



**GEF-6 REQUEST FOR CHEMICALS AND WASTES ENABLING ACTIVITY
PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER THE GEF TRUST FUND**

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

Project Title:	Development of National Action Plans for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in Paraguay		
Country(ies):	Paraguay	GEF Project ID: ¹	TBD
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment	Submission Date:	27.11.15
GEF Focal Area (s):	Chemicals and Wastes	Project Duration (Months)	24
Type of Report:		Expected Report Submission to Convention	02.2018

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK*

Project Objective: Development of National Action Plans to reduce the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing is facilitated by the use of scientific and technical knowledge and tools by national stakeholders in Paraguay.				
Project Component	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing ²
1. National information exchange, capacity building and knowledge generation	Enhanced communication, support and training facilitate the development of the NAP and build the basis for future cooperation for the NAP implementation	Capacity building provided, information exchange undertaken, lessons learned and good practices identified at national level	69,500	0
2. Establishment of Coordination Mechanism and organisation of process	Paraguay make full use of strengthened national coordination mechanism to guide the NAP development	Technical support provided for the establishment of National Coordination Mechanism and organization of process for the development of the NAP	21,500	0
3. Develop a national overview of the ASGM sector, including baseline estimates of mercury uses and practices	Full understanding of comprehensive information of the national ASGM sector enables Paraguay to develop NAP in compliance with the Minamata Convention	Paraguay has a comprehensive national overview of the ASGM sector, including baseline estimates of mercury uses and practices	237,046	0
4. Develop, endorse and submit to the Minamata Convention Secretariat a NAP on ASGM	Paraguay has a NAP in compliance with Annex C of the Minamata Convention to guide its future action aiming at	Paraguay has a NAP compliant with Annex C of the Minamata Convention developed, endorsed and officially submitted to the	101,500	0

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.

	the reduction of mercury emissions and releases from this sector	Minamata Secretariat		
Subtotal			429,546	0
Project Management Cost ³			45,454	0
Monitoring and Evaluation			25,000	0
Total Project Cost			500,000	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		(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
UNEP	GEFTF	Paraguay	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

PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Mercury Convention was adopted in January 2013 and will come into force once the required number of countries ratifies the Convention. The Minamata Convention on Mercury identifies and describes in its Article 13 the financial mechanism to support Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition 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 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.

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 2 the guidelines for the preparation of Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) National Action Plans (NAPs) required under article 7. 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 the guidelines revised by the INC 6.

Mercury pollution is a serious concern in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region. The 2013 UNEP Global Mercury Assessment indicates that the Central America and the Caribbean and the South American Regions account for 15% of the global emissions of mercury to the atmosphere while mercury use in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) accounts for 37% of the total emission of mercury from anthropogenic sources. The use of mercury in ASGM is still widely practiced in Latin American countries but its real magnitude has not been determined in detail. Paraguay has indicated that availability of data is a major challenge to design adequate strategies for mercury reduction.

Paraguay will benefit from new and updated information about the use of mercury in the ASGM sector in the country and from increased capacity in managing the risks of mercury emitted and released from such activity. The sharing of experiences and lessons learned throughout the project with other countries working on their NAPs is also expected to be an important contribution to other similar countries and foster cooperation for future implementation of the NAP.

National priorities and UNDAF in Paraguay

The following section draws on the **UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)** of Paraguay. In order to ensure that this project contributes to the UNDAF outcomes in the country, representatives from the United Nations Country Teams (e.g. UNDP National Representation) will be invited to attend the inception workshop and to take part in the National Coordination Mechanisms. It is important to indicate that the participation of the United Nations Country team in the National Coordination Mechanism will result in a closer analysis and assessment of the progress made in terms of National Priorities.

UNDAF PARAGUAY (2015-2019)⁴: The government of Paraguay and the United Nations together with several civil society organizations agreed to concentrate its efforts in three strategic areas that are considered as a requisite for a

⁴ <http://undg.org/home/country-teams/latin-america-the-caribbean/paraguay/> 3

sustainable and human development in Paraguay: 1) civil and political rights; 2) social, economic and cultural rights; 3) environmental rights. The NAP development will contribute to the UN efforts particularly by improving the enabling conditions to access economic, social and environmental rights. As a matter of fact, the NAP aims at reducing mercury use and releases in the ASGM sector which directly impact the national environment; working conditions of miners; their health as well as the health of populations living nearby ASGM areas.

The priority of the Project is to identify areas where there is ASGM since currently they operate illegally in the country. Subsequently, miners should be assisted to identify alternatives to mercury use in this activity and be informed on the risks of mercury exposure and how to mitigate these risks.

ASGM in Paraguay

A considerable gold mine has been identified in Paso Yobai, in the Department of Guaira. Rural workers initially dedicated to farming activities are now working as artisanal miners. Paso Yobai is a small city that is located in the centre of Paraguay, 250 km from de Capital. The gold mine is administered and prospected by Canadians, Paraguayans and others. There is an official permission to explore the gold mine for the next 25 years.

The mine Independence, located in Paso Yobai, has the capacity to process 3000 tonnes of materials per month, from which it's expected that at least 6 kilos of gold will be obtained monthly.

Up to now, the environmental authority has not designed nor implemented projects related to ASGM in the country.

Paraguay has signed the Minamata Convention in 10 February 2014 and is currently participating in a regional Minamata Initial Assessment project being executed by the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and Caribbean Region in Uruguay and implemented by UNEP.

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES

The goal of the project is to contribute to the implementation of the Minamata Convention through the reduction of the risks posed by the unsound use, management and releases of mercury in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining sector. This goal contributes to the GEF focal area strategy 1 of the chemicals waste area which is “*Develop the enabling conditions, tools and environment to manage harmful chemicals and wastes* ».

The project objective is to facilitate the development of a National Action Plan to reduce the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing by the use of scientific and technical knowledge and tools by national stakeholders in Paraguay.

The project framework follows the guidance document on the development of a national strategic plan developed by the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership⁵ and revised on the basis of experience in its usage. The guidance has been developed with the intention of addressing artisanal and small scale gold mining in a holistic manner and includes a review of legal, educational, economic, regulatory and enforcement frameworks, and provides guidance on developing budgets and workplans and identifying potential sources of funding and partners. The National Action Plan guidance will be submitted to INC7 for adoption.

The project was developed in consultation with the focal point in Paraguay and UNEP ROLAC.

Project Components and Activities: The NAP development has four components, which consist of the activities indicated below. Each component includes information on project activities, outcomes and outputs.

⁵ Guidance Document: Developing a National Strategic Plan to Reduce Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining, available at www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/NationalStrategicPlan/tabid/53985/Default.aspx.

Component 1: National information exchange, capacity building and knowledge generation

This project component will focus on strengthening information exchange between the stakeholders regionally. As part of this, Paraguay will receive additional training and support to develop its NAP. Paraguay will have access to technical expertise and tools to facilitate the development of the NAP and information exchange, developed within the framework of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. The technical expertise and tools provided will respond directly to country needs identified. With this additional support Paraguay will be able to obtain feedback and rapid response to its queries on the development of the NAP and will also make full use of the existing capacities and expertise in the region and globally. Lessons learned identified through this project, in particular during the final lessons learned workshop will also be made available. This project component will identify opportunities for regional cooperation and synergies between countries working on their NAPs in the region.

Activity 1.1: Development of a roster of experts and collection of tools and methodologies for NAP development;

Activity 1.2: Capacity building trainings and assistance with baseline inventories;

Activity 1.3: Knowledge management and information exchange through the Global Mercury Partnership website and/or Partners websites and tools;

Activity 1.4: Final national workshop to identify lessons learned and opportunities for future cooperation in the NAP implementation.

Expected Outcome:

Enhanced communication, support and training facilitate the development of the NAP and build the basis for future cooperation for the NAP implementation.

Expected Outputs:

Technical support and global coordination provided ensuring capacity building, information exchange, consistent and comparable NAPs and the identification of lessons learned and good practices at national level.

The training sessions and lessons learned will be open to other countries that are willing to take advantage of these activities, however their participation will be covered by their own NAP projects.

Component 2: Establishment of Coordination Mechanism and organisation of process

The successful development of a NAP will rely on the formation of a National Coordination Mechanism that will guide the NAP development through all its phases and ensure that there is proper project planning and management throughout the process. The National Coordination Mechanism should include members from relevant governmental ministries or departments. An inception workshop will be organized to (i) clearly define the relative roles and responsibilities of the members of the National Coordination Mechanism; (ii) agree on the budget allocation and workplan for the project; and finally (iii) develop an awareness raising strategy on mercury use in ASGM and its environmental and health impacts to be implemented throughout the whole project. Since Paraguay is already developing a Minamata Initial Assessment with UNEP, ideally the inception workshop for both projects will be organized back to back and there will be one single National Coordination Mechanism for both projects.

In addition, the National Coordination Mechanism will identify a stakeholder advisory group, composed of stakeholders who possess relevant knowledge and information, and whose collaboration and cooperation will be needed for the successful formulation and implementation of the NAP. The stakeholder advisory group will include relevant members of civil society with experience and knowledge in the ASGM sector. The National Coordination Mechanism will engage with the advisory group at regular intervals and during all phases of the NAP development and direct feedback on the NAP will be provided through a mechanism to be agreed upon by the National Coordination Mechanism. A list of suggested members of the NAP National Coordination Mechanism and of the stakeholders' advisory group can

be found at page 9-10 to the guidance document⁶.

Activity 2.1: Organize one National Inception Workshop to raise awareness and to define the scope and objective of the NAP development, including:

- a) Identify key stakeholders and assign roles;
- b) Identify coordination mechanism for project implementation;
- c) Develop an awareness raising strategy to be implemented throughout the project.

Expected Outcome:

Paraguay makes full use of strengthened national coordination mechanism to guide the NAP development.

Expected Outputs:

Technical support provided for the establishment of National Coordination Mechanisms and organization of process for the development of the NAP.

Component 3: Develop a national overview of the ASGM sector, including baseline estimates of mercury use and practices

The following information that is relevant for the NAP development will be collected in the framework of the MIA project:

- Legal and regulatory status of ASGM;
- Policies surrounding ASGM at the national level.

In this project component the country will gather national information on the following:

- Baseline estimates of mercury emissions and releases from the ASGM sector;
- Structure of the ASGM sector (i.e., single family miners, community mines, etc.);
- Policies surrounding ASGM at regional/local levels;
- Geographic distribution of ASGM;
- Economics, such mercury supply, use and demand. The project will search in particular for information about gender and children aspects of the ASGM economics;
- Size of the formal and informal ASGM economy;
- Information on mining practices, including information on ore bodies exploited, processes used, the amount of mercury used, the number of people directly involved in ASGM and indirectly exposed to mercury (disaggregated by sex and age);
- Information on gold processing practices/burn off of mercury in gold processing shops or community retorts;
- Known information on overall environmental impacts, contaminated sites, mercury releases in soil, air and water;
- Studies and other information on mercury exposure, through various media, and studies on impacts in ASGM communities and downstream communities. The project will search for known information desegregated by sex and age;
- Information about access to technical assistance for miners;
- Leadership and organization of ASGM at national and local levels;
- Experiences in addressing ASGM;
- Information gaps at the local and national scale that can be addressed.

Activity 3.1: Desk study to compile information available. The desk study will be complemented by interviews with stakeholders. The working group and the stakeholder's advisory group can consider additional methods in order to better reflect the current state of knowledge.

Expected Outcome:

Full understanding of comprehensive information of the national ASGM sector enables Paraguay to develop a NAP in

⁶ *Ibid.*

compliance with the Minamata Convention.

Expected Outputs:

Paraguay has a comprehensive national overview of the ASGM sector, including baseline estimates of mercury uses and practices.

Component 4: Develop, endorse and submit to the Minamata Convention Secretariat a NAP on ASGM

Based on the results of the national overview of the ASGM sector, a national workshop will be organized with the executing body and the stakeholders' advisory group to agree on:

- Final problem statement, goals, objectives and reduction targets;
- Implementation strategy with specific activities for each of the NAP elements described in Annex C of the Minamata Convention. The NAP will be linked as often as possible to high level national development goals and initiatives, such as poverty reduction strategies and Sustainable Development Goals-based National Development Plans. The NAP will identify potential negative social impacts of its implementation as livelihoods impairment and will identify alternatives to avoid these negative impacts;
- Workplan, outreach plan, timeline and overall budget for the implementation of the plan and its periodical review;
- Identification of roadmap for NAP endorsement and submission.

Activity 4.1: One national workshop to complete the final NAP and to expose the formulated NAP on ASGM to public consultation before endorsement. Representatives of vulnerable groups and miners are particularly targeted

Activity 4.2: NAP endorsement and official submission to the Minamata Secretariat

Expected Outcome:

Paraguay has a NAP in compliance with Annex C of the Minamata Convention to guide its future action aiming at the reduction of mercury emissions and releases from this sector.

Expected Outputs:

Paraguay has a NAP compliant with Annex C of the Minamata Convention developed, endorsed and officially submitted to the Minamata Secretariat.

Project Stakeholders:

At the international level, the project will include:

- a) **UNEP DTIE Chemicals:** as an implementing Agency, UNEP will provide technical oversight and administrative support to the National Coordinating agency and the National Coordinator. UNEP will also provide the global perspective and experience from other countries.
- b) **UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC),** which 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) **Joint Secretariats BRS** 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.
- e) Others: such as the national/regional representation of **WHO (PAHO)**, 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.

The international partners will provide ongoing support to the project.

National stakeholders involved in NAP National Coordination Mechanisms:

Table 1: Stakeholder Participation

Government Ministries	Responsibilities / Areas of Expertise
Ministry of Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Focal point for the national implementation of the project ✓ Environmental laws, issues, and regulations ✓ Environmental impacts
Ministry of Mines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Statistics and data on ASGM ✓ Mining sector laws and regulations
Ministry of Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Economic importance of ASGM ✓ Formalization of ASGM sector ✓ Market-based mechanisms for reducing mercury use ✓ Funding for NAP process
Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Public health strategies related to ASGM
Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strategies for community outreach and stakeholder involvement
Ministry of Trade and Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mercury trade ✓ Formalization ✓ Market-based mechanisms for reducing mercury use
Ministry of Labour and Social Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Formalization of ASGM sector
Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understanding of how to enforce regulations
Miners/miner representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide realistic view of current practices and barriers to change
Community leaders and local government from ASGM areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assist with development and implementation of plan within ASGM communities
Indigenous groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Represent vested interests in ASGM operations in indigenous areas
Technical expert in gold mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understanding of technical alternatives to mercury use; provide training opportunities
Environmental and human health organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Represent vested interests in reducing environmental impacts of ASGM and the risks of exposure to the public
Academic and research organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide valuable information and conduct future research; provide training opportunities from ASGM specialists
Legal professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understand national legislation as it relates to ASGM including relevant regulation on mercury use and trade regulation
Representatives from large scale mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Contribute to finding innovative solutions and provide insights on mining regulatory issues; potential partner with small scale miners on technical improvements to mining practice
Other relevant land holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Represent interest in land conflicts and in reclaiming impacted lands; risk of mercury exposure
Gold buying agents, gold traders, mercury traders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide insight into market dynamics, and barriers to formalization; also important focal point for community health and emissions
Waste management specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide insight into available mechanisms to handle mercury wastes generated by ASGM and how to clean/restore contaminated sites
Private sector partner (e.g., large-scale mining company or equipment provider)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Technical capacity ✓ Potential public/private partnership

Financial/banking sector	✓ Small and commercial-sized loans to miners to assist with financing transition towards better practices
Representatives of the United Nations Country Teams.	✓ Ensure the project is contributing to the country priorities as identified by the National United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

Gender dimensions

According to the non-governmental organization Women in Europe for a Common Future, in many ASGM areas, women perform tasks where toxic exposure occurs since they do not require strength. These jobs include pouring the mercury into the ball-mills or mixing the mercury in panning, and burning the amalgam, often with their children or babies nearby. In some countries, women also carry the rocks from the mining sites to the processing plants.⁷ Moreover, with an estimated 4.5 million women working in artisanal mining, many of childbearing age, low-level exposure to infants during gestation and breast-feeding is a risk.⁸ As a potent neurological toxicant that interferes with brain functions and the nervous system, mercury has been shown to be particularly harmful to neurological development of babies and young children.⁹

The project will take into account the gender dimensions of ASGM and mercury related exposure and contamination by ensuring the participation of women's organizations from all participating countries in the project design, implementation and monitoring. Data collected on project component 3 that will develop a national overview of the ASGM sector will search for information desegregated by sex and age. The National Action Plan will fully incorporate the gender dimensions identified in the national overview of the ASGM sector and foster gender equality.

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 UNEP and executed by the Ministry of Environment of Paraguay. As Implementing Agency, UNEP 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 the Executing Agency, UNEP will provide administrative support to the Executing Agency.

UNEP will support Execution of this project, as part of the Mercury Partnership Programme, and will provide assistance to Paraguay by organizing regional/global awareness raising/training workshops, reviewing technical products, sending technical experts to key meetings, etc. Furthermore, through its Programme of work, UNEP will identify suitable Divisions and Branches that can provide additional support to Paraguay and complement project activities.

Executing Agency (EA): The Ministry of Environment of Paraguay 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 independent audits in order to guarantee the proper use of GEF funds. Financial transactions, audits and reports will be carried out in accordance with national regulations and UNEP procedures. The Ministry of Environment of Paraguay will provide regular administrative, progress and financial reports to UNEP Chemicals.

A National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) 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.

Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG): This Group will include relevant stakeholders who possess relevant knowledge and information, and whose collaboration and cooperation will be needed for the successful formulation and future

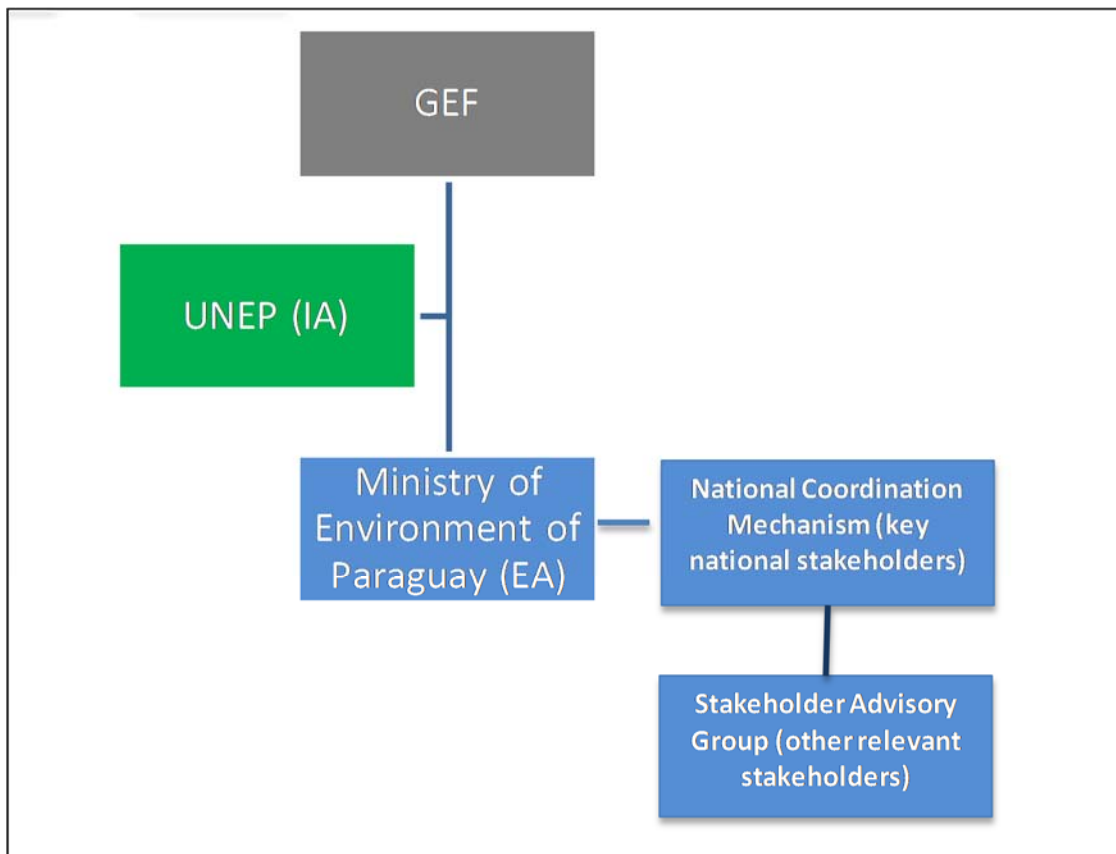
⁷ <http://www.wecf.eu/english/articles/2013/10/minamata-sideevent.php>

⁸See Telmer and Veiga (2009)

⁹See United States EPA (1997); Bose-O'Reilly et al. (2010)

implementation of the NAP. The National Coordination Mechanism will engage with the advisory group at regular intervals and during all phases of the NAP development and direct feedback on these documents will be provided through a mechanism to be agreed upon by the National Coordination Mechanism.

Figure 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 Paraguay, such as the existing infrastructure and coordination mechanisms. The project will also consider any previous efforts to collect information related to mercury use and releases in the ASGM sector in Paraguay.

The project will also take into account the expertise gathered by other countries in previous projects, and in turn, share the experiences and lessons learned with those countries that are at an early stage of NAP development. The project will coordinate closely with the Chemicals Division at UNEP 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 Paraguay. In this respect, enhanced capacities and knowledge on the use and releases of mercury at the ASGM sector 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:

Day-to-day management and monitoring of the project activities will be the responsibility of the executing

agency, **The Ministry of Environment of Paraguay** will submit half-yearly progress reports and quarterly financial reports to the implementing agency at UNEP Chemicals. **The Ministry of Environment of Paraguay** will also be responsible for the issuing of legal documents such as agreements with the government and other institutions including recruitment of local/regional staff or consultants and the execution of the activities according to the work plan and expected outcomes.

The half-yearly and quarterly reports will include progress in implementation of the project, financial report, a work plan and expected expenditures for the next reporting period. It will also identify obstacles occurred during implementation period.

In consultation with UNEP Chemicals, the **Ministry of Environment of Paraguay** will identify suitable local consultants to assist in the development of the national inventory.

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 UNEP will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager at DTIE 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 UNEP and executing partners – Ministry of Environment of Paraguay 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.

Table 2. Monitoring and Evaluation Budget

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)*¹	Time-frame
Inception workshop	Awareness raising, building stakeholder engagement, detailed work planning with key groups	Ministry of Environment	0	Within two months of project start
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring	Ministry of Environment	0	Immediately following Inception Workshop
Technical Progress reports	Describes progress against annual work plan for the reporting period and provides activities planned for the next period	Ministry of Environment	0	Half yearly
Financial Progress reports	Documents project expenditure according to established project budget and allocations	Ministry of Environment	0	Quarterly
Project Review by National Coordination Mechanism	Assesses progress, effectiveness of operations and technical outputs; Recommends adaptation where necessary and confirms implementation plan.	Ministry of Environment	0	Month 2, 12 and 23

Terminal report	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.	Ministry of Environment	0	At the end of project implementation
Independent Terminal evaluation	Reviews effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation, coordination mechanisms and outputs. Identifies lessons learned and likely remedial actions for future projects. Highlights technical achievements and assesses against prevailing benchmarks	UNEP, Independent external consultant	15,000	At the end of project implementation
Independent Financial Audit	Reviews use of project funds against budget and assesses probity of expenditure and transactions	Ministry of Environment	10,000	At the end of project implementation
Total indicative M&E cost*¹			25,000	

*The inception workshop is one activity of the project component 2. Monitoring and evaluation activities will be done back to back with the inception workshop and therefore the cost is zero. The project Review by the National Coordination Committee will be held back to back with technical meetings that will take place throughout the project implementation. Therefore the additional cost is zero.

F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE 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)
Karem Elizeche	Director	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	06/17/2015

B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION

CONVENTION	DATE OF RATIFICATION/ ACCESSION (mm/dd/yyyy)	NATIONAL FOCAL POINT
UNCBD		
UNFCCC		
UNCCD		
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION		

MINAMATA CONVENTION	DATE SIGNED 02/10/2014	NATIONAL FOCAL POINT:	DATE OF NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 7 TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT 07/29/2015
---------------------	---	------------------------------	---

C. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies¹⁰ and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for Chemicals and Wastes Enabling Activity approval in GEF 6.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	E-mail Address
Brennan Van Dyke Director, UNEP GEF Coordination Office		27.11.15	Kevin Helps Senior Programme Officer DTIE, UNEP	+254-20- 762-3140	Kevin.Helps@unep.org

ANNEXES:

- A. CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE ENABLING ACTIVITY WITH GEF FUNDING**
- B. OFP ENDORSEMENT LETTERS AND NOTIFICATION TO THE MINAMATA SECRETARIAT**
- C. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS**
- D. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**
- E. SUPERVISION PLAN**
- F. GEF APPROVED BUDGET**

¹⁰ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTE, LDCF, 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>Total</i>	<i>Tasks To Be Performed</i>
For Project Management				
<i>Local</i>				
Project coordinator	500	90.91	45,454	Day to day supervision and coordination of the project
Project Assistant	300	0.00	0	Financial management of the project and preparation of financial reports
Financial Officer	300	0.00	0	Advising the project team on specific technical issues and will review technical outputs
Subtotal		90.91	45,454	
For Technical Assistance				
<i>National</i>				
National consultant	500	499.092	249,546	- Assist with the identification of key stakeholders for the Natinal Coordination Mechanism and the Stakeholder's Group; '- Develop a national overview of the ASGM sector; '- Develop the final NAP in consultation with national stakeholders.
<i>International</i>				
Int'l consultant for inventory training and development or review	2500	12.00	30,000	Technical support to develop national overview of the ASGM sector and development of the National Action Plan
Subtotal		511.09	279,546	
Total		602	325,000	

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 LETTERS AND NOTIFICATION TO THE MINAMATA SECRETARIAT

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

UNEP/GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards Checklist

Project Title:	Development of National Action Plans for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in Paraguay		
GEF project ID and UNEP ID/IMIS Number		Version of checklist	
Project status (preparation, implementation, MTE/MTR, TE)	Preparation/ Submission	Date of this version:	15.09.2015
Checklist prepared by (Name, Title, and Institution)	Kevin Helps – Senior Programme Officer GEF Operations - UNEP DTIE 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 use in the ASGM sector and related emissions and releases across Paraguay. 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	N.A:	
- wetland	N.A:	
- 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 use in the ASGM sector and related emissions and releases in Paraguay. It will not take direct action on the ground but assessments and the national overview of the ASGM sector will assist Paraguay 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 of Paraguay.
- 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?	No	The participation of stakeholders involved in the ASGM activity in the national advisory group will ensure social problems and conflicts related to access to gold will be avoided.
- Does the project incorporate measures to allow affected stakeholders' information and consultation?	Yes	The project will form a National Coordinating Committee and a National Advisory Group including all relevant stakeholders. This group will assess project progress at the national level and will propose if necessary corrective actions. Additionally, the Project Executing Agency will provide technical feedback and assistance to Paraguay.
- Will the project affect the state of the targeted country's (-ies') institutional context?	Yes	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, in particular article 7.

- Will the project cause change to beneficial uses of land or resources? (incl. loss of downstream beneficial uses (water supply or fisheries)?	No	
- Will the project cause technology or land use modification that may change present social and economic activities?	Yes	The National Action Plan will look for the deep causes of mercury use in the ASGM activity in Paraguay and suggest alternatives to 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	The National Action Plan will consider the potential negative impacts of policies to reduce mercury use in the ASGM sector as uncontrolled migration. The purpose of the National Action Plan is to identify alternatives to mercury use and not impair livelihoods.
- Will the project cause increased local or regional unemployment?	No	The National Action Plan will consider the potential negative impacts of policies to reduce mercury use in the ASGM sector as increased local unemployment. The purpose of the National Action Plan is to identify alternatives to mercury use and not impair livelihoods.
- 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	The National Action Plan will consider the potential negative impacts of policies to reduce mercury use in the ASGM sector as impairment of indigenous people's livelihoods. The purpose of the National Action Plan is to identify alternatives to mercury use and not impair livelihoods.
- Will the project cause disproportionate impact to women or other disadvantaged or vulnerable groups?	No	The National Action Plan will consider in particular the potential negative impacts of policies to reduce mercury use in the ASGM sector to women and other disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.
- 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 UNEP as IA. Cash advances will be related to outputs and held until proper justification of the expenditures and budget plans are provided.

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.

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

ASGM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining
BRS	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
DTIE	Division of Technology Industry and Economics
EA	Executing Agency
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEF SEC	Global Environment Facility Secretariat
GEF TF	Global Environment facility Trust Fund
IA	Implementing Agency
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
LAC	Latin America and Caribbean
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIA	Minamata Initial Assessment
NCM	National Coordination Mechanism
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NPT	National project Team
PMC	Project Management Cost
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean
SAG	Stakeholder Advisory Group
TE	Terminal Evaluation
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WHO-PAHO	World Health Organization

ANNEX E: PROJECT SUPERVISION PLAN

Project Title: Development of National Action Plans for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in Paraguay

Project executing partner: Ministry of Environment of Paraguay

Project implementation period (add additional years as required):

	Year 1												Years 2											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Executing partner	█																							
UNEP/DTIE Chemicals (Implementing)	◆																							
Output	◆																							
Activity/Task/Output																								
Project Management, Coordination & Sustainability																								
Inception meeting and report of meeting	█																							
Progress report - (June 30 and Dec 31) + 30 days																								
Establish M&E system		█																						
Expenditure report - (Mar, June, Sep and Dec 31) + 30 days			█																					
Procurement of equipment & hiring of consultants	█																							
NCM meetings + minutes of meetings			█																					
GEFSEC communications (Inception, midterm & completion)	◆											◆												◆
Terminal report																								█
Training workshops/seminars	█																							
Terminal evaluation																								◆
Final audit report																								█
Outcome 1: Enhanced communication, support and training facilitate the development of the NAP and build the basis for future cooperation for the NAP implementation																								
1.1 Development of a roster of experts and collection of tools and methodologies for NAP development	█																							
1.2 Capacity building trainings and assistance with baseline inventories																								
1.3 Knowledge management and information exchange through the Global Mercury Partnership website and/or Partners websites and tools	█																							
1.4 Final national workshop to identify lessons learned and opportunities for future cooperation in the NAP implementation																								█
Milestone: Capacity building provided, information exchange undertaken, lessons learnt and good practices identified at national level			◆																					
Outcome 2: Paraguay makes full use of strengthened national coordination mechanism to guide the NAP development																								
2.1 Organize one National Training and Inception Workshop to raise awareness and to define the scope and objective of the NAP development	█																							
Milestone: Technical support provided for the establishment of National Coordination Mechanism and organization of process for the development of the NAP																								◆
Outcome 3: Full understanding of comprehensive information of the national ASGM sector enables Paraguay to develop NAP in compliance with the Minamata Convention																								
3.1 Desk study to compile information available. The desk study will be complemented by interviews with stakeholders. The working group and the stakeholder's advisory group can consider additional methods in order to better reflect the current state of knowledge																								
Milestone: Paraguay has a comprehensive national overview of the ASGM sector, including baseline estimates of mercury uses and practices																								◆
Outcome 4: Paraguay has a NAP in compliance with Annex C of the Minamata Convention to guide its future action aiming at the reduction of mercury emissions and releases from this sector																								
4.1 One national workshops to complete the final NAP and to expose the formulated NAP on ASGM to public consultation before endorsement. Representatives of vulnerable groups and miners are particularly targeted																								█
4.2 NAP endorsement and official submission to the Minamata Secretariat																								█
Milestone: Paraguay has a NAP compliant with Annex C of the Minamata Convention developed, endorsed and officially submitted to the Minamata Secretariat																								◆

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: (0.50%)	547,500									
Project Name:							UNEP	47,500									
Executing Agency:							Project	500,000									
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	Component 4	Project Management	Monitoring and Evaluation	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Total	
							National information exchange, capacity building and knowledge generation	Establishment of Coordination Mechanism and organisation of process	Develop a national overview of the ASGM sector, including baseline estimates of mercury use and practices	Develop, endorse and submit to the Minamata Convention Secretariat a NAP on ASGM							
UNEP BUDGET LINE/OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE							US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$		US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	
10		PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT															
	1100	Project Personnel															
	1161	1101	Project coordinator							45,454		45,454	22,727	22,727		45,454	
	1161	1102	Project assistant									0	0	0		0	
		1199	Sub-Total				0	0	0	45,454		45,454	22,727	22,727		45,454	
	1200	Consultants w/m															
	1161	1201	Int'l consultant for inventory training and development or review				0		30,000			30,000	15,000	15,000		30,000	
		1202	National consultants for national activities					2,000	172,546	75,000		249,546	88,273	161,273		249,546	
		1299	Sub-Total				0	2,000	202,546	75,000	0	279,546	103,273	176,273		279,546	
	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						10,000			10,000	5,000	5,000		10,000	
		1699	Sub-Total				0	0	10,000	0	0	10,000	5,000	5,000		10,000	
		1999	Component Total				0	2,000	212,546	75,000	45,454	335,000	131,000	204,000		335,000	
20		SUB CONTRACT COMPONENT															
	2100	Sub contracts (UN Organizations)															
	2261	2101	UN Sub-contract				50,000					50,000	50,000			50,000	
		2199	Sub-total				50,000					50,000	50,000	0		50,000	
		2999	Component Total				50,000					50,000	50,000	0		50,000	
30		TRAINING COMPONENT															
	3200	Group training (field trips, WS, etc.)															
	3302 and 3303	3201	Training on inventory development for the ASGM sector (incl. Provision of materials)					20,000				20,000	10,000	10,000		20,000	
		3299	Sub-Total				0	0	20,000	0	0	20,000	10,000	10,000		20,000	
	3300	Meetings/conferences															
	3302 and 3303	3301	National project inception workshop					15,000				15,000	15,000	0		15,000	
	3302 and 3303	3302	Final national lessons learned workshop				15,000					15,000		15,000		15,000	
	3302 and 3303	3303	National Coordination Mechanisms meetings				2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000		8,000	4,000	4,000		8,000	
		3399	Sub-Total				17,000	17,000	2,000	2,000	0	38,000	19,000	19,000		38,000	
		3999	Component Total				17,000	17,000	22,000	2,000	0	58,000	29,000	29,000		58,000	
40		EQUIPMENT and PREMISES COMPONENT															
	4100	Expendable equipment (under 1,500 \$)															
	4261	4101	Operational costs				500	500	500	500		2,000	1,000	1,000		2,000	
		4199	Sub-Total				500	500	500	500	0	2,000	1,000	1,000		2,000	
	4200	Non expendable equipment															
	4261	4201	Computer, fax, photocopier, projector				1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000		4,000	2,000	2,000		4,000	
	4261	4202	Software				500	500	500	500		2,000	1,000	1,000		2,000	
		4299	Sub-Total				1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	6,000	3,000	3,000		6,000	
		4999	Component Total				2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	8,000	4,000	4,000		8,000	
50		MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT															
	5200	Reporting costs (publications, maps, NL)															
	5161	5201	Summary reports, visualization and diffusion of results						15,000			15,000		15,000		15,000	
	5161	5202	Preparation of final report						7,000			7,000		7,000		7,000	
		5299	Sub-Total				0	0	0	22,000	0	22,000	0	22,000		22,000	
	5300	Sundry (communications, postages)															
	5161	5301	Communications (postage, bank transfers, etc)				500	500	500	500		2,000	1,000	1,000		2,000	
		5399	Sub-total				500	500	500	500	0	2,000	1,000	1,000		2,000	
	5500	Evaluation															
	5581	5501	Independent Terminal Evaluation								15,000	15,000		15,000		15,000	
	5161	5502	Independent Financial Audit								10,000	10,000		10,000		10,000	
		5599	Sub-Total				0	0	0	0	0	25,000		25,000		25,000	
		5999	Component Total				500	500	500	22,500	0	25,000	49,000	1,000	48,000	49,000	
		TOTAL				69,500	21,500	237,046	101,500	45,454	25,000	500,000	215,000	285,000		500,000	