



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:	Development of a Minamata Initial Assessment in El Salvador		
Country(ies):	El Salvador	GEF Project ID: ¹	
GEF Agency(ies):	UN Environment	GEF Agency Project ID:	01556
Other Executing Partner(s):	El Salvador	Submission Date:	February 22, 2017
GEF Focal Area (s):	Chemicals and Wastes	Project Duration (Months)	24 months
Type of Report:	Minamata Initial Assessment	Expected Report Submission to Convention	24 months after receipt of the first cash advance

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK*

Project Objective: Ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention is facilitated by the use of scientific and technical knowledge and tools by national stakeholders in El Salvador			
Project Component	Project Outputs	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing ²
1. Development of the Minamata Initial Assessment	1.1 El Salvador makes full use of enhanced existing structures and information available dealing with mercury management to guide ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention	33,000	0
	1.2 Full understanding of comprehensive information on current infrastructure and regulation for mercury management enables El Salvador to develop a sound roadmap for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention	28,000	0
	1.3 Enhanced understanding on mercury sources and its releases facilitates the development of national priority actions	40,000	0
	1.4 Improved understanding on national needs and gaps in mercury management and monitoring enables a better identification of future activities	34,218	0
2. Validation of the Minamata Initial Assessment	2.1 El Salvador's key stakeholders make full use of the MIA and related assessments leading to the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury	31,600	0
3. Monitoring and Evaluation	3.1 MIA validated by national stakeholders	15,000	
	3.2 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF		
	3.3 Independent terminal evaluation developed and made		

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.

	publicly available		
Subtotal		181,818	0
Project Management Cost ³		18,182	0
Total Project Cost		200,000	0

* 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 (\$)
NA			
Total Co-financing			

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
UN Environment	GEFTF	El Salvador	Mercury	200,000	19,000	219,000
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 :

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. The major highlights of the Convention include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, control measures on air emissions, and the international regulation of the informal sector for artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury identifies and describes in its Article 13 the financial mechanism to support Parties to implement the Convention. It identifies two entities that will function as the Financial Mechanism:

- a) the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund; and
- b) A specific international Programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance.

As such, the the GEF Assembly, at its fifth meeting, held in May 2014, agreed to an allocation in its sixth replenishment of \$141 million for work under the Convention, out of which \$30 million to support enabling activities and promote their integration into national budgets and planning processes, national and sector policies and actions and global monitoring. At its sixth session held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 3 to 7 November 2014 the INC applied a revised eligibility criteria in providing financial support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for activities under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. It requested the eligibility for funding be extended for enabling activities to non-signatories to the Convention, provided that any such State is taking meaningful steps towards becoming a party. Such request was approved by the Council of the GEF in January 2015.

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.

The revised GEF initial guidelines for enabling activities for the Minamata Convention on Mercury circulated to the GEF Council members in January 2014 presented in its section 1 the initial guidelines for the development of “Minamata Initial Assessment activities” (MIA). These guidelines were revised by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee 6 (INC 6) consistent with the resolution adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury. This project follows these guidelines revised by the INC 6.

The project contributes to the achievement of the expected accomplishment A under the UN Environment biennial Programme of Work (PoW) 2016-2017 “countries increasingly have the necessary institutional capacity and policy instruments to manage chemicals and waste soundly, including the implementation of related provisions in the multilateral environmental agreements”. More precisely, the project contributes to the PoW output 2 “secretariat support provided to the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury (the Minamata Convention on Mercury) during the interim period, prior to its entry into force”. Through this project UN Environment will provide national stakeholders with the policy and technical instruments needed to ratify the Minamata Convention and will strengthen the national institutional capacity to its early implementation.

El Salvador was not in a position to sign the Minamata Convention before it was closed for signature on 09 October 2014. El Salvador is however taking meaningful steps to ratify the Convention, as stated in letter addressed to UN Environment and the Global Environment Facility in 4 March 2016. El Salvador has in particular:

- Participated in the sub-regional workshop organized by UN Environment from 26th-28th November 2014, at Mexico City, Mexico, and developed in that context a draft national roadmap on the ratification of the Minamata Convention;
- Undertaken a preliminary analysis of key mercury-related issues and/or stakeholders at the national level. This has included a comprehensive research about mining at national level.
- Reduced the use of dental amalgam in the dentist private sector since 2010. This has been achieved as a result of awareness raising workshops on mercury health impacts and alternatives to dental amalgam;
- Identified the national process to be followed for the accession to international instruments as the Minamata Convention.

This project is aimed at facilitating the accession of El Salvador to and early implementation of the Minamata Convention by providing key national stakeholders in El Salvador with the scientific and technical knowledge and tools needed for that purpose. El Salvador will benefit from new and updated information about the mercury situation in the country and from increased capacity in managing the risks from mercury. The sharing of experiences and lessons learned throughout the project is also expected to be an important contribution to other similar countries within region.

Brief description on El Salvador’s baseline information

According to the Technical Background of the Global Mercury Assessment 2013, the main sources of mercury emissions in El Salvador are the following:

Table 1: The major sources of mercury emissions in El Salvador, according to the Technical Background Report for the Global mercury Assessment 2013. Data from 2010.⁴

Sector Code	Activity	Estimate (min)	Emission estimate (Kg)	Estimate (max)
Artisanal and small-scale mining	gold	56.250	225.000	393.750

⁴ <http://www.amap.no/documents/doc/technical-background-report-for-the-global-mercury-assessment-2013/848>

Cement Production		32.760	90.480	329.212
Waste and other losses due to breakage and disposal in landfill		22.459	86.382	285.060
Stationary fossil fuel combustion in (major) power plants: Oil	Combustion of heavy fuel oil in (major) power plants	5.053	11.229	18.528
Stationary fossil fuel combustion in industrial uses: Oil	Combustion of heavy fuel oil	2.411	5.358	8.841
Use in dental amalgam, emissions from human cremation		1.083	4.386	14.705

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM)

Mining is recognized as one of the industrial and artisanal activities associated with mercury use. Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold mining is the main source of mercury emissions in El Salvador.

The Ministry of Economy of El Salvador has already conducted several studies in the country to determine the levels of mercury contamination in the country. The main contaminated areas have been geo referenced.

Legal and regulatory framework

Mercury containing wastes are considered hazardous wastes in Article 23 of the Regulation for hazardous Substances and Wastes. Equally, are considered hazardous wastes the categories mentioned in the annexes to the Basel Convention and other mentioned in international instruments ratified by El Salvador on the subject. According to Article 4 of the Basel Convention, those generating hazardous wastes should aim to minimize waste production through the application of best available technologies. Activities and procedures that lead to the sustainable management of wastes generated should also be considered and diffused”.

The ratification of the Minamata Convention would strengthen the national legal framework towards a more sustainable management of mercury, reducing the environmental and health impacts in consequence of its use.

Mining sites in El Salvador

The study entitles “ Final Evaluation of Risks and Remediation Measures in 15 Mining sites in El Salvador”, realized from July to September 2015, has concluded that mercury concentrations in water samples were below 0.0005mg/L. The almost absence of mercury in the water samples can be explained by the absence of recent mining activities in the assessed areas.

However, sediment samples in mining sites have shown concentrations above the maximum threshold which is 0.15 mg of mercury/kg. These are clear residues of the previous mining activities in these areas since industrial activities or farming activities cannot explain these concentrations.

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES:

The goal of the MIA development is to protect human health and the environment from the risks posed by the unintentional and intentional emission and release, unsound use and management, of mercury.

Project objective: Ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention is facilitated by the use of scientific and technical knowledge and tools by national stakeholders in El Salvador

Taking into account the approved guidance for MIA development and the national roadmap for the ratification of the Minamata Convention the project will have three components, which consists of the activities indicated below. Each component includes information on project activities, outcomes and outputs.

Component 1: Global technical support for MIA development

El Salvador will benefit from and contribute to the work the Global Mercury Partnership is already accomplishing under other Minamata Initial Assessments. The technical expertise and tools provided will respond directly to country needs identified. With this additional support, El Salvador will be able to obtain feedback and ensure rapid response to its queries on the development of the MIA and will also make full use of the existing capacities and expertise in the region and globally. It will identify opportunities for regional/global cooperation and synergies between countries working on their MIAs.

Expected outputs and planned activities:

1.1 Technical assistance provided to El Salvador to develop the MIA while building sustainable foundations for its future implementation

1.1.1 Quality check of mercury inventories developed;

1.1.2 Enhancement of the UN Environment Hg toolkit, including translation to other UN languages;

1.1.3 Undertake knowledge management and information exchange through the Global Mercury Partnership website and/or Partners websites and tools.

Component 2: Development and validation of the Minamata Initial Assessment

El Salvador will establish a National Coordination Mechanism for Mercury (NCM) making full use of existing structures dealing with chemicals management (e.g. National Coordination Group for POPs and/or for SAICM) to coordinate and guide the project implementation. The NCM for mercury, will seek for synergies and joint activities with existing and relevant planned chemical related activities. Additionally, it will identify existing competencies and roles of institutions and organization in chemicals management, particularly on mercury. Sectors to participate in the process as part of the Minamata National Committee will include representatives from emergencies, health, environment, labor, finance, economy, industry, mining and energy, external affairs and planning sectors, trade unions and civil society organizations.

During this project component implementation, the NCM for Mercury and its Terms of Reference will be formalized and reinforced in El Salvador. The Terms of Reference will include information on members, the frequency of meetings and the modality of work and roles in the project. The Terms of Reference for the NCM for Mercury will seek for a balanced structure, including representatives from the civil society and mercury affected communities. A gender specialist will be identified in the country to participate actively in the NCM for mercury. This project component also aims at enhancing stakeholders' involvement and commitment to the development of the MIA and gaining political support for the accession and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in El Salvador.

After the establishment of the NCM for mercury, this component will also review and assess the national capacities (technical, administrative, infrastructure and regulatory) on mercury management. The technical regulations related to water and air quality will be assessed in particular. This review and assessment will result in a preliminary identification of national needs and gaps for the accession to and early implementation of the Minamata Convention. The assessments produced under this component will provide Ministries with strong arguments for the accession to the Minamata Convention and prioritization of mercury management on the national agenda. Once El Salvador access to the Convention, this component outputs will be essential to comply with the reporting obligations of the Convention and to

monitor its implementation. This component will ensure that the gender issues and the interests of vulnerable populations are fully taken into account in the assessments.

The national assessment will be complemented by improved data on national mercury sources, emissions and releases. The UN Environment Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases has been revised in 2013. El Salvador will apply the level II version, which is a comprehensive description of all mercury sources, as well as a quantitative analysis of mercury. More specifically, the mercury toolkit will assist El Salvador to address: a) Mercury supply sources and trade (Article 3); (b) Mercury-added products (Article 4); (c) Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used (Article 5); (d) Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (Article 7); (e) Emissions (Article 8); and (f) Releases (Article 9). It will also include a description of mercury storage conditions. An international expert will analyse the inventory data in a timely fashion and will train experts in El Salvador throughout the whole inventory process. The aim is to ensure the high quality and comparability of the final inventory with others produced by other countries and build national capacity to use the UN Environment Toolkit. This project component will also analyse existing information on mercury contaminated sites and will formulate a strategy to identify and assess mercury contaminated sites, using internationally agreed or any existing criteria successfully used elsewhere.

Taking into consideration the assessment of national capacities, infrastructure and regulatory framework, and the mercury inventory, this project component will be completed by an assessment of the challenges, needs and opportunities to implement the Convention on priority sectors. The main output under this project component is a needs assessment and further recommendations to implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury, taking into consideration the role of all key players and their responsibilities, in particular gender concerns, and the special needs of vulnerable groups. The MIA will have a chapter with the main findings and recommendations to approach the social and gender aspects of mercury exposure.

Finally, during this project component the draft MIA is reviewed and validated by national stakeholders. This process of wide consultation will likely include National Coordination meetings, workshops with key sectors and stakeholders, written communications and discussions leading to a final MIA document that will allow the Government to ratify the Convention based on a sound national assessment of the mercury situation. Awareness raising and dissemination of key MIA outputs will also be performed under this project component under activity 2.5.2.

Expected outputs and planned activities:

- 2.1 Identified and strengthened national coordination mechanism dealing with mercury management that will guide the project implementation.
 - 2.1.1 *Organize a National Inception Workshop to raise awareness and to define the scope and objective and to have common understanding of the MIA process, including:*
 - a) *Develop ToR for the National Coordination Mechanism;*
 - b) *Develop a strategy for awareness raising aimed at national stakeholders throughout the project;*
 - c) *Identify key stakeholders and assign roles.*
 - 2.1.2 *Conduct a national assessment on existing sources of information (studies), compile and make them publicly available.*
- 2.2 National institutional and regulatory framework and national capacities on mercury management assessed.
 - 2.2.1 *Assess key national stakeholders, their roles in mercury management and monitoring and institutional interest and capacities;*
 - 2.2.2 *Analyze the existing regulatory framework, identify gaps and identify the regulatory reforms needed for the sound management of mercury in El Salvador.*
- 2.3 National inventories of mercury sources and releases developed using the UN Environment Mercury Toolkit

Level II and strategy for the identification of mercury contaminated sites developed.

2.3.1 *Develop a qualitative and quantitative inventory of all mercury sources, emissions and releases;*

2.3.2 *Develop a national strategy to identify mercury-contaminated sites.*

2.4 Challenges, needs and opportunities to implement the Minamata Convention assessed and recommendations to ratify and implement the Minamata Convention developed.

2.4.1 *Conduct a national and sectoral assessment on challenges, needs and opportunities to implement the Convention in key priority sectors;*

2.4.2 *Develop a report on recommendations to ratify and implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury.*

2.5 MIA validated by national and international stakeholders.

2.5.1 *Draft and validate MIA Report;*

2.5.2 *Develop and implement a national MIA awareness raising and dissemination and outreach strategy.*

Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation

Day-to-day project management and monitoring will be the responsibility of the Executing Agency. The project monitoring will start with the inception workshop and the development of a detailed workplan, budget and detailed monitoring and evaluation plan with key stakeholders. The Executing Agency will develop and submit to UN Environment technical and financial reports every quarter describing the progress according to the workplan and budget, identifying obstacles occurred during implementation and the remediation actions to be taken.

UN Environment will monitor the project progress according to the workplan on a regular basis and provide guidance to the Executing Agency to progress according to the workplan. Yearly during the GEF PIR UN ENVIRONMENT will provide information about the status of the project implementation and the disbursements made.

The terminal report and final statement of accounts developed by the Executing Agency at the end of the project closes the Executing Agency monitoring activities for this project. The final financial audit will review the use of project funds against budget and assess probity of expenditure and transactions. The final audit is to be developed by an independent audit authority (a recognized firm of public accountants or, for governments, a government auditor). The final audit is to be sent to UN Environment up to six months after the technical completion of the project.

Templates for the quarterly progress and financial report, terminal report and final statement of accounts will be provided by UN Environment. There is no template for the final financial audit.

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation, latest 6 months after completion of the project. The Evaluation Office of UN Environment will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UN Environment Task Manager at Division of Economics Chemicals Branch throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UN ENVIRONMENT and executing partners – Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador in particular. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. Project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the evaluation report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

Expected outputs and planned activities:

3.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF.

3.1.1 EA develops and submit technical and financial reports quarterly to UN Environment using UN Environment's templates;

3.1.2 UN Environment communicate project progress to the GEF yearly during the PIR using GEF's template;

3.1.3 Develop and submit terminal report and final statement of accounts to UN Environment at project end;

3.1.4 Submit final financial audit to UN Environment.

3.2 Independent terminal evaluation developed and made publicly available.

3.2.1 UN Environment EO carry out the terminal evaluation upon the request of the UN Environment Task Manager and make it publicly available in the UN Environment website.

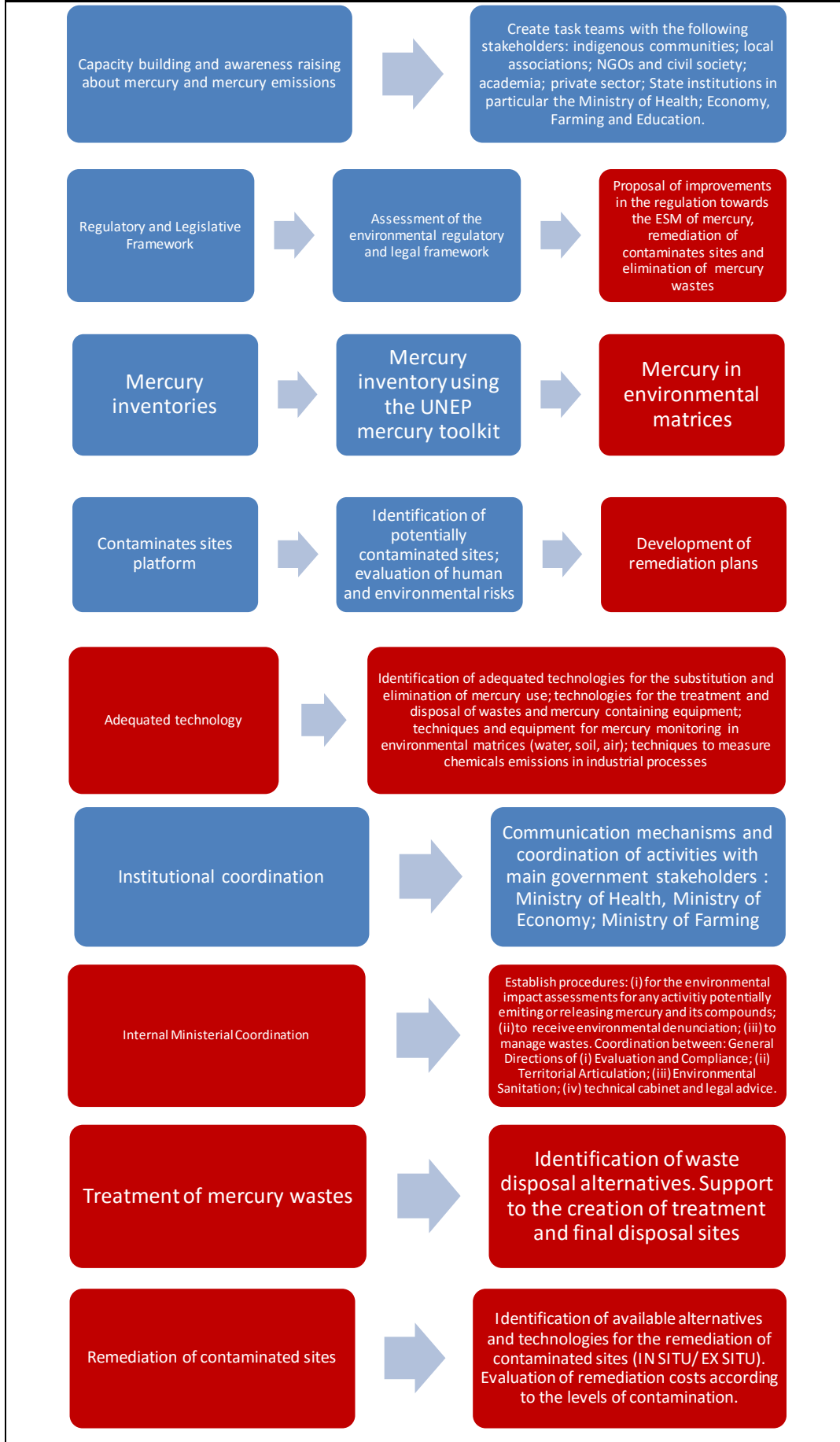
Table 2: Monitoring and Evaluation

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)*1	Time-frame
Inception workshop*	Awareness raising, building stakeholder engagement, detailed work planning with key groups	EA	0	Within two months of project start
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring	Project coordinator (EA)	0	Immediately following Inception Workshop
Project Supervision and Monitoring	Technical and Administrative support provided on a regular basis ensuring that the project is being carried out according to the agreed work plan and budget	UN Environment	0	Regularly
Technical Progress reports	Describes progress against annual work plan for the reporting period and provides activities planned for the next period	Project Coordinator (EA)	0	Every six months
Financial Progress Reports	Documents project expenditure according to established project budget and allocations	Project Coordinator (EA)	0	Every three months
Terminal report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reviews effectiveness against implementation plan; ✓ Highlights technical outputs; ✓ Identifies lessons learned and likely design approaches for future projects, assess the likelihood of achieving design outcomes. 	Project Coordinator (EA)		At the end of project implementation
Terminal evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Single report that reviews effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation, coordination mechanisms and outputs; ✓ Identifies lessons learnt and likely remedial actions for future projects; 	UN Environment EO appointed Independent external	10,000	At the end of project implementation

	✓ Highlights technical achievements and assesses against prevailing benchmarks.	consultant		
Independent Financial Audit	Reviews use of project funds against budget and assesses probity of expenditure and transactions	EA	5,000	At the end of project implementation
Total indicative M&E cost*¹			15,000	

*Project steering committee meetings (3) inception workshop and mid-term review will be carried out back to back with other technical meetings, such as the lessons learned (2) and planning meeting (1), therefore cost will be considered as “zero.

Figure 1: national roadmap for the ratification of the Minamata Convention



MIA project funds
Co-financing Ministry of Environment

The figure above shows the relationship between the national roadmap towards the ratification of the Minamata Convention and the activities that will be implemented under the GEF funded Minamata Initial Assessment (in blue).

Project Stakeholders:

At the international level, the project will include:

- a) **UN Environment Division of Economics Chemicals:** as a GEF Implementing Agency. UN Environment will provide technical oversight and administrative support to the National Coordinating agency and the National Coordinator. UN Environment will also provide the global perspective and experience from other countries;
- b) **UN Environment Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean:** will identify opportunities for regional synergies and areas of cooperation. Some examples may include: coordination of regional information exchange and provision of documents and inventories from other countries in the region, identification of regional experts, etc;
- c) The **Minamata Convention Secretariat** will provide guidance materials and opportunities to exchange information and to understand the Minamata Convention from a regional and global perspective;
- d) The **Global Mercury Partnership** the partnership works closely with stakeholders to assist in the timely ratification and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention. It will support the implementation of the project through knowledge management, quality check and access to the technical tools needed for the mercury assessment;
- e) **BRS Secretariat** will provide areas of cooperation and synergies with POPs related activities. The project will also consider using the existing resources at the BRS Secretariat level, such as facilities to provide technical support (webinars) organization of training workshops, etc;
- f) **Others:** such as the national/regional representation of WHO, to provide the human health dimension to the project such as the identification of the impacts to human health of mercury exposure. It will also provide opportunities for cooperation by making available its mercury programme and suitable expertise on mercury and humans.

Table 3: Other stakeholders participating in the project at the national level

Name of stakeholder/Organization	Responsibility/expertise
Ministries and government agencies	
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and Natural Resources (MARN)	Focal point for national implementation Environmentally sound management of chemicals Analysis of chemicals for environmental and biological-environmental licensing Emissions and releases of mercury Management of household and hazardous waste
Ministry of Health (MINSAL)	Risk assessments Poisoning Hospital waste management
Ministry of Farming (Customs)	Will identify the amount of mercury imported in the country and what is the destination of the mercury imported.

Ministry of Education (MINEC)	Educational booklets will be developed for students and teachers to raise awareness related to mercury contamination.
Ministry of Emergencies	Identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds Disposal and storage of mercury in emergencies
Ministry of Trade	Identify sources of mercury supply
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Negotiation processes for legally binding instruments Signature and accession monitoring of legally binding instruments
Ministry of Economy	Regulates commercial and economic activities in the country Development of financial mechanism
Ministry of Labor and Social Protection	Inspections of chemical storage and work safety
General Secretariat for coordinating government bodies	Planning measures at central government level
NGOs, scientific organisations and civil society	
Universidad Centroamericana “José SiméonCànas (UCA)”	Consulting and expertise on topics of interest.
Universidad de El Salvador (UES)	
Local associations for social development (ADESCOS)	Indigenous communities, rural workers and local governments will participated in the working groups and awareness raising activities. The main objective is to raise awareness in these communities of the risks related to exposure to mercury. The participation of vulnerable groups will be encouraged.
Private sector	Consulting and expertise on topics of interest.

Socioeconomic benefits including consideration of gender dimensions

Reduction of mercury use will have an especially positive impact in poor populations. The financially disadvantaged (and specifically women and children) are often those most affected by these adverse impacts. Addressing the environmental and health hazards associated with mercury is therefore crucial to ensure that hard won development gains are not compromised.

Through the inventory process, and the mapping of key mercury pollution sources, the project will define at-risk populations across participating countries, together with the development of national priority actions to address such risks. Project activities will also involve consultation with at risk communities with the aim of increasing their understanding about the dangers of mercury exposure and providing communities at risk with clear, practical information to protect themselves. This is likely to involve, but not be limited to poor communities living in close proximity to gold mines and non-ferrous metal production facilities.

Regarding gender, the project will ensure there are opportunities for women to contribute to, and benefit from, the project outcomes. A gender specialist will be identified to advise on the project implementation and the MIA will have a chapter with the main findings and recommendations to approach the gender aspects of mercury exposure.

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

For project activities, please section B

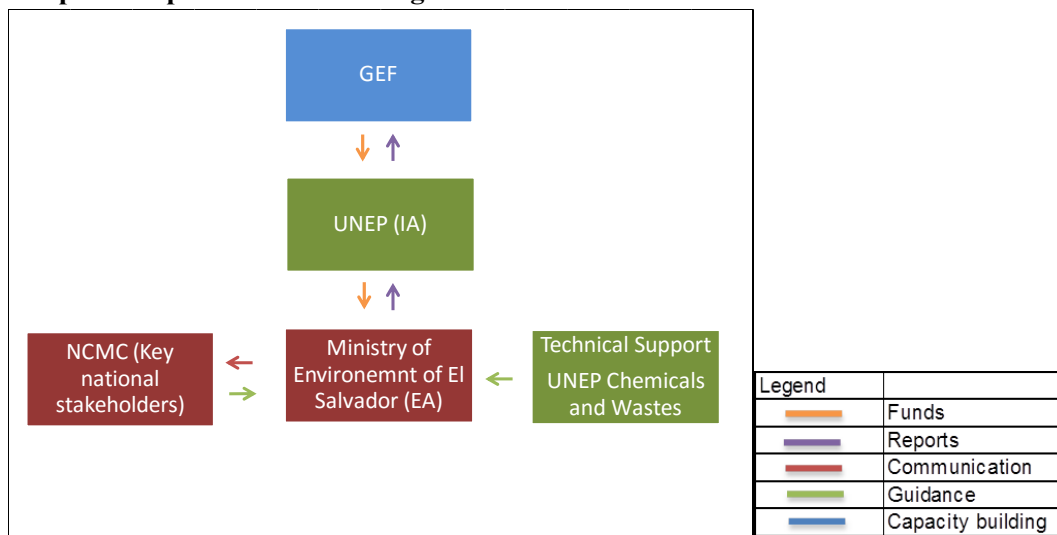
Implementing Agency (IA): This project will be implemented by UN Environment and executed by Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador. As Implementing Agency, UN Environment will be responsible for the overall project supervision, overseeing the project progress through the monitoring and evaluation of project activities and progress reports, including on technical issues, In close collaboration with its Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean UN ENVIRONMENT will provide administrative support to the Executing Agency.

UN Environment will support the execution of this project, as part of the Mercury Partnership Programme, and will provide assistance to signatories to the Minamata Convention or countries taking meaningful steps to ratify the Convention such as organizing regional/global awareness raising/training workshops, reviewing technical products, sending technical experts to key meetings, etc. Furthermore, through its Programme of work, UN Environment will identify suitable Divisions and Branches that can provide additional support to participating countries and complement project activities.

Executing Agency (EA): Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador will execute, manage and be responsible for the project and its activities on a day-to-day basis. It will establish the necessary managerial and technical teams to execute the project. It will search for and hire any consultants necessary for technical activities and supervise their work. It will acquire equipment and monitor the project; in addition, it will organize an independent audit in order to guarantee the proper use of GEF funds. Financial transactions and audit will be carried out in accordance with national regulations. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador will provide regular administrative, progress and financial reports to the IA.

A National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) namely the Minamata National Committee will meet regularly during project implementation. The Committee will include Key National Stakeholders and will evaluate the progress of the project and will take the necessary measures to guarantee the fulfillment of its goals and objectives. The NCM will take decisions on the project in line with the project objectives and these decisions will be implemented by the Executing Agency

Graph 1: Implementation arrangements



D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:

The project will use the current capacity for chemicals management present in El Salvador, such as the existing infrastructure and coordination mechanisms. The project will also consider any previous efforts to collect information on national mercury sources and releases and to improve the sound management of mercury and mercury waste.

The project will also take into account the expertise gathered by some countries in previous projects related to mercury waste management, and in turn, share the experiences and lessons learned with those countries that are at an early stage of strengthening capacities for mercury management. The project will coordinate closely with the Chemicals Division at UN Environment and with the different mercury programmes and projects in place.

The integration of outcomes and deliverables of this project is also expected to provide significant input to the existing national framework for chemicals management in El Salvador. In this respect, enhanced capacities and knowledge on mercury and mercury waste will facilitate the development and/or update of current policies and enforcement practices in a more efficient and resource saving approach.

E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:

More detailed information about project monitoring and evaluation can be consulted in the project component 3 monitoring and evaluation.

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

NA

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):

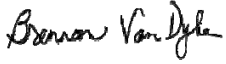
NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE
Lina Pohl	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	04 March.2016

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	-	-	NA

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 Chemicals and Waste Enabling Activity approval in GEF 6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	E-mail Address
Brennan Van Dyke Chief, Strategic Donor Partnerships and Global Funds Coordination UN Environment		February 22, 2017	Kevin Helps Senior Programme Officer, Chemicals Branch / GEF Operations DIVISION OF ECONOMICS, UN ENVIRONMENT	+254-20- 762-3140	Kevin.Helps@UN Environment.org

ANNEXES:

- A. CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE ENABLING ACTIVITY WITH GEF FUNDING
- B. OFP ENDORSEMENT/CO-FINANCE LETTERS
- C. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS CHECKLIST
- D. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS
- E. PROJECT SUPERVISION PLAN
- F. GEF APPROVED BUDGET

⁵ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCE, and SCCF

ANNEX A: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE ENABLING ACTIVITY WITH GEF FUNDING

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/ Person Week*</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks**</i>	<i>GEF (USD)</i>	<i>Tasks To Be Performed</i>
For Project Management				
Local				
Project coordinator	139	130	18,070	Project management on a 25% basis
For Technical Assistance				
Local				
Consultant to assist with the preparation of the MIA	500	160.00	80,000	Overall guidance on the MIA development and provide assessment reports to assist national teams to prepare the MIA assessment and
Subtotal	500	160.00	80,000	
International				
Technical support and advice throughout the project	2500	0.00	0	Technical support to develop national assessments and to identify and assess contaminated sites
Consultant to assist developing the mercury inventory using the UNEP toolkit	2500	8.00	20,000	Technical support to national project teams to develop a mercury inventory
Subtotal			20,000	
Total			100,000	
Justification for travel, if any: Consultants and project coordinator will travel throughout the country to develop the mercury inventory and conduct the national assessments.				

ANNEX B: OFP ENDORSEMENT/CO-FINANCE LETTERS

ANNEX C : ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS CHECKLIST

As part of the GEFs evolving Fiduciary Standards that Implementing Agencies have to address ‘Environmental and Social Safeguards’. To fill this checklist:

- STEP 1: Initially assess E&S Safeguards as part of PIF development. The checklist is to be submitted for the CRC.
- STEP 2 : Check list is reviewed during PPG project preparation phase and updated as required
- STEP 3 : Final check list submitted for PRC showing what activities are being undertaken to address issues identified

UN ENVIRONMENT/GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards Checklist

Project Title:	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in El Salvador		
GEF project ID and UN ENVIRONMENT ID/IMIS Number		Version of checklist	
Project status (preparation, implementation, MTE/MTR, TE)	Preparation/ Submission	Date of this version:	30.01.2016
Checklist prepared by (Name, Title, and Institution)	Kevin Helps – Senior Programme Officer GEF Operations - UN ENVIRONMENT DIVISION OF ECONOMICS Chemicals		

In completing the checklist both short- and long-term impact shall be considered.

Section A: Project location

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/explanation
- Is the project area in or close to -		
- densely populated area	N.A:	The project will assess the situation with regard to mercury in El Salvador. It will not take direct action on the ground but inventories prepared to address priority issues will take socio-economic and environmental considerations into account
- cultural heritage site	N.A:	
- protected area	NA	
- wetland	NA	
- mangrove	N.A:	
- estuarine	N.A:	
- buffer zone of protected area	N.A:	
- special area for protection of biodiversity	N.A:	
-will project require temporary or permanent support facilities?	N.A:	
<i>If the project is anticipated to impact any of the above areas an Environmental Survey will be needed to determine if the project is in conflict with the protection of the area or if it will cause significant disturbance to the area.</i>		

Section B: Environmental impacts

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	<i>Yes/No/N.A.</i>	<i>Comment/explanation</i>
- Are ecosystems related to project fragile or degraded?	N.A.	The project will assess the situation with regard to mercury in El Salvador. It will not take direct action on the ground but assessments and mercury inventories will assist the country to identify priority issues in relation to human health and the environment, where socio-economic and environmental considerations will be identified
- Will project cause any loss of precious ecology, ecological, and economic functions due to construction of infrastructure?	No	
- Will project cause impairment of ecological opportunities?	No	
- Will project cause increase in peak and flood flows? (including from temporary or permanent waste waters)	No	
- Will project cause air, soil or water pollution?	No	
- Will project cause soil erosion and siltation?	No	
- Will project cause increased waste production?	No	
- Will project cause Hazardous Waste production?	No	
- Will project cause threat to local ecosystems due to invasive species?	No	
- Will project cause Greenhouse Gas Emissions?	No	
- Other environmental issues, e.g. noise and traffic	No	
<i>Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.</i>		

Section C: Social impacts

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	<i>Yes/No/N.A.</i>	<i>Comment/explanation</i>
- Does the project respect internationally proclaimed human rights including dignity, cultural property and uniqueness and rights of indigenous people?	Yes	It will respect cultural aspects in El Salvador
- Are property rights on resources such as land tenure recognized by the existing laws in affected countries?	N.A.	
- Will the project cause social problems and conflicts related to land tenure and access to resources?	N.A.	
- Does the project incorporate measures to allow affected stakeholders' information and consultation?	Yes	The project will form a National Coordinating Committee, including all relevant stakeholders. This group will assess project progress at the national level and will propose if necessary corrective actions. Additionally, the Project Implementing Agency will provide technical feedback an assistance to countries
- Will the project affect the state of the targeted country's (-ies') institutional context?	Yes	A Mercury Management team will be established to deal with mercury within national chemicals efforts. In the medium to long-term it is expected that the national regulatory system will be revised to include provisions in compliance with the Minamata Convention.
- Will the project cause change to beneficial uses of	No	

land or resources? (incl. loss of downstream beneficial uses (water supply or fisheries)?		
- Will the project cause technology or land use modification that may change present social and economic activities?	No	The project might identify actions to change current practices towards the sound management of mercury
- Will the project cause dislocation or involuntary resettlement of people?	No	
- Will the project cause uncontrolled in-migration (short- and long-term) with opening of roads to areas and possible overloading of social infrastructure?	No	
- Will the project cause increased local or regional unemployment?	No	
- Does the project include measures to avoid forced or child labour?	No	
- Does the project include measures to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for workers employed as part of the project?	Yes	Those doing the inventory on the field will use protective equipment to avoid contamination with those chemicals
- Will the project cause impairment of recreational opportunities?	No	
- Will the project cause impairment of indigenous people's livelihoods or belief systems?	No	
- Will the project cause disproportionate impact to women or other disadvantaged or vulnerable groups?	No	
- Will the project involve and or be complicit in the alteration, damage or removal of any critical cultural heritage?	No	
- Does the project include measures to avoid corruption?	Yes	Close supervision of the expenditures will be done at the national level by the EA and overall by UN ENVIRONMENT as IA. Cash advances will be related to outputs and held until proper justification of the expenditures and budget plans are provided.
<i>Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.</i>		

Section D: Other considerations

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	<i>Yes/No/N.A.</i>	<i>Comment/explanation</i>
- Does national regulation in affected country (-ies) require EIA and/or ESIA for this type of activity?	No	
- Is there national capacity to ensure a sound implementation of EIA and/or SIA requirements present in affected country (-ies)?	N.A.	
- Is the project addressing issues, which are already addressed by other alternative approaches and projects?	No	
- Will the project components generate or contribute to cumulative or long-term environmental or social impacts?	No	No negative impacts
- Is it possible to isolate the impact from this project to monitor E&S impact?	N.A.	

ANNEX D: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADESCOS	Local associations for social development
ASGM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining
BRS	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
DIVISION OF ECONOMICS	Division of Technology Industry and Economics
EA	Executing Agency
UES	Universidad de El Salvador
EO	Evaluation Officer
EPA	Environment Protection Agency
EPPA	Environment Protection and Preservation Act
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEF SEC	Global Environment Facility Secretariat
GEF TF	Global Environment facility Trust Fund
IA	Implementing Agency
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
MARN	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and Natural Resources
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIA	Minamata Initial Assessment
MINEC	Ministry of Education
MINSAL	Ministry of Health
NA	Not applicable
NCM	National Chemical Management Committee
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PMC	Project Management Cost
PoW	Programme of Work
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RWMF	Regional Waste Management Facility
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and Pacific
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
TE	Terminal Evaluation
ToR	Terms of Reference
UCA	Universidad Centroamericana
UN	United Nations
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UN ENVIRONMENT	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WB	World Bank

Annex E: PROJECT SUPERVISION PLAN

Project Title: Development of Minamata Convention on Mercury Initial Assessment in El Salvador

Project executing partner: Ministry of Environment of El Salvador

Project implementation period (add additional years as required):

Activity/Task/Output	Year 1												Year 2												Year 3														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6									
Executing partner UNEP/DTIE Chemicals (Implementing) Output	[Green bar from month 1 to 12]																																						
Project Management, Coordination & Sustainability																																							
Inception meeting and report of meeting	[Green bar]																																						
Progress report - (March 31, June 30, Sep 30 & Dec 31) + 30 days	[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]								
Annual co-financing report - June	[Green bar]																																						
Establish M&E system	[Green bar]																																						
Expenditure report - (March 31, Jun 30, Sep 30 & Dec 31) + 30 days	[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]								
Procurement of equipment & hiring of consultants	[Green bar]																																						
Progress reports to co-financiers	[Green bar]																																						
GEFSEC communications	[Green bar]																																						
Terminal report	[Green bar]																																						
Training workshops/seminars	[Green bar]																																						
Terminal evaluation	[Green bar]																																						
Output 1.1 El Salvador makes full use of enhanced existing structures and information available dealing with mercury management to guide ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention																																							
1.1.1 Provide technical support for the establishment of National Coordination Mechanisms and organization of process for the management of mercury	[Green bar]																																						
1.1.1.1 Organize a National Inception Workshop to raise awareness and to define the scope and objective and to have common understanding of the MIA process	[Green bar]																																						
1.1.1.2 Conduct a national assessment on existing sources of information (studies), compile and make them publicly available	[Green bar]																																						
Output 1.2 Full understanding of comprehensive information on current infrastructure and regulation for mercury management enables El Salvador to develop a sound roadmap for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention																																							
1.2.1 Prepare assessment of the national infrastructure and capacity for the management of mercury, including national legislation.	[Green bar]																																						
1.2.1.1 Assess key national stakeholders, their roles in mercury management and monitoring and institutional interest and capacities	[Green bar]																																						
1.2.1.2 Analyze the existing regulatory framework, identify gaps and identify the regulatory reforms needed for the sound management of mercury in El Salvador	[Green bar]			[Green bar]																																			
Output 1.3 Enhanced understanding of mercury sources and releases facilitates the development of national priority actions																																							
1.3.1 Develop mercury inventory using the UNEP mercury tool kit and strategies to identify and assess mercury contaminated sites.	[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]								
1.3.1.1 Develop a qualitative and quantitative inventory of all mercury sources, emissions and releases;	[Green bar]			[Green bar]																																			
1.3.1.2 Develop a national strategy to identify mercury contaminated sites	[Green bar]																																						
Output 1.4 Improved understanding on national needs and gaps in mercury management and monitoring enables a better identification of future activities																																							
1.4.1 Provide technical support for identification of challenges, needs and opportunities to implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury	[Green bar]																																						
1.4.1.1 Conduct a national and sectoral assessment on challenges and opportunities to implement the Convention in key priority sectors	[Green bar]																																						
1.4.1.2 Develop a report on recommendations to implement the Minamata Convention on mercury	[Green bar]																																						
Output 2.1 El Salvador's key stakeholders make full use of the MIA and related assessments leading to the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury																																							
2.1.1 Provide technical support for preparation and validation of National MIA reports and implementation of awareness raising activities and dissemination of results	[Green bar]																																						
2.1.1.1 Draft and validate MIA Report	[Green bar]																																						
2.1.1.2 Develop and implement a national MIA awareness raising and dissemination and outreach strategy	[Green bar]																																						
Output 3.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF																																							
3.1.1 EA develops and submit technical and financial reports quarterly to UNEP using UNEP's templates	[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]			[Green bar]								
3.1.2 UNEP communicate project progress to the GEF yearly during the PIR using GEF's template	[Green bar]																																						
3.1.3 Develop and submit terminal report and final statement of accounts to UNEP at project end	[Green bar]																																						
3.1.4 Submit final financial audit to UNEP	[Green bar]																																						
Output 3.2 Independent terminal evaluation developed and made publicly available.																																							
3.2.1 UNEP EO carry out the terminal evaluation upon the request of the UNEP Task Manager and make it publicly available in the UNEP website	[Green bar]																																						

ANNEX F: BUDGET BY PROJECT COMPONENT AND UNEP BUDGET LINES													
RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GEF ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET AND UNEP BUDGET BY EXPENDITURE CODE (GEF FINANCE ONLY)													
Project No:						Total GEF funding:	219,000						
Project Name:						Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in Maldives				IA fee (9.5%):	19,000		
Executing Agency:						Ministry of Environment and Energy of Maldives				Project funding:	200,000		
Source of funding (noting whether cash or in-kind):						GEF Trust Fund Cash							
						BUDGET ALLOCATION BY PROJECT COMPONENT/ACTIVITY				ALLOCATION BY CALENDAR YEAR			
						Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Project Management	Total	2017	2018	Total
						Development of the Minamata Initial Assessment	Validation of the Minamata Initial Assessment	Monitoring and Evaluation					
UNEP BUDGET LINE/OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE						US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
10	UOJA	PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT											
	CODES	1100	Project Personnel										
	1161	1101	Project coordinator					18,070	18,070	9,035	9,035	18,070	
	1161	1102	Project assistant					0	0				
		1199	Sub-Total		0	0		18,070	18,070	9,035	9,035	18,070	
		1200	Consultants w/m										
	1161	1201	Nat'l consultants for national activities		66,000	14,000			80,000	40,000	40,000	80,000	
	1161	1202	International consultant		20,000				20,000	6,667	13,333	20,000	
		1299	Sub-Total		86,000	14,000		0	100,000	46,667	53,333	100,000	
		1300	Administrative Support										
	1161	1301	Project Financial Officer						0	0	0	0	
		1600	Travel on official business (above staff)										
	1561	1601	Travel Project coordinator/project staff		8,000	2,000			10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	
		1699	Sub-Total		8,000	2,000		0	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	
		1999	Component Total		94,000	16,000		18,070	128,070	60,702	67,368	128,070	
30		TRAINING COMPONENT											
		3200	Group training (field trips, WS, etc.)										
	3302 and 3303	3201	Training on national inventory development		15,000				15,000	15,000		15,000	
		3299	Sub-Total		15,000	0		0	15,000	15,000	0	15,000	
		3300	Meetings/conferences										
	3302 and 3303	3301	National project inception workshop		6,000				6,000	6,000		6,000	
	3302 and 3303	3302	Final MIA validation workshop			5,000			5,000		5,000	5,000	
	3302 and 3303	3303	National Coordination meetings		2,400	600			3,000	1,500	1,500	3,000	
		3399	Sub-Total		8,400	5,600		0	14,000	7,500	6,500	14,000	
		3999	Component Total		23,400	5,600		0	29,000	22,500	6,500	29,000	
40		EQUIPMENT and PREMISES COMPONENT											
		4100	Expendable equipment (under 1,500 \$)										
	4261	4101	Operational costs		4,000	1,000		112	5,112	2,556	2,556	5,112	
		4199	Sub-Total		4,000	1,000		112	5,112	2,556	2,556	5,112	
		4200	Non expendable equipment										
	4261	4201	Computer, fax, photocopier, projector						0	0	0	0	
	4261	4202	Software						0			0	
		4299	Sub-Total		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	
		4999	Component Total		4,000	1,000		112	5,112	2,556	2,556	5,112	
50		MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT											
		5200	Reporting costs (publications, maps, NL)										
	5161	5201	Summary reports, visualization and diffusion of results		9,818	3,000			12,818	6,409	6,409	12,818	
	5161	5202	Preparation of final report			5,000			5,000		5,000	5,000	
		5299	Sub-Total		9,818	8,000		0	17,818	6,409	11,409	17,818	
		5300	Sundry (communications, postages)										
	5161	5301	Communications (postage, bank transfers, etc)		4,000	1,000			5,000	2,500	2,500	5,000	
		5399	Sub-total		4,000	1,000		0	5,000	2,500	2,500	5,000	
		5500	Evaluation										
	5581	5501	Independent Terminal Evaluation				10,000		10,000		10,000	10,000	
	5161	5502	Independent Financial Audit				5,000		5,000		5,000	5,000	
		5599	Sub-Total		0	0	15,000	0	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	
		5999	Component Total		13,818	9,000	15,000	0	37,818	8,909	28,909	37,818	
		TOTAL			135,218	31,600	15,000	18,182	200,000	94,667	105,333	200,000	