

ENRTP STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

ANNEX 4 – PROGRESS PROJECT REPORT

Reporting Period	January to December 2012		
DESCRIPTION			
ENRTP Priority	Indicate relevant ENRTP SCAs Priority	EC Directorate General	ENV
Programme of Work	Subprogramme 5: Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste 53-P1		
Project's Title	UNEP Global Mercury Programme		
Location	Global		
Total duration	22 months		
Responsible Entity	DTIE		
UNEP/MEA Project Manager	Sheila Logan/Gunnar Futsaeter		
EC Project Manager	Gernot Schnabl		
Date of EC Approval:	28 February 2012		
EC Allocation (EUR):	950,000		
Date of Allocation/Transfer:	Refer to date funds were allocated or transferred at project level		
Amount (USD)	1,263,500	Exchange Rate:	1.33
Total Expenditures (USD)	262,502	Total Expenditures (EUR)	200,000

SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

Summarize: i) the status of implementation of the project at the time of reporting (global overview on the project implementation since its start); ii) progress towards achieving the project's objectives; iii) performance remarks and highlights.

- The project has three main outputs relating to addressing mercury concerns in developing countries. All activities are being implemented within anticipated timeframes, working towards a number of different deadlines.
- The work on policy development on **mercury releases from coal-fired power plants** builds on ongoing work on this topic and aims to provide other countries with the necessary tools to begin to reduce their emissions, based on the current best available techniques. At this stage, preparatory work has been undertaken with Thailand and Vietnam. In Vietnam, a joint GEF project is being developed which will leverage additional funding, and will allow a demonstration project to be undertaken in addition to the planned coal analysis, characterization of existing pollution controls, and emission inventory. In Thailand, a number of political and administrative challenges have slowed the work, however activities are expected to start soon.
- With regard to the **development of inventories**, the first of two components was the finalization of the Global Mercury Assessment 2013: Sources, emissions, releases and environmental transport. This assessment document, completed in a timely manner and to a high standard, was launched during the 5th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on mercury and presented to the 27th session of the UNEP Governing Council. The updated report includes a compilation of global mercury emissions data and its development has been accompanied by the development of databases facilitating the maintenance, further update and manipulation of the data. Two workshops attended by international experts from all UN regions served to validate the emissions data, providing valuable local information. Information provided through the Global Assessment has also been used to update the UNEP mercury toolkit for the identification and quantification of mercury releases. This update will contribute to activities on national inventories, which form the second component of this output. Preparatory work on the inventories has been done, with two large projects (one in South America and the other in Africa) in preparation as GEF projects to which the EU funds

will provide significant co-funding. The final results will include the development of national inventories in selected countries, additional training for future instructors in the use of the UNEP toolkit, including specific training in assessing ASGM activities, and the development of an e-learning tool on the UNEP toolkit. The GEF projects will be submitted soon with activities commencing shortly thereafter.

The **intersessional work on financial resources and technical and implementation assistance** was completed upon the consideration of the document developed by the co-chairs proposing an approach to Articles 15 and 16 of the draft negotiating text by the fourth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee. The work was supported through the expert group which provided advice to the co-chairs, and by supporting the finalization of the document. The document was accepted as a basis of work on financial resources and technical and implementation assistance by the fourth session of the INC, which subsequently made good progress, leading toward the adoption of the text at the fifth session. The increased level of understanding of the challenges and issues by delegate following from the work of the expert body was a key factor in the eventual success in this area of the negotiations.

CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

Summarize main implementing challenges, if any, and strategy/actions which have been adopted to address them. List potential risks (internal and external) that may jeopardize the implementation of activities and/or the achievement of outputs and outcomes; please explain which actions have been planned to mitigate the identified risks.

- The main implementing challenge with regard to the preparation of the co-chairs paper on financial resources and technical and implementation assistance was the wide ranging, diverse views within the international community. The consultations and discussion required to address such views proved challenging.
- In the preparation of the Global Mercury Assessment, the volume of data required to be considered presented a time-challenge, and the incorporation of additional comments provided during the finalization phase was also challenging, particularly when certain views were contradictory.
- The development of further activities on both inventories and mercury emissions from coal faced challenges due to administrative difficulties within the countries, including changes of government or administrative responsibilities, as well as a lack of responsiveness which has caused delays. Efforts have been made to find a key individual within each country who will take responsibility for moving activities forward, and will be able to work in a timely and responsive manner, however the identification of and engagement with such individuals has also taken time.
- The challenges for both the development of the paper on finances and the Global Mercury Assessment have been successfully overcome, and the work has been completed within agreed timeframes. For the activities on mercury emissions from coal and inventory assessments, further work is required to overcome existing challenges, however these do not appear likely to jeopardise the overall success of the project.

OUTCOME SUMMARY

Provide for each outcome listed in the project document the description, the indicator, progress made/result achieved (focus on the current reporting period only).

- The outcome for the project is as follows:
 - Risks from anthropogenic use and release of mercury are reduced through the development of a legally-binding treaty and related actions in partnership
- The indicators for the project are:
 - Agreement is reached at the international level on the means of addressing mercury;
 - Increased number of countries with control systems and policies being implemented to meet their international obligations with regard to harmful substances and hazardous waste;
- At this stage, following the successful conclusion of the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, agreement has been reached at the international level on the means of addressing mercury, and this indicator has then been accomplished.
- With regard to the second indicator, through the contacts made on both inventories and on work on the coal project within the current reporting period, there are a number of countries who will be in a position to develop and implement improved control systems (through demonstration projects on coal in particular) and to prioritise the development of policies to meet international obligations, in particular through the development of action plans developed along with inventories.

OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

Provide for each output listed in the project document the description, indicators and progress made/any result achieved (focus on the current reporting period only)

Provide brief information on main activities undertaken; reason for modifications of planned activities (if applicable) and list of activities which were planned but not implemented, explaining the reasons.

Kindly include as annexes, any supporting documents which can be provided to the donor as means of verification for each of the outputs achieved and other relevant activities' documentation (if files can be downloaded, please provide below the link).

- Output A - Inventories of mercury use and releases in up to 25 countries globally had as its indicators the production of the revised assessment document (Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment Sources, Emissions and Transport) and inventories developed by a number of countries. The revised assessment document was completed as planned, and made available to the UNEP Governing Council at its 27th session. In accordance with the workplan, preparatory work on the inventories has been undertaken, with plans to submit a GEF project shortly.
- Output B – BAT/BEP guidelines developed for control of mercury emissions from coal burning power stations, with the indicators being the development and testing of BAT/BEP guidance. Work has been underway in four pilot countries to fine tune the initial guidance (process optimisation guidance) for coal burning power stations, and preparatory work has been undertaken with Thailand and Vietnam to develop a GEF project where the EU funds will be used as co-financing to leverage sufficient funds for studies of the sector, characterization with regard to pollution controls and mercury emissions, after which a demonstration project will be undertaken.
- Output C – Intergovernmental meetings; development of a legally binding instrument for the control of mercury has the indicator the development of details of implementation mechanism by intergovernmental process. During the period covered by the grant, the secretariat has organized the expert meeting on finance which provided input into the fourth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee. The fourth and fifth sessions have been held, and the treaty text has been agreed, with the treaty to be opened for signature in October 2013.

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

Provide: i) any remark on the overall budget based on the financial report for the current reporting period; ii) indicate if there is a delay in spending the funds, please clarify reasons; iii) mention resources to be mobilized yet, if any; ii) additional resources leveraged by UNEP and/or partners as a result of the project

- The budget allocated for work on the Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment has been spent with the successful conclusion of these activities, as has the budget allocated for the intergovernmental meetings which have also concluded successfully. For the work on inventories in a number of countries, and the BAT/BEP guidelines preparatory work has been undertaken, and the resources will be used as part of a larger GEF project resulting in significant mobilisation of additional resources, including other contributions from UNEP and at the national level in the countries involved. No significant delay in spending the funds has occurred.

WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

Summarize: i) activities scheduled – including any key milestones*¹ and lead responsibilities; ii) main outputs to be achieved in the upcoming reporting period and iii) forecast of expected expenditures.

- Ongoing activities within this project are the development of inventories in a number of countries, and the development of BAT/BEP guidelines for control of mercury emissions from coal burning power stations. The key milestones for the coming period, as identified in the initial project document are as follows:

Output A – M5 - country development of national inventory document	December 2013
Output B – M2 – Reports on the coal-fired power sector developed providing a basis for developing national policies on mercury reduction for the sector	November 2013
Output B – M3 – training/information on guidelines and country results (coal study) provided	December 2013

The main outputs for the upcoming reporting period are Output A - Inventories of mercury use and releases in up to 25 countries globally – and Output B – BAT/BEP guidelines developed for control of mercury emissions from coal burning power stations, with Output C concluded. The total expected expenditure during 2013 (including EU contributions and in-kind support from UNEP) is €752939 as set out in the original budget.

VISIBILITY:

Describe communication, visibility and outreach activities undertaken at project level, if any.

¹ A milestone is not equal to a summation of tasks or activities. Rather it represents the achievement of a feasible project management stage and be strictly answerable as yes or no answer.

- Outreach has been undertaken within the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership through the publication of regular newsletters and bulletins, through the promotion of activities at regional and intergovernmental meetings, and through the Partnership Advisory Group.
- Following the successful conclusion of the negotiations of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, press releases were issued and press briefings were held. There was significant interest by the press, which is anticipated to be even greater when the Convention is opened for signature in October 2013.

FINAL REMARKS:

Describe: i) lessons learned during project design and implementation; ii) stakeholder participation and level of engagement/satisfaction; iii) where applicable, outline any links and synergies developed with other projects; iv) main issues and recommendations for the attention of the donor; v) overall observations on project performance and whether the projects has had any unforeseen positive or negative results.

- A major lesson learned during the implementation of this project is the length of time which can be needed for engagement of national governments in key activities, particularly to gain full support at the national level for a crosscutting project, even where this has significant benefits nationally. Significant stakeholder participation in the work on mercury has contributed to successes achieved, and a good relationship with a wide variety of stakeholders has been established. This relationship is anticipated to produce further benefits in additional cooperative activities.
- This project has built on and contributed to the work of the Executive Director on financing, and the successful outcomes of the negotiations of the mercury treaty in January 2013 may have contributed to the agreement reached at the 27th Governing Council on the way forward for financing. The donor may be keen to foster ongoing work in the area.
- Overall, the project is working to deliver its expected outcomes and there have not been any significant unforeseen positive or negative results.

ANNEXES:

Please list supporting documents included as annexes, if any.

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Signature: S. Logan

Date of Submission: 15/3/2013