


**Latest news from the Global Mercury Partnership - September 2026**

Stay informed with the latest news, highlights, upcoming events, and key developments from across our network, including progress on ongoing initiatives and opportunities for engagement.

We are also pleased to welcome new partners and collaborators, whose expertise and commitment will help strengthen our collective efforts and expand our impact.

The Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership

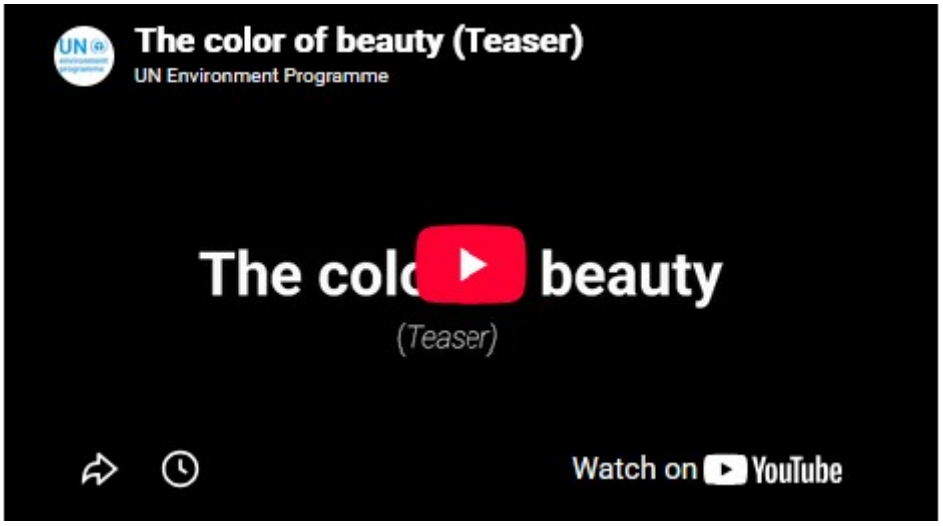
## HIGHLIGHTS




**Mercury-Free Cosmetics: Progress and Regional Expansion**

The UNEP-led, GEF-funded project to eliminate mercury-added cosmetics in Gabon, Sri Lanka, and Jamaica concluded with the elimination of 2.7 tonnes of mercury, benefiting more than 2,500 people and identifying 57 mercury-containing cosmetic products for removal from national markets. Building on these results, the initiative is expanding to 18 additional countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting the need for coordinated action across the cosmetics sector. Read the infographics highlighting project Key achievements and Tracing The Supply Chain.

Visit the knowledge hub




Watch The color of beauty to learn more about UNEP efforts against toxic beauty ideals that fuel the demand for skin lightening products.




**How does the world move away from mercury in dentistry?**

At Minamata COP-6 in November 2025, **governments agreed to phase out the manufacture, import and export of dental amalgam by 2034**. “Now we must focus on supporting countries to accelerate the transition to mercury-free dentistry, protecting both people and the environment from mercury pollution." says Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Read the editorial

**Mercury Waste Management Consultation Desk**

WMA has established an online Consultation Desk to support stakeholders facing challenges in the environmentally sound management of mercury waste. Through this service, stakeholders can request technical advice and be connected with relevant WMA partners, including governments, industry, and experts. The consultation desk operates on a voluntary basis and does not provide financial support but facilitates knowledge sharing, matchmaking, and potential collaboration opportunities.

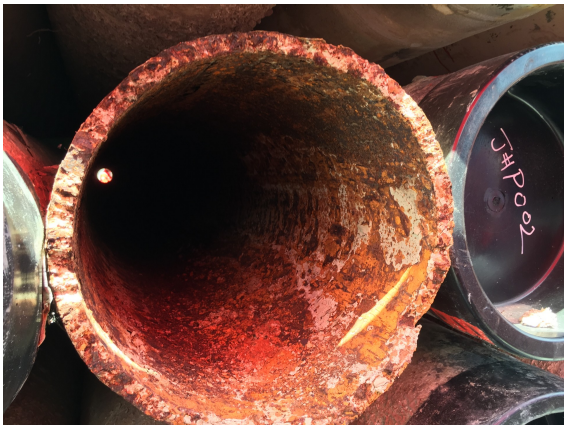
More information

## UPCOMING EVENTS




Minamata Online **Mercury Waste** webinar will be held on 3 September (13:00-14:00 CEST) to provide updates on the sound management of mercury waste in preparation for COP-7 in September 2027.

More information



The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) Waste Management Area (WMA) is organizing a two-part webinar series on **Mercury from Contaminated Steel in the Oil and Gas Industry: Challenges with Analysis, Waste Treatment, Disposal and Recycling. Hg in Steel**
**The Problem:** Tue 15 Sep - Register here
**Learning from Global Approaches:** Wed 14 Oct - Register here

More information



The 17th **International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant** (ICMGP) will take place in Hyberabad, India, on **4-9 October 2026** under the theme "Reaching Ten Years of Enforcement of the Minamata Convention: Achievements, Challenges and Road Map for the Future".

UNEP co-chaired sessions will take place:

**Measuring What Matters: Evidence-Based Approaches for Tracking Mercury Reduction in ASGM under Article 7 and National Action Plans - 2 sessions**
**Mercury monitoring for effectiveness evaluation** - Monday **5 Oct**
**Mercury in ASGM sector** - Tuesday **6 Oct**

**The Toxic Trail of Beauty: Unpacking Mercury in Cosmetics through Data and Action** - Tuesday **6 Oct**

**Mercury and biodiversity: Connecting science with global policy** - Thursday **8 Oct**

**Special Event, COMPLEXion of Change,** featuring **Nina Davuluri**, filmmaker, activist, and the first Miss America of South Asian origin, including screening of **COMPLEXion**, a

powerful documentary that explores skin-lightening practices, and the societal pressures in India that continue to shape perceptions of beauty, identity, and self-worth.
Wednesday **7 Oct evening**

More information

## RECENT EVENTS



The **sixth stakeholder consultation of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project** brought together global experts from governement to industry to exchange insights on regulatory approaches, implementation challenges, and emerging opportunities to accelerate the phase-out of mercury-containing skin lightening products. Watch the recording and read the presentations.

More information



At the 8th GEF Assembly in Samarkand, a **UNEP and UNIDO side event** highlighted how gender equality, community empowerment, and inclusive partnerships can drive more effective environmental action. Discussions focused on reducing mercury in skin-lightening products, addressing harmful beauty standards, and strengthening the gender-responsive approaches in initiatives related to climate and energy.

More information



**WHO South-East Asia is accelerating efforts to phase out mercury-containing dental amalgam and transition to safer, more sustainable oral health care**. Health and environment leaders across the region are strengthening collaboration to expand mercury-free alternatives, improve waste management, and protect both public health and the environment.

More information



Latin American countries gathered in Montevideo for a **WHO-UNEP workshop to accelerate the transition away from mercury-containing dental amalgam**. Uruguay shared lessons from its successful phase-out, demonstrating how policy changes and sustained action can help advance safer, more sustainable oral health care across the region.

More information



The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership's Mercury Waste Management Area (WMA) held its annual online meeting on 13 March 2026, bringing together partners and stakeholders to review progress and discuss priorities for the year ahead. Read the presentations.

More information



The Fifth **meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholder group** took place online on 26 March 2026. Watch the recording and read the presentations.

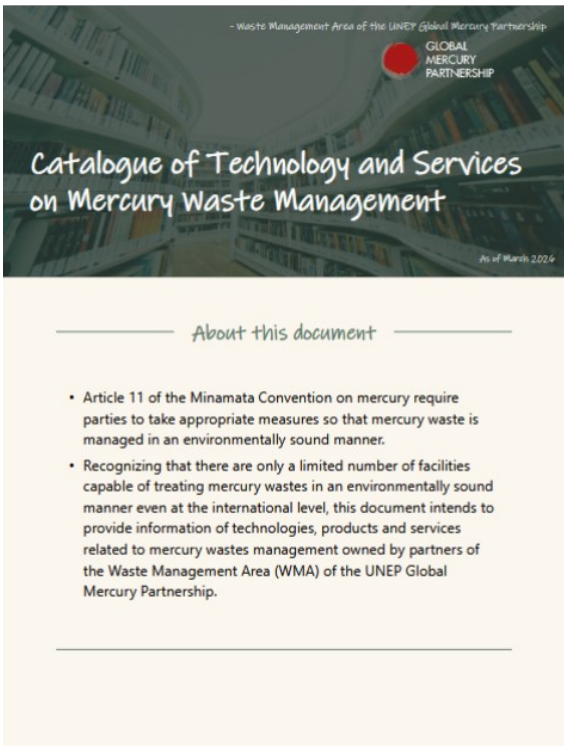
More information




On 26–27 February 2026, stakeholders from governments, international organizations, academia and civil society gathered in Panama City for the closing global workshop of the GEF-funded Eliminating Mercury Skin-Lightening Products project. The event celebrated four years of progress, shared lessons learned from participating countries, and reinforced commitments to sustaining efforts to eliminate mercury-added skin-lightening products and protect human health and the environment.

More information

## NEW RESOURCES

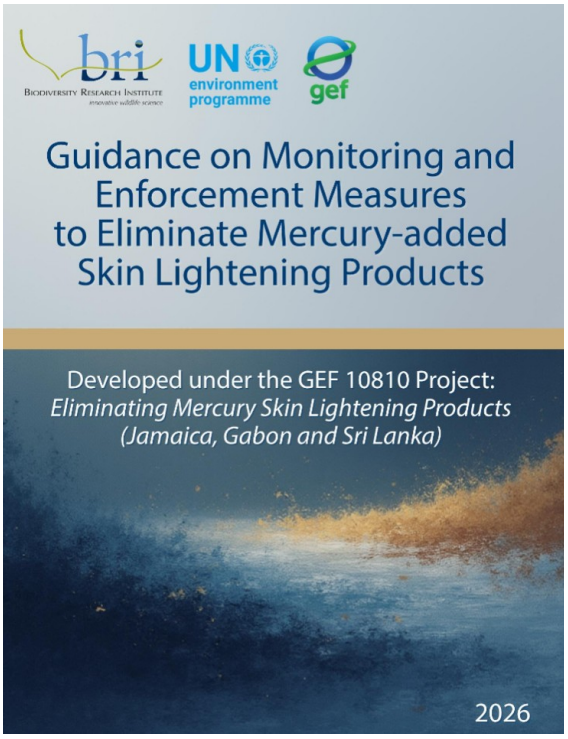


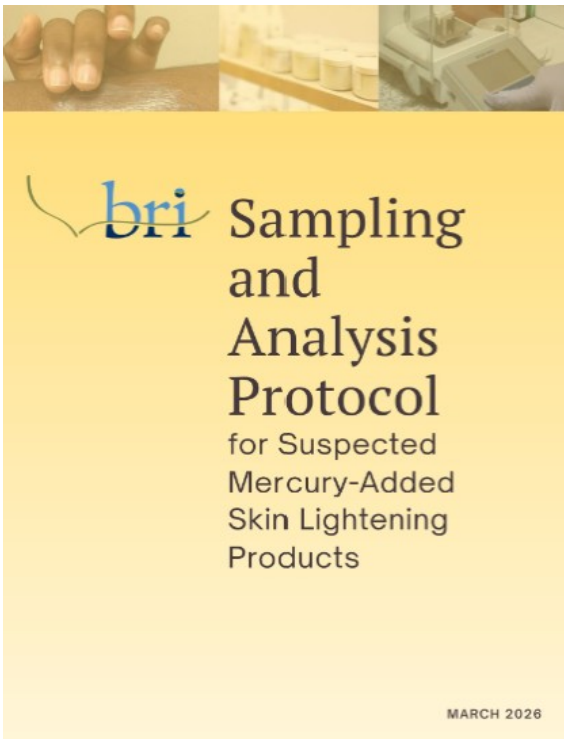

## Catalogue of Technologies and Services on Mercury Waste Management - 2026




## Factsheets for the Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury Wastes

## Guidance on Monitoring and Enforcement Measures to Eliminate Mercury-added Skin Lightening Products




**Sampling and Analysis Protocol for Suspected Mercury-Added Skin Lightening Products**

**Mercury-added cosmetics - Customs' training materials**




## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARTNERS

Since September 2025, the Global Mercury Partnership has welcomed 38 new partners: 11 NGOs, 10 industry / Private,  5 Governments,  5 Academia / Science, 5 Others, 2 IGOs.

The Partnership has reached over 300 members, if you are interested in joining, read below.

INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER >>

## VISIT OUR KNOWLEDGE HUBS AND ACCESS ALL OUR RESOURCES



Mercury Containing Medical Measuring Devices



Eliminating the Use of Dental Amalgam



Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products



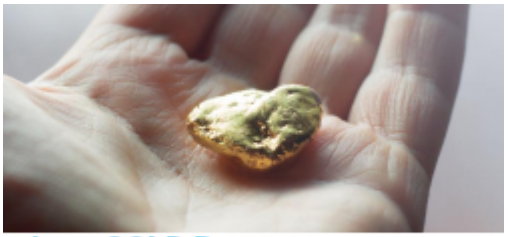
Emissions reduction scenarios from the coal sector



Artisanal and small-scale gold mining and biodiversity



National Action Plans



planetGOLD Programme

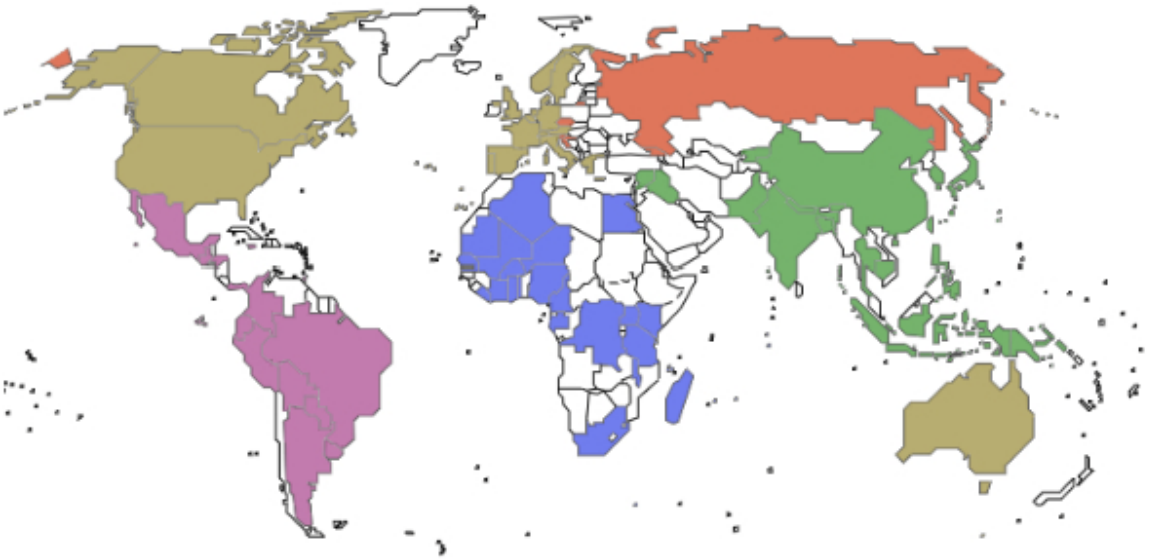


Reducing environmental risk from mercury mining in Mexico

ALL OUR RESOURCES >>

## PARTNERS

Consult our dashboard to learn more about our partners.



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