



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:	Strengthen the national decision making mechanism to ratify the Minamata convention and strengthen national capacities for the implementation of its futures provisions		
Country(ies):	Morocco	GEF Project ID: ¹	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	5745
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment / Ministère Délégué Chargé de l'Environnement	Submission Date:	23 November 2015
GEF Focal Area (s):	Chemicals and Wastes	Project Duration (Months)	24
Type of Report:	(select) Minamata Initial Assessment	Expected Report Submission to Convention	January 2018

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK*

Project Objective: Undertake a Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA) to enable Morocco to assess Mercury releases, stocks, use and trade and determine institutional, policy, regulatory and capacity needs and measures to meet future obligations under the Convention, in order for the country to take an informed decision on ratifying the Minamata Convention.

Project Component	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing ²
1. Enabling environment for decision making on the ratification of the Minamata convention established	1.1 National decision making structure on Mercury operational	1.1 A national coordination and consultation mechanism on Mercury is established	56,838	0
	1.2 Policy and regulatory framework and institutional and capacity needs regarding the implementation of the Convention's provisions assessed	1.2.1 An assessment report on the existing and required and regulatory framework as well as institutional capacity to implement the convention is prepared (incl. existing barriers)		
	1.3 Awareness raised among decision makers and groups at risk on the environmental and health impacts of Mercury	1.3.1 Mercury awareness raising activities targeting decision makers and populations at risk conducted		
	1.4 Importance of Mercury priority intervention at national/local levels raised.	1.4.1 National Mercury priority interventions are identified within the initial assessment report and opportunities for their		

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.

		mainstreaming in national policies/plans identified.		
2. Initial assessment report and national mercury profile prepared	2.1 National capacities are strengthened to undertake Mercury inventory	2.1.1 Trainings and capacity development activities are conducted to prepare for the Mercury inventory	110,000	0
	2.2 National Mercury profile established	2.2.1 Mercury inventories are finalized and sector based profiles described		
	2.3 Initial assessment report finalized	2.3.1 The initial assessment necessary to take an informed decision on the ratification and the implementation of the Minamata convention finalized (including policy and regulatory interventions, institutional capacity development and investment plans)		
3. Monitoring and evaluation	3.1 Monitoring, reporting, and preparing of financial audits	3.1.1 Project financial and progress reports prepared and submitted. 3.1.2 Terminal Evaluation	15,000	0
		Subtotal	181,838	0
		Project Management Cost ³ (including Direct Project Costs of \$ 5,000)	18,162	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 (\$)
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
Total Co-financing			0

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.

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

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

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#)

PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

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

On the 6th of June 2014, Morocco became the 99th country to sign the Minamata Convention.

A first study conducted in the country in 2010, supported by the Ministry of Environment, assessed exposure to pollution from mercury, cadmium and lead. It pointed out various uses and releases of mercury in Morocco in/from 3 main sectors namely Healthcare, Industry and Mining.

First, the medical sector where the use of dental amalgams ranges from 750 to 900kg/year and mercury containing thermometers account for some 24 kg-year of mercury. Dental Amalgams is either imported in capsules or mixed by dentists out of pure imported mercury and other powder materials (Zinc, silver). According to the Ministry of foreign trade, companies within the distribution chain of medical products facilitate mercury imports. Moreover, a number of vaccines and drugs contain small quantities of mercury used as preservatives and physical-chemistry laboratories use mercury-based reagents. Local distributors imported for the year 2008 some 2 kg of mercury oxide, 135,150 kg of mercuric sulfates and lead and 13 kg of mercuric nitrates and copper. In the south of Morocco mercury is traded informally. Herbalists sell it for about 350 MAD/kg (about USD35/kg) and buyers use it in different rituals such as traditional medicine.

In 2008, official statistics indicated that a total of 1,880 kg of mercury was imported, including inorganic, pharmaceutical, electric, and electronic products.

Between 2004 and 2008, Morocco's fuel imports (coal, petroleum by-products, oils and hydrocarbons) contained mercury in small quantities. On the other hand, Morocco exported small quantities of mercury contained in its copper, lead and zinc exports. Quantities of mercury traced in exported fuels are considered insignificant.

Four (4) sectors were indicated to be mostly responsible for intentional and accidental releases of mercury within water, soil and air in Morocco. Mercury releases from the industrial sector are estimated at some 96 kg to water (electrolysis of sodium chloride), 1,830 kg to air (smelting of lead, electrolysis of sodium chloride and cement manufacturing) and 136 kg to land (electrolysis of sodium chloride).

The energy sector releases some 1,758 kg of mercury from coal and fuel-based thermal power stations. Furthermore, the fact that a significant proportion of medical and industrial wastes end up in non-controlled "wild" landfills points towards soil contamination as a consequence of use and disposal of products containing mercury such as ammunitions, balancing weights, batteries, accumulators thermometers and dentistry amalgams.

In total, the mercury pollution from all sectors combined amount to almost 8.6 tons, including 3.5 tonnes released to air, 3.9 tonnes to land and 1.2 to water.

Overall, the 2010 study was essential in identifying the priority mercury sectors helping the government thus determine necessary interventions and efforts in terms of risk mitigation and prevention.

However, this MIA enabling activity will provide an exhaustive assessment, which explores in details mercury releases from the mining sector, industrial boilers and smelting plants; in addition to the health sector, where releases are not fully known.

Morocco's governmental program of action consists of sector-based plans and strategies. Addressing mercury effects on health and environment cannot be achieved if mercury releases for each sector (including the information sector) are not examined in detail and sector interventions prioritized.

Moreover, current pollution levels of mercury potentially have an impact on fragile and threatened ecosystems. Mercury pollution potentially threatens the equilibriums that ensure the provision of ecosystem goods and services, which are crucial for livelihoods, economic growth and well-being.

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND

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

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

This Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA) will include:

- 1- Assessment of the regulatory and policy environment pertaining to mercury (legislative and regulatory) and its ability to allow for the implementation of the Minamata convention (including the identification of outstanding needs and gaps).
 - 2- Assessment of institutional capacities and needs to implement the Minamata Convention in Morocco
 - 3- Conducting a Mercury Inventory
 - 4- Development of a national mercury profile
- Identification of National Mercury priority interventions and identification of opportunities for their mainstreaming in national policies/plans.

Stakeholders analysis

- a. Ministry of Environment (Ministère Délégué Chargé de l'Environnement) In charge of developing and implementing national environmental and sustainable development policies, mainly through coordination and partnership oriented approaches;
- b. Ministry of Finance and Privatization: Mandated for financial and monetary matters including loans and foreign finance policies;
- c. Health Ministry: Responsible for implementing specific state programs within the health sector and guarantees equitable access to health services offered through common and cross-cutting actions in collaboration with other state stakeholders;
- d. Ministry of Energy, Mining and Water: In charge of designing and implementing state policies within sectors of geology, energy, mining; monitors others operating entities including affiliated public enterprises;
- e. Homeland Ministry: Monitors through its General Direction of Local Government the strategic and participatory planning programs of waste management at the local level;
- f. Ministry of Trade, Industry and Digital Economy: Monitors imports and exports. According to available statistics between 2004 and 2008 Morocco imported on average 1880kg of metallic mercury per year while exports are insignificant.
- g. Ministry of Handicraft, Social and Supportive economy: the Ministry is in charge of supportive economies where mercury is used in handicraft related industries

- h. Private Sector: Either professional private firms or semi-public ones discharging mercury wastes, collecting, storing and treating it; distributors and dealers of products containing mercury; private laboratories dealing with analyses and certifications; etc.
- i. Civil society and NGOs: They play a vital role in raising awareness among communities at risk and the public opinion, they also influence decision making through sanitary and environment-based advocacy targeting mercury pollution and its accumulation within ecosystems.

Gender dimensions:

Overall, gender aspects will be reviewed as part of the assessments conducted throughout the MIA project while gender mainstreaming will be addressed in the final assessment report.

Fetuses are vulnerable to mercury effects, the same applies for people that undergo long-term exposure such as some traditional professions, waste workers, maintenance workers, as is for example the case in the medical professions. Therefore, high priority will be given to those population groups at risk during the initial assessment to better inform targeted interventions later on to ensure their security and safety.

In addition, a gender analysis will be conducted with UNDP's technical support to present additional recommendations suggesting good practices to mainstream gender equality into sound management of mercury-based products.

C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A).

Component 1: The first component of this enabling activity will ensure that an enabling environment for decision-making on the ratification of the Minamata Convention is established. This component will consist of 4 outputs, namely:

- 1.1.1 National decision making structure on Mercury operational
- 1.1.2 Policy and regulatory framework and institutional and capacity needs regarding the implementation of the Convention's provisions assessed
- 1.1.3 Awareness raised among decision makers and groups at risk on the environmental and health impacts of Mercury
- 1.1.4 Importance of Mercury priority intervention at national/local levels raised

The national legislation, legal and executive frameworks in Morocco are rich and developed. The national constitution of 2011, the Environment and Sustainable Development Charter and its framework law set the base for a new set of environmental human rights. It is not only a matter of promoting environmental rights at the constitutional level but also a guarantee for citizen's access to information, shaping the active role to be played by Civil Society Organizations in environmental governance.

Nevertheless, many challenges hinder its effective functioning. In fact, 8 bills, 3 royal Dahirs and a royal decree offer the legal empowerment to courts to make sure laws are implemented; courts can judge pending issues and solve arising conflicts in order to avoid natural resources degradation and environmental pollution, but also to ensure hygiene and security at the work place.

The initial assessment is expected thus to point out existing legal gaps in terms of mercury management, propose a roadmap for establishing a national and inter-sectorial coordination mechanism on mercury (breaking thus the sector-based silo approach) and maximize synergies and coherence between stakeholders through a common vision of sustainable management of mercury in Morocco.

Component 2: The second component concerns the drafting of an initial assessment report and national mercury profile. This assessment will mainly cover the following categories:

2.1.1 Available mercury stocks and products containing mercury. The focus here will be on import/export procedures and storage conditions.

2.1.2 Mercury supply chains, including recycling activities and quantities supplied.

2.1.3 Sector based analysis of mercury uses, including mercury releases in the mining and health sectors.

Mercury trade analysis, including products containing small quantities of mercury and the informal sector.

This will be achieved through three (3) outputs:

2.1 Training and capacity development activities are conducted to prepare for the Mercury inventories

2.2 Mercury inventories are finalized and sector based profiles described

2.3 The initial assessment necessary for the ratification and the implementation of the Minamata convention is finalized (including policy and regulatory interventions, institutional capacity development and investment plans)

Component 3: the M&E framework is a solid ground to ensure a sound reporting of project results. There are 2 outputs namely:

3.1.1 Project financial and progress reports prepared and submitted.

3.1.2 Terminal Evaluation conducted and an appropriate management response put in place

Methodology / Strategy:

Project experts will identify Mercury sources releases, use, trade and stockpiles through a participatory approach inclusive of all concerned stakeholders, which upon completion will be captured in an exhaustive inventory.

The enabling activity will – as part of project component 1 - assess the institutional capacities and needs within governmental and relevant entities involved in the implementation of the Minamata convention at both national and local levels. Those results combined with those of the legal framework analysis (also as part of project component 1) will be used as input into the drafting of a priority interventions section to be included within the initial assessment report.

Proposed activities will then be discussed with all involved stakeholders and adopted following a participatory approach. The reports will be drafted according to Article 21 of the Convention on Reporting.

This is a strategic entry point to prioritize safe mercury management. The enabling activity will ensure mainstreaming opportunities are assessed and anchoring points identified within relevant plans and strategies. This will capacitate the government for the strategic mainstreaming of national priorities on mercury management into national plans and strategies.

D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED <u>COST-EFFECTIVENESS</u> OF THE PROJECT:	The project will hire national consultants to ensure an accurate and timely collection and analysis of relevant data allowing for capacity development, national ownership and optimizing thus the cost-effectiveness ratio. An international expert will provide quality expertise to apply good practices based on global benchmarks and bridge technical gaps. Management costs will be kept to the minimum required to undertake field missions to fill in data gaps.
E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:	In line with UNDP-GEF procedures, the project team supported by UNDP's technical team and its Country Office in Morocco will set up a Monitoring and Evaluation plan including but not limited to mid-year and annual reviews, quarterly progress reports and a final project report.
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)
Mohamed Benyahya	GEF Operational Focal Point for Morocco	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	01/23/2015

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	06/02/2014	N/A	

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
Ms. Adriana Dinu, UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator		11/23/2015	Mr. Jacques Van Engel Director UNDP MPU/Chemicals	212-906-5782	jacques.van.engel@undp.org

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