



REQUEST FOR MSP APPROVAL (1-STEP PROCEDURE)

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Preparatory project to facilitate the implementation of the legally binding instrument on mercury (Minamata Convention) in Argentina to protect health and the environment		
Country(ies):	Argentina	GEF Project ID: ¹	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNIDO (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	130001
Other Executing Partner(s):	Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente, AAMMA (Argentinean Society of Doctors for the Environment) Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable, SAyDS (Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development)	Submission Date:	07/19/2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	Persistent Organic Pollutants	Project Duration (Months)	24 months
Name of parent program (if applicable):		Agency Fee (\$):	33,250

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK²:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
(select) CHEM-3	Outcome 3.1 Country capacity built to effectively manage mercury in priority sectors.	Output 3.1 Countries receiving GEF support for mercury management and reduction, on a pilot basis	GEFTF	350,000	530,000
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
Total Project Cost				350,000	530,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objectives: Facilitate the implementation of the forthcoming Mercury Treaty (Minimata Convention) by creating a space of dialogue and strengthening cooperation amongst governments, NGOs and the private sector.

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
1. Development of proposals for the smooth adoption and implementation of the upcoming Minamata Convention.	TA	3. Argentina is equipped with tools for the smooth adoption and implementation of the upcoming Minamata Convention.	1.1. Argentina has an updated, in-depth analysis of the existing legal/policy framework and available BAT/ BEP 1.2 Multi-sectoral stakeholders participate and contribute to two	GEFTF	183,000	280,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Refer to the reference attached on the Focal Area Results Framework when filling up the table in item A.

			National Consultations. 1.3 Proposal for changes to legal/regulatory framework are formulated. 1.4 A pilot, small scale, demonstrative project proposal for transitory and final disposal of mercury and mercury containing waste is developed.			
2. Awareness raising on the forthcoming mercury treaty	TA	2. Awareness is raised on the terms of the recently accorded mercury treaty to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the forthcoming convention.	2.1 Online Clearing House on mercury is established 2.2 Awareness on mercury and the Minamata Convention is raised through the dissemination of informative material.	GEFTF	90,000	85,000
3. Monitoring and Evaluation	TA	3. Effective monitoring and evaluation of project activities	3.1 Establishment of a multi sectoral Steering Committee 3.2 Progress reports are prepared 3.3 A final evaluation is conducted	GEFTF	47,000	103,000
	(select)			GEFTF		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
		Subtotal			320,000	468,000
		Project Management Cost ³		GEFTF	30,000	62,000
		Total Project Cost			350,000	530,000

C. CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
CSO	Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente - AAMMA	In-kind	200,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Basel Convention Regional Center for South America	In-kind	300,000

³ PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below.

GEF Agency	UNIDO	Grant	30,000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
Total Cofinancing			530,000

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				0	0	0

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

² Please indicate fees related to this project.

E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	0	0	0
National/Local Consultants	187,000	120,000	307,000

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT? No

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

• **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

A.1. Project Description. Briefly describe the project, including ; 1) the global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline , the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Dating back till 2001 Governments, through the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) have regularly discussed the need to address mercury pollution at a global level given its significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment. In February 2009 the GC of UNEP agreed on the development of a global, legally binding instrument on mercury. Subsequently a series of five Intergovernmental Negotiation Conferences (INC) took place, and culminated on January 19, 2013 in Geneva when the Governments agreed to the text of the future Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Once released into the environment, mercury behaves as a highly mobile and persistent environmental pollutant that is toxic towards humans and wildlife even at low levels. The toxicity of mercury is dependent on the form, amount and pathway of exposure and methylmercury is particularly harmful towards the developing nervous system. In terms of human health, consumption of freshwater or marine fish with high methylmercury levels is the most common pathway of exposure. Methylmercury easily passes from the mother's bloodstream into that of the fetus and its neurotoxic properties can adversely affect the development of the brain. Effects on adults include disruption to the nervous system, cardiovascular disease, cancer incidence and genotoxicity⁴.

Exposure to mercury affects brain development from the time of conception altering the brain structure and intellectual functions such as memory, learning and intelligence that last for life. The impact this exposure has on the productivity of the population and the costs to the health sector can have a significant negative impact on local economies and development especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The governments recognized that to better protect health, reduce exposure and protect the environment it is urgent to close the gaps related to the information on main sources of emissions, identify technologies and effective measures to promote the implementation of the Best Available Technologies (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP), develop implementation plans and policies, and give adequate technical and financial assistance.

Under this framework, it is necessary to take action to generate capacity and awareness raising amongst the decision making sector to call attention to this important problem, explore possible solutions, adapt the legal regulatory framework, identify and apply tools and technical solutions, and share experiences.

This project is designed so that it can be then replicated in other developing countries through the Clearing House website. The dissemination of information of the project results will encourage the governments and communities to promote the development of these types of activities in their own areas and countries, whether at a local, national and/or regional level inviting the different sectors, including private, health and workers sector, decision makers, civil society and the community, to participate on a voluntary basis.

Argentina has already conducted some work in the field of mercury; however more is needed to ensure that awareness is raised amongst all relevant stakeholders so that the country is prepared for the entry into force of the mercury treaty. The Argentinean Society of Doctors for the Environment (AAMMA) and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America

⁴ Global Mercury Assessment, UNEP 2002

(BCRC) have held preliminary discussions with members of mercury-dependent industries, chambers of chemicals producers – particularly chlor-alkali plants -, and representatives of mercury waste management services, in order to coordinate activities with a view to the entry into force of the mercury Convention. The following work with regards to mercury have been or are being conducted in Argentina; these efforts have helped establish a baseline upon which this project can build further capacity and awareness.

- One of the main activities (still under development) has consisted in conducting the inventory of emissions by applying the UNEP Hg Tool Kit; this has been accompanied by multi-sectoral discussions on the new scenario created by the provisions in the framework of Mercury Convention.
- Another important advance has been the cooperation project between AAMMA and the BCRC under the Quick Start Programme (QSP) of the Strategic Approach to Management of Chemicals Management (SAICM) on Mercury in Household Products: "Regional Campaign for Minimizing Domestic Sources of Mercury Community Interventions for Health Protection of Children and Women in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia and Peru". The project's overall goal is to protect the population at large from the risks mercury can present, however there is a special focus on finding ways to prevent exposure of the most vulnerable and at-risk populations, namely children and women in child bearing ages.
- The project "Minimization and Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury-Containing Waste in Chlor-alkali Plants in Argentina", which was developed as part of an agreement between the ESBC and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- The project "Environmentally Sound Storage and Disposal of Elementary Mercury and Elementary Mercury Waste in Argentina", was implemented through a Funding Agreement signed between the BCRC and UNEP-DTIE. The project identified a need to bring together the different sectors involved (including industry, mining and scientific/technical) in order to better understand the provisions of the new Convention on Mercury and a need to disseminate information on existing BAT/BEP. It also identified the need to review the legal and technical framework scenario, in order to adapt it to the new Mercury Convention Framework.
- The Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de Argentina, SAyDS, is currently assisting the BCRC through a financial contribution of USD 100,000, which will be used for projects and activities connected with the priority agenda of the Basel Convention and the region's most urgent needs. Although the project focuses primarily on electronic waste and used tires mercury waste was also considered as a waste stream of concern.

These activities demonstrate that the country has begun to address the issues presented by mercury. Both having initiated the mercury inventory and holding preliminary talks with the relevant stakeholders have been significant steps in setting the stage for more in-depth interventions. The national task forces that were created with the involvement of both governmental and non-governmental players, including the industry, NGOs, business chambers and the relevant governmental sectors are an important achievement. Through these task forces a number of exciting synergies have been set in motion, for example the recent trading of mercury surpluses between members of the industry, which has served to prevent additional imports and exports. Through these activities, the stakeholders have also identified gaps in the legal and technical frameworks, which needs to be further developed, taking into account the new scenario under the upcoming Mercury Convention. In addition, they have identified a need for a successful implementation of national mercury regulations, as well as interest on exploring local technologies so that they are able to deal with the country's mercury and mercury waste problems.

This project would help prepare the country at an early stage with regards to the implementation of the mercury convention. It would build upon the preliminary work done bringing together the most relevant stakeholders and it would help identify realistic options for

management, treatment and final disposal of mercury and mercury containing waste.

The objective of the project is to facilitate the implementation of the forthcoming Minimata Convention on mercury in Argentina. It will do this by setting the groundwork so that the country is prepared to comply with its obligations under the Convention once it has entered into force. This will be achieved by bringing together the main stakeholders, raising awareness on the dangers of mercury and the scope of treaty, conducting an in depth analysis of the existing legal framework and available BAT/BEP in the country and region and then using all of this information to prepare a proposal for potential changes to the legal/policy framework and a proposal for a small scale, pilot demonstration project for the temporary and final disposal of mercury and mercury containing waste. In order to achieve these goals the project consists of three outcomes, including one on Monitoring & Evaluation. In general terms, the outcomes consist of the following:

- a) **Outcome 1: Argentina is equipped with tools for the smooth adoption and implementation of the upcoming Minimata Convention.** Component/Outcome 1 has two main goals, one is to conduct an overall analysis of the country situation with regards to mercury; the analysis will be both at a policy and technical level, and when possible gender disaggregated data will be collected during the analysis. The project will bring together the key stakeholders through two national consultations. These consultations will serve both to inform the stakeholders of the current situation in the country and the obligations under the convention, and also to receive their input on how to deal with mercury and mercury waste in the country. A broad range of stakeholders will be invited to participate in the National Consultations, although the consultations will focus on the technical and regulatory aspects of mercury and mercury waste management it must also take into account the social, economic and gender considerations. The second goal of this outcome will be to use the information gathered during the in-depth analysis and the national consultations to develop a proposal for changes to the national regulations on mercury and a pilot project for a small scale demonstration on mercury management.

The analysis of the current situation in the country will consist of assessing the existing legal/policy framework on mercury and hazardous waste management, and the BAT/BEP available in the country. The project will hire experts that will be responsible for conducting the analysis and reporting; however the members of the project SC will also actively contribute to the collection of information based on the expertise of the members.

The first national consultation will set the scene to be expected with the entry into force of the mercury treaty. It will present the international regulatory framework, identification of problems and possible solutions (both technical and policy), BAT/BET and opportunities for voluntary actions and business opportunities for the private sector.

The second National Consultation has as a goal to help shape the framework for the new and emerging scenario that the Convention will bring by analysing the legal and policy needs and alternatives at a national and provincial level; identifying possible voluntary actions; and discuss the best alternatives for the pilot project. The two consultations will bring together representatives from the government sector at both the national and provincial level, as well as the private sector, civil society and academia.

In order to equip Argentina with the tools necessary for a smooth adoption and implementation of the forthcoming convention this Outcome will have four Outputs, as follows:

- Output 1.1: Argentina has an updated, in-depth analysis of (1) the existing legal/policy framework and (2) the available BAT/BEP;
- Output 1.2: Multi-sectoral stakeholders participate at and contribute to two

National Consultations;

- Output 3.3: Proposal for changes to the existing regulatory framework (that takes into account the considerations of the upcoming convention); and
- Output 3.4: Pilot, small scale, demonstrative project proposal for transitory and final disposal of mercury and mercury containing waste is developed.

The analysis undertaken in Output 1.1 will be developed by national experts, it will be discussed/disseminated at the national consultations and will also be shared through the Clearing House. Both the analysis and the consultations will serve as a basis for the proposal of revisions to the legal framework, as well as for the preparation of the pilot demonstration proposal. It is important to note that this project will only prepare a proposal for modifications to the regulatory framework. This is to serve as a tool for the country to take into consideration what changes would be needed to assure consistency with the text and obligations of the Minimata Convention. The close involvement of the in-line Secretariats, principally the SAyDS, will be crucial to have a thorough understanding of the existing regulatory framework and the necessary political considerations for any proposed changes.

The proposal for a pilot demonstration project for submission to potential donors is the fourth output of this outcome. The project proposal will be developed by project experts based on the analysis conducted throughout the project, the input of the SC and the national consultations. The pilot demonstration will propose options for the transitory and final disposal of mercury and mercury containing waste in the country. It will seek to ensure the close involvement of the private sector in identifying potential business solutions to deal with mercury and mercury containing waste.

- b) **Outcome 2: Awareness is raised on the terms of the recently accorded Minimata Convention to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the forthcoming convention.** The main activity is the creation of a Clearing House website, which will be housed in the BCRC's website. The Clearing House will post information which includes, but is not limited to: options of the available BAT/BEP in the country and the region; analysis of the national legal & policy frameworks; advances in other mercury-related efforts in the region; the international mercury agenda; as well as learning material on the dangers posed by exposure to mercury, including gender specific health risks of mercury, etc. The Clearing House will provide information primarily in Spanish, so that it caters to the national and regional audience, as well as to fill a gap with regards to the limited information available in Spanish; however, material will also be translated into English so that it can reach a broader audience. Through this component, the project will continuously publish and disseminate information and results to both a national and international audience.

This component will also conduct an e-training course to inform and train users on the different services provided by the Clearing House. The project will develop the webpage, which will be housed on the BCRC website and will be linked to the SAyDS website, who may also contribute informative material on mercury, environmental regulations, project-related activities, etc.. After project completion the BCRC will continue to maintain the site so as to assure its long term sustainability.

- c) **Outcome 3: Monitoring and Evaluation**

UNIDO will be responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the project, as well as reporting progress to the donor. The AAMMA, as national executor, will be responsible for the day to day implementation of the project and the coordination with the other partners. AAMMA will submit periodic progress and financial reports to UNIDO, who will in turn report to the GEF, including yearly Project Implementation Reports (PIR). Progress will be measured based on a yearly workplan and its corresponding indicators. UNIDO's co-financing will be used for

yearly monitoring visits and will contribute towards the project final evaluation.

One of the first steps of the project will be the establishment of a steering committee (SC). The SC will be composed of the most relevant actors and stakeholders of priority sectors. It will be a multi-sectoral committee, including both the private and public sectors; it will consist of approximately a dozen members including: the SAYDS, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the private sector (representatives from the chloro-alkali industry, hazardous waste management service providers, importers, mining and chambers of industry) and the project implementation partners (AAMMA, BCBR-INTI and UNIDO). They will meet regularly (at least 3 times per year) and provide guidance and expertise for the other project components. The composition of the SC is important in that it will create a continuous dialogue on the most important concerns related to the environmentally sound management and disposal of mercury and the implications of the upcoming treaty, and it will bring together a diverse group of experts that can feed critical information into the other components of the project.

On a governmental level, there will be a key role played by the SAYDS, as well as other Ministries/Secretariats responsible for the oversight and implementation of multilateral, environmental agreements. The input of the SAYDS with regards to the review of the regulatory framework will be critical not just for the analysis of the current situation but also for proposing any changes necessary for adapting to requirements of the forthcoming convention (to be developed in Outcome 1). From a private sector point of view, the presence of industries dealing with mercury or mercury in waste is also important as they will be able to provide an indication of the market demand for services such as collection, transport, temporary storage and final disposal of mercury and mercury in waste, and ideally help provide the business solutions needed to address the issue.

By supporting Argentina through this interim period the project will provide a concrete experience in the region for preparing a country for compliance with the convention. Argentina is a good candidate to have this initial experience because it has a large industrial sector with diverse mercury issues, including hospitals, chloro-alkali, industrial mining, steel industry (metal smelters), etc..

This project will make Argentina a pioneer for dealing with mercury and mercury containing waste on a global level. It is a unique project as we are currently in the interim period prior to entry into force of the convention and this experience will be able to provide lessons learned to the international community on what actions are actually needed at national and local level to comply with the convention.

This project is considered to be sustainable in the long term as it is expected that Argentina will sign and ratify the convention, given their strong participation in the INC and their interest in the development of this project. Once they have ratified the convention it will require that all sectors deal with their mercury and mercury in waste in an environmentally sound manner; the experience of the industries that participate in this project will serve as an example of lessons learned so the others can benefit from the good and learn from what can be improved. It is also considered to offer these lessons not only on a national level but also at a regional level. The idea of preparing the informative material from outcome 2 in Spanish is that it will be easier for the region to absorb and in turn apply to their own situations; however material translated into English will be able to serve a broader audience.

A.2. Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders (including civil society organizations, indigenous people, gender groups, and others as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project and/or its preparation:

The project will bring together a wide variety of stakeholders in order to inform them of the upcoming requirements of the new mercury treaty; assess the quantities of mercury and mercury in waste that the country will have to manage under the terms of the treaty; determine what is the existing capacity in the country (or region) to deal with mercury and mercury containing waste; and explore ways to address mercury in an environmentally sound manner. The following lists the different sectors that will be involved; the list is not exhaustive as more may be incorporated throughout the project:

- Waste Management Industries: service providers for the collection, transport, management, temporary storage and disposal of hazardous wastes;
- Industrial sectors that have stockpiles of mercury or mercury containing waste such as chloro-alkali industries or industrial mines which produce mercury as a byproduct;
- Steel industry or other smelters which must take into account mercury emissions;
- Government sectors both in terms of support to municipalities, who are responsible for urban waste management, as well as national level Secretariats who are responsible for developing the legal framework to deal with mercury, including the SAYDS, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Health, etc.. The project will also reach out to the local governments of Argentina's 24 provinces;
- Industrial Chambers, including the Chamber of Chemical and Petrochemical Industries (Camara de la Industria Químicas y Petroquímica);
- Public and private health providers (hospitals, clinics, etc.)

In terms of project implementation, the main executing agency is the Argentinean Society of Doctors for the Environment (AAMMA, Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente). They will work closely with both the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America (BCRC), located in Buenos Aires and the National Institute of Industrial Technology (Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial, INTI). The following describes these institutions in more detail, highlighting their expertise in the field of environment and chemicals management.

The project has been developed jointly with AAMMA. AAMMA is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization created on July 1992. They are members of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment- ISDE, created in 1990 with member organization in over 35 countries. AAMMA is a professional, scientific, non-governmental organization undertaking advocacy on environmental impacts and health effects; promoting healthy environments and chemical safety; climate change mitigation; studies on anthropogenic actions which adversely affect human health and ecosystems; and creation of sustainable environments for humans and wildlife. The main purpose of AAMMA is to help defend the environment to prevent illnesses, ensure the necessary conditions for a healthy environment, and improve the quality of life in order to safeguard the health of our own generation and of future ones.

AAMMA has the goal of stimulating awareness and initiatives among public and private bodies, in particular to governmental agencies. They work on the development and promotion of sustainable environments (locally and globally); promoting Best Available Technologies and Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BET) and International and National Agreements' implementation (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, its National Implementation Plans and SAICM process). AAMMA has also participated in the Mercury Negotiation Process under UNEP Chemicals and was instrumental in the inclusion of the work on health issues during the negotiations.

Currently AAMMA, in the name of ISDE, represents Health NGOs at the Bureau of the Strategic Approach for the International Management of Chemicals, SAICM, (Secretariat administered by UNEP Chemicals) and represents Science NGOs at the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Coordinating Committee of the Strategic Approach for the International Management of Chemicals, SAICM. They are also active member of the International POPs Elimination Network - IPEN, Health Care without Harm – HCWH and the Global Alliance for the Incineration Alternatives, GAIA, and they were previously member of the Working Group on “Children and Chemical Safety” of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, IFCS.

AAMMA is a strong and well established NGO in the country as demonstrated through the awards in environmental excellence, which it has received, including the UNEP Global 500 Environmental Role of Honor, the EPA USA 2007 Children's Environmental Health Excellence Award and the Intergovernmental Forum of Chemical Safety, IFCS 2008 Special Recognition Award. AAMMA fosters

contacts and co-operative efforts with international organizations such as UNO, UNEP, UNESCO, WHO, EU, and many NGOs to support projects of international relevance, and to link-up together national groups working on local projects. The multiple partners that AAMMA has close experience working with demonstrates its ability to work closely with a wide variety of actors and provides a wide network of relevant stakeholders that could possibly be involved in the project.

As an NGO AAMMA is financed by projects and therefore its staffing level depends on the ongoing projects. Currently the staff consists of 5 people, of which two will help support this project's activities. The remaining project staff will be financed from the project funds for specific tasks, as per the Terms of Reference that will be prepared.

BCRC Basel Convention Regional Center for South America

The BCRC-Argentina is a tool that serves to push forward sound hazardous waste management in the South American region through capacity building efforts in the fields of training, information dissemination, awareness-raising and technology transfer. The BCRC functions at the National Institute for Industrial Technology (INTI), in the City of Buenos Aires and operations began in 2002 as a result of an agreement with INTI.

The BCRC for South America acts as a liaison for the countries in the region through focal points, national authorities and the Regional Coordination Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, which is located in Uruguay. The BCRC-SA provides assistance to the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay.

Moreover, linkages have been strengthened between the BCRC and both regional and international governmental, private and non-governmental actors in the field of hazardous waste. The BCRC has acted as a reference in several seminars across Argentina and the region on electric and electronic waste management. Its members have co-authored regional documents on this topic, and the organization is actively involved in the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) task force and in the development of PACE's Technical Guidelines. Along these lines, the BCRC has succeeded at becoming a leader in global waste management, and is now a relevant player in this field.

The BCRC has also been involved in activities targeted on promoting synergies with other conventions (Montreal Protocol – training of cooling engineers), as well as mercury management organizations (Stockholm Convention, SAICM and the future Minamata Convention). In addition to dealing with the future Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention, the BCRC will continue to enhance interaction with the private, scientific and university sectors, and with environmentally-oriented NGOs.

The BCRC has convened and worked with the different sectors (governmental and non-governmental including private sector of industry, hazardous waste management and others), as well as the technical and scientific areas. The BCRC brings NGOs into the process of project development and implementation so as to take advantage of their expertise and use their platforms to disseminate BCRC material and raise awareness on the risks entailed by the improper management of hazardous substances and waste. One such case is the joint effort made from 2008-2010 with the AAMMA, which brought forth the Project SAICM QSP* on Mercury in Domestic Products, and which involved a regional campaign on the "Minimization of Domestic Sources of Mercury through Community Interventions Aimed at Protecting the Health of Women and Children in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia and Peru". AAMMA was invited to participate in this working group and has been closely following the work and providing expertise on health issues and on the follow up of the Mercury Treaty negotiation.

A number of initial actions have been undertaken with the private sector in Argentina. The following actions are examples which have been conducted in the field of waste streams with the involvement of the private sector:

- Tires: a regulatory framework has been developed with the participation of the SAYDS, the INTI Rubber Center and Industry Chambers dealing with tire production, retreading and recycling.
- The BCRC has taken initial steps towards a joint strategy involving the electric and electronic equipment industry and the services dealing with electric and electronic waste, in order to develop and implement pilot projects in the context of the work carried out by PACE.
- At the end of 2012, BCRC and AAMMA started working together on the developed this project and conducted preliminary discussions with different industries to determine their interest on the dissemination of BET/BEP with regards to the treatment and disposal of mercury and mercury waste.

National Institute of Industrial Technology: The mission of the Environmental Sector of INTI is to act as a reference for society and contribute to the development of national industry by providing technical assistance, promoting services and developments which preserve and optimize the use of natural resources, the quality of outdoor environments, the welfare of the people and the preservation of property, the quality of the work environment and workers' health and the integrated environmental management systems, quality, safety and occupational health, meeting the needs of users, the interests of the community and professionals and institutional ethics. Its main fields of action and services are: liquid effluent, air and working environment, chemical laboratory, biological laboratory, environmental management and organic pollutants.

INTI works in cooperation with the Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable, SAYDS; different governmental areas of sanitary services; General Directorate of Environmental Policy and Assessment of the City of Buenos Aires; National Administration of Drugs, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT); National Food Institute (INAL); National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA); Ministry of Environment of the Province of Entre Rios; Provincial Agency for Sustainable Development of the Province of Buenos Aires (OPDS); and the Argentine Standards Institute (known as IRAM from the Spanish denomination) with participation in the Environmental Quality Committee and Subcommittee on Water Quality, Soil Quality and Air Quality; Environmental Management Committee and Subcommittee on Environmental Audits as well as in the Safety Committee.

INTI has links with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – EPA, Water Environmental Federation, US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health-NIOSH, World Health Organization (WHO), American Industrial Hygiene Association, US National Technical Information Service (NTIS) and US Occupational Department of Labor Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Although not directly executing activities the Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, SAYDS, will have an important role in their capacity as the governing body on national environmental policy, responsible for the national strategy on international environmental policy (through multilateral environmental agreements) and as focal point of the GEF in Argentina; and as such will be informed of the project's progress and results. The SAYDS will be a permanent member of the SC and will be actively involved in the coordination, organization and leading of the SC meetings and the national consultations. Their active participation in these activities will facilitate their contribution to the in depth analysis of the existing legal/policy framework and BAT/BEP in Argentina, the subsequent development of a proposal for improvements/modifications to the framework and the preparation and dissemination of publications, informative material, etc

A.3. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

At a national level this project will help prepare Argentina for compliance with the mercury treaty (Minamata Convention), once it enters into force. On a local level, the project will enhance the protection of human health and the environment from exposure to mercury, taking into consideration gender specific aspects of exposure to mercury. It will allow awareness raising on health effects of mercury and help provide the country with alternatives for dealing with this important contaminant. By providing the basis for the development of a strong legal framework and providing attractive business options for the private sector the project will help the country in complying with the principles and requirements of the Convention. This will in turn contribute to a reduction in health costs that would or could potentially arise from exposure of the population to mercury.

Additionally, the project will disseminate and promote BAT/BEP for the transitory and final disposal of mercury and mercury containing waste so that the different stakeholders will have a better awareness of the options available with regards to the sound management of mercury. By raising awareness on the risks of mercury and the available management, storage, treatment and disposal options the various stakeholders will be in a better position to take informed decisions to deal with mercury and mercury containing waste either voluntarily before the entry into force of the upcoming Minamata Convention or as part of their responsibilities once it becomes obligatory. It will facilitate scientific and technical, as

well as regulatory/legal information exchange which will strengthen the communication process amongst the most important stakeholders (governmental, private and civil society) in Argentina and contribute to the development goals with regards to the environment and hazardous waste management. The experience and lessons learned during this project will serve as an example to other countries both on a regional, as well as a global level, for the preparation of a country to comply with the requirements of the convention. In spite of being a small project it is unique in that it has great potential for setting an example to other countries that also wish to get an early start in dealing with their mercury issues.

UNIDO has developed a gender mainstreaming framework that helps assure that both the project development and implementation phases take into account gender equality and empowerment. The project will strive to ensure a gender balanced representation in the Steering Committee and at the National Consultations; but moreover it will seek to have representatives that can raise the right gender considerations during the distinct phases of the project, for example for the proposed changes to the national policy on mercury and in the information prepared and disseminated through the Clearing House, which will consider gender specific aspects of the dangers posed by mercury. As the project seeks to move the country away from the business-as-usual scenario with regards to mercury and mercury waste, it will be important to take into account what possible effect the steps taken towards compliance with the convention will have on gender dynamics in the country.

A.4 Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks:

Possible Risks	Mitigation Measures	Rating
Lack of sustained political support	The project will work closely with the relevant ministries and local governments to assure that they are informed and involved with the project. In particular, with regards to the preparation of the revised regulatory framework proposal.	Low
Lack of sustained support from the private sector	The project will closely involve the private sector, informing them of the scope of the upcoming treaty and highlighting the business opportunities that could arise from the management and disposal of mercury.	Low

A.5. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

This project will build upon the existing expertise of the executing agency, AAMMA, as well as that of the main partners, namely the BCRC, INTI and SAyDS. These organizations/institutions have extensive experience dealing with chemicals management in Argentina and have close contact with the health and environment sector, private industries, and scientific and academic experts. By expanding on their expertise and well established network the project will be able to leverage Argentina's existing capacity in chemicals management to focus on issues specific to mercury. The creation of the clearing house is critical to then share this experience with the rest of the region and thereby expand the local environmental benefits to a regional and global scale.

The implementation of actions oriented to inform and increase the capacity of the governmental and private sector in Argentina will accelerate the preparation of the scenario for the implementation of the Mercury Treaty. It will promote voluntary actions and potential business opportunities, facilitate the identification of local available technologies and solutions, and enhance dialogue and cooperation among sectors with high cost effective results. It is important to underline the positive effects on reducing the costs to Public Health which would arise from local populations exposure to mercury, as well as that of individuals which can affect productivity and ultimately sustainable development.

A.6. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives [not mentioned in A.1]:

By working closely with the BCRC the project will benefit from their experience in similar GEF projects. In the Chemicals Focal Area, the BCRC is currently coordinating the implementation of Project GEF-2328-2760-4A40 "Best Practices in PCB Management in the Mining Industry in South America" in Chile and Peru. Valuable assessments are being produced in this context, as well as reference documents for the region and changes that will be conducive to the application of best practices and the introduction of the best technologies available in this sphere.

Other possible areas to seek synergies include recent work of the BCRC in the development of three GEF projects for Argentina along with Basel Convention Coordinating Center (BCCC) from Uruguay and SEDS: (1) review and update of the national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); (2) development of mercury management plans in Latin America and Caribbean; and (3) continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Latin American and Caribbean Region.

Other related activities in the country include the ongoing SAICM intervention project which addresses the SAICM Global Plan of Action.

A.7 Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation:

The project will be implemented by one GEF Agency, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Within UNIDO the project will be managed by the Water Management Unit, of the Environmental Management Branch. UNIDO will extend a subcontract to AAMMA as the national executing agency. AAMMA is considered the most suitable local agency to execute the project activities, as it has extensive experience working in the mercury, environment and health sectors; it has already coordinated mercury related activities with various stakeholders in Argentina; and has been intricately involved in the project development; the subcontract will therefore be issued directly and not through an open bid. UNIDO's Procurement Services Unit will be responsible for the subcontracting arrangements, ensuring that all paperwork necessary for the subcontracting of a NGO is taken into consideration.

AAMMA will work in close collaboration with the Basel Convention Regional Center for South America, located in Argentina and with the National Industrial Technology Institute (INTI) in the execution of project activities. The SAyDS is also a critical partner as they are the national governing body on environmental policy; they will be a permanent member of the Steering Committee and will have an important role in the review of the legal/policy framework and the BAT/BEP available in the country.

In addition, UNIDO will liaise with UNEP through the Global Mercury Partnership, primarily on issues such as analysis of policies and through their network of experts.

The Government of the Argentine Republic agrees to apply to the present project, *mutatis mutandis*, the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and the Government, signed on 26 February 1985 and entered into force on 31 August 1987.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.

As a result of the conference on sustainable development in Rio 1992, Argentina incorporated article 41 on environmental protection in the Constitutional reform of 1994, which demonstrated their commitment to address issues of sustainable development. In November 2002 Argentina passed the General Law on the Environment through the Ley Nacional (National Law) 25.675. In December 2004, Argentina approved the Stockholm Convention through the Ley Nacional 26.011 and ratified the Convention on January 25, 2005. Additionally, Argentina approved the Basel Convention in June 1991 through the Ley Nacional 23.922. The Basel Convention Regional Center for South America (BCRC) was formally created as a result of a Framework Agreement and entered into force in July, 2005, despite having been in operation since May 2002. The country presented its National Implementation Plan (NIP) in 2007 and is currently conducting its NIP review and update.

B.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities

The project is in line with the overall goal of the Chemicals Focal Area to “promote the sound management of chemicals to lead to the minimization of adverse effects on human health and the environment”, and in particular with Objective 3 to “pilot sound chemicals management and mercury reduction”. The project will strengthen the national capacity to effectively manage mercury and mercury containing waste. The project is also consistent with the aim of the GEF-5 Chemicals focal area to support countries in preparation for the entry into force of the internationally legally binding Mercury Treaty (Minamata Convention).

B.3 The GEF Agency’s program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and Agencies comparative advantage for implementing this project:

UNIDO’s thematic priorities center on poverty reduction through trade capacity building, and environmental and energy management. The organization is committed to introducing technological solutions in an intergraded manner to help address issues that impact human health and the environment. UNIDO has considerable experience implementing GEF projects. In the Chemicals Focal Area UNIDO has extensive experience with Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) projects all over the world. Within the context of mercury and artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM), UNIDO implemented the Global Mercury Project from 2002 - 2007 in six countries including Brazil, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sudan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe; and it currently has ongoing ASGM projects in Francophone Africa (Burkina Faso, Senegal and Mali), Latin America (Ecuador and Peru) and the Philippines. UNIDO is now expanding into other areas related to mercury, including the reduction of mercury emissions from zinc smelting (China) and it is developing projects in mercury in products, mercury in waste and contaminated sites. Similarly, UNIDO has experience dealing with a wide variety of GEF projects in the region from POPs to Climate Change and Mitigation and it is currently implementing a Montreal Protocol funded project on the phase out of ozone depleting substances in Argentina. This institutional experience gives UNIDO an advantage by understanding both the requirements of the GEF, as well as the regional situation and reality.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

UNIDO will be responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the project, as well as reporting progress to the donor. The Association of Argentinian Doctors for the Environment (AAMMA, Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente), is the national executing agency and will be responsible for the day to day implementation of the project and the coordination with the other partners. AAMMA will receive a subcontract from UNIDO to perform these duties.

During the inception of the project a detailed workplan will be developed for both years, with an emphasis on year one. The workplan will include a set of targets and indicators in order to facilitate the

measure of progress throughout the implementation. The detailed workplan for year two will be updated based on the results of year one.

UNIDO will contribute 30,000 USD in cash as co-financing to the project. This will cover yearly monitoring visits to the country, contribute to the dissemination of project activities and results and carry out the final, independent project evaluation. During the yearly visits the UNIDO representative will meet with the executing agency and other partners to discuss the progress of the project and assess any gaps or weakness encountered in order to make necessary adaptive management decisions.

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

All project costs will be accounted for and documented. Financial reports will be required from the executing agency according to standard UNIDO accounting procedures. UNIDO will in turn provide financial reports to the GEF on an annual basis through the regular reporting done at the organization level. In the same regard, UNIDO will submit the yearly Progress Implementation Report (PIR) to the GEF. A final programmatic and financial report will be submitted to the GEF within 90 days of the project end. The following table summarizes the UNIDO financed M&E budget:


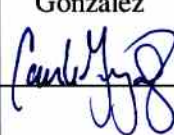
Activities	Co-Financing
yearly monitoring	\$12,000
Final Evaluation	\$18,000
Total	\$30,000

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. For SGP, use this OFP endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Diana Vega	GEF Operational Focal Point	SECRETARIA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE	05/13/2013
Maria Fabiana Loguzzo	General Director General Direction of Environment (DIGMA) & GEF Political Focal Point	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ARGENTINA	12/14/2012

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Philippe Scholtès Officer-in-Charge PTC UNIDO GEF Focal Point		07/19/2013	Carolina Gonzalez 	+43 1 26026 3814	C.Gonzalez-Castro@unido.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Results	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions & Risks
Objective Facilitate the implementation of the forthcoming Mercury Treaty (Minimata Convention) by creating a space of dialogue and strengthening cooperation amongst governments, NGOs and the private sector	Argentina has signed the Minimata Convention and initiated the process of ratification by project end.	Reports submitted by Argentina, through the SAYDS, to the Secretariat of the Minimata Convention	Argentina signs and ratifies the Minimata Convention
Outcomes			
1. Argentina is equipped with tools for the smooth adoption and implementation of the upcoming Minimata Convention	A proposal for changes to the legal/regulatory framework is agreed upon with the in-line Ministry and other key stakeholders. Priorities and approach for a follow-up pilot project is agreed upon by main stakeholders, including identification of potential donors.	Draft of the proposed changes to the regulatory framework Pilot project proposal document. Project final report	Participation of stakeholders, primarily national Ministries with relevant mandate Public & private sectors are supportive of a follow up pilot project.
2. Awareness is raised on the terms of the recently accorded Minimata Convention to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the forthcoming convention.	% of key stakeholders report that their awareness of mercury issues has increase	Feedback from key consultants/project staff	Information is available and shared by relevant stakeholders
Outputs			
1.1 Argentina has an updated, in-depth analysis of the existing legal/policy framework and available BAT/ BEP	Reports documenting the current legal/policy framework and BAT/ BEP available in Argentina The analysis includes specific needs and role of women and men	Report on legal/policy framework Report on available BAT/BEP	Political will and stakeholder support to prepare the proposed draft regulation
1.2 Multi-sectoral stakeholders participate and contribute to two National Consultations	Two national consultations are held	Report/minutes of national consultations	

<p>1.3 Proposal for changes to legal/regulatory framework are formulated</p> <p>1.4 Pilot, small scale, demonstrative project proposal for transitory and final disposal of mercury and mercury containing waste is developed.</p>	<p>No. of gender knowledgeable members of civil society present at consultations</p> <p>Proposed changes to regulatory framework are drafted.</p> <p>One pilot demonstration project proposal is drafted</p>	<p>Proposal to changes in regulatory framework is prepared</p> <p>Pilot demonstration project proposal/document</p>	
<p>2.1. Online Clearing House on mercury is established</p> <p>2.2 Awareness on mercury and the Minamata Convention is raised through the dissemination of informative material</p>	<p>The Clearing house webpage is established.</p> <p>No of visits to Clearing house webpage</p> <p>No. of informative material to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the Convention that is developed and disseminated</p>	<p>Website counter/server</p> <p>Bi-monthly bulletins</p>	<p>BCRC hosts the Clearing House on their website</p> <p>Sufficient information is available and is shared by relevant stakeholders</p>

ANNEX B: INDICATIVE SCHEDULE

Outcome/Activity	Months																								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Outcome 1. Argentina is equipped with tools for the smooth adoption and implementation of the upcoming Minimata Convention																									
Activity 1.1: Analysis of legal/policy framework																									
Activity 1.2: Analysis of available BAT/BEP																									
Activity 1.3: Organize & conduct National Consultations (2)																									
Activity 1.4: Prepare proposal for modifications to the regulatory framework.																									
Activity 1.5: Preparation and dissemination of pilot project proposal																									
Outcome 2. A awareness is raised on the terms of the recently accorded mercury treaty to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the forthcoming convention.																									
Activity 2.1: Set up and update the Clearing House webpage (hosted by BCRC website)																									
Activity 2.2: Preparation of bi-monthly Informative Project Bulletins																									
Activity 2.3: e-training to access and use the Clearing House																									
Outcome 3. Monitoring and Evaluation																									
Activity 3.1: Establish Steering Committee and hold regular meetings																									
Activity 3.2 Progress reports are prepared																									
Activity 3.3 Conduct final evaluation																									

ANNEX C: INDICATIVE BUDGET BY OUTCOME

1. Argentina is equipped with tools for the smooth adoption and implementation of the upcoming Minimata Convention	GEF GRANT, USD	Co-financing, USD
National Consultations [v] 2 (two) national consultation meetings inviting one governmental representative by province (24) and participation of the SC members (11) and other members of the private sector. Transportation expenses, lodging, venue, meals and miscellaneous)	\$75,000	\$40,000
Policy Consultant [ii]	\$24,000	\$15,000
National Consultant [v]	\$31,000	\$15,000
Technical Consultant [vi]	\$33,000	\$15,000
Coordination Consultant	\$20,000	\$20,000
Technical/Scientific infrastructure (INTI)		\$175,000
Component Sub-total	\$183,000	\$280,000
2. Awareness is raised on the terms of the recently accorded Minimata Convention to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the Convention.		
Development clearing house and webpage:	\$34,000	\$50,000.00
Communication Consultant [iv]	\$36,000	\$15,000.00
Coordination Consultant	\$20,000	\$20,000.00
Component Sub-total	\$90,000	\$85,000
3. Monitoring & Evaluation		
Steering Committee meetings [i]: (to cover transportation, lodging, venue, meals and miscellaneous)	\$20,000	\$35,000
Coordination Consultant [iii]	\$20,000	\$20,000
Project reporting & coordination	\$4,000	\$15,000
UNIDO yearly visits		\$12,000
Final Evaluation	\$3,000	\$21,000
Component Sub-total	\$47,000	\$103,000
TOTAL	\$320,000	\$468,000
Project Management Costs	30,000	62,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$350,000	\$530,000

* The table makes reference to additional notes on the following page, which provide a description of the consultants and committees roles.

Description of Committee, Consultants and National Consultations:

[i] Steering Committee: The approximately 12 members of the SC will be representing governmental and private sector representing the health, environment and foreign office governmental areas, Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America, INTI, AAMMA, UNIDO and representatives of the following private sectors: industry, chloro-alkali, hazardous waste management, importers and mining. The SC will meet a total of 6 times over the 2 years.

[ii] Policy Consultant's role will be to advise on the identification of main stakeholders at national and provincial governmental level as well from the private sector; they will interact with them and explore the possible gaps, needs and interest of each partner to support the activities of the SC all along the project. 100% of the Policy Consultant work time will be devoted to Component 1.

[iii] Coordination Consultant is the project coordinator. The role will be to manage the day-to-day activities of the project and look after the fulfillment of the goals and tasks under the proposed timetable. It is also responsibility of the Coordination to assure a balanced, multi-sectoral and geographical participation from governmental and private sector as well as from technical experts. The Coordination is also responsible for the supervision of the work of the consultants and presentation of the progress and final reports and the products described in the proposal. The Coordinator is the Focal Point of the project for and responsible of the communication with UNIDO, GEF, Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America, INTI and the national government (areas of Environment, Health and Foreign Affairs). The work time of the Coordination Consultant will be distributed equally amongst each component.

[iv] Communication Consultant's role will be to manage the communication context and contents, providing advice for the best technical solutions available to deliver the product described in Component 2. Working in close contact with the coordination, technical and policy consultants as well as in agreement with the SC. 100% of Communication Consultant work time will be devoted to Component 2.

[v] National Consultation. Two National Consultations will conduct the in-depth analysis of the existing legal/policy framework and available BAT/ BEP in Argentina, to feed information into the draft regulation. Reports documenting the outcomes on the current legal/policy framework and BAT/BEP available in Argentina will be prepared as a result (product) of each event.

One governmental representative of each of the 24 Argentinean provinces, the members of the SC and other members of the governmental, private sector and civil society will be invited to participate in the two National Consultations.

National Consultant's role will be to provide expertise to build the legal and technical national scenario and guide work to reach the project outcomes and outreaches according to the framework, activities and objective of the project. The consultant will work in close contact with the coordination, technical, policy and communication consultants, as well in agreement with the SC. 100% of the work time of the National Consultant will be for component 1.

[vi] Technical Consultant's role will be to provide expertise on the technical issues related to mercury and mercury containing hazardous waste management, transport, transitory and possible final disposal as well as on the Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) international and local experiences; in addition they will contribute to the development of the technical proposal for a pilot demonstration project. 100% of work time will be for component 1.

ANNEX D: Project relationship to the provisions of the Mercury Convention

The objectives of this project are consistent with the objective of the Mercury Convention: to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic releases of mercury and mercury compounds. The following annex describes the relationship of this project with different sections of the convention.

According to the **Preamble** of the Mercury Convention, this proposal is oriented to:

- Address environmental and human-health problems associated with the improper handling of mercury,
- Promote the adoption of special measures to meet the needs of the country,
- Support capacity-building and the requirements of the country regarding compliance with the provisions of this Convention, including technology transfer and sharing,
- Protect human health and the environment against damage caused by mercury,
- Cooperate on mercury control and to promote a gradual reduction in its use in the health sector,
- Protect human health in relation to the adverse effects associated with the improper handling of mercury, enhancing the role of the Basel Convention on the Control in relation to transboundary movements of mercury wastes and their final disposal.

Mercury supply sources and trade (Article 3)

The project proposes to create awareness, inform and promote space of dialogue and consultation process with different governmental areas involved and private sectors stakeholders to:

- Facilitate the work of the government and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America to complete the UNEP Mercury Tool Kit and the inventory of stocks of mercury or mercury compounds, as well as those produced from decommissioned chlor-alkali production facilities.
- Explore local technical capacities and prepare a proposal to adapt the legal framework in consultation with the different governmental (environment, health, science and technology, foreign affairs, others) and non-governmental stakeholders involved (private sector: mining, chlor-alkali, steel, hazardous waste management, importers, legal and technical experts, others) and referents on each area (national councils and associations) to promote the implementation of action on mercury and mercury compounds management and disposal, exportation or storage in an environmentally sound manner, as well as on the allowed uses.

Products and processes (Articles 5 & 6)

The project proposes to disseminate information on the Mercury Convention framework to the stakeholders involved (producers, importers and relevant governmental areas) on:

- Manufacture and import/export of mercury-added products as well as on the phase-out dates specified for products, and exemptions,
- Restrictions of use of the mercury-added products and the register of information on mercury-added products and their alternatives, as well as on the incorporation into assembled products (manufacture, imported and exported) of mercury-added products which are not allowed,
- Limits for emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds in the manufacturing process and to facilitate the identification of facilities that use mercury or mercury compounds for processes as listed in the Mercury Convention.

Emissions and releases (Article 10 & 11)

The project proposes to disseminate information on emissions and releases:

- Analyze the possible changes to be introduced in the legal framework.

- Identify and analyze the local and regional existing technical and analytical capacity, needs and gaps.

Storage, wastes and contaminated sites (Articles 12, 13 & 14)

On Storage the project proposes to explore:

- Existing facilities, technical experiences and tools to manage and transport mercury and mercury containing hazardous waste as well as for its transitory or final disposal.
- Options on BAT/BEP at international, regional and local level for environmentally sound manner management of hazardous waste / mercury waste.
- Strengthen national and regional capacity and identify weak points where technical capacity building may be strengthened.

On Mercury wastes the project objective is oriented to analyze the existing legal and technical framework scenario and make recommendations to:

- Strengthen the provisions of national law under the Mercury Convention to manage mercury and mercury containing hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account the guidelines developed under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, as well as related to wastes facility location, design and operation, and adequate treatment before final disposal.
- Work in close coordination with the relevant bodies of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America and other relevant governmental areas and private sector cooperating with each other and intergovernmental organizations and other entities, as appropriate, to develop and maintain regional and national capacity for the management of mercury wastes in an environmentally sound manner.

On Contaminated sites the project proposal points to create awareness, explore, identify and disseminate information on the local and regional technical capacity to

- Reduce the risks posed by polluted sites,
- Manage mercury and mercury containing hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner,
- Reduce risks to human health and the environment from mercury contaminated sites.

Technical assistance and capacity-building (Article 16)

The project proposes to work on

- The identification of local and regional capacities, explore BAT/BET and successful experiences at the international level to promote the development of pilot projects and technology sharing.
- Promoting multi sectoral partnerships, including public-private partnerships, in cooperation and coordination with technical fields experts on chemicals management and hazardous wastes

Information exchange (Article 18)

The project proposes to explore and encourage information exchange on:

- Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds,
- Local and regional available technologies (BAT/BET),
- Economically and technically feasible mercury-free alternatives,

Awareness-raising, research & monitoring, and communication of information (Articles 19 & 20)

The project proposal has a communication component to facilitate the dissemination of information by

- Working on awareness-raising and communication of information on the new Mercury Convention;
- Providing a space for multi-sectoral dialogue for the analysis of the local scientific, technical, economic and legal framework concerning mercury and mercury compounds waste management, including toxicological, eco-toxicological impacts and safety information;
- Working in cooperation with international organizations as the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, as appropriate;
- Focusing on:
 - Activities and processes that emit or release mercury or mercury compounds,
 - Information on the health and environmental risks, economic and social costs, and benefits of such alternatives;
 - Existing epidemiological local information concerning health impacts associated with exposure to mercury and mercury compounds.
- Provide information on the results of the project activities, as well as other related activities.
- Education, training and public awareness activities related to the effects of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds on the environment and human health (vulnerable and at risk populations)
- In collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as appropriate.

Health aspects

The project proposes to

- Focus on the protection of vulnerable populations and populations at risk from the exposure of mercury and its compounds;
- Promote actions to reduce exposure to mercury and mercury compounds of general public and workers, with the participation of health and other involved sectors;
- Utilize communication material (webpage, bulletins and clearing house) to inform and communicate the risks, promote bio-monitoring, as well as risk prevention and mitigation measures;
- Promote and disseminate programmes, recommendations and guidelines on the prevention of occupational exposure relating to permitted uses where potential exposures are of concern, in particular with relation to mercury and mercury containing hazardous waste management;
- Identify and evaluate scientific, technical and analytical local capacity and contribute to strengthen health professionals' capacity for the prevention, diagnosis and monitoring of the exposure of mercury and its compounds.
- Contribute to the identification and networking of national stakeholders to facilitate in the future the development, implementation, review and updating of implementation plans, as well as cooperation with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America and other regional and international organization as WHO/PAHO.