develop and distribute guidance on enforcement and compliance to project countries, including operational risks and liability protection associated with internet marketers

Output 1.1.3 Health professionals and general public in target countries have increased awareness of health risks associated with mercury SLPs

Activity 1.1.3.1 ? support Ministries of Health in each project country to develop information materials for awareness raising, such as messaging for social media, billboards, radio and TV commercials, flyers, school-based education, conduct media campaigns, engage youth/influencers/champions. Emphasis will be placed on conveying the beauty of all skin tones and the risks of using SLPs.

Activity 1.1.3.2 ? support Ministries of Health in each project country to successfully organize awareness raising campaigns on SLPs

Activity 1.1.3.3 ? facilitate media outreach including at least 2 awareness raising/outreach events in each project country

Component 2 will identify and engage global and local mercury SLP supply chain actors in an attempt to stop production/trade/distribution of SLPs and assist project countries with testing of SLPs and training of custom agents. This component will also strengthen national laboratory capacity in testing SLPs through training and a sampling strategy tailored to country specific needs.

First, the project will work with the Ministries of Health to identify brands and markets for SLPs in each country and collect samples from identified brands, including from informal markets (products not recorded through customs). The estimated goal is to collect up to 80 products for sampling from each country (based on available budget). For countries with testing capacity, such as Jamaica, the MoH will assist in identifying the certified laboratory/ies to perform the analysis. For Gabon and Sri Lanka, BRI will assist in the screening and analysis processes. Data will also be gathered on supply chain aspects to cover key information at each value chain stage: import of mercury, production of cosmetics, transport, distribution, use and eventually end of life.

Once the sampling and analyses process is complete, SLPs that are over 1ppm will be targeted to better understand the variation in mercury concentrations for each brand. Variation of mercury within targeted SLPs will be determined through multiple sampling of different containers from different stores/sources within the same brand. The combined list will generate a multi-regional target for toxic SLPs.

The testing of SLPs requires a two-step approach. The first step is screening using a hand held analyzer. Since the limit of detection for portable devices is not very accurate, it will be followed by the second step of either a direct mercury analyzer or another laboratory instrument. The number of sampling for both the screening and targeted sampling effort will be at least 200 per country. Each country's analytical strategy will be customized. For detailed sampling and laboratory strategy, please refer to Appendix 11.

Thirdly, all SLP mercury concentrations will be entered into a centralized database that will be shared with the MoH. Based on the sampling process, a report will be generated that identifies key hubs of production, patterns of distribution, and level of use in different regions. All information and reports on brands and markets will be kept confidential unless otherwise directed by the respective governments.

Although the markets for SLPs in general are growing, this component will also focus on outreach to the manufacturers, traders and distributors of SLPs and educate them on the dangers of using such products and the importance of labeling products with accurate indication of chemical concentrations and other ingredients. The initial step is to inform different stakeholders on the supply chain to ensure that products are properly labelled. In parallel, the project will inform the respective government regarding their informal markets and provide trainings on physical and online surveillance of its control and eventual phase out. Important to note that reduction and phase out of SLP products as a whole will take time as this is related to behavioral and perception of skin color in different cultures.

Lastly, the project will provide training for custom officials to easily identify non-conforming products. The goal of this component is to reduce global and local availability of mercury SLPs and SLPs in general, by identifying sources and supply chain actors, trace distribution patterns, and increase national capacity in phasing out such products.

Outcome 2. Target countries have reduced local production, trade and distribution of mercury SLPs

Output 2.1.1 Ministries of Health in project countries demonstrate increased awareness of local markets for SLPs, including production, distribution and usage

Activity 2.1.1.1 ? identify SLP products available on the market in project countries with mercury concentration over 1 ppm

Activity 2.1.1.2 ? perform further tests based on detected concentrations (See Appendix 11, ?Sampling and Laboratory Strategy for SLPs?)

Activity 2.1.1.3 ? merge existing and new data (on a global scale)

Activity 2.1.1.4 ? analyze and identify key hubs for production, patterns of distribution, and level of use in different regions

Output 2.1.2 Manufacturers, traders and distributors in target countries demonstrate increased awareness of the danger associated with mercury SLPs

Activity 2.1.2.1 ? consult and educate local manufacturers, traders, and distributors of SLPs (based on results from Output 2.1.1) on incentives to stop/reduce their respective activities in the SLP supply chain

Activity 2.1.2.2 ? encourage the importance of accurate labeling and use of common Harmonized System (HS) codes to track trade flows of mercury SLPs

Output 2.1.3 Authorities in target countries have increased capacity to identify, monitor and report on the market for SLPs

Activity 2.1.3.1 - develop approaches/techniques to be used by custom authorities for rapidly identifying non conforming products in project countries

Activity 2.1.3.2 ? train custom agents in project countries

Activity 2.1.3.3 ? identify and report locations of informal manufacturers of SLP in project countries

Activity 2.1.3.4 ? support countries to conduct initial follow-up market surveillance on the effectiveness of SLP phase out

Component 3 will focus on knowledge management at the global level. A range of complementary activities will be led by WHO, BRI, and UNEP in their respective areas of expertise. The WHO-led global advocacy campaign will focus on the requirements of the Minamata Convention related to mercury SLPs, the dangers of SLPs to human health and the environment, countries' success and challenges faced in developing effective legislation and regulations, and lessons learnt and shared through the project, with resultant recommendations to support countries around the world.

The Global Mercury Partnership will contribute to this campaign with social media outreach and traditional or interactive/dynamic web stories/and video, to be conducted in close collaboration with and to complement the WHO campaign. In addition, linkage and coordination with the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP, a global community of policy, business and finance professionals and organisations committed to collaboratively generate, manage, and share knowledge on transition to an inclusive green economy) will be carried out for two reasons: a) GGKP is the knowledge platform for GEF-UNEP ISLANDS programme (GEF ID 10185), and since Jamaica is a small island developing state, results from the proposed project will be relevant for project activities in ISLANDS and vice versa; and b) GGKP is currently the main knowledge platform collaborating partner for UNEP, the platform is designated to consolidate all information and knowledge generated/collected in UNEP's Chemicals and Waste Portfolio.

Part of the global campaign will include increasing global awareness through policy support. To support national decision-makers in developing effective legislation and regulations, a repository of SLP legislation from different countries will be developed, analyzed, and made available for global use. At present, no centralized body of information exists showing what countries have existing legislation regulating cosmetics and mercury cosmetics in particular. Obtaining a landscape picture of countries' legislation or lack thereof will help to better understand how extensive is the need for legislation globally, and to what extent existing legislation is sufficiently robust. Creation of a repository of countries' legislation will provide the basis from which country examples can be drawn to include in a global legislation guidance document to be produced. A collection of examples from different countries will support countries to adopt legislation in local context where it is needed.

A key focus of this component is to build long-term sustainability of the project's approaches and achievements, beyond the life of the project.

Project's activities will also engage more organizations working in the field, such as UNESCO, and more NGOs and Champions. The global campaign is one means to engage these other groups and to facilitate collaboration, which is essential to raise awareness about the hazards of SLPs globally. A large collective and collaborative effort is envisioned, including celebrities who have strong direct contact with young people, men, and women through their social media channels. These "partnerships" will further enhance the long-term sustainability of the project. Engagement of other groups can also contribute to the national level awareness raising campaigns.

The project will develop global campaign information materials, technical materials, guidance documents, training materials, videos, a campaign pack including tips for conducting a campaign, and share lessons learnt to assist other countries in meeting their requirements under Article 4 of the Minamata Convention. Global campaign materials will be user-friendly for diverse stakeholders interested in and/or responsible for phasing out the manufacturing, import, or export of mercury SLPs. Materials will also include information on how to safely dispose unused or seized SLPs containing mercury, generated in cooperation with the relevant areas of the Global Mercury Partnership. Materials will be produced in customizable templates as appropriate, available in different languages so that Ministries of Health, women's organizations, relevant NGOs, associations of health professionals, and others can adapt them to their own needs. The Departments of Communications at both WHO and the Global Mercury Partnership will lead global media campaigns, including champions/influencers as far as possible. The Global Mercury Partnership will remain as an information hub after the project ends and leverage its network to share information and promote knowledge products via its website, webinars and mailing lists. The Partnership will also liaise with GGKP to share project progress and results as appropriate.

Country specific strategies for post-project awareness-raising are to be developed during the project. The strategies and activities for post-project continuity, including a sustainability plan for the ways in which the countries will continue to use the materials they have produced, will be defined by and decided upon by each country with assistance from the project.

Furthermore, to support national decision-makers in developing legislation, a repository of SLP legislation from different countries will be developed, analyzed, and made available for global use. In addition, a global legislation guidance document will be produced containing several examples from countries.

The project will enlist cooperation from large internet marketers in voluntary self-regulation to assure that illegal products listed on project country detention lists are not offered for sale. Partnerships will be discussed with key internet sale groups, such as Amazon and eBay, as well as

companies and relevant industry associations (the final list of internet marketers will be determined during the inception phase of the project)

Outcome 3. Global manufacturing and trade of mercury SLPs reduced

Output 3.1.1 Global awareness increased through policy support

Activity 3.1.1.1 ? create a global repository of mercury SLP legislation

Activity 3.1.1.2 ? produce a global legislation guidance document

Activity 3.1.1.3 ? support countries to adopt legislation in local context

Activity 3.1.1.4 - outreach and establish best practices to large global internet marketers (final list to be determined during the inception phase of the project) to enlist their cooperation and commitment in voluntary self-regulation to assure that illegal products listed on project country detention lists are not promoted and offered for sale

Output 3.1.2 Global awareness increased through advocacy campaign and international meetings

Activity 3.1.2.1 ? develop global advocacy materials in customizable templates and multiple UN languages including: messaging for social media, fliers, school-based education materials, engage youth/champions/influencers. Emphasis will be placed on conveying the beauty of all skin tones and the risks of using SLPs

Activity 3.1.2.2 - develop and disseminate materials and information on the project (including new and updated knowledge products, such as videos, training materials, technical guidance, including model regulations and assessment reports) through WHO, Global Mercury Partnership, GGKP and other appropriate channels (websites & webinars)

Activity 3.1.2.3 ? organize and conduct three sub-regional workshops in Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia to involve Parties of the Minamata Convention (financial support by the project to Convention Parties will be evaluated during project inception)

Activity 3.1.2.4 ? present the project at relevant international/regional meetings (COP, ICMGP, Global Mercury Partnership events and other professional venues)

Component 4 Monitoring and Performance Assessment

Project implementation will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis to ensure continued relevance and impact. This is a joint responsibility of UNEP and the Executing Agencies (EAs). Any changes to the workplan will be done in accordance with the approved Project Document and GEF document C.39/Inf.03. Project monitoring and evaluation activities will be conducted in line with the GEF and UNEP procedures. A detailed description of the activities under this component is provided in Section 9: Monitoring and Evaluation.

Day-to-day project management and monitoring will be the responsibility of the EA through the project manager (PM). The project monitoring will start with the inception workshop and the development of a detailed work plan, budget and detailed monitoring and evaluation plan with key stakeholders. The EAs will develop and submit to UNEP technical reports biannually and financial reports every quarter describing the progress according to the work plan and budget, identifying obstacles 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 to provide guidance to the EA, support implementation and ensure that any obstacles pertaining to the project are addressed in a timely manner.

Quarterly progress reports will track the project implementation progress towards the expected objectives. These reports will focus on the timelines and quality of achieved outputs; highlight issues requiring decisions and actions, and present initial lessons learnt about project design, implementation and management.

Monthly calls between the EA and the Implementing Agency (IA) will be agreed upon if the project is not progressing according to the work plan.

The terminal report and final statement of accounts developed by the EAs at the end of the project closes the EA monitoring activities for this project.

Templates for the quarterly progress and financial report, terminal report and final statement of accounts will be provided by UNEP.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies

The proposed project is fully aligned with the GEF7 Focal Area "Chemicals and Waste" and Programming Direction "CW-1-1 Strengthen the sound management of industrial chemicals and their waste through better control, and reduction and/or elimination," as it aims to reduce and possibly eliminate mercury SLPs in both global and national contexts. Furthermore, the project supports the broader sound management of chemicals and waste with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the United Nations policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world. Finally, the project supports the work undertaken by the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (the Partnership) in the products sector. The Partnership was established prior to entry into force of the Minamata Convention to promote early mercury reduction in all major emitting sectors. Existing publications and expertise from the Partnership will assist in different components of the project and the results of the project will improve the guidelines and create greater awareness in phasing out mercury SLPs around the world.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

By integrating the activities of this project with the existing work of WHO and its Global Chemicals and Health Network of health ministries, leverage of financial and knowledge resources will be maximized. In the knowledge management component, this project will build on current efforts to collect, share, and create knowledge resources, such as case studies, guidance documents, and training materials. Building on this existing network is preferable to establishing a new network, and significantly increases the availability of co-financing.

In components 2 and 3, the participation of partners will be critical. Partners will provide significant co-financing in several projects, and the overall project will serve to tie together these activities and their associated private sector involvement and contributions.

It should be noted that the global aspects of the project are designed to magnify the results and impacts of the national projects, as well as coordinating efforts among key actors, and collecting and sharing knowledge generated from each country project. This project will also create new knowledge where stakeholders identify gaps, and support solutions to close these gaps. Finally, the global aspects of the project will help increase the visibility of the SLP problems and solutions, contribute to increased political awareness of the issue, and identify solutions.

The following is an interrelated and mutually supportive contribution strategy that the project will employ from the baseline:

- ? Multi-stakeholder engagement for industry, academic, government, and other stakeholders take part in activities to achieve the objectives of the project;
- ? Broad environmental and health protection initiatives, and other areas, e.g. gender, cultural norms, among others, are linked to existing programs and networks and will build on past and current experiences;
- ? Institutions and networks facilitating exchange of information, and assistance in the promotion of successes achieved under the project; and
- ? South-to-South exchange to facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity building, as well as leveraging success among project countries.

The co-financing for this project will come from a broad range of partners, reflecting the wide interest generated by the project, the seriousness, widespread nature, and complexity of the issue. Co-financing will come from a number of ?Champions? who are vocal advocates against skin lightening, such as top models, fashion designers, and artists. They will be voices in the global

advocacy campaign. Co-financing will also come from NGOs actively working against skin bleaching, to support work on legislation, national and global awareness raising, and specific education for medical professionals about the health hazards of skin bleaching. Below is a brief description of each co-financing partner's contribution and its associated components in the project.

- o **World Health Organization (WHO)** is the lead agency for international health within the United Nations system, working under the guiding principle that all people should enjoy the highest standard of health. WHO will be the executing agency for component 1 and co-execute component 3 with BRI under the project.
- o **UNEP** with its Global Mercury Partnership and Mercury Programme will contribute to the efforts of the project by bringing its convening power and wide expertise on the mercury issue. The Global Mercury Partnership has been active for more than 10 years and UNEP has access to a wide range of experts, both within the Chemicals and Health Branch and outside, who can contribute to the project. UNEP will continue to organise and host the Annual Partnership Advisory Group meeting as well as the Conference of the Parties for the Minamata Convention which will be important platforms for the dissemination of the results of this project under component 3.
- o The **Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)** is an NGO from the United States, which has been a key partner of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership area on mercury added products and is the lead for the Fate and Transport GMP. BRI is currently implementing over 35 projects for the Minamata Convention under contract with UNEP, UNIDO and UNDP and in the context of this global project, BRI's co-financing will contribute to components 2 (as executing agency) and 3 (co-executing with WHO) with through in-kind contributions of time spent that is not covered by the grant.
- o The **BeautyWell** project is an organization that was founded to address the issue of skin lightening practices and chemical exposures in impacted communities in the U.S. The organization's mission is to develop healthy individuals, families and communities through education, research, empowerment, policy and systems changes. BeautyWell's existing work will contribute to components 1 and 3 of the project.
- o **Occidental College, Urban & Environmental Policy Department** has two ongoing studies: 1) conducting a survey of 600 women in California to examine beauty product use. The work is in partnership with community partner Black Women for Wellness and is funded by the California Breast Cancer Research Program for 3 years at \$350,000 (2018-2021). This research supports the State of California's efforts to examine environmental drivers of breast cancer in diverse populations. It is anticipated that the portion of this research that is elucidating beauty product use will provide data on the breadth of skin lightening product use in California; 2) study titled, "Race, Immigration, and the Public Understanding of Science: the case of skin bleaching?", (2020-2023) for \$479,480 from the National Science Foundation. Immigrant communities across different cities are diverse but many communities utilize skin lightening creams, which have been found to contain mercury. These creams can be purchased in culturally specific markets, beauty stores, and through online retailers, with implication for health. The results of the studies will greatly contribute toward all components of the project as they can be used on legislation development, training, and global awareness raising.
- o **Zero Mercury Working Group ? Mercury Policy Project (MPP) and European Environmental Bureau.** The toxic trade of often illegal mercury-added skin-lightening products is a global crisis expected to only worsen with skyrocketing demand. In response, MPP, in collaboration with the European Environmental Bureau and ZMWG, started a global NGO campaign in 2017 to raise awareness and reduce exposure to skin lightening products contaminated with mercury. The focus of the campaign is in support of national government efforts to ban the manufacture, import, export and use of mercury-added cosmetics in line with the Minamata Convention provisions in general support of Article 4 and listed product bans. The campaign will be continuing at least until 2021. In the framework of the proposed project, a ZMWG skin-lightening cream working group was formed with NGOs partners from around the world. Testing by ZMWG in 2018 and again in 2019 confirms that local markets and also internet platforms, such as Amazon and eBay (along with many other online internet marketers

worldwide), are selling toxic, dangerous and often illegal skin-lighteners that have been already identified by many governments around the world as over the legal limit. A report is currently under finalization which will detail information related to local markets and internet platforms that are promoting the sale of SLPs, the anticipated release date for this report will be early 2022. Information obtained from ZMWG's report will assist in the identification of non-conforming SLPs on the market under component 2 of the project and selection of internet marketers under component 3 of the project.

- o **Sierra Club** anticipate continuous involvement in raising awareness on the harmful effects of SLPs at the global level in the coming years. It will cover mercury based skin cream advocacy, product testing and analysis, digital organizing and communication, advertising campaign and travel costs, focus group and materials development. These activities will contribute toward components 2 and 3 of the proposed project.
- o **Label Beaut? Noire** is an NGO based in France that has been working globally for 20 years to inform, support the development of legislation, and raise awareness about the health hazards of skin bleaching. Label Beaut? Noire has organized WorldSkinBleachingDay20, 16 November, 2020, with the support of the Ministry of Health, France. This NGO focuses on working with medical professionals to raise awareness about how to treat black skin. They conduct trainings for doctors, allied health professionals, pharmacists and beauticians. They also have brought together cosmetics industry associations to develop legislation. They are an important partner in this project. The Founder of Label Beaut? Noire is originally from Gabon and has conducted a great deal of work in Gabon against skin bleaching, as well as in other African countries. The messaging developed for Gabon will be made available for use in Gabon's national awareness raising campaign, which will be a significant cost savings for the Ministry of Health and allow the Ministry to move ahead faster using messaging that is already available and tailored for local populations. Additionally, Isabelle will use her personal connections to engage in information campaigns male and female celebrities in Gabon who champion the empowerment of women, girls, and young men who are vocal opponents of skin lightening practices. This will be a significant cost and time savings to the project by already having points of entry to reach celebrities/influencers who have strong direct contact with young people, men, and women through their social media channels. Isabelle's personal relations with celebrities/influencers will preclude requests for payments for participating in the national campaign. The Ministry of Health in Gabon stated it wants to become the leader in Africa in eliminating mercury skin lightening products. The project will benefit greatly from Label Beaut? Noire's years of work in Gabon, Isabelle's contacts, know-how, and culturally appropriate messaging. Her years of work both in Gabon and France will provide important learnings to share both within the project and globally. The experiences from Label Beaute Noire will benefit all three components of the project.
- o **Pantheon of Women Who Inspire** is a unique art exhibition of 400 portraits of women, promoting gender equality and beauty in all skin colors. The exhibition serves as a means of communication towards compassion, tolerance, and peace through the world of women's talent, contribution, and determination. The mission of *Pantheon of Women Who Inspire* is to use these women's stories to inspire and empower young people through the arts. The collection travels to schools, universities, organizations, foundations, galleries, special events, meetings, and more, to raise awareness of beauty in all skin colors, gender equality, and women's potential that can only be realized through self-empowerment. The *Pantheon of Women Who Inspire* contributes to this project through supporting Ministries of Health to develop a national campaign for awareness raising to provide information about the dangers of skin lightening products (under component 1); and by focusing on knowledge management at the global level in the form of a WHO-led global advocacy campaign (under component 3).
- o **UNESCO:** Although no official co-financing letter was obtained, UNESCO's Education and Health Section has expressed interest in being a collaborating partner in the project to further enhance the long-term sustainability of the project, specifically for component 3: WHO-led global

advocacy campaign. Therefore, it will be invited to participate in the project especially to the inception workshop. In-kind contributions under consideration include, but are not limited to: reaching out to children via media or formal education communities such as health messaging through UNESCO's network of community radio networks, especially in Africa and Asia; combining project messaging with UNESCO's existing work with WHO's programs on violence prevention, anti-bullying, and sexual and reproductive health; trying to identify a media group that may be interested in participating in the global campaign; exploring how media operates to influence the use of SLPs in LMICs.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

As Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Gabon, Jamaica, and Sri Lanka have recognized mercury as a global pollutant, needing the government's proactive measures to manage the import, export and manufacture of mercury skin lightening products (SLP). Because mercury is a chemical element, once it is released it will remain in the environment indefinitely, affecting organisms far away from the point of emission. Mercury-containing SLPs have a direct human interface when they come into contact with the skin, thus elevating health risks. The Governments of Gabon, Jamaica and Sri Lanka will directly benefit from the project by increasing compliance with the requirements of the Minamata Convention, particularly with Article 4, Annex A. Direct beneficiaries will include male and female SLP users in the three countries through enhanced awareness of the risks posed by using such products. Through the global awareness campaign, countries outside of the project that engage in the trade and distribution of mercury SLPs and SLPs as a whole, will also benefit from the guidance documents, advocacy materials, and experience gained through the project.

Based on the population and percentages of SLP usage by men and women in all three target countries, the estimated mercury reduction through the project is approximately 2.9 tons per year (Gabon: 0.0043 tons per year; Jamaica: 1.395 tons per year; Sri Lanka: 1.5456 tons per year). This includes a replication factor of 2 through national and global awareness activities. According to available literature and studies, the usage rate in Jamaica is 11% and in Gabon 33%. Data for Sri Lanka were not readily available, therefore, a 40% usage rate was used based on studies conducted in Pakistan. Further assumptions were made that one individual would use, on average, 12 jars of SLPs per year containing approximately 3 grams of mercury. Note that based on official records, only 10-15% of SLPs sold and used globally contain mercury however, many SLPs containing mercury are sold on the black market, making them difficult to identify and track effectively. In terms of demographics, the percentage of men and women SLP users was calculated against the entire population using a 1:1 women vs. men ratio. In reality however, not all age groups would be using SLPs. For simplicity purposes, consumption rates and age of users were applied homogeneously across the three countries.

Specifically, there is an estimated total of 2.9 tons (2,945 kg) of mercury per year used in the three countries. The percentage of SLPs with mercury vary by importation, local production (both legal and black market), and internet sales for each country. Note that estimating the proportion of SLPs with mercury in these four categories is very challenging. However, the project is confident that it can identify many of the legally imported SLPs with mercury in year 1. By year 2, nearly all of the legally imported SLPs with mercury will be identified. By year 3, all legally imported SLPs with mercury will be identified, including locally produced SLPs, internet sales, and some of the 'black market' SLPs.

In Year 1, the project is expected to reduce total consumption of SLPs with mercury by 20% (approximately 600 kg). In Year 2, the project aims to reduce consumption of SLPs with mercury by another 20% (approximately 470 kg), while in Year 3 the project will reduce consumption by another 30% (560 kg) for a total of 1,630 kg of mercury in SLPs over the 3 year project period. The remaining mercury available in SLPs (1,315 kg) will likely be within the black and internet markets which the project will attempt to address but cannot guarantee its success rate due to its unpredictable conditions.

In terms of percentages, the reduction goal (through removed and avoided use of SLPs with Hg) is approximately 50-55% for each country. While the uncertainty within each country of how the percentage of SLPs with Hg vary by access category, the project's approaches will be proportionally successful within each country. The interventions will be able to end most if not all commercial imports of SLPs with mercury, significantly reduce local production of SLPs with mercury, especially in the legal and more open markets, and reduce the purchase of SLPs with mercury through the internet. The black market sales of SLPs with mercury in Jamaica (where it is being produced) and in Sri Lanka (where it is imported illegally) are considered the greatest reduction and avoidance challenges for the project.

$2.9 \text{ tons} \times 50\% \text{ (reduction and avoidance)} \times 2 \text{ (replication factor)} = 2.9 \text{ tons}$

The project is consistent with Chemicals and Waste objective no. 2, which aims to reduce the prevalence of harmful chemicals and waste and support the implementation of clean alternative technologies/substances. Program 4 under the Chemicals and Waste objective calls for the reduction or the elimination of anthropogenic emission and releases of mercury to the environment. In the national dimension, the achievement of the project will ensure healthier lives for existing SLP users. In the regional and international dimensions, the project will contribute towards the global phase-out of SLPs from the market to eliminate the risk to human health and the environment that are posed by such products.

Furthermore, the project will also include recommendations on how to properly manage seized or unused mercury SLPs. This will reduce the quantity of mercury in the local environment and, due to the specificities of mercury (long distance travel through air and water, meaning that local release from anthropogenic sources extend risks to human well-being and ecosystem health well beyond the point of origin), also will have a positive global impact on the environment.

The results of this project will contribute to the replication of good practices and cross-cutting initiatives to promote the phase-out and sound management of mercury SLPs and SLPs as a whole with local, regional and global benefits.

Please refer to Appendix 12 for detailed explanation of the assumptions and calculations. As numerous assumptions were made during the calculations, the final global environment benefits will be closely monitored and verified during the project.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

In order to achieve the ultimate goal of the project, various interventions will be executed simultaneously at the national and global levels. The involvement of both Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment in each project country is key to ensure national ownership and to emphasize the direct health risks that mercury SLPs pose to humans and the environment. Identification of SLP products with mercury content higher than 1ppm is important to demonstrate the level of harm that exists in the current market. Appropriate national regulations on the management, enforcement, and compliance of mercury SLPs will assist to ensure sustainability of project interventions. While regulations and enforcement may not always be effective in altering human behaviors, especially in this case related to perception and preference on appearance, it is

the first step to establish institutional control for such products. Furthermore, the project design includes interventions in both the supply and demand side of mercury SLPs and SLPs in general. On the demand side, extensive awareness raising activities are included trying to influence human behavior towards such products. On the supply side, the project will place efforts in both legal and informal markets selling mercury SLPs in the 3 target countries. The three target countries will serve as model nations demonstrating that interventions through the project are effective in reducing and phasing out mercury SLPs. And lessons learnt can be adopted to different national context and improved as necessary. Other Parties to the Convention will be able to use the tools developed through this project to focus on their own mercury SLPs phase out.

In addition, engagement from the private sector, manufacturers of mercury SLPs and internet platforms, will contribute greatly toward reduced production and availability of mercury SLPs. Again, this will be achieved through extensive awareness raising efforts, both through global campaigns and international meetings to advocate the importance of mercury SLPs phase out.

The sustainability of the project is build on multiple factors. In addition to the political support, reduced production and increased consumer awareness about the toxicity of mercury SLPs are key drivers to make the project successful. Regional and global replication will occur as this is an obligation for Parties to the Minamata Convention. Countries with heavy usage of mercury SLPs and SLPs in general can take the experiences and tools developed through this project to create other innovative approaches in phasing out SLPs taking into consideration national and cultural specificities with emphasis on improving the health and quality of life for SLP users. **Global replication can be further reinforced by involving and coordinating with GGKP. GGKP is UNEP's main knowledge management partner and has the network, ability and potential to scale up activities with other UN agencies and private sector stakeholders.**

Target countries from the project will have to self finance post project activities related to monitoring and enforcement of non-conforming SLP products both in store and online. Continuous awareness raising about the risks of using mercury SLPs at the health professional and general public levels should be sustained at the national level using national resources.

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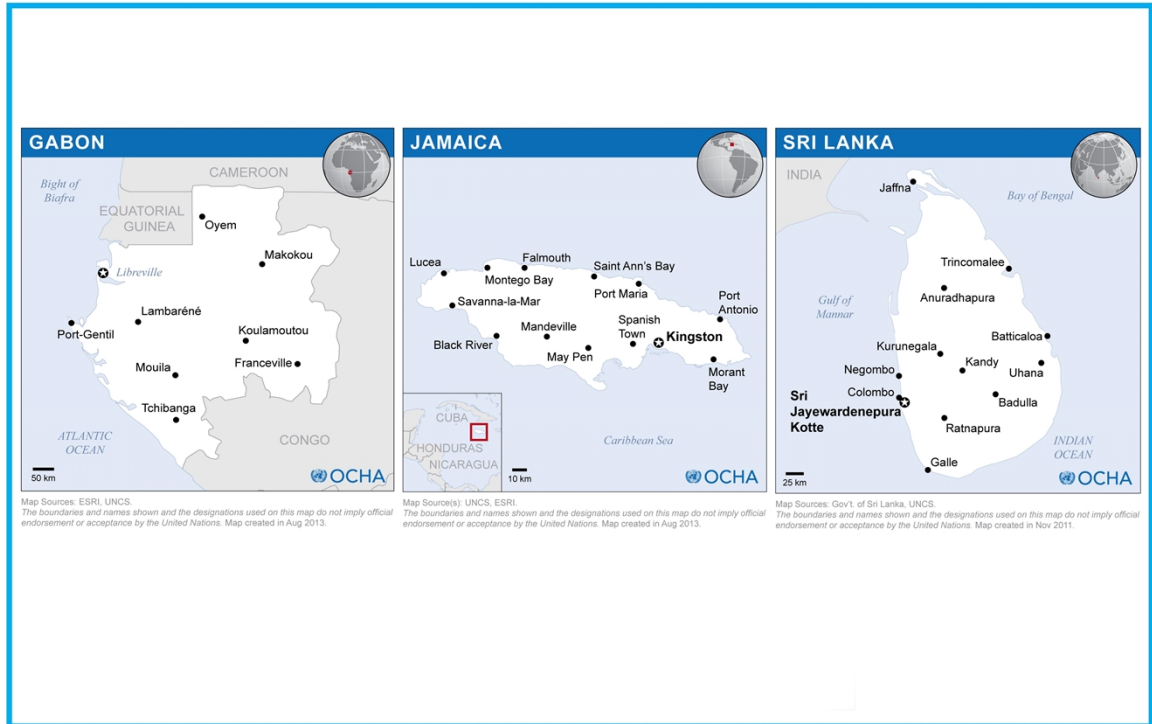
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1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

Eliminating mercury skin lightening products

GEF ID:10810



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

This map is intended for illustrative purposes only, and should not be used to derive any information regarding the project's operations. Based on OCHA/ReliefWeb retrieved from [HTTPS://reliefweb.int/location-maps](https://reliefweb.int/location-maps)

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

Not applicable

2. Stakeholders

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Insufficient resources were available to conduct a stakeholder engagement exercise during project preparation. However, at the project inception stage, a gender expert will be recruited, funded with \$10,000 of co-financing by WHO, to develop a gender action plan and provide advice and guidance on how to integrate gender considerations into project activities. Additionally, the WHO and BRI, as co-executing partners, will develop a gender sensitive communication strategy (including stakeholder engagement plan) at the inception of the project. The executing agencies will present both plans during the first Steering Committee Meeting for adoption.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Stakeholder	Role in the project preparation	Proposed engagement in project
International Governmental Organizations		
Minamata Secretariat	Consulted during project development	Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury will provide available and updated information related to mercury-containing products
UNEP	Led consultation with national project partners, discussing co-finance contributions, and seeking input into the project design. Leader of the Global Mercury Partnership. Co-led consultation with national project partners for their country projects	UNEP Chemicals and Wastes Branch GEF Unit is the IA, responsible for implementing the project, in line with project budget and workplan, and overseeing the Executing Agencies
UNEP Global Mercury Partnership	Provided input into the project design, attended the project formulation workshops. Provided information on baseline projects and co-financing partners. Already has an established roster of experts	The Global Mercury Partnership will provide targeted technical assistance and manage the knowledge platform developed by the project
WHO	Provided input into key health contact points for each of the project countries, and assisted in the planning of the project. Co-led project design and execution arrangements	WHO will be the co-EA, along with BRI. WHO, a UN specialized organization, is the directing and coordinating authority on international health work. WHO will provide support to ministries of health to promote regulatory action to phase out SLPs in line with the Minamata Convention, support health ministries to develop and conduct campaigns to raise awareness among the public and among health workers about the health and environmental hazards of mercury SLPs; create a knowledge platform by developing a global campaign for advocacy about the health and environmental hazards of SLPs; create a public repository of materials for advocacy.
Governments		
Jamaica (Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment)	Consulted on project design	Lead the national project steering committee and oversee the execution of national activities. The experience and lessons learnt from the country will feed into the global knowledge platform and benefit other countries
Gabon (Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment)	Consulted on project design	Lead the national project steering committee and oversee the execution of national activities. The experience and lessons learnt from the country will feed into the global knowledge platform and benefit other countries
Sri Lanka (Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment)	Consulted on project design	Lead the national project steering committee and oversee the execution of national activities. The experience and lessons learnt from the country will feed into the global knowledge platform and benefit other countries
Non-Governmental Organizations		

Biodiversity Research Institute	Co-lead of the Fate and Transport Global Mercury Partnership. BRI prepared the baseline for the project.	BRI will be the co-EA, along with WHO. It will be performing the day-to-day tasks and monitoring of the project's activities. BRI will lead component 2 and contribute heavily to component 3
Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG)	To be consulted during project development and involved during project implementation when appropriate	Complementary ongoing initiatives/activities which synergies can be generated depending on the region of focus; contribution towards components 2 and 3
European Environment Bureau (EEB)	To be consulted during project development and involved during project implementation when appropriate	Complementary ongoing initiatives/activities which synergies can be generated depending on the region of focus; contribution towards components 2 and 3
Occidental College	To be consulted during project development and involved during project implementation when appropriate	Complementary ongoing initiatives/activities which synergies can be generated depending on the region of focus; contribution towards component 2
Label Beaut? Noire	To be consulted during project development and involved during project implementation when appropriate	Complementary ongoing initiatives/activities which synergies can be generated depending on the region of focus; contribution towards all three components
Beauty Well	To be consulted during project development and involved during project implementation when appropriate	Complementary ongoing initiatives/activities which synergies can be generated depending on the region of focus; contribution towards components 1 and 3
Sierra Club	To be consulted during project development and involved during project implementation when appropriate	Complementary ongoing initiatives/activities which synergies can be generated depending on the region of focus; contribution towards components 2 and 3
Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP)	To be consulted during project implementation related to component 3 on knowledge sharing and management at the national and global level	As UNEP Chemical and Waste Portfolio's designated knowledge platform partner, GGKP will liaise with the Global Mercury Partnership and vice versa related to knowledge management and information sharing
Private Sector		
Sema Jonsson: ?Patheon of Women Who Inspire?	To be consulted during project development and involved during project implementation when appropriate	Complementary ongoing initiatives/activities which synergies can be generated depending on the region of focus; contribution towards component 3
National Stakeholders		

<p>Gabon</p> <p>Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Justice, Department of Commerce, Department of Interior, Association of Dermatologist of Gabon, Association of Cosmetic Traders, Wholesale Importers and Distributors, Universities, Manufacturing laboratories, Consumer Association</p>	<p>To be consulted during project development and involved during project implementation</p>	<p>National stakeholders will be champions for the country, leading project activities and ensuring national ownership</p>
<p>Jamaica</p> <p>Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Caribbean Poison Information Network,</p>	<p>To be consulted during project development and involved during project implementation</p>	<p>National stakeholders will be champions for the country, leading project activities and ensuring national ownership</p>
<p>Sri Lanka</p> <p>Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>To be consulted during project development and involved during project implementation</p>	<p>National stakeholders will be champions for the country, leading project activities and ensuring national ownership</p>

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

As mentioned in previous section, insufficient resources were available to conduct a stakeholder engagement exercise during project preparation. However, at the project inception stage, a gender expert will be recruited, funded with \$10,000 of co-financing by WHO, to develop a gender action plan and provide advice and guidance on how to integrate gender considerations into project activities. Additionally, the WHO and BRI, as co-executing partners, will develop a gender sensitive communication strategy (including stakeholder engagement plan) at the inception of the project. The executing agencies will present both plans during the first Steering Committee Meeting for adoption.

Given the disproportionate use of skin bleaching cosmetics by women and the unique dangers to pregnant women and developing fetuses, particular attention was given to gender sensitivity in the stakeholder selection and engagement. Co-financing partners are largely represented by women researchers, women policy advocates, women celebrities, and women-led organizations specialized in information dissemination. Unique gender aspects of this project were highlighted and discussed with representatives of ministries of health and environment when exploring their engagement in the project to ensure they would be integrated in all aspects of the project. Notwithstanding, attention to the use of skin bleaching cosmetics among men also will be addressed.

To this end, targeted and successful outreach was conducted to engage two top models and a fashion designer who are outspoken advocates of "embrace your skin color." These celebrities are enthusiastic about engaging in the global advocacy campaign described under Component 3. Their co-financing contributions of \$1,350,000.00 are included as part of WHO's co-financing for the global campaign.

Both women and men are users of SLPs and are, therefore, at great risk to exposure to toxic chemicals, in particular mercury, hydroquinone, and corticosteroids. Pregnant women are considered a particularly vulnerable group, because mercury exposure during pregnancy can cause serious and irreversible neurological impacts to the fetus. Evidence on reproductive effects in men is limited but exposure to mercury has been reported to decrease sperm count and quality, and also has been linked to an increased risk of miscarriage. This fact adds additional importance to the use of a gender lens throughout the project, where information and materials designed for dissemination to the public address health risks to both men and women, in different ways. The use of SLPs is increasing in prevalence around the world, most notably in Asian, African, Caribbean, and Latin American countries.⁴

It is important to note that sex differences in body burdens of chemicals include biological differences at different times in the lifespan, including biological factors such as the condition of the skin, degree of perspiration, number of hair follicles, and breathing rates; and includes characteristics associated with gender such as diet, lifestyle, personal hygiene, and frequency of use of cosmetics products. As such, the same exposure can result in different outcomes among men and

women. The warm climates of the target countries for this project will play a role in terms of the exposure paths with absorption through perspiration and hair follicles of men versus women.

Because few studies are conducted on women's exposure to chemicals, the ways women's bodies can absorb and store chemicals differently from men's bodies is mostly overlooked in the published literature. Both sex and gender are important foundations to understand how chemical exposure may affect men and women differently.^[1] Understanding the definitions of 'sex' versus 'gender' helps to reduce confusion and broaden understanding of the chemical exposure from a gender perspective. The Committee on Understanding the Biology of Sex and Gender Differences of the U.S. Institute of Medicine defines 'sex' as the 'classification of living things generally as either male or female, according to their reproductive organs and functions assigned by the chromosomal complement,' and 'gender' as 'a person's self-representation as male or female, or how the person is responded to by social institutions on the basis of the individual's gender representation.'

From an equity perspective, it is important to define the sex and gender differences to prevent inaccurate or inequitable health promotion regulations and to highlight that known statistics on adverse health outcomes may be understated of reality, since most regulations setting exposure limits are based on studies of men, while noting that there has been insufficient scientific study of the reproductive health risks to men from mercury exposure. The gender-based aspects and gender-related data on the use of SLPs will be an important factor in the awareness raising parts of this project.

Additionally, the knowledge management will include a discussion of the social determinants of the use of skin lightening creams, including the cultural and psychosocial factors of use of SLPs. According to Boischio and Vaught 2017, 'the historical colonialism and enslavement, idealization of European beauty standards, and barriers of social and economic mobility' have contributed to the use of SLPs and will be used to delineate during awareness raising. While the historical backdrop is important, for today's youth in particular, the impact of social media on the perpetuation and growth of the use of SLPs will be more important as both sources of misleading information to the public, as well as an outlet for spreading evidence-based information, advocacy, and campaign materials. Furthermore, youth engagement of both male and female to alter perceptions and misconceptions toward different skin tones will be emphasized through outreach activities and positive messaging.^[2]

In the experience of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, women often lead civil society activities to reduce the health risks involved in their communities. The empowerment of women's groups and women-led groups can have very beneficial impacts in strengthening community response to unsafe use of skin lightening creams. Empowerment of both women and men to admire their skin tone as is will be an important target message in awareness raising. Outlets of information to men should be reached with information of health risks, particular to men. Male and female international celebrities who champion the empowerment of women, girls, and young men who are vocal opponents of skin lightening practices, will be sought out to become the 'face' of information campaigns.

Information dissemination at both global and national level will provide the opportunity to raise awareness on gender-related issues and promote gender equality by developing materials in a gender sensitive manner to ensure that learning opportunities are available to and effective for both men and women. Dissemination of evidence of negative impacts on male and female reproductive health can be particularly powerful.

^[1] Wizemann TM and Pardue ML (Eds.), 2001. 'Exploring the Biological Contributions to Human Health: Does Sex Matter?', National Academy Press, Washington, DC, in Messing K and Stellman JM June 2006. 'Sex, Gender and Women's Occupational Health: The Importance of Considering Mechanism,' Environmental Research, A Multidisciplinary Journal of Environmental Sciences, Ecology, and Public Health, 101 (2):150.

^[2] Boischio, A. and E. Vaught. 2017. 'Mercury added in skin-lightening products: Toxicological note'. Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on private sector engagement in the project, if any

The private sector will be engaged all 3 project components of the project. For example, under component 1, governments in the project countries will actively engage with companies manufacturing SLPs as well as with industry associations, if they exist. The governments will need to inform manufacturers and retailers of their obligations as regulations and enforcement strategies are developed and strengthened. Under component 2, global and local mercury SLP supply chain actors will be identified and engaged in an attempt to stop production/trade/distribution of SLPs. There will be follow-up with online retailers, such as Amazon and eBay. Under component 3, health-related information will be shared with Cosmetics Europe for their distribution to their member cosmetics companies and other industry associations will be approached to do so. The global advocacy campaign will encourage diverse stakeholders to outreach directly to manufacturers. **In addition, GGKP's Green Industry Platform will be useful and helpful towards outreach to the private sector.**

Engaging co-financing from cosmetics companies has been a challenge for this project. While large brand name manufacturers bound by EU or North American legislation, for example, no longer include mercury in their SLPs, they do continue to produce skin lightening products which may contain other toxic chemicals and which in any case promote the practice of skin lightening. To protect human health and the environment, the WHO promotes the non-use of any SLPs. In developing the project proposal WHO reached out to cosmetics industry associations in an attempt to engage them in the project, however, either their member companies produce SLPs or they did not respond to WHO's outreach. Although engagement for co-financing was not possible with these organizations, the Director General of Cosmetics Europe has agreed to share WHO health-related information generated by this project with their member companies.

Based on the anticipation of engagement with the private sector manufacturing and promoting SLPs, their actual contribution and active participation toward the project will be more apparent and easier to document during project execution.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risks	Level	Mitigation
COVID related		

<p>Increased COVID-19 exposure risk to project staff</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>There is a low risk to contract the virus during sample collection. To mitigate, the project will develop a sampling protocol to include personal protection equipment requirements based on the actual guidelines of WHO and the country health authorities during implementation. Best practices with regard to personal hygiene, PPE, social distancing and other measures will be followed by project staff. Compliance will be monitored by the project manager</p>
<p>Limited mobility of project team due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic inhibits project execution</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>All meetings and awareness events can be conducted online. Although not as effective, the frequency and location of meetings can and will be adjusted according to the development of the pandemic. The project envisages the majority of field work and awareness raising events beginning in Year 2 (2022). In the event that the current situation has not improved and movement is restricted (domestically and internationally) the project will be adjusted accordingly, including utilising remote guidance of international experts and an increased reliance on local experts</p>

Unavailability or lack of Ministry of Health staff due to change in responsibilities caused by COVID19 pandemic	Medium to High	The national project coordinators to be recruited by WHO through the project will be briefed, prepared and expected to take greater coordinating and liaising responsibilities with Ministry of Health in the respective countries in case of changing responsibilities of Ministry staff due to the pandemic
Climate Change related		
Impact of climate change on project activities	Low	Given the nature of the project, climate change will have limited impact on planned project activities
Politically related		
Change in the political and economic situation during the lifetime of the project impacts its implementation	Medium	All three target countries have ratified the Minamata Convention and are under the obligation to implement it. The project is in line with the requirements of Article 4 under the Convention. Project stakeholders have built a strong working relationship with the people directly involved in overseeing compliance to these obligations
Inability or lack of capacity for government to provide adequate support services	Medium	The project will assist government partners in 1) identifying gaps in the implementation of its mandate, especially in regulations of mercury SLPs, and 2) creating avenues or programs that can address the gaps identified
Others		

Effective private sector involvement is difficult to achieve	Moderate	For the long-term sustainability of the project, continuous support from the private sector is necessary. Based on corporate social responsibility goals and targets in the private industry, and in line with appropriate regulations in place, further cooperation and investment from the private sector is expected and beneficial
Ensure capacity building and knowledge transfer on management of mercury SLPs	Moderate	Capacity transfer and the integration of mercury-containing products management and knowledge in local and national institutions are among the most challenging aspects of the project. However, the length and quality of the project interventions will allow for gradual and systematic training of the institutions
Unable to manage the informal market and cottage industry governing the production and sale of mercury SLPs	Moderate	Informal markets and cottage industry are prevalent in several countries, therefore, given the length and quality of intervention from the project, improvements in the informal markets are expected
Existing gender bias in target countries	Moderate	This is one of the tasks of the gender expert to be recruited by the project. The gender expert will review the gender inequality indices of the three target countries and the Global Gender Gap Report (WEF) to assess how to include gender sensitive activities in the project

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Implementing Agency (IA): This project will be implemented by UNEP. UNEP will be responsible for the overall project supervision, overseeing the project progress through monitoring and evaluation of project activities and progress reports. It will be responsible for quality assurance procedures, organize

contracting with the Executing Agencies (EAs), approve progress reports and clear disbursements. The IA will also monitor progress to ensure the quality of outputs. It will report the project implementing progress to the GEF and will take part in the Project Steering Committee (PSC). UNEP will closely collaborate with the EAs and provide them with administrative support in the implementation of the project.

Executing Agencies (EA): WHO and BRI will be the co-executing agencies for this project with targeted technical inputs from UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. As co-EAs, the key roles of WHO and BRI include:

- o Establishing and housing the project executing unit (PEU)
- o Perform day-to-day tasks, including monitoring, on approved project activities. WHO and BRI will report to the IA and provide narrative, financial updates and auditing (Audit is required for BRI only)
- o Act as co-secretaries for the Global Project Steering Committee (PSC)
- o (WHO) Recruit and manage national project coordinators (NPC)

Project Executing Unit: The PEU (housed at both WHO and BRI as related to the EA that leads the respective output) will be staffed by a Project Manager. The role of the PEU is to:

- o Ensure Project execution (all technical aspects of project execution)
- o Ensure project governance and oversight of the financial resources from GEF investment
- o Provide expertise in guiding and advancing the project
- o Ensure gender mainstreaming by approaching men and women according to their different needs and contexts through customized gender action plans in each country
- o Sharing all achievements and project products/outputs with stakeholders
- o Supervise respective consultants and project partner organizations to deliver against their contracts and in time
- o Organize the PSC meetings
- o Manage and implement the project results and output level M&E framework, to evaluate project performance
- o Manage the flow of information from the field and produce periodic monitoring reports

Global Project Steering Committee: The PSC's membership includes the GEF, the IA and representatives from the target countries. Other other national and international stakeholders will attend as observers. The EAs hold the role of secretariat to the PSC. The PSC will meet four times over the course of the project. Where feasible and appropriate, meetings will be convened back to back with other relevant events or held via videoconference as needed and appropriate, to contain costs.

PSC meetings will be organized by WHO and BRI. The role of the PSC is to:

- o Provide overall guidance and ensure coordination among all participating organizations
- o Approve the annual work plan and budget
- o Oversee any corrective actions needed
- o Enhance synergy between the GEF project and other on-going initiatives globally and nationally

National Project Steering Committee: The national project steering committees in each country will be co-led by Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment. The committee will also include Customs, civil society organizations and academics that work on mercury and SLPs, the National Project Coordinator (to be recruited by WHO) and the private sector. The national project steering committee will meet every 6 months or on an as-needed basis to:

- Provide overall guidance and ensure coordination among all participating organizations nationally
- Approve the annual work plan and budget for the country grant received
- Oversee any corrective actions needed
- Enhance synergy between the GEF project and other on-going initiatives nationally

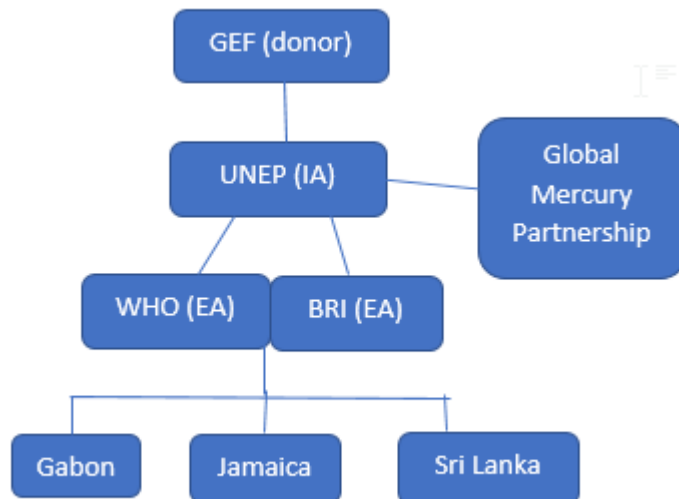


Figure 2. Executing Arrangement

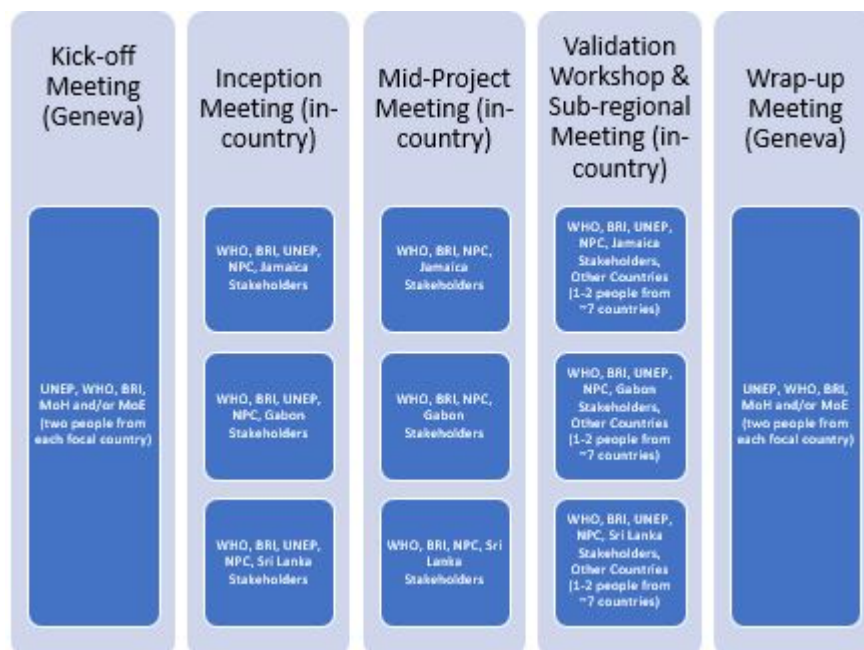


Figure 3. Meeting Structure

As indicated in the risk section, the COVID-19 global pandemic will have some impact on project activities. During the collection and sampling of various skin lightening products, a protocol to be developed to include requirements on personal protective equipment based on actual WHO and country health authorities' specific guidelines. Best practices with regard to personal hygiene, PPE, social distancing and other measures will followed by project staff. In addition, the global awareness campaign and activities can all be carried out online instead of in person. Although not the same effectiveness, the frequency and location of meetings can and will be adjusted according to the development of the pandemic. The project envisages the majority of field work and awareness raising events beginning in Year 2 (2022). In the event that the current situation has not improved and movement is restricted (domestically and internationally) the project will be adjusted accordingly, including utilising remote guidance of international experts and an increased reliance on local experts and events. Under the circumstances that Ministry of Health is fully occupied with the pandemic and insufficient number of personnel is available to work on the project, the national project coordinators to be recruited by WHO will be expected and prepared to take greater coordinating and liaising responsibilities with Ministry of Health. In sum, project activities will coordinate closely with actual

country specific situation and measures in place to ensure full compliance with safety and hygiene requirements against the virus.

Complementary activities between the proposed project and GEFID 10218 to be implemented by AfDB will also be considered during execution.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

As Parties of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Gabon, Jamaica, and Sri Lanka endorsed the requests of the Minamata Convention described below:

- o To undertake, subject to the availability of resources, capacity building and training activities to support Parties in order to facilitate the development, review and constant updating of obligations to the Minamata Convention in a harmonized manner with the reporting,
- o Development of effective strategies to prevent the diversion of mercury for use in cosmetics by supporting activities such as education, outreach and capacity building initiatives; provision of technical and financial assistance; and partnerships to assist in the implementation of their commitments.

All three target countries have completed (Jamaica) or almost completed (Gabon and Sri Lanka) their Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs). An MIA provides an opportunity for a country to undertake a mercury inventory, determine and agree upon the measures it will take to implement the Convention, estimate associated costs, and communicate this information in a concise and clear manner to government partners, national stakeholders, national and international experts, and consultants. MIAs developed in the three countries will be updated and improved regularly following feedback and sharing of experiences from this project. It is important to note that the inventory prepared and information gathered under MIAs for mercury-added products will provide a baseline for the design of specific intervention in each country.

In terms of national priorities, the three project countries have identified mercury-added products, particularly the management of cosmetic products, as an area that requires delicate and sensitive interventions since the application of SLPs is closely associated with cultural, societal, and historical influences. Each country has varying degrees of testing capabilities and controls in place to regulate mercury in SLPs. Furthermore, all three governments have indicated strong interest to improve the management of their SLPs markets by fully supporting the objectives of this project.

Beyond the environmental dimension, the socio-economic baseline information the project requires will assist each participating country's government in developing strategies and solutions to mitigate the exposure of vulnerable populations to mercury pollution through awareness raising and development of alternatives and viable solutions. The project also contributes to participating countries' UNDAF (United Nations Development Assistance Framework):

- (i) Gabon (2018-2022): The project will assist to develop a strategic plan to manage mercury in products by reducing risks and mercury use in the population, hence protecting the environment and strengthening multistakeholder coordinating mechanisms to contribute to the right to live in a healthy environment and to ensure sustainable management of resources for future generations.
- (ii) Jamaica (United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean 2017-2021): The project will contribute towards priority area 4 on more sustainable production patterns that ensure a healthier environment and priority area 2 on a healthy Caribbean with laws, policies, and systems introduced to support healthy lifestyles among all segments of the population.
- (iii) Sri Lanka (2018-2022): The project will contribute towards strategic drivers 1 on improving data, knowledge management and evidence-based policy and driver 4 on

enhancing resilience to climate change and disasters and strengthening environmental management.

Finally, the project will assist the countries in fulfilling their legal obligation as a party to the Minamata Convention to phase out mercury-added skin lightening products. As mentioned earlier, per Article 4 Annex A of the Convention, Parties shall phase out manufacture, import or export of cosmetics with mercury content above 1 ppm by 2020. Under this ambitious goal, all three countries have been working diligently toward fulfilling this requirement, however, additional resources and guidance are needed to generate effective and practical solutions to this problem. The three countries will serve as leaders for others that are also facing similar constraints on the issue. Through the project, legislation will be developed/enhanced to fulfill the phase out requirements of the Convention and to remove products that are currently on the market and in circulation.

UNEP Sub-programme 5: Chemicals, waste and air quality

The implementation of the project has a direct link to the objective of sub-program 5 of the UNEP proposed biennial program of work, which states promoting a transition among countries to the sound management of chemicals and waste to minimize impacts on the environment and human health. This program of work will expect that involved countries increasingly have the necessary institutional capacity and policy instruments to manage chemicals and waste soundly, including the implementation of related provisions in the multilateral environmental agreements.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

The WHO and BRI, as co-executing partners, will develop a gender sensitive communication strategy at the inception of the project. This plan will include a detailed work plan and associated budget and be presented at the first Steering Committee Meeting for adoption. Since the proposed project focuses heavily on awareness raising campaigns at the national and global scale, this strategy will serve as a guiding document for all knowledge management activities.

In Year 2, the project will provide grants of USD \$42,000 to the Ministries of Health to develop and launch awareness raising campaigns on the risks associated with mercury SLPs and the government's obligation to phase out the manufacture, import, and export of mercury SLPs. Campaigns will include developing easy-to-access and understandable information for the public and for health care providers. WHO will provide catalytic support, together with BRI and the Global Mercury Partnership. Knowledge generated by this project will also be disseminated through the GGKP. GGKP is the executing agency for the GEF ISLANDS Programme: global communication and coordination project, therefore, effective outreach to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) communities will be thoroughly conducted.

An explicit aim of the project is to collate, connect, and make available evidence, knowledge, experiences, and good practice examples from countries to stimulate the reduction in demand, and ultimately eliminate SLPs, and to catalyze broader action by countries needing to meet their health-related obligations under the Minamata Convention.

In Year 3, WHO, with relevant contributions from the Global Mercury Partnership's and BRI's Communication Teams, will develop a global advocacy campaign. This will include the creation of a variety of knowledge products, such as video, factsheets, fliers, use of social media and school-based educational initiatives. Advocacy materials and guidance for Ministries of Health will be translated into UN languages for wider use by different regions. Knowledge materials will be housed in a newly-created web-based knowledge repository and disseminated globally by WHO and the Global Mercury

Partnership to key stakeholders and beyond, as detailed in component 3. To share lessons learned and experiences from different countries and relevant projects are one of key roles of the Global Mercury Partnership. Linkages and exchanges among all SLP related projects and the Mercury in Products Sector Area under the Partnership will be one of the main activities for the Global Mercury Partnership.

To this end, also in Year 3, both Parties and non-Parties of the Minamata Convention that have SLPs as one of their mercury-related priorities will be invited to sub-regional workshops, held in project countries, where experiences and lessons learnt by project countries and other countries in the sub-region will be shared. The project will not financially support Non-Parties to the Minamata Convention.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Day to day monitoring of the global project is the responsibility of the executing agencies. The EAs will prepare a quarterly progress report to ensure proper supervision by the IA.

In addition to this regular monitoring, the project will be reviewed annually at the Global Project Steering Committee meeting. In line with UNEP Evaluation and Policy and the GEF's Monitoring and Evaluation Policy the project will be subject to an independent Terminal Evaluation. The Evaluation Office will be responsible for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) and will liaise with the project manager throughout the process.

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. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. 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 learnt among UNEP staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project's operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office to feed into the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalised.

The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process. The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the project manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalisation of the Recommendations Implementation Plan.

The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible	Budget	Timeframe
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Inception workshop & report	Review of project activities, output and intended outcomes: detailed work planning	EAs	0	Within two months of project start
Global Project Steering Committee meetings	Review of progress against approved workplan and budget and help provide advice to the Project Manager to ensure project achieves desired outputs and outcomes; Provide guidance to project Manager so that project business case remains valid, especially among stakeholders whose behaviour must change if project is to achieve its planned results; Provide guidance to Project Manager on needed changes or revisions of project	EAs	0	Steering committee meetings will be organized 4 times over the course of the project.
Quarterly financial reports	Assess that resources are being utilised optimally according to the approved workplan	EAs	0	31 January, 30 April, 31 July and 30 September
Quarterly progress reports and annual Project Implementation Review	Progress and effectiveness review, including for GEF. Documentation of lessons learnt	EAs	0	31 January, 30 April, and 31 July and 30 September

Project Implementation Report	Progress and effectiveness review, including for GEF. Documentation of lessons learnt	EAs / IA	0	31 July
Terminal report	Reviews effectiveness against implementation plan; Highlights technical outputs; Identifies lessons learnt and likely design approaches for future projects; assesses likelihood of achieving design outcomes	EAs	0	1 month after the completion of the technical activities
Terminal evaluation	Reviews effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation, coordination mechanisms and outputs. Identifies lessons learnt and likely remedial actions for future projects Highlights technical achievements and assesses against prevailing benchmarks	UNEP Evaluation Office	40,000	No later than 6 months after the completion of technical activities
Financial audit	Reviews use of project funds against budget and assesses probity of expenditure and transactions	EAs	Under PMC	No later than 6 months after completion of technical activities
Total M&E Cost			40,000	

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The project does not have direct socioeconomic benefits to the general public in the three target countries as the interventions will not increase jobs, income nor wealth of any sector in society. However, it will increase the knowledge and education on the risks of using mercury SLPs to various levels of stakeholders in the three target countries and globally. In addition, the project will discourage societal preferences for lighter color skin and reduce media/TV advertisements and advice that directly and indirectly encourage SLP usage. Consumers will be exposed to a high level of awareness on the harmful effects of chemicals present in SLPs through clear labels and advocacy campaigns. Healthy individuals without any prejudice or preference toward skin color will contribute toward a more harmonized, fair, and progressive society. The aim of the project is directly aligned with the Minamata Convention. Furthermore, given the potential health risks posed by mercury, there are tremendous health benefits in phasing out mercury SLPs and SLPs in general around the world. Healthy individuals will contribute to well-being of communities and the productivity and prosperity of a country as whole. In addition to the goals of national mercury reduction and global commitment in phasing out mercury SLPs and SLPs in general, the project also addresses Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 10 (Reducing Inequality), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Screening checklist	Y/N/ Maybe	Justification for the response (please provide answers to each question)
Guiding Principles (these questions should be considered during the project development phase)		
GP1 Has the project analyzed and stated those who are interested and may be affected positively or negatively around the project activities, approaches or results?	Y	The project will make an effort to include any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular vulnerable and marginalized groups, including decision making processes that may affect them
GP2 Has the project identified and engaged vulnerable, marginalized people, including disabled people, through the informed, inclusive, transparent and equal manner on potential positive or negative implication of the proposed approach and their roles in the project implementation?	Maybe	The project has identified but not yet engaged vulnerable and marginalized people in the project development process

GP3 Have local communities or individuals raised human rights or gender equality concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	N	No issues have been raised during project development
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GP4 Does the proposed project consider gender-balanced representation in the design and implementation?

Y

The gender-based aspects and gender-related data on the use of SLPs will be an important factor in the awareness-raising parts of this project. The empowerment of women's groups and women-led groups can have very beneficial impacts in strengthening community response to unsafe use of skin lightening creams.

Empowerment of both women and men to admire their skin tone as is will be an important target message in awareness-raising. Outlets of information to men should be reached with information of health risks, particular to men. Male and female black international celebrities who champion the empowerment of women, girls, and young men, will be sought out to become the 'face' of information campaigns

Information dissemination at both global and national level will provide the opportunity to raise awareness on gender-related issues and promote gender equality by developing materials in a gender sensitive manner to ensure that learning opportunities are

GP5 Did the proposed project analyze relevant gender issues and develop a gender responsive project approach?	Y	Please see response above
GP6 Does the project include a project-specific grievance redress mechanism? If yes, state the specific location of such information.	N	This is not planned
GP7 Will or did the project disclose project information, including the safeguard documents? If yes, please list all the webpages where the information is (or will be) disclosed.	N	This is to be decided during the inception workshop
GP8 Were the stakeholders (including affected communities) informed of the projects and grievance redress mechanism? If yes, describe how they were informed.	N	Only project partners and country representatives who will be involved in the activities are informed
GP9 Does the project consider potential negative impacts from short-term net gain to the local communities or countries at the risk of generating long-term social or economic burden? [1]	N	Not applicable to this project
GP10 Does the project consider potential partial economic benefits while excluding marginalized or vulnerable groups, including women in poverty?	N	Not applicable to this project
Safeguard Standard 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
1.1 conversion or degradation of habitats (including modified habitat, natural habitat and critical natural habitat), or losses and threats to biodiversity and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services?	N	No, the project focuses on the phase out skin lightening products, it will have no impact on natural habitat
1.2 adverse impacts specifically to habitats that are legally protected, officially proposed for protection, or recognized as protected by traditional local communities and/or authoritative sources (e.g. National Park, Nature Conservancy, Indigenous Community Conserved Area, (ICCA); etc.)?	N	The project will have no impact to natural habitat
1.3 conversion or degradation of habitats that are identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation and biodiversity value?	N	The project will not convert or degrade any habitats
1.4 activities that are not legally permitted or are inconsistent with any officially recognized management plans for the area?	N	No such activities are planned under the project
1.5 risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	N	The project poses no risks to endangered species
1.6 activities that may result in soil erosion, deterioration and/or land degradation?	N	The project will not result in soil erosion, deterioration and/or land degradation

1.7 reduced quality or quantity of ground water or water in rivers, ponds, lakes, other wetlands?	N	The project will not reduce quality or quantity of ground water or other water bodies
1.8 reforestation, plantation development and/or forest harvesting?	N	The project will not involve reforestation, plantation development and/or forest harvesting
1.9 support for agricultural production, animal/fish production and harvesting	N	The project will not involve agricultural production, animal/fish production and harvesting
1.10 introduction or utilization of any invasive alien species of flora and fauna, whether accidental or intentional?	N	The project will not involve introduction or utilization of any invasive alien species of flora and fauna
1.11 handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms?	N	The project will not handle or utilize genetically modified organisms
1.12 collection and utilization of genetic resources?	N	The project will not collect or utilize genetic resources
Safeguard Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
2.1 improving resilience against potential climate change impact beyond the project intervention period?	N	The project will not improve resilience against potential climate change impact
2.2 areas that are now or are projected to be subject to natural hazards such as extreme temperatures, earthquakes, extreme precipitation and flooding, landslides, droughts, severe winds, sea level rise, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions in the next 30 years?	N	The project will not involve areas that are now or are projected to be subject to natural hazards

2.3	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change (e.g. changes in precipitation, temperature, salinity, extreme events)?	N	The project will not lead to outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change
2.4	local communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks (e.g. considering level of exposure and adaptive capacity)?	N	The project will not involve local communities vulnerable to the impact of climate change and disaster risks
2.5	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	N	The project will not increase GHG emissions
2.6	Carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse emissions, resource-efficient and low carbon development, other measures for mitigating climate change	N	The project will not involve carbon sequestration and reduction of GHG emissions
Safeguard Standard 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency			
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>			
3.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or <u>transboundary impacts</u> ?	N	The project will not release any pollutants to the environment, it is actually trying to prevent further release of mercury SLPs into the environment
3.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	Y	The project will aim to reduce the manufacturing, trade and distribution of mercury SLPs in three regions of the world, it will increase the amount of mercury SLP entering into the waste stream, however, the project includes activities that will increase country capacity in managing unused and seized mercury SLPs

3.3 the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	Y	The project will aim to reduce the manufacturing, trade and distribution of mercury SLPs
3.4 the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? (e.g. DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol , Minamata Convention , Basel Convention , Rotterdam Convention , Stockholm Convention)	N	The Minamata Convention Article 4 bans the manufacturing and sale of SLPs with mercury level over 1ppm, this project aims to phase out these products globally
3.5 the application of pesticides or fertilizers that may have a negative effect on the environment (including non-target species) or human health?	N	The project will not involve application of pesticides or fertilizers
3.6 significant consumption of energy, water, or other material inputs?	N	The project will not have significant consumption of energy, water, or other material inputs
Safeguard Standard 4: Community Health, Safety and Security		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
4.1 the design, construction, operation and/or decommissioning of structural elements such as new buildings or structures (including those accessed by the public)?	N	The project will not involve the design, construction, operations and /or decommissioning of structure elements
4.2 air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, physical hazards, water runoff?	N	The project will not lead to air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, physical hazards nor water runoff
4.3 exposure to water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable or noncommunicable diseases?	N	The project will not lead to exposure of waster borne or other vector borne diseases
4.4 adverse impacts on natural resources and/or ecosystem services relevant to the communities? health and safety (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	N	The project will not have adverse impacts on natural resources

4.5 transport, storage use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. fuel, explosives, other chemicals that may cause an emergency event)?	Maybe	The project will involve the transport, storage and disposal of mercury SLPs as best management practices will be promoted through the project
4.6 engagement of security personnel to support project activities (e.g. protection of property or personnel, patrolling of protected areas)?	N	The project will not engage security personnel
4.7 an influx of workers to the project area or security personnel (e.g. police, military, other)?	N	The project will not lead to an influx of workers to the project area
Safeguard Standard 5: Cultural Heritage		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
5.1 activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	N	The project is not involved with cultural heritage sites
5.2 adverse impacts to sites, structures or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or to intangible forms of cultural heritage (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)?	N	The project does not have adverse impacts to sites, structures or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values
5.3 utilization of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes (e.g. use of objects, practices, traditional knowledge, tourism)?	N	The project does not utilize cultural heritage or commercial or other purposes
5.4 alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	N	The project does not alter landscapes and natural features with cultural significance
5.5 significant land clearing, demolitions, excavations, flooding?	N	The project does not lead to significant land clearing, demolitions, excavations, flooding
5.6 identification and protection of cultural heritage sites or intangible forms of cultural heritage		
Safeguard Standard 6: Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		

6.1 full or partial physical displacement or relocation of people (whether temporary or permanent)?	N	The project does not involve physical displacement or relocation of people
6.2 economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to assets affecting for example crops, businesses, income generation sources)?	N	The project does not lead to economic displacement
6.2 involuntary restrictions on land/water use that deny a community the use of resources to which they have traditional or recognizable use rights?	N	The project will not lead to involuntary restrictions on land/water use
6.3 risk of forced evictions?	N	The project will have no risk of forced evictions
6.4 changes in land tenure arrangements, including communal and/or customary/traditional land tenure patterns (including temporary/permanent loss of land)?	N	The project will not lead to change in land tenure arrangements
Safeguard Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
7.1 areas where indigenous peoples are present or uncontacted or isolated indigenous peoples inhabit or where it is believed these peoples may inhabit?	N	The project will not involve indigenous people
7.2 activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	N	The project will not involve activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous people
7.3 impacts to the human rights of indigenous peoples or to the lands, territories and resources claimed by them?	N	The project will not involve indigenous people
7.4 the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	N	The project will not involve indigenous people
7.5 adverse effects on the development priorities, decision making mechanisms, and forms of self-government of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	N	The project will not involve indigenous people
7.6 risks to the traditional livelihoods, physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	N	The project will not involve indigenous people
7.7 impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	N	The project will not involve indigenous people

Safeguard Standard 8: Labor and working conditions		
8.1 Will the proposed project involve hiring or contracting project staff?	Y	The project will hire approximately 5 project staff (2 international and 3 nationals)
<i>If the answer to 8.1 is yes, would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
8.2 working conditions that do not meet national labour laws or international commitments (e.g. ILO conventions)?	N	The project will provide working conditions that meet national labor laws
8.3 the use of forced labor and child labor?	N	The project will not involve forced labor nor child labor
8.4 occupational health and safety risks (including violence and harassment)?	N	The project will not have any occupational health and safety risks
8.5 the increase of local or regional unemployment?	N	The project will not increase local or regional unemployment
8.6 suppliers of goods and services who may have high risk of significant safety issues related to their own workers?	N	The suppliers and services providers to the project will not have high risk of significant safety issues related to their own workers
8.7 unequal working opportunities and conditions for women and men	N	The project will not lead to unequal working opportunities and conditions for women and men

[\[U\]](#)For example, a project may consider investing in commercial shrimp farm by clearing the nearby mangrove forest to improve the livelihood of the coastal community. However, long term economic benefit from the shrimp farm may be significantly lower than the mangroves if we consider full costs factoring safety from storms, soil protection, water quality, biodiversity and so on.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
1867 SRIF_mercruy in skin lightening products MSP	CEO Endorsement ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Annex A: Project Logical Framework

Intermediate impact	Intermediate Impact level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP Programme of Work (PoW) reference and link to SDGs
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<p>Countries are able to reduce or phase out mercury SLPs (>1 ppm) as per Article 4 of the Minamata Convention</p>	<p>? # quantity of mercury reduced in target countries</p> <p>? # quantity of mercury SLPs reduced in target countries</p>	<p>Absence of legislation, enforcement, data and awareness to adequately phase out mercury containing SLPs</p>	<p>End of project Target: A total of approximately 2.9 tons (2,945 kg) of mercury is expected to be reduced through the project in the three target countries. In Year 1, the project is expected to reduce total consumption of SLPs with mercury by 20% (approximately 600 kg). In Year 2, the project will aim to reduce consumption of SLPs with mercury by another 20% (approximately 470 kg), while in Year 3, the project will reduce consumption by another 30% or (560 kg) for a total of 1,630 kg of mercury in SLPs over the 3 year project period. The remaining mercury</p>	<p>Surveys and progress reports</p>	<p>Risks: Change in the political and economic situation during the lifetime of the project impacts its implementation</p> <p>Assumptions: Governments are engaged in creating enabling environment for phasing out mercury containing SLPs</p>	<p>Subprogramme 5: chemical, waste and air quality</p> <p>SDG3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</p> <p>SDG 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and</p>
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Outcome 1.1	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	
1.1 Project countries regulate mercury SLPs in line with the Minamata Convention	No. of countries adopting new policies and strategies on SLPs (impact class 4)	All three governments are undertaking some steps to regulate mercury SLPs but additional assistance is needed to expedite and reinforce the efforts (Gabon has existing SLP regulations but need strengthening on enforcement and compliance)	End of project Target Three countries adopted new policies and strategies	- Events or activities reports - Policies and laws developed/strengthened	<p>Risks</p> <p>Governments sideline the issue of mercury SLPs management and fail to put it forward as an agenda for policy change and support</p> <p>Inability or lack of capacity for governments to provide adequate support services</p> <p>Assumptions</p> <p>Governments engaged in creating enabling environment for mercury SLP management</p>	

Component outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	
Output 1.1.1: Project countries have established or improved legislation based on developed model regulations	# of regulations established or strengthened (Activity 1.1.1.1) (impact indicator 4.1)	Some regulations exist but not sufficient to phase out mercury SLPs in target countries	End of project Target: At least three legislations revised/established (one per target country)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation related events or activities reports and list of participants - Sample of established or strengthened regulations 	<p>Risks Inability or lack of capacity for governments to provide adequate support services</p> <p>Assumptions Governments engaged in creating enabling environment for management of mercury SLPs</p>	

<p>Output 1.1.2: Project countries have strengthened capacity to develop enforcement and compliance strategies to support legislation on SLPs</p>	<p>? Availability of guidance on enforcement and compliance (Activity 1.1.2.1) (impact indicator 4.1)</p>	<p>Guidance on enforcement and compliance for the management of mercury SLPs not available</p>	<p>End of project Target: At least one set of guidance on enforcement and compliance developed, customized and distributed in 3 target countries</p>	<p>- Guidance document itself</p>	<p>Risks Inability or lack of capacity for governments to provide adequate support services</p> <p>Assumptions Governments engaged in creating enabling environment for management of mercury SLPs</p>
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<p>Output 1.1.3 Health professionals and the general public in target countries have increased awareness of health risks associated with mercury SLPs</p>	<p># targeted audience individuals engaging/accessing/using awareness materials (impact indicator 8.2) (Activities 1.1.3.1, 1.1.3.2, and 1.1.3.3)</p>	<p>Minimal specific events or activities have been conducted on raising awareness on SLPs</p>	<p>End of project Target: At least 50 individuals (sex disaggregated data) in each target country accessing outreach materials and participating in awareness raising events or activities targeting public and health professionals</p> <p>At least 40% women participation in meetings (size of meetings not known at project design therefore quantifiable targets cannot be determined at this time)</p>	<p>- Awareness-raising materials - Events or activities agenda and attendees lists - Tracking of downloads from websites</p>	<p>Risks Inability or lack of capacity for governments to provide adequate support services</p> <p>Assumptions Governments engaged in creating enabling environment for management of mercury SLPs</p>	
Outcome 2	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	

<p>2.1. Target countries have reduced local production, trade and distribution of mercury SLPs</p>	<p>Quantity of SLPs reduced (impact class 1) No. of people demonstrating increased knowledge and capacity (impact class 10)</p>	<p>There is lack of experience and effort in reducing the production, trade and distribution of mercury SLPs</p>	<p>End of project Target: At least 50% reduction in production, trade and distribution in each target country (global market is an indirect effect as some SLPs are exported to or traded in other countries)</p> <p>30 enforcement officers, 60 supply chain stakeholders and 3 laboratories have increased knowledge and capacity</p>	<p>- Production, trade and distribution data on mercury SLPs - Import and export data on mercury SLPs</p>	<p>Risks Able to obtain production, trade and distribution data</p> <p>Assumptions Able to reach manufacturers of mercury SLPs, including some informal and cottage industry</p>	
Component 2 outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	

<p>Output 2.1.1: Ministries of Health in project countries demonstrate increased awareness of local markets for SLPs, including production, distribution and usage</p>	<p>Consolidated list of mercury SLPs products in both project countries and globally (impact indicator 2.1) (Activities 2.1.1.1, 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3) List of key hubs of production, patterns of distribution and level of use in different regions (impact indicator 2.1) (impact indicator (Activity 2.1.1.4) Number of national laboratories trained (impact indicator 10.1) (Activity 2.1.1.2)</p>	<p>Product lists and key producers are not complete and available at country and global scale</p>	<p>End of project Target: At least 20-50% increase of SLP data (with mercury concentration > 1 ppm) for each target country At least one laboratory per target country trained</p>	<p>- Lists and reports</p>	<p>Risks Large informal market making data collection and communication difficult Assumptions Sampling strategy works in each country context; national stakeholders willing to share basic information</p>	
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<p>Output 2.1.2: Manufacturers, traders and distributors in target countries demonstrate increased awareness of the danger associated with mercury SLPs</p>	<p># targeted audience individuals engaging/accessing/using awareness materials (impact indicator 8.2) (Activities 2.1.2.1, 2.1.2.2) Number of manufacturers, traders and distributors trained (impact indicator 10.1) (Activities 2.1.2.1 and 2.1.2.2)</p>	<p>No recorded efforts have been made on the reduction of mercury SLPs;</p>	<p>Milestone : End of project Target: At least 20 mercury SLP manufacturers, traders and distributors in each country are trained and accessing awareness materials At least 30% participation of women during training sessions</p>	<p>- Activity documentation - Surveys and interviews - Progress reports - Training agenda, list of participants and training report</p>	<p>Risks Manufacturers and traders of mercury SLPs are not cooperative or cannot be reached</p> <p>Assumptions Successful surveillance both in stores and online of the sale of mercury SLPs</p>
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<p>Output 2.1.3 Authorities in target countries have increased capacity to identify, monitor and report on the market for SLPs</p>	<p>? Number of enforcement officers trained (impact indicator 10.1) (Activity 2.1.3.2)</p> <p>? Number of best practices developed (impact indicator 3.2) (Activities 2.1.3.1, 2.1.3.4)</p>	<p>no education and training available for customs authorities to improve surveillance of the import/export of mercury SLPs and no informal manufacturers are officially known in each country</p>	<p>At least 3 new approaches and techniques developed for customs authorities</p> <p>At least one training per target country, reaching 10 officers in each country (sex disaggregated data)</p> <p>At least 30% representation of women during training sessions</p>	<p>- Activity documentation</p> <p>- Surveys and interviews</p> <p>- Progress reports</p> <p>- Training agenda, list of participants and training report</p>	<p>Risks</p> <p>Sensitive information regarding non conforming products that cannot be revealed making training and development of techniques difficult</p> <p>Assumptions</p> <p>Authorities are willing to adopt new methods and techniques</p>	
<p>Outcome 3</p>	<p>Outcome Indicators</p>	<p>Baseline</p>	<p>Targets and Monitoring Milestones</p>	<p>Means of Verification</p>	<p>Assumptions & Risks</p>	

3.1 Global manufacturing and trade of mercury SLPs reduced	Quantity of SLPs reduced (impact class 1)	Initiatives in countries involved with mercury SLPs are not being tracked	End of project Target: 50% reduction in global manufacturing and trading of SLPs	- Progress reports - Surveys and interviews -COMTRADE database -National statistical data	Risks Only receive commitment but no real follow-up actions Assumptions Governments remain engaged in managing their mercury SLPs
Component 3 outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Output 3.1.1: Global awareness increased through policy support	<p>Availability of global repository of SLP legislation and model legislation guidance (impact indicator 4.1) (Activity 3.1.1.1 - 3.1.1.3)</p> <p>Number of internet marketers cooperating in voluntary self regulation to ensure illegal SLPs are not offered for sale (impact indicator 3.2) (Activity 3.1.1.4)</p>	Minimal global advocacy campaigns on mercury SLPs have been carried out to phase out SLPs	<p>End of project Target:</p> <p>At least one global repository of SLP legislation guidance published</p> <p>At least two internet marketers reached and agreed to stop sale/promotion of SLPs</p>	<p>- Detailed assessment</p> <p>- Progress report</p> <p>- Surveys and interviews</p> <p>- Record of sales for SLPs</p>	<p>Risks</p> <p>None</p> <p>Assumptions</p> <p>Governments engaged in creating enabling environment for management of mercury SLPs</p>

<p>Output 3.1.2: Global awareness increased through advocacy campaign and international meetings</p>	<p>Number of countries and people attending and using the materials disseminated at the three sub-regional workshops in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia (impact indicator 8.2) (Activities 3.1.2.3)</p> <p>Number targeted audience engaging/accessing/using awareness materials (impact indicator 8.2) (Activities 3.1.2.1 to 3.1.2.2)</p>	<p>Limited workshops (no regional workshops) have been organized specifically to phase out mercury SLPs</p>	<p>End of project Target:</p> <p>Three sub-regional workshops organized; at least two presentations at professional venues; at least 10 countries (50 people per country with sex disaggregated data) have access to materials generated from international meetings</p> <p>At least 30% women participation in meetings (size of meeting unknown at project design therefore quantifiable targets cannot be determined at this time)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress report - Sub-regional workshop agenda and participants list - List of internet marketers -Number of hits on websites and material download 	<p>Risks</p> <p>None</p> <p>Assumptions</p> <p>Governments engaged in creating enabling environment for management of mercury SLPs</p> <p>Interested internet marketers exist</p>	
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ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

N/A

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

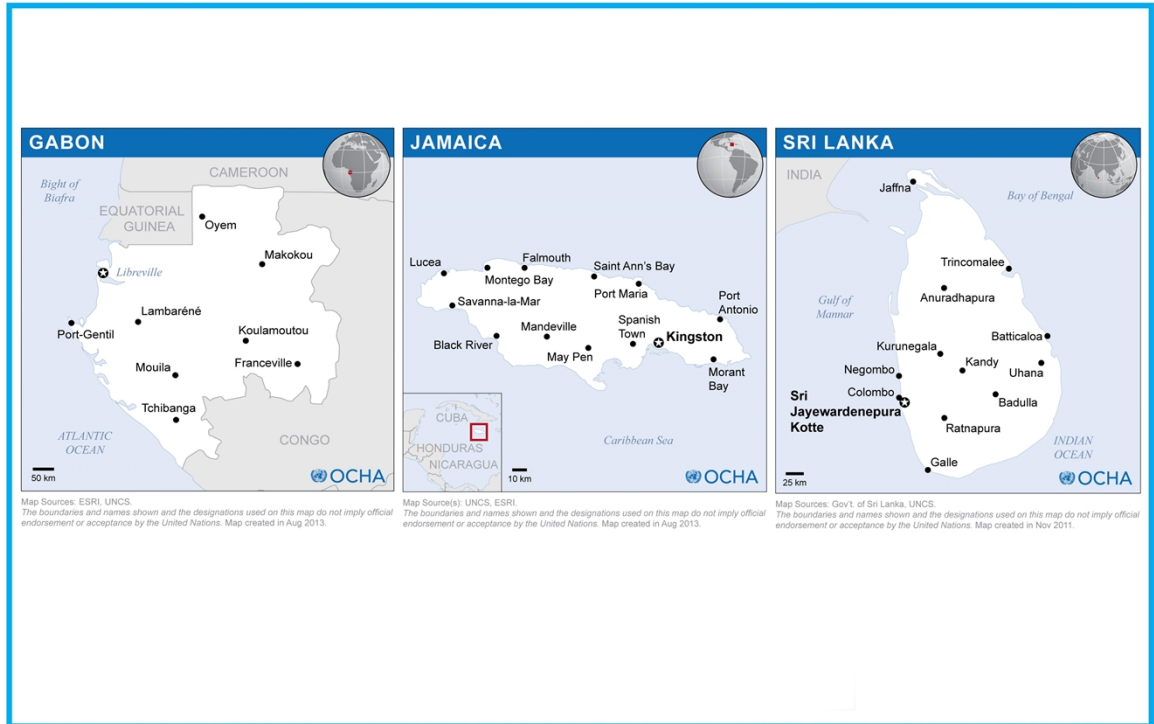
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
WHO consultant	30,000	30,000	0
Technical consultant	20,000	20,000	0
Total	50,000	50,000	0

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Eliminating mercury skin lightening products

GEF ID:10810



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

This map is intended for illustrative purposes only, and should not be used to derive any information regarding the project's operations. Based on OCHA/ReliefWeb retrieved from [HTTPS://reliefweb.int/location-maps](https://reliefweb.int/location-maps)

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

CoFinancing Breakdown

GEF Trust Fund Cash

UNEP BUDGET LINE/OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE	BUDGET ALLOCATION BY PROJECT COMPONENT/ACTIVITY *					
	Project Component 1: Regulations	Project Component 2: SLPs reduction	Project Component 3: Knowledge Management	Project Component 4 M&E	Project management	Total
	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	M&E	Project management	Total
	US\$	US\$	US\$		US\$	US\$

10	PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT							
	1100	Project Personnel						
	1101	BRI Project Manager / Technical expert		54,000	30,000		15,000	99,000
	1102	BRI Knowledge Manager / Administration Coordinator		40,000	40,000		20,000	100,000
	1103	BRI Field Lead / Laboratory Scientist / Data Manager		40,000	40,000		15,000	95,000
	1104	WHO Project coordinator/international health specialist / Administrator	120,000		103,000		60,000	283,000
	1199	Sub-Total	120,000	134,000	213,000	0	110,000	577,000
	1200	Consultants (Paid by WHO, activities in Components 1, 2, and 3) - 20% time with BRI						
	1201	National expert in Sri Lanka	40,000		27,574			67,574
		National expert Gabon	70,000		50,250			120,250
		National expert Jamaica	50,000		31,952			81,952
	1299	Sub-Total	160,000	0	109,776	0	0	269,776
	1300	Administrative support (partly built into the daily rates used for BRI)						
	1301	WHO HR, procurement, financial management (6% of WHO budget)	72,888				12,148	85,036
	1302	WHO coordination and administration (1% of WHO budget)						0
	1303	BRI Administrative (included under PM)						0
	1304	BRI HR, procurement, financial management (PSC up to 6%; included under personnel through rates)						0

	1399	Sub-Total	72,888	0	0	0	12,148	85,036
	1600	Travel on official business (above staff and consultants)						
	1601	Travel for kick off workshop in Geneva		0				0
	1602	Travel for inception meetings in each of the 3 host countries (HQ and RO)	20,028	26,535				46,563
	1603	Travel for mid-project visit in host country (HQ and RO)	11,214	15,952				27,166
	1604	Travel for validation workshops (HQ and RO)			43,956			43,956
	1605	Travel for wrap up meeting in Geneva			14,286			14,286
	1699	Sub-Total	31,242	42,487	58,242	0	0	131,971
	1999	Component Total	384,130	176,487	381,018	0	122,148	1,063,783
20	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT							
21	2100	Subcontract (UN organization)		50,000	148,000			198,000
	2199	Sub-Total	0	50,000	148,000	0	0	198,000
22	2200	Sub-contracts (SSFA, PCA, non-UN)						
	2201	Subcontract to countries (country grants - \$45k each, including \$3k/country dedicated for meetings)	135,000					135,000
	2299		135,000	0	0	0	0	135,000
	2999	Component Total	135,000	50,000	148,000	0	0	333,000
30	TRAINING COMPONENT							
	3200	Group training (field trips, WS, etc.)						
	3201	Expert group BRI training (lab) - covered within line 3302	0					0

	3202	Expert group BRI training (Customs) - covered within line 3302	0					0
	3203	Expert group BRI training - covered within line 3305	0					0
	3299	Sub-Total	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3300	Meetings/conferences						
	3301	Kick - off meeting in Geneva (includes travel for 2 national participants) and local costs in Geneva. Hosted by WHO	13,740					13,740
	3302	National Inception meetings covering each of the 3 countries	28,220					28,220
	3303	Mid project meeting (costs covered in travel with only small meetings planned)	0		0			0
	3304	Knowledge sharing sub-regional meetings by WHO			141,643			141,643
	3305	Wrap up meeting in Geneva (includes travel for 3 national participants) and local costs in Geneva. Hosted by WHO			22,290			22,290
	3399	Sub-Total	41,960	0	163,933	0	0	205,893
	3999	Component Total	41,960	0	163,933	0	0	205,893
400	EQUIPMENT & PREMISES COMPONENT							
	4100	Expendable equipment (under \$1,500)						
	4101	Office supplies (computers or software)	4,500					4,500
	4102	Laboratory costs (BRI and all countries)		80,100				80,100
	4202	Local transportation and fuel		1,500	1,538			3,038

	4199	Sub-Total	4,500	81,600	1,538	0	0	87,638			
	4999	Component Total	4,500	81,600	1,538	0	0	87,638			
500	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT										
	5200	Reporting costs (publications, maps)						0			
	5201	Knowledge Management/Communication Pieces (including design, web work, translations)			254,886			254,886			
	5299	Sub-Total	0	0	254,886	0	0	254,886			
	5300	Sundry (communications, postage, etc)									
	5301	Phone, postage, freight, international bank transfers, etc.	2,500	1,400	900			4,800			
	5399	Sub-Total	2,500	1,400	900	0	0	4,800			
	5500	Evaluation									
	5501	Mid-term evaluation						0			
	5502	Final Evaluation				40,000		40,000			
	5503	Audit					10,000	10,000			
	5599	Sub-Total	0	0	0	40,000	10,000	50,000			
	5999	Component Total	2,500	1,400	255,786	40,000	10,000	309,686			
	TOTAL		\$568,090	\$309,487	\$950,275	\$40,000	\$132,148	2,000,000			
N o.	Co-finance partner		Nature of co-finance		Co-finance contribution per project Output in US\$					Total in US\$	Description of co-finance contributions (in line with co-finance letters received from partners)
	Name	Source	Type	Investment Mobilized	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	M & E	PM C		

1	UNEP Global Mercury Partnership	GEF Agency	In-Kind	Recurrent expenditures		200,000	200,000			400,000	The UNEP Global Partnership will provide staff time, existing network, experts, past and ongoing studies and databases that are relevant to the project
2	World Health Organization	Others	In-Kind	Recurrent expenditures	98,350		1,507,673	24,898	800,000	2,430,921	The WHO will provide staff time, office facilities and services including office equipment, space/meeting rooms, utilities and communication; information from past and existing skin lightening products related projects

3	Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)	CSO	In-Kind			175,000	107,000	20,000	100,000	402,000	The BRI will provide staff time, office facilities and services including office equipment, space/meeting rooms, utilities and communication; information from past and existing skin lightening products related projects
4	Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG)	CSO	In-Kind			75,000	75,000			150,000	The ZMWG will provide staff time, networks and information from past and existing skin lightening products related projects
5	European Environmental Bureau (EEB)	CSO	In-Kind			82,500	82,500			165,000	The EEB will provide staff time, networks and information from past and existing skin lightening products related projects

6	Occidental College	CSO	Grant			529,480					529,480	The Occidental College will provide information from past and existing skin lightening products related projects
7	Label Beaut? Noire	CSO	In-Kind		2,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000				5,000,000	Label Beaut? Noire will provide network, experts and information from past and existing skin lightening products related projects
8	Sema Jonsson: ?Patheon of Women Who Inspire?	Private	Grant				5,000,000				5,000,000	Sema Jonsson will provide funds and resources toward the exhibition of 400 portraits of women promoting gender equality and beauty in all skin colors

9	Beauty Well	CSO	Grant		150,000		100,000			250,000	Beauty Well will provide network and information from past and existing skin lightening products related projects
10	Sierra Club	CSO	Grant			65,000	65,000			130,000	Sierra Club will provide network and information from past and existing skin lightening products related projects
11	Ministry of Health (Sri Lanka)	Government	In-Kind		18,000					18,000	Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka will provide staff time, office facilities and services including office equipment, space/meeting rooms, utilities and communication; information from past and existing skin lightening products related projects

13	Ministry of Health (Jamaica)	Government	In-Kind		20,000						Ministry of Health in Jamaica will provide staff time, office facilities and services including office equipment, space/meeting rooms, utilities and communication; information from past and existing skin lightening products related projects
14	Ministry of Health (Gabon)	Government	In-Kind		24,000						Ministry of Health in Gabon will provide staff time, office facilities and services including office equipment, space/meeting rooms, utilities and communication; information from past and existing skin lightening products related projects

15	Ministry of Environment (Gabon)	Government	In-Kind		36,000				36,000	Ministry of Environment in Gabon will provide staff time, office facilities and services including office equipment, space/meeting rooms, utilities and communication; liase with natioal laboratorie s in testing of SLPs; serve as the focal point to the Minamata Conventio n
Total				2,332,350	3,393,980	8,137,173	44,898	900,000	14,808,401	

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).