



REQUEST FOR CHEMICALS AND WASTES ENABLING ACTIVITY

PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER THE GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

Project Title:	Minamata Initial Assessment for Albania		
Country(ies):	Albania	GEF Project ID: ¹	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	5639
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment	Submission Date:	05/08/2015
GEF Focal Area (s):	Chemicals and Wastes	Project Duration (Months)	24
Type of Report:	(select)	Expected Report Submission to Convention	6/1/2017

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK*

Project Objective: Undertake a Initial Mercury Assessment to identify the national mercury challenges and the extent to which legal, policy and regulatory framework will enable Albania to implement future obligations under the Minamata Convention

Project Component	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing ²
1. Enabling environment for decision-making on the ratification of Minamata established.	<p>1.1 National decision making structure on Mercury operational</p> <p>1.2 Policy and regulatory framework, and institutional and capacity needs in regard to the implementation of Convention provisions assessed.</p> <p>1.3 Awareness raised on the environmental and health impacts of Mercury (Hg).</p> <p>1.4 Importance of Hg priority interventions at national level raised through mainstreaming in relevant policies/plans.</p>	<p>1.1 National Mercury Coordination/consultation Mechanism established.</p> <p>1.2 Assessment report prepared on the existing and required policy and regulatory framework as well as institutional capacity to implement the Convention (incl. overview of existing barriers).</p> <p>1.3 Hg awareness raising activities conducted targeting decision makers and population groups at risk.</p> <p>1.4 National Hg priority interventions (identified in the MIA Report – see 2.3) mainstreamed in national policies/plans.</p>	51,819	
2. National Mercury Profile and Mercury Initial Assessment Report development	<p>2.1 National capacity built to undertake Mercury inventories.</p> <p>2.2 National Mercury Profile available.</p>	<p>2.1 Capacity building and training conducted to commence the Mercury inventory.</p> <p>2.2 Mercury Inventory conducted.</p>	130,000	

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submission.

² Co-financing for enabling activity is encouraged but not required.

C. GEF FINANCING RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, COUNTRY AND PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
				GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee ^{a)} / (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNDP	GEF TF	Albania <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mercury	200,000	19,000	219,000
(select)	(select)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(select as applicable)			0
Total Grant Resources				200,000	19,000	219,000

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies

PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

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

Albania became a signatory to the Minamata Convention on 9/10/2014, prior to which it had been actively participating in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Mercury.

During the past 10 years the Ministry of Environment (MoE) has been committed to engaging potential donors and mobilizing funding for the identification of historic hotspots (created during the 90s) and subsequently prioritizing such hotspots for in-depth assessments and remediation.

In 2011, with financial support provided by the Dutch Government and technical assistance provided by UNDP, the identification and prioritization of historic industrial pollution hotspots, including those contaminated by Mercury, was completed. Project activities included the following results:

- Preliminary site investigation of 35 potential hotspot sites conducted, followed by prioritisation and selection of a short list of 10 sites for more detailed evaluation.
- For each of the 10 selected priority sites, the following was prepared: Remediation action plans; Environmental impact assessments for the remediation process; Cost estimates for remediation of each site (either individually or in clusters to allow for maximum cost effectiveness).

Remediation and cleanup works were completed in the period 2009 -2012 at the following sites: Porto-Romano hotspot (supported by the Dutch Government and the World Bank); Bajza railway station; Balez chemical storehouse; Reps and Rreshen mine tailings (supported by the Dutch Government and UNDP); Chlor-alkali plant in Vlora (supported by the European Union).

In 2013, the Government of Albania updated its National Chemicals Management Profile, including aspects related to Mercury, with the support of UNITAR. The activity was implemented by the Public Health Institute.

Currently, the Government of Albania is in the process of transposing European Union legislation related to the management of chemicals, (such as REACH, CLP, POP Regulation, Import-export regulation) into its national legislative framework. This process is expected to be finalized by the end of 2015.

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND

ACTIVITIES (The proposal should briefly justify and describe the project framework. Identify also key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable. Describe also how the gender dimensions are considered in project design and implementation):

The proposed EA and the project framework, including envisaged activities, are entirely in line with the GEF Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities for the Minamata Convention on Mercury (GEF/C.45/Inf.05).

Project Objective:

The project's objective is to undertake a Mercury Initial Assessment to enable the Government to determine the national requirements and needs for the ratification of the Minamata Convention and establish a sound foundation to undertake future work towards the implementation of the Convention.

It will do so by implementing 4 components as specified in the GEF guidelines (GEF/C.45/Inf.05 paragraph 19), as well as a fifth component on mainstreaming.

1. Undertake an assessment of legislation and policies in regard to the implementation of Convention provisions of

- Article 3;
- Article 5;
- Article 7 (including legislation and policy to cover formalization, worker health and safety);
- Article 8 (specifically in regard to relevant national air pollution/emission standards and regulations);
- Article 9 (specifically in regard to the ability to identify and categorize sources of releases).

The policy and legislative assessment will be undertaken through a review of existing legislation on chemicals management and identification of the gaps prevalent in association to issues of mercury. In addition the legislation review will assess the necessary steps for the establishment of a National Mercury Coordination/Consultation Mechanism.

2. Undertake an initial assessment of Mercury in the following categories:

- Stocks of mercury and/or mercury compounds and import and export procedures including an assessment of the storage conditions;
- Supply of mercury, including sources, recycling activities and quantities;
- Sectors that use mercury and the amount per year, including manufacturing processes, ASGM and mercury added products;
- Trade in mercury and mercury containing compounds.

3. Identify:

- Emission sources of mercury;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release sources of mercury to land and water. <p>4. Assess institutional and capacity needs to implement the Convention. Institutional capacity of governmental institutions and agencies will be assessed to determine the capacity needs and gaps that exist for the implementation of the Convention and propose intervention to strengthen these institutions and capacity. The assessment will also review the systems needed to report to the Convention under article 21.</p> <p>The institutional capacity gaps identified and the findings of the legislation and policy review will be used to formulate a number of priority actions, which will be included in the Mercury Initial Assessment Report. Proposed actions will be discussed and agreed upon among the key stakeholders mentioned above through several rounds of discussions.</p> <p>5. Mainstream national Mercury priorities in national policies and plans to raise the importance of Hg priority interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify national mercury priorities; • Assess opportunities for mainstreaming Hg priorities; • Mainstream Hg priority interventions in relevant policies/plans. <p>Key Stakeholders The key stakeholder involved in the project are the following:</p> <p>Ministry of Environment: Responsible for issuing environmental permits for industrial activities and for the evaluation, testing and control of substances and preparations possessing class 15 properties (hazardous for the environment). By law, the MoE, through the Chemicals Registration Office, is required to register applications for import and export of substances and certain hazardous preparations. The MoE has the authority for the control of all activities that might have potential environmental impacts and has the mandate to enforce legal sanctions through the Environmental Inspectorate.</p> <p>Ministry of Finance: Responsible for obtaining and allocating resources necessary for state institutions to provide services to all citizens, in accordance with the priorities of the public policy. In the area of customs, the Ministry of Finance's role is to establish regulations and controls, and ensure the monitoring of all imports and exports of products (including those containing chemicals).</p> <p>Ministry of Health and Public Health Institute: Responsible</p>
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for the development and implementation of health policies. Assumes responsibilities related to monitoring, control, regulation and standardization. In addition, the Ministry registers medical devices and monitors companies that import, manufacture, distribute and/or store medical equipment and devices. The Ministry is also responsible for the registration and authorization of biocidal products.

Local Government: Regulate and supervise waste management in municipalities/districts/councils. Responsible for hazardous waste storage and disposal.

Private Sector: Services providers involved in waste collection, disposal and treatment; Laboratories for testing and certification; etc.

Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations (CSOs/NGOs): Will be engaged in the project to help required and important information on the environmental and health aspects and concerns of mercury releases and accumulation in the environment reach local communities at risk, the general public and decision makers.

Gender Dimensions

Generally, two groups are more sensitive to the effects of mercury. Fetuses and people who are regularly exposed (chronic exposure) to high levels of mercury (such as populations that rely on subsistence fishing or people who are occupationally exposed). As Mercury is passed on from mother to child, and fetuses and children are most susceptible to developmental effects due to mercury. The MIA will pay particular attention to assessing national capacity to keep such risk groups safe. Recommendations on how to improve gender dimensions and gender mainstreaming related to Mercury, and priorities actions in this area will be highlighted in the MIA report.

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

(discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A).

The project will be implemented through NIM (national implementation modality) with the Ministry of Environment as the execution agency – the national partner. The Ministry is responsible to coordinate with relevant line ministries, government agencies and representatives from Universities and NGOs.

The proposed EA project has been organized into two components:

1. Enabling environment for decision-making on the ratification of Minamata.
2. Development of the National Mercury Profile and Mercury Initial Assessment Report.

1.1 Establishing a national decision making structure on Mercury

A national decision-making structure on Mercury (“Mercury Coordination/Consultation Mechanism (MCM)”) will be established in line with national capacities and existing structures and practices present in the project countries and where feasible will build/expand on similar structures established in support of other chemicals-related MEAs.

1.2 Conducting an assessment of the policy and regulatory framework and institutional capacity needs in regard to the implementation of the Convention’s provisions.

The work will begin with a review of the structures, institutions and policies and regulations already in place:

- Legislation on the governance of chemicals in general and the capacities of the key institutions such as the Chemicals Unit at the PTCCB will be the initial focus.
- Review of existing legislation, identification of gaps for meeting the Minamata Convention requirements and initial technical input on proposed amendments.
- Roles of other ministries and institutions related to the key sectors where mercury inventory establishes the presence of mercury use, emissions and/or releases are to be analyzed. These institutions will include, but not be limited to the ministries of Health, Public Health Institute and Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy and Industry. Capacities of these institutions will be reviewed and the gaps for comprehensive management of mercury issues will be identified.

Identification of barriers that would hinder or prevent implementation of the Convention.

Upon the identification of capacity and/or regulatory gaps (in relation to the Convention’s obligations), these will be discussed and reviewed by the “MCM”. The results of these discussions will direct the work under component 2, in particular related to the development of the MIA Report.

1.3 Raising awareness on the environmental and health impacts of Mercury

Targeted information awareness activities will be supported on the risks of Mercury and mercury-associated impact on human health and the environment. Awareness raising with target decision makers, the general public and population groups at risk.

1.4 Mainstreaming Hg priorities into national policies/plans.

The mainstreaming exercise will be led and supported by the interim ministerial coordination committee with the objective to include mercury priorities into national policies and development plans. The mainstreaming exercise will also include a socio-economic study on the effects of mercury and alternatives in the relevant sectors that were identified in the inventory, which can help inform priority setting for this sector and support decision making to facilitate the mainstreaming of selected priorities.

2.1 Building national capacity to under the Mercury Inventory.

National capacity to undertake the Mercury Inventory will be built through training, which will be conducted and facilitated by the project's international technical advisor. Training will be provided on data collection methodologies, reliability, credibility, data analysis, etc.

Training will be targeted towards a group of national technical experts who will conduct and develop the National Mercury Profile. Training will also be targeted towards key government representatives who make up the MCM and who need sufficient knowledge about conducting a Mercury Inventory to be able to review it and comment on it.

2.2 Conducting the Mercury Inventory and prepare the National Mercury Profile.

The inventory will make use of the UNEP "Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases", which is intended to assist countries to develop a national mercury releases inventory. It provides a standardized methodology and accompanying database enabling the development of consistent national and regional mercury inventories.

Throughout the data collection, analysis and preparation of the Mercury Inventory, the national expert team will be guided by an international technical advisor.

The inventory will review all the relevant sectors which make up the UNEP Inventory Level 2. This inventory will also include:

- Identification and assessment of the amounts of emission sources of mercury and release sources of mercury to land and water.
- Identification of old, historical sources of mercury contamination (such as abandoned mining sites).
- Identification of key sectors, municipalities, communities and other stakeholders affected by or involved with important Mercury sources and/or emissions.

After completion of the data gathering stage, a National Mercury Profile, including significant sources of emissions and releases, as well as inventories of mercury and mercury compounds, will be prepared for review, approval and adoption by the MCM during a national stakeholder workshop.

2.3 Preparing the National MIA Report

Following the finalization of the project activities as envisaged under component 1 (1.1 – 1-3) as well as completion of the project activities 2.1 and 2.2 (see above), the national project team will prepare a National MIA Report.

The National MIA Report will provide information on the following key areas, which will enable the government to make a decision on ratifying the Convention:

- Structures, institutions, legislation already available to implement the Convention.
- Identification of barriers that would hinder or prevent implementation of the Convention.
- Summary of the results from the Mercury Profile.
- Identification of technical and financial needs for implementation of the Convention, including resources from the GEF, national sources, bilateral sources, the private sector and others integrated into a National Action Plan.

Expert teams will draft proposals for actions to be included in the Mercury Initial Assessment Report on how to address the pertinent gaps and barriers. These proposals will also include an overview of the costs to the Government in meeting its obligations under the Minamata Convention.

After the development of the draft National Mercury Profile and MIA Report these will be prepared for review, approval and adoption by the MCM during a national stakeholder workshop.

<p>D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED <u>COST-EFFECTIVENESS</u> OF THE PROJECT:</p>	<p>The cost-effectiveness of the project will be assured through the management of the project with synergies from other POPs- and chemicals-related projects.</p> <p>The project will involve national experts as much as possible to facilitate the collection of accurate information and to establish a high-responsiveness of the project to keep a steady momentum in project implementation with an international technical advisor providing succinct, specific input where local expertise gaps exist.</p> <p>Information dissemination with the general public and specific local communities will be more effective through integrating the work through existing activities.</p>
<p>E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:</p>	<p>Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures and will be provided by the project team and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) with support from the UNDP/MPU Chemicals team. This will be done through project implementation reviews, quarterly review reports and a final evaluation (the latter conducted at least 3 months before project closure).</p>
<p>F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE):</p>	<p>N/A</p>

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):
(Please attach the [*Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)*](#) with this template).


NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE <i>a(Month, day, year)</i>
Pellumb Abeshi	Director of Policies GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	FEBRUARY 2014

B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION

CONVENTION	DATE OF RATIFICATION/ ACCESSION (mm/dd/yyyy)	NATIONAL FOCAL POINT
UNCBD	01/05/1994	ODETA CATO
UNFCCC	03/10/1994	ARDIANA SOKOLI
UNCCD	27/04/2000	ODETA CATO
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	04/10/2004	ROVENA MONE

	DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY)	NATIONAL FOCAL POINT	DATE OF NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 7 TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT
MINAMATA CONVENTION	09/10/2014		

C. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies⁴ and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for Chemicals and Waste Enabling Activity approval in GEF 6.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	E-mail Address
Adriana Dinu, UNDP – GEF Executive Coordinator and Director a.i		05/08/2015	Mr. Jacques Van Engel Director UNDP MPU/Chemicals	212-906- 5782	jacques.van.engel@undp.org

⁴ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, UNCF, and SCCF