

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PHASE-OUT OF MERCURY IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING IN THE PHILIPPINES



Geri-Geronimo R. Sañez
Chief, Hazardous Waste Management Section
Environmental Quality Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

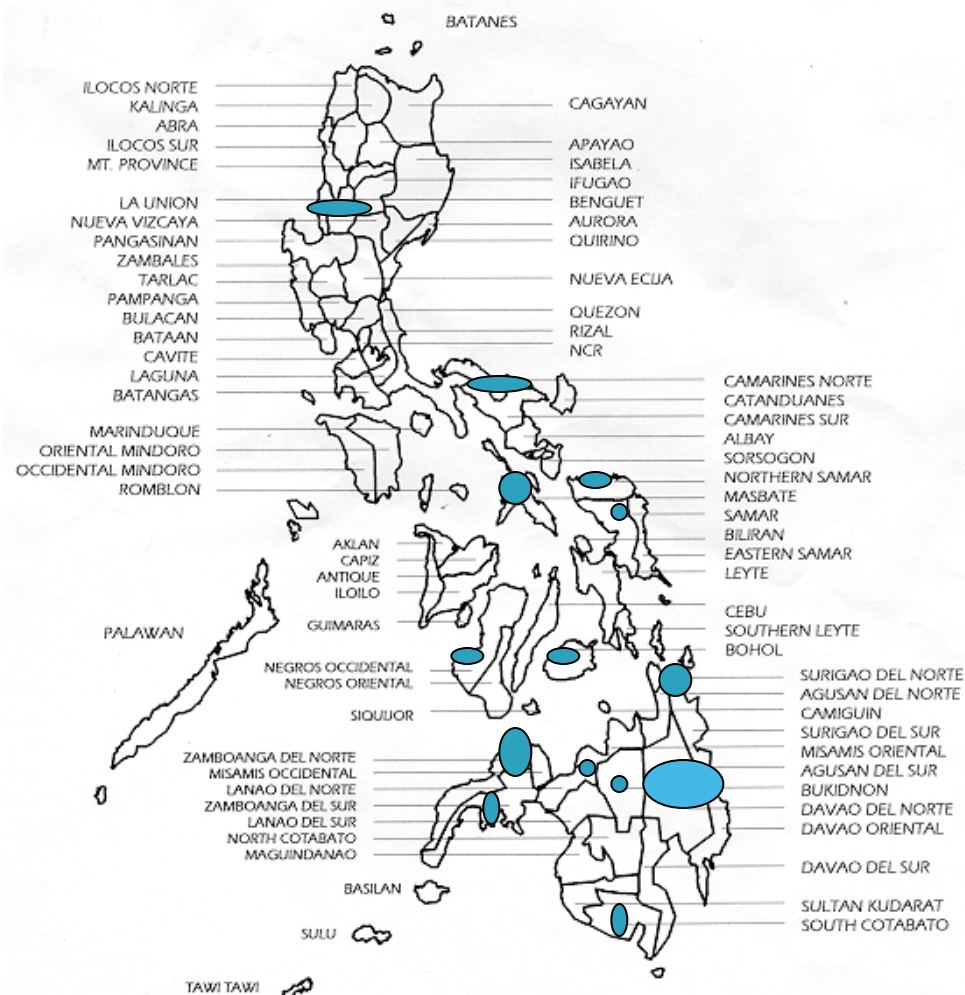


Background of Small-scale Gold Mining in the Philippines

- ▶ In the mid-80's, gold miners engaged actively in processing the ore using the crudest method of gold extraction by amalgamation
- ▶ Improper use of mercury during gold smelting and uncontrolled disposal of mercury wastes into the environment
- ▶ Estimated that some 26 tons of mercury are dumped annually into bodies of water especially in Mindanao
- ▶ Population swollen from 70,000 to as much as 100,000



MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES



Small-Scale Gold Mining



Small-scale mining operations have polluted tributaries and water systems resulting in fish kills aside from adversely affecting the cattle/livestock industry and contaminating agricultural areas



Objectives of the National Strategic Plan

- Government commitment in addressing ASGM is secured
- Multi-stakeholder strategic plans for mercury reductions in ASGM developed, building upon on-going activity to address mercury and artisanal mining and building capacity for regional collaboration for addressing ASGM
- Regional collaboration and coordination is enhanced



ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

- Conducted Inception Workshop on 19-21 January 2010
- Creation of a National Steering Committee and an Inter-agency Technical Working Group
- Conducted consultative workshops in three (3) regions that are heavily engaged in ASGM [Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Region 5 and Region 11]
- Developed the National Strategic Plan for the Phase-out of Mercury in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in the Philippines



ASGM NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Goals of the National Strategic Plan

- protect human health and the environment through the introduction of responsible ASGM practices focusing on mercury use reduction and eventual elimination of mercury use and releases in the environment
- adoption of cleaner and toxic-free gold production technologies and
- simultaneously address social, institutional, financial, regulatory reform, among others



OBJECTIVES

- Effectively **reduce** mercury use in the ASGM sector, based on the quantities determined by the baseline data from the DENR-EMB Mercury Inventory report as updated from other sources, by 25% in 2014, 45% in 2017 and a further 20% by 2021 through the elimination of major inefficient and unsafe practices, such as but not limited to whole ore amalgamation, open burning of mercury amalgam without using retorts, flame hoods, etc., and by migrating to reduced or mercury-free practices or technologies



OBJECTIVES

- develop and implement coherent national policies and regulations that promote the sustainability of ASGM and its allied sectors, as well as environmental and safety measures to protect miners, communities surrounding ASGM sites and other stakeholders
- establish by 2017, a legal and organized group of ASGM miners with a national constituency and representing the needs of the ASGM sector, especially from areas where small-scale gold mining activities are undertaken, working either as a cooperative, association or a formalized group as determined by the Technical Working Group



OBJECTIVES

- build and strengthen institutional capacity of PMRBs, LGUs and other ASGM support institutions
- enhance cooperation and partnership at all levels among miners, public authorities, industry sector, NGOs, Church, Academic Institutions, and other stakeholders
- develop and promote the safe handling and long-term storage of excess mercury coming from the ASGM sector which may include but are not limited to mercury suppliers, dental shops, gold dealers, freight forwarders, etc.



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Engagement or involvement of various concerned government agencies, industry, non-governmental organizations, academe and other stakeholders in providing options and activities for achieving the goal and objectives of the National Strategic Plan
- Reduction goals be further adjusted (2017–2021), as may be necessary, after due evaluation by the National Steering Committee of data provided by academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and by other concerned stakeholders



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Develop of an outreach plan that considers broader environmental and health protection initiatives, and links activities to existing programmes and networks building on past and current experiences
- Formulate and implement fund raising strategies to support the National Strategic Plan
- Increase collaboration or cooperation with regional and international institutions and networks to facilitate exchange of information, and assistance in the promotion of successes achieved under the National Strategic Plan



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Increase awareness and advocacy on the use of local technology/know-how/experience to facilitate technology transfer and support capacity-building for the reduction of mercury use in ASGM
- Periodic review, monitoring and evaluation of activities in relation to the agreed milestones
- Linking ASGM interventions with national and local development processes and their products, such as poverty reduction strategies and Millennium Development Goal-based National Development Plans



PARTNERS, TIMELINE AND BUDGET

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NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON ASGM

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Department of Health
- Department of Labor and Employment
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Finance
- Department of Education
- Department of Science and Technology
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
- CaCoDec
- Philex Mining Corp.
- Mindanao Federation of Small-scale Miners (MINFED)
- JPICC-AMRSP ATM



TIMELINE

- ▶ Starting Date : September 2009
- ▶ Ending Date : March 2011



BUDGET

USD 78,500

Local Project Personnel	20,000
Local Travel for Project Staff	10,000
Travel to Regional Conclusion Meeting in Cambodia	7,500
Three (3) Interdivisional Meetings	1,500
National Multi-stakeholder Workshop	8,000
Office Supplies	4,000
Small Equipment	3,000
Editing/Printing	2,000
Communication/Postage	2,500
Workshop Organizations Costs (25participants; 3 days)	20,000
TOTAL	78,500



PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE INITIAL 5 YEARS

USD 3,048,967

Policy (Development of a plan or framework)	512,667
National Profile on Mercury Use in ASGM	62,234
Research and Development	427,000
Information, Education and Communication	456,878
Technical Assistance	729,000
Social Assistance	321,577
Investment	235,111
Total	3,048,967



Way Forward

UNIDO-GEF/DENR-EMB/BAN TOXICS/DOH-NCDPC

“Improve the Health and Environment of Artisanal Gold Mining Communities in the Philippines by Reducing Mercury Emissions”

Component 1: Strengthen national capacity to effectively manage mercury by establishing a formal sub-national institution and training of key stakeholders

Component 2 : Develop and deliver health education, techniques and technology training programs including early recognition and identification of mercury poisoning at the community level to reduce mercury in ASGM



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION

<http://www.emb.gov.ph>

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