



Project for
**Promoting
Minamata
Convention
on Mercury**



by making the most of Japan's
knowledge and experiences

Customs Training to Enhance Monitoring of Trade of Mercury and Mercury Compounds

National training

Presentations at the workshop in Sri Lanka on 2 June 2025



**World Customs
Organization**

Developing national action plans and SOPs for enforcement agencies

National Training on Strengthening Country-Level Inter-Agency Coordination on Illegal Trade of Mercury

**Colombo, Sri Lanka
2 June 2025**

Need for SOPs



- Customs administrations need to ensure compliance with international and domestic regulations, prevent illegal trade, and facilitate the legitimate trade.
- Clear roles and responsibilities within Customs administrations are essential for continuous improvement in border control standards.
- Well-developed and regularly updated SOPs can serve as a strategic tool for planning (risk analysis) and inspecting of shipments.
- They can provide a reliable, centralized source of information that remains adaptable to evolving needs and ensures alignment with international standards.

Need for SOPs



Key elements of domestic should:

- include procedures aligned with the Minamata Protocol and the national legislation,
- clearly define the roles and responsibilities of Customs officers and other stakeholders,
- provide detailed processes for managing imports, exports, transit shipments, and other trade scenarios involving mercury, mercury-added products and waste.

Main elements of the SOPs



- Regulatory framework
- Procedures and framework of controls of shipments of mercury and mercury-added products,
- Identification of shipments
- Risk management and enforcement operations
- Safety
- Illegal traffic and sanctions
- Provision of training
- Cooperation with competent authorities and other stakeholders.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for controls of waste shipments (2024



Key elements of domestic SOPs



Seq.	Leda Actor	Key actions	Agreed responsibilities
0	Customs and OGAs	MoU	Specify roles, tasks and contact details
1	Customs	Detection of suspected illegal shipment of mercury/mercury-added products	Determine what triggers a case
2	Customs	Notify relevant agencies	Who? What? When?
3	Customs	Customs actions	Determine the relevant actions and stakeholders
4	Customs	Final decision: release, hold, seize	Determine the relevant actions and stakeholders

THANK YOU!

Anna KOBYLECKA
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MANAGER
anna.kobylecka@wcoomd.org



**World Customs
Organization**

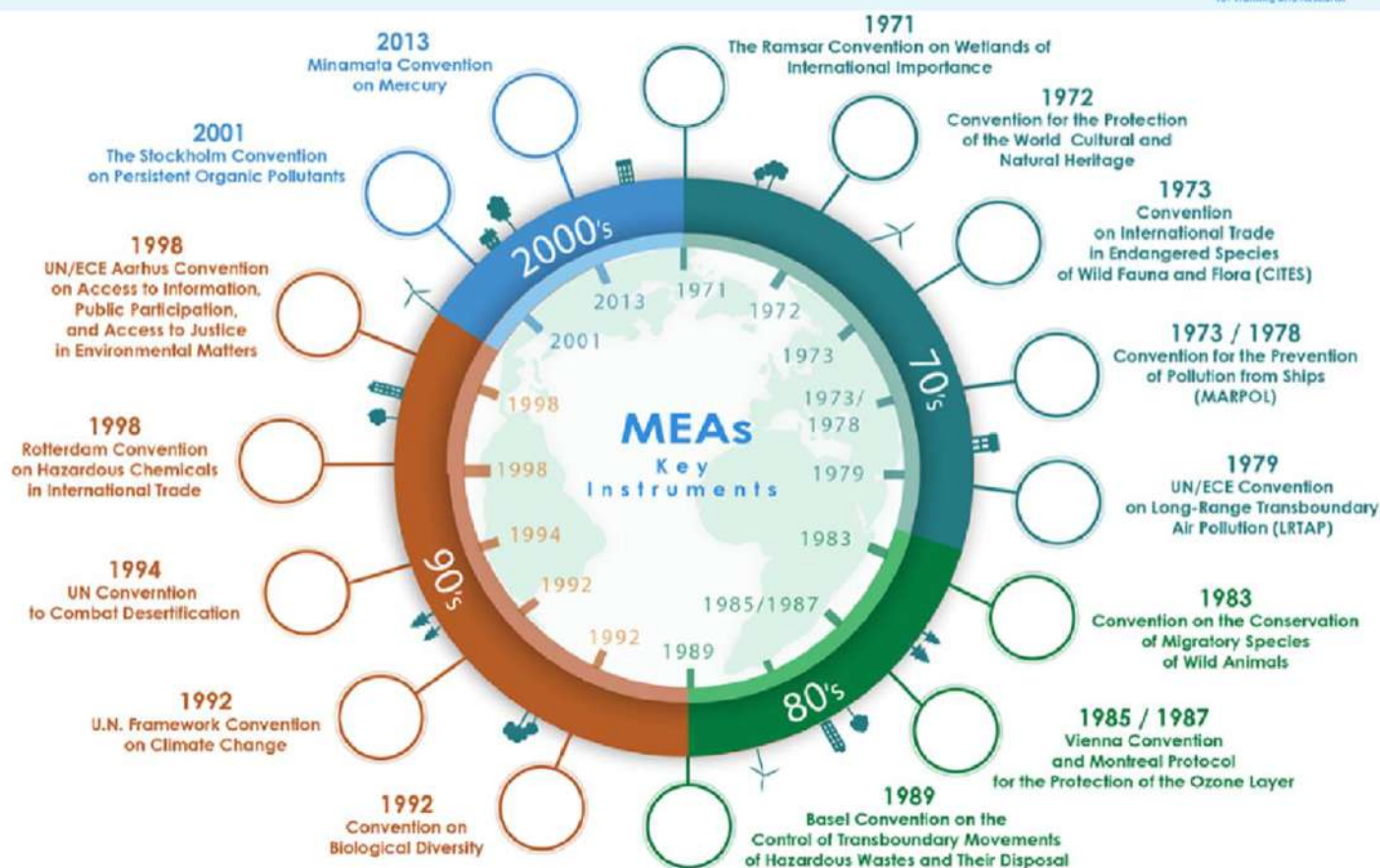
**Understanding the role of Customs and the available resources
for enhancing implementation of the Minamata Convention on
Mercury/other environmental agreements**

**National Training on Strengthening Country-Level Inter-Agency
Coordination on Illegal Trade of Mercury**

Colombo, Sri Lanka

2 June 2025

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)



<https://www.informea.org/en>

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)



Common types of trade-related measures used in MEAs include:

- Trade Restrictions or Bans
- Prior Informed Consent (PIC)
- Labelling and Packaging Requirements
- Phase-out or Phase-down Schedules
- Permitting and Licensing Systems
- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)
- Monitoring and Reporting Obligations
- Financial Mechanisms

Trade provisions of the Minamata Convention



- **Article 3 (Mercury supply sources and trade)** provides for the need prior informed consent for mercury trade. Parties shall not allow the export of mercury to a party without its written consent, and only for the purpose of a use allowed under the Convention (or interim storage).
- **Article 4 (Mercury-added products)** requires parties not to allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products after the phase out date.
- **Article 7 (Artisanal and small-scale gold mining)** requires parties with ASGM to develop and implement national action plans, which includes strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury to use in ASGM.
- **Article 11 (Mercury waste)** requires parties to the Basel Convention to take measures so that mercury waste be not transported across international boundaries except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal.

Role of Customs



- **Controls on mercury supply sources and trade** (Article 3)
- **Phase-out and phase-down of mercury trade and use in products and processes** (Articles 4, 5 and 6, Annexes A and B)
- Controls on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) where mercury is used (Article 7, Annex C)
- Controls on air emissions and releases to land and water (Articles 8 and 9, Annex D)
- **Storage, waste** and contaminated sites (Articles 10, **11** and 12)

Article 3: Trade



The key features of Article 3 relate to:

- the export and import of elemental mercury
- stocks of mercury and certain mercury compounds
- the prohibition of trading of mercury taken out of use in chlor-alkali production using mercury cells
- Export of mercury from a [Party to the Convention](#) (member country) is only allowed:
 - to import countries which have given their prior consent
 - only for purposes/fates which are allowed under the Convention.

Article 3 : Trade



Customs need evidence of the prior consent from the importing country:

- General consent: Minamata Convention's Secretariat's publishes register of general prior consents from Parties: <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/notifications>.
- Consent to the specific shipment: A specific consent form shall follow the shipment. In cases of doubt, contact directly the official authorities in charge in the importing country.
- If the importing country is a non-Party to the Convention, the consent must additionally include certification that the importing country "has measures in place to ensure the protection of human health and the environment and to ensure its compliance with Articles 10 (storage) and 11 (waste) of the Convention".

Article 3: Trade



- FORM A: Form for the provision of written consent by a Party to the import of mercury.
- FORM B: Form for the provision of written consent by a non-Party to the import of mercury.
- FORM C: Form for non-Party certification of the source of mercury to be exported to a Party.
- FORM D: Form for general notification of consent to Import Mercury.
- Forms are available at the Minamata Convention website: [Forms related to Article 3 on Mercury trade](#).
- Guidance for the use of the forms can be seen here: [Guidance on completing the forms required under article 3 related to trade in mercury](#).

Article 4: Mercury-Added Products



- Certain mercury-added products must not be manufactured, imported, or exported after a certain phase-out date (Annex IA).
- There are certain exemptions.
- For some products not subject to phase-out, parties must take steps to reduce mercury use. (Annex IB).

Article 10: Interim storage

- Article 10 of the Minamata Convention on interim storage of mercury (not waste) states that mercury and its compounds should be stored in an environmentally sound manner, to avoid releases.

Article 11: Waste



- Article 11 regulates mercury waste, and references the Basel Convention on the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and their Disposal (Also for countries that are not Basel Parties but are Minamata Parties)
- In the Minamata Convention mercury wastes mean substances or objects:
 - a) Consisting of mercury or mercury compounds;
 - b) Containing mercury or mercury compounds; or
 - c) Contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds.
- Types of wastes in categories a) and b) and a concentration threshold for category c) exist, see https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/forms_and_guidance_document/Mercury_Waste_Thresholds.pdf

Article 11: Waste



- Article 11 further states that mercury and mercury compound wastes must be managed in an environmentally sound manner
- For Parties to the Minamata and Basel Conventions, mercury wastes shall not be transported across international boundaries unless for the purpose of environmentally safe disposal.
- Prior informed consent principles
- Definition of illegal trafficking of waste
 - Without notification to all States concerned;
 - Without the consent of all States concerned;
 - With consent obtained through falsification, misrepresentation or fraud;
 - When there is a material discrepancy between documents and wastes;
 - When the movement results in deliberate disposal of the wastes in contravention of the Convention (e.g. dumping).
- [Basel convention guideline on mercury waste treatment](#)

Article 11: Waste

Basel Convention waste codes with reference to mercury*

Entries with direct reference to mercury	
Y29	Wastes having as constituents: <i>Mercury; mercury compounds</i>
A1010	Metal wastes and waste consisting of alloys of any of the following: ... - <i>Mercury</i> ... but excluding such wastes specifically listed on list B.
A1030	Wastes having as constituents or contaminants any of the following: ... - <i>Mercury; mercury compounds</i> ...
A1180	Waste electrical and electronic assemblies or scrap ² containing components such as accumulators and other batteries included on list A, <i>mercury-switches</i> , glass from cathode-ray tubes and other activated glass and PCB-capacitors, or contaminated with Annex I constituents (e.g., cadmium, <i>mercury</i> , lead, polychlorinated biphenyl) to an extent that they possess any of the characteristics contained in Annex III (note the related entry on list B B1110) ³

*As per Annexes I and VIII to the Basel Convention

Article 11: Waste

Other Basel Convention waste codes relevant to mercury (not exhaustive)*

Other entries related to wastes which may contain or be contaminated with mercury	
A1170	Unsorted waste batteries excluding mixtures of only list B batteries. Waste batteries not specified on list B containing Annex I constituents to an extent to render them hazardous
A2030	Waste catalysts but excluding such wastes specified on list B
A2060	Coal-fired power plant fly-ash containing Annex I substances in concentrations sufficient to exhibit Annex III characteristics (note the related entry on list B B2050)
A3170	Wastes arising from the production of aliphatic halogenated hydrocarbons (such as chloromethane, dichloro-ethane, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, allyl chloride and epichlorhydrin)
A4010	Wastes from the production, preparation and use of pharmaceutical products but excluding such wastes specified on list B
A4020	Clinical and related wastes; that is wastes arising from medical, nursing, dental, veterinary, or similar practices, and wastes generated in hospitals or other facilities during the investigation or treatment of patients, or research projects
A4030	Wastes from the production, formulation and use of biocides and phytopharmaceuticals, including waste pesticides and herbicides which are off-specification, outdated, or unfit for their originally intended use
A4080	Wastes of an explosive nature (but excluding such wastes specified on list B)
A4160	Spent activated carbon not included on list B (note the related entry on list B B2060)

*As per Annexes I and VIII to the Basel Convention

Other international regulation related to mercury trade and shipments



The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade:

- **Regulates** the transboundary trade of hazardous chemicals, including pesticides, for which Parties have implemented bans or severe restrictions.
- Based on **prior informed consent** - the “PIC procedure”
- Parties (members states) submit **notifications** for inclusion of a chemical
- Consideration for addition of a chemical to Annex III, if
 - one notification if registered from each of two specified regions
 - or in case of severely hazardous pesticide representing risks in developing countries
- **Decision guidance documents** are developed for Annex III chemicals to help Parties decide if they should accept import of the chemical.

Other international regulation related to mercury trade and shipments



- The following mercury compounds are covered by the PIC procedure (in Annex III to the Convention):
 - “Mercury compounds, including inorganic mercury compounds, alkyl mercury compounds and alkyloxyalkyl and aryl mercury compounds.”
 - These compounds are listed under the category “Pesticides”, but they actually have a broader application.
- For enforcement purposes Annex III in <http://www.pic.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/1048/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Identification



- HS codes that are specific to materials, products and wastes with mercury. For example:
 - HS 280540 – Mercury
 - HS 285200 – Compounds, inorganic/organic, of mercury, excluding amalgam
 - HS 853931 – Lamps; discharge, (..), fluorescent, hot cathode
- In addition, there are other HS codes that are also relevant to mercury, meaning that the codes include materials, products and wastes with mercury, along with other non-mercury commodities and wastes. When checking for mercury trade, these are as important as the mercury-specific codes.
- There are also regional or national codes beyond 6 digits.
- Misclassification, by mistake, or deliberate.

Identification



- For an overview of types of materials, products and wastes with mercury, including pictures of examples of the relevant materials, products and wastes, examples of HS codes and Basel Convention waste codes relevant to mercury, as well as a description of key characteristics, STRiKE report “[Onsite detection of mercury](#)”:
- The [Minamata Convention recommendations](#) for voluntary HS codes development for mercury-added products listed in Annex A to the Convention as of 2020.

Identification



Examples of mobile analysis for mercury and mercury compounds:

- Dräger tubes (mercury and compounds)
 - X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometer (“XRF”; mercury and other elements)
 - Mercury analyser (mercury in air)
 - Raman spectrometer (compounds only)
-
- An informative video describing the advantages and limitations of the key methods for onsite detection of mercury with chemical analysis (7 minutes) is available at <https://chemicalsandwaste.wixsite.com/strike/materials>.
-
- All methods require prior training in their use.

Conclusions



- The Minamata Convention on mercury sets binding restrictions to the trade of mercury, mercury-added products and mercury wastes.
- Other global treaties have relevance for mercury, its compounds and mercury wastes:
 - The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and regional conventions and agreements related to the Basel Convention
 - The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- Customs have a central role in enforcing the trade restrictions on mercury, mercury-added products and mercury wastes.
- Trade of elemental (fluid metal) mercury requires specific documentation forms, duly authorized.

Conclusions



- There are tools that can help Customs identify mercury, mercury-added products and mercury wastes.
- If there is a risk of getting in contact with mercury and its compounds, safety measures and personal protection equipment is needed.
- Illegal trade of mercury, mercury-added products and mercury wastes happens, and if observed, it is important that Customs secure evidence for prosecution as per your country's procedures.

Illegal trade



- In case of confiscation of mercury or mercury-containing waste or products, national environmental and waste authorities always must be contacted.
- If there is a risk of getting in contact with mercury and its compounds, safety measures and personal protection equipment is needed:
 - **spills and spreading of mercury** should be prevented,
 - **interim storage** of mercury and mercury compounds requires securely closed containers of adequate quality, and stabile, sealed and access-restricted enclosures, the [Minamata Convention guidance](#).
 - **disposal**: the [Basel Convention guidelines](#).

THANK YOU!

Anna KOBYLECKA
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MANAGER
anna.kobylecka@wcoomd.org

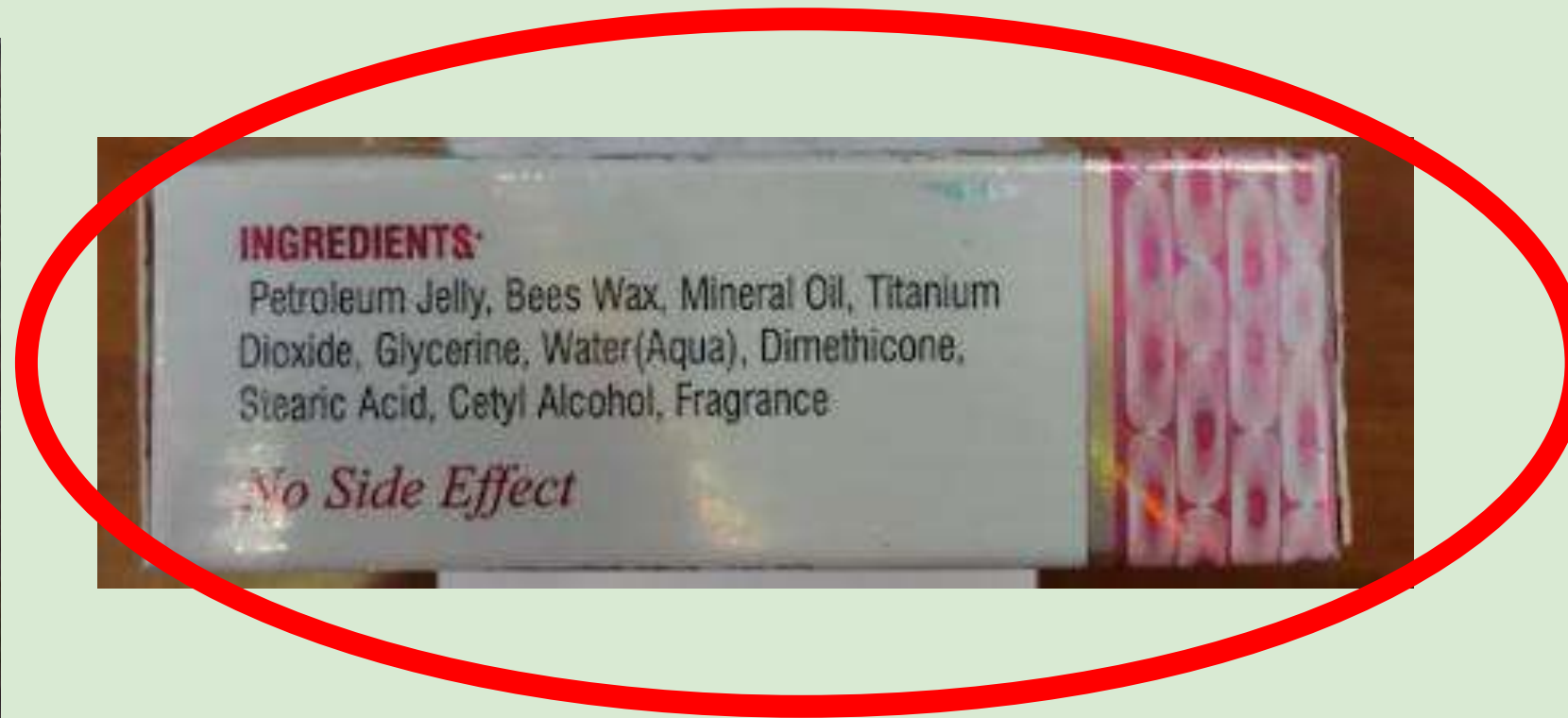
BRI GLOBAL DATABASE DEVELOPMENT FOR MERCURY SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS

**Multi-country Meeting on Eliminating Mercury-
added Skin Lightening Products
Colombo, Sri Lanka
2 June 2025**

Introduction

Why a Centralized Database is Important for Mercury Monitoring in Cosmetics

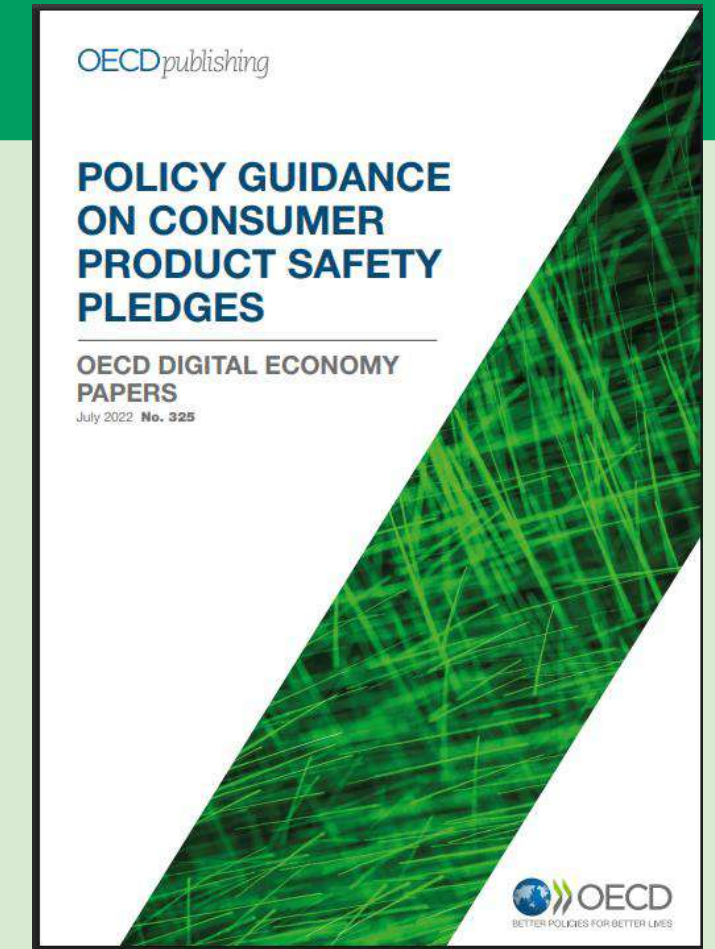
- **Lack of Ingredient Transparency:** Mercury is often not listed on product labels or have ingredients written in different languages, making it difficult for consumers, regulators, and health authorities to identify hazardous products based on packaging alone.



- **Limited Testing Capacity at Borders:** Many customs agencies lack the equipment, expertise, or resources to routinely test cosmetic products for mercury, allowing dangerous items to enter markets undetected.

Reference Tools

- Other organizations have contributed to assisting this issue by developing reference tools to help consumers, customs agencies and other stakeholders identify these products:
 - Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG): Enforcement measures to restrict high mercury cosmetic products under the Minamata Convention
 - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): POLICY GUIDANCE ON CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY PLEDGES
 - The European Union's Rapid Alert System for dangerous non-food products (RAPEX)
- Although these tools have been developed under the European context, they can be used as reference materials in Asian specific contexts





Monitoring Mercury Skin Lightening Products and Data Dissemination

- **Development of a Database**



Creating a centralized global database for skin lightening products will aim to:



- **Support Regulatory Enforcement and Monitoring:** A centralized database allows regulatory bodies to track known mercury-containing products, prioritize inspections, and take enforcement action more effectively.
- **Improve Global Information Sharing:** Countries can share findings, lab results, and product data, enhancing global efforts to detect and restrict harmful products and reducing duplication of work.

Creating a centralized global database for skin lightening products will aim to:

- **Protect Public Health:** By identifying and flagging high-risk products, the database supports efforts to prevent mercury exposure, especially in vulnerable populations.
- **Support Consumer Awareness and Safer Choices:** Public access to the database can empower consumers to avoid harmful products and encourage manufacturers to comply with safety standards.



Under the GEF 10810 Hg SLP Project:

All SLP Hg concentrations will be kept in a **centralized database** developed in coordination with the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and will be available to the Ministry of Health and/or other designated government ministry as well as Customs.



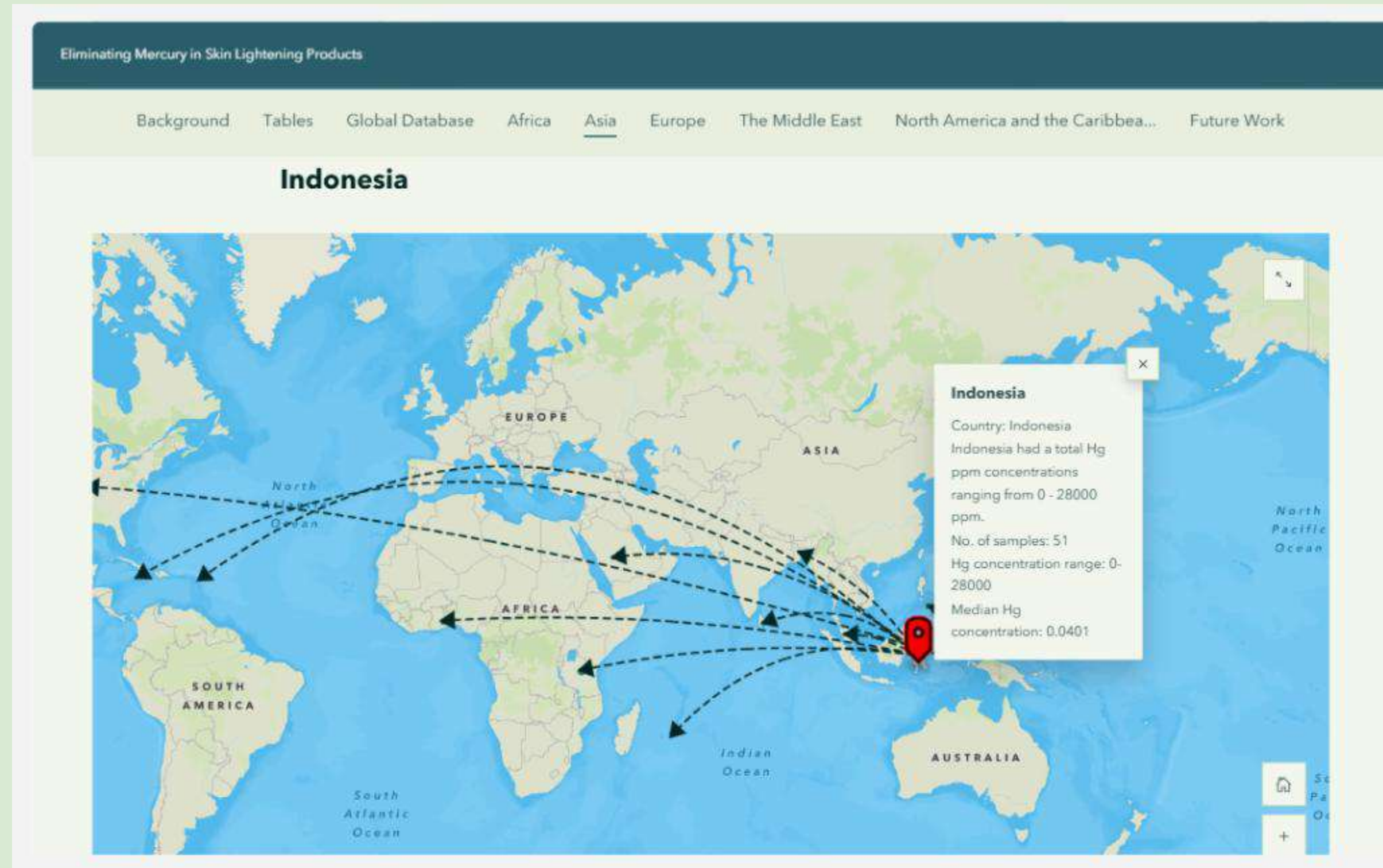
In addition to the sampling data collected under the project...

- BRI has gathered and is comparing existing validated data worldwide to develop a global database of SLPs
- Over **4,000 SLP sample results** obtained
- **Sources reviewed included:**
 - Over 50 Published Journal Articles
 - Datasets from Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) who provided data on 1185 SLPs from their research
 - Databases/Reports released by recognized entities (NGOs and monitoring agencies)



Data generated is being used to identify...

- Potential key hubs for **production**
- **Patterns of distribution**
- **Products of interest** for testing in project countries/regions





Eliminating Mercury in Skin Lightening Products

[Background](#)[Tables](#)[Global Database](#)[Africa](#)[Asia](#)[Europe](#)[The Middle East](#)[North America and the Caribbean...](#)[Future Work](#)

Asia

China



Goals for Database

Within the scope of the project:

- **Incorporate results** from the project countries into the database and **enhance the interface** to improve usability
- To be **used as a reference** for the development of regulations to prevent import/export/manufacture of Hg SLPs (which will enable monitoring by Customs and other agencies)
- More specific data on Hg concentrations can be **made available for tracking of progress in phase out of SLP product** availability/Hg content in SLPs.

Outside the scope of the project:

- To be a **'living' database** with a mechanism for other **researchers/monitoring entities to access/contribute** to and be used as a reference tool for consumers after the project has been completed.
- Ongoing work will include **integration of new data sources, stakeholder engagement, and maintenance** to ensure the database remains accurate, comprehensive, and reflective of current developments in the field.

Thank you!

Questions?



Ashley BASTIAN SZ

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL

SPECIALIST



ashley.bastiansz@briwildlife.org

Tahlia ALI SHAH

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL

SPECIALIST

tahlia.alishah@briwildlife.org



www.briwildlife.org

**For more information on the project, visit:
<https://www.unep.org/mercuryfreecosmetics>**

#mercuryfreecosmetics

National Customs Training to Enhance Cross-Agency Coordination to Control Mercury Trade

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

MONDAY 2 JUNE 2025

Sri Lanka is a participating country in 2 key projects related to mercury trade management:

- **“Project for promoting the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention”** has a special focus on the area of information exchange, awareness and education, research, development, and monitoring. A comprehensive programme was designed to strengthen enabling capacity, build on the resources in and around Minamata, and employ technologies held by institutions in Japan for the effective implementation of the Convention's obligations.
- **“Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products”** aims to eliminate mercury-added skin lightening products by supporting governments to develop or strengthen existing legislation and regulations to phase out skin lightening products 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.



Joint Objectives to Enhance Effective Mercury Trade:

Effective mercury trade enforcement requires tailored national strategies that align with each country's regulatory and operational context.

Both projects included activities that aim to equip national enforcement agencies with the technical skills and enforcement tools necessary to combat mercury smuggling.

Strengthening inter-agency collaboration is essential for detecting and monitoring mercury trade, which remains a persistent challenge.



Goals of Training

1. Build country-specific enforcement capacity through hands-on training.
2. Improve coordination between national agencies to close enforcement gaps.
3. Train officers in forensic detection and risk assessment for mercury shipments.
4. Initiate a national action plan for mercury trade control.

Schedule of Overall Activities

National Workshops for 3 select project countries:

- **Sri Lanka – 2 June 2025**

Focus: Mercury-added Skin Lightening Products

- ***Mongolia*** – ~23 June 2025

Focus: Mercury trade related to mining and other activities

- ***Palau*** – ~19 July 2025

Focus: Mercury trade in a Small-Island Developing State

Schedule of Overall Activities

Regional Workshop

(3–4 June 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka)

1–4 representatives from several project countries in Asian region from Customs, Law Enforcement and Ministry of Environment share lessons learned, priorities for action and coordination in the region to enhance monitoring of mercury trade.

Schedule of Overall Activities

Online Webinars:

3 webinars (1.5 hours each)

Between May – July/August 2025

1. Overview on the issues posed by mercury, mercury trade and the relevant obligations under the Minamata Convention – *held 26 May 2025*
1. Review of Regulatory Framework for Managing Mercury Trade – late June/early July 2025
1. Lessons Learnt from In-Country Training Workshops – late July/early August 2025

Schedule of Today's Key Activities:

Morning Session

Review of the Human Health Impacts of Mercury	Elena Jordan, WHO
Overview of the Minamata Convention Obligations regarding Mercury Trade	Tahlia Ali Shah, BRI
Mercury Mass Flow in Sri Lanka	Kyaw Nyunt Maung, UNEP
Overview of trade of mercury-added products with a special focus on mercury-added skin lightening products	Ashley Bastiansz, BRI
<i>Short Break and Group Photo</i>	
Understanding the role of Customs and the available resources for enhancing implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury/other environmental agreements	Anna Kobylecka, WCO
National Institutional Capacity - Understanding the interlinkages amongst Customs, Environmental Agencies and Law Enforcement	Chalani Rubesinghe, National Project Coordinator
National Customs Existing Procedures for sound handling of seized commodities	Hansani Karunaratne, Sri Lanka Customs
Practical exercises on customs inspection procedures and mercury shipment profiling (to include case studies on smuggling tactics and interception methods and identifying and handling illegal mercury shipment scenarios)	All participants Facilitator: Anna Kobylecka, WCO

Lunch

Schedule of Today's Key Activities:

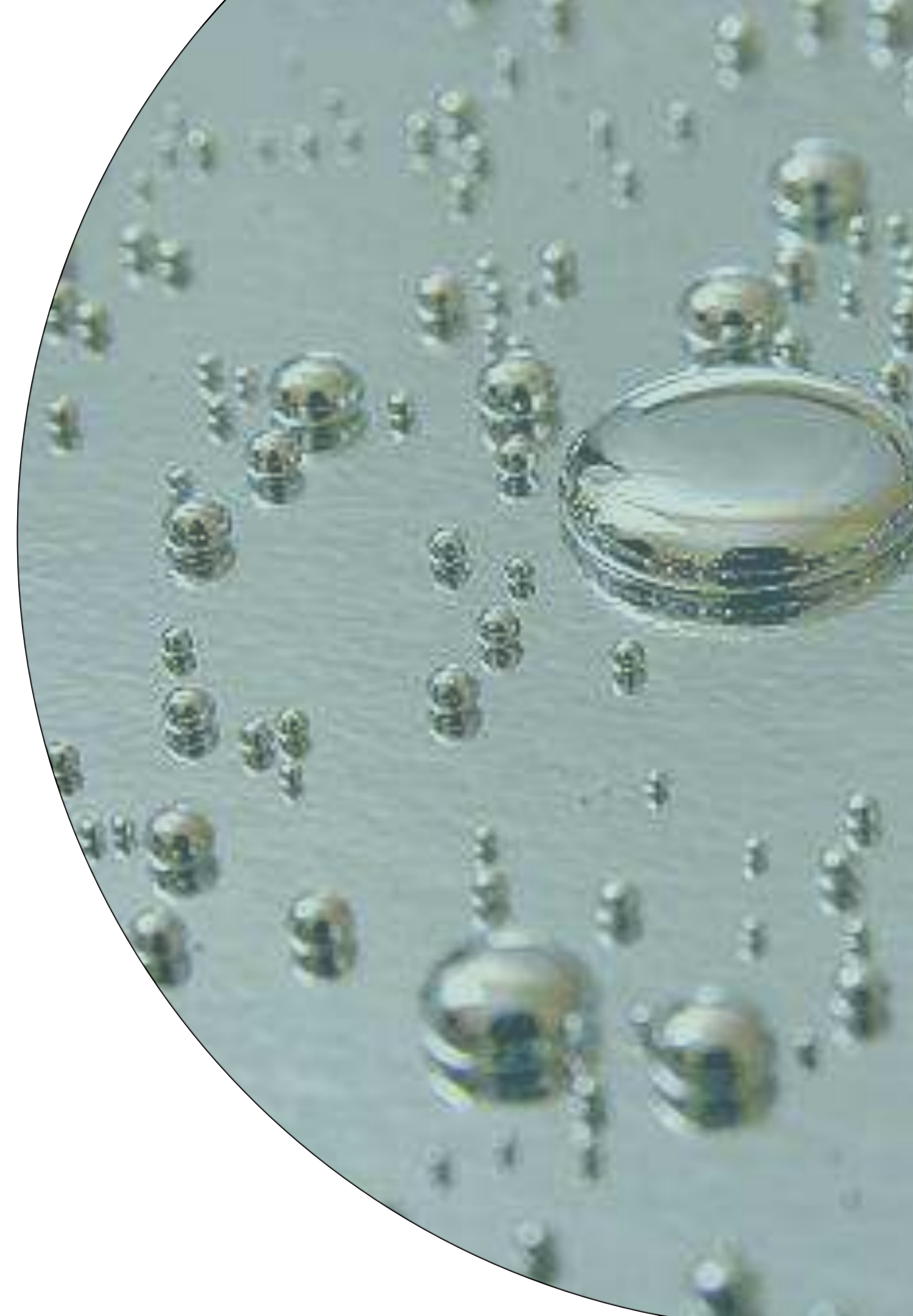
Afternoon Session

Continuation of Practical Exercise	All participants
Training in mercury detection and forensic analysis techniques	Sisara Sanjeewani, Senior Scientific Officer, Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board
Mercury Skin Lightening Products Database Development- Global Platform	Ashley Bastiansz, BRI
National Information Gathering on Mercury Skin Lightening Products	Samantha Karunaratne, Sri Lanka Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA)
Coordination with Project: Integrated Management and Environmentally Sound Disposal of POPs Pesticides in the Agriculture Sector and Mercury & Waste in the Healthcare Sector in Sri Lanka	Dr. Vishaka Hidellage, Technical Expert, UNDP
Developing national action plans and SOPs for enforcement agencies	Anna Kobylecka, WCO
Closure of Training: · Q&A · Wrap up of the training's outcomes and next steps · Conclusion remarks	All Participants

IMPACTS OF MERCURY ON HUMAN HEALTH

Global overview of mercury hazards and risks

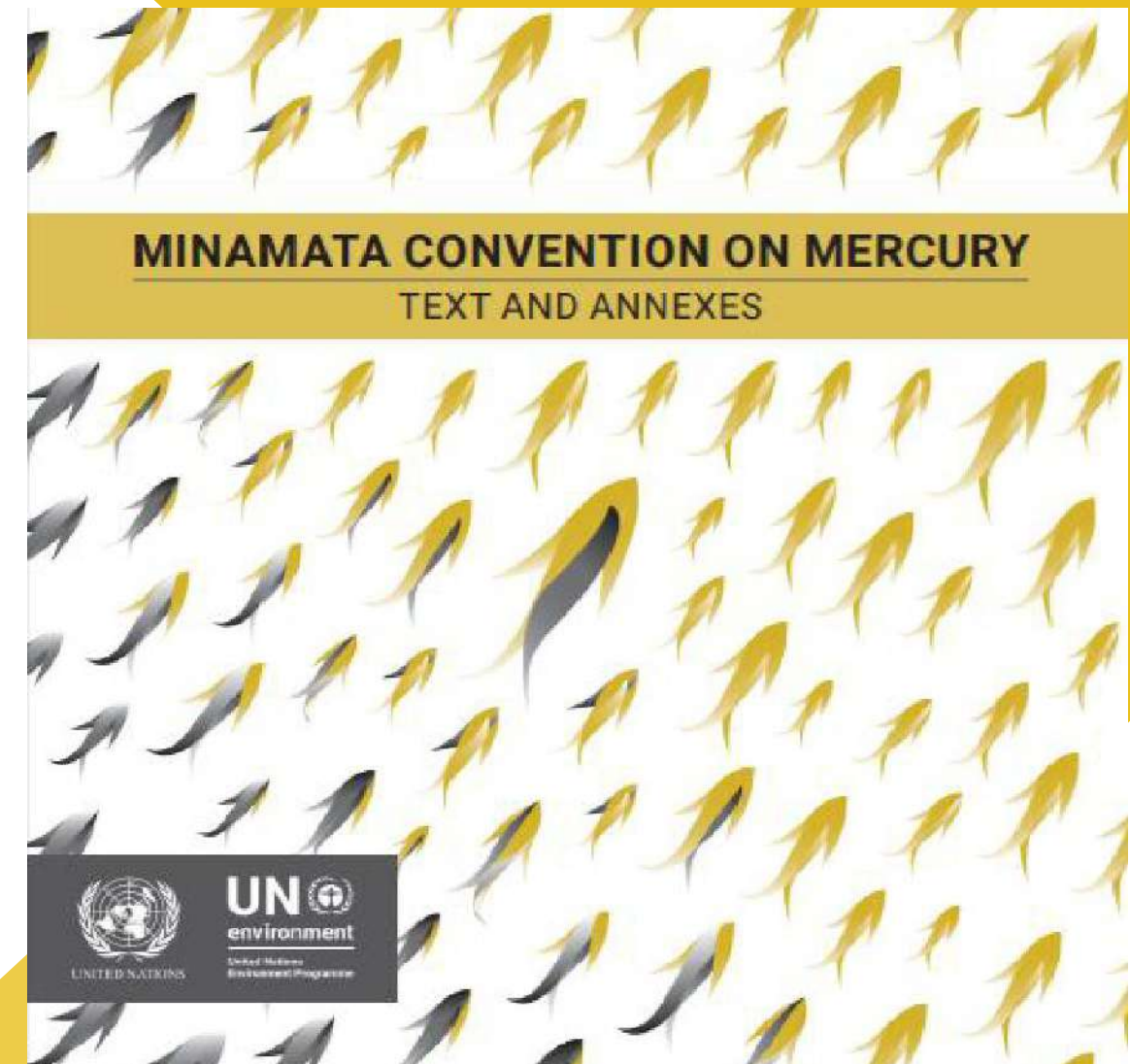
Presenter: Dr Elena Jordan, World Health Organization (WHO)



2 JUNE 2025

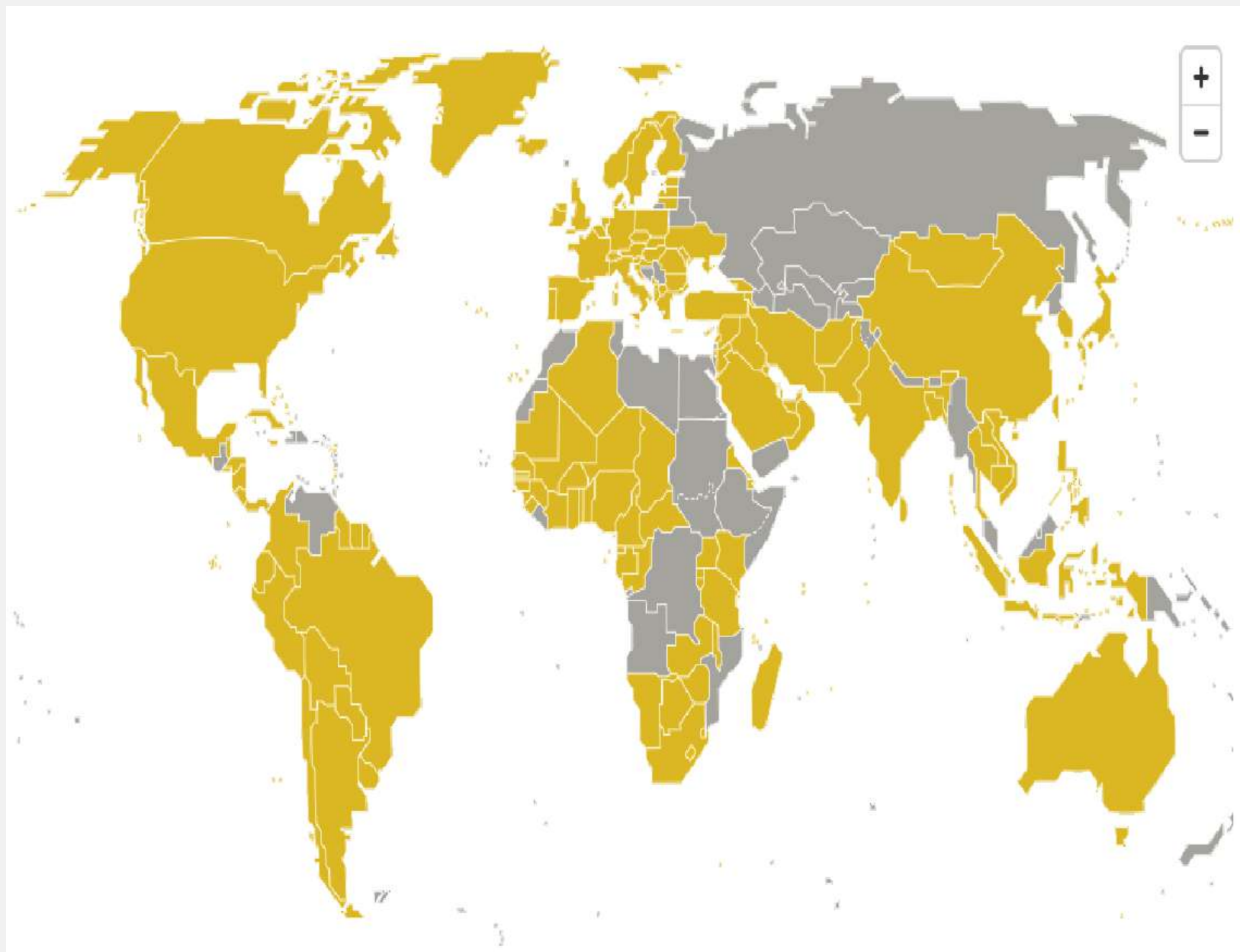
Understanding the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Relation to Trade

Presented by:
Tanlila Ali Shah, BRI



**NATIONAL CUSTOMS TRAINING TO ENHANCE CROSS-AGENCY
COORDINATION TO CONTROL MERCURY TRADE**

Minamata Convention on Mercury



AIM: to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

Adopted in October 2013, entered into force in August 2017

152 Parties, as of June 2025

Managing different types of mercury under the Minamata Convention:

- **Article 3 Mercury Supply Sources and Trade**

Elemental Mercury (liquid) and inorganic mercury compounds/salts

- Article 10 Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury

- Article 4 Mercury Added Products
- Article 5 Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used
- Article 7 Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining

Prohibiting use of mercury/ mercury compounds in the manufacture of products/industrial processes

- Article 11 Mercury Wastes

Mercury wastes
(from use and disposal of products etc.)

Article 3: Mercury supply sources and trade

Requires Parties to take measures to control trade of mercury with other Parties as well as with non-Parties and reinforces demand reduction control measures (Articles 4–7)

This article covers:

- elemental mercury,
- mixtures of mercury with other substances, including alloys of mercury, with a mercury concentration of at least 95 per cent by weight,
- “Mercury compounds” meaning mercury (I) chloride (known also as calomel), mercury (II) oxide, mercury (II) sulphate, mercury (II) nitrate,

Article 3: Mercury supply sources and trade

Main Provisions:

- Not allow the EXPORT of mercury unless the importing country provides **written consent**, the mercury is for an **allowed use or environmentally sound storage**, and all other conditions of Article 3.6 are met.
- Not allow the IMPORT of mercury without government **consent**, ensuring both the mercury **source and proposed use** are allowed under the Convention (and applicable domestic law).
- Restrict the export and use of mercury from **primary mercury mining**, so that it is not available for use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM).

Article 3: Mercury supply sources and trade

General Notifications:

- Allows for Parties to issue consent either on an import-by-import basis or through a general notification of consent provided to the Secretariat.
- A general notification of consent may include terms and conditions and may be revoked at any time by that Party or non-Party.

SCENARIO ONE

EXPORTER IS A PARTY → IMPORTER IS A PARTY



Importing Party
has provided
written consent



Mercury is for use allowed under the
Convention, OR for environmentally sound
interim storage

SCENARIO TWO

EXPORTER IS A PARTY → IMPORTER IS A NON-PARTY



Importing non-Party
has provided
written consent



Importing non-Party certifies it has
measures in place to protect human health
and the environment

Importing non-Party ensures its compliance
re: storage and final disposal

Mercury is for use allowed under the
Convention, OR for environmentally sound
interim storage

SCENARIO THREE

EXPORTER IS A NON-PARTY → IMPORTER IS A PARTY



NON-PARTY



PARTY TO CONVENTION



Mercury export
is allowed if:



Importing Party
has provided
written consent



Exporting non-Party has provided
certification that the mercury is not from
primary mercury mining or from
decommissioning chlor-alkali facilities

Minamata Convention Secretariat

The Minamata Secretariat makes public the forms and guidance and keeps a public register of general notification of consent on its website.

A draft study has also been developed by the Secretariat on **the global supply, production, trade and use of mercury compounds**– expected to be finalized in 2025 to further support countries in understanding the challenges and lessons learnt in managing mercury supply, trade and demand.

<https://minamataconvention.org/en/documents/forms-related-article-3-mercury-trade>

<https://minamataconvention.org/en/documents/guidance-completing-forms-required-under-article-3-related-trade-mercury>

Thank You!



Tahlia Ali Shah

International Environmental Scientist
Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)
Tahlia.alishah@briwildlife.org

Overview of Mercury Trade

Global overview of on the trade of mercury, mercury compounds, mercury waste and mercury-added products (with a focus on mercury skin lightening products)

Presenter: Tahlia Ali Shah/Ashley Bastiansz, BRI

National Customs Training to Enhance Cross-Agency Coordination to Control Mercury Trade

Monday 2 June 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

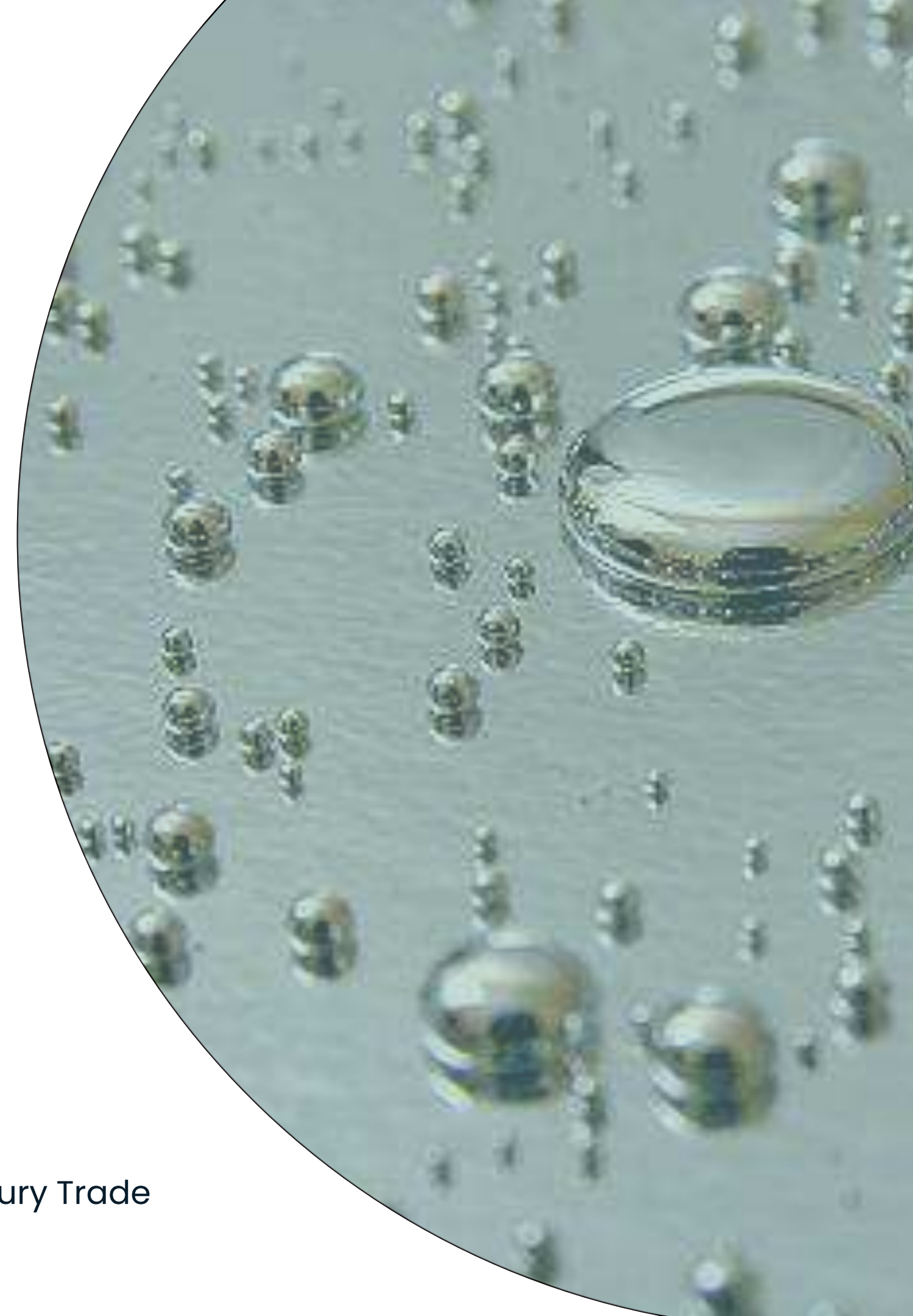
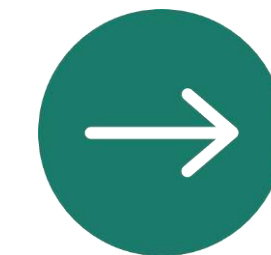


TABLE OF CONTENTS



- Global Mercury Supply, Stocks and Storage
- Demand for trade of mercury compounds and their purposes for use
- Highlight: Trade of Mercury-added Skin Lightening Products

What are the main sources of mercury compounds?

Mercury compounds may be **stored/produced from direct use/production** at:

- Primary mercury (cinnabar) mining facilities;
- Mercury compound producers;
- Facilities that manufacture products or catalysts containing mercury compounds;
- Mercury compound traders, especially those involved in transboundary movements of commodity grade mercury compounds;
- Other interim storage facilities.

What are the main sources of mercury compounds? (cont'd)

Mercury compounds may be stored/produced as **byproducts or wastes** at:

- Mercury recycling and waste treatment facilities;
- Non-ferrous metal mining or processing facilities;
- Natural gas and oil production and processing facilities;
- Facilities producing vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) using mercury chloride catalysts;
- Facilities producing polyurethane products with mercury compound catalysts;
- Mercury cell chlor-alkali facilities;
- Sodium or potassium methyllate or ethyllate facilities using mercury cells;
- Unsecured waste disposal sites

Reports from EXPORTING COUNTRIES of >5000 kg of mercury compounds (2023)

	HS 285210 - Mercury compounds, chemically defined, inorganic or organic, excluding amalgams (net weight in kg)						Sum
Reporter	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2018-2023
Thailand	596319	471671	243691	273809	433897	474080	2493467
United States	58696	130411	18675	18755	31303	83841	341681
South Africa	167332	90819	83387	257097	113337	64363	776335
Austria	90420	89789	103947	107428	105789	58755	556128
France	0	0	0	63661	45398	26179	135238
Morocco	91	1550	2605	1010	660	8600	14516
Malaysia	0	0	0	0	0	6200	6200
Source: Trade Data Monitor (2018-2021) and Comtrade (2022-2023)							

Common Mercury Compounds:

Note: Based on assessments conducted by UNEP (2025), it was found that some mercury compounds can be produced at low enough costs to bypass trade restrictions in many countries for the purpose of extracting the elemental mercury.

- **Mercury(I) chloride**
- **Mercury(II) sulfide** (lower purity, black))
- Mercury(II) oxide
- **Mercury(II) sulfate**
- Mercury(II) nitrate
- Mercury(II) amidochloride (ammoniated mercury)
- Mercury(II) acetate
- Mercury(II) chloride
- Mercury(II) iodide
- Phenylmercury(II) acetate
- Mercury(II) bromide



Common Uses for Mercury Compounds

Common Purposes	Mercury Compounds
Manufacture of Certain Mercury-Added Products such as Batteries etc.	Mercury (I) Chloride, Mercury (II) Oxide, Mercury (II) Sulfate, Mercury (II) Chloride...
As a preservative, disinfectant or in the production of antiseptics (e.g. mercurochrome)	Thimerosal, mercury (II) amidochloride, phenylmercury (II) acetate, mercury (II) chloride...
Manufacture of Pharmaceuticals	Mercury (II) chloride, mercury (II) iodide, mercury (II) thiocyanate...
As a lab reagent	Mercury (II) nitrate, mercury (II) sulfate, mercury (II) chloride...
Synthesis of other mercury compounds or recovery of elemental mercury	Mercury (I) chloride, mercury (II) nitrate, mercury (II) acetate...
As catalysts in industrial process	Mercury (I) chloride, phenylmercury (II) acetate...
In gold and silver extraction	Mercury (II) sulfate
Manufacture of skin lightening products	Mercury (I) chloride, mercury (II) oxide, mercury (II) sulfate, mercury (II) chloride
Miscellaneous (in fireworks, thermoelectric applications, nuclear particle equipment, photo fixative...)	Many other mercury compounds

MERCURY ADDED CONSUMER PRODUCTS

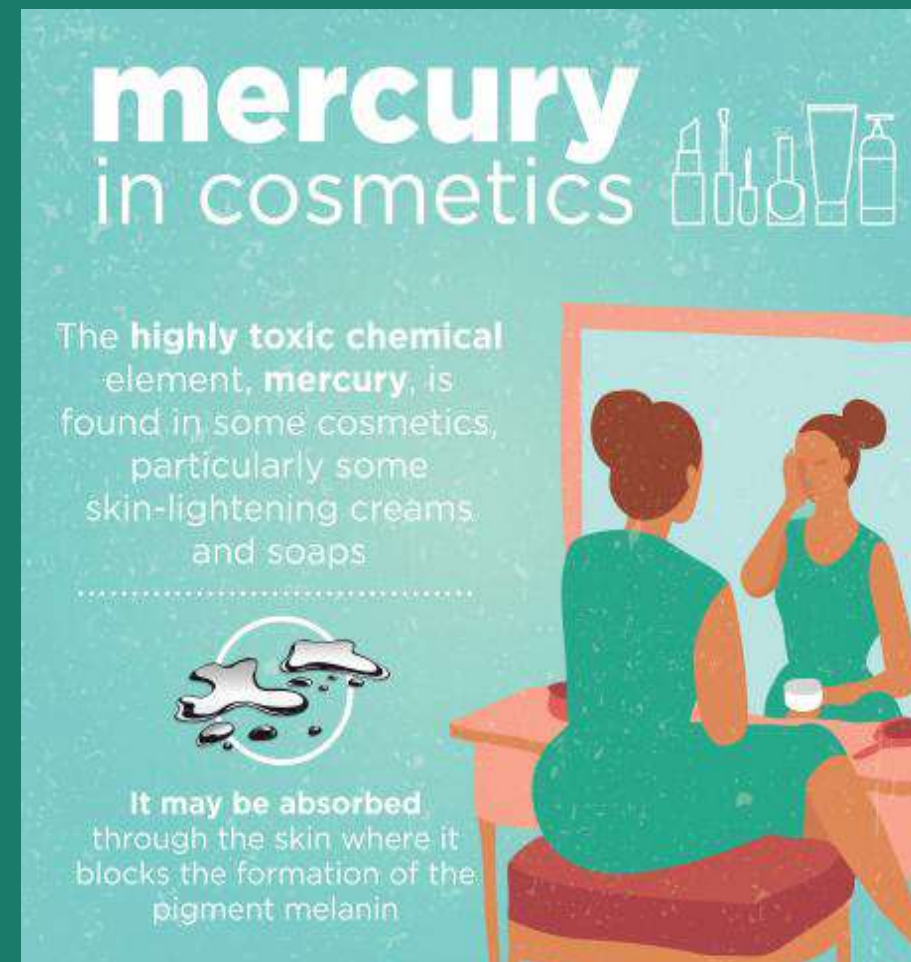
Approximately 30% of the global demand for mercury is due to its use in products.

Due to its properties as a good electricity conductor, its high density and high surface tension, mercury has historically been used in many products such as **certain**:

- Lighting devices (e.g.) CFLs, LFLs and High-pressure mercury vapour lamps
- Batteries
- Electrical Switches and Relays
- Non-electrical measuring devices
- Dental amalgam fillings
- Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics
- **Cosmetics such as mercury skin lightening products.**

Many of these products are being phased out with manufacturing countries phasing out mercury use under the Minamata Convention and other countries agreeing not to import/export them, the long-lasting impacts of mercury releases due to disposal still poses a risk to be addressed.

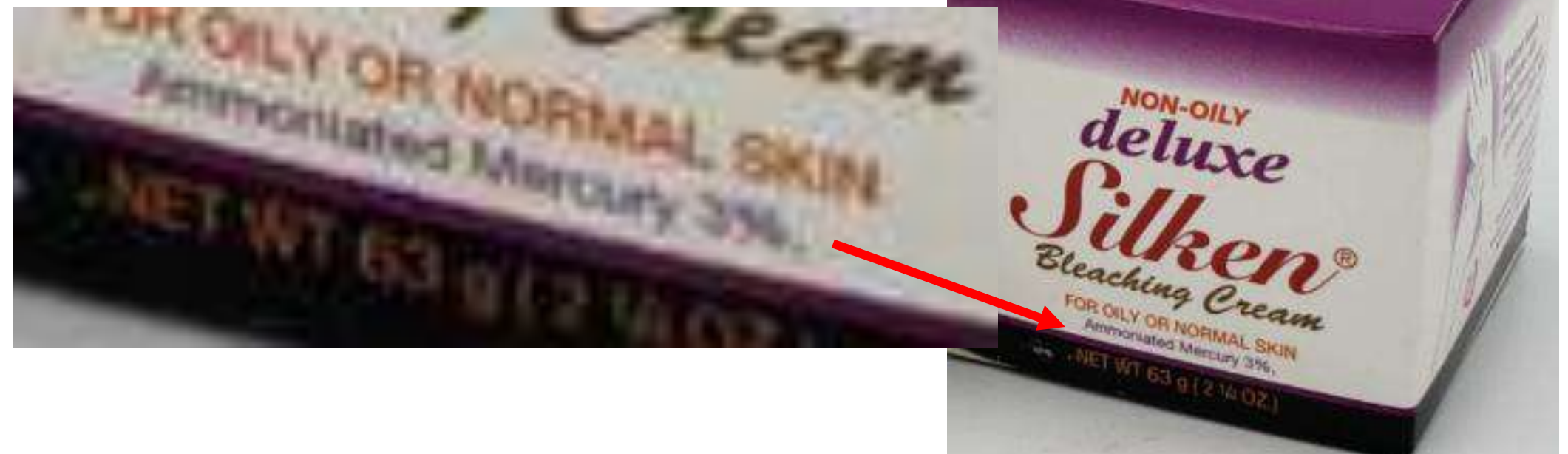
Photo Sources: BCRC-Caribbean, 2019



Trade of Mercury-added Skin Lightening Products (Hg SLPs)

Mercury Compounds Used for Manufacture of Mercury-added Skin Lightening Products:

- Mercury(I) chloride
- Mercury(II) oxide
- Mercury(II) amidochloride (ammoniated mercury) – *most popular Hg compound reported in Hg SLPs.*



Where are the mercury compounds for the manufacture of Hg SLPs sourced?



Where are mercury compounds for the manufacture of Hg SLPs sourced?

A 2023 investigation conducted by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) indicated that for Hg SLPs **manufactured in Thailand, Pakistan and Jamaica**, mercury compounds were imported by manufacturers **from India, Spain and the USA.**

Determining how these compounds were imported is unclear.

Identifying Hg SLPs on the global market...

There are very few Hg SLPs on the market that actually list mercury/mercury compounds as ingredients.

Many products are often unlabelled, mislabelled, do not list mercury (despite having very high concentrations) or list mercury under different trade names (e.g. calomel).

Determining if a SLP has mercury relies heavily on testing/forensic analysis and development of databases that can be accessed/referenced...



Identifying Hg SLPs on the global market...

Under the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project, BRI is compiling existing data on Hg SLPs and carrying out further testing in project countries (Sri Lanka, Jamaica and Gabon). Further supported by supply chain and online sales assessments that are ongoing.

Based on data collected to date, global trade routes for the export and import of mercury-added products are being tracked.

Note: The data generated reflects country manufacture information based on information provided on SLP labels. The actual manufacturing country may be different especially if mercury import/export is banned in that country.



Sri Lanka Hg SLP Trade

To date, mercury-added SLPs manufactured in Sri Lanka have been found in 1 country (Trinidad & Tobago) based on databases reviewed by BRI.

(~4000 data sources)



Sri Lanka Hg SLP Trade

To date, of 103 SLP products collected in a sampling exercise in Colombo, indicated 16 SLPs with mercury.

1 was manufactured in Sri Lanka while the rest were from India, Pakistan, France, Egypt and unknown countries.

Product Name	Product Type	THg Conc. [mg/kg] from DMA analyzer	Manufacturing country	Batch number and/or date of manufacture
Aroma Care Pearl Glow Triple Whitening Night Cream	Cream	15353.99	India	PGPV0001 (04/2024)
French White GOLD EDITION Perfect Radiance Intense Whitening Day & Night Cream	Cream	2223.32	France	14/03/2023
Olifair Radiant Effect- Pearls- Saffron night cream	Cream	7069.64	N/A	N/A
Ujooba Beauty Cream with Multivitamin. Extra White magical formula	Cream	24205.91	Pakistan	B.NV-1931, (11/2023)
Kanza Beauty Cream	Cream	29938.45	N/A	N/A
Fresh & White Beauty Cream (New!)	Cream	21509.86	Pakistan	(01/2024), barcode# 7896325147987
French White Perfect Radiance Intense Whitening Day & Night Cream	Cream	1768.89	France	3322 (20/02/2023)
French White GOLD EDITION Perfect Radiance Intense Whitening Day & Night Cream	Cream	1126.99	France	3322 (14/03/2023)
Diamond Herbal Whitening Lotion	Cream	1811.57	Sri Lanka	#1280, (07/2023)
Diamond Night cream	Cream	18141.42	Egypt	1280, (03/2024)
Olifair Professional Ultra Glow Day Serum	Serum	624.36	India	C-016, (08/2023)
Gorgeous Fairness Night cream	Cream	3147.48	India	L08/044, (01/2024)
AQEE Face Cream	Cream	8770.54	N/A	N/A
Skin Bright gold beauty cream	Cream	26314.27	Pakistan	B22001, (02/2022)
Goree Beauty Cream with lycopene	Cream	24561.95	Pakistan	GB142, (08/2023)
Janet ayurveda skin clear fairness treatment	Cream	2.52	Sri Lanka	4A612 (01/2024)

In today's training sessions, further information will be provided on tools to identify mercury, mercury compounds and mercury added products (specifically mercury added skin lightening products (Hg SLPs).

In further online sessions, regulatory approaches and the use of HS Codes etc. will be reviewed.

THANK YOU



Tahlia Ali Shah

International Environmental
Specialist



tahlia.alishah@briwildlife.org

Ashley Bastiansz

International Environmental
Specialist

Ashley.bastiansz@briwildlife.org

WEBSITE: www.briwildlife.org

For more information on mercury supply, sources and trade, download the draft Minamata Secretariat Report at:

https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/other/Global%20Mercury%20Compounds_Draft_FOR_COMMENTS.docx



BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
innovative wildlife science

Mercury Mass Flow in Sri Lanka

Kyaw Nyunt Maung
<kyaw.maung@un.org>

Overview

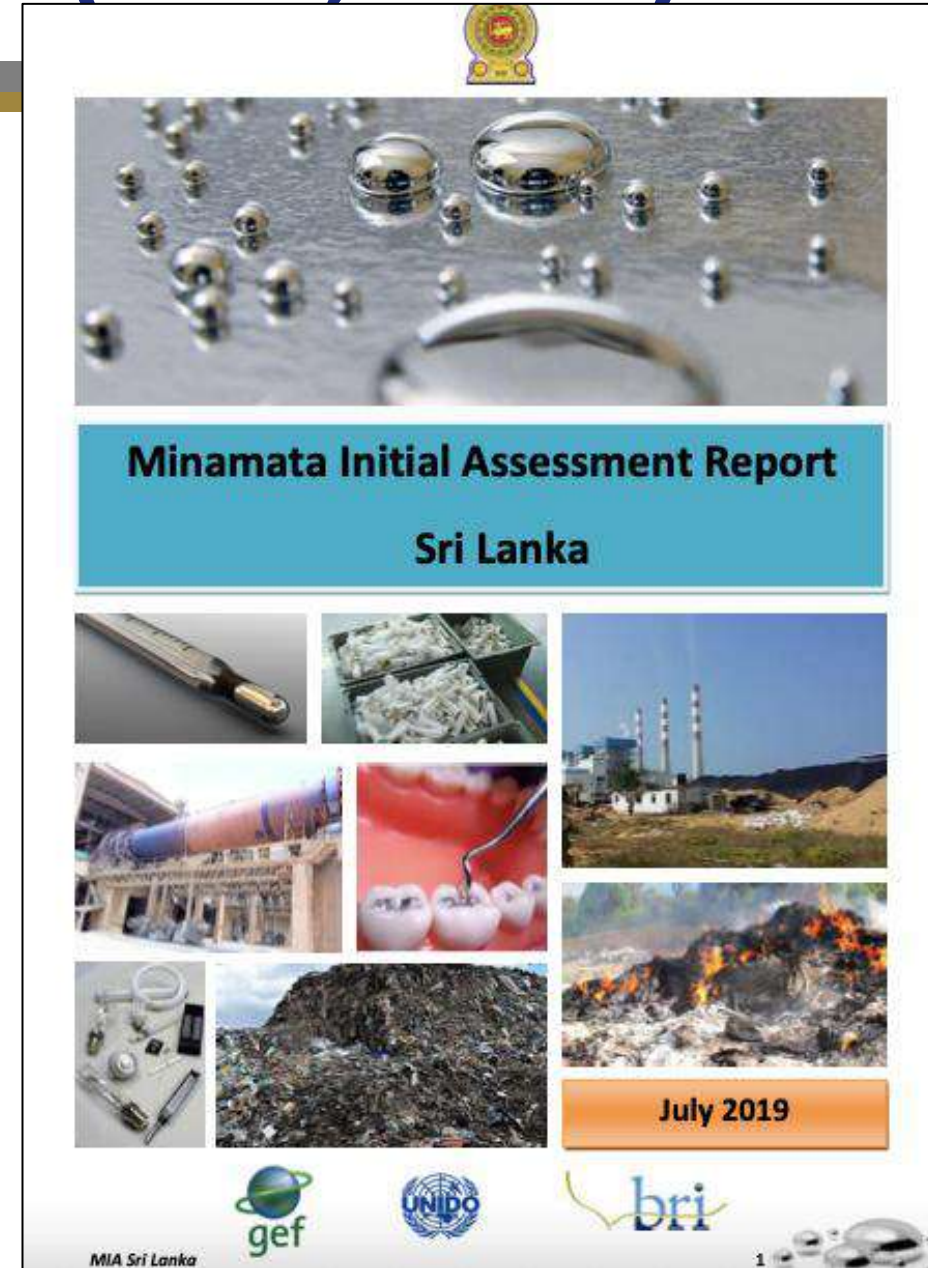
- Mercury Inventory in Sri Lanka
- Material Flow Analysis (MFA)
- UNEP Toolkit (IL3)
- Mercury Mass flow in Sri Lanka

Overview

- Mercury Inventory in Sri Lanka
- Material Flow Analysis (MFA)
- UNEP Toolkit (IL3)
- Mercury Mass flow in Sri Lanka

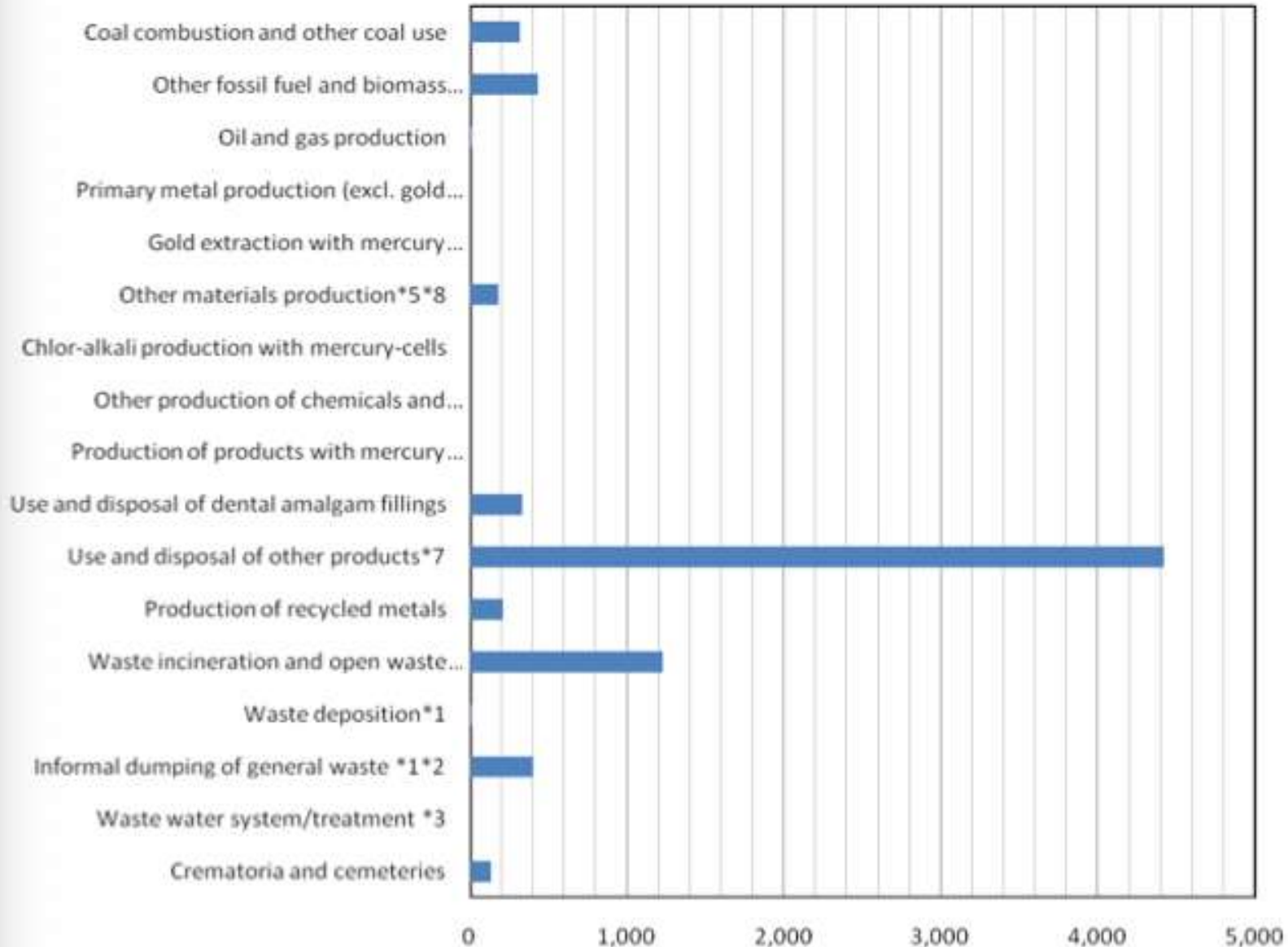
Mercury Inventory in Sri Lanka (MIA, 2019)

- Mercury inventory developed in 2017 as part of the Minamata Initial Assessment.
- Inventory Year: 2016/2017
- Scope:
 - Calculation of mercury inputs to society and releases from mercury sources.
- Relevant sectors considered for identifying mercury sources:
 - Industry
 - Health
 - Education



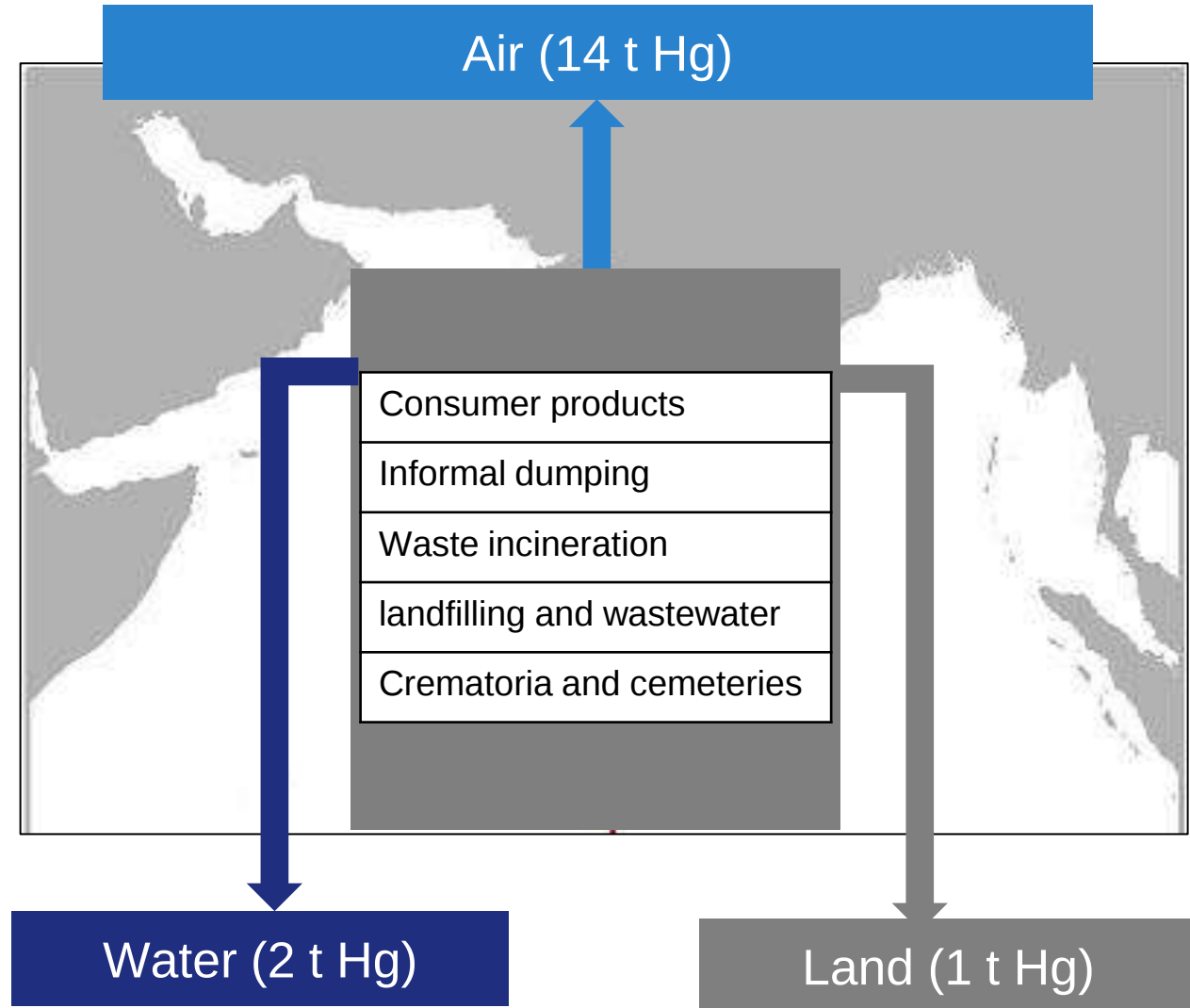
Mercury Inventory in Sri Lanka (MIA, 2019)

Mercury inputs to society



Summary of the toolkit results (MIA, 2019)

Mercury Emissions/Releases



Mercury added products in the MIAs

	Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs)								
	Indonesia (2022)	Malaysia (2021)	Maldives (2019)	Mongolia (2019)	Nepal (2019)	Palau (2024)	Philippines (2019)	Sri Lanka (2019)	Vietnam (2016)
Toolkit Inventory Level	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1
Thermometers	S	S	Co	UN	Co	N	S	Co	UN/Co
Electrical switches and relays with mercury	P	N	N	P	P	P	P	N	P
Light sources	S	N	Co	UN	Co	S	S	Co	S
Batteries	S	N	Co	UN	N	N	Co/UN	Co	N
Biocides and pesticides	N		N	N	N	N	S		N
Paints	N	N	Co	N	N	N	N	N	N
Cosmetics	S	N	Co	N	N	N	UN	N	N
Medical blood pressure gauages	S	S	Co	N	Co	N	S	N	N

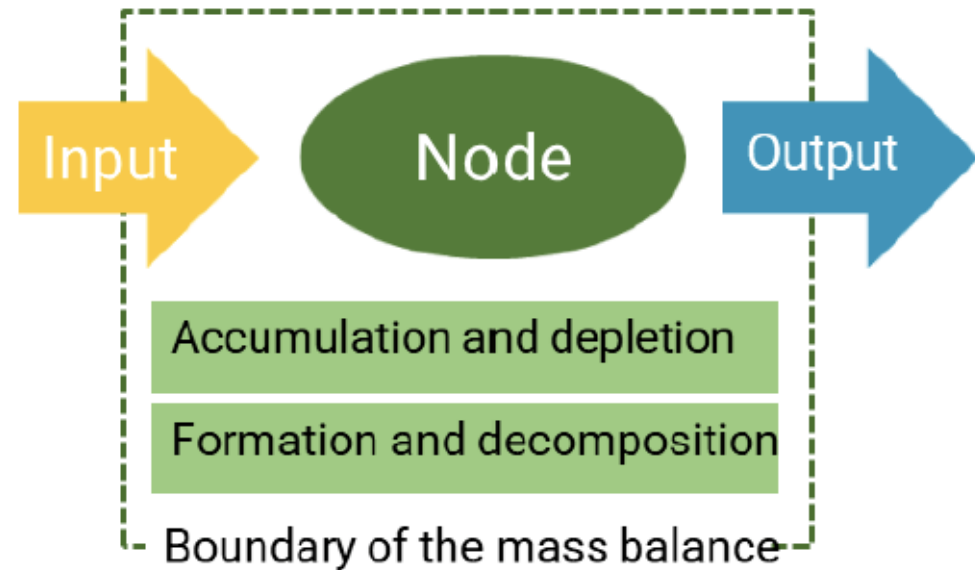
UN - Data from UN Comtrade; Co – Customs data (8-digit HS codes); S - National data (survey, associations, departments, own calculation, market observation, etc.); P – Population (Inventory default method); N – No source presence (or) unknown (or) No data

Overview

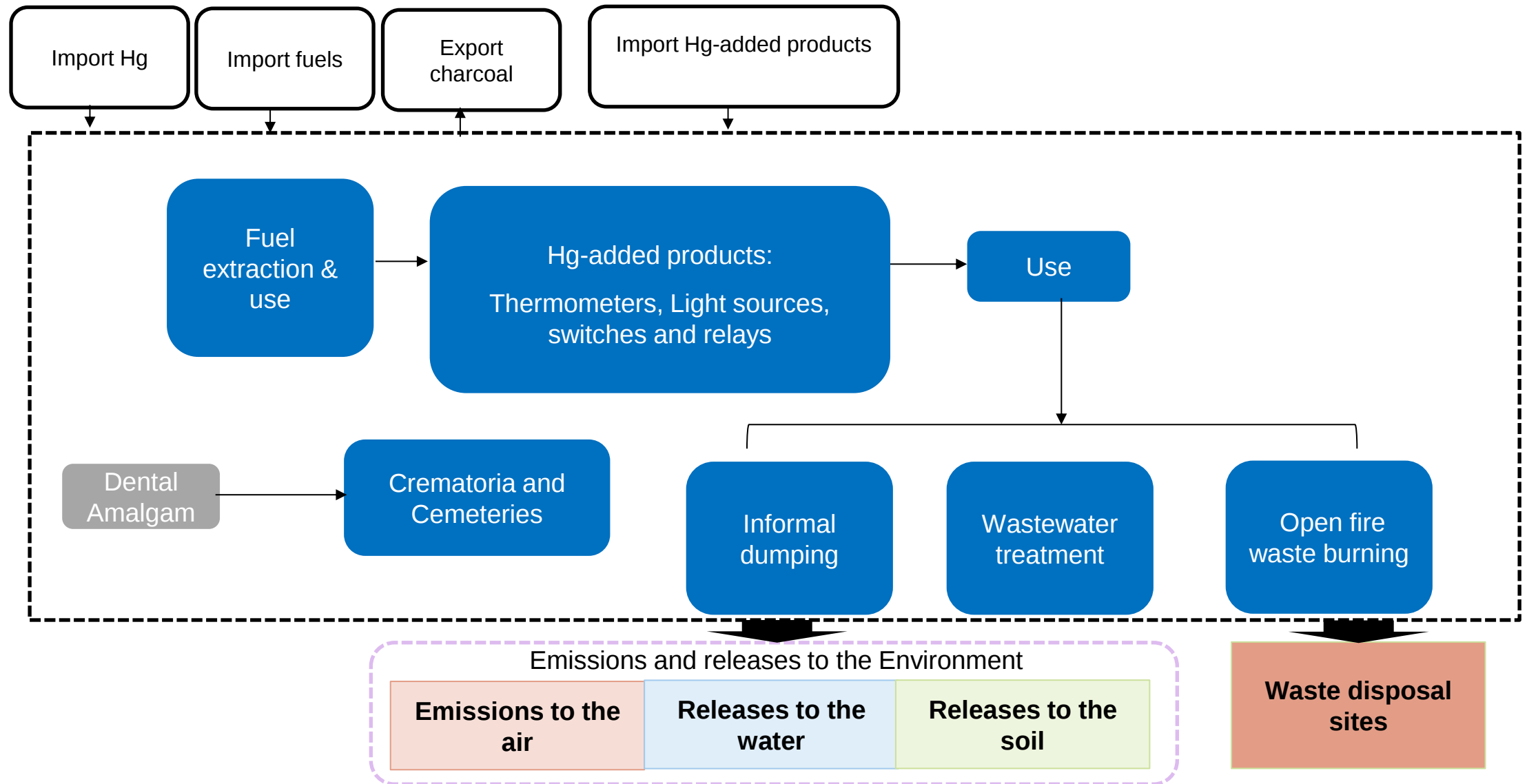
- Mercury Inventory in Sri Lanka
- **Material Flow Analysis (MFA)**
- UNEP Toolkit (IL3)
- Mercury Mass flow in Sri Lanka

Material Flow Analysis (MFA)

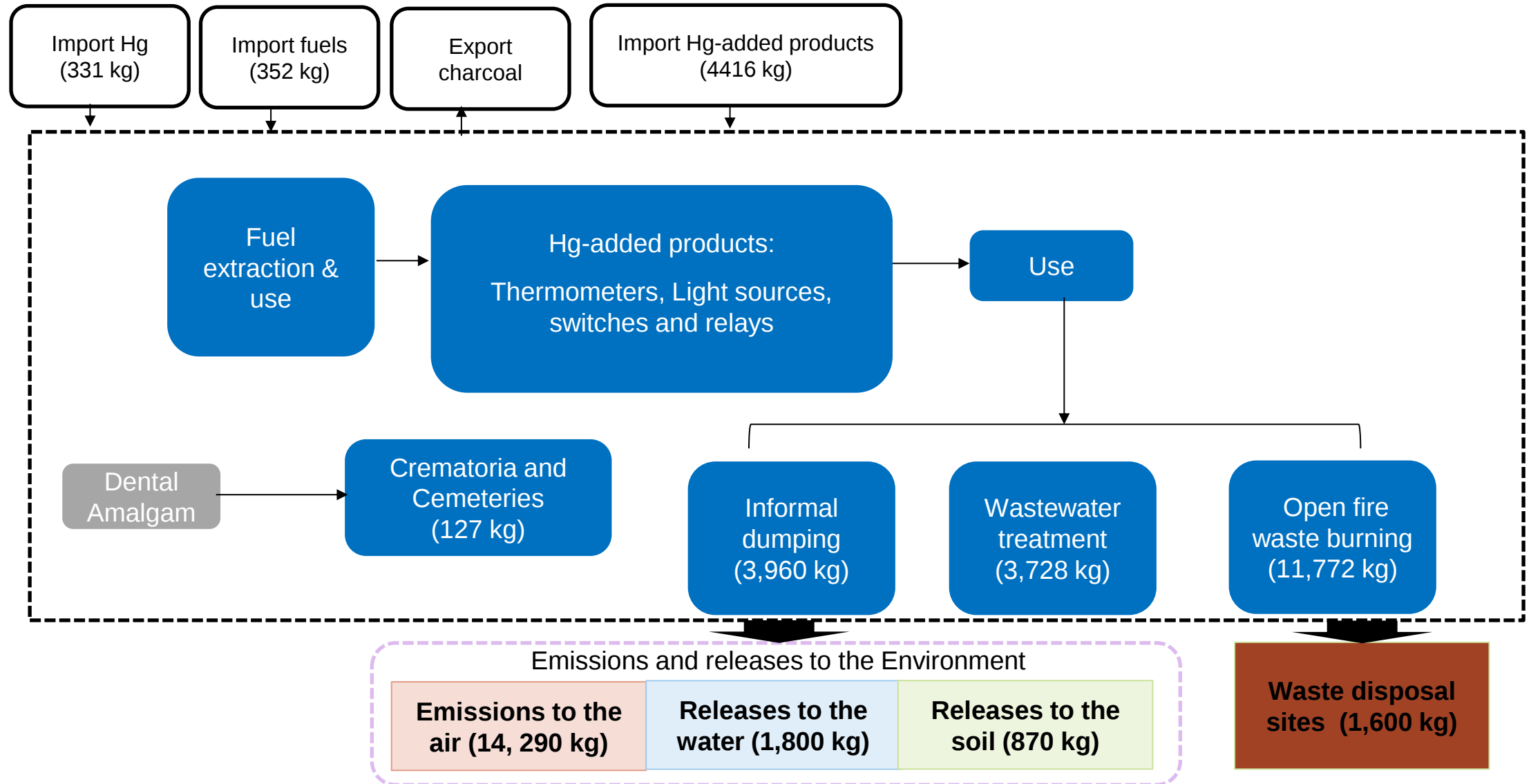
- Method to quantify flows and stocks of materials
- Study for physical/social aspects of human activities
- Principles:
 - System boundary
 - Process balance model
- Applications:
 - National accounting
 - Industrial process
 - Lifecycle of a substance/product



Mercury Mass Flow in Sri Lanka (MIA)



Mercury Mass Flow in Sri Lanka (MIA)



Overview

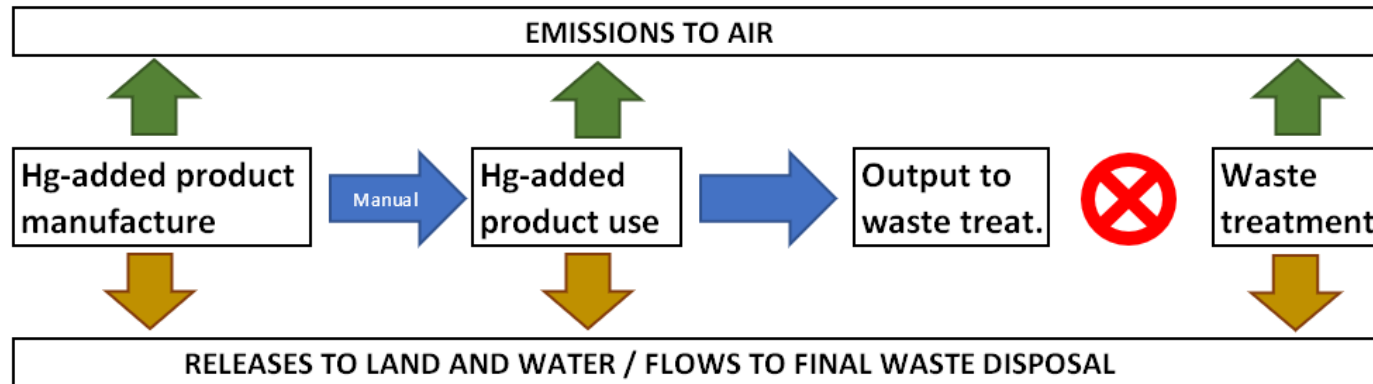
- Mercury Inventory in Sri Lanka
- Material Flow Analysis (MFA)
- **UNEP Toolkit (IL3)**
- Mercury Mass flow in Sri Lanka

Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases

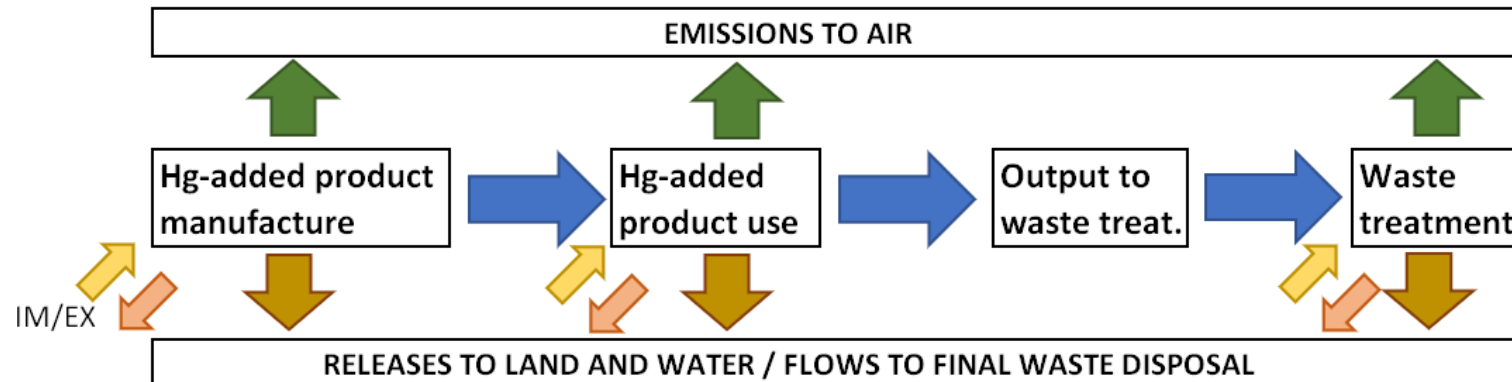
- UN Environment Toolkit is a tool for **estimating** anthropogenic mercury emissions (air) and releases (land and water) in a given country.
- The toolkit has been separated into three levels:
 - Level 1 (Simple, easy-to-use, uncertain)
 - Level 2 (Thorough, a bit complicated, more accurate)
 - Level 3 (full mass balance, further detailed, increase in accuracy)

How is IL3 different from Inventory Level 2?

IL2



IL3



Mercury added products in the MIAs

	Sri Lanka MIA (2019)	IL3 (2025)
Toolkit Inventory Level	1	3
Thermometers	Co	UN
Electrical switches and relays with mercury	N	P
Light sources	Co	UN
Batteries	Co	UN
Paints	N	UN
Cosmetics	N	UN
Medical blood pressure gauages	N	UN

- Trade data (2019-2023) from the UN COMTRADE database.

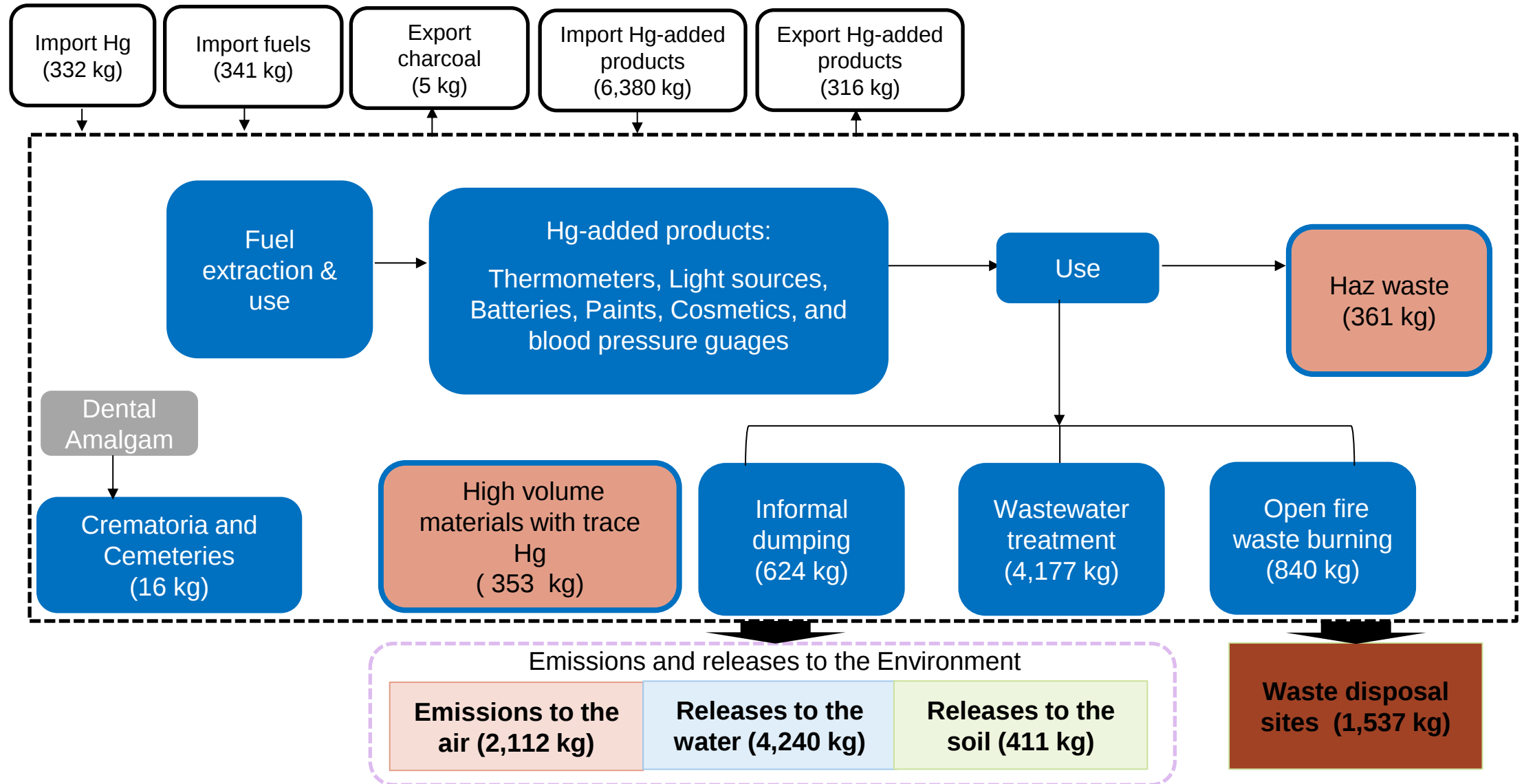
- 6-digit HS codes for possible mercury added products (Minamata Convention)

- UNEP Mercury Inventory Toolkit Level 3

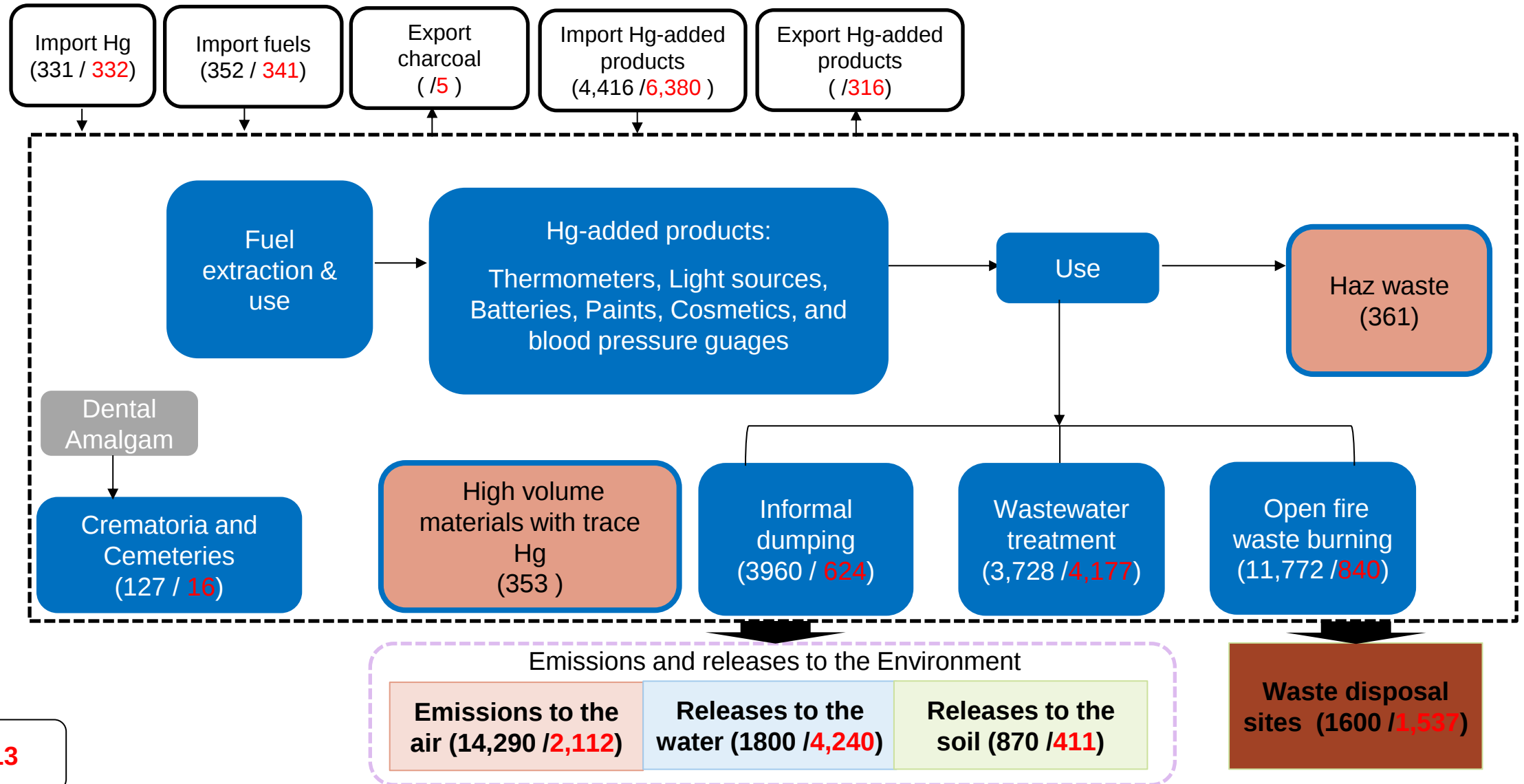
Overview

- Mercury Inventory in Sri Lanka
- Material Flow Analysis (MFA)
- UNEP Toolkit (IL3)
- **Mercury Mass flow in Sri Lanka**

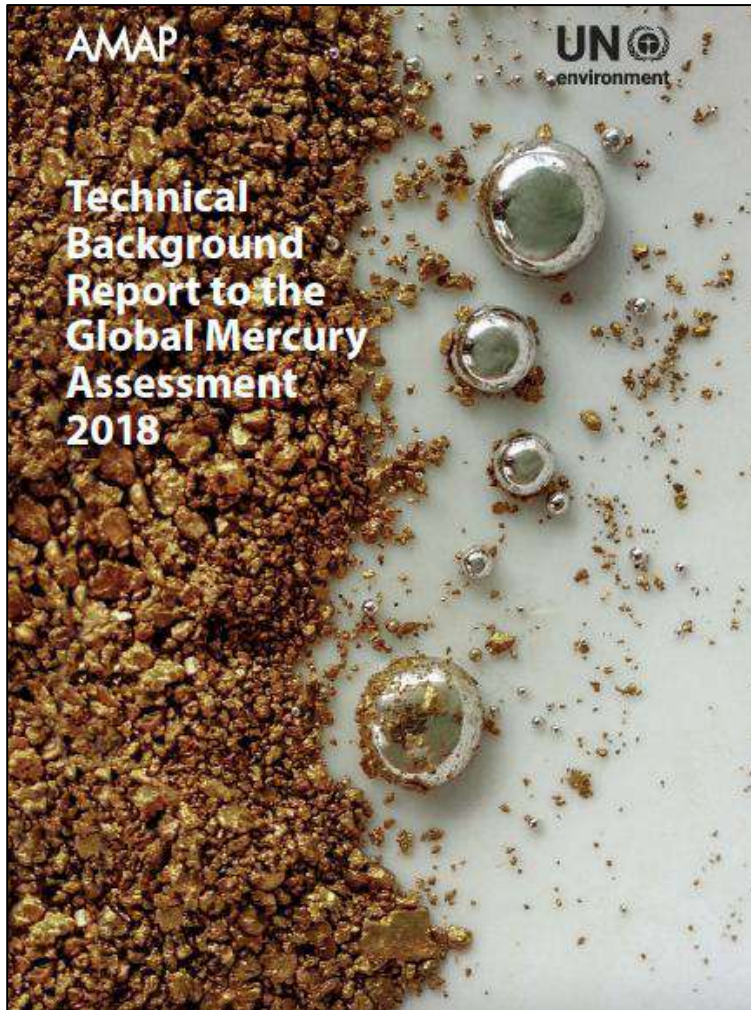
Mercury Mass Flow in Sri Lanka (IL3)



Mercury Mass Flow in Sri Lanka (MIA/IL3)

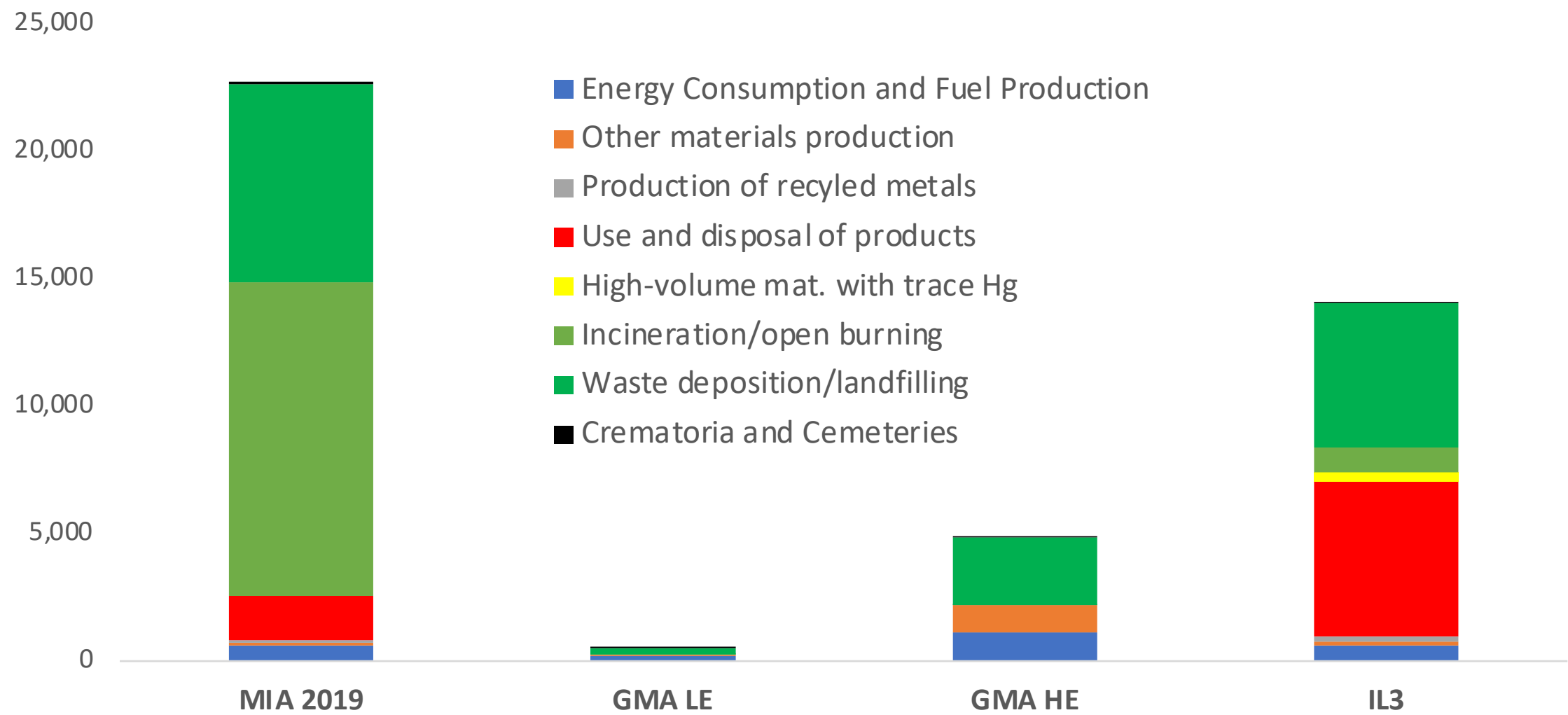


Global Mercury Assessment 2018 (2015)

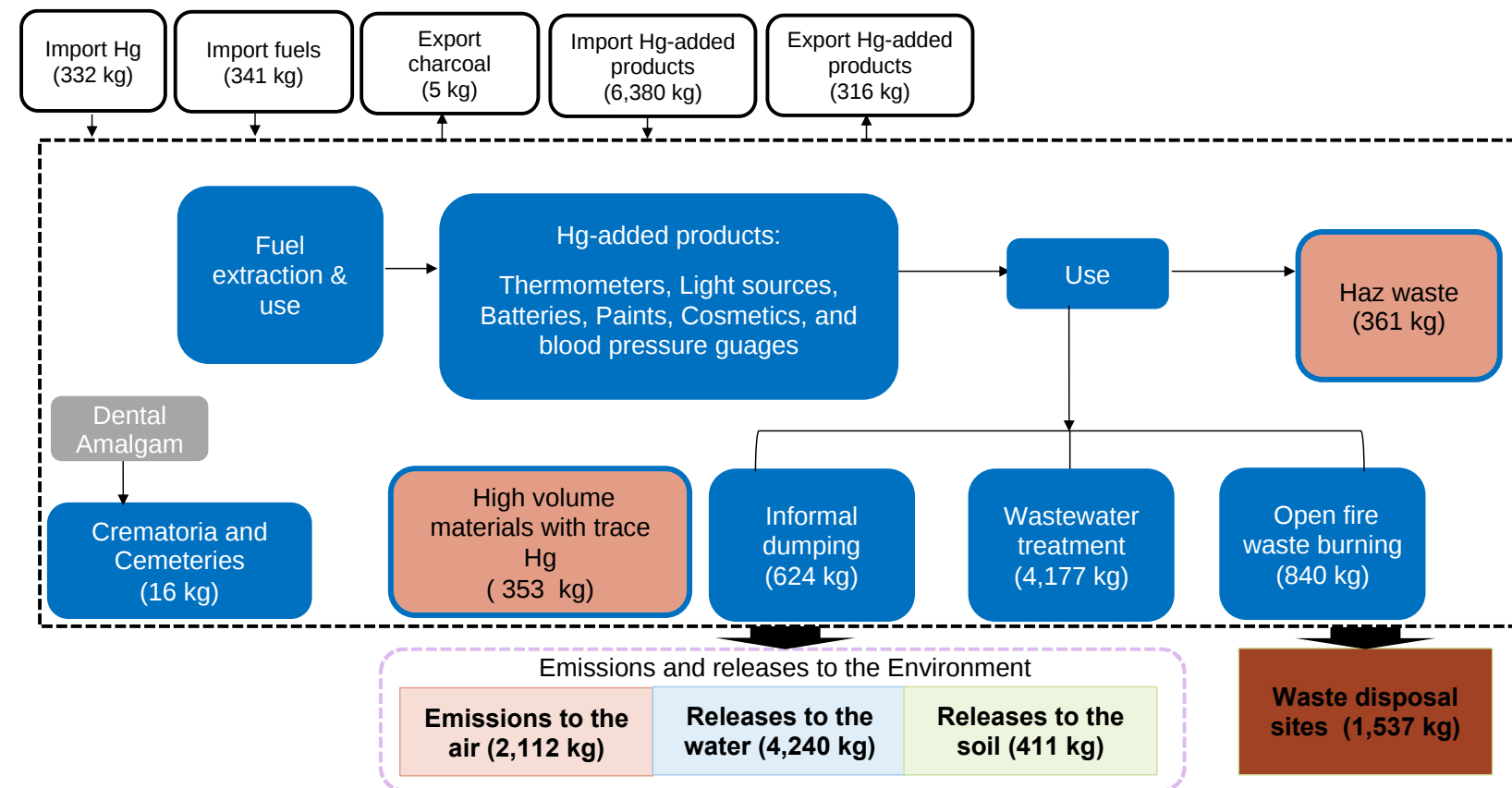


Country code	Country name	Region	Sector Code	Activity Code	Emission estimate, kg	Low range estimate, kg	High range estimate, kg	Technology group	Waste group
LKA	Sri Lanka	South Asia	BIO ^{DM}	PSB - DR	156.519	35.217	301.299	5	
			BIO	PSB - IND	89.770	20.198	172.807	5	
			BIO	PSB - PP	1.968	0.443	3.787	5	
			CEM	CEM	205.465	72.573	1083.121	5	
			CREM	CREM	12.737	10.553	14.556		4
			OR	CO-OR	3.056	1.375	5.043	5	
			SC-DR-oil	CO-HF-DR	0.800	0.180	1.540	5	
			SC-DR-oil	CO-LF-DR	3.624	0.815	6.976	5	
			SC-IND-coal	HC-IND-CEM	13.050	7.047	31.103	5	
			SC-IND-oil	CO-HF-IND	13.680	3.078	26.334	5	
			SC-IND-oil	CO-LF-IND	0.218	0.049	0.420	5	
			SC-PP-coal	HC-B-PP	211.500	114.210	504.075	5	
			SC-PP-oil	CO-HF-PP	5.800	1.305	11.165	5	
			SC-PP-oil	CO-LF-PP	0.172	0.039	0.331	5	
			SSC	SP-S	0.899	0.335	4.289	5	
			WASOTH	WASOTH	885.287	265.586	2655.862		4
			WI	WI	2.770	0.831	8.311		4

Comparison of Sri Lanka MIA with GMA 2018 and IL3 estimate



Mercury Mass Flow in Sri Lanka



- It can identify key mercury source types and its emission and release hotspots.
- The implementation of **import regulations** is essential, considering its impact.
- It can be also used to support mercury management **through trade control enforcement**

Thank you!

kyaw.maung@un.org

HEALTH EFFECTS OF MERCURY

National Customs Training to Enhance Cross-Agency Coordination to Control Mercury Trade
Colombo, Sri Lanka (2 June 2025)

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON MERCURY RISK REDUCTION IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

Exposure to mercury – one of the top 10 chemicals of major public health concern

Encourages Member States

- Promptly sign, ratify & implement Minamata Convention
- Address health aspects of exposure to mercury
- Recognize inter-relationship between health & environment & ensure close cooperation
- Promote appropriate health-care services for prevention, treatment & care
- Facilitate exchange of epidemiological information



WHA Resolution 67.11 (2014)

Requests WHO to facilitate & support Member States & work in cooperation with Minamata Convention bodies, UNEP, and others

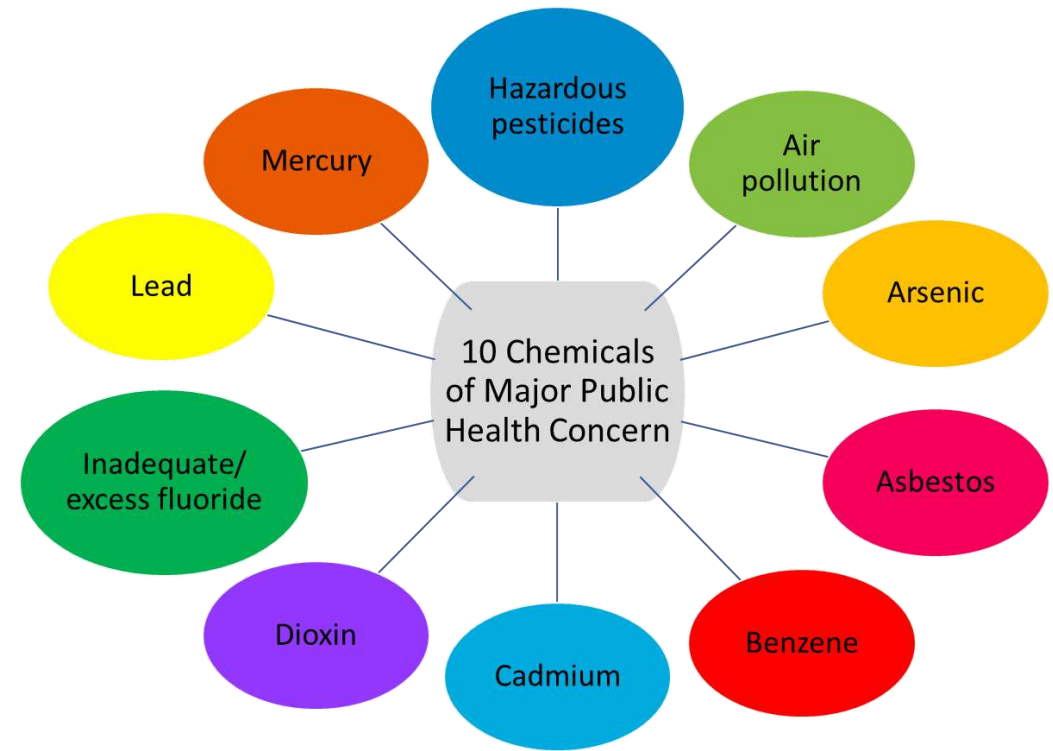
CHEMICALS ARE UBIQUITOUS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

- Chemical production continues to increase
- More than 160 million chemicals known to humans
- The toxicity of most is unknown
- Data on everyday exposure is limited to a small number of chemicals
- WHO estimated 2 million deaths globally were attributed to select chemical exposures in 2019
- Children and adults are exposed to chemicals everyday

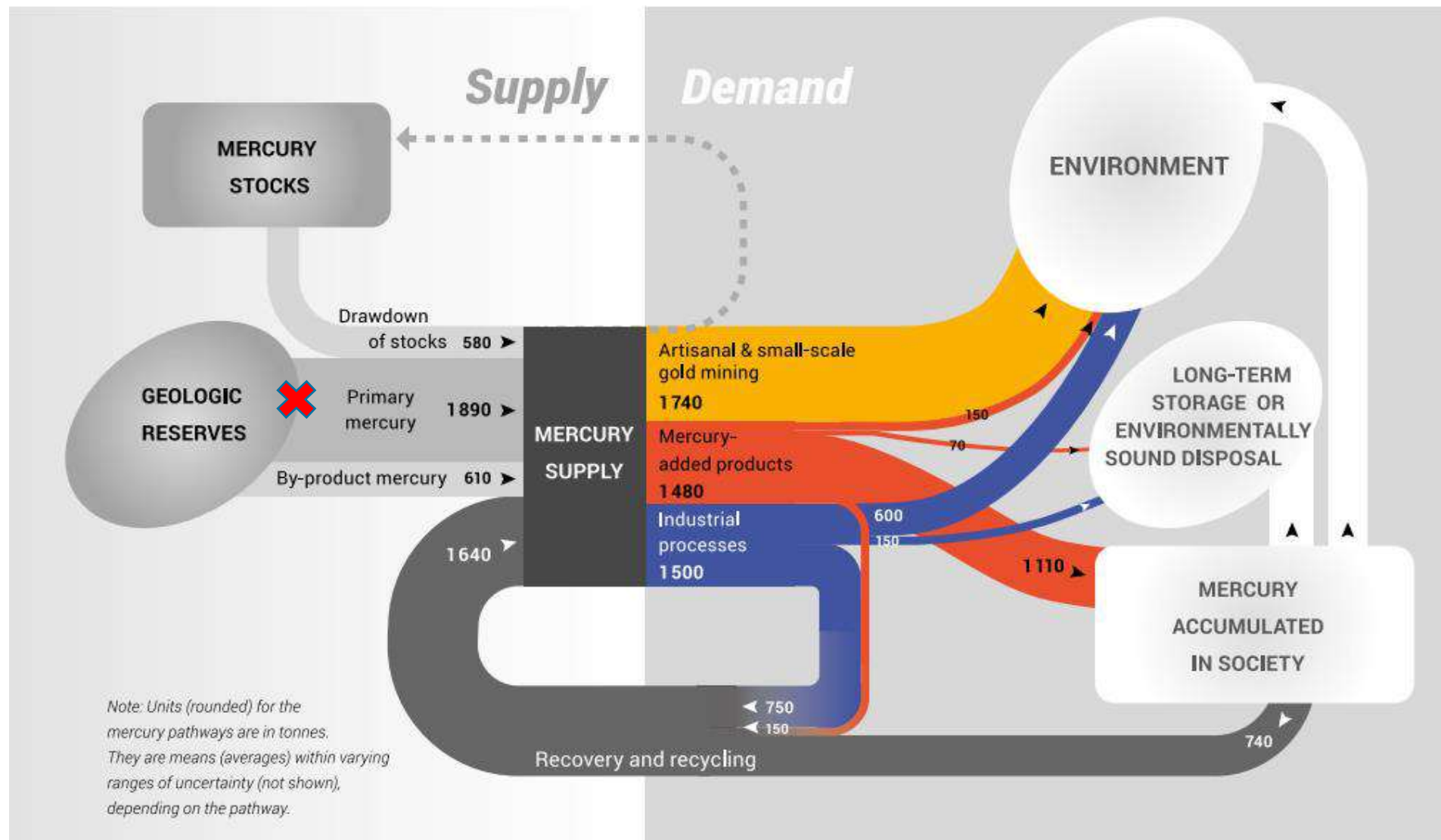


KEY FACTS

- Mercury is a naturally occurring element that is found in air, water and soil.
- Exposure to mercury – even small amounts – may cause serious health problems, and is a threat to the development of the child in utero and early in life.
- Mercury may have toxic effects on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, and on lungs, kidneys, skin and eyes.
- Mercury is considered by WHO as one of the top ten chemicals of major public health concern.
- Role of ministries of public health and WHO
- People are mainly exposed to methylmercury, an organic compound, when they eat fish and shellfish that contain the compound.
- Methylmercury is very different to ethylmercury. Ethylmercury is contained in thiomersal as a preservative in some vaccines and does not pose a health risk.



GLOBAL MERCURY SUPPLY - 4785 TONNES IN 2015



HUMAN EXPOSURE IS POSSIBLE FROM DIVERSE USES



- **Industrial exposures** – Primary mercury mining, Vinyl chloride monomer production, e-waste scavenging, laboratories, manufacture of mercuric salts

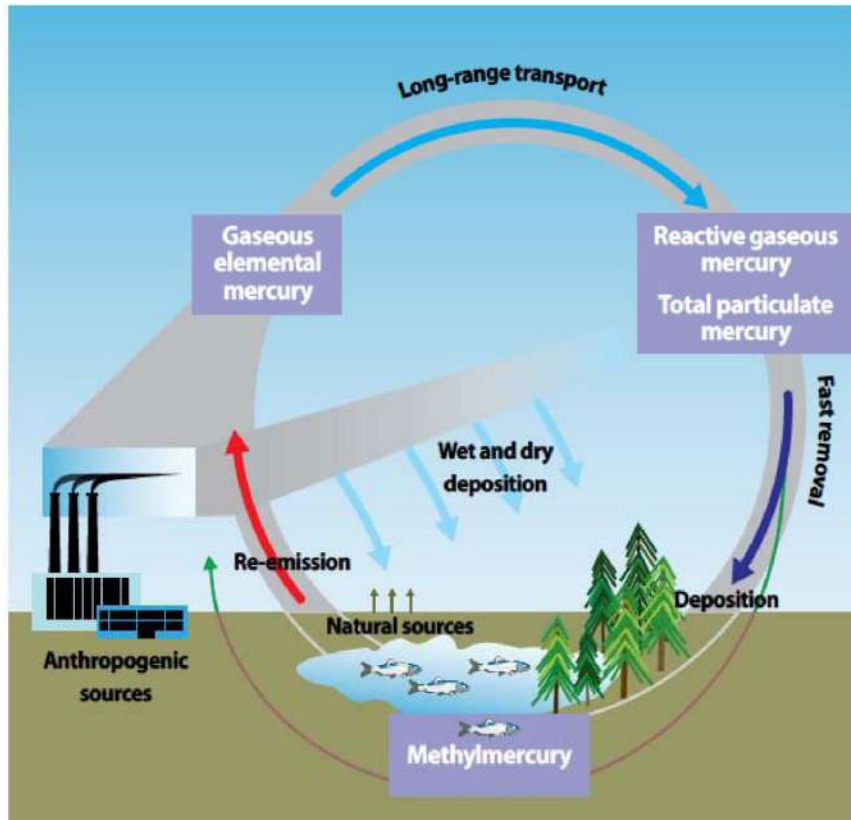


- **Mercury-containing products** – batteries, paints, cosmetics, fluorescent lamps, dental amalgam

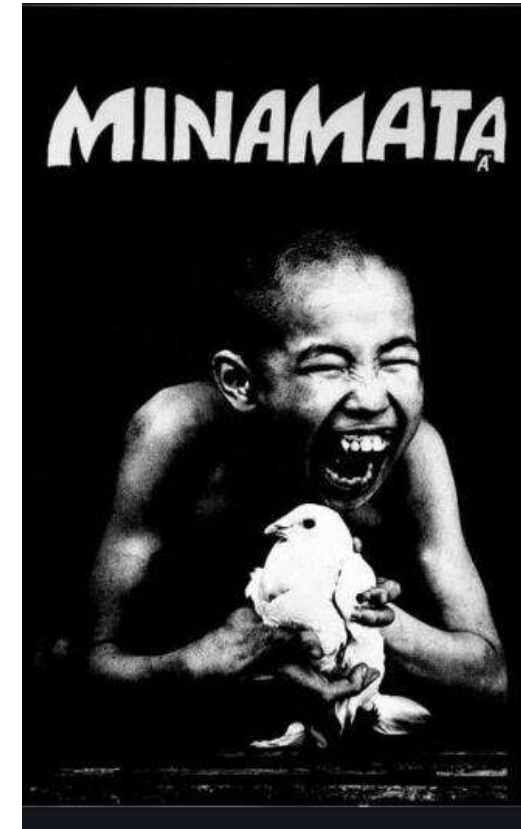


- **Artisanal & small scale gold mining** – amalgamation of gold from breaking up gold-bearing rocks & tailings

RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT CAN ALSO CAUSE HUMAN EXPOSURE



Children of subsistence fishermen
1.5-17/1000 with cognitive effects from
methyl mercury



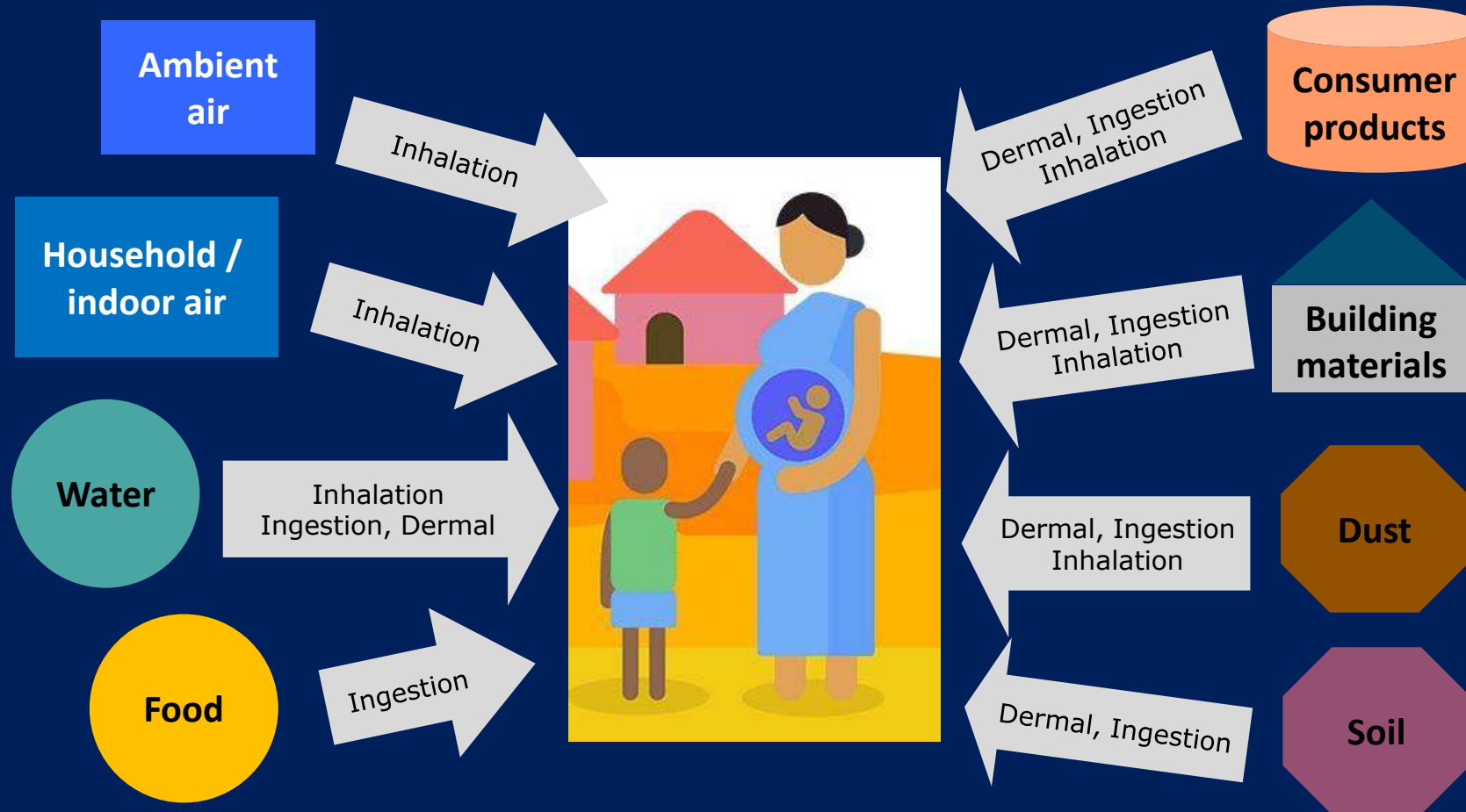
Chronic exposure Methylmercury
(1932 -1968). More than 2000 victims
officially recognized

HUMAN HEALTH IMPACTS

Impacts on health vary by:

- **Type of mercury:** Elemental mercury vapor, Inorganic salts, Organic mercury compounds
- **Route of exposure;** ingestion. Skin exposure, inhalation
- **Age/developmental stage;** in-utero fetal development
- **Duration of exposure:** e.g. eating contaminated fish
- **Conditions:** Labour intensive ASGM,

Routes of exposure



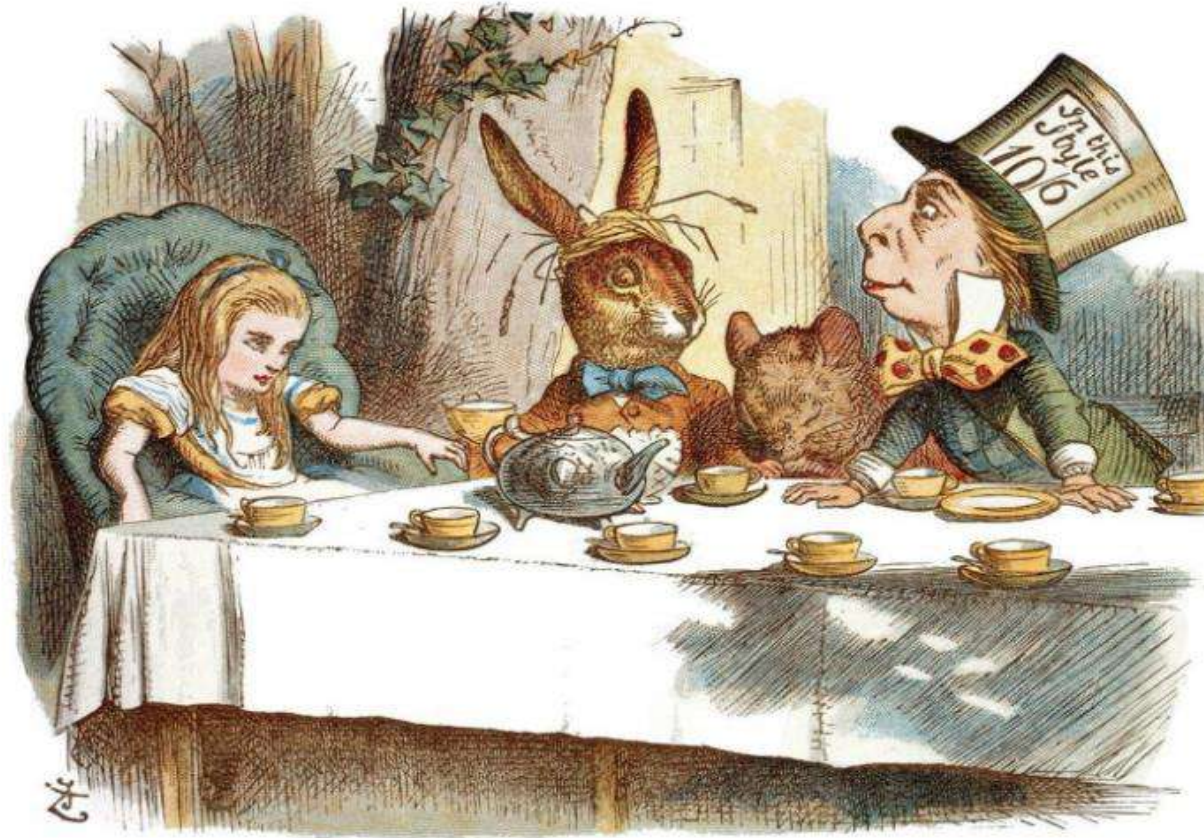
Transplacental exposure can affect fetal health



World Health
Organization

Typical severe mercury exposure symptoms

Central Nervous System



“Mad as a Hatter”

Specificity of mercury human biomonitoring

Mercury form	Source of exposure	Pathway of exposure	Biological matrix for HBM	Health end-points
Elemental Hg^0	Dental amalgam, air, accidental spills, worksites, food from contaminated sites	Inhalation (HL)	Blood Urine	Acute: lungs, gastrointestinal tract
		Ingestion (UL)		Chronic: central nervous system (anxiety, delirium, tremor, memory loss), kidneys - REVERSABLE
		Dermal (UL)		
Inorganic Hg^{2+}	Cosmetics, soaps	Ingestion (UL)	Blood Urine	Acute: gastrointestinal tract, kidneys
		Dermal (L)		Chronic: kidneys, central nervous system (the same like to elemental mercury), skin, immune system - REVERSABLE
Organic <u>MeHg</u>	Food, mother during pregnancy	Ingestion (HL)	Blood Hair	Central nervous system – developmental disorders caused by organic change in brain relevant to low-dose impact), cardiovascular system - IRREVERSABLE
		Parenteral (HL)		
		Transplacental (HL)		



World Health
Organization



HEALTH
FOR ALL

TYPE OF EXPOSURE

Acute: exposure over a short period of time (e.g., 24 hours)

- Single: a single or unique and continuous exposure
- Repeated: multiple exposures; potential accumulation
- "Hit and run": acute exposure leading to delayed effects once the toxicant is gone

Chronic or long-term: continuous or repeated exposure, e.g., more than 24 hours, for weeks or months

"Acute on chronic": an acute exposure against a background of chronic exposure to the same agent



High and low dose exposures

High-dose exposure

→ Poisoning

- E.g. Abdominal pain due to lead

Low-dose exposure

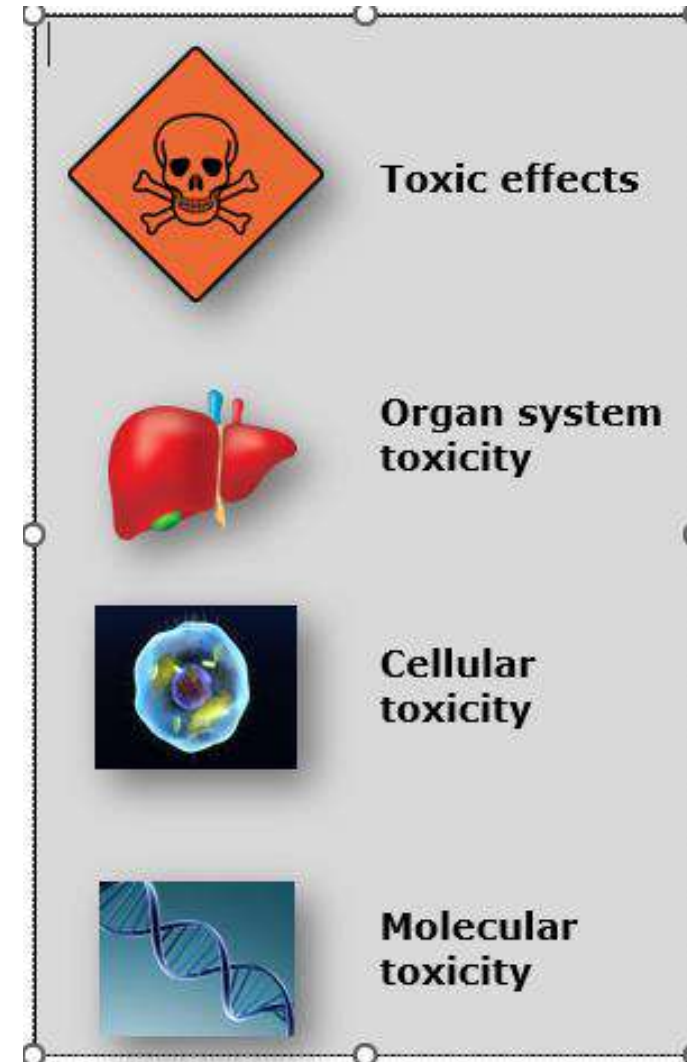
→ Subtle effects

- E.g. Adverse effects on neurodevelopment (e.g. lead)



Common mechanisms of action

- Cytotoxicity
- Oxidative stress
- Mutagenesis
- Genotoxicity
- Endocrine disruption
- Sensitization/ immunosuppression



Chronic exposure may be associated with lifelong health outcomes

- Neonatal conditions
- Congenital anomalies
- Neurological, mental and behavioural disorders
- Asthma and other respiratory diseases
- Cancer



TOXIC EFFECTS OCCUR IN CRITICAL ORGANS AND SYSTEMS



- Central nervous system
- Immune system
- Endocrine system
- Other organs/systems

Hyperpigmentation of the skin is a condition of a number of diseases & conditions



Skin damage – sun exposure
Side effects of drugs eg contraceptives
Pregnancy
Injury, scarring, acne etc



Melasma
Autoimmune disease – Addisons disease
& Vertiligo

Skin lightening is another story

Often referred to as “skin bleaching” or “skin toning”



Prevention is the single most effective means of protecting health

Health care providers play a key role in:

- Identifying the problem
- Defining its determinants and characteristics
- Informing the community – and the children
- Educating colleagues and other professionals
- Raising the awareness of policy-makers
- Promoting the implementation of appropriate measures
- Evaluating the efficacy of preventive measures



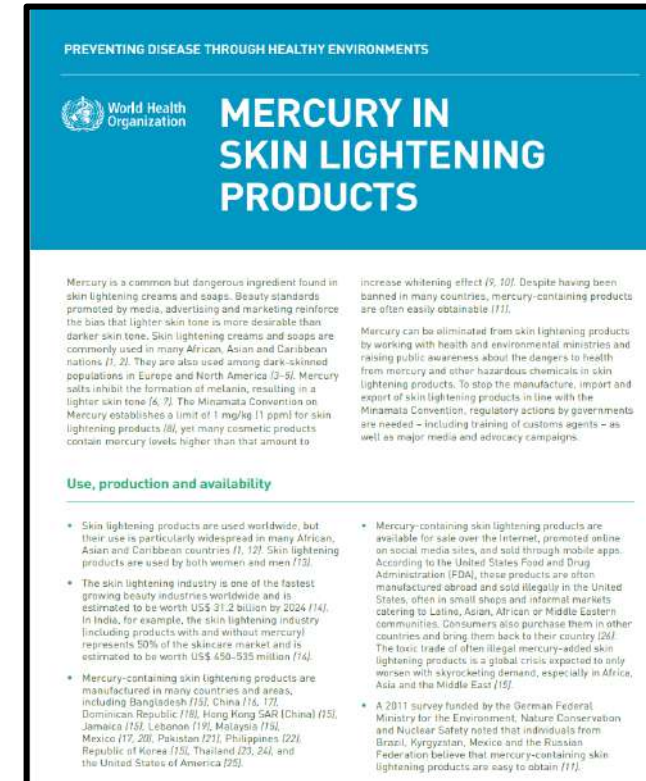
WHO technical resources on skin lightening products

Video

(<https://www.who.int/multi-media/details/mercury-in-skin-lightening-products0.int>)



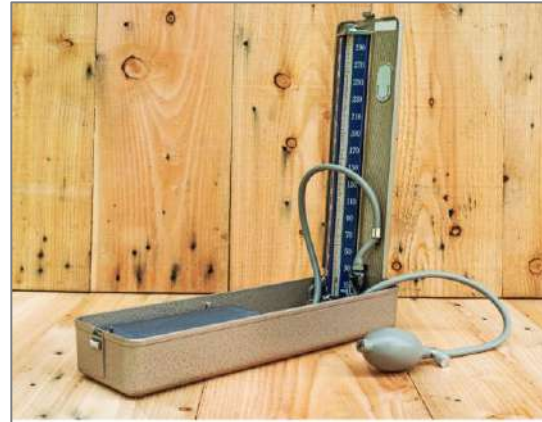
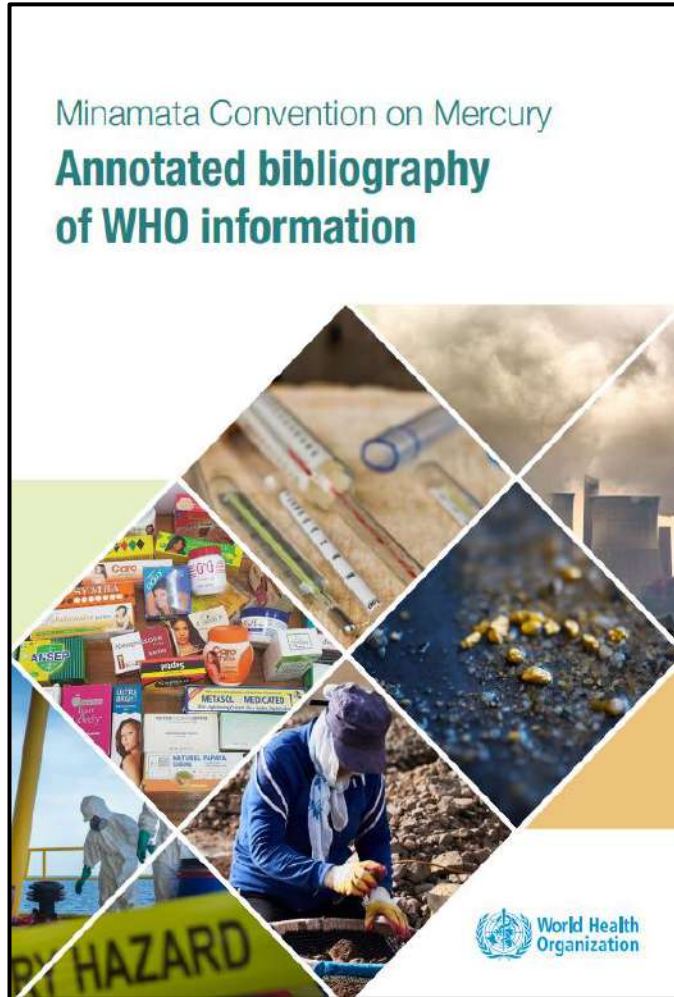
Introductory Fact Sheet



Not all skin-lightening products contain mercury

[Elimination of mercury-containing skin lightening products](#)

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WHO INFORMATION



Sphygmomanometers



Thermometers



Skin-lightening products

Provides key information resources relevant to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the associated World Health Assembly Resolution WHA67.11 Public health impacts of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds: the role of WHO and ministries of public health in the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

Other languages: [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [French](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#)

Urgent need to strengthen health engagement and leadership in Minamata efforts



- In half of responding countries (61) Ministries of Health were not involved in developing MIAs
- Need to raise awareness on the broader range of mercury issues as they link to health
- Must have more viable, cost-effective and regulated alternatives + supplies chains in place to maintain functionality

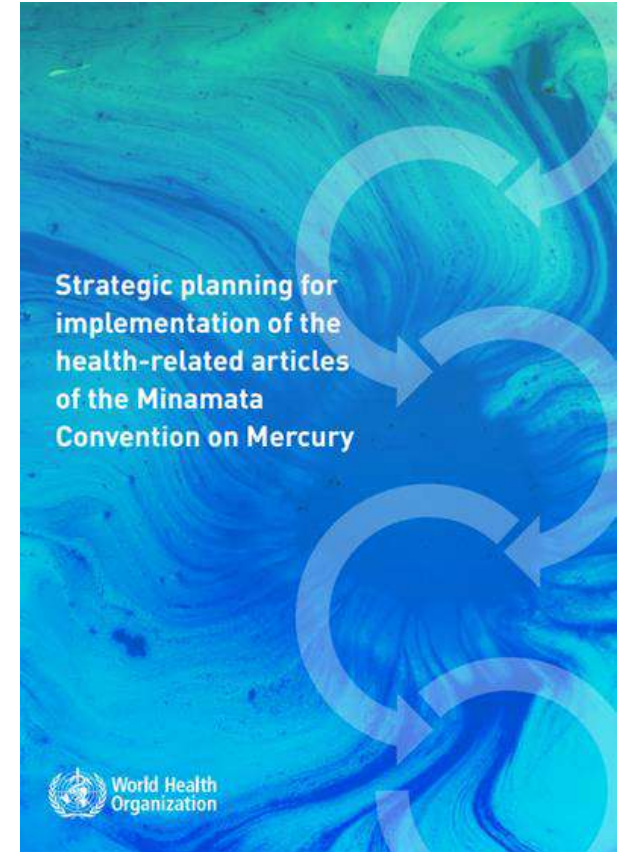
REVIEW OF MINAMATA CONVENTION INITIAL ASSESSMENT REPORTS

Key findings for health



CONCLUSIONS

- Engagement with health sector critically important when taking measures to address thermometers and sphygmomanometers
- Much work already underway with national policies & procurement decisions including at health care level
- WHO has a mandate to work with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention to address the health-related articles
- Targeted efforts supported by the GEF will give this work additional boost – additional technical guidance & model approaches incl. regulation expected outputs
- Mercury waste management is not only a public health necessity but a critical enabler of sustainable development.
- By integrating mercury control into national policies and waste systems, countries can make progress across a broad spectrum of the SDGs—ensuring healthier people, cleaner environments, and safer economies.



Thank you

For more information, please contact:

Elena Jardan: jardane@who.int

This presentation has been designed to be accessible, for a positive and inclusive user experience for all.





GEF-VII: Integrated Management and Environmentally Sound Disposal of POPs Pesticides in Agriculture Sector and Mercury and Waste in Healthcare Sector in Sri Lanka

15.03.2025

Project Brief



Funded by: Global Environmental Facility (GEF) –Out of STAR Allocations

Project Duration: 5 Years (2024 – 2029)

Project Objective: To improve the implementation of regulations, strengthen national systems & capacities in chemicals management, and support the transformation of healthcare waste management systems

GEF Grant Amount: USD 5,040,000

Total Co-financing: USD 33,157,800

Implement Partner: Ministry of Environment

Implementation Modality: UNDP CO support to NIM

Other Project Partners: Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Education, Provincial Councils & Local Governments, Private Sector

Geographical Area: National with project demonstrations in Northwestern, Eastern and Western Provinces

Objective

- The Project objective is to improve the implementation of regulations, strengthen national systems and capacities in chemicals management, and support the transformation of healthcare waste management systems



Components

1

- Strengthen the Policy, Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks for the management of POPs, Mercury and other Chemicals of Concern (CoC)

2

- Environmentally sound management disposal of obsolete stocks of Agrichemicals POPs, Mercury and their wastes

3

- Establish Healthcare Waste Management (HCWM) Systems to effectively prevent U-POPs emissions, and develop Business Models for waste disposal at Healthcare Facilities which are aligned to the national COVID-19 recovery efforts

4

- Knowledge Sharing, Management & Evaluation

Component 1



(a) Strengthening the Enforcement of Policy and Regulations on Chemical Management

- Revision of inventories of all chemicals and establish inventories for those included in the SC in 2011 and 2013.
- Centralize the chemical Control system, laboratory for POPs and CoCs is improved, and enforce the monitoring of imports and use of chemicals.
- Institutional coordination system strengthened.



Component 1:

(b) Create National Conditions to Scale Up Mercury Phase-Out in the Health Sector

- Green procurement standard established including consideration of bulk procurement for replacement of mercury based medical devices
- Develop a green finance framework for the procurement of mercury-free products and HCWM



Component 2



Environmentally sound disposal of obsolete stocks of POPs chemicals, residual mercury and waste containing and/or contaminated with POPs chemicals and mercury

- Disposal of mercury and mercury waste stocks recovered from mercury phaseout initiatives and processes in the health sector
- Systems including inventories for continuation of safe storage and disposal of mercury and mercury waste established
- Guidance for inventory of mercury /POPs contaminated sites developed and piloted.
- Stocks of remaining obsolete POPs pesticides, contaminated chemicals and containers
- Guidance tools and guidelines for decontamination of Mercury/ POPs contaminated sites developed and tested

Component 3

Long-term sound management strategies of healthcare waste (considering recovery from Covid-19 and preparedness for emergencies too). Develop business models for HCWM

- Standards and regulations on HCWM revised, based on the demonstration of the introduction of the data management systems to improve monitoring in 6 selected hospitals
- Integrated resource recovery programmes demonstrated in the above 6 locations
- Establish two CCWTF based on non-incineration technologies and PPP in Northwestern and Eastern Provinces to service M/S scale healthcare facilities
 - Northwestern (10 y) IRR 24% :1000 kg/d (provided that 700 kg/d comes from THK)
 - East (10y) IRR 4%- 475kg/d
- Training and capacity building of LAs
- Improve the operation of hybrid autoclave facilities that are in use at hospitals

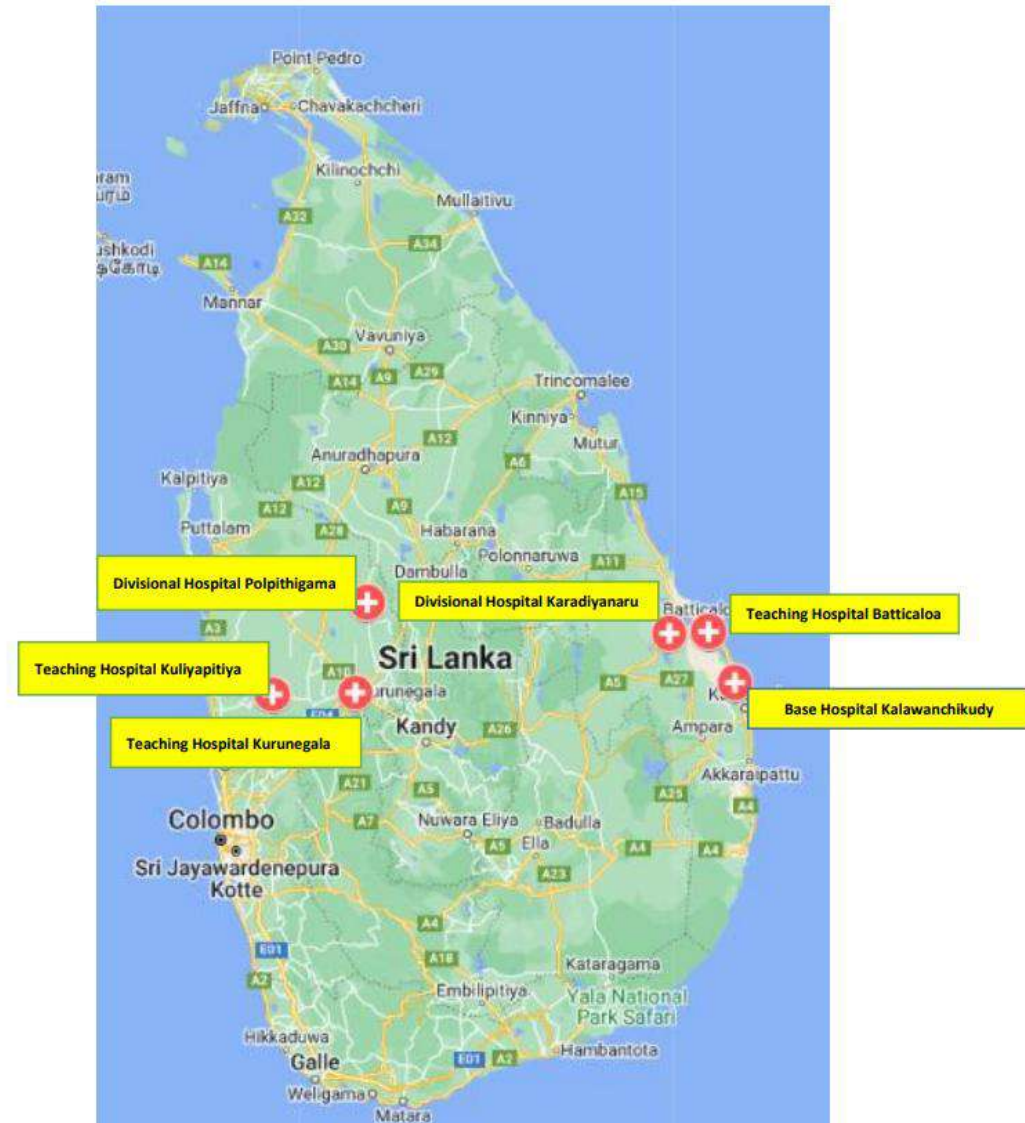
HCWM Pilot Sites

NorthWestern Province

- Teaching Hospital Kurunegala
- Teaching Hospital Kuliypitiya
- Divisional Hospital Polpithigama

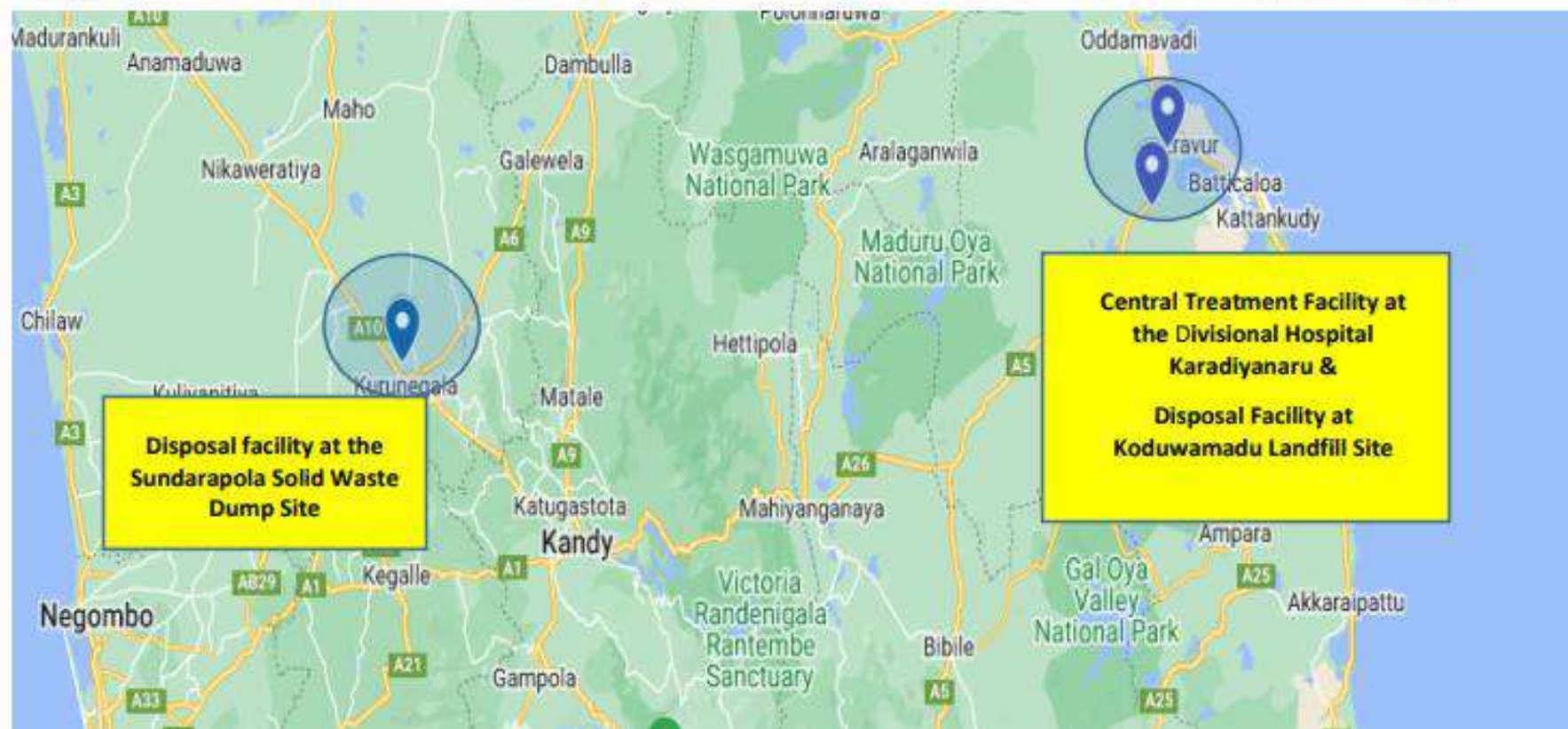
Eastern Province

- Teaching Hospital Batticaloa
- Divisional Hospital Karadiyanaru
- Base Hospital Kalvanchikudy



Clinical Waste Treatment Facilities

Proposed Locations for Centralized Clinical Waste Treatment Facility (CCWTF)



Decontamination Sites

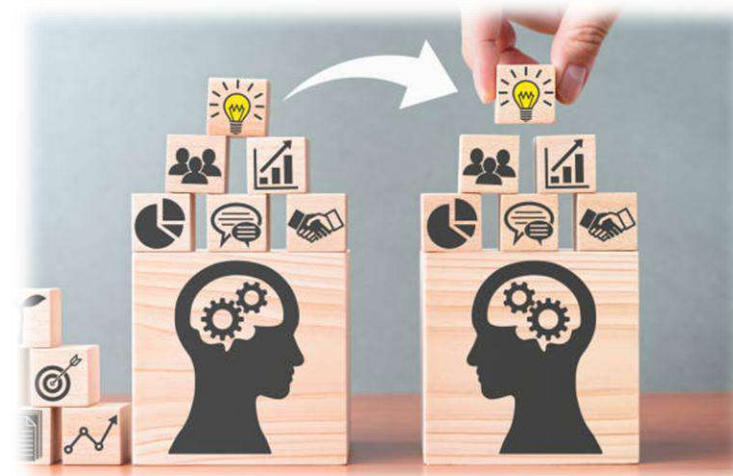
Proposed Decontamination Sites



Component 4

Knowledge Sharing and M&E

- Engagement of CSOs/CBOs
- Document lessons
- Awareness and Training including public awareness (i.e. Hg free household thermometers)
- Gender action plan for HCWM
- Project Management, M&E and reporting



Thank
You

