



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR Chemicals and Wastes ENABLING ACTIVITY
PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER THE (select Trust Fund)

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PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| Project Title: | Minamata Initial Assessment for Argentina | | |
| Country(ies): | Argentina | GEF Project ID: ¹ | |
| GEF Agency(ies): | UNDP (select) | GEF Agency Project ID: | 6171 |
| Other Executing Partner(s): | Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development | Submission Date: | August 16th, 2017 |
| GEF Focal Area (s): | Chemicals and Wastes | Project Duration (Months) | 12 |
| Type of Report: | National Report (NR) | Expected Report Submission to Convention | (December 2018) |

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 Argentina 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 and implementation arrangements established. | 1.1 National decision making structure on Mercury operational | 1.1 National Mercury Coordination/consultation Mechanism established in Argentina. | 78,000 | |
| | 1.2 Policy and regulatory framework, and institutional and capacity needs in regard to the implementation of Convention provisions assessed. | 1.2 Assessment report prepared on the existing and required policy and regulatory framework as well as institutional capacity to implement the Convention for Argentina (incl. overview of existing barriers). | | |
| | 1.3 Awareness raised on the environmental and health impacts of Mercury (Hg) in Argentina. | 1.3 Hg awareness raising activities conducted in Argentina targeting decision makers. | | |
| | 1.4 Importance of Hg priority interventions at national level raised through mainstreaming in relevant policies/plans. | 1.4 National Hg priority interventions (identified in the MIA Report – see 2.3) mainstreamed in national policies/plans. | | |
| 2. National Mercury Profile and Mercury | 2.1 National capacity built to undertake | 2.1 Capacity building and training conducted in | 103,818 | |

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.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------|----------|
| (select) | | (select) | |
| (select) | | (select) | |
| (select) | | (select) | |
| Total Co-financing | | | 0 |

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

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | (in \$) | | |
|----------------------------|------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | GEF Project Financing (a) | Agency Fee (b) ^{b)} | Total (c)=a+b |
| UNDP | GEFTF | Argentina | Chemicals and Wastes | Mercury | 200,000 | 19,000 | 219,000 |
| (select) | (select) | | (select) | (select as applicable) | | | 0 |
| (select) | (select) | | (select) | (select as applicable) | | | 0 |
| (select) | (select) | | (select) | (select as applicable) | | | 0 |
| (select) | (select) | | (select) | (select as applicable) | | | 0 |
| Total GEF 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):

Argentina signed the Minamata Convention on October 10th, 2013. Moreover, Argentina has ratified at the national level the Minamata Convention by approving the national law N° 27356 on May 18th, 2017. Further actions must be taken in order to fulfill the ratification process including the assessment of the possible exceptions that the country might need to ask considering the national capacity to substitute and/or prohibit certain mercury added products and industrial processes that use mercury considered in the Convention.

Argentina has several laws related to the environmental sound management of mercury through its life cycle regarding the imports of mercury added products, the permits of use of those products and the disposal of waste contaminated with mercury. Nevertheless, new legislation in accordance of the provisions of the Convention will be needed to comply with those requirements.

On preparation on the entry into force of the Convention, Argentina participated on the UNDP-GEF project “Global Healthcare Waste Project” (2008-2013). This project assisted Argentina on the development of sustainable healthcare waste management practices and to protect public health and the environment from the impacts of dioxin and mercury releases. The project was led by the Ministry of Health and achieved the prohibition of the “production, import, sale or free distribution of mercury column blood pressure sphygmomanometers.

Argentina has played a key role in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Mercury. Some key decisions were taken at these meetings which included the development of UNEP’s mercury programme, the implementation of universal action to protect human health and the environment from exposure to mercury and the phasing out of mercury use in countries around the world.

The following projects have been implemented at the national level with support of the GEF and SAICM QSP Trust Funds:

- GEF 1802 – “Demonstrating and Promoting Best Techniques and Practices for Reducing Health-Care Waste to Avoid Environmental Releases of Dioxins and Mercury”.
- QSP - SAICM - Regional Campaign on Minimization of Mercury Domestic Sources with Community Interventions for Children and Women Health Protection in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia and Peru.
- GEF 5494 - To strengthen the capacity of participating LAC countries (Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, Nicaragua and Uruguay) to identify mercury sources and the priority actions to be undertaken
- GEF – 5496 – “Preparatory project to facilitate the implementation of the legally binding instrument on Mercury (Minamata Convention) in Argentina to protect health and the environment.

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND

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

The 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 in order to 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 regarding relevant national air pollution/emission standards and regulations);
- Article 9 (specifically regarding 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;
- Release sources of mercury to land and water.
- Contaminated sites

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.

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.

5. Mainstream national Mercury priorities in national policies and plans to raise the importance of Hg priority interventions:

- Identify national mercury priorities;
- Assess opportunities for mainstreaming Hg priorities;
- Mainstream Hg priority interventions in relevant policies/plans.

Key Stakeholders

The key stakeholder involved in the project are the following:

National and local Governments

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)

Ministry of Production

Ministry of Energy and Mining

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cult

Ministry of Agroindustry

National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI)

Customs office

COFEMA – Federal Council of Environment

Private Sector - Involved in various important aspects of the proposed project: Private and parastatal companies/industries responsible for the release of Mercury and production of mercury containing wastes; Services providers involved in waste collection, disposal and treatment; Distributors and retailers of Mercury containing and Mercury-free consumer products; Laboratories for testing and certification; etc.

CSOs and NGOs: Specialized and local civil associations working on chemicals and waste will be engaged such as:
Salud sin Daño (Healthcare without Harm)

Taller Ecologista

Asociación de Medicos Argentinos por el Medio Ambiente (AAMMA)

Others (Association of Argentinian doctors Pro Environment www.aamma.org/)

Academic sector – Universities and Research Centers involved on Mercury investigation regarding technology substitutions, monitoring, health and environmental impacts, etc.

Associations and Organizations- Relevant in any aspect of the life-cycle approach of Mercury Management:

- Camaras and business associations

- Unión Industrial Argentina (Argentinian Industry Cartel)

- Consejo Empresario Argentino para el Desarrollo Sostenible (Argentinian Council of Business men for Sustainable Development)

- Asociación de Toxicológica Argentina

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 and Sustainable Development as the execution agency – the national partner. The Ministry coordinates the work of the Technical Secretariat for the Coordination on Chemical Management, which function as a consultant entity and includes relevant ministry bodies 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 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. 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 ASGM and 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 Upgrading 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*"⁴, 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.

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).
- Initial assessment of possible existing ASGM.
- 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

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| | <p>well as inventories of mercury and mercury compounds, will be prepared for review, approval and adoption during a national stakeholder workshop.</p> <p><u>2.3 Preparing the National MIA Report</u> 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.</p> <p>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:</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. <p>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.</p> <p>After the development of the draft National Mercury Profile and MIA Report these will be prepared for review, approval and adoption during a national stakeholder workshop.</p> |
| <p><u>D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:</u></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 in Argentina. 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. Information dissemination with the general public and specific local communities will be more effective through integrating the work through existing activities.</p> <p>It is important to stress that the Mercury Inventory was already developed in an earlier GEF funded project “To strengthen the capacity of participating LAC countries identify mercury sources and the priority actions to be undertaken resulting on a national inventory level 1 updated to the year 2014. The purpose is to verify the results of the existing inventory, systematize the gathering of information and filling the gaps and making the necessary adjustments in order to fulfill a level 2 inventory.</p> |

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| E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN: | 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 internal evaluation (the latter conducted at least 3 months before project closure). |
| F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE): | Not applicable. |

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

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

| NAME | POSITION | MINISTRY | DATE (Month, day, year) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Nazareno Castillo Marín | National Climate Change Director | MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | 14-08-2017 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION

| CONVENTION | DATE OF RATIFICATION/ ACCESSION (mm/dd/yyyy) | NATIONAL FOCAL POINT | |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| UNCBD | | | |
| UNFCCC | | | |
| UNCCD | | | |
| STOCKHOLM CONVENTION | | | |
| | DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY) | NATIONAL FOCAL POINT | DATE OF NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 7 TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT |
| MINAMATA CONVENTION | 10/10/2013 | (NO PERSON IDENTIFIED YET) | N/A |

C. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies⁵ and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for (select) Enabling Activity approval in GEF 6.

| Agency Coordinator, Agency name | Signature | Date <i>(Month, day, year)</i> | Project Contact Person | Telephone | E-mail Address |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Adriana Dinu, UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator and Director | | | Kasper Koefoed- Hansen | +507 302 4573 | Kasper.koefoed@undp.org |
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⁵ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF