



World Health
Organization



Biomimicry Research Institute
Innovative solutions for a sustainable world



GLOBAL
MERCURY
PARTNERSHIP

ELIMINATING MERCURY-ADDED SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS

CUSTOMS AND ENFORCEMENT VIRTUAL WORKSHOP - JAMAICA

SUMMARY NOTE

30 March 2026

Background

The project, Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and co-executed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) in collaboration with the Governments of Gabon, Jamaica, and Sri Lanka.

The project aims to eliminate mercury containing skin lightening products (SLPs) by supporting governments to develop or strengthen existing legislation and regulations to phase out SLPs in line with the Minamata Convention; engaging supply chain actors in an attempt to stop production, trade and distribution of skin lightening products; strengthening national capacities in testing and monitoring the skin lightening products and providing training of custom agents; and raising awareness about the issue in the project countries and at the regional and global levels.

Through the project work, Jamaica has taken several steps towards elimination of mercury-added SLPs that include awareness raising activities, regulatory reviews of existing legislation and institutional frameworks and conducting a rapid baseline study of SLPs sold in formal and informal markets in-country as well as online to understand availability of mercury-added SLPs and their distribution pathways.

For more information on the project initiatives, visit:

**[UNEP Global Mercury Partnership-
Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening
Products](#)**



Goals of Customs and Enforcement Training Workshop – Jamaica

This initiative aimed to strengthen the enforcement efforts for the elimination of mercury-added skin lightening products (SLPs) in trade through knowledge sharing and information exchange with Jamaica Customs Agency and related stakeholders.

The virtual workshop was made widely available to all personnel in the Jamaica Customs Agency and key stakeholder groups within the GEF 10810 Project's Jamaica National Working Group. The workshop aimed to enhance stakeholders' understanding of:

- The issues posed by mercury-added SLPs and the Jamaica Government's obligations as a Party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- Their expected role in the implementation of monitoring and control of trade on mercury-added SLPs.
- Methods to identify and monitor imports and exports of mercury-added SLPs.

Summary

The 3-hour workshop was hosted by BRI virtually via Zoom on Monday 30 March 2026 and was attended by a minimum of 26 registered Jamaican participants from the Jamaica Customs Agency, Ministry of Health and Wellness and National Environment & Planning Agency (62.5% female representation; 37.5% male representation).

Attached are the following supporting materials:

1. Webinar Agenda
2. Recorded Workshop Proceedings
3. Workshop Presentation.



1. Webinar Agenda

Monday 30 March 2026

13:00 – 16:00 UTC-5

Time UTC-5

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 13:00 – 13:35 | Opening Remarks and Objectives of Training |
| 13:35 – 13:55 | Overview of the issues posed by mercury-added skin lightening products and measures being taken under the Minamata Convention on Mercury |
| 13:55 – 14:15 | Findings of rapid SLP sampling exercises in Jamaica and how that informs the identification of trends in distribution and importation |
| 14:15 – 14:35 | Trends observed in online sales assessments of SLPs and recommendations |
| 14:35 – 15:05 | Tools to Enhance Mercury Trade Management: Identifying Mercury-added Skin Lightening Products <ul style="list-style-type: none">·HS Codes·Database Use·Risk Profiling and Analytical Screening of Suspected Goods |
| 15:05 – 15:25 | Enforcement Actions for Jamaica |
| 15:25 – 15:45 | Open Discussion on Needs and Capacities for Enforcement of Bans of Mercury-Added Skin Lightening Products |
| 15:45 – 16:00 | Wrap up of Discussions and Closing Remarks |



2. Recorded Workshop Proceedings:

Available for download at the following link:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/47vjKJUAibZMvr5lOpTMWYra6RA10T9urLCrO6agER0jtLNv6bluznOtF4DUySqm.uM8NiHKPCoYCUuI6?startTime=1774894313000>

**NOTE: ACCESS CODE/PASSCODE FOR RECORDING:
dM*#tV0q**

3. Workshop Presentation:

Available for download at the following link:

https://briwildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Jamaica.Customs.Enforcement.Webinar_30.03.2026-1.pptx

If you experience any issues accessing the above materials, please email: allison.foster@briwildlife.org.