



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

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PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

Project Title:	National Action Plan on Mercury in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining sector in Ecuador		
Country(ies):	Ecuador	GEF Project ID: ¹	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNIDO (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	160205
Other Executing Partner(s):	Artisanal Gold Council (AGC), MAE, MH and MM	Submission Date:	01-24-2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Chemicals and Wastes	Project Duration (Months)	24
Type of Report:	National Action Plan (NAP)	Expected Report Submission to Convention	(n/a)

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK*

Project Objective: To improve the national capacity and capability for prevention and management of mercury use, through the preparation of a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector				
Project Component	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing ²
1. To improve understanding of the extent of mercury in the artisanal and small-scale mining gold (ASGM) sector and strengthen national capacity to implement Article 7 of the Minamata Convention	1. Participatory stakeholders able to manage mercury in the ASGM sector (knowledge, technical skills, expertise).	1.1: Information disseminated and project coordination mechanism established 1.2: National ASGM comprehensive analysis completed to support the development and implementation of a work plan to prevent and control the use of mercury emissions and releases. 1.3: Institutional capacity and needs assessment completed to develop a public health strategy on ASGM 1.4: Rapid health situation assessment conducted; drafting of the public health strategy initiated and awareness raising workshops organized	353,500	63,000
2. The completion of the NAP for	2. NAP completed for the endorsement of	2.1: NAP drafted and submitted to the relevant stakeholders for	87,000	10,000

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.

approval	stakeholders.	interactive feedback.		
3. Monitoring and evaluation	3. Project objective achieved on time through monitoring and effective evaluation	3.1 Periodic monitoring and final evaluation of the implementation of the project completed	25,000	8,000
Subtotal			465,500	81,000
Project Management Cost ³			34,500	0
Total Project Cost			500,000	81,000

* List the \$ by project components. Please attach a detailed project budget table that supports all the project components in this table.

B. SOURCE OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	UNIDO	Grants	19,000
GEF Agency	UNIDO	In kind	12,000
Executing Agency	AGC	In kind	50,000
Total Co-financing			81,000

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
UNIDO	GEFTF	Ecuador	Chemicals and Wastes	Mercury	500,000	47,500	547,500
Total GEF Resources					500,000	47,500	547,500

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies

³ This is the cost associated with the unit executing the project on the ground and could be financed out of trust fund or co-financing sources. For EAs within the ceiling, PMC could be up to 10% of the Subtotal GEF Project Financing.

PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

<p>A. BACKGROUND ENABLING ACTIVITIES AND CONTEXT (Provide a brief information on projects executed since the country is part of the Convention and results):</p>	<p>Ecuador acceded to the Convention on 10 October 2013. Aware that mercury can impose threats to human health and the global environment, the government has been an active participant in programs and agreements to address mercury emissions and international practice, led by the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>The treaty has a phased approach to reduce and, where possible, eliminate the use of mercury in key industrial sectors. The provisions of the Convention include the deadlines for the sources of supply and trade, mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used. As the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector is a major source of mercury release and environmental pollution in the world, the Article 7 of the Convention requires countries where artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing is more than insignificant to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) in order to reduce the use of mercury and mercury compounds within three years of the treaty entering into force.</p> <p>According to Article 7 and Annex C of the Convention, as well as the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) guidelines on Enabling Activities (EA), each Party that is subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of the article 7 shall include in its NAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(A). National objectives and control objectives in removing mercury;(B). Measurement and control strategies in the use of mercury<ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Amalgamation of raw oreII. Exposed burning of amalgam or processed amalgam.III. Burning of amalgam in residential areas; andIV. Cyanide leaching in sediment, mineral raw or rocks that mercury is added, without first removing mercury.(C). Control measures in formalizing or environmental regulation ASGM;(D). Strategies to promote mercury-free methods;(E). Strategies to manage and control illegal trade of mercury and its compounds, both domestic and foreign sources for use in the extraction and processing of gold artisanal and small scale;(F). Strategies to engage stakeholders in the implementation and continuous development of national action n plan;(G). A public health strategy on the study of mercury concentrations in mining; and people exposed to handling, emissions and releases of mercury in air, water and soil resources; including collecting health data, training for health workers and awareness through health centers;(H). Strategies to provide information to artisanal miners and small-scale gold extracted and affected communities; and(I). Timetable for the implementation of the national action plan.
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While an explicit focus of the health activities is not envisaged in the NAP, the proposed project will also lay the ground work for actions called for under Article 16 of the Convention. The NAP will also include a road map to reduce the use of mercury in the sector including potential funding sources to implement it and an assessment and cost-benefit analysis of technically available and economically feasible techniques and technologies to replace and prevent the use of mercury.

ASGM has proven to be an important contributor to economic development in Ecuador. In the year 2014 an estimated 14,309 workers were employed directly in the artisanal and small scale mining sector in Ecuador, 79% of those working specifically in the extraction of gold (11,238), and 1.5 tons of mercury was used for legal activities in ASGM.

- 20 of 24 provinces of Ecuador have mining activities and approximately 87.95% of these are concentrated in El Oro, Zamora Chinchipe and Azuay, Loja and Morona Santiago. An estimated 50 tons of mercury are emitted annually in ASGM operations in El Oro, Azuay and Zamora. Main causes of environmental pollution in the sector include wastes from extraction and processing that end up in nearby rivers and mercury emissions to the atmosphere during amalgamation.
- Many studies have testified to the negative impacts of mercury and cyanide on rivers around these communities. For example, in 2002, a detailed analysis of the symptoms of mercury poisoning and high blood mercury in children in the gold mining settlements of Portovelo and Nambija attributed the health impacts to ASGM activities. In another study it was found that mercury storage at home is a risk factor to human health including gastrointestinal discomfort and an increasing incidence of elevated diastolic blood pressure. High levels of mercury in the hair confirmed this exposure vector.
- Aware of the risks and negative impacts associated with the use of mercury on the environment and human health, the Government of Ecuador has made efforts to improve ASGM activities.
- Since January 2013, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador (MAE) has launched the Zero Mercury Plan, which aims to eliminate the use of mercury and mercury compounds used in a wide range of products and processes and to reduce emissions, and waste generation. The Plan consists of the following activities:

- Strengthening the legal framework;
- Awareness and dissemination;
- Technical assistance and training;
- Monitoring and environmental control; and
- Waste management and remediation.

On January 11, 2013, the Ministry of Environment issued the Ministerial Agreement No. 003, entitled "List of Hazardous Chemicals Severely Restricted Use". Articles of this agreement restrict the development, manufacture, marketing, transportation, storage, use and holding of

mercury, sodium cyanide and potassium cyanide nationwide. Restriction mechanisms should be established with relevant agencies.

The current Mining Law was amended on July 16, 2013, which prohibits the use of mercury in mining operations. The amendment also provides the third transitional provision of this legal framework, which states that in compliance with policies for the elimination of mercury use in mining, natural or legal, national or foreign persons and holders of mining rights, from the effective date of this Act and for a period of two years, should apply alternative methods to eliminate progressively the substance in the mineral recovery processes.

Other resolutions and agreements related to the subject have been created in recent years in the country as follows:

- In November 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Trade through Resolution No. 108 of 17 September 2013, established the restriction on imports of metallic mercury.
- Under Article 7 of that decision, it was also determined that the Ministry of Environment will develop the rules to implement environmental control mechanisms for the use of mercury; and
- On May 5, 2014 the Ministerial Agreement No. 060 was published in the Official Gazette No.238, "Issuing the procedures and requirements for obtaining authorization for the transfer and use of mercury."
- Ministerial Agreement No. 099, published in Official Gazette No. 601 on October 5, 2015, Instructions for Registration of Hazardous Chemicals and Environmental Obligations, aims to establish the regularization and control measures for the import, export, manufacture, transfer, storage, transport, industrial or craft use for academic research and use of chemicals through the registration of hazardous chemicals in order to maintain control over the traceability of substances and their environmentally sound management. In the specific transitional provision states that: The Environmental Authority not register control subjects demanding use mercury mining activities, these will be subject to comply with the provisions of Ministerial Agreement No. 060 "Procedures and Requirements for Obtaining Authorization for Transfer and Mercury Consumption "published in Official Gazette Nro.238 of May 5, 2014.
- On April 11, 2016 Resolution No. 005-2016 COMEX was published, which aims to amend Annex I of Resolution No. 450 of COMEXI published in the special edition of the Official Gazette No. 492 of December 19 2008, containing the "Payroll Controls Products Subject to prior import" incorporating the "non-automatic import license" for goods classified under subheadings 2805.40.00, 2837.11 and 2837.19.00.10.

The Ministry of Environment in coordination with other state institutions, are constantly working on the fight against illegal mining through the Special Committee Against Illegal Mining (CECMI) established under the Executive Decree No. 754 of May 6, 2011, which contributes environmental experts, water and soil sampling for surveys, and provides legal advice. The (MAE) National Environmental Authority has developed specific action

policies for chemicals and waste management, including mercury, that are part of the reform of Book VI of the Unified Text of Secondary Legislation of the Ministry of Environment, published in Official Gazette No. 061 of May 4, 2015.

In addition to the development of policies and regulations, the Government has supported the implementation of projects on the issue of mercury in ASGM and Ecuador. In 2013, the regional project entitled "Development of plans for risk management of mercury in Latin America and the Caribbean" was approved by the GEF. Through the development of inventories of mercury and action plans, the main objective of the initiative is to strengthen the capacity of Ecuador to identify the sources and amounts of emissions, as well as priority areas to be addressed under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Argentina, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay are also part of the project implemented by UNEP.

In the context of ASGM, the country is part of the regional project entitled "Implementation of integrated to minimize mercury emissions from artisanal gold mining measures" being implemented by UNIDO in collaboration with the National Institute of Geological Research Mining Metallurgist (INIGEMM) of Ecuador and the Ministry of Environment of Peru. The GEF-funded initiative aims to reduce the use and emissions of mercury in ASGM by promoting low-mercury and mercury-free technologies in local pilot sites; The project also promoted innovative financial instruments, support for the formalization of ASGM miners and provided relevant information on health risks from mercury.

In 2011, the Ministry of Non-Renewable Natural Resources in Ecuador launched the National Development Plan Mining for 2011-2015. Among its objectives, the plan takes into account the execution and management of the mining sector, strengthening the ability of miners to operate in an environmentally sustainable way and increasing the profits of mining resources.

Previously, in 2009, Ecuador took important steps to strengthen the legal framework on mining, including the Mining Law and its General Regulations; Environmental Regulation for Mining Activities; and the Special Regulations for Small and Artisanal Mining.

In 2007, the Ministry of Environment, together with UNITAR, developed the "pilot in strengthening the development of an inventory and risk management decisions on mercury project: A contribution to the Global Alliance on mercury" using the UNEP Toolkit and pollutant release and transfer (PRTR). The project objective was the development of a national inventory of mercury emissions; and the preparation of a national risk assessment of mercury. In the 1990s, several national and international projects in Ecuador contributed to a better understanding of the problems of mercury use in ASGM. The most important projects were: "Minimizing emissions of mercury by small gold mines of southern Ecuador" and "The draft mining development and environmental control (PRODEMINCA)".

	<p>They promote the transition of mercury for gold processing cyanide through technology transfer and capacity building; improved management of cyanide tailings, dams; introducing best practices in the use of mercury, and the use of devices to prevent pollution; increased recycling of mercury; and carrying out other technical actions, such as studies of collective environmental impact assessment.</p> <p>Other national and international initiatives developed are: "The eradication of child labor in artisanal mining" by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Department of Labor U.S (USDOL), 2002-2004; "Environmental health and gold mining on a small scale in Ecuador impacts" by the International Centre for Development Research (IDRC), between 1999-2002 and 2003-2005; "The institutions and organizations in ASM" by IDRC / MPRI (2003); "Study of nonrenewable natural resources, monitoring and control of the Condor Mountains" by the MacArthur Foundation (2002); and two small grants for communities, artisanal and small-scale mining (ASCM), "Prevention and Control of Pollution in the rivers of San Gerardo (2002)" and "Environmental management of river Biron (2002)".</p> <p>Currently, a draft of the Minamata Initial Evaluation is being prepared in the country, in collaboration with UNEP. The development of a NAP focused on the ASGM sector complements the MIA initiative and that the country can achieve the objectives of the implementation phase of the Convention.</p> <p>The efforts made by Ecuador, mentioned above, show that this project is fully in line with the country's goal to map and prevent environmental and health problems related to mercury in the ASGM sector and to invest in technological solutions and capacity development institution to fulfill obligations under the Minamata Convention.</p>
<p>B. ENABLING OBJECTIVES OF ACTIVITY, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (The proposal must justify and describe the project. Also identify key stakeholders involved in the project, including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable</p>	<p>The outcomes of the proposed project will be the enablement of participatory stakeholders to manage mercury in the ASGM sector, as well as the NAP's finalization for the endorsement of relevant stakeholders and future submission by the government to the Minamata Convention secretariat. The activities of the project will fill the gaps required to develop the NAP by assisting the government of Ecuador and ASGM partners in the formulation of a clear road map to prevent, reduce, and where feasible eliminate mercury emissions by increasing awareness of risks to human and ecosystem health. This will include:</p> <p>(A) Analysis of the ASGM sector, including the main mining areas, mining/private sector involved, the relevant stakeholders, level of formalization and other relevant information, as well as an assessment of the participation of women and children;</p> <p>(B) Baseline estimates of the quantities of used mercury and other harmful chemicals, such as cyanide, and practices employed in the ASGM sector within the country;</p>

<p>Describe briefly consider also how the gender dimension in the design and implementation of the project):</p>	<p>(C) Assessment of institutional capacity in the health sector, especially in places/areas developing ASGM activities to compile data on the health of exposure to mercury, and carry out awareness raising and training;</p> <p>(D) Options for elimination of the practices specified in Annex C of the Convention;</p> <p>(E) Training to raise awareness about the risks of exposure to mercury, along with the health authorities, with a special focus on vulnerable populations, including women and children;</p> <p>(F) Definition of measures to formalize ASGM sector;</p> <p>(G) Consultation activities for ASGM miners and affected communities as well as for national and regional-level policy makers;</p> <p>(H) Strategies to manage and control illegal trade of mercury and its compounds, both domestic and foreign sources for use in ASGM mining and processing;</p> <p>(I) Strategies to engage stakeholders in the implementation and ongoing development of the national plan of action;</p> <p>(J) A roadmap for control of illegal use of mercury in the ASGM sector, including the necessary interventions and possible sources of funding to implement it.</p> <p>(K) Strategies for providing information to the ASGM mining sector and affected communities; and</p> <p>(L) Schedule for implementation of the national action plan.</p> <p>The project will focus on the assessment of the affected areas, located in the following provinces: Zamora Chinchipe, Esmeraldas, Azuay, Morona Santiago and El Oro, which has identified greater number of miners engaged in artisanal and small-scale mining. GEF resources will help Ecuador to identify future investment and intervention in the country to promote the management of mercury and other chemicals that constitute a key component of green industrial growth.</p> <p>Key stakeholders to be consulted and involved in the whole process of project implementation are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNIDO will act as the implementing agency of the GEF (IA) for the project. The project manager of the UNIDO project will provide technical advice and coordinate and supervise the project activities. • The Artisanal Gold Council (AGC) will act as executing agency, via a subcontract in most of the activities, assisting with the day-to-day management and will provide technical expertise for the development of all activities related to mercury and other aspects of
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the Minamata Convention and responsible development of the ASGM sector.

The project will be implemented by subcontract to the executor. Please see Annex A for a total estimate of the cost and co-financing from the GEF budget breakdown. The budget for the final evaluation is included as part of the monitoring and evaluation under UNIDO responsibility for its execution on page 14.

- **The Ministry of Environment (MAE)** is the main government counterpart in Ecuador, providing national leadership. The focal point for the Minamata Convention in the Ministry of Environment will be responsible for the day-to-day compliance with the treaty and its provisions. The Ministry of Environment will also act as chair and secretary of the National Steering Group (NSG).
- The NSG will be established as an inter-ministerial steering group comprising of representatives of the Ministry of Environment, UNIDO and AGC; technical and policy experts; and other relevant ministries and associations, who will provide overall guidance and coordination. All changes to the project will be carried out in accordance with the rules and regulations of UNIDO and the GEF policy / C.39 / Inf.3.
- **The Ministry of Mining (MM)** will provide national leadership and technical support for activities related to the ASGM sector in close collaboration with the implementing agency and the AGC.
- **The Ministry of Public Health (MSP)** will provide national leadership and technical support for health-related activities in close cooperation with the implementing agency and the AGC. **Coordinator of Strategic Sectors (MICSE) Ministry** will follow up, monitoring and evaluating the management and implementation of policies, plans, programs and sectoral and cross-sectoral projects.
- **The Ministry of Labour** will provide the legal framework related to child labor and workers from the ASGM sector.
- **The Ministry of Finance** will provide financial support to institutions for the establishment of proper credit or financing mechanisms to implement some of the activities within the framework of the implementation of the National Action Plan.
- **The miners, mining communities, indigenous groups and mining associations** will be consulted during the generation of data on the extent of mercury in ASGM and obtain feedback during the development of the NAP. They will be sensitized through training and committed to promote the prevention, control and elimination of mercury use in the sector.
- Other ASGM stakeholders, including academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, will assist in the development of the NAP. This network of stakeholders will remain in contact with the miners to raise awareness, share knowledge and promote the transfer of technology to prevent and control the use of mercury in the ASGM sector within the enabling activities framework and to develop a responsible and sustainable ASGM sector.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A team of experts composed of national and international consultants and technical specialists will be recruited to provide technical support for the implementation of the NAP. The team will be selected based on their technical expertise to assist in the development of a comprehensive analysis of the activities of the national sector and the activity plan for building national capacity. Refer to Annex B for a flowchart of the various stakeholders. <p>Recognizing that the level of exposure to mercury and its related effects on human health are determined by social and biological factors, women, children and men might be exposed to different kinds, levels and frequency of mercury. Thus, gender mainstreaming will play a key role in the development of NAP and will be an integral part of the project activities. Most women working in the ASGM sector in Ecuador are responsible for the collection of minerals (gold) from ores discharged into landfills by miners. The women are responsible to collect traces of gold from the discharged ores. They are also involved in activities related to cleaning, administrative, laundry, food, lodging activities, etc.</p> <p>This will be addressed based on the gender policy of UNIDO, including through the participation of women and vulnerable groups at the sector level, in exchange events and dissemination, in coordination unit project and the committee national, and at the level of interest groups (for example, by consulting women during analysis ASGM sector and the assessment of health impacts of mercury use). Special attention to gender equality will be paid when members are invited to participate in the National Steering Committee and assist awareness workshops. During recruitment process, female candidates will be encouraged to apply and efforts will be made to target female audience in advertisement.</p> <p>Strategies to mitigate gender inequality, prevent child labor and protect indigenous communities will be part of the proposed NAP.</p>
<p>C. DESCRIBE THE BUSINESS SUPPORT AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT (discuss the work needed to be carried out and expected results of each activity as indicated in Table A).</p>	<p>This project sets out the activities needed to strength and enhances national capacity and capability to manage mercury in the ASGM sector through the development of a National Action Plan (NAP). Project results also provide a basic situation evaluation and inventory/ characterization of the ASGM sector that will help in the design of future interventions to meet the obligations of the Convention. The NAP will generate global environmental and socioeconomic benefits and allow Ecuador to place the management of mercury in the forefront of their sustainable development agenda. The activities scheduled for each output are listed below:</p> <p>Output 1.1: National project coordination mechanism established and information disseminated</p> <p>Activity 1.1.1 Conduct national start-up workshop Activity 1.1.2 Establish an ASGM coordination mechanism at the national level. Activity 1.1.3 Develop strategies to involve stakeholders in the implementation and ongoing development of the NAP</p>

Activity 1.1.4 Develop communication materials that take into account the impacts of mercury on different gender groups.

Activity 1.1.5 Organize consultation workshops with the main stakeholders, including artisanal and small-scale gold miners, affected communities, members of the relevant ministries, as well as national and regional-level policy makers adapting time and location of the events to different gender groups' needs

Output 1.2: National ASGM comprehensive analysis completed to support the development and implementation of a road map to prevent and control the use of mercury emissions and releases.

Activity 1.2.1 Collect and analyze data on the ASGM sector (e.g. practices employed; illegal trade in mercury; number of major mining and mining sites, relevant stakeholders, including miners and the private sector; and the level of formalization of the sector).

Activity 1.2.2 Draft national objectives and control objectives to eliminate mercury.

Activity 1.2.3 Draft steps to facilitate the formalization or regulation of the ASGM sector based on evaluation of the necessary procedures.

Activity 1.2.4 Propose strategies to promote the reduction of emissions and releases of mercury and the control of its use in ASGM and actions to eliminate the worst practices mentioned in Annex C of the Minamata Convention

Activity 1.2.5 Prepare evaluation and preliminary cost-benefit analysis of technically available and economically feasible technologies to replace the use of mercury in the ASGM sector.

Activity 1.2.6 Identify potential sources of funding needed to implement the roadmap as part of the NAP.

Activity 1.2.7 Finish the strategy to manage mercury smuggling through borders neighboring countries, grocery retail, among others, based on analysis of mercury trade in the country and the region

Output 1.3: Institutional capacity and needs assessment completed to develop a public health strategy in ASGM

Activity 1.3.1 Consult with representatives of various ministries and other stakeholders

Activity 1.3.2 Identify institutional capacity gaps/barriers to public health in those communities

Activity 1.3.3 Identify the level of access to information on the risks related to exposure to mercury and the health care of the miners and their families, and to assess the ability of health professionals to prevent, diagnose and treat health problems related to exposure to mercury and mercury compounds in these communities

Activity 1.3.4 Finalize the report on institutional capacity needs assessment

Output 1.4: Rapid health situation assessment conducted; drafting of the public health strategy initiated and awareness raising workshops organized*

	<p>Activity 1.4.1 Plan and adapt survey tools developed by Artisanal Gold Council (AGC) or by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other tools to the context of Ecuador.</p> <p>Activity 1.4.2 Conduct consultation with the community and health professionals in selected places in the ASGM sector.</p> <p>Activity 1.4.3 Analyze the data collected and prepare recommendations.</p> <p>Activity 1.4.4 Initiate the drafting of a public health strategy for the ASGM sector, taking into account the vulnerability of different genres and groups.</p> <p>Activity 1.4.5 Raise awareness on the risks to human health related to the use of mercury in the ASGM sector through workshops</p> <p>Activity 1.4.6 Develop communication materials for the health workshop taking into account the impacts of mercury on different gender groups</p> <p>*Note: Primary monitoring (i.e. human bio-monitoring) is considered out of the scope of the rapid health situation assessment and of the project. The principle objective of the rapid assessment is to identify patterns of health care seeking behavior among ASGM miners and their family members so as to determine the most effective entry point for engagement with them. For example in cases where ASGM miners do not utilize health services, promotional and awareness raising efforts may need to be conducted through mobile clinics or as part of other social mobilization efforts carried out by the health sector. The rapid health situation assessment also seeks to identify current capacities in local health centres to identify and address ASGM related health issues. This latter information is needed to inform the design and messaging of training activities to be conducted under the NAP.</p> <p><u>Output 2.1: NAP drafted and submitted to the relevant stakeholders for interactive feedback</u></p> <p>Activity 2.1.1 Draft NAP according to the national analysis report.</p> <p>Activity 2.1.2 Conduct stakeholder consultation meetings</p> <p>Activity 2.1.3 Finalize draft of the NAP</p> <p>Activity 2.1.4 Define the schedule for implementation of NAP</p> <p>Please refer to the attached logical framework in Annex C of the specific outputs and associated indicators, verification and assumptions.</p>
<p>D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENES S OF THE PROJECT:</p>	<p>GEF resources will assist the Government of Ecuador and other stakeholders in understanding the use of mercury and how to minimize it in the ASGM sector, as well as raise awareness of the risks to human health and the environment. It will also contribute to the dissemination of project results at the national level to promote future projects.</p> <p>GEF resources will not only help to streamline interventions and related capacity building efforts in the ASGM sector, but also ensure that the key stakeholders involved in the compliance of Article 7 and Annex C under the Convention are sufficiently aware of and appropriately engaged in the design and delivery of the activities identified in the road map.</p> <p>To ensure cost effectiveness, infrastructure and human resources at each</p>

	<p>governmental counterpart involved in the project will be efficiently utilized. Most project activities will be carried out by national experts to the extent that this is possible. This will encourage increased local and national capacity to manage mercury and contribute to the profitability of the project through reduced consulting fees and travel expenses. UNIDO has already accumulated enough experience in implementing NAP projects (e.g. Gabon, Ghana, Mozambique, Peru, etc.)</p> <p>It is expected that the implementation of the project remains at low risk. UNIDO has solid experience in promoting the environmentally sound management of mercury in the ASGM sector and plays an important role as co-leader of the sector within the Global Mercury Partnership - the main mechanism and technical advisory group to the Minamata Convention. UNIDO also has extensive experience with support activities through National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention (NIP) and updates to the NIPs.</p> <p>Support activities to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), have already been developed in Ecuador with GEF resources. One such project was developed by UNIDO. The NAP will complement the country's efforts to significantly reduce the exposure of chemicals and waste of global importance harmful to humans and the environment. Local and regional presence of UNIDO in the field is also a comparative advantage to ensure the smooth development of the project activities.</p> <p>Moreover, AGC has over 15 years of extensive field experience in improving the ASGM sector in over 20 countries across the developing world. AGC has also worked in partnership with UNIDO in ASGM projects in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mongolia and Senegal. AGC is leading major projects in Peru and Indonesia, as well as Nicaragua, Suriname and Guinea.</p>
<p>E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:</p>	<p>Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for this project will rely on several levels of review, quality control and feedback. Overall M&E will be conducted by UNIDO through annual supervision visits to Ecuador. The National Steering Group including the main project stakeholders will meet annually to: (a) review the annual work plan, (b) assess progress against M&E targets as indicated in the Project Results Framework, (c) review interim and final reports, and (d) assess any gaps or weakness and make appropriate adaptive management decisions based on progress and achievements.</p> <p>The work plan for year two will be based on the results achieved in the first year, including associated budget allocations, in agreement with the GEF and UNIDO's rules and guidelines, as well as GEF Council Documents GEF/C.39/09 and GEF/C.39.03/Inf.3. UNIDO's office in Ecuador will assist and participate in monitoring and evaluation visits as needed. The final evaluation, to be conducted by an independent evaluator, will be arranged by UNIDO's project manager with support from UNIDO's Evaluation Group and reports submitted to the donor within 90 days of project end. The terms of reference for the evaluator will be developed with the support</p>

of UNIDO's project manager under UNIDO's guidance.

Programmatic M&E: the main executing partner, the Artisanal Gold Council (AGC) will be responsible for managing and executing most of the project and reporting semi-annually (every six months) to UNIDO. Progress of activities and outputs against the targets and desired outcomes will be assessed bi-annually by the executing partners using the means of verification and impact indicators for measurement explained in the Project Results Framework.

Financial Monitoring: All project costs will be accounted for and documented. Financial reports will be required from the executing agency according to standard UNIDO accounting procedures. A terminal evaluation will be submitted to the GEF within 90 days of the project end.

According to the Monitoring and Evaluation policy of the GEF and UNIDO, follow-up studies like Country Portfolio Evaluations and Thematic Evaluations can be initiated and conducted. All project partners and contractors are obliged to (a) make available studies, reports and other documentation related to the project and (b) facilitate interviews with staff involved in the project activities.

Legal clause context: This project is governed by the provisions of the Agreement on Basic Standard Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Ecuador and UNIDO, signed on 10 May 1989 and entered into force on 15 March 1993.

Monitoring and Evaluation table

M&E activity	Time	Budget [USD]	
		GEF Grant [USD]	Co-financing
Start-up workshop report*	Within 3 months of project start	0	0
Project review by NSG at the end of year 1*	Month 12	0	0
Project review by NSG at the end of the project*	Month 24	0	0
Terminal evaluation	At project closure	25,000	6,000
Total M&E cost		25,000	6,000

*Funded by Project Management Costs

F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE):

Not applicable.

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (Month, day, year)
Mr. Walter Garcia	Minister	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	07/20/2016

B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION

	DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY)	NATIONAL FOCAL POINT	DATE OF NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 7 TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT
MINAMATA CONVENTION	10/10/2013	Mr. Franz Verdezoto	

C. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

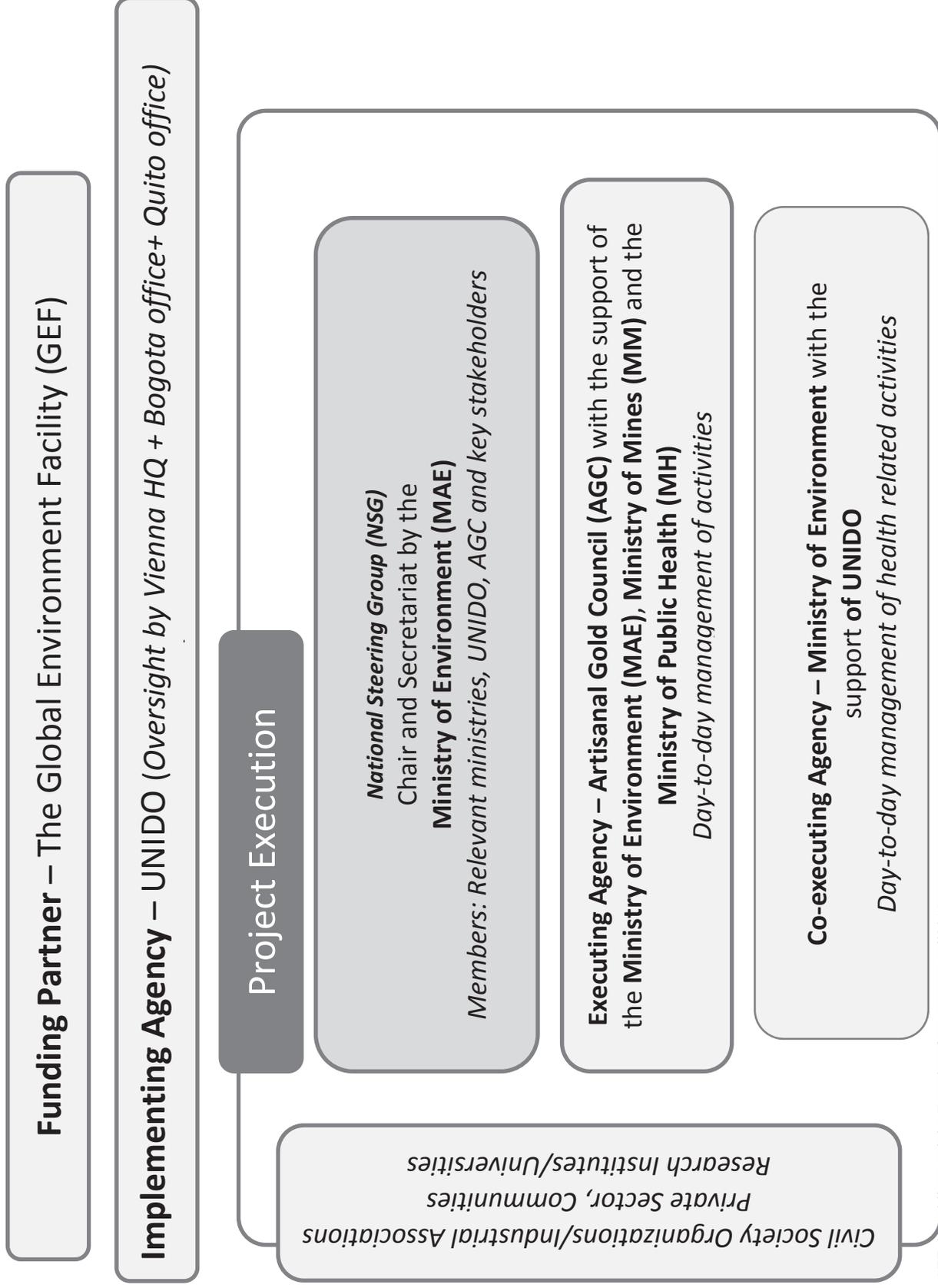
This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies⁴ and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for Chemicals and Waste Enabling Activity approval in GEF 6.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	E-mail Address
Mr. Philippe R. Scholtès, Managing Director of Programme Development and Technical Cooperation (PTC), UNIDO GEF Focal Point		01/24/2017	Guillermo CASTELLA LORENZO	+43 126026 5036	G.Castella@unido.org

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

ANNEX A - GEF grant and co-financing table by product

Hierarchy of objectives	GEF Grant			Co-financing					Total
	AGC	UNIDO	Subtotal	UNIDO	AGC	Ecuador	Subtotal		
National capacity									
Outcome 1. 1. Participatory stakeholders able to manage mercury in the ASGM sector (awareness, technical skills, expertise)	182,500	171,000	353,500	13,000	50,000		63,000	416,500	
<i>Output 1.1: Information disseminated and national coordination on ASGM established</i>	49,500	18,000	67,500	6,000			6,000	73,500	
<i>Output 1.2: National comprehensive analysis of ASGM sector completed to support the development and implementation of a road map to prevent and reduce mercury use, emissions and releases</i>	110,000	76,000	186,000	7,000	50,000		57,000	243,000	
<i>Output 1.3: Institutional capacity needs assessment completed to develop a public health strategy on ASGM</i>		50,000	50,000				0	50,000	
<i>Output 1.4: Health situation assessment conducted; drafting of the public health strategy initiated and awareness raising workshops organized</i>	23,000	27,000	50,000				0	50,000	
Outcome 2. 2. NAP drafted for the endorsement from relevant stakeholders	72,000	15,000	87,000	10,000			10,000	97,000	
<i>Output 2.1.2.1: NAP drafted and presented to relevant stakeholders for iterative feedback</i>	72,000	15,000	87,000	10,000			10,000	97,000	
Monitoring and evaluation								0	
Project achieves objective on time through effective monitoring and evaluation	0	25,000	25,000	8,000			8,000	33,000	
Project management cost								0	
Project management cost	20,000	14,500	34,500				0	34,500	
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	274,500	225,500	500,000	31,000	50,000	0	81,000	581,000	

Annex B: Project Execution Arrangement



ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Results*	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions & Risks
Objective/Impact: To improve the national capacity and capability for prevention and management of mercury use, through the preparation of a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector			
Outcome 1: Participatory stakeholders able to manage mercury in the ASGM sector (knowledge, technical skills, expertise).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of stakeholders agreeing with the statement that they have obtained new knowledge and skills in mercury management in the ASGM sector as a result of the project - At least 5 national experts (gender balanced) from private and public institutions trained in the management of mercury under the ASGM sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terminal evaluation - Workshop and training reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National counterparts and relevant stakeholders remain engaged and cooperative
Output 1.1: Project coordination mechanism established and information disseminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project coordination mechanism established (National Steering Group and Project Management Unit) - Frequency of National Steering Committee meetings (2 times) - Number of participatory workshops/ information sharing events (i.e. study tours, lectures, educational workshops, media brief) conducted - Percentage of women and men participants at workshops/ trainings/consultations and National Steering Group - At least 1 gender-related association/ministry invited to workshops/trainings/ consultations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Steering Group meeting minutes - Terms of reference for the project coordination mechanism (i.e. function, budget, expertise) - Project progress report - Training/events/workshop reports - List of workshops' invitees and participants - Information/knowledge materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ministries will promote all the National Steering Group activities - The National Steering Group will be comprised of members from relevant entities - Sufficient resources are allocated to maintain the project coordination mechanism - The project has a strong political and civil support
Output 1.2: National ASGM comprehensive analysis completed to support the development and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of ASGM sites with estimated number of men women and children affected by mercury - Quantities of mercury used in ASGM and processing within the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National comprehensive analysis document, including inventory on mercury use in the ASGM sector, mercury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on mercury use in ASGM is available - Private sector and civil society will contribute to the inventory

<p>implementation of a work plan to prevent and control the use of mercury emissions and releases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mercury reduction targets for the ASGM sector in percentage reduction - Number of strategies to reduce the use, emissions and releases of mercury - Number of stakeholders consulted during collection of data for the completion of the national comprehensive analysis (gender disaggregated) 	<p>reduction targets and national strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structured interviews, direct measurements and observations - Report describing relevant stakeholders - Project progress reports 	<p>exercise</p>
<p>Output 1.3: Institutional capacity and needs assessment completed to develop a public health strategy on ASGM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of institutional capacity gaps and barriers identified - Numbers of different roles of various sectors and organizations identified - Number and types of recommendations in the institutional capacity needs assessment report with a special focus on vulnerable populations, such as women workers, pregnant women, and children - Number and types of local institutions engaged as a potential partner in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of measures taken to address health impacts of ASGM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutional capacity needs assessment report - Project progress report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information and key informants will be readily accessible - High level interests and engagement from representatives of key ministries and stakeholder groups
<p>Output 1.4: Rapid health situation assessment conducted; drafting of the public health strategy initiated and awareness raising workshops organized</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of men and women/communities/facilities consulted - Number of health care providers consulted in ASGM affected locations; both quantitative and qualitative data on health systems capacity gaps/issues generated - Number of recommendations in the rapid assessment report with a special focus on vulnerable populations, such as women workers, pregnant women, and children - Number of healthcare professionals introduced to the ASGM health curriculum - Number of awareness raising workshops conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid assessment report with recommendations - Draft initial public health strategy - Awareness raising workshop report - List of workshops' invitees and participants - Information/knowledge materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health care providers, and ASGM miners and family members are knowledgeable and willing to participate in the assessment - Although engagement of healthcare providers and the healthcare system will occur, the training of health care providers and establishment of a related monitoring and reporting framework to complete the development of a public health strategy in the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of women and men participants at workshops/ trainings/consultations - At least 1 gender-related association/ministry invited to workshops/trainings/ consultations 		ASGM sector will not be included as part of this project
Outcome 2: NAP completed for the endorsement of stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approval of the NAP by the government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Official government record 	
Output 2.1: NAP drafted, finalized and presented to relevant stakeholders for interactive feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NAP finalized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NAP document - NAP implementation schedule - Consultation and approval meeting minutes - Progress and monitoring reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant stakeholders remain interested and engaged in the project

* Note: - Enabling Activity (EA) projects focus on capacity building and thus no impact statements are required; and
- Component 3 of the EA project (Monitoring and evaluation) presented under section A is not reported in the logical framework.