
UNEP-Global Mercury Partnership Waste Management Area Meeting

March 21, 2025

Agenda

1. Opening remark
2. Status update since the last WMA meeting
 - Updates from the Minamata Convention secretariat
 - Updates from the UNEP-Global Mercury Partnership secretariat
3. Updates from the Waste Management secretariat
 - Progress since the last WMA meeting
4. Session on mercury wastes from oil and gas
 - Study report on “Mercury from oil and gas”
 - Factsheet on the ESM of mercury wastes from the oil and gas sector
5. Quick review of the Minamata Initial Assessment
6. Closing



Update on Minamata Convention

Eisaku Toda, Secretariat of the Minamata Convention

Global Mercury Partnership Waste Management Area
Meeting, 21 March 2025



COP-5 decision on mercury waste



Decision MC-5/10: Establishment of mercury waste thresholds

- Decided to establish **15 mg/kg total concentration of mercury** as the **threshold for wastes contaminated with mercury**, subject to the following:
 - A Party may, as an alternative to the threshold above, use a different approach to determine whether a given waste is a waste contaminated with mercury, provided that that Party has documented waste management measures in place to protect human health and the environment, including measures to ensure that mercury waste is managed pursuant to Article 11(3), and also including measures to identify mercury waste using approaches such as those based on national definitions of mercury wastes or hazardous wastes, listing approach, hazardous characteristics or risk considerations, leachate thresholds or total concentration thresholds.
 - A Party making use of this alternative approach is to submit to the secretariat its documented waste management measures as described above.
- Requested the Secretariat to maintain a public register of the information submitted in accordance with above.
- Invited Parties and relevant stakeholders to submit to the Secretariat any scientific and regulatory data and information on the effectiveness of the threshold in protecting human health and the environment, as well as on challenges and experiences related to its use, for consideration at COP-7.
- Invited Parties to use the guidance document on the test methods for the tier-2 threshold for tailings from mining other than primary mercury mining as set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/13.

COP-5 decision on mercury waste



- | Indigenous peoples and local communities
- | Mercury supply sources and trade
- | Annexes A and B (products and processes)
- | Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- | Emissions of mercury
- | Mercury waste
- | First effectiveness

Decision MC-5/10: Establishment of mercury waste thresholds

- Invited parties to submit to the secretariat by 31 October 2024 information regarding their waste management regulations and programmes as mentioned in subparagraph 3 (a) of article 11, with a focus on matters not addressed by the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds.
- Requested the secretariat to collect and organize the information referred to in paragraph 9 above and distribute it to the parties by 1 January 2025.
- Invited parties to review the information referred to in paragraph 9 above in their preparations for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Submissions received have been posted on the Convention [website](#).

Mercury waste

Parties are invited to submit information regarding their waste management regulations and programmes as mentioned in Article 11 (3) (a), with a focus on matters not addressed by the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds under the Basel Convention, by 31 October 2024. The following submissions have been received. The Secretariat is to collect and organize the information and make it available by 1 January 2025.

- Argentina
- Costa Rica
- EU and its member states
- Japan
- Kuwait
- Saudi Arabia
- Thailand
- Uganda

Decision MC-5/10 Submissions: Waste management regulations and programmes



Argentina: Law No. 27.356 (approved Minamata Convention). Law No. 24.051 and Regulatory Decree 831/93) regard mercury waste under the Convention as hazardous waste. Resolution 224/94 classifies high/low hazardous waste. Resolution No. 229 and 350 provide technical requirements.

Costa Rica: Law No. 8839 (Law for Integrated Waste Management), Law No. 7438 (Basel Convention), DE No. 37567-S-MINAET-H (General Regulations to the Law for Integrated Waste Management), DE No. 41527-S-MINAE (General Regulations for the Classification and Management of Hazardous Waste), DE No. 35933-S (Regulation for the Comprehensive Management of Electronic Waste), DE No. 27000-MINAE (Regulation on the characteristics and list of hazardous industrial waste), DE No. 38272-S (Regulation for the Declaration of Special Management Waste)

EU and member states: Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on Mercury (Mercury Regulation), Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (Waste Framework Directive), Decision 2000/532/EC (lost of waste), Regulation (EG) 1013/2006 on the Shipment of Waste, Directive 2006/21/EC on Extractive Waste, Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste (Landfill Directive), Directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment.

Decision MC-5/10 Submissions: Waste management regulations and programmes



Japan: Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act, Order for Enforcement of the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act (2015)

Kuwait: “Currently no special facility for the treatment or disposal of mercury.”

Saudi Arabia: Waste Management Law (M/3), Implementing Regulations

Thailand: Notification of Ministry of Industry on Subject: Management of Waste or Unused Materials

Uganda: National Environment (Waste Management) Regulations, 2020

Decision MC-5/10

Submissions: Information on management approaches



EU and member states: Submission included the following:

- Member states are to ensure that the production, collection, transportation, as well as storage and treatment of hazardous waste are carried out under conditions providing protection for the environment and human health, including action to ensure traceability from production to final destination and control of hazardous waste.
- Amalgam waste, including amalgam residues, particles and fillings, and teeth, or parts thereof, contaminated by dental amalgam. Those are to be handled and collected by an authorised waste management establishment or undertaking.
- Mercury and mercury compounds from large sources (chlor-alkali industry, cleaning of natural gas, non-ferrous mining and smelting operations, extraction from cinnabar ore) are to be handled as waste and as such disposed of without endangering human health or harming the environment. Specific reporting requirements are also established.
- Prior to being permanently disposed of, mercury waste should undergo conversion and, where intended to be disposed of in above-ground facilities, conversion and solidification. Mercury waste that underwent conversion and, if applicable, solidification is to be permanently disposed of in permanent storage facilities (salt mines or above-ground facilities) licensed for disposal of hazardous waste.

Decision MC-5/10

Submissions:

Other points raised by Parties



Argentina, EU and member states, Japan and Thailand provided information on thresholds for hazardous waste, which are different from the thresholds under Article 11 of the Convention.

Japan noted that they understand “matters not addressed by the technical guidelines” refers to “non-hazardous waste under the Basel Convention but falls under the definition of wastes contaminated with mercury under the Minamata Convention”. It attached a document “Measures to ensure the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes in Japan”.

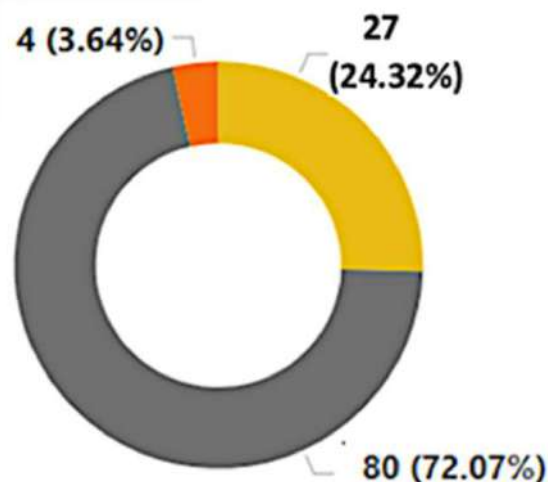
Thailand attached a copy of the Notification of Ministry of Industry on Subject: Management of Waste or Unused Materials and its unofficial English translation.

National reporting on Article 11 Presented to Implementation and Compliance Committee

Question 11.2: *Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the Party's territory?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Do not know (please explain)

If yes, if available, how much waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds has been subjected to final disposal under the reporting period?
Please specify the method of the final disposal operation/operations.



● Yes ● No ● Do not know

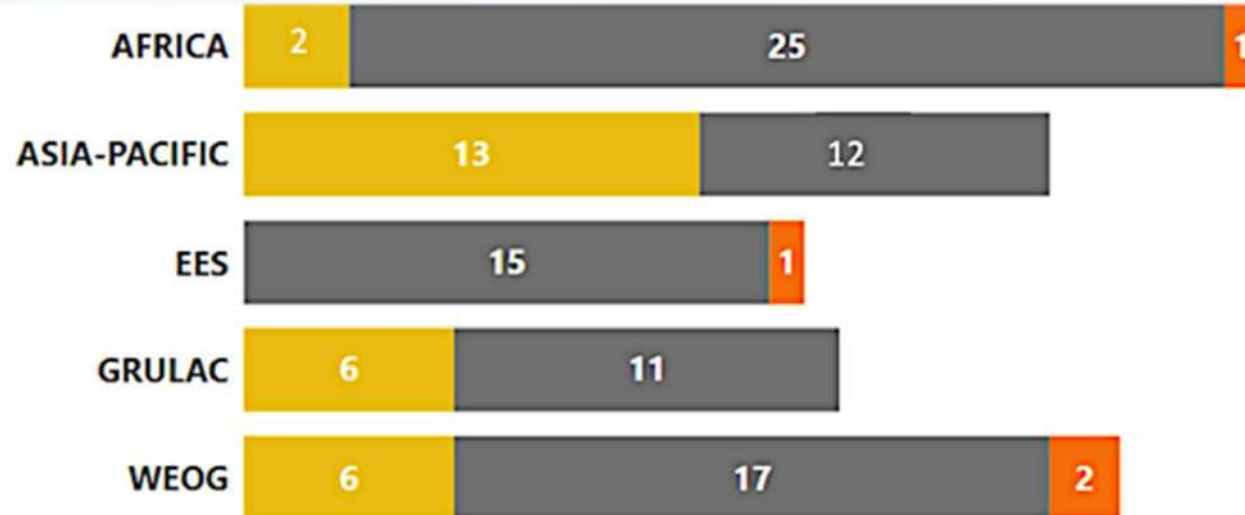


TABLE 6: Comparison of reported amounts of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds subject to final disposal

	Second Short Report	First Full Report	First Short Report
Canada	2021-2022: 79 tonnes of mercury and 153 tonnes of mercury compounds	2017 - 2020: 123.712 metric tons of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds. Breakdown per year: 2017: 24.936 MT 2018: 31.274 MT 2019: 24.462 MT 2020: 43.030 MT	2017: 56.2 tonnes 2018: 56.4 tonnes
Germany	2021: 561.5 tonnes 2022: 425 tonnes	None reported	2018: 443.2 tonnes of solidified mercury waste
Norway	2020: 286 tonnes 2021: 15 tonnes 2022: 620 tonnes	2018: 385 tonnes 2019: 725 tonnes 2020: 293 tonnes 2021: 217 tonnes	2017-2019: 1,172 tonnes

TABLE 7: Tabulation of mercury waste reported (including waste other than that consisting of mercury or mercury compounds)	
	Amount of mercury waste reported
Australia	2021-2022: 311 tonnes (in the process of further identifying the waste streams)
Colombia	2022: Hazardous waste 531 t of which 61% is waste containing mercury
Qatar	2021: 44.406 MT mercury waste 2022: 45.608 MT mercury waste
Republic of Korea	2021: 26.5 tonnes mercury waste 2022: 50.5 tonnes mercury waste
Singapore	2021-2022: 118,300.72 kg toxic industrial waste containing mercury
South Africa	2021-2022: 16.7 tons of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds processed. No information about final disposal.
Thailand	2021: 369.59 tons 2022: 362.45 tons Discarded equipment containing hazardous components disposed of by secure landfill of stabilized and/or solidified waste.

Disposal methods reported under Q11.2



TABLE 8: Disposal Methods Reported		
	Second Short Report Information	Clarification of response
Australia	Specially engineered landfills or cells. Regulation requires stabilization and solidification but no such facility so far	No clarification needed
Brazil	Specially engineered landfill	No facilities in territory dedicated to the final disposal of metallic mercury or waste consisting of mercury compounds.
Canada	Physico-chemical treatment and specially engineered landfill	No clarification needed
China (Macao SAR)	Mercury waste is treated by licensed toxic industrial waste collectors (i.e., via incineration followed by fixation and storage of incineration ash).	No additional information provided.
Colombia	Specially engineered landfill requiring stabilization	Waste containing Hg: Main disposal operation for these wastes is under entry D5 (specially designed landfills). Pre-treatment of these wastes (prior to entering the safety cell) consists of stabilisation with the components of an insoluble matrix (cement, phosphate, ceramics, magnesia binder).
Ecuador	No information on disposal methods.	No additional information provided.
....		

ICC conclusions



Image © Minamata Secretariat

The Committee:

- a) Took note of the information provided by Parties on their mercury waste disposal practices and acknowledged the improvement in the information reported as compared to previous reporting cycles
- b) Expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for ongoing follow-up communication with certain Parties to seek additional elaboration on the sound disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds
- c) Encouraged Parties to further elaborate, as appropriate, on their final disposal methods in their upcoming second full national report, taking into account paragraph 3 of the annex to decision MC-4/8.

Second full national reports due by 31 December 2025



16 August 2017 to
31 Dec. 2018
1st Short Report
31 Dec. 2019*

*reported at COP-4
in 2021

16 August 2017 to
31 Dec. 2020
1st Full Report
31 Dec. 2021
COP-5

01 January 2021
to 31 Dec. 2022
2nd Short Report
31 Dec. 2023
COP-6

01 January 2021 to
31 Dec. 2024
2nd Full Report
31 Dec. 2025
COP-7

The Reporting Cycles

Capacity-building project on mercury waste



Supported by the Government of Switzerland, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention has rolled out:

- Development of capacity-building material in six languages
- Webinar on mercury waste in six languages in cooperation with Basel Convention and the Global Mercury Partnership.

Partners:

- BCRC Senegal
- BCRC Argentina
- BCRC China
- Pro Mediu (NPO in Moldova)
- Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden

Current versions of the training materials available from [Online Workspace](#)

Webinar recordings available from:

<https://minamataconvention.org/en/events/six-language-webinars-mercury-waste-management>

The screenshot shows the official website of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The page is titled 'Six language webinars on mercury waste management'. It features a navigation bar with links to 'The Convention', 'Decision-making', 'Parties', 'Implementation', 'Resources', and 'News'. The main content area includes a 'Share' button, a 'MINAMATA ONLINE | VIRTUAL | 12 - 11 NOV 2024' banner, and a detailed description of the webinars. A sidebar on the right lists the languages and their respective partners, along with the dates and times for each webinar. A Swiss flag is visible in the bottom right corner.

Six language webinars on mercury waste management

MINAMATA ONLINE | VIRTUAL | 12 - 11 NOV 2024

The management of mercury waste is a challenge faced by all the Parties to the Minamata Convention. With financial support from Switzerland, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention is developing a capacity-building material and convening webinars on mercury waste management, in cooperation with the Basel Convention Secretariat and the Global Mercury Partnership. Several partners are supporting the Secretariat in developing six UN-language versions of the material and the webinar. The material will be posted on an [online workspace](#) so that Parties can use it in their national or regional activities, with further customization as needed.

English, in partner with the Basel Convention and the Global Mercury Partnership

13H-14H CET, Tuesday 12 November; Registration link: bit.ly/MO12NOV2024EN

Russian, in partner with Experts Association PRO MEDIU

10H-11H CET, Thursday 21 November; Registration link: bit.ly/MO21NOV2024RU

French, in partner with the Basel Convention Regional Centre Senegal

11H-12H CET, Thursday 5 December; Registration link: bit.ly/MO05DEC2024FR

Chinese, in partner with the Basel Convention Regional Centre China

9H-10H CET, Wednesday 11 December; Registration link: bit.ly/MO11DEC2024CH

Arabic, in partner with the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden

12H-13H, Wednesday 11 December; Registration link: bit.ly/MO11DEC2024AR

Spanish, in partner with Basel Convention Regional Centre Argentina

15H-16H, Wednesday 11 December; Registration link: bit.ly/MO11DEC2024SP

Time and place

Takes place in: **Virtual**

Starts on: **12 NOV 2024** 1 PM CET

Ends on: **11 DEC 2024** 4 PM CET

[Add to Calendar](#)

Links

[English Flyer](#)

Other capacity-building activities



Some projects funded by the **Global Environment Facility** have component on waste management, e.g. projects on:

- [Dental amalgam](#)
- [Medical devices](#)
- [Skin-lightening products](#)
- [Chlor-Alkali](#)

[Specific International Programme](#) support parties in implementing Article 11.

- 1st round (2018-): Armenia, Benin
- 2nd round (2019-): Moldova, Peru, Sri Lanka
- 3rd round (2021-): Jordan, North Macedonia, Rwanda
- 4th round (2025-): Approved projects to be announced

Funded by the EU, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the United Nations developed an online training platform on the Convention – [Minamata Tools](#).

Also see:

- [Minamata Online](#)
- [Mercury and Gender e-learning](#)
- [InforMEA](#)
- [MercuryLearn](#)
- [Global Mercury Partnership](#)

A screenshot of the 'Minamata Tools' online training platform banner. At the top, the United Nations System Staff College logo is on the left, and 'Courses' and 'Cu' are on the right. The banner has a blue background with white and yellow text. It says 'ONLINE' in a yellow box, followed by the dates '13 MAY 2024 - 31 DEC 2024'. The title 'Minamata Tools' is in large white letters. Below it, two yellow buttons read 'CLIMATE CHANGE' and 'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE SDGS'. A white 'Sign up' button is on the left. On the right, a white box says 'Register today!' above a QR code. At the bottom left, the European Union flag and 'Funded by the European Union' are shown. At the bottom right, the text 'SCAN ME' is displayed in large white letters.

Thank you for your attention

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

United Nations Environment Programme

11-13, Chemin des Anémones - 1219 Châtelaine, Switzerland

WEB: www.minamataconvention.org

MAIL: MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org

X: [@minamataMEA](https://twitter.com/minamataMEA)

[#MakeMercuryHistory](https://twitter.com/minamataMEA)



MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Waste Management Area
Annual meeting, 21 March 2025

Updates from the Global Mercury Partnership

21 March 2025

Secretariat, Global Mercury Partnership



Yellowfin Tuna, Courtesy NOAA Fisheries, © Photo by Jeff Muir

- ✓ Support implementation of the Minamata Convention
- ✓ Provide knowledge and science on mercury
- ✓ Deliver outreach and awareness raising towards global action

275 partners from:
Governments, IGOs,
NGOs, Industry
/private sector,
academia and the
scientific community
**from around the
world**

The Partnership is structured around eight areas:

- Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- Mercury cell chlor-alkali production
- Mercury air transport and fate research
- Mercury in products
- Mercury releases from coal combustion
- Mercury waste management
- Mercury supply and storage
- Mercury releases from the cement industry

Mercury project portfolio

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION



- Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) and National Action Plans (NAPs): Assistance with project implementation and review of reports.
- Compilation, analysis and dissemination of results: Dashboards [MIAs](#) et [NAPs](#).
- Implementing strategies: planetGOLD Programme
- GEF projects on Hg containing products: skin-lightening cosmetics, dental amalgam and medical devices
- Research and data production: artisanal gold mining and biodiversity.
- Contribution to various projects: chlor-alkali (Mexico), primary mercury extraction (Mexico).

Contribution of the Global Mercury Partnership in the organization of events, side events and webinars.

Hg in products - Our contribution



Strengthening of capacities

- ✓ Data production
- Collection and
- ✓ analysis of existing data
- ✓ Compiling and sharing data and information



Communication

- ✓ Global communication
- ✓ Specific advocacy
- ✓ Awareness campaigns



Trends analysis

- ✓ Analysis of sampling results
- ✓ Identifying and presenting trends

WEBINAR

WEBINAR - Managing mercury waste from dental amalgam and medical measuring devices: sharing existing knowledge and initiatives

9 December 2024

Online, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm CET



Communication - Website, Newsletter and E-mailings

In this new edition, learn more about recent and upcoming events, latest mercury-related publications and initiatives, including interactive tools and meet our new members. Good reading!

The Secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

HIGHLIGHTS

 **The 12th meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group on 11 and 14 March 2022** saw attendance of close to 100 participants to exchange on recent activities by Partnership Areas, key findings and next steps of the work on mercury from oil and gas and non-ferrous metals, as well as future priorities, including with respect to mercury flows and its impacts on biodiversity. More info [here](#).

 **Minamata COP-4 (Bali, 21-25 March 2022)** closed with global commitment on effectiveness evaluation, new products for phase-out and gender mainstreaming. COP-4.2 also adopted updated guidance on ASGM national action plans, now also covering tailings management. See [meeting report](#) and [call for information](#) in follow up to COP-4.2 decisions.

 **Basel Convention COP-15 (Geneva, June 2022)** adopted updated Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds. [Read more about COP outcomes](#). The updated guidelines

Partnership Areas

Minamata COP-4 (Bali, 21-25 March 2022) saw attendance of close to 100 participants to exchange on recent activities by Partnership Areas, key findings and next steps of the work on mercury from oil and gas and non-ferrous metals, as well as future priorities, including with respect to mercury flows and its impacts on biodiversity. More info [here](#).

Latest highlights

 **WTOBAG - Minamata Initial Assessment**, latest update, key findings and data analysis table - 27 September 2022

 **Mercury waste management Partnership Area - September 2022 Meeting**

 **Study report on Mercury from Non-ferrous Metals Mining and Smelting**

 The Mercury air transport and fate research Area will meet on **29 June 2022, from 9:00 - 11:00 AM (EST)** in an online setting. More information available on the [event page](#).

 A webinar **Strengthening mercury research capacity in developing countries for science-based policy making** organized by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention will be held on **30 June from 2:00 to 3:00 pm CEST**. The event will introduce ongoing activities implemented by UNEP to assist scientists, researchers and policy makers.

 The **15th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP)** "Reducing Mercury Emissions to achieve a Greener World" will be held virtually from **25 to 29 July 2022**. View programme for the [Conference](#) and [preceding workshops \(18 to 22 July\)](#).

 **OECD Global Forum on Environment** dedicated to **Mercury on 7 and 8 November 2022** will focus on "Working towards the elimination of mercury while reducing its harmful impacts on human health and the environment". Event will be hybrid, with both in-person and online attendance options. Further details on the [event page](#).

 Listen to Monika Stankiewicz, Minamata Convention Executive Secretary, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity on the importance of mercury pollution on global biodiversity loss, and read exploratory study on the interlinkages between the chemicals and waste MEAs and biodiversity.

 Read WHO March 2022 first briefing note on oral health focusing on **Prevention and treatment of dental caries with mercury-free products and minimal intervention** and **2021 Report on the informal global WHO consultation with policymakers in dental public health**.

 Check out UNITAR's latest tools, guidelines and online courses on **waste management and circular economy, sound management of chemicals and wastes** and fundamentals on the **Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions**.

[VIEW ALL PUBLICATIONS >>](#)

READ MORE ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP AREAS

[Artisanal and small-scale gold mining](#)

[Mercury releases from coal combustion](#)

[Mercury air transport](#)

[Mercury waste management](#)

Opportunity to raise awareness and feature highlights by Partnership areas and partners, events, resources, etc.

New website: [Home | Global Mercury Partnership \(unep.org\)](#)

Currently updating PAs webpages and Factsheets

Key Highlights – Knowledge Hubs

Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products

[Overview](#) [Why does it matter?](#) [About the project](#) [Community of Practice](#)



Phasing-down the Use of Dental Amalgam

[Overview](#) [Why does it matter?](#) [About the project](#) [Senegal](#) [Thailand](#) [Uruguay](#)



Mercury Containing Medical Measuring Devices

[Overview](#) [Why does it matter?](#) [About the project](#)



[Who we are](#)[What we do](#)[News](#)[Events](#)[Partners](#)[Resources](#)[Search...](#)

Mercury Containing Medical Measuring Devices

[Overview](#)[Why does it matter?](#)[About the project](#)

Mercury is highly toxic to humans and ecosystems and is considered by WHO as [one of the top ten chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern](#). Mercury pollution exposes people and wildlife, regardless of proximity to source, to harmful effects. Exposure to mercury can result in adverse impacts on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, lungs and kidneys.

Related links

WEBINAR - Managing mercury waste from dental amalgam and medical measuring devices: sharing existing knowledge and initiatives

<https://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/Mercury-Containing-Medical-Measuring-Devices>



Related links

[GEF Project details](#)[Kick-off meeting](#)[Resources](#)[News](#)[Events](#)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) [funded](#), UNEP-led project “Phasing out mercury measuring devices in healthcare” is executed by [WHO](#), with targeted technical assistance from the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, in the following 5 project countries: Albania, Burkina Faso, India, Montenegro and Uganda, whose governments will lead the work at the national level.

The project was officially launched at its [kick-off meeting](#) held on 14-16 May 2024 in Geneva.

The overall objective of the project is to eliminate uncontrolled releases of mercury from healthcare settings, resulting in the prevention of exposure of humans and the environment to mercury and its waste, through:



The development of a national health system-wide strategy for phasing out the procurement and manufacture of mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers



The implementation of national strategies to phase-out the procurement and manufacture, and the demonstration of substitution of thermometers and sphygmomanometers, and of mercury medical waste



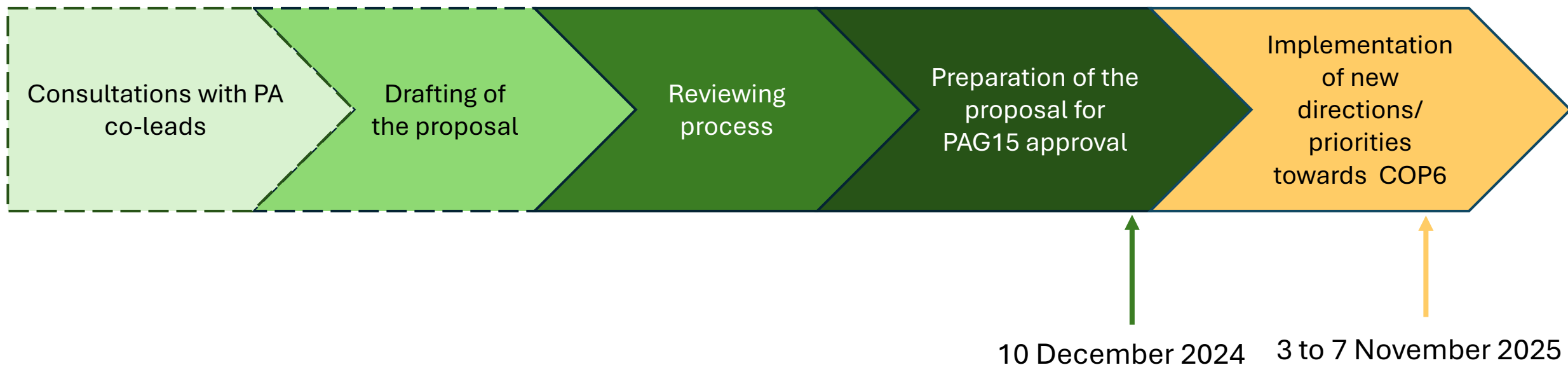
Global
Mercury
Partnership

Ongoing efforts:

- **Mapping and assessment** of the mercury waste management options in the health sector – taking into consideration the environmental, technical, sustainability and economic aspects
- **Development of the capacity building/training materials** for the management of the mercury containing products in health sector
- **Documenting experience** from 8 countries – part of the GEF projects
 - Dental amalgam: Thailand, Senegal and Uruguay
 - Medical devices: India, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Albania and Montenegro

Global Mercury Partnership Proposal

Timeline of the discussions

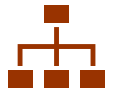


Global Mercury Partnership Proposal

Introduction



Suggested approach for a soft membership to PA(s): Proposal to revisit the approach to partners' membership to PA(s) to lighten administrative procedure and re-engage with the partners.



Structure: Strengthen the contributions to the implementation of the Minamata Convention by aligning GMP structure closer with the Convention's Articles and at the same time retaining flexibility to respond to emerging priorities.



Roles and Responsibilities: Establish and maintain a globally coordinated One Mercury approach between the partnership area co-leads and partners, Minamata Convention, other key stakeholders and financial mechanisms. Strengthen the Partnership's position as a leading global network of experts by ensuring its contribution to ongoing and future priority actions and processes, including through close relationships with MEAs, donors and other stakeholders.



Communications and Outreach: Strengthen the internal and external communication and outreach.

Global Mercury Partnership Proposal

Soft Membership to PAs



Adherence to all partnership areas.



Core group of Partnership Area, with possibility to have thematic working groups.



Next steps:

- **Updated registration form** to be circulated among current partners and possible new partners
- **Additional information** on expertise/ topics of interest and contribution to the partnership
- First working groups on oil & gas, and non-ferrous metals mining and smelting.

PARTNERSHIP AREAS

Please check the partnership area(s) to which your organization intends to contribute to:

☐ Artisanal and small-scale gold mining	☐ Mercury releases from coal combustion
☐ Mercury cell chlor-alkali production	☐ Mercury waste management
☐ Mercury air transport and fate research	☐ Mercury supply and storage
☐ Mercury in products	☐ Mercury releases from the cement industry

> Please specify in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the selected partnership area(s).

ORGANIZATION APPLYING TO BECOME A PARTNER

Name of Organization:

Type of Organization:

☐ Government	☐ Industry / private sector
☐ Intergovernmental Organization	☐ Academia / scientific institution
☐ Non-governmental Organization	☐ Other, please specify



Any question?

For further information and assistance:

Metals@un.org

Thank you very much!

Progress since the last WMA meeting

Waste Management Area secretariat

March 21, 2025

Planned activities for WMA in 2025 – (Presented in the Last WMA meeting)

(1) Factsheets on ESM of mercury wastes

- Provide practical information on how to handle specific types of mercury waste at different stages
 - In 2025, develop a factsheet **on mercury wastes from the oil and gas sectors**
 - Additional factsheets will be considered based on the progress and availability of resources
-

(2) Case study on the transboundary movement of mercury waste

- Provide information to countries intending to export mercury on the challenges, lessons learned and necessary processes from the actual cases on the TBM
-

(3) Updating Catalogue of Technologies and Services on Mercury Wastes

- Annual update on “Catalogue of Technologies and Services on Mercury Waste Management”
-

(4) List of mercury waste treatment facilities (NEW)

- Contains facilities owned by the WMA partners (may be integrated into the Catalogue of Technologies and Services on Mercury Waste Management.)
-

(5) Operationalization of an online consultation desk

Planned activities for WMA in 2025 – (Current status)

(1) Factsheets on ESM of mercury wastes

- Finalize the fact-sheet for non-electronic measuring devices
- Develop a factsheet on mercury wastes from the oil and gas sectors
- Additional factsheets will be considered based on the progress and availability of resources

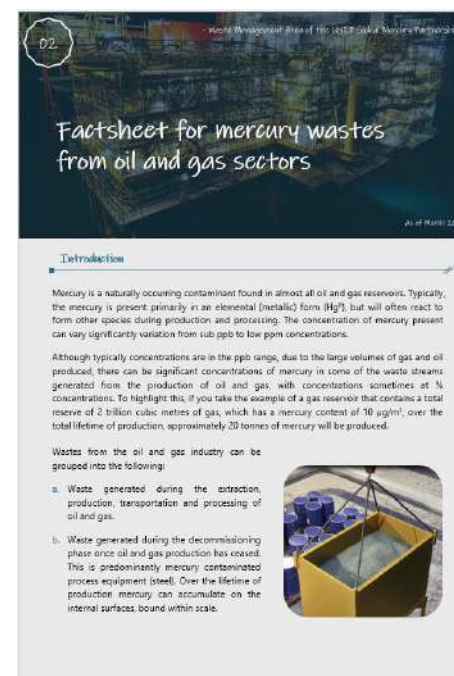
Factsheet for the non-electronic measuring devices

Prepared by the WMA Sec based on previous work of WG1



Factsheet for Hg wastes from oil and gas sectors

Prepared by our partner(s). To be presented today



(2) Case study on the transboundary movement of mercury waste

- Provide information to countries intending to export mercury on the challenges, lessons learned and necessary processes from the actual cases on the TBM
- ▶
 - Submission received from 1 WMA partner
 - One partner raised concerns about confidentiality issues and workload required to provide the information
 - Looking for further submissions. How can the WMA secretariat help?

(3) Updating Catalogue of Technologies and Services on Mercury Wastes

- Annual update on “Catalogue of Technologies and Services on Mercury Waste Management”

(4) List of mercury waste treatment facilities (NEW)

- Contains facilities owned by the WMA partners (may be integrated into the Catalogue of Technologies and Services on Mercury Waste Management.)
- ▶
 - Request for update sent during the first half of February
 - Catalogue revision requests received from 2 partners (Further information requested from one)
 - List of mercury waste treatment facilities not yet received

Planned activities for WMA in 2025 – (Current Status)

(5) Operationalization of an online consultation desk

- Provides a system to handle inquiries where WMA partners may be able to offer support, facilitating potential match-making opportunities.
- Relevant stakeholders can request any assistance to the WMA's email address. The WMA secretariat will share such requests with relevant WMA partners to identify potential approaches to address them.
- In 2025, relevant communication materials will be developed, and the consultation desk will be opened (as a pilot phase). The communication materials attach brief **bio** of interested WMA partners.

- Still in the state of preparation
- WMA secretariat sent out request for bio-data of “roster of experts”.
 - Submissions received from 10 Partners only .
Please send in your information to the WMA secretariat

Example of bio



Takashi Nishida

WMA Secretariat
EX Research Institute, Ltd.

Takashi has experiences in developing legislations and guidelines on mercury waste in Japan. He is a former member of the small intersessional working group to update the technical guidelines on mercury wastes under the Basel Convention. He also works on topics related to the Minamata Convention, Global Framework on Chemicals, science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution, and the legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

wastemanagement@exri.co.jp

Waste Management Area secretariat

March 21, 2025

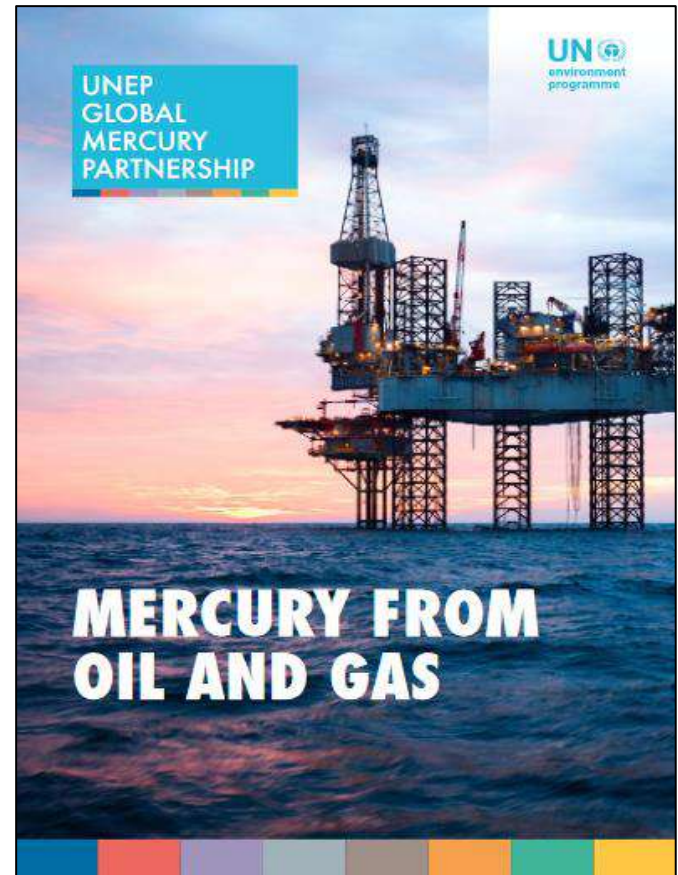
Study report on “Mercury from oil and gas”

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Lilian Corra

International Society of Doctors for the Environment
ISDE

Supply and Storage Partnership Area



1. Objective of the report

The objective of the report is to analyze the life cycle of mercury in the oil and natural gas value chains and understand how this heavy metal, naturally present in oil and natural gas, may be released to the environment at different stages of the process, including the decommissioning of oil and gas infrastructure.

It further aims to identify how mercury waste from the sector is treated and whether it may be entering the market for other uses.

2. Current knowledge

The presence of mercury in oil and gas is well known, varies depending on the origin, operation conditions and represents a problem for the equipment of the processing systems.

Mercury containing waste like toxic sludge, waste water and sorbent materials are difficult to treat, process and store.

The good understanding of the problem may be impeded by the limited available information from the different processes and uses:

- emissions and releases (extraction/processing/decommissioning)
- mercury or mercury containing waste from extraction or processing
- occupational exposure
- human exposure (low chronic exposure, early human development)

3. Occupational exposure

Mercury presence in vapor suffers considerable variation in working areas, highlighting the importance of continuous monitoring to evaluate possible inhalation.

Mercury accumulates in equipment at different stages of the processes and may lead to occupational exposure, especially during maintenance, inspection and decommissioning in the petroleum industry.

4. Mercury content in oil and gas deposits

Geographical distribution of the presence of mercury in crude oil and natural gas

It is important to know the geographical distribution of the presence of mercury in crude oil and natural gas to understand the nature of the problem.

A mercury mass balance in oil and gas processes is difficult to obtain due to the nature of mercury and the **significant variation in the concentration in the deposits.**

The implementation of a better global multicentric harmonized studies using comparable analytical techniques and data analysis is needed.

4. Mercury content in oil and gas deposits

Regional content of mercury as an indicator

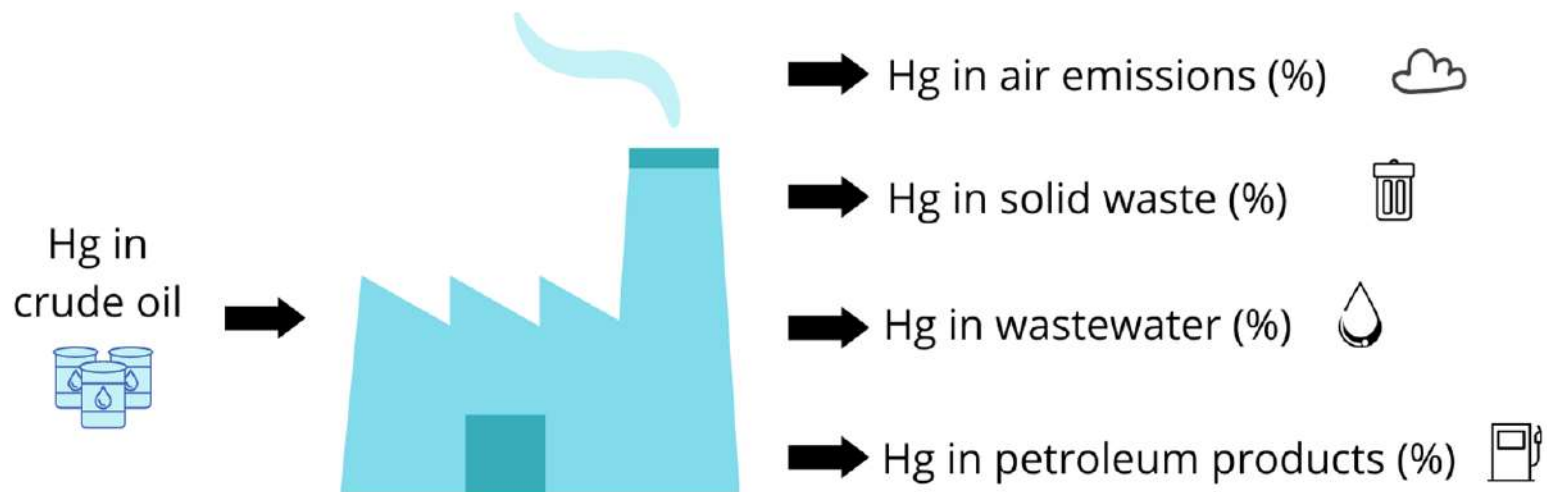
Regional averages concentrations are used as indicators to estimate the amounts of mercury present in oil and gas.

Even there is a tendency by region, the average concentrations varies significantly depending on the sources of the information.

But, regional average concentrations cannot be used as indicators to understand local problems, given the different concentration of mercury in the deposits.

5 & 6. Mass of mercury potentially released from crude oil and natural gas.

Mercury may be found and released at different stages of the oil and gas value chain: extraction, transport, processing and from products.



7. Techniques used to remove mercury from crude oil and natural gas

Removal of mercury from crude oil is not simple and is not carried out by many companies.

In gas, mercury may cause catastrophic failures in the processing facilities, it is essential that a mercury removal process is deployed upstream of the cryogenic distillation.

The disposal of the collected mercury by the removal systems varies depending on the type of system used, but in every case should be considered *hazardous waste*.

8. Fate or possible fate in the environment of mercury generated from oil and gas activities

Based on a review of the literature, the following key points can be highlighted:

- There is little information about the fate of the sludge produced during the processing of oil and gas.
- There is very little information available about the fate of the solid waste with a high mercury content (which comprises saturated “wastewater filters” and “saturated adsorbent” from the mercury removal systems).
- The replacement and decommissioning of facilities and tankers generates mercury-containing waste.
- The mercury present in the different fuels will be released to the atmosphere as elemental mercury after its combustion in power generation plants, vehicles and heaters.

9. Initial ideas for further research and cooperation

The following points would contribute to *better understanding and assessing mercury emissions and releases* from crude oil and natural gas:

- Monitor in a systematic, standardized, comparable and multi-centric way the whole process.
- Complete mass balances in the most accurate way.
- Promote information exchange on mercury determination and sampling methods.
- Facilitate the access to information on the production and fate of mercury waste and mercury containing waste flow, especially in oil and gas deposits and/or regions where mercury concentrations are known to be higher.

9. Initial ideas for further research and cooperation

The following points would support the implementation of measures to reduce or eliminate mercury emissions and releases from the sector:

- Identify, monitor and assess mercury waste and mercury containing waste volumes generated by the sector.
 - Understand and track the fate of such waste.
 - Spread information on BAT/BET.
 - Improve the capacities of the concerned facilities to process mercury and mercury containing waste and safely dispose it off.
 - Strengthen human and technical capacities, and collaboration to facilitate identification and evaluation of mercury emissions and releases from oil and gas all along its value chain.
-

9. Initial ideas for further research and cooperation

It is important to highlight that there is also a ***need for guidelines dissemination to support the implementation of best available technologies and best environmental practices*** for the removal of mercury from oil and gas at the different stages of the process.

In relation to ***worker's protection***, while several guidelines aim to prevent chemical toxic exposure and codes of practice for the control of occupational exposure to mercury, ***none appear to focus specifically on workers exposure to mercury in the petrochemical industry.***

Acknowledgements

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership thanks individuals and organizations that contributed their expertise to this work.

ISDE was commissioned to draft the report, under the overall coordination of Lilian Corra (ISDE), with the support of Carlos M. López Alled (Tragsatec - Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of Spain) and Gaspar Corra (Argentinean Society of Doctors for the Environment - AAMMA).

1. Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Ana Garcia (Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. MITECO. Spain) and Judith Torres (Ministry of Environment. Uruguay Uruguay), Supply and Storage Area co-leaders, for taking into consideration the concerns generated by the issue of "mercury in the oil and gas sector" and highlighting to the Partnership Advisory Group the need to fully understand the reality and consequences of the mercury mobilized and released from this sector.

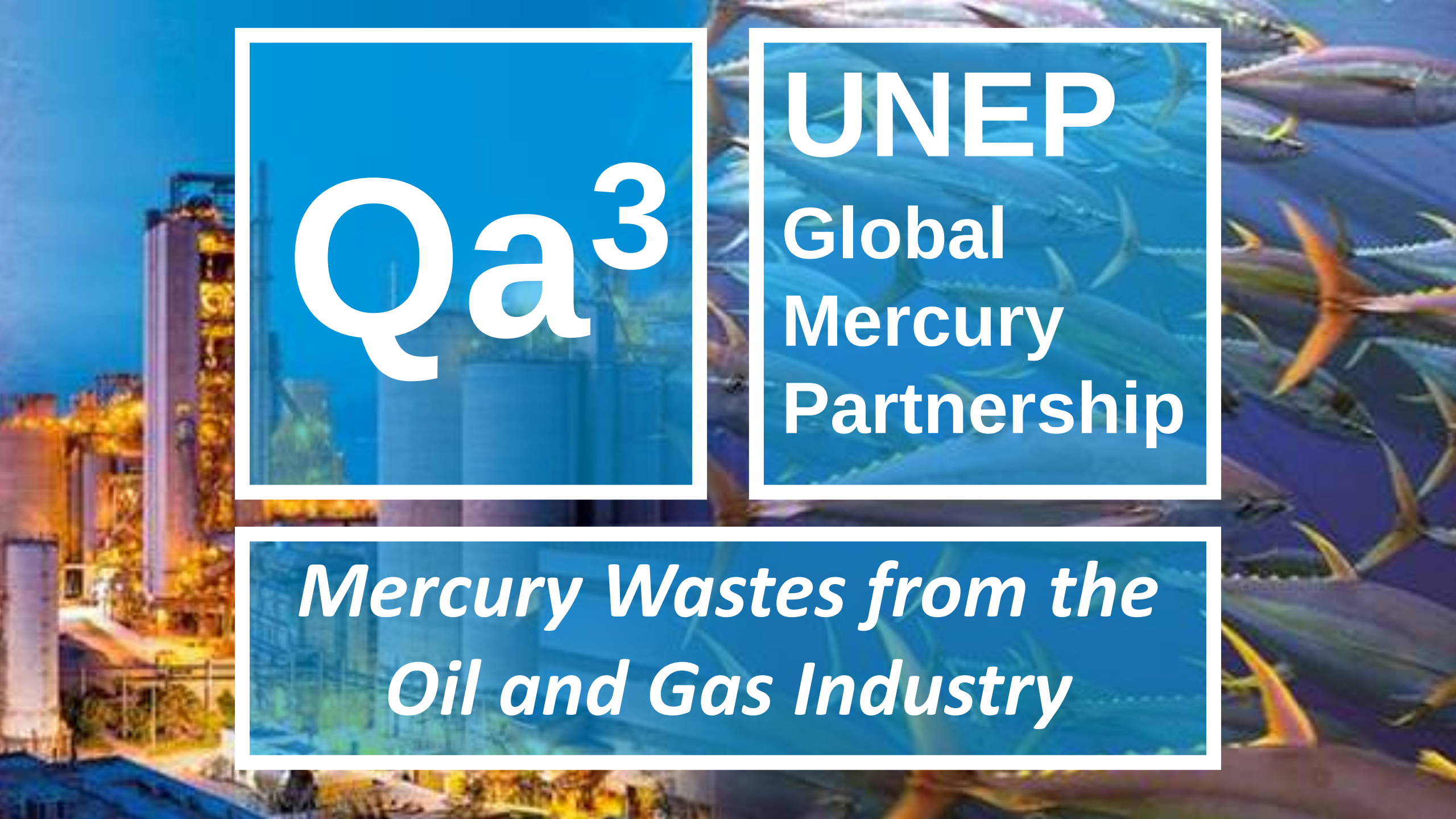
Internal review at UNEP: Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP), Sandra Averous (UNEP), Kenneth Davis (UNEP), Imelda Dossou Etui (UNEP), Stéphanie Laruelle (UNEP), Monika G. MacDevette (UNEP), Daniel Chovil (UNEP).

1. Acknowledgements

The Partnership also wishes to thank the co-chairs of the Partnership Advisory Group, Rodges Ankrah (Environmental Protection Agency of the United States) and Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand) as well as the co-leads of the Partnership Areas on Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research, Celia Chen (Toxic Metals Superfund Research Program, Dartmouth College), Nicola Pirrone (Institute of atmospheric pollution research, National Research Council of Italy), David Evers (Biodiversity Research Institute), on Mercury Supply and Storage, Ana García (Ministry for the Ecological Transition of Spain) and Judith Torres (Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment of Uruguay) and on Mercury Waste Management, The Ministry of the Environment of Japan and Misuzu Asari (Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University) for their guidance and support.

1. Acknowledgements

The Partnership thanks to whom provided their inputs: Mark Andrew (Qa3 Limited), Stuart Baker (Qa3 Ltd), Matt Bower (Qa3 Ltd), Warren Corns (PS Analytical), Rob Cox (IPIECA), Evan Granite (US Department of Energy), Marcela Gregori (Environmental Pathology, La Plata National University, Argentina), Sebastien Grizard (William Blythe Ltd), Lee Hunter Jr (Total Hazardous and Integrated Solutions), Yuyun Ismawati (Nexus3, IPEN), Clotilde Jubin (Axens), Matthew Kirby (Qa3 Ltd), Gilbert Kuepouo (Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement), David Lennett (Natural Resources Defense Council), Fabio S. Luna (National Institute of Industrial Technology, Argentina), Peter Maxson (Concorde East/West Sprl), Guia Morelli (Institute of Geosciences and Earth Resources, National Research Council, Italy), Peter Nelson (Macquarie University), Stephan Plisson-Saune (IPIECA-TOTAL), Tristan Robert (BATREC Industry AG), Reinhard Schmidt (Econ Industries), Mitsugu Saito (UNEP), Eisaku Toda (Secretariat Minamata Convention on Mercury), Bo Simon Walch (Sea2Cradle B.V.) and experts who contributed through consultative meetings to the present report.

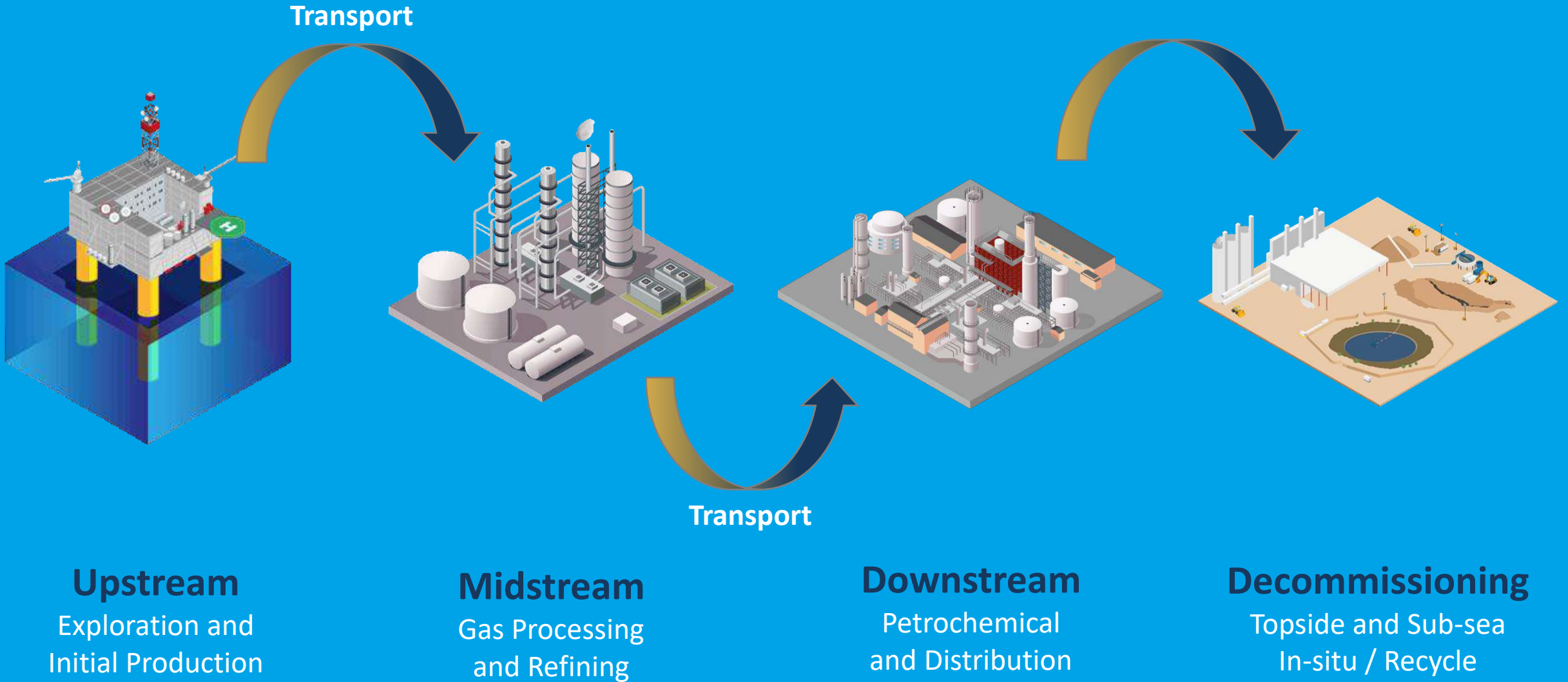


Qa³

UNEP
Global
Mercury
Partnership

*Mercury Wastes from the
Oil and Gas Industry*

Mercury in Oil and Gas Overview



Mercury in Oil and Gas - Example



- Although typically concentrations are in the ppb range, due to the large volumes of gas and oil produced, there can be significant concentrations of mercury in some of the waste streams generated from the production of oil and gas
- For some waste products mercury can be present sometimes at % **concentrations**.

Example

Consider a gas reservoir contains a total reserve of **2 trillion cubic metres** of gas. The mercury concentration in the gas is **10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** .

Over the lifetime of production, approximately **20 tonnes of mercury** will be produced.

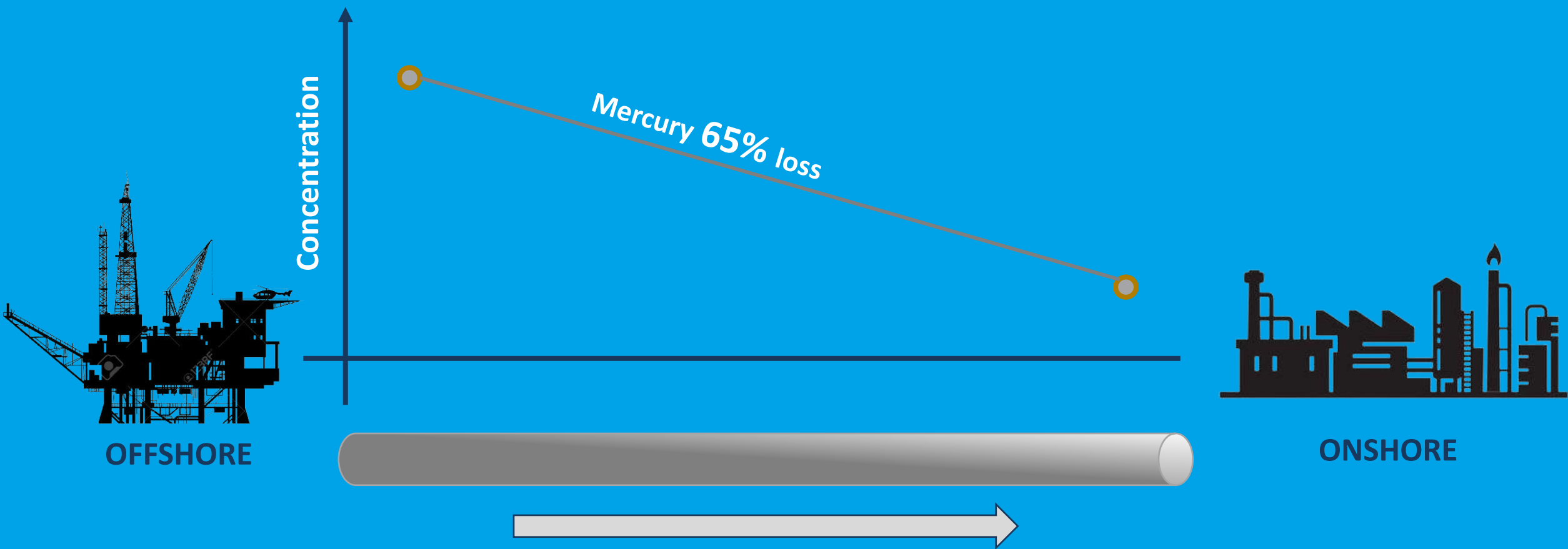
Waste Generated During Extraction, Production Transportation and Processing

Process	Description of Waste Generated
Drilling Operations Using Drilling Mud Pigging of Pipelines MEG Recovery and Regeneration TEG Recovery and Regeneration Amine Recovery and Regeneration Tank and Vessel Cleaning Operations	Drill mud contaminated/containing Hg (ppm Hg) Solids / Sludge (ppm - % Hg) – may also be NORM Solids / Sludge (ppm - % Hg) Solids / Sludge / Filters (ppm - % Hg) Solids / Sludge / Filters (ppm - % Hg) Solids / Sludge (ppm - % Hg) - may also be NORM
Removal of Liquid Mercury (from gas cooling) Mercury Removal Using Solid Media Refinery Catalysis	Liquid Mercury Spent Mercury Guards (ppm - high % Hg) Spent Catalyst Media (ppm Hg)

NORM – Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material

Deposition of Mercury in Process Equipment and Pipelines with Time

- CASE STUDY** – Caribbean Gas Producer



Residual Mercury Waste During Decommissioning

Process	Description of Waste Generated
Pigging of Pipelines Cleaning of Tanks to Remove Tank Bottoms Contaminated Process Equipment for Recycling Contaminated Pipelines to be Left <i>in-situ</i> Decontamination Chemical Cleaning	Solids / Sludge (ppm - % Hg) Solids / Sludge (ppm - % Hg) Scrap Steel for Recycling (ppm Hg) Pipeline to be Left <i>in-situ</i> (ppm Hg) Spent Industrial Cleaning Chemical (ppm Hg)

May also be NORM for all of above

Fate of Pipelines



Pipeline *End of Life* Options

Leave in Situ on Sea bed

(no decontamination)

(decontamination undertaken)

Release of mercury into aquatic ecosystems as the pipeline degrades over a long period of time

Minimal release of mercury. Mercury is removed in decontamination treatment and is safely disposed of

Lift and Send for Smelting

(no decontamination)

(decontamination undertaken)

Potential release of mercury into the environment and possible worker exposure

Minimal release of mercury within environmental and exposure limits

Potential for Release to Atmosphere and Worker Exposure During Recycling (Smelting)

10 km of Decommissioned Pipeline
Mercury Content = 20 mg/kg (ppm)

Smelted in Arc Furnace

Total Mercury Emitted
to the Environment
~12 kg



Fate of the Mercury Waste



Many plants operate mercury removal systems (MRUs) and it is common to find robust procedures in the place for the collection, transportation and disposal of the spent mercury rich media through recognised, appropriate channels.

However, currently there are some common waste streams, that are often overlooked as being mercury contaminated such as sludges, filter deposits and pigging debris.





Thank you for your attention

Presented by
Stuart Baker

Analytical Consultant

Email: stuart.baker@qa3.co.uk

Office: +44(0)1256 397390

Mobile: +44(0)7976916622

Global Mercury Partnership Waste Management Area

Batrec Industrie AG

Oil and Gas Hg Waste Factsheet – Treatment of Hg Wastes from O&G industry

David Hunter 21st March 2025 david.hunter@batrec.ch +41 7 93 83 53 12



Wimmis



Mercury Waste from Oil and Gas industry Treatment

Process	Description of Waste Generated
Drilling Operations Using Drilling Mud	Drill mud contaminated/containing Hg (ppm Hg)
Pigging of Pipelines	Solids / Sludge (ppm - % Hg)
MEG Recovery and Regeneration	Solids / Sludge (ppm - % Hg)
TEG Recovery and Regeneration	Solids / Sludge / Filters (ppm - % Hg)
Amine Recovery and Regeneration	Solids / Sludge / Filters (ppm - % Hg)
Tank and Vessel Cleaning Operations	Solids / Sludge (ppm - % Hg)
Removal of Liquid Mercury (from gas cooling)	Liquid Mercury
Mercury Removal Using Solid Media	Spent Mercury Guards (ppm - high % Hg)
Refinery Catalysis	Spent Catalyst Media (ppm Hg)
Pigging of Pipelines	Solids / Sludge (ppm - % Hg)
Cleaning of Tanks to Remove Tank Bottoms	Solids / Sludge (ppm - % Hg)
Contaminated Process Equipment for Recycling	Scrap Steel for Recycling (ppm Hg)
Contaminated Pipelines to be Left in-situ	Pipeline to be Left in-situ (ppm Hg)
Decontamination Chemical Cleaning	Spent Industrial Cleaning Chemical (ppm Hg)

Solid waste
containing mercury

Liquid waste
containing mercury

Hydrocarbon sludge
containing mercury

Spent mercury
absorbants

Mercury waste
containing NORM

Liquid mercury

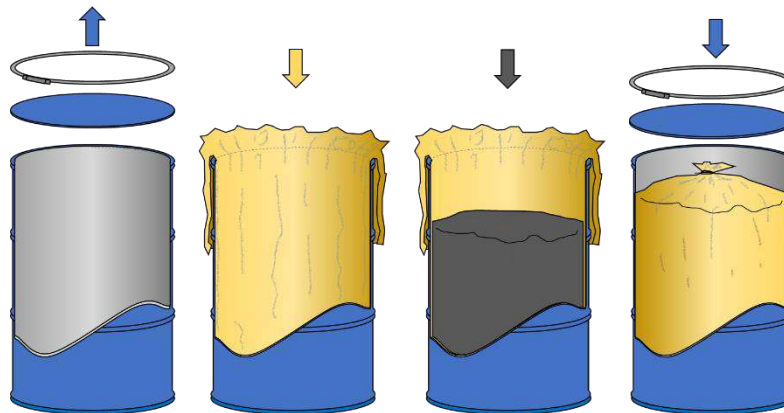
Packaging and transport

Check what other requirements are needed:

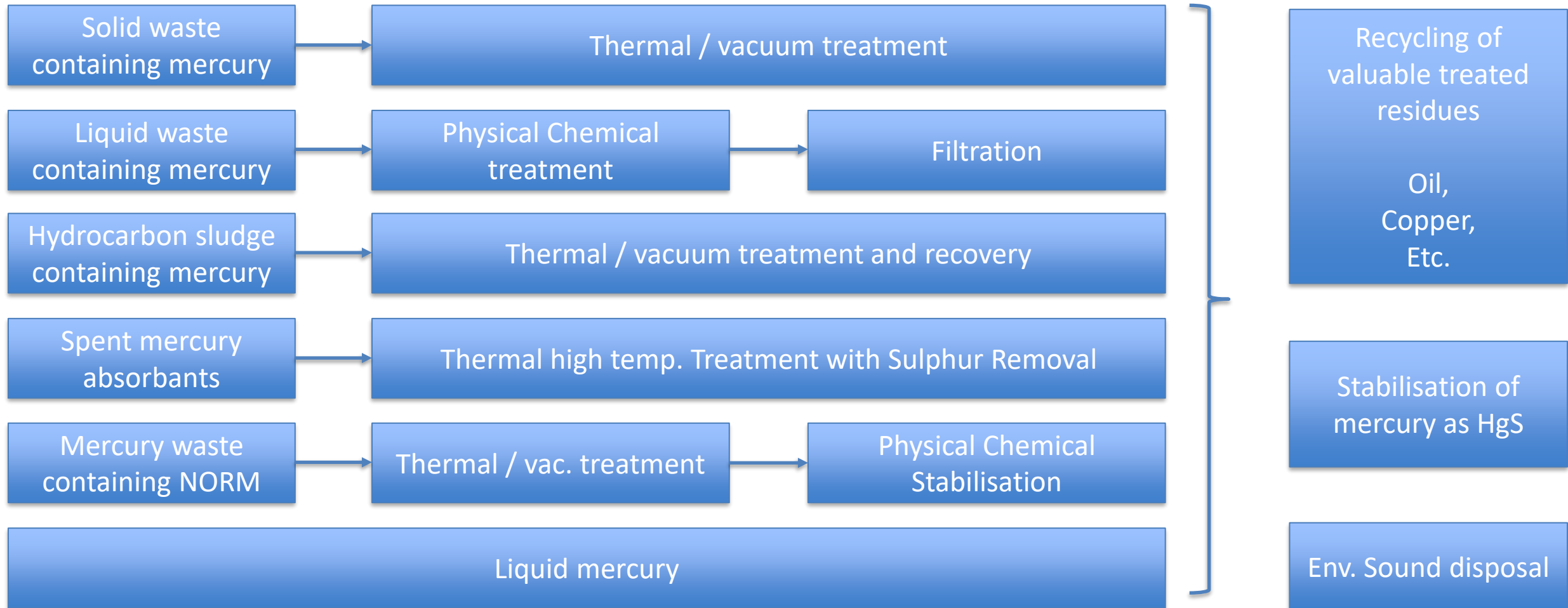
- ADR and IMDG?
- Labelling requirements
- Packaging requirements of treatment facility
- Licensed transporters
- Regional regulations
- International shipments must be with Basel Notification Documents (TFS)

Sounds like a lot but...

There are experts who can manage the process door to door and advise on these aspects



Mercury Waste from Oil and Gas industry Treatment



In Situ Treatment (buy treatment plant)

- Very high capital cost
- Capacity building of treatment plant
- Treatment risk lies with plant operator/owner
- Lower CO2 from Transport (scope 3)
- Higher CO2 in construction costs (scope 3)
- CO2 generated during treatment (scope 1)
- Need license & environmental permits
- Must develop support structure (laboratory, maintenance, disposal outlets)

Waste producers should audit running example plants to understand operational requirements.

Ex Situ Treatment (established plant)

- Treatment cost can be high
- Capacity building of supply chain
- Treatment risk lies with 3rd party plant operator/owner
- Higher CO2 from Transport (scope 3)
- CO2 generated during treatment (scope 3)
- Potential need for Basel Documentation
- Exporter should audit waste treatment facility
- Existing supply chain

Waste producers should audit running facilities to understand requirements.

So what is best?

Waste producers must decide based on **environmental**, **legislative**, **practical** and **economic** factors

CRP Catalyst / Carbon Recycling Plant

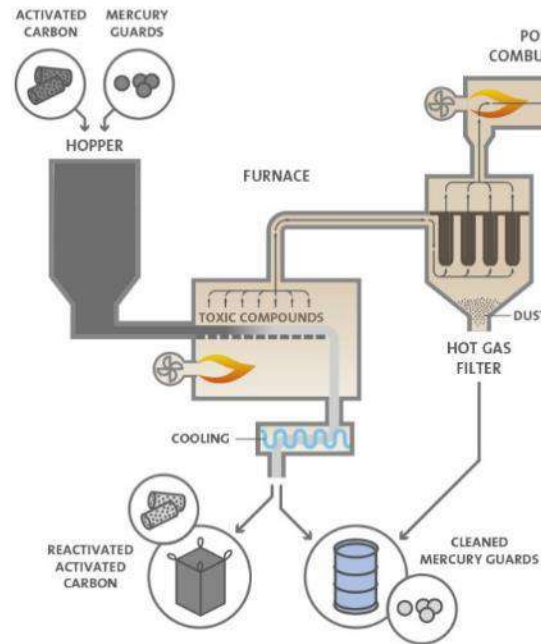


Flowsheet

1

THERMAL TREATMENT

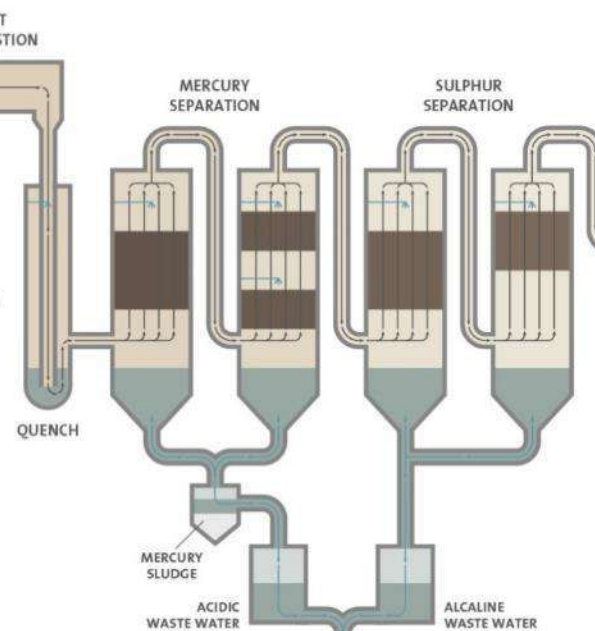
- desorption of the pollutants at 750 – 850°C
- destruction of the organic pollutants in the post-combustion chamber



2

WASTE GAS WET CLEANING

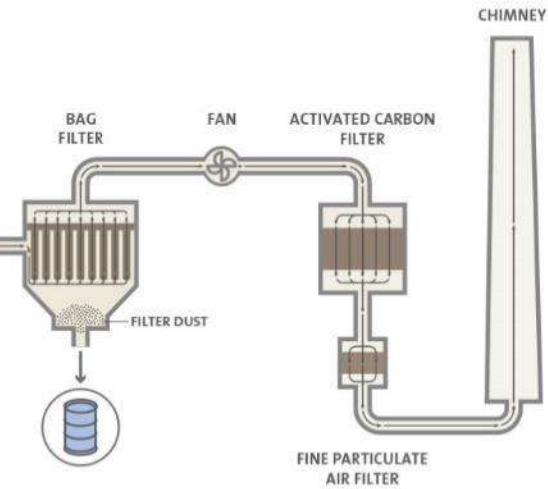
- condensation of Mercury
- removal of Sulfur



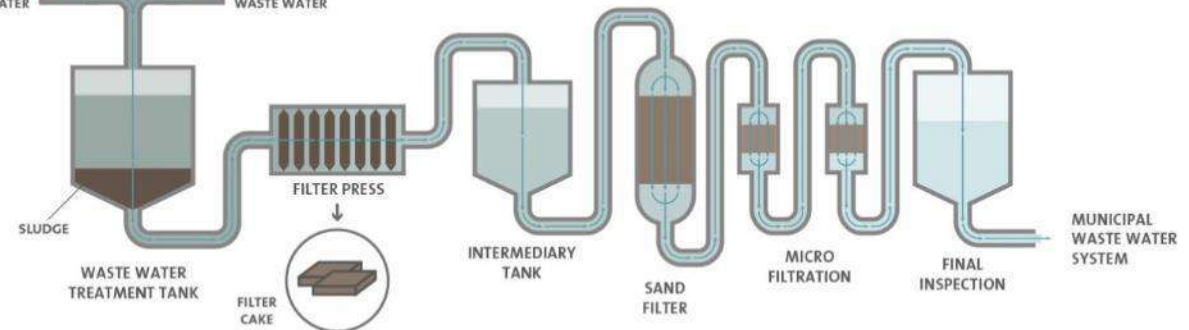
3

WASTE GAS DRY CLEANING

- removal of trace level Mercury
- removal of other pollutants and fine dust
- removal HEPA Filter



WASTE WATER TREATMENT



Treatment Process

Decontamination Furnace

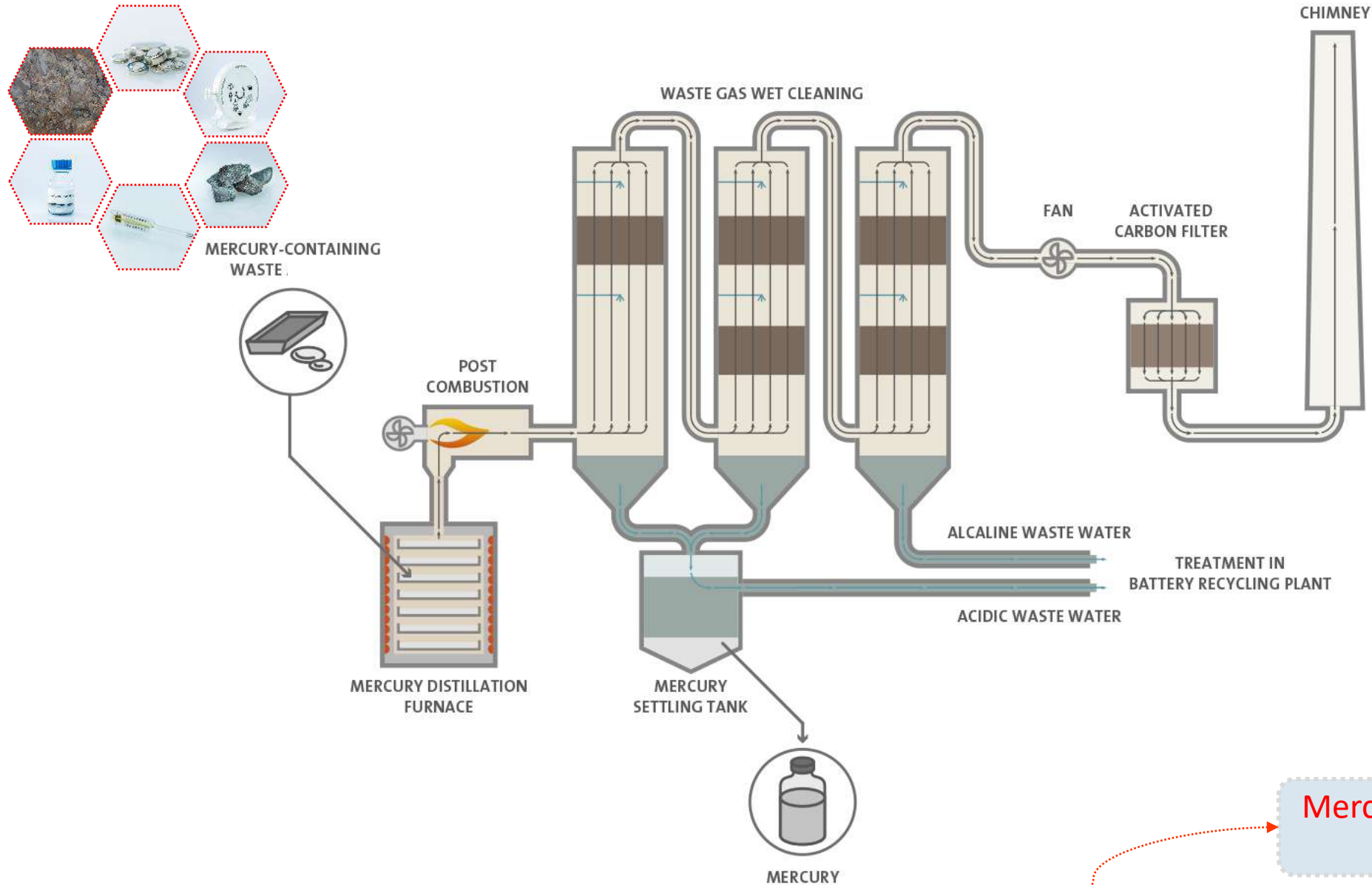


Treatment Process

Post-combustion chamber



Mercury Distillation – Process



Mercury Stabilisation
 $\text{Hg} \rightarrow \text{HgS}$

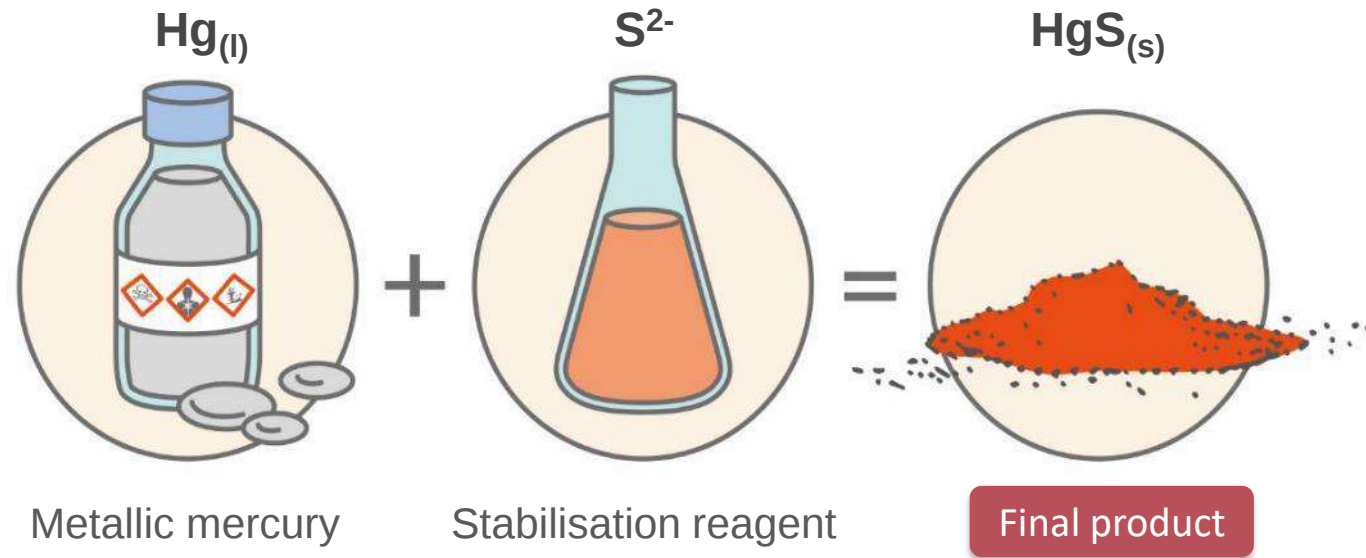
Treatment of Mercury Wastes



BATREC's approach

Transform highly toxic Hg into non-toxic HgS

Controlled reaction at ambient temperature and pressure → low risk, high conversion and consistent product



Disposal solution for treated residues and stabilised mercury



Acceptance
criteria



STRICT Restricted acceptance criteria

e.g.

Not biodegradable

Not releasing gases (inc Hg)

Non-liquid (inc Hg)

Not radioactive

No insufficient stability of
geomechanical conditions



Shaft
transport



Underground
transport



Storage
chambers



Sealing of
by walls



Natural barriers

Salt

Clay

Bunter stone

Artificial barriers

Waste packaging

Brick walls...



Our Ask

Get in touch with the team and contribute to the oil and gas mercury waste factsheet
Did we miss something important?

Thank you for your attention

Quick review of the Minamata Initial Assessment

Waste Management Area secretariat

March 21, 2025

- The WMA sec. quickly reviewed 56 **Minamata Initial Assessments (MIA)** reports* to understand the challenges that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face in the sound management of mercury wastes and to ensure the implementation of the Article 11 of the Convention.
- The MIA helps countries to identify their mercury inventory and challenges and necessary measures or actions to implement the Convention.

*those available in English only

56 reports submitted by

Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Cook Island, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia

UN environment programme MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

English 🔍

The Convention ▾ Decision-making ▾ Parties ▾ Implementation ▾ Resources ▾ News ▾

Home / Parties and Signatories / Minamata Convention Initial Assessments (MIAs)

Minamata Convention Initial Assessments (MIAs)

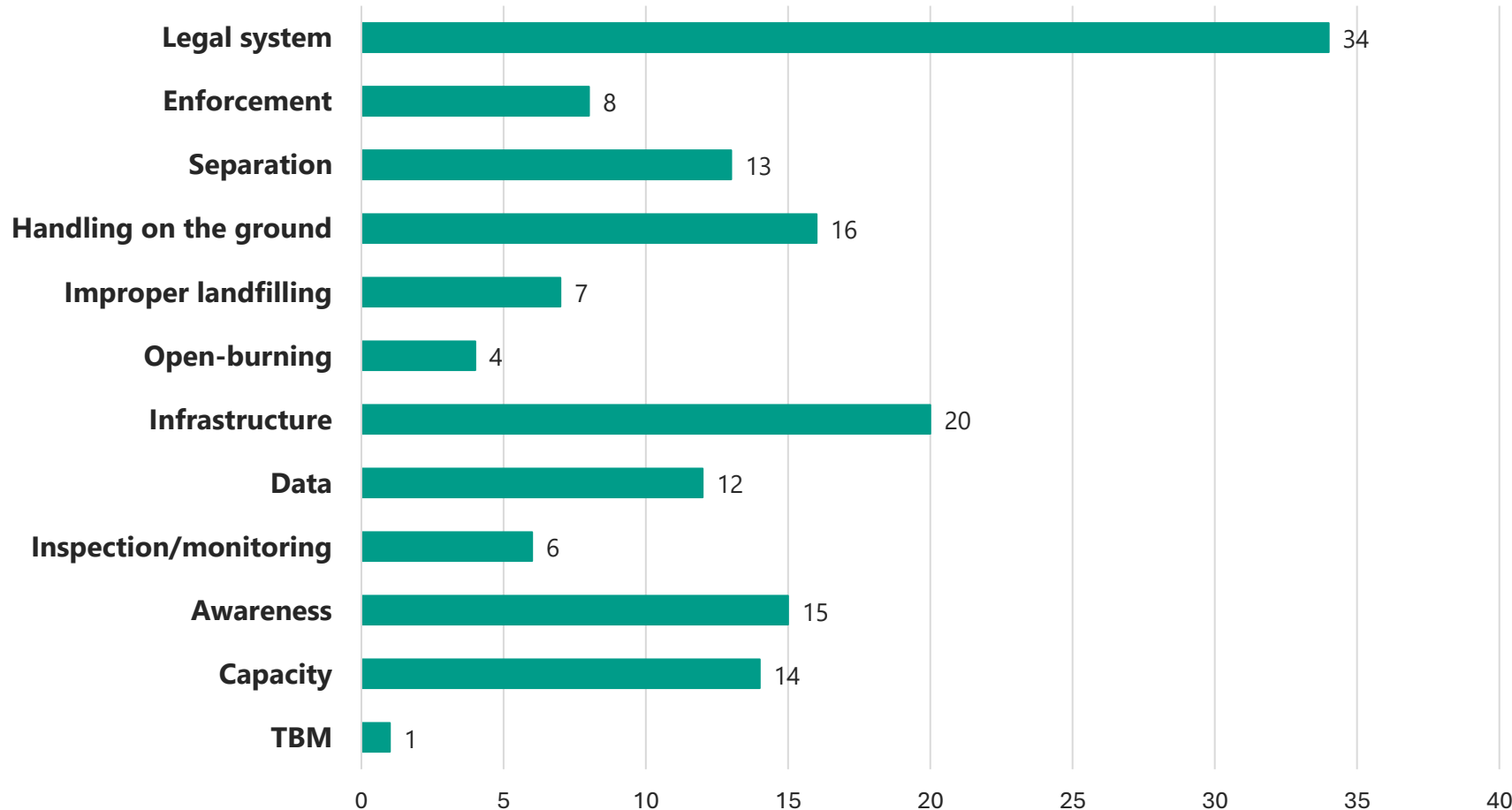
🔗 Share

The development of Minamata Convention Initial Assessments (MIA) is one of the **enabling activities** supported by the GEF for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. UNDP has developed a **guidance document** on the development of MIA reports, in cooperation with the intergovernmental organizations participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the Minamata Convention Secretariat. Final projects reports are made available below as submitted to the Secretariat.

The Minamata Convention Secretariat presented an **analysis of the national priorities from the Minamata Initial Assessments** at the **14th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant** (ICMGP 2019) held in Krakow, Poland, in September 2019. The main national priorities described in the 39 MIA reports analyzed at that time were phasing-out mercury-added products (Article 4) and waste management (Article 11). Other major priority areas included artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM, Article 7), emissions (Article 8), releases (Article 9) and monitoring (Article 19). Further analysis will be done as more initial assessments become available. The results of the MIA analysis will be utilized to prepare the development of the Secretariat's capacity-building and technical assistance programme. They will also form the basis of the **Specific International Programme** and other related activities.

Rough classification of identified challenges

- 34 countries (about 60%) explicitly noted the lack of appropriate legal frameworks and guidelines for the management of mercury wastes. Lack of infrastructure, improper handling, lack of awareness and capacity of relevant stakeholders were also highlighted.



Note:

- Absence of explicit mention of challenges on mercury wastes in the MIA reports does not necessarily mean that the country has no issues related to mercury wastes.
- Challenges are broadly classified and independently counted by the WMA secretariat. These classifications are closely interlinked and thus may be overlapping.

Key takeaways from the quick review

Legal framework	• Many countries already have their own legal framework for the waste management. However, some countries still lack a general legal framework on hazardous waste. • A limited number of countries have a specific framework dedicated to mercury wastes to implement the Convention. • Many countries noted that the technical guidelines developed under the Basel Convention are not used or applied. • Legal framework on mercury release/emission from mercury wastes was highlighted (also relevant to Article 8, 9, 12) • Enforcement is not often mentioned, probably because the legal framework is lacking in the first place.
Handling and management	• Many countries do not require separation of mercury wastes (particularly for municipal wastes). Issues of general waste management, rather than specific to mercury wastes? • Challenges in all stages of mercury wastes management (separation, collection, storage, transport, treatment, disposal)
Landfilling/ open-burning	• Improper management including separation leads to open-dumping and open-burning together with the lack of appropriate infrastructure.
Infrastructure	• Not many countries mentioned the lack of facilities to treat mercury wastes. Lack of storage facilities for mercury wastes (particularly for wastes containing mercury) were significantly highlighted. Countries that do not have proper treatment facilities need the storage facilities in the first place.

Key takeaways from the quick review

Data	• Data on sources of mercury waste generation, mercury concentration in wastes, flow of mercury wastes where and how much of mercury wastes are stored, etc.
Inspection/ monitoring	• Institutional capacity to inspect the mercury waste management practices • Monitoring and analysis capacity
Awareness	• Awareness raising on mercury for public and the management of mercury wastes for governmental authorities, business operators and general public)
Capacity	• Capacity for government officials to implement, enforce and monitor relevant laws and regulations • Capacity to operate storage, treatment and disposal facilities of mercury wastes

Thank you

Waste Management Area secretariat
March 21, 2025