REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix-Travail-Patrie

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace-Work-Fatherland

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Cameroon

2025-2030

In accordance with the Minamata Convention on Mercury

May 2024

gef

UNIDO

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE, AND WHERE FEASIBLE ELIMINATE, MERCURY USE IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING IN CAMEROON

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FOREWORD

Cameroon signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 24 September 2014 in New York and became a Party on 10 March 2021. The objective of the Convention is to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

During the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA), which was conducted in Cameroon in 2018, Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) was identified as a significant source of mercury emissions.

Article 7 of the Convention provides in paragraphs 2 and 3(a) respectively that "each Party that has artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to this Article within its territory shall take steps to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, such mining and processing"; "develop and implement a national action plan in accordance with Annex C".

The objective of the said Plan is to reduce the use of mercury and its compounds, as well as mercury emissions and releases to the environment, in the ASGM sector in Cameroon by 70%, by 2030. The NAP will be implemented over the timeframe of 2025-2030. It is a guidance document for planning targeted interventions by the various stakeholders. These actions will require synergy in the mobilization of actors concerned in its implementation, in order to achieve the objective of protecting human and environmental health from the harmful effects of mercury.

Far from appearing to be a panacea, the NAP is a valuable working tool for actors in this sector.

In view of this ambitious project, I would like to thank all those who contributed in the preparation of this important strategic document. I am thinking particularly of our technical and financial partners, namely the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), whose enlightened guidance and constant support have made it possible to finalize it.

I therefore call on all stakeholders in the ASGM sector to combine energy and actions for the implementation of the NAP, so that we can ultimately achieve the main objective of protecting human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and its compounds, which is the very basis of the Minamata Convention and is fully in line with the objectives of the 2030 National Development Strategy (NDS30).

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AGC	Artisanal Gold Council
ACEH	African Centre for Environmental Health
ADB	African Development Bank
Africa CDC	Africa Center for Disease Control
ALSF	African Legal Support Facility
ARM	Alliance for Responsible Mining
ASGM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining
Au	Gold
AWIMA	African Women in Mining Association
BAT/BEP	Best Availables Techniques / Best Environment Practices
BCRC-SCRC	Centre Régional des Conventions de Bâle et de Stockholm
BRGM	Bureau of Geological and Mining Research
CAPAM	Artisanal Mining Support and Promotion Framework
CDC Atlanta	Center for Disease Control Atlanta
CED	Centre for Environment and Development
CEPEDIC	Centre for Environmental Protection and Defence of Community Interests
CIG	Common Initiative Groups
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DBCAS	Development Bank of Central African States
DLA	Decentralized Local Authorities
DMC	Divisional Medical Centre
Dps	Development Plans
EPL	Environmental Pollution Laboratory
EPRM	European Partnership for Responsible Mineral
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FODER	Forest and Rural Development
g	Gram
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Fund
Hg	Mercury
HYDRAC	HYDRocabons Analysis Controls
ILO	International Labour Organization
IRGM	Geological and Mining Research Institute
ISO	Internation Organization for Standardization
KPPNS	Kimberley Process Permanent National Secretariat
L	Liter
LBMA	London Bullion Market Association
MFM	Mercury-Free Mining
mg	Milligram
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAS	Ministry of Social Affairs

MINDDEVEL	Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development
MINDEF	Ministry of Defence
MINEPAT	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
MINEPIA	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINFI	Ministry of Finance
MINMIDT	Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development
MINPMEESA	Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Economy and Crafts
MINPROFF	Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family
MINRESI	Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
MINSANTE	Ministry of Public Health
MINTSS	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
MTEFs	Medium-term expenditure Frameworks
NAP	National Action Plan
NDS 30	National Development Strategy 2020-2030
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSC	National Steering Committee
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRECASEM	Mining Sector Capacity Building Project
PTA	Annual Work Plan
PV	Minutes
RC	Regional Committees
RISE	Reaching Impact Saturation and Epidemic control
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SED	State Secretariat for Defence
SIP	Specific International Program
SME	Small and Medium Companies
SONAMINES	National Mining Cooperation
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
t	Ton
TC	Technical Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNICEF	Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'Enfance
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USAID	United State of America International Aid
WB	World Bank
WCSest	Wildlife Conservation Society
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Artisanal gold mining has been practiced in Cameroon since the 1930s, mainly using rudimentary techniques and methods (sinking pits with shovels, manual crushing with sledgehammers, washing with long tom and panning). Semi-mechanised gold mining (the use of mechanical means in the chain of operations) came into existence in 2007 to salvage quantities of gold that would have been flooded when the Lom Pangar dam reservoir was filled with water.

Eight (08) regions out of ten (10) in Cameroon are involved in artisanal gold mining activities. In 2016, a total of 140 sites were identified and are now experiencing a drastic increase in size depending on the potential. However, there is little formalization and a significant need for regulation in this sector.

With the scarcity of alluvial sites, there has been a transition towards the exploitation of eluvial and primary deposits, as well as river dredging. It turns out that gold from river beds and primary gold is very fine, with very low recovery rates. Therefore, to optimize recovery rates, operators introduce mercury for optimal retrieval of fine gold. Despite the ban on the import of mercury into Cameroon and its use in ASGM, visits to the main mining sites in 2022 revealed abundant mercury use, which points to the existence of an illicit and illegal trade in this metal that must be put to an end.

Baseline estimates of mercury quantities used in the ASGM sector were obtained following the collection and analysis of data in 2022 from sixteen (16) ASGM sites in the East and Adamaoua Regions, with an estimated population of eight thousand five hundred (8,500) active gold miners, showing a male domination; i.e. 73% men and 27% women.

With regard to sampling, one hundred (100) samples were taken in accordance with international standards. The analyses were carried out by the Cameroon Hydrocarbons Analyses Control Laboratory (HYDRAC) SA an ISO9001 version 2000 certified laboratory and the Environmental Pollution Laboratory (EPL) an ISO/ IEC 17025: 2017 accredited laboratory based in Pretoria, South Africa.

Gold production from artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) in Cameroon in 2022 is approximately 13.36 tons. Based on a mercury/gold ratio of 1.13, the equivalent mercury consumption is 15.1 tons, broken down as follows:

- 9 tons of gold and 10.17 tons of mercury equivalent for artisanal mining; and
- 4.36 tons of gold or 4.93 tons of mercury equivalent for semi-mechanised artisanal mining.

The use of this mercury leads to worst practices such as:

(i) Open burning of amalgam or processed amalgam;

(ii) Burning of amalgam in residential areas;

(iii) Cyanide leaching of sediments, ores and residues to which mercury has been added, without first having been removed;

(iv) Handling of the amalgam with bare hands; and (v) Dredging of watercourses (riverbeds).

These worst practices have disastrous consequences on human health and biodiversity through anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds: Chemical (mercury poisoning, cyanide, arsenic, and lead); Biological (water and waste-related diseases, sexually transmitted infections); Biomechanical (trauma, overwork), physical (noise pollution, asphyxiation); and Psychosocial (drug addiction, stress, fatigue).

Field survey assessments show that open burning of amalgam exposes those present to mercury levels above the exposure limits of 1μg/m3 set by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which constitutes an immediate danger to life and health.

Vulnerable groups are particularly affected. The social problems encountered in ASGM sites are of several types, namely: families being dispossessed of their land, social conflicts arising within families, loss of human life due to mining holes not being restored by the mining operators, school dropouts and educational wastage, child labour, sexual violence against women and girls and the spread of STDs and STIs, lack of economic benefits (spin-offs) for the local communities.

Cameroon's National Action Plan to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, mercury use in ASGM aims at a reduction target of 70% by 2030.

This objective will be achieved through implementation of the following nine (09) strategies:

1. Strategies to eliminate worst practices;
2. Strategies to facilitate formalization or regulation of the ASGM sector;
3. Strategies for promoting the reduction of emissions and releases of, and exposure to, mercury;
4. Strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury and mercury compounds;
5. Strategies for involving stakeholders in the implementation and continued development of the NAP;
6. A public health strategy on the exposure of artisanal and small-scale gold miners and their communities to

mercury;

7. Strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in ASGM;
8. Strategies for providing information to artisanal and small-scale gold miners and affected communities;
9. Strategies for financing the NAP.

The overall financing requirement amounts to eighteen billion, six hundred and ninety-three million, one hundred and sixty-two thousand, five hundred (18,693,162,500) FCFA.

The financing plan provides for resources to come from the State and its constituent parts, international partners, private investors and NGOs.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Anthropogenic activities, including Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM), pose a real threat to human health and the environment due to the use of chemicals such as mercury and its compounds. States have decided on a common policy through the MINAMATA Convention, which was adopted on 10 October 2013 in Kumamoto, Japan, at the Plenipotentiary Conference and entered into force on 16 August 2017. The objective of the MINAMATA Convention is to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, mercury use in order to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

Cameroon, aware of these dangers and concerned about the health of its people and environment, signed the MINAMATA Convention in September 2014 and acceded through its instrument of ratification on 10 March 2021.

In view of the need to implement the obligations arising from this Convention, the National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (NDS30) document did not fail to reflect the will of the State in its development vision. The NDS30 constitutes a new reference framework for this policy, to which Cameroon was willing to subscribe. This document sets out the country's economic, social and environmental commitments. For its implementation, the nation's authorities plan to strengthen actions relating to the sustainable management of natural resources (soil, flora, fauna, water, etc.), among other things. This will be done while taking into account international commitments (e.g. Conventions, Sustainable Development GoalsSDGs) and various Agendas (e.g. the African Union's 2063 Agenda) in planning instruments, by contextualizing them and ensuring that the interventions of development partners are in effective alignment with these political choices.

As required by Article 7 of the MINAMATA Convention and described above, Cameroon, with the support of its usual partners, has undertaken to develop its National Action Plan (NAP) to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, mercury use in its ASGM sector. This NAP project was preceded by the MINAMATA Initial Assessment (MIA) in Cameroon , which revealed that the ASGM sector is a significant source of mercury emissions and releases (2600 kg/year) into the atmosphere.

In Cameroon, ASGM has been going on for more than a century and is intensively practised in localities with proven potential. While this activity brings additional income to some households and helps reduce unemployment in rural areas, it is important to note that it is nonetheless a source of environmental degradation and various forms of pollution.

Data obtained from the Artisanal Mining Support and Promotion Framework (CAPAM) 2003-2021 show that this activity is practiced in eight (08) regions (see summary text) out of ten (10) in Cameroon. Yet, production statistics are still poorly understood. According to information obtained from the Department of Mines (2023), activities linked to gold mining remain informal. Moreover, it is worth pointing out that artisanal mining as practiced in Cameroon is the cause of huge socio-environmental problems and contributes very little to the national economy.

At present, gold production in Cameroon is based partly on artisanal mining in the strict sense of the term, and partly on so-called semi-mechanised artisanal mining. Furthermore, processing techniques using mercury and cyanide are harmful to human health and the environment. ASGM communities have high levels of exposure due to the daily use of mercury and worst practices such as open burning of amalgam, burning of amalgam in residential areas, and cyanide leaching of sediments and residues to which mercury has been added, without first being removed . Other factors influencing the health of gold miners in the ASGM sector include exposure to dust and noise, high intensity of physical work, and poor living and hygiene conditions.

It is within this framework that the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with technical support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), financed the development of this National Action Plan aimed at proposing measures to reduce mercury emissions and releases, and mercury use in the ASGM sector in Cameroon.

The NAP was developed over a period of three (03) years. A Project Management Unit made up of three key stakeholders (MINEPDED, MINMIDT, and MINSANTE) was set up under the supervision of a National Steering Committee. The main components of the project are as follows:

(a) In-depth analysis of the baseline scenario of ASGM at the national level, with a view to supporting the development and implementation of a roadmap for the prevention and reduction of mercury use in this sector;

[1] MINEPDED, 2018. Cameroon's Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) report.

(b) Development and validation of the NAP.

The various related deliverables were developed by consultants and experts and submitted to the National Steering Committee for validation.

The National Action Plan is divided into six (06) parts:

I. **National Overview;**
II. **National Objectives and Reduction Targets;**
III. **Implementation Strategy;**
IV. **Implementation Workplan;**
V. **Financing Mechanism;**
VI. **Monitoring-Evaluation Mechanisms.**

The NAP also includes annexes containing the complete national overview document and nine (09) strategy documents.

[2]PRECASEM, 2019. Carrying out a Survey on the Use of Mercury in the Artisanal Mining and Small Mining Sector in Cameroon, Final Report.

I. NATIONAL OVERVIEW

I.1. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES IN ADDRESSING ASGM IN CAMEROON

Since 1930, the government and its partners (BRGM, UNDP, and WB) have taken a number of actions and initiatives to provide an institutional and legal framework for artisanal and small-scale (ASM) activities in Cameroon, particularly gold mining, in order to guarantee health, safety, environmental and social measures at mining sites.

The fact that the sector is highly clandestine has led to a loss of revenue, which in turn has led to a fall in its contribution to the national economy. From a contribution of 20% in the years 1935-1945 during the Second World War, when the sector was better organised, to 0.08% in the years 1997-1998.

The Artisanal Mining Support and Promotion Framework (CAPAM) project was created by

Order No. 064/PM of 25 July 2003 under the auspices of the Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT), with the main role of coordinating, organising, facilitating, supporting, promoting and developing the artisanal mining industry. This project has gone through three (03) distinct phases: the first related to the Support and Development of Cameroon's Artisanal Mining Project 2005-2009, the second to the Mining Activity Development Programme 2011-2016, and the third (from 2017-2021) as part of the consolidation of the program's achievements.

The strategy deployed to achieve its objectives has been to provide local supervision of the activity, to provide various forms of support (technical, material, commercial, etc.), to strengthen the activity in existing areas or to create it in areas with high potential. CAPAM has set up operations in twenty-four (24) districts in eight (8) regions, and has channelled substances as diverse as gold, sapphire, diamond, quartzite, rutile, kyanite, sand, river gravel, etc.). Related activities around the mining areas have enabled integrated community development.

The elimination of clandestine miners brought about by the start of the formalisation of the activity led to the administration taking partial control of the artisanal mining sector. The result of all this intense activity has been the emergence of a semi-mechanised artisanal activity and the increased involvement of industrial mining players (more than 150 prospecting permits awarded) in areas discovered and worked by artisanal miners.

In partnership with other government departments (MINFI, MINDEF/SED, MINEPAT), the «Operation Gold» project to strengthen gold reserves has resulted in the retrocession of nearly 775 kg of gold to MINFI between 2012 and 2021, despite the activity's uneven funding.

The presence of CAPAM has also had an evolutionary effect on the price of gold, which has risen from five thousand (5,000) to more than twenty-five thousand (25,000) FCFA per kilogram between 2005 and 2021, and is calculated directly on the international price with a discount of 5% to 7%.

I.2. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ASGM

Gold mining is practised in eight (08) of Cameroon's ten (10) regions and varies from one region to another depending on the potential and intensity of the activity. At least one hundred and forty (140) gold mining sites have been identified in Cameroon and are exploited on an artisanal basis, but this figure has grown exponentially over the years as the activity has intensified.

The majority of these are located in a vast corridor running North-West (NW) (the precious corridor), which includes the Cameroonian regions of the East [it is estimated that more than 100kg of gold (CAPAM) is mined per month in this region alone], Adamaoua, North and Far North. Significant gold targets also exist with artisanal mining activity in the South region, notably in the Bipindi, Lolordorf, Akom II, Ebolowa, Sangmélima, Mvangan and

Biwong Bulu Sub-divisions. Gold was also found in the North-West (Misajé) and South-West (Mamfe) regions. Significant artisanal activity has been reported in the Centre region, particularly in Eséka. There is a strong presumption of finding gold in the West region, given its favourable granite geological context.

[3]CAPAM, 2010. "Support for Development of Mining Activities" Program 2010-2015 (2nd phase)

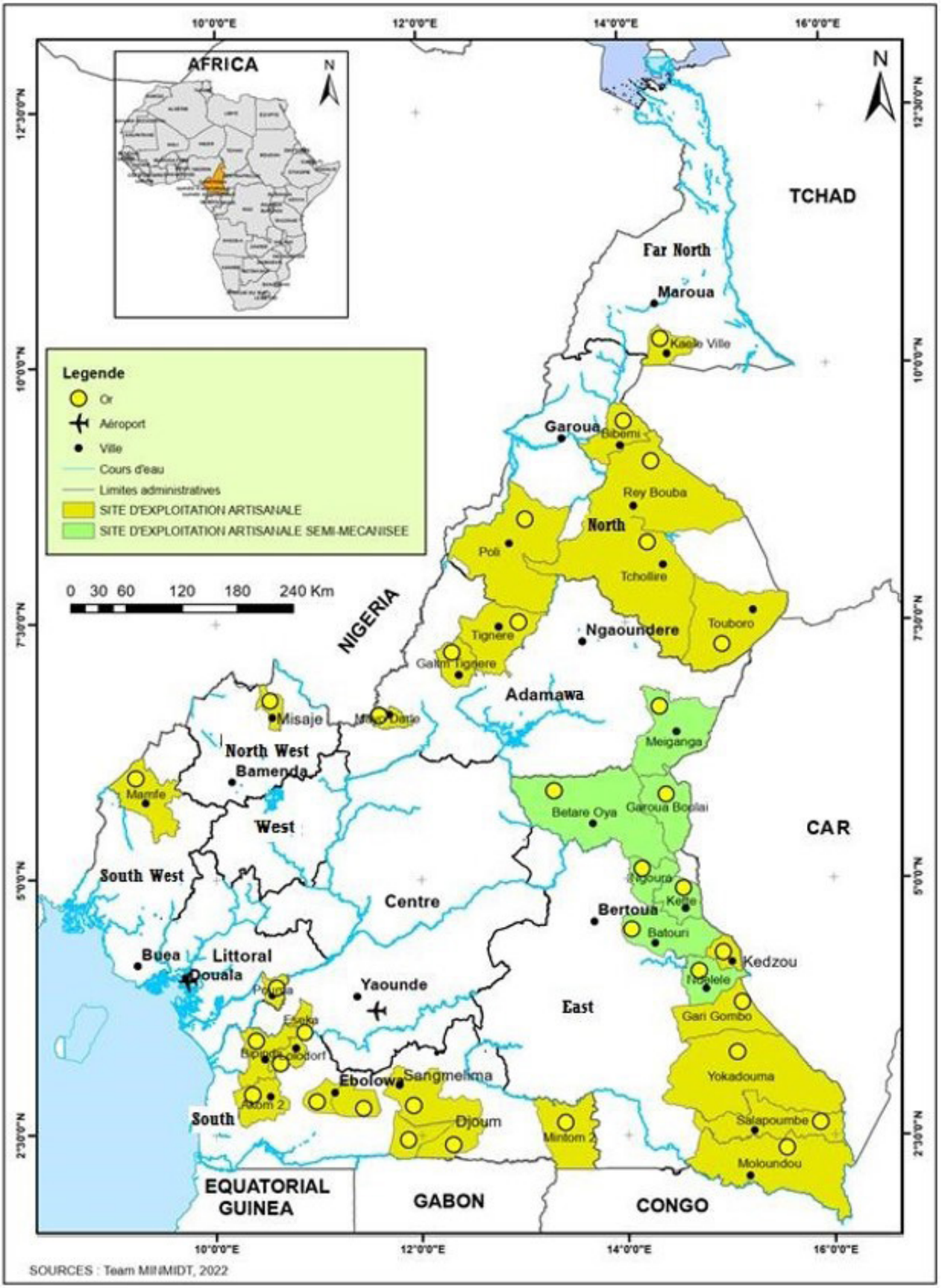

Figure 1: Map of artisanal gold mining sites in Cameroon Table1: National distribution of gold mining sites (CAPAM/MINMIDT program document)

Table1: National distribution of gold mining sites (CAPAM/MINMIDT program document)

No.	REGION	DIVISION	SUB-DIVISION
1	**ADAMAWA**	FARO AND DEO	GALIM-TIGNERE, MAYO BALEO, KONTCHA
		MBERE	MEIGANGA, MBE, DIR, NGAOUI, DJOHONG
		MAYO BANYO	BANYO, MAYO DARLE
		VINA	BELEL, MARTAP, NGANHA, NGAOUNDERE 2, NGAOUNDERE 3 (DANG),
2	**CENTRE**	NYONG AND KELLE	ESEKA
		UPPER SANAGA	MINTA, MBANDJOCK, NKOTENG, NANGA AND EBOKO
		LEKIE	OBALA, OKOLA, SA'A, BATCHENGA
		MBAM AND INOUBOU	NDIKINIMEKI, DEUK
		MBAM AND KIM	NGAMBE TIKAR, NGORO
3	**EAST**	LOM AND DJEREM	GAROUA BOULAI, NGOURA, BETARE-OYA, BELABO, BERTOUA 2, DIANG BERTOUA 1

No.	REGION	DIVISION	SUB-DIVISION
4	EAST (continued)	KADEY	KETTE, OULI, BATOURI, KENTZOU NDELELE, MBANG, NDEMNAM, MBOTO, BOMB,
		BOUMBA AND NGOKO	YOKADOUMA, GARI GOMBO, MOULOUNDOU,
		UPPER NYONG	LOMIE, MESSAMENA, NGOYLA, DJA, MESSOK, SOMALOMO
5	FAR NORTH	MAYO-KANI	KAELE
6	NORTH	FARO	POLI, BEKA
		MAYO REY	TCHOLLIRÉ, REY BOUBA, TOUBORO
		BENOUE	BIBEMI, FIGUIL
		MAYO LOUTI	TO GUIDE
7	NORTH WEST	DONGA-MANTUNG	MISAJE
8	SOUTH	ADI AND LOBO	SANGMELIMA, MINTOM, DJOUM, MEYOMESSALA, MEYOMESSI, ZOETELE
		MVILLA	BIWONG BULU, BIWONG BANE, EBOLOWA, MVANGAN, EFOULAN, NGOULEMAKONG
		NTEM VALLE	AMBAM, OLAMZE, KYE-OSSI
		OCEAN	BIPINDI, AKOM II, CAMPO, KRIBI 1, KRIB2, LEKOUNDJE, LOLODORF, MVENGUE
9	SOUTH WEST	MANYU	MAMFE

As part of the inventory in the development of the National Action Plan, sixteen (16) sites where ASGM is practiced were visited. These sites are located in the Adamaoua and East regions, specifically in the Mbére, Lom and Djérem and Kadey divisions.

I.3. MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING INFORMATION

The methods and techniques used to extract and process gold in Cameroon depend on the type of deposit and mineralisation (primary, alluvial and eluvial). Regardless of the targets, preparatory work is required before any mining can take place. Minerals can be extracted either by open-pit mining or underground via tunnels and drifts. Artisanal mining involves a succession of stages, from preparing the ground to extracting the useful mineral substance.

In many parts of Cameroon, mining methods involve firstly uncovering the site, in particular by weeding, digging and piling up spoil, and then proceeding to dewatering, extracting the ore and transporting it.

Depending on the type of mineralisation and deposit (primary, alluvial and eluvial), the processing methods will vary. These include gravimetric methods, centrifugation, leaching (cyanidation) and mercury amalgamation.

Figure 2: Dredging on the Lom riverbed in Bétaré-Oya, (photo MINMIDT, 2023)

Figure 3: Treatment methods - (1) simple sluice in Djouzamie in Mbéré; (2) mechanical crushers in Kambélé in Kadey; (3) artisanal washing station in Bindiba in Lom and Djerem, (photos, MINMIDT 2022)

Figure 4: Cyanide treatment method in Narkoyo in the Bétaré-Oya locality (photo, MINMIDT, 2023)

Figure 5: Mercury amalgamation treatment methods – (1) Washing tank; (2) pan (photo, MINMIDT, 2022)

I.4. BASELINE ESTIMATES OF THE AMOUNT OF MERCURY USED IN ASGM

Baseline estimates of the quantities of mercury used in the ASGM sector were made following data collection and analysis in 2022, based on the methodology in the guide "Methods and tools: estimating mercury use and identifying Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) practices" developed by the Artisanal Gold Council (AGC) in collaboration with UN Environment.

Gold production from artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in Cameroon in 2022 is approximately 13.36 tons. Based on a mercury/gold ratio of 1.13, the equivalent mercury consumption is 15.1 tons, broken down as follows:

- 9 tons of gold and 10.17 tons of mercury equivalent for artisanal mining; and
- 4.36 tons of gold or 4.93 tons of mercury equivalent for semi-mechanised artisanal mining.

Sampling was carried out in accordance with international standards on one hundred (100) samples6 (see table 5). The analyses were carried out by Hydrocarbon Analyses Control (HYDRAC) SA, an ISO 9001:2000 certified laboratory, and Environmental Pollution

Laboratory (EPL), an ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accredited laboratory based in Pretoria, South Africa.

Table 2 : Sampling methodology

Samples	Methods	Number of samples analysed
Aquaculture species	Acquisition from local fishermen, preferably fish with unexplained injuries and skin abnormalities	10
Surface water	ISO 5667-6:2014(fr)	40
Soil	ISO 18400-102:2017(fr)	50

Source : HYDRAC, 2023

A comparative analysis of mercury levels in the different divisions shows that:

- The highest content in fish was found in the KADEY division at 23,600µg/kg;
- The highest concentration by mass in water was found in the MBERE division at 6,870µg/l;
- The highest content in the soil was found in the KADEY division at 8,100,000µg /g.

Similarly, analyses results for cyanide show that:

- The highest concentration in fish was found in the KADEY division at 50.19µg/l;
- The highest mass concentration in water was found in the LOM and DJEREM division at 5600µg/l;
- The highest concentration in the soil was found in the MBERE division at 73µg /g.

[4]O'Neill, J., Telmer, K., 2017. Estimating mercury use and identifying artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) practices. Geneva, Switzerland: UN-Environment.
[5]MINMIDT, 2022. Report on baseline estimates of mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Cameroon. 6 HYDRAC, 2023. Water, soil and fish analyses report for MINMIDT (NAP Project).

I.5. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE ASGM SECTOR

I.5.1. Legal framework

Numerous laws and regulations in Cameroon govern the mining sector, as well as related sectors such as the environment and nature protection, sustainable development, transparency, workers' rights and public health.

The main legislative text relating to mining law is Law No. 2023/014 of 19 December 2023 on the Mining Code . This law repeals Law No. 2016/017 of 14 December 2016. It defines artisanal mining as an operation consisting of extracting and concentrating outcropping or sub-outcropping mineral substances to a maximum depth of ten (10) metres and disposing of marketable products using methods and processes involving only human motor power. Semi-mechanised mining is defined as any operation consisting of extracting and concentrating mineral substances and recovering the marketable products in order to dispose of them using some mechanical means in the chain of operations. Issues relating to artisanal mining are dealt with in sections 1 and 2 of Chapter II of the Mining Code.

In addition to this cardinal text, the Cameroonian mining sector is also governed by numerous legislative texts, including:

- Law No. 64/LF/23 of 13 December 1964 on the organization of public health in Cameroon;
- General Tax Code (updated on 01 January 2023);
- Law No. 89/027 of 29 December 1989 on toxic and hazardous waste;
- Law No. 092/007 of 14 August 1992 on the Labour Code;
- Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 on forests, wildlife and fisheries;
- Law No. 96-12 of 5 August 1996 on the framework law relating to environmental management, particularly Chapter IV-section III relating to harmful and/or hazardous chemicals; this law addresses the issue from the angle of environmental protection (water, air, soil);
- Law No. 98-005 of 14 April 1998 on the water regime, the reference text of which makes water a common national heritage that the State protects, manages and facilitates its access to all;
- Law No. 98/015 of 14 July 1998 relating to hazardous, harmful or inconvenient classified establishments;
- Law No. 2010/002 of 13 April 2010 on the promotion and protection of people with disabilities and its implementing regulations.

I.5.2. Institutional framework

The artisanal mining sector is regulated and supervised by a number of government institutions. The main structures involved in the mining sector and their roles are detailed in table 3 below:

[6]Law No. 2023/014 of 19 December 2023 on the Mining Code

Table 3 : Government Institutions and their Missions

No.	GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	RELATED MISSIONS
01	**Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT)**	Designs and coordinates the implementation of the mining policy. It has oversight over all mining activities on the national territory.
02	**Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)**	Responsible for implementing government policy on environmental management and sustainable development. It ensures the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Cameroon and coordinates the development and implementation of the National Action Plan (PAN).
03	**Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE)**	Responsible for the government'sPublic Health policy.
04	**Ministry of Finance (MINFI)**	Ensures the collection of tax revenues from the extractive sector on behalf of the State and Decentralized Local Authorities.
05	**Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Development (MINEPAT)**	Responsible for developing general guidelines and medium and long-term development strategies and monitoring their implementation.
06	**The Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI)** **IRGM (Institute of Geological and Mining Research)**	Responsible for the development and implementation of government policy on scientific research and innovation. Stimulates Researchers and Inventors to develop practices, techniques and equipment useful for mercury-free gold mining and the reduction of mercury in the environment. Contributes to the characterization of mining sites.
07	**The Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development (MINDDEVEL)**	Responsible for the development, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of the government's policy on decentralization as well as the promotion of local development.
08	**Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family (MINPROFF)**	Develops and implements government measures relating to the Promotion of women, protection of the family and the rights of the child.
09	**Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS)**	Facilitates access for vulnerable groups to the diversification of alternative economic activities.
10	**Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTSS)**	Contributes to the protection of workers, the prevention and management of occupational risks, and the prevention of child labour in the ASM sector.
11	**Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER)**	Supports the formalization of organizations and associations in the sector into cooperatives and Common Initiative Groups (CIGs).
12	**Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA)**	Analyses fishery products to be made available to consumers.
13	**Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Economy and Crafts (MINPMEESA)**	Supports the formalization of organizations and associations in the sector into small and medium-sized businesses.
14	**National Mines Company (SONAMINES)**	Develops and promotes the mining sector in Cameroon, one of the main missions of which is the implementation of

		restoration, rehabilitation and closure measures for mining sites (excludingquarries).
15	**Decentralized Territorial Communities**	Managesartisanal mining activities in the strict sense of the term, in accordance with the conditions and procedures laid down bythe laws and regulations.
16	**Defence and security services (Law Enforcement Forces)**	Ensures the safety of people and property on mining sites. Supports compliance with local law and regulations.

I.6. MERCURY TRADE AND DEMAND

The trade flows of gold and mercury are closely linked. Data from surveys carried out in Cameroon in 20225 as part of the NAP development process show that 99% of mercury supplies to gold miners come from collectors. Among collectors, small local merchants have been identified as the main suppliers, who themselves obtain their supplies from clandestine exporters and foreign structures.
In the semi-mechanised sector, the Chinese were identified as the main suppliers, as shown in the figure below:

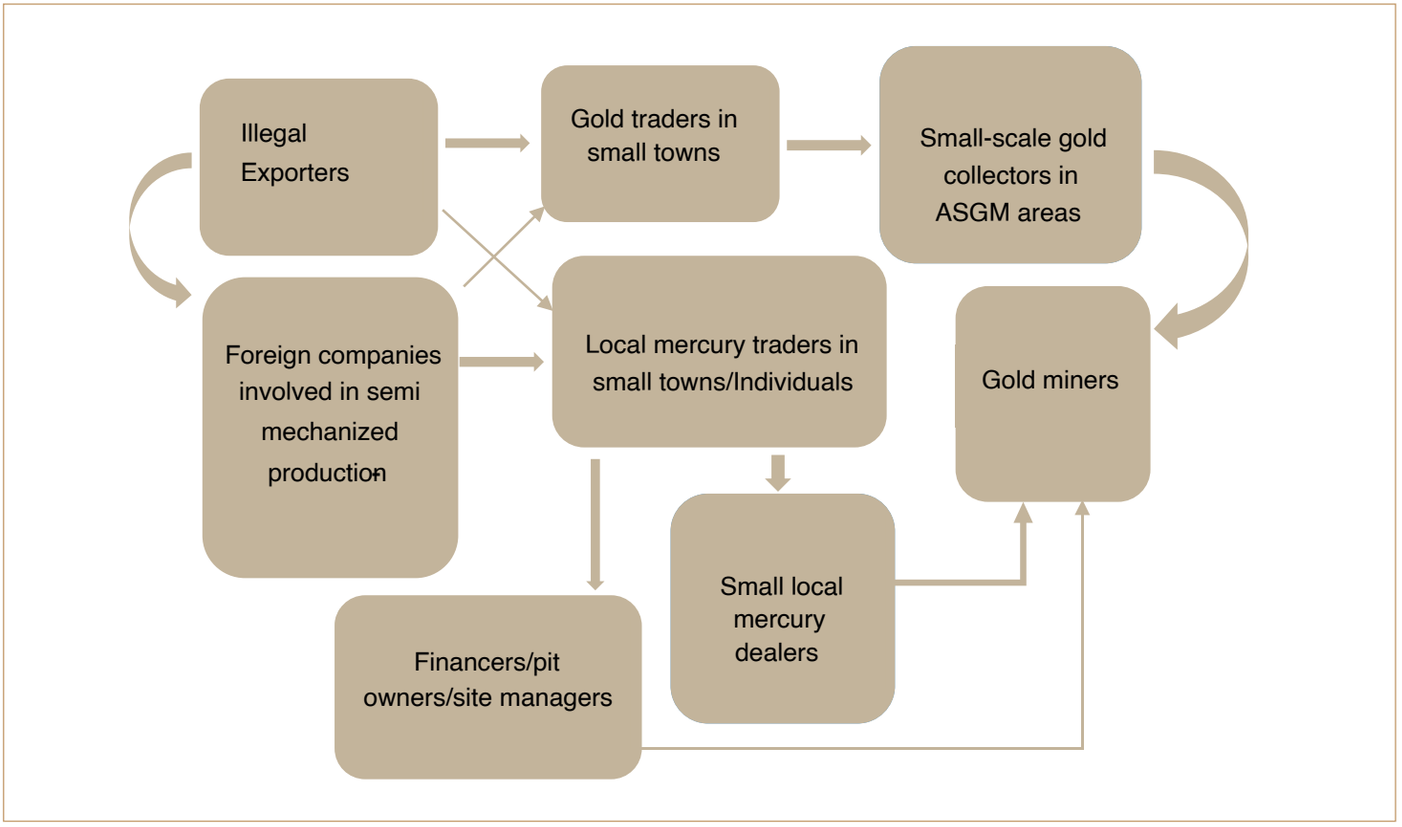

Figure 6: Mercury supply chains in ASGM (MINMIDT, 2022)

Information acquired during field surveys shows that the selling price of mercury varies from 10,000 CFAF to 15,000 CFAF for the contents of a mineral water bottle cork (0.5 ml) and 1,200,000 CFAF to 1,500,000 CFAF per litre.
A comparative analysis of data from the baseline estimates and the COMTRADE database on imports and exports of mercury and mercury compounds leads us to conclude that mercury used in ASGM was introduced fraudulently, as shown in table 4 on the next page.

Table 4 : Mercury supply and demand in Cameroon over the period 2016 to 2022

Designation	Amount of mercury (kg)	Designation	Amount of mercury (kg)
Primary mercury extraction	0	Artisanal mining	10170
Mercury recycling	0	Products	0
Import of mercury	0	Exports	0
Import of mercury compounds	422	Semimechanization	4930
Total	422	**Total**	15100
Trade balance (kg)		-15100	

Source : MINMIDT 2022

I.7. ECONOMIC ASPECTS

With a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimated at 44.1 billion dollars in 2021, Cameroon is the 13th largest economy on the African continent. It has a diversified economy, with a wide range of exports and great potential thanks to its geographical location in Central Africa .

Cameroon's GDP in 2022, estimated according to the national accounts (4th quarter 2022), shows real growth estimated at 4%, with the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors growing by 4.7%, 2.0% and 4.6% respectively .

It is estimated that only 10% of artisanal mining production (gold and diamonds) is channelled into the formal circuit of the national economy, while the remaining 90% is sold through clandestine networks. In 2021 specifically, the quantity of gold collected in the formal circuit was 85.8 kg .

With an average monthly income per artisan estimated at three hundred and ninety-six thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven (396,977) CFA francs in the initial estimates5, artisanal miners are considered poor. A parallel can be drawn with the studies carried out by the FODER in 2022, which determined an average monthly income estimated at 343,411 CFA francs

Activities such as small-scale fishing, agriculture, hunting and petty trading are adversely affected and have a relatively negligible impact on income.

Ultimately, national gold production is estimated at 13.36t/ year, or the monetary equivalent of four hundred billion, eight hundred million (400,800,000,000) CFA francs.

The informal marketing of gold is a real brake on the mining sub-sector's contribution to the country's economic development. According to MINMIDT's mining activity monitoring reports, the destination of the companies' shares (75% of gross production) from semimechanised gold mining is unknown. In addition, comparative studies between exports and semi-mechanised artisanal gold production within the Department of Mines and by INTERPOL have shown that over 95% of gold produced in Cameroon is exported clandestinely.

By way of illustration, there was significant production between 2013 and 2023, which remains disproportionate to the exports recorded since 2016 (0.43%); 4.16% in 2017; 7.85% in 2018; 10.5% in 2019; 9% in 2020; 25% in 2021, 8% in 2022 and 2.67% in 2023.

This inversion, caused by the porous nature of our borders, can only be explained by the illegal export of gold and the lack of traceability of this precious metal, resulting in a loss of revenue for the state treasury due to the non-payment of

[8]Swiss Confederation, 2022. Economic report 2022 Republic of Cameroon.
[9]IST, 2023. Quarterly national accounts (4th quarter 2022).
[10]MINFI, 2022. Report on the economic, social and financial situation and prospects of the nation – fiscal year 2022.

taxes inherent in this activity.
The National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (SND30) relies heavily on the extractive industries sector, in particular on an integrated mining-metallurgy-siderurgy industrial sector.

The document proposes to support artisanal and small-scale mining through interprofessional organisations and the valorisation of production, particularly for jewellery.12.

I.8. DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL INFORMATION

I.8.1. Demographics of artisanal mining sites

The demographic study of the active population in the sixteen (16) ASGM sites listed in the East and Adamaoua regions reveals that:

- The population of gold miners is estimated at eight thousand five hundred (8,500) active people, with a male dominance of 73% men and 27% women5.

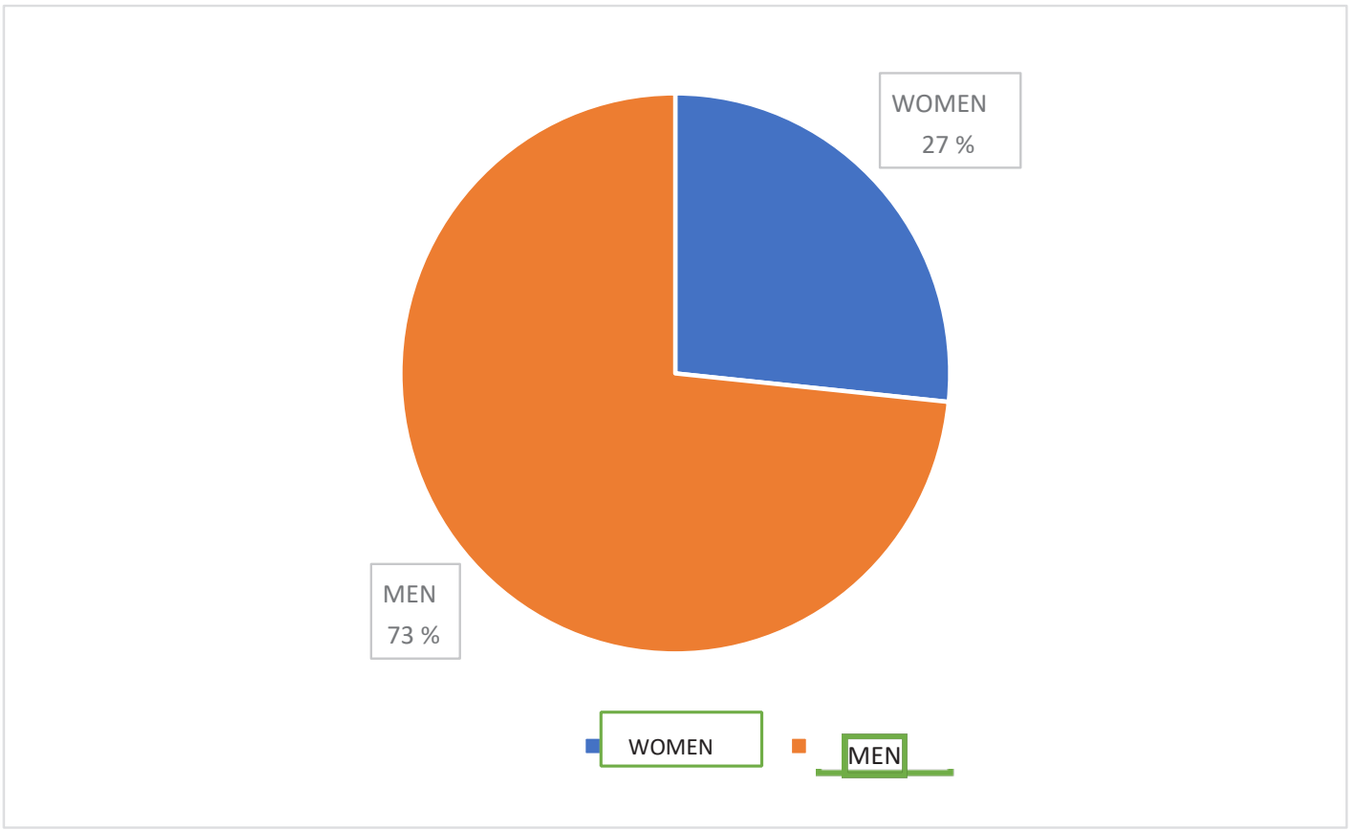

Figure 7: Distribution of the population of gold miners according to gender

[11]Obase Musono Ralph (MD), Justin L Chekoua & Nodem Fomene Rodrigue, 2022. RISK ASSESSMENT OF ARTISANAL GOLD MINING ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ARTISANS MINING IN THE EASTERN
REGION OF CAMEROON. Forests,. Yaoundé, Cameroon: sn 12MINEPAT, 2020. National Development Strategy 2020-2030.
[12]MINEPAT, 2020. Stratégie Nationale de Développement 2020-2030.

- The working population living on the mining sites is predominantly young, made up of women, men and children in age brackets ranging from 0 to 50 years, or even older. Women are largely represented in the 0 – 20 age bracket, i.e. 10% of the total; while the vast majority of the working male population is found between 30 – 40 years of age, i.e. 25%5.

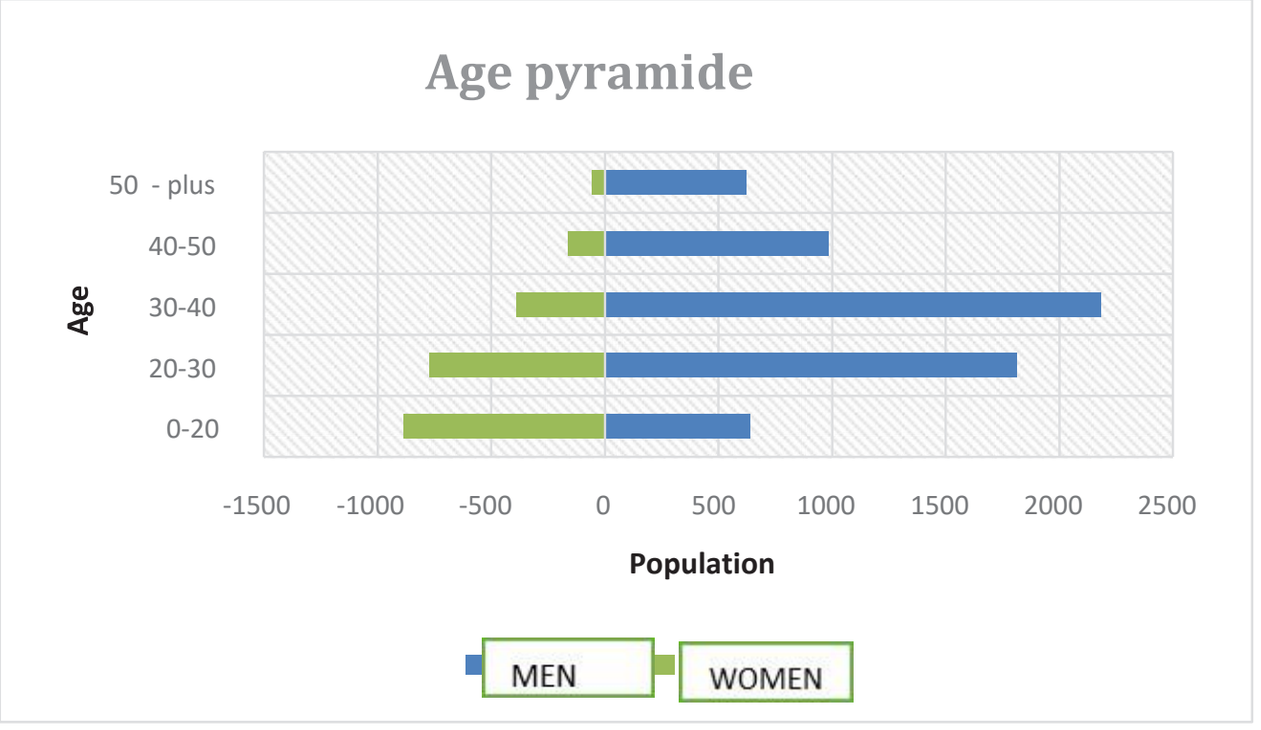

Figure 8: Age pyramid of the gold prospecting population

- The proportion of vulnerable groups in this population is estimated at 37% (children, women of childbearing age and/or pregnant, the elderly, the disabled)5.

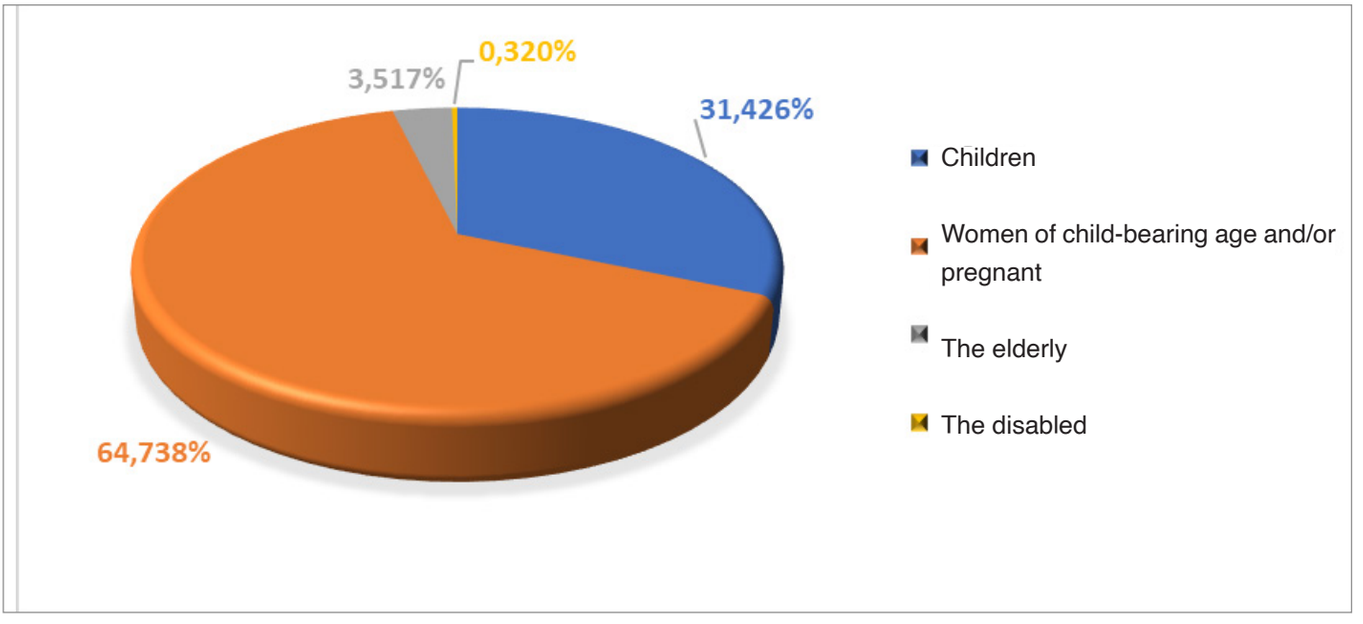

Figure 9: Distribution of vulnerable groups

- This population is made up of indigenous people, non-natives from various backgrounds and foreigners (Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Burkina-Faso, etc.)5.

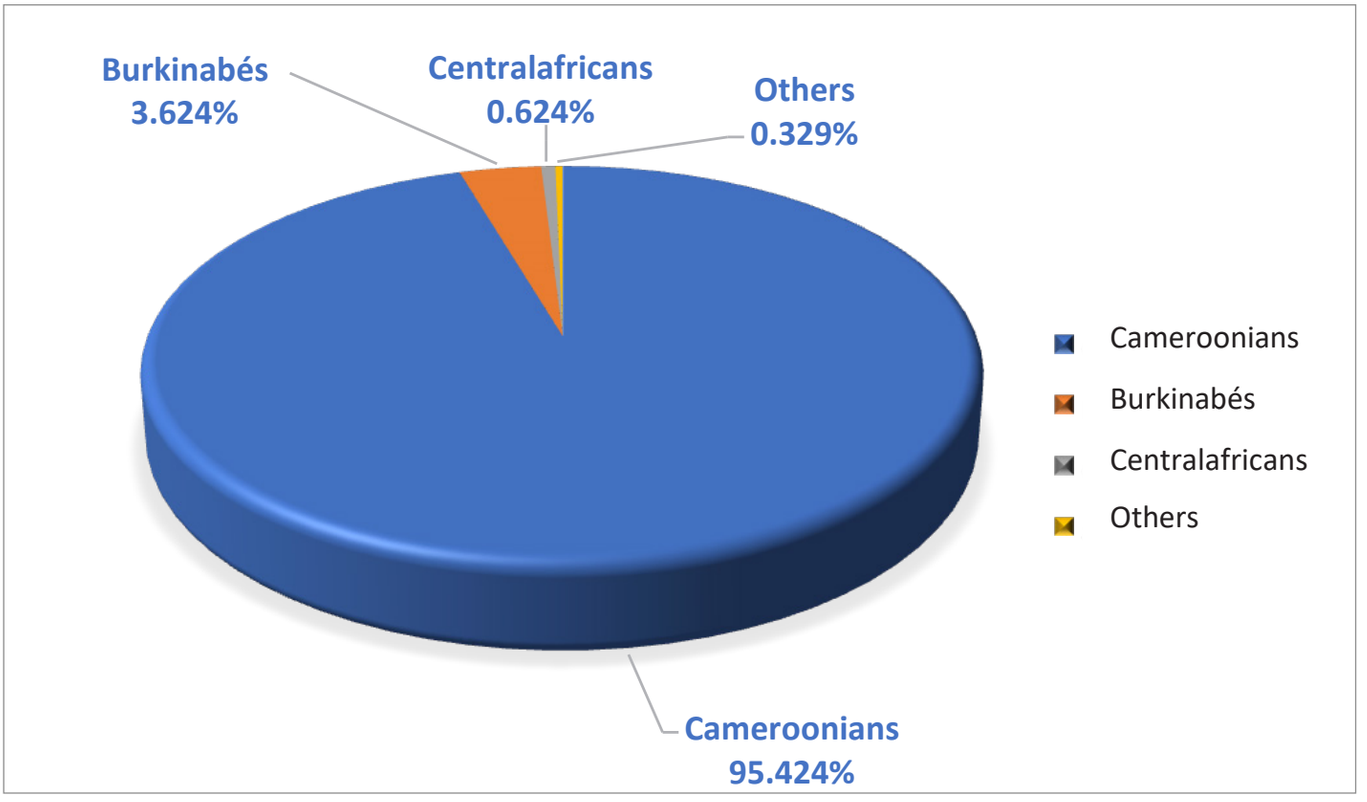

Figure 10: Distribution of gold miners according to nationality

- The ethnic breakdown of the population studied reflects that of the target regions. Gbayas from the East and Adamaoua are in the majority, followed by Kakos, Peuls, Nyangueles, Mafas, Mosies, Mezime and Manbilas. The Bamilékés, Bassas, Bulus and Bakwerians are the least represented5.

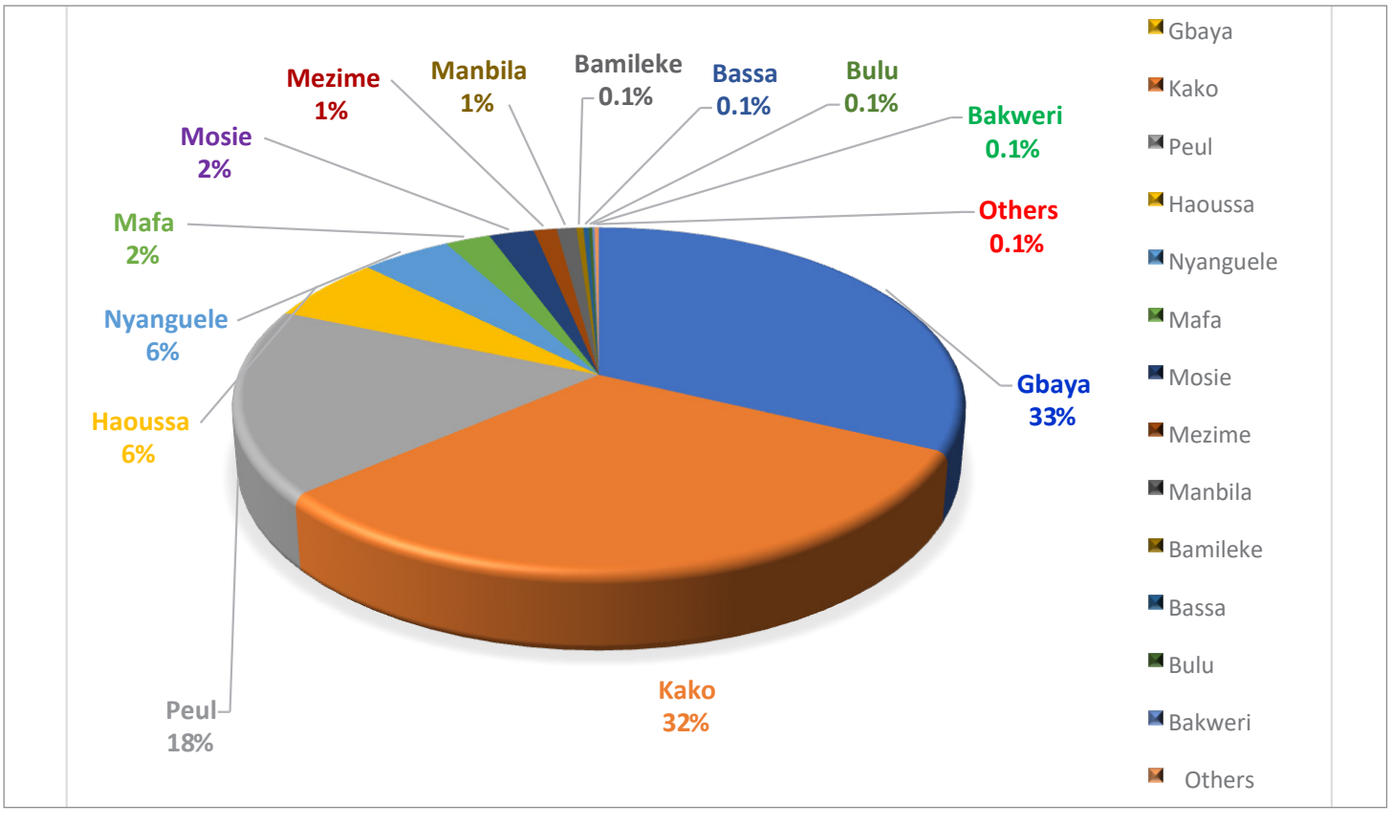

Figure 11: Distribution of the population of gold miners by ethnicity

- As shown on the chart below, the dominant population by religion are Christians, with the rest almost being Muslims5.

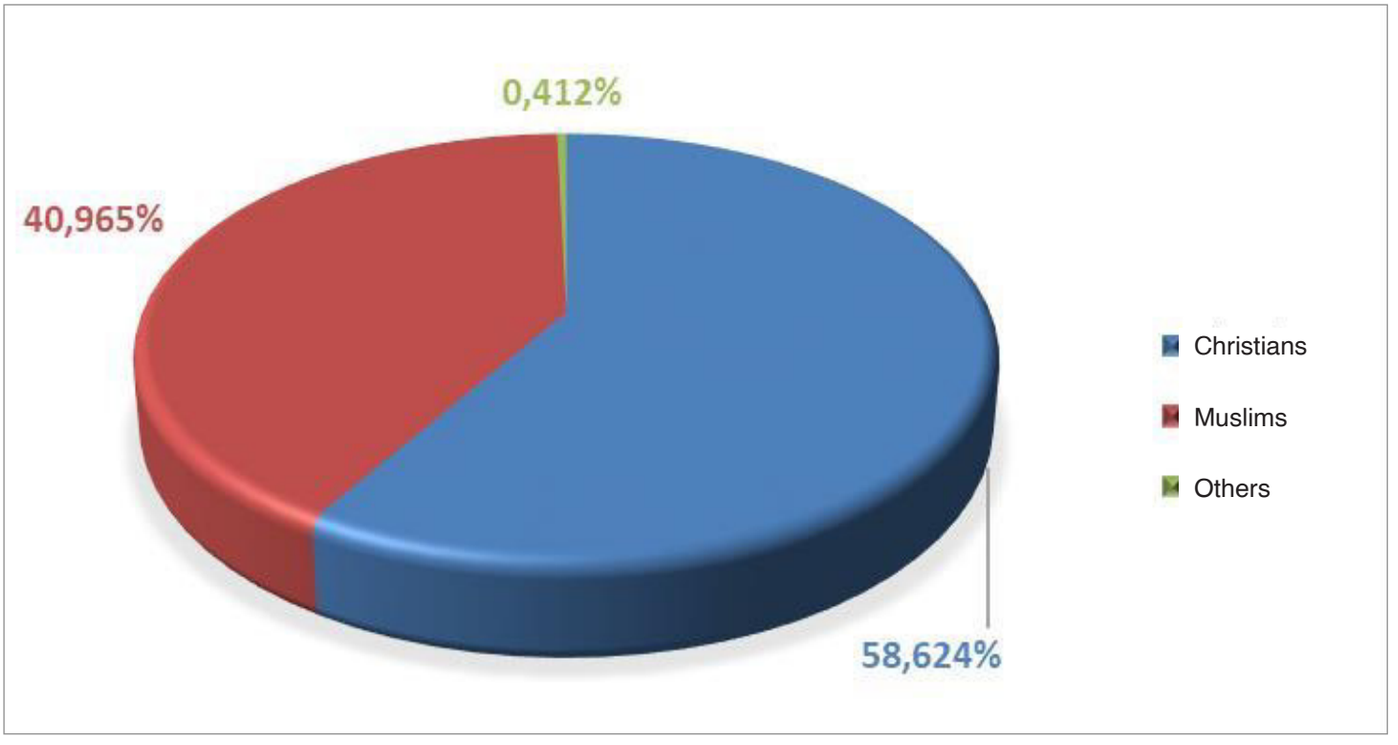

Figure 12: Distribution of the population of gold miners by religion

The division of labor[5] shows that:

- Men preferentially perform the roles of site manager, digger, crusher and collector. To a lesser extent, they may wash and amalgamate. But these tasks are more likely to be carried out by women and girls, as they require a certain dexterity;
- Women are generally responsible for digging, transporting, crushing, sieving and washing. However, they prefer the tasks of washing the ore with a beater and handling the mercury with their bare hands;
- Children (whose presence is forbidden on the sites) are sometimes used by their parents or guardians for digging, crushing, grinding, sieving and washing tasks; in addition to activities linked to gold panning, other activities such as small-scale trading in goods and services, fishing, etc. are developing around the sites.

I.8.2. Demographics of semi-mechanised mining sites

The average population of each site is five (05) Chinese and ten (10) Cameroonians. Out of the twenty-four (24) companies visited, there were around two hundred and seventy (270) workers, two hundred and twenty-four (224) of them male and forty-six (46) female (Cameroonian housewives and Chinese managers). The Chinese are site managers, supervisors, workers and amalgamators, while the Cameroonians are translators and workers5.

I.8.3. Social information

The social problems encountered at ASGM sites are of several types, namely :

- Families are dispossessed of their land through mechanisms and stratagems developed by operators seeking mining titles;
- Social conflicts that arise both within families and between communities and operators (foreigners and employers). These arise from demands for better working conditions and respect for land rights, leading to serious physical violence;
- Loss of human life due to mining holes that have not been sealed by mining companies, resulting in drowning and landslides;
- School dropouts and educational wastage in search of a quick bucks: children are lured by mining operations to abandoned pits near schools and homes, in a phenomenon known as «NGUERE». Added to this is the dilapidation of existing schools and the lack of teaching aids, which demotivates teachers;
- The money earned from the sale of gold is used to consume alcohol and drugs, or to finance sexual practices of various kinds involving young girls, who are themselves in a very precarious situation. This phenomenon is increasingly worrying in Cameroon's mining villages, particularly in the East and Adamaoua regions;
- Child labour: children aged between 03 and 13 and women working in the mines with infants on their backs are exposed to the risk of illness (poisoning, convulsions, coma, cardiovascular arrest, malformations, lung cancer linked to exposure to mercury and cyanide), drowning and certain death in the event of a landslide;
- Sexual violence against women and girls: spread of STDs/STIs: Women and girls who are unable to invest their physical strength in the sometimes inhumane conditions of the mines are often forced into prostitution to earn a living or to help support the family. The corollary is the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, as well as treatment that damages the physical, mental and emotional health of these girls and adolescents.

[13]Achille E., Eric E., Gwladys K., Judeon Y., Marc A. K., Samuel N., 2022. l'or, secteur miné. La mine artisanale semi-mécanisée au Cameroun. Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED).

I.9. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Gold mining in Cameroon has a significant impact on the environment, exacerbated by anarchy in the artisanal mining industry in the strict sense of the term and the failure to comply with the restoration obligation set out in the regulations in force. These impacts are of various kinds and can be summarised as follows:

- Degradation of plant cover and loss of animal biodiversity, loss of arable land, denaturation of the landscape;
- Water pollution by solid or chemical waste from mining activities;
- Emission of dust during ore processing operations and vapours of mercury and other chemicals. Even long after mining, wind action on tailings left behind by miners can affect air quality around surrounding areas;
- Noise pollution due to drilling, unauthorised blasting and production equipment emitting deafening noise that can lead to hearing loss over time;
- Proliferation of waste: rock debris, waste rock and slag heaps dumped around mining sites react with water, air and micro-organisms, thus releasing toxic substances such as mercury, arsenic, lead and various acids, etc.;
- Health and safety risks: Many miners do not respect health and safety rules (not wearing personal protective equipment - PPE) and are therefore exposed to accidents, which can sometimes be fatal. Communities are unaware of the negative impacts of ASGM and take very little interest in environmental issues. Excavations that are not backfilled are traps that can lead to loss of life (falls, drowning, collapses, landslides, etc.).

In addition, results of investigations carried out as part of the development of the National Action Plan revealed that samples of soil, aquaculture species and surface water are mainly contaminated with mercury as indicated in table 5 on the next page.

Table 5 : Summary table of analyses results of samples taken

Fish	
Mercury	Cyanide
100% of fish samples showed mercury levels from 14,400µg/kg – 23,600µg/kg with an average value of 19,356µg/kg; above the threshold value (5µg/kg)	76% of samples with a cyanide content above the threshold value (0µg/kg)
Swimming pool water and surface water	
Mercury	Cyanide
99% of samples show mass concentrations from 2µg/L - 6870µg/L with an average value of 394.872 µg/L; above the threshold value (1 µg /l according to EU 2022/1342)	45% of samples with a cyanide content above the threshold value (50µg/l) set by WHO's ISO standard and that of 2020/2184 (EU) Guidelines
Ground	
Mercury	Cyanide
99% of samples with a value above the reference standard (minimum and maximum transfer of mercury from soil to food and fodder plants, i.e. 0.5 mg/kg and 0.114 mg/kg taken from the Ordinance on the Animal Food Book (OLALA))	

Source : MINMIDT 2022

Figure 13: River pollution at Bétaré-Oya (Photo MINMIDT, 2023)

Figure 14: Digression of the Lom riverbed at YASSA by BINDIBA (Photo MINMIDT, 2023)

Figure 15: Sample of analysed fish caught in the Lom River (Photo MINMIDT, 2023)

I.10. HEALTH INFORMATION

I.10.1. Health and safety risk factors on sites

As part of this project, a rapid assessment of the health situation of minors and an assessment of the institutional capacities of the health sector were carried out by MINSANTE in 2023. In 2022, FODER had also identified health problems in the localities of Batouri, Kette, Ngoura, and Bétaré-Oya[10]. These studies showed that artisanal gold mining, as currently practiced in Cameroon, generates numerous health risks for gold miners and local populations : Chemical (mercury, cyanide, arsenic, lead);

- Biological (water and waste-related diseases, sexually transmitted infections);
- Biomechanical (trauma, overwork);
- Physical (noise, low oxygen levels); and
- Psychosocial (drug addiction, stress, fatigue) .

Ten (10) symptoms linked to chronic exposure to mercury were identified by the aforementioned FODER study shown in table 6 below.

Table 6 : Symptoms of mercury poisoning

Variable	Batouri N (%)	Kette N (%)	Ngoura N (%)	Bétaré-Oya N (%)	Total N (%)
Symptoms					
Headaches	10 (30.3)	7 (21.2)	9 (27.3)	7 (21.2)	33 (55%)
Unusual fatigue	7 (20.0)	8 (22.9)	10 (28.6)	10 (28.6)	35 (58.3)
Cough	6 (35.3)	6 (35.3)	3 (17.6)	2 (11.8)	17 (28.3)
Excessive sleep	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	2 (40.0)	1 (20.0)	5 (8.3)
Dizziness	3 (27.3)	1 (9.1)	3 (27.3)	4 (36.4)	11 (18.3)
Shivering/ Trembling	6 (85.7)	0	1 (14.3)	0	7 (11.7)
Tingling and pinching	7 (31.8)	2 (9.1)	7 (31.8)	6 (27.3)	22 (36.7)
Hearing problems	1 (50.0)	0	1 (50.0)	0	2 (3.3)
Visual impairment	5 (55.6)	2 (22.2)	1 (11.1)	1 (11.1)	9 (15)
Sensation of loss of taste	4 (66.7)	0	0	2 (33.3)	6 (10)

[14]IIED, 2004. Breaking New Ground: Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development. International Institute for Environment and Development: London.

Handling of mercury on mining sites, especially the open burning of amalgam and other chemicals (lead, arsenic and cyanide) near dwellings (camps) is one of the main sources of mercury emissions into the atmosphere. Assessments of field surveys reveal that open burning of amalgam exposes those present to mercury levels above the exposure thresholds of 1μg/m3 set by the World Health Organization (WHO), which constitutes an immediate danger to life and health

I.10.2.Health care provisions and qualifications of healthcare workers

The health system is ill-equipped to deal with acute or chronic mercury poisoning. There are fewer doctors in gold mining sites due to the significant distance of sites from urban areas (towns) and the shortage of qualified personnel. The first point of contact with the rural healthcare system is nursing staff (healthcare workers), who are not familiar with the issue of poisoning and the risks of exposure to mercury. Even though the workers interviewed knew that exposure to mercury presents a health hazard, they admitted that they were unable to recognise the symptoms of acute or chronic poisoning. This is due to the absence of internationally recognised clinical diagnostic guidelines for chronic mercury exposure and the lack of technical facilities for performing biological mercury assays in practice.

Lastly, the lack of appropriate treatment centres, treatment protocols or technical facilities and the unavailability of chelating agents in the local pharmaceutical circuit, make it difficult to provide specific treatment for poisoning. Cameroon does have a national public health laboratory and several regional public laboratories, but there is still lack of knowledge about the analysis of mercury-related health problems.

The general responsibilities of key institutions are described in the 2013 decree organising the Ministry of Public Health. However, functions relating to ASGM are not included, while a mandate to address health risks in ASGM communities has not been defined.

The national healthcare system is based on three levels of healthcare:

i. Divisional (peripheral);
ii. Regional (intermediate); and
iii. Central (tertiary).

The country is divided into ten (10) regions and two hundred and eight (208) health divisions composed of regional hospitals, divisional medical centres (DMC) and integrated healthcare centres.

[15]World Health Organization 2021. Mercury exposure: a major public health problem, second edition. Preventing disease through healthy environments

II. NATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND REDUCTION TARGETS

II.1. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining has been practised in Cameroon for more than a century. Current mining practises with the use of mercury occur at a significant level in the country. Baseline studies revealed that national mercury consumption is approximately 15.1 tons per year. Data from sixteen (16) ASGM sites in two regions (East and Adamawa) out of eight where ASGM is practised showed that an estimated number of 8,500 active gold minersare engaged in this activity, with an even much larger population depending indirectly on ASGM.
These mining activities, and especially the use of mercury in the sector, posedangerous long-term health and environmental impacts on people working in this activity sector and populations living in, near,downstream or downwind of such mining operations. Therefore, there is great need to promote more sustainable activities in the ASGM sector and to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, mercury use in the sector, in order to protect human health and the environment.

II.2. MAIN OBJECTIVE

To reduce, by 70% by 2030, the use of mercury and its compounds as well as emissions and releases into the environment, in the ASGM sector;

II.3. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives are listed in table 7 below as follows:

Table 6: Specific objectives
N.B: Domains refer to strategies

Domains	No.	Specific objectives
Elimination of worst ASGM practices.	1	1.1. Raise awareness among all stakeholders on poor operating practices and the legislative and regulatory framework for the use of mercury and cyanide in ASGM by 2030; 1.2. Strengthen the capacities of all stakeholders tomonitor and implement clean technologies by 2030.
Formalisation and Regulation of the ASGM sector.	2	2.1. Create 100 decent artisanal mining organisations (CIGs, Cooperatives and SMEs) by 2030; 2.2. Establish mechanisms to enableCIGs, Cooperatives and SMEs in the ASGM sector to have access to credits to finance their activities.
Promotion of the reduction of emissions and releases of, and exposure to, mercury.	3	3.1. Reduce emissions andreleases of, and exposure to, mercury in ASGMby 40% by 2030; 3.2. Put in place mercury vapour-recovery systems and exclude all handling of mercury with bare handsin 40% of active ASGMs by 2030; 3.3. Regularly monitorchanges in mercury emissions and releasesin ASGM sites.
Management of trade and prevention of the diversion of mercury and mercury compounds.	4	4.1.Control national and international trade in mercury and mercury compounds for usein Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining; 4.2. Strengthen application of the legal and regulatory framework for the supply,trade and use of mercury and its derivatives; 4.3.Strengthen cooperation in the CEMAC zone to combat the trade and use of mercury and mercury compounds in ASGM.
Involvement of stakeholdersin implementation and continued development of the NAP.	5	5.1. Promote interaction and exchange between stakeholders and establish multi-actor consultation frameworks; 5.2. Communicate on the dangers of mercury use on human health and the environment; 5.3. Strengthen the capacities of different stakeholders on ASGM issues.
Operation of a public healthpolicyon the exposure of artisanal and small-scale gold miners and their communities to mercury.	6	6.1. Strengthen the public health legal and institutional framework onASGM activities (planning ASGMoperationalization activities in health facilities); 6.2. Mobiliseresourcesand coordinate health-related ASGM activities (including the state budget: operating and investment budgets); 6.3. Integrate health-related ASGM activities into health emergency preparedness and response activities; 6.4. Develop guidelines on health issues related to ASGM activities and standard operating procedures based on international standards and adapted to national context, including social and vulnerable groups; 6.5. Prepare and implement health related issues in the ASGM sector for undergraduate and postgraduate training; 6.6. Improve the health surveillance system, taking into account the integration of health-related issues in the ASGMsector; 6.7. Provide health and hygiene, energy and ventilation equipment to healthcarefacilities;

		6.8. Develop a partnership with community stakeholders (including those from social and vulnerable groups); 6.9. Strengthening the capacities of ASGM community stakeholders; 6.10. Establish a monitoring and evaluationmechanism on health issues within thecommunityfor ASGM activities; 6.11. Establish a community surveillance system for health problems linked to ASGM activities; 6.12. Put in place a monitoring and evaluation framework for ASGM-related health issues; 6.13. Create and implement an information dissemination system for decision-making.
Prevention of exposure of vulnerable populations to mercury used in ASGM.	7	7.1. Improve socio-economic support for vulnerable populations by 80% by 2030; 7.2. Reduce exposure tomercury in vulnerable groups atASGM sites by 50% by 2030.
Provision of information to artisanal and small-scale gold miners and affected communities.	8	8.1. Raise awareness of the impacts of mercury and related substances on human health, vulnerable populations and the environment; 8.2. Encourage the support and involvement of populations concerned withASGMactivities in the implementation of the NAP; 8.3. Reduce mercury use in ASGM by 75% by 2030 and promote mercury-free technologies in the sector.
Financing the NAP implementation.	9	9.1. Structure the fundraising processby 2025; 9.2. Mobilise external resources up to 85% of overall financing needs.

II.4. REDUCTION TARGETS

The reduction targets are illustrated in table 8 below as follows:
Table 7: Reduction targets

Year	Percentage reduction of mercury in ASGM
2025	20%
2026	35%
2027	45%
2028	60%
2029	70%
2030	

III.IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

III.1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The NAP implementation strategy to reduce, and where feasible eliminate mercury in ASGM is endorsed by the nine (09) strategies previously listed. Its objective is to reduce mercury used in ASGM by 70%. The major risks to making this vision a reality are inherent in the informal nature of ASGM activities; the geographical remoteness of mining sites; the weak presence of the State on mining sites; the established culture of bad gold mining practices; the dynamic nature of populations and mining sites; the trans-nationality of gold and mercury supply and trade chains. The hoped-for change should be based on the following five principles:

1. **Optimisation of the formalisation and regulation of mercury supply, trade and use in ASGM:** This will be achieved through multi-sectoral and integrated approaches and by building the capacity of actors involved in formalisation; promotion of policies, regulations and programs at the central, divisional and municipal levels; monitoring of the mercury supply circuit; update of certain regulatory texts; involvement of all administrations concerned; cooperation and harmonisation of regional and sub-regional policies; encouragement of operators to migrate to mercury-free technologies; and regular publication of a log on activities relating to mercury releases, emissions and waste.
2. **Adoption of mercury-free technologies:** This will be achieved through building the capacity of stakeholders by implementing mercury-free technologies with optimal gold recovery; raising awareness; strengthening university centres and institutes to offer training curricula; setting up pilot mercury-free gold processing centres.
3. **Communication, awareness-raising and knowledge sharing:** This will be done through establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms; dissemination and sharing of information at local, national and international level; capacities building for women in leadership through regional exchanges; promotion of other income-generating activities.
4. **Mobilisation and diversification of financial resources:** This will be done through increased State supervision of ASGM by the introduction of innovative financing mechanisms; support for ASGM stakeholders in putting together financing applications; facilitating easier access to micro-credits and microfinancing; capacity-building of ASGM actors in management, entrepreneurship, etc.; control and monitoring of gold trading processes;
5. **Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the NAP at three levels:** development of annual work plans; monitoring the implementation of the NAP Implementation Plan; Mid-term review and final evaluation of the Project.

III.2. STRATEGIES

III.2.1. Strategies to eliminate worst practices

The worst artisanal mining practices are common in Cameroon's ASGM. These include the use of mercury and cyanide to recover gold metal. Notwithstanding the existence of a solid legal arsenal on the management of waste and hazardous chemicals; the change in mining type from alluvial to eluvial and primary coupled with poor knowledge of "worst practices" (in Annex C of the MINAMATA convention), and weak application of the regulations in force largely explain the proliferation of these worst practices. In order to comply with its legal framework and specifically with regard to the MINAMATA Convention, the strategy to eliminate worst practices will be to raise awareness among all stakeholders on worst mining practices and the legislative and regulatory framework for the use of mercury and cyanide in ASGM, and to build the capacity of the aforementioned stakeholders in the monitoring and implementation of clean technologies. Table 9 below sets out the related activities.

Table 9: Activities to eliminate worst practices

Activities to eliminate worst practices			
No.	Specific objectives	No.	Activities
1	Raise awareness among all stakeholders on the worst mining practices and the legislative and regulatory framework for the use of mercury and cyanide in ASGM.	1.1	Development and broadcasting of spots (audio and video) on the worst and best practices on physical media.
		1.2	Organisation of awareness-raising sessions on worst practices (official languages and local languages).
		1.3	Organisation of awareness-raising sessions on the legislative and regulatory frameworkfor the use of mercury and cyanide in ASGM.
		1.4	Publication and dissemination of acompendium of legislative and regulatory texts.
2	Build the capacity of all stakeholders in the control and implementation of clean technologies.	2.1	Organisation of training sessions on controlling the use of mercury and cyanide in ASGM.
		2.2	Training specialists in mercury-free mining techniques for subsequent supervision of artisanal miners.
		2.3	Organisation of monitoring and control missions.
		2.4	Identification and selection of 03 pilot sites.
		2.5	Construction of barns at pilot sites.
		2.6	Acquisition of equipment and materials necessary to reduce the use of mercury in ASGM.
		2.7	Acquisition of personal protective equipment and materials.
		2.8	Organisation of training mercury-free goldprocessing andenvironmentally sound management of mercury-contaminated residues.
		2.9	Support for artisanal miners' organisations in carrying out tests to determine orerecovery rates of alternative methods.
		2.10	Improvement of the supply chain of responsible and mercury-free ore to ASGM stakeholders.
		2.11	Supervision of miners through the involvement of trade specialists.

III.2.2. Strategies to facilitate formalisation or regulation of the ASGM sector

The Cameroonian mining sector, through the Mines-Metallurgy-Steel sector, is one of the priority pillarsfor the structural transformation of the economy to achieve the objectives of emergence in 2035 as defined in the National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (NDS30). As a potential vector for development, ASGM employs around 27,000 gold miners and directly benefits 120,000 people. .

The inventory shows that there is little formalisation of active actors (less than 5%) in the artisanal mining sector stricto-sensu. This situation is due to:

- Lack of government supervision of the activity;
- Lackof financial resourcesto support the sector. CAPAM's support activities covered the period 2005-2009, during which 200 mining CIGs were created. After this period, there was virtually no further formalisation due to lack of financial resources;
- Poor access to information by artisanal miners on formalisation procedures provided for by the legislation in force;
- Lack of cooperation and trust between miners and the various administrations/authoritiesinvolved;
- Artisans' low capacity to manage organisations (cooperatives, CIGs, SMEs).

However, it should be noted that,in addition to artisanal mining in the strict sense of the term, semi-mechanised artisanal mining activities are also subject to a host of difficulties,mainly due to the lack of animplementing decree for the 2023 mining code (currently being drafted), and the discrepancy between existing legislation and practices on the ground.

In view of these findings, effective and efficient implementation of supervision, formalisation and regulation of artisanal communities involved in artisanal and small-scale mining and processing using mercury amalgamation to extract gold from the ore is necessary to increase the rate of professionalisation in the artisanal mining sector by 30% by 2030.

To achieve this, the following three priority actions must be considered:

- Support for the creation of new and decent artisanal mining organisations (CIGs, Cooperatives, and SMEs);
- Capacity buildingof artisanal mining organisations with a view to their professionalisation;
- Assistdecentralised local authoritiesfor local support of ASGM organisations.

The related activities are listed in table 10 below:

[16]Sébastien P., Yves BERTRAN A., Idriss LINGE, 2021. Etude sur les filières de commercialisation de l'or et du diamant au Cameroun– PRECASEM – Elaboration : ARM – Rapport final

Table 10:Activities to facilitate the formalisation and regulation of ASGM

Activities aimed at facilitating the formalization and structuring of ASGM			
No.	Specific objectives	No.	Activities
1	Support the creation of at least 100 decent artisanal mining organisations (CIGs, Cooperatives, SMEs, etc.).	1.1	Identification of leaders taking into account gender balance.
		1.2	Mapping of existing artisanal mining organisations.
		1.3	Supporting leaders in the creation of artisanal mining organisations (producers, collectors, procuring offices, smelting units, jewellery, etc.).
		1.4	Sharing and exchanging experience in the formalisation and regulation
			of organisations.
		1.5	Organisation of capacity-building sessions for artisanal miners' organisations in business administration and organisation.
		1.6	Support for the creation of zones reserved for artisanal mining.
		1.7	Support for the organisation of ASGM community fairs.
		1.8	Support for capacity-building of DLAs in monitoring artisanal mining activities in the strict sense and vocational training centres.
2	Set up mechanisms to enable CIGs, Cooperatives, SMEs, etc. in the artisanal mining sector to have access to credit to finance their activities.	2.1	Development of a guidance document to facilitate access to credit insurance for artisanal mining organisations.
		2.2	Support for artisanal mining organisations in preparing their credit guarantee applications.

		2.3	Development of a model application form for global funding of artisanal mining organisations.
		2.4	Assisting organisations in the artisanal mining sector to draw up their business plans and apply for funding on a case-by-case basis.

III.2.3. Strategies for promoting the reduction of emissions and releases of, and exposure to, mercury

Reducing emissions in the ASGM sector involves regulating safer mercury processing methods, thus paving the way for new mercury-free mining practices. Exposure to mercury in the ASGM sector in Cameroon occurs during ore amalgamation and amalgam burning. Annex C of the convention deals with the development of national plans and proposes a strategy to promote the reduction of emissions, releases and exposure to mercury. The strategy sets out a number of specific objectives, including: Promoting mercury-free technologies in ASGM, Setting up mercury vapour-recovery systems and excluding all methods of mercury handling with bare-hands from ASGM activities, Regular knowledge of changes in mercury releases and emissions in ASGM sites. Table 11 below lists the activities referred to above:

Table 8: Activities to promote the reduction of mercury emissions and exposures

Activities to promote the reduction of emissions, releases and exposure to mercury			
No.	Specific objectives	No.	Activities
1	Promote mercury-free technologies in 40% of ASGM.	1.1	Development and validation of standard specifications for migration to mercury-free technologies.
		1.2	Awareness-raising and signing of specifications between the government and artisanal mining organisations.
		1.3	Support for artisanal miners, who undertake to use only mercury-free technologies, in obtaining new mining permits.
		1.4	Promotion of alternative methods that are quick, simple and easy to transport for artisanal miners in the strict sense of the term.
		1.5	Promotion of safer and more responsible alternative processing methods in semi-mechanised artisanal mining.
2	Establish mercury vapour-recovery systems and exclude all handling of mercury with bare hands in 40% of active ASGMs.	2.1	Granting premiums to encourage active ASGMs to set up mercury vapour-recovery systems and exclude all handling of mercury with bare hands.
		2.2	Technical support (training and installation of tools) for ASGMs in setting up mercury vapour-recovery systems.
		2.3	Development of a national management program for mercurycontaining mining waste and contaminated sites from the ASGM sector.
3	Control/monitor mercury releases and emissions at ASGM sites.	3.1	Semi-annual collection and on-going analysis of mercury release samples.
		3.2	Publication of a log of activities relating to mercury emissions and releases.
		3.3	Strengthening the technical resources of national laboratories for the analyses of mercury releases and emissions.
		3.4	Feasibility study of the rehabilitation, restoration and decontamination of mercury-contaminated mining sites.

III.2.4. Strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury and mercury compounds

Despite the country's ban on the import and use of mercury in ASGM, visits to the main mining sites revealed abundant use of mercury, indicating that there is indeed illicit trade in this metal. However, with the scarcity of alluvial sites and the proliferation of eluvial and primary deposits (fine gold), operators are inclined to make the use of mercury an essential technique to optimise production. In light of the above, this strategy aims to improve the legal and regulatory framework for mercury management and trade; build the capacity of customs control officers, personnel from stakeholder administrations (MINMIDT, MINCOMMERCE, MINEPDED, MINADER, other concerned sectors) and accredited laboratories for the identification of mercury/mercury compounds and cyanide; and to support the implementation of enhanced international cooperation between countries in the CEMAC sub-region. The table below lists the related activities:

Table 9: Activities to manage trade and prevent mercury diversion

Activities to manage trade and prevent diversion of mercury			
No.	Specific objectives	No.	Activities
1	Improve the legal and regulatory framework for mercury management and trade.	1.1	Revision of Decree No. 2011/2585/PM of 23 August 2011 establishing the list of harmful or hazardous substances and the rules governing their release into existing continental waters.
		1.2	Revision of Order No. 004/MINEPDED/CAB of 21 September 2017 amending and supplementing the list of chemical substances in Decree No. 2011/2581/PM of 23 August 2011 regulating harmful and/or dangerous
			chemical substances.
		1.3	Publication of materials on the ban of the use and trade of mercury.
		1.4	Organisation of awareness-raising and outreach workshops for stakeholders in the 10 regions of the country.
2	Strengthen the application of the legal and regulatory framework for the trade, supply and use of mercury and its derivatives.	2.1	Development and implementation of a training program on mercury inspection, verification and detection capabilities.
		2.2	Acquisition of mercury and cyanide control/monitoring equipment.
		2.3	Capacity building on investigation techniques, including information exchange with other services at national, subregional and international levels.

		2.4	Setting up a management unit responsible for controlling the movement of mercury and its derivatives for dedicated purposes.
		2.5	Maintaining citizen watch/monitoring in ASGM activities.
3	Strengthen cooperation in the CEMAC zone to combat the trade and use of mercury and derived substances in ASGM.	3.1	Development of a sub-regional protocol for cooperation, taxation and harmonised control of the trade and use of mercury.
		3.2	Validation of the sub-regional protocol for cooperation, taxation and harmonised control of the trade and use of mercury.
		3.3	Training and awareness-raising on the subregional protocol for cooperation, taxation and harmonised control of the trade and use of mercury.
		3.4	Establishment of communication and cooperation mechanisms.
		3.5	Continuous evaluation and revision of the protocol.

III.2.5. Strategies for involving stakeholders in the implementation and continued development of the NAP

The issue of ASGM in Cameroon involves several stakeholders, the most notable of which are the ministries in charge of mines, environment, health, social affairs, as well as civil society organisations. All these stakeholders are already involved in the ASGM NAP development process. However, the action plan is unique and its implementation, monitoring, orientation and related evaluations require institutionalising the involvement of each of these actors in their different areas of intervention and through formal consultation and decision-making frameworks.

Given the disparate nature of the sovereign missions assigned to each stakeholder, it is important to note that this state of affairs could constitute a real handicap in the effective implementation of the NAP. Hence the need for a process of reflection to giving them a common vision so that their different actions can converge.

To this end, regulatory texts (decrees and others) will be adopted, creating and laying down the rules for the organisation and operation of a National Steering Committee (NSC), Technical Committee (TC) and Regional Committees (RC). These will define the timetables for meetings, consultation, evaluation and reorientation of the NAP in consultation with all stakeholders.

In order to capitalise on interventions, avoid duplication and ensure that the actions to be undertaken are consistent with those of the NAP, identified stakeholders need to pool their contributions and work in synergy. In this way, the multi-sectoral consultation framework will make it possible to coordinate and monitor actions in the ASGM sector. The ministry in charge of the environment, as the focal point for the Minamata Convention in the country, will coordinate the consultation framework in close collaboration with the ministry of mines and other stakeholders.

The related activities are grouped in the table below:

Table 10: Activities aimed at involving all stakeholders in the continued implementation of the NAP

Activities aimed at involving all stakeholders in the implementation of the NAP			
No.	Specific objectives		Activities
1.	Consult with all relevant stakeholders.	1.1	Updating the stakeholder directory.
		1.2	Setting up and runningthe different consultation and exchange frameworks (NSC, TC, RC, etc.).
		1.3	Organisation of meetings of the various consultation committees (NSC, TC, RC, etc.).
		1.4	Assessment of knowledge and capacity building needs of stakeholders.
		1.5	Networking stakeholders for exchanges on the NAP(associations, federations, etc.).
		1.6	Organisation of participatory identification workshops of NAP activities to be developed with artisanal miners and other major actors in the field.
		1.7	Drawing up the Annual Work Plan (AWP).
		1.8	Organisation of discussion sessions with owners of mining sites on safety and mercury use.
		1.9	Integration of the fight against mercury use into the development plans (DPs) of the DLAs.
		1.10	Development of study programs on BAT/BEP in artisanal mining.
		1.11	Capacity-building of some engineering schools to manufacture innovative materials and equipment aimed at reducing mercury pollution.
		1.12	Advocacy for the enrolment of impoverished Cameroonian families from ASGM zones in family grant programs (social safety nets).
		1.13	Establishment of community monitoring and warning systems (committees) against the use of toxic products in pilot municipalities.
		1.14	Monitoring the continued implementation of NAP activities.
		1.15	Annual evaluation of the implementation of NAP activities.
2.	Communicate and disseminate information to stakeholders.	2.1	Organisation of two (02) workshops for the production of articles and key messages (content and form) adapted to the various target groups.
		2.2	Organisation of a workshop to simplify extracts from the MINAMATA Convention and national texts dealing with issues relating to mercury and other toxic products.

		2.4	Development and signing of relay contracts with some local NGOs and associations operating in the target areas.
		2.5	Development and signing of contracts with national and community radio stations in the target areas.
		2.6	Organisation of information and awareness-raising campaigns on extracts from the Convention and legal texts in force in Cameroon's ASGM, followed by the distribution of related communication tools to the various target groups.
		2.7	Organisation of regional workshops to present and validate the ASGM best practices guide in Cameroon, translated into local languages.
		2.8	Organisation of regional workshops for dissemination and sharing of the ASGM best practices guide in Cameroon, translated into local languages.
		2.9	Organisation of regional workshops to capitalise on NAP results.
		2.10	Organisation of a national workshop to consolidate NAP results.
		2.11	Organisation of missions to monitor activities of monitoring committees in charge of combatting the use of toxic chemicals in ASGM.
3.	Build capacity of stakeholders.	3.1	Development of a capacity-building plan for various stakeholder groups.
		3.2	Identification of best practices and themes, then development of training modules and tools on them.
		3.3	Organisation of capacity building workshops for the various NAP stakeholders.
		3.4	Organisation of trips to share experiences between stakeholders.

III.2.6. A public health strategy on the exposure of artisanal and small-scale gold miners and their communities to mercury

Assessments carried out in the East and Adamawa regions as part of the NAP development process show that artisanal gold mining under current conditions in Cameroon generates numerous health risks, among which include:

- Chemicals (mercury, cyanide, arsenic, lead);
- Biological (water and waste-related diseases, sexually transmitted infections);
- Biomechanics (trauma, overwork);
- Physical (noise, low oxygen levels); and Psychosocial (drug addiction, stress, fatigue).

Field surveys show that open burning of amalgam in camps and residential areas, handling amalgam with bare hands, and adding cyanide to mercury-containing waste are all risks of chemical contamination.

The current health system is not yet equipped to diagnose cases of acute or chronic mercury poisoning. Furthermore, there are virtually no doctors on gold mining sites, due to the generally ephemeral nature of life on these sites. The most accessible healthcare personnel, because of their proximity to mining sites, are still unaware of mercury poisoning issues. Although health workers recognise that exposure to mercury and cyanide presents a health hazard, they admit that they are unable to recognise the symptoms of poisoning caused by these chemicals.

Cameroon's Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with other sectoral administrations and stakeholders, carried out a rapid institutional assessment of the health situation in ASGM. This enabled the main conclusions to be drawn and strategic guidelines and actions to be propose in order to tackle the problems of mercury poisoning.
The table below lists the related activities:

Table 11: Activities aimed at improving public health

Activities aimed at improving public health			
No.	Specific objectives	No.	Activities
1	Strengthengovernance within the healthcare system for the prevention, management and elimination of exposure to mercury and heavy metals in ASGM.	1.1	Advocacy with relevant authorities for the creation and implementation of a task force to oversee health-related activities in ASGM.
		1.2	Develop terms of reference for members of the task force responsible for overseeing ASGMhealth-related activities at all levels of the health pyramid.
		1.3	Revision, validation, translation and production of the national legal and institutional framework relating to health issues linked to ASGM activities.
		1.4	Development and validation of a budgeted annual activity plan for running the taskforce that oversees health-related ASGM activities.
		1.5	Mobilisation of human, financial and material resources for running the taskforce at all levels of the health pyramid.
		1.6	Development of a map of stakeholders involved in the process of implementing ASGMactivities.
		1.7	Identification of potential sources of funding for ASGMhealth-related activities and establishment of an advocacy process to mobilise this funding.
		1.8	Development, validation, translation, production, training and dissemination of guidelines on health issues related to ASGM activities for high-risk pathogens, taking into account the “One Health” approach.
		1.9	Development of tools to disseminateASGMhealth-related activities at community level.
		1.10	Development, translation, production and distribution of the toolkit on high-risk pathogens, including the consequences of mercury-related effects.
		1.11	Training of health professionals on ASGMhealth-related issues with regard to high-risk pathogens including the consequences of mercury-related effects.
		1.12	Establishment of a framework,in public health establishments,for the care of people contaminated with mercury during their activities in the ASGM sector.
		1.13	Setting up Occupational Medical Services in artisanal gold miners’ organisations by signing Visiting and Care Agreements between them and MINSANTE.
2	Development of health guidelines for ASGM activities and standard operating procedures, including for vulnerable social groups.	2.1	Creation and establishment of a multi-sector working group for developing guidelines and terms of references.
		2.2	Development, validation, translation, printing and distribution of guidelines.

		2.3	Organisation of training workshops at national level.
		2.4	Organisation of training workshops at regional level.
3	Buildat least 80% of the technical and management capacities of healthcare system stakeholders on health issues related to ASGMactivities.	3.1	Development, validation and translation of national curricula on health-related issues in the ASGM sector, for pre- and post-graduate students in the health sector, taking into account social and vulnerable groups.
		3.2	Integration of continued education in healthcare establishments (staff, patients, nurses, visitors).
		3.3	Training community health workers on ASGMhealth-related issues taking into account vulnerable social groups.
		3.4	Workshop to validate anassessmentplan for thequality of professional training on healthcare issues related to ASGM.
		3.5	Implementation of a plan to assess the quality of training of professionals on health issues related to ASGM.
4	Integrate health issues related to ASGM activities into the health surveillance system at all levels of the health pyramid by100%.	4.1	Development, validation and inclusion of health issues related to ASGMin the existing national surveillance guide.
		4.2	Development, validation, translation, production training and dissemination of tools for collecting and analysing health issues related to ASGM in surveillance data across the health pyramid.
5	Supply of health and hygiene, energy and ventilation equipment to approximately 70% of health facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of health problems related to ASGMactivities.	5.1	Purchase and supply of diagnostic equipment for mercury and other heavy metals related to ASGM activities, as well as alternative energy sources such as solar panels or generators in the event of a power cut.
		5.2	Maintenance and servicing of diagnostic equipment for mercury and other heavy metals related to ASGM activities, as well as alternative energy sources such as solar panels or generators in the event of a power cut.
6	Improve community perception of risks associated with exposure to mercury and other heavy metals by approximately 80% by including vulnerable social groups in the ASGM sector.	6.1	Conduct a survey to describe the current state of community practices in relation toASGM in a number of public places in the two priority regions (schools, public administrations, places of accommodation, churches, bus stations, stadiums, etc.).
		6.2	Presentation of the survey report on community practices relating toASGM in public places in the two priority regions.

		6.3	Organisation of awareness-raising sessions on health issues in the ASGM community (fight against faecal peril, promotion of water supply and water conservation, promotion of personal hygiene, promotion of food hygiene, health promotion).
		6.4	Monitoring of health issues related to ASGM activities carried out by local structures.
		6.5	Organising monthly follow-up/monitoring meetings with community leaders and other stakeholders involved in ASGM-related health activities.
		6.6	Preparation and distribution of monthly reports on ASGM monitoring activities in communities.
		6.7	Organisation of workshops to provide training in the use of reporting tools.
		6.8	Organisation of employee medical surveillance and workplace hygiene monitoring by the Occupational Medical Services.
		6.9	Monthly organisation of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) / Health and Safety Committee (HSC) meetings.

III.2.7. Strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in ASGM

Overall, there was a remarkable presence of vulnerable groups in the ASGM sites (children, women of childbearing age, pregnant women and people with disabilities), representing 37% of the working population, engaged in various activities (digging, transport, crushing, sieving and washing by mercury amalgamation). These people are a target for protection. The objective is therefore to reduce the exposure of this vulnerable population to mercury and mercury compounds in ASGM by approximately 80%.
The table below lists the related activities:

Table 12: Activities aimed at protecting vulnerable groups

Activities aimed at protecting vulnerable groups			
No.	Specific objectives	No.	Activities
1	Improve socio-economic support for vulnerable populations by approximately 80%.	1.1	Organisation of campaigns to identify key needs of the population, alternative measures based on the economic possibilities and facilities in target areas.
		1.2	Mapping needs according to zones and targets.
		1.3	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns targeted on the risks of vulnerable groups working in ASGM and on the importance of sending children to school.
		1.4	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns on the need to use PPE.
		1.5	Organisation of campaigns to raise awareness of women on the importance of other income-generating activities.
2	Reduce exposure to mercury among vulnerable	2.1	Training of vulnerable populations on the creation of income-generating activities.
	groups in ASGM sites by 50%.	2.2	Support the development of social and economic projects for the benefit of populations living in and around ASGM sites.
		2.3	Support for women and other vulnerable groups of organised artisanal miners (cooperatives, associations, CIGs, SMEs) in the creation of income generating associations (IGAs).
		2.4	Organisation of regular educational talks on promoting social security.
		2.5	Psycho-social support and fight against the proliferation of social ills.
		2.6	Organisation of missions to control the application of, and compliance with, existing regulations on the employment of vulnerable groups.

		2.7	Design and installation of signs prohibiting child labour in mining sites.
		2.8	Organisation of regular educational talks in schools on the risks and dangers associated with the presence of children on mining sites and the use of mercury in ASGM.
		2.9	Support for the integration of young people in vocational training centres.
		2.10	Support for the education of young people through school grants.

III.2.8. Strategies for providing information to artisanal and small-scale gold miners and affected communities

Diagnostic analysis of information sharing and dissemination with a view to eliminating mercury use in ASGM in Cameroon revealed the following important points:

- Awareness-raising campaigns using different communication tools (spots, messages, images, etc.) and channels (radio, TV, internet, signs, newspapers, etc.),carried out by sectoral administrations and organisations involved in the supervision, monitoring and control of ASGM activities, focused on the danger of chemical substances (mercury and cyanide) in gold processing. But the reality on the ground is that these substances are being applied more and more, using unapproved techniques and methods, with no regard for the health of the gold mining community or the environment.
- Observations made have it that dissemination of information on the impact of mercury as mentioned above is still not leading to any change in behaviour; concerned target groups were not fully reached by the limited communication carried out so far, due to the constant mobility of actors and their incomplete identification.
- It would therefore be a good idea to put in place communication tools and channels during awareness-raising and outreach campaigns that are capable of bringing about a transformational change in ASGM stakeholders.

In order to attain the projected objective, the strategy is broken down into specific objectives and activities as presented in the table below.

Table 13: Activities aimed at disseminating and sharing information

Activities aimed at disseminating and sharing information			
No.	Specific objectives	No.	Activities
1	Inform ASGM workers about the impacts of the use of mercury and other polluting substances on human health, vulnerable populations and the environment.	1.1	Publication and distribution of documentation on the Minamata Convention.
		1.2	Publication and distribution of documentation on the NAP.
		1.3	Broadcasting messages of public interest on community radio stations.
		1.4	Publication and distribution of brochures and flyers on the impacts of mercury use on human health, and on regulations governing trade and use of mercury in Cameroon.
		1.5	Production of brochures, leaflets, posters, flyers, roll-ups, films, documentaries, USB keys, and T-Shirts, etc.; preparation of radio program broadcasters, meetings, image boxes, educational talks.
		1.6	Translation of key messages into local languages (Gbaya, Kako, etc.).
		1.7	Production of communication tools for posters.
		1.8	Organisation of an open national dialogue on the illegal use of mercury in ASGM in Cameroon.
		1.9	Organisation of video screenings on the worst and best practices in the 08 regions with ASGM.
2	Encourage the support and involvement of ASGM populations in the implementation of the NAP.	2.1	Organisation of an awareness-raising workshop on win-win collaboration between ASGM stakeholders.
		2.2	Identification and establishment of NAP focal points.
		2.3	Upgrade of PAN focal points.

		2.4	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns aimed at administrative, traditional, religious authorities, law enforcement forces, opinion leaders, companies and organisations involved in ASGM.
		2.5	Dissemination of mercury poisoning test results via digital channels and local social networks.
		2.6	Organisation of “family days” to raise awareness among ASGM workers, men, women and children.
3	Promote mercury-free technologies in the ASGM sector.	3.1	Dissemination of information on available and profitable mercury-free technologies, through interpersonal meetings, informative brochures, local radio stations.
		3.2	Organisation of a round table with producers/buyers/traders/intermediari
			es, to urge them to strictly respect the ban on mercury trade in Cameroon.
		3.3	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns on income-generating activities in the livestock sector.
		3.4	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns on income-generating activities in agriculture.
		3.5	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns on income-generating activities in the commercial sector.
		3.6	Organisation of awareness-raising sessions on income-generating activities in the production sector (carpentry, sewing, catering, accommodation, etc.).

III.2.9. Strategies for financing the NAP

In 2022, initial estimates of mercury quantities used in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector were made following data collection and analysis from 16 ASGM sites in the East and Adamawa regions.

The survey showed that gold production from ASGM in Cameroon in 2022 was approximately 13.36 tons. Based on a mercury/gold ratio of 1.13, the equivalent mercury consumption was 15.1 tons.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury, adopted in 2013 with the aim of protecting human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and its compounds, was ratified by Cameroon, which subsequently became a Party on 10 March 2021.

Under Article 7 and annex C of the said Convention, countries in which mercury is significantly used in ASGM activities are required to take measures to reduce, and where possible eliminate, the use of mercury through the development of a national action plan (NAP) for ASGM.

The NAP should comprise 09 (nine) strategies, the implementation of which requires significant funding. Activities related to fundraising are illustrated in table 17 on the next page.

Table 14: Activities related to the search for financing

Activities related to fundraising			
No.	Specific Objectives	No.	Activities
1	Structure the fundraising process.	1.1	Identification of technical and financial partners at national and international level.
		1.2	Preparation of NAP financing application documents.
		1.3	Preparation of meetings with technical and financial partners at national and international level.
2	Mobilise external resources to the tune of 14,009,961,250CFAF.	2.1	Submission of funding applications to international organisations.
		2.2	Advocacy with international organisations.
		2.3	Benchmarking with three countries that have benefited from Planet Gold+ funding.
		2.4	Advocacy mission to Planet Gold+ and AGC headquarters.
3	Mobilise internal resources to the tune of 6,039,267,500 CFAF.	3.1	Inclusion ofNAP activities in the medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEFs) of sectoral administrations (MINEPDED,MINMIDT, MINSANTE).
		3.2	Lobby other sectoral administrations (MINFI, MINEPAT, MINAS, MINDDEVEL, MINPROFF, MINTSS, etc.) to includean expenditure line to finance the NAP implementation in their mid-term evaluation frameworks (MTEFs).
4	Mobilise resources in kind from private investors and NGOs involved in ASGMS activities to the tune of513,250,000 CFAF.	4.1	Encouraging private investors to implement mercury-free and cost-effective technologies.
		4.2	Ensuring the restoration of sites polluted by ASGM activities.
		4.3	Lobby NGOs to includea line to finance the implementation of the NAP in their expenditure budgets.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The National Action Plan will be implemented over the period 2025-2030 including six months of final evaluation and project closure in 2030. The intervention period has been divided into two (02) intervals: 2025-2027 and 2028 -2029. This division stems from the dates set for the transmission of reports on the implementation of the NAP to the Secretariat of the MINIMATA Convention.

Table 15: Implementation plan

Strategies to facilitate formalisation or regulation of the ASGM sector											
Main objective: Increase the professionalisation rate of the artisanal mining sector by 30% by 2030											
Actions	**Activities**	**Priorities**	**Implementation structures**	**Cost of action in millions of CFAF**				**Calendar**		**Funding sources**	**Action indicators**
				Internal	**External**	**In-kind**	**Total**	**2025/2027**	**2028/2029**		
Specific objective 1:Support the creation of at least 100 decent artisanal mining organisations (CIGs, Cooperatives, SMEs, etc.)											
Support for the creation of new and decent artisanal mining organisations	Identification of leaders taking into account gender balance.	High	MINMIDT/SONAMINES		100		100			Technical-financial partners	Number of organisations created
	Mapping of existing artisanal mining organisations.	High	MINMIDT/SONAMINES/ONG			100	100			MINMIDT/ SONAMINES/ONG	
	Supporting leaders in the creation of artisanal mining organisations (producers, collectors, procuring offices, smelting units, jewellery, etc.).	High	MINMIDT/MINADER/ MINPMEESA/CTD		200		200			Technical-financial partners	
Capacity-building of artisanal mining organisations with a view to their professionalisation	Sharing and exchanging experience in the formalisation and regulation of organisations.	Low	MINMIDT/MINEPDED/SONAMINES	27.5	40		67.5			Technical-financial partners/State (MINMIDT, MINEPDED, SONAMINES)	Number of capable organisations

	Organisation of capacity-building sessions for artisanal miners' organisations in business administration and organisation.	High	MINMIDT		225		225			Technical-financial partners	
Assist decentralised local authorities for local support of ASGM organisations	Support for the creation of zones reserved for artisanal mining.	High	MINMIDT		250		250			Technical-financial partners	Number of local authorities supported
	Support for the organisation of ASGM community fairs.	Low	MINMIDT/MINPMEESA/MINDDEVEL/ONG	150	100		250			NATIONAL NGOs/Technical-financial partners	
	Support for capacity-building of DLAs in monitoring artisanal mining activities in the strict sense and vocational training centres.	High	MINMIDT/NGO		225		225			Technical-financial partners	
Specific objective 2: Set up mechanisms to enable CIGs, Cooperatives, SMEs, etc. in the artisanal mining sector to have access to credit to finance their activities.											

Support for artisanal mining organisations in obtaining credit guarantees from insurance companies	Development of a guidance document to facilitate access to credit insurance for artisanal mining organisations.	High	MINMIDT/MINFI	10			10			(MINFI)	Number of organisations supported
	Support for artisanal mining organisations in preparing their credit guarantee applications.	High	MINMIDT/ MINPMEESA		300		300			Technical-financial partners	
Support in obtaining credits from donors, financial institutions, sectoral ministries	Development of a model application form for global funding of artisanal mining organisations.	High	MINMIDT	10			10			MINFI/MINEPAT/MINPMEESA	Number of credits obtained
	Assisting organisations in the artisanal mining sector to draw up their business plans and apply for funding on a case-by-case basis.	High	MINMIDT		300		300			Technical-financial partners	

Strategies to eliminate worst practices											
Main objective: Promote best gold processing practices using mercury/cyanide-freetechnologies in Cameroon's ASGM											
Actions	**Activities**	**Priori-ties**	**Implementation structures**	**Cost of action in millions of CFAF**				**Calendar**		**Funding sources**	**Action indicators**
				Intern al	**Exter nal**	**In-kind**	**Tot al**	**2025/ 2027**	**2028/ 2029**		
Specific objective 1: Raise awareness among all stakeholders on the worst mining practices and the legislative and regulatory framework for the use of mercury and cyanide in ASGM.											
Raise awareness among all stakeholders on worst mining practices	Development and broadcasting of spots (audio and video) on the worst and best practices on physical media.	High	MINMIDT /MINEPDED/ /MINSANTE	100	600		700			State budget / technical-financial partners	Number of awareness sessions/percentage of artisanal miners, administration, mining companies sensitized
	Organisation of awareness-raising sessions on worst practices (official languages and local languages).	High	MINMIDT//MINEPDED/ MINSANTE		390		390			Technical-financial partners	
Raise awareness among all stakeholders on the existing legislative and regulatory frameworksrelating to the use of mercury and	Organisation of awareness-raising sessions on the legislative and regulatory framework for the use of mercury and cyanide in ASGM.	Average	MINMIDT /MINEPDED/ /MINSANTE		390		390			Technical-financial partners	Number of collections of legislative and regulatory measures popularized and distributed to artisanal miners, administrations of mining companies and community leaders and CTDs

cyanide in ASGM by 2030	Publication and dissemination of a compendium of legislative and regulatory texts.	High	MINMIDT /MINEPDED/	70			70			State (MINMIDT)	
Specific objective 2: ***Build the capacity of all stakeholders in the control and implementation of clean technologies.***											
Strengthen the capacity of all administrations concerned with the control of the use of mercury and cyanide in ASGM by 2030	Organisation of training sessions on controlling the use of mercury and cyanide in ASGM.	High	MINMIDT		390		390			Technical-financial partners/	Number of training sessions for administrations and CTDs
	Training specialists in mercury-free mining techniques for subsequent supervision of artisanal miners.	High	MINMIDT		60		60			Technical-financial partners/	
	Organisation of monitoring and control missions.	Average	MINMIDT/MINEPDED/SONAMINES	40			40			MINMIDT, MINEPDED	
Buildthe capacityof at least 50% of artisanal miners	Identification and selection of 03 pilot sites.	High	MINMIDT			45	45			Technical-financial partners/State (MINMIDT)	Number of trained specialists

on clean technologies without mercury and cyanide by 2030	Construction of barns at pilot sites.	High	/MINMIDT	90			90			State budget	
	Acquisition of equipment and materials necessary to reduce the use of mercury in ASGM.	High	MINMIDT /MINEPDED/ /IRGM		300		300			Technical-financial partners	
	Acquisition of personal protective equipment and materials.	High	MINMIDT/MINEPDED/ /IRGM		60		60			Technical-financial partners	
	Organisation of training mercury-free gold processing and environmentally sound management of mercury-contaminated residues.	High	MINMIDT/MINEPDED		275		275			Technical-financial partners	

	Support for artisanal miners' organisations in carrying out tests to determine ore recovery rates of alternative methods.	Low	MINMIDT		90		90			Technical-financial partners	
	Improvement of the supply chain of responsible and mercury-free ore to ASGM stakeholders.	High	MINMIDT/MINEPDED/SONAMINES	90			90			State (MINMIDT)/MINEPDED/SONAMINES	
	Supervision of miners through the involvement of trade specialists.	High	MINMIDT		90		90			Technical-financial partners	

Strategies for promoting the reduction of emissions and releases of, and exposure to, mercury											
Main objective: Reduce emissions, releases and exposure to mercury by 40% in ASGM by 2030											
Actions	**Activities**	**Priorities**	**Implementation structures**	**Cost in millions of CFAF**				**Calendar**		**Funding sources**	**Indicators**
				Internal	**External**	**In-Kind**	**Total**	**2025/2027**	**2028/2029**		
Specific objective 1:Promote mercury-free technologies in 40% of ASGMs.											
Migration of current operators towards mercury-free technologies	Development and validation of standard specifications for migration to mercury-free technologies.	High	MINMIDT /MINEPDED/			10	10			MINMIDT	Number of mining operators using mercury-free technologies
	Awareness-raising and signing of specifications between the government and artisanal mining organisations.	High	MINMIDT /MINEPDED/ /MINAS	100			100			NGO	
	Support for artisanal miners, who undertake to use only mercury-free technologies, in obtaining	High	MINMIDT /MINEPDED		490		490			Technical financial partners	

	new mining permits.										
Promotion of mercury-free alternative gold mining techniques	Promotion of alternative methods that are quick, simple and easy to transport for artisanal miners in the strict sense of the term.	Low	MINMIDT /MINEPDED		300		300			Technical financial partners	Number of mining operators using alternative techniques
	Promotion of safer and more responsible alternative processing methods in semi-mechanised artisanal mining.	High	MINMIDT /MINEPDED		500		500			Technical financial partners	
Specific objective 2:Establish mercury vapour-recovery systems and exclude all handling of mercury with bare hands in 40% of active ASGMs.											
Facilitating local access to new available mercury-free replacement technics	Granting premiums to encourage active ASGMs to set up mercury vapour-recovery systems and exclude all handling of	Average	MINMIDT /MINEPDED			50	50			MINMIDT /MINEPDED	Number of active ASGMs having implemented mercury vapour recovery systems

	mercury with bare hands.										
	Technical support (training and installation of tools) for ASGMs in setting up mercury vapour-recovery systems.	Low	MINMIDT/MINEPDED		500		500			Technical financial partners	
	Development of a national management program for mercury-containing mining waste and contaminated sites from the ASGM sector.	High	MINMIDT/MINEPDED	50			50			MINMIDT/MINEPDED	
Specific objective 3: Control/monitor mercury releases and emissions at ASGM sites.											
Updating national inventory of mercury releases in Cameroon in compliancewith the requirements of the	Semi-annual collection and on-going analysis of mercury release samples.	High	MINEPDED//IRGM/Specialized laboratories			144	144			MINEPDED/IRGM/Specialized laboratories	Report on collection, analysis and publication of activities relating to mercury waste

Minamata Convention	Publication of a log of activities relating to mercury emissions and releases.	High	MINEPDED/IRGM/Specialized laboratories			45	45			MINEPDED/IRGM/Specialized laboratories	
Preparing the restoration of old and abandoned mining sites, and conducting decontamination works	Strengthening the technical resources of national laboratories for the analyses of mercury releases and emissions.	High	MINMIDT/MINEPDED/IRGM/Specialized laboratories		100		100			Technical financial partners	Documents and reports of receipt of laboratory equipment and the feasibility study report
	Feasibility study of the rehabilitation, restoration and decontamination of mercury-contaminated mining sites.	High	MINEPDED/SONAMINES/IRGM		30		30			Technical financial partners	

Strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in ASGM											
Main objective: Reduce the exposure of vulnerable populations to mercury used in ASGM by 80% by 2030.											
Actions	**Activities**	**Priori-ties**	**Implementation structures**	**Cost of action in millions of CFAF**				**Calendar**		**Funding sources**	**Indicators**
				Intern al	**Extern al**	**In-kind**	**Total**	**2025/ 2027**	**2028/ 2029**		
Specific objective 1: Improve socio-economic support for vulnerable populations by approximately 80%.											
Identification of socio-economic development needs based on specific vulnerabilities	Organisation of campaigns to identify key needs of the population, alternative measures based on the economic possibilities and facilities in target areas.	High	MINAS MINPROFF/ NGO		275		275			Technical financial partners	Mapping of needs and targets (focus groups) available
	Mapping needs according to zones and targets.	Average	MINMIDT/MINAS/ local NGOs	75			75			MINAS	
Raising awareness about the risks of vulnerable groups working in ASGM	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns targeted on the risks of vulnerable groups working in ASGM and on the importance of sending children to school.	Average	MINTSS/MINAS/ SONAMINES/NGO		165		165			Technical financial partners	Number of awareness campaigns organized

	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns on the need to use PPE.	High	MINMIDT/MINSANTE		165		165			Technical financial partners	
	Organisation of campaigns to raise awareness of women on the importance of other income-generating activities.	High	MINMIDT/ MINPROFF/ONG		165		165			MINMIDT/ MINPROFF	
Specific objective 2: Reduce exposure to mercury among vulnerable groups in ASGM sites by 50%.											
Promotion of economic diversity and social protection for vulnerable populations	Training of vulnerable populations on the creation of income-generating activities.	Average	MINAS/MINPROFF/ NGO	150	600		750			Technical financial partners/local NGOs	Number of vulnerable people trained and supported
	Support the development of social and economic projects for the benefit of populations living in and around ASGM sites.	High	MINMIDT/MINEPAT/MINAS/MIN EPDED/MINPROFF		175		175			Technical financial partners	

	Support for women and other vulnerable groups of organised artisanal miners (cooperatives, associations, CIGs, SMEs) in the creation of income generating associations (IGAs).	High	MINMIDT/MINAS/ MINPROFF/ONG		350		350			Technical financial partners NGO	
	Organisation of regular educational talks on promoting social security.	High	MINAS/NGO/MINTSS		150		150			Technical financial partners/NGOs	
	Psycho-social support and fight against the proliferation of social ills.	Average	MINAS/MINSANTE/MINPROFF NGO		125		125			Technical financial partners/NGOs	
	Organisation of missions to control the application of, and compliance with, existing regulations on the employment of vulnerable groups.	Average	/MINTSS/ MINAS/MINPROFF			60	60			/MINTSS/ MINAS/MINPROFF	

Support for the education and professional reintegration of young people and children	Design and installation of signs prohibiting child labour in mining sites.	Average	MINPROFF/MINTSS/MINAS			4.25	4.25			MINMIDT/SONAMINES	Number of young people and children benefiting from support for their education and professional reintegration
	Organisation of regular educational talks in schools on the risks and dangers associated with the presence of children on mining sites and the use of mercury in ASGM.	Average	MINEDUB/MINESEC/MINEPDED		150		150			Technical financial partners/ Local and international NGOs	
	Support for the integration of young people in vocational training centres.	Average	MINPROFF/ MINEFOP/MINJEC	55			55			MINPROFF/ MINEFOP/MINJEC	
	Support for the education of young people through school grants.	Average	MINEDUB/MINESEC/ SONAMINES/NGO	110			110			MINEDUB/MINESEC/SONAMINES/ONG	

Strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury and mercury compounds

Main objective: Control national and international trade in mercury and mercury compounds intended for use in ASGM.

Actions	Activities	Priorities	Implementation structures	Cost in millions of CFAF				Calendar		Funding sources	Action indicators
				Internal	External	In-kind	Total	2025/2027	2028/2029		
Specific objective 1: Improve the legal and regulatory framework for mercury management and trade.											
Revision of existing regulations on the control and management of chemical substances	Revision of Decree No. 2011/2585/PM of 23 August 2011 establishing the list of harmful or hazardous substances and the rules governing their release into existing continental waters.	Average	MINEPDED	3			3			MINEPDED	Number of texts revised
	Revision of Order No. 004/MINEPDED/CAB of 21 September 2017 amending and supplementing the list of chemical substances in Decree No. 2011/2581/PM of 23 August 2011 regulating harmful and/or dangerous chemical substances.	Average	MINEPDED	3			3			MINEPDED	

Dissemination of current regulations	Publication of materials on the ban of the use and trade of mercury.	High	MINMIDT/MINEPDED		50		50			Technical-financial partners	Number of awareness workshops organized
	Organisation of awareness-raising and outreach workshops for stakeholders in the 10 regions of the country.	Average	MINMIDT/MINEPDED		300		300			Technical-financial partners	
Specific objective 2: Strengthen application of legal and regulatory frameworks for the trade, supply and use of mercury and its derivatives.											
Capacity-building of sectoral administrations for the monitoring and control of the supply chain, trade, and use of mercury/mercury compounds and cyanide	Development and implementation of a training program on mercury inspection, verification and detection capabilities.	High	MINMIDT/MINEPDED		220		220			Technical-financial partners	Number of training workshops organized Number of equipment acquired
	Acquisition of mercury and cyanide control/monitoring equipment.	High	MINMIDT/CUSTOMS/ MINEPDED		250		250			Technical-financial partners	
	Capacity building on investigation techniques, including information exchange with other services at national, sub-regional and international levels.	High	CUSTOMS/MINMIDT/ MINEPDED		240		240			Technical-financial partners	
Definition of a national control and monitoring mechanismfor the supply,trade and	Setting up a management unit responsible for controlling the movement of mercury and its derivatives for dedicated purposes.	High	CUSTOMS/MINMIDT/ MINEPDED	10			10			State	01 Management unit established

use of mercury and derived substances	Maintaining citizen watch/monitoring in ASGM activities.	High	NGO	100			100			NGO	
Specific objective 3: Strengthen cooperation in the CEMAC zone to combat the trade and use of mercury and derived substances in ASGM.											
Contribute to the development of a sub-regional strategy to combat the trade and use of mercury and cyanide	Development of a sub-regional protocol for cooperation, taxation and harmonised control of the trade and use of mercury.	High	MINEPAT/MINFI/MINREX/MINEPDED		60		60			Technical-financial partners	A cooperation protocol developed on taxation and harmonized control
	Validation of the sub-regional protocol for cooperation, taxation and harmonised control of the trade and use of mercury.	Average	MINMIDT/MINFI(CUSTOMS)/MINEPDED		40		40			Technical-financial partners	
Implement the harmonised cooperation, taxation and control protocol	Training and awareness-raising on the sub-regional protocol for cooperation, taxation and harmonised control of the trade and use of mercury.	High	MINMIDT/MINFI(CUSTOMS)/MINEPDED		600		600			Technical-financial partners	An operational cooperation protocol put in place
	Establishment of communication and cooperation mechanisms.	High	MINMIDT/MINFI(CUSTOMS)/MINEPDED	375			375			MINMIDT/ NGO	
	Continuous evaluation and revision of the protocol.	High	MINMIDT/MINFI(CUSTOMS)/MINEPDED		100		100			State (MINMIDT)/ NGO	

Strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury and mercury compounds

Main objective: Control national and international trade in mercury and mercury compounds intended for use in ASGM.

Actions	Activities	Priorities	Implementation structures	Cost in millions of CFAF				Calendar		Funding sources	Action indicators
				Internal	External	In-kind	Total	2025/2027	2028/2029		
Specific objective 1: Improve the legal and regulatory framework for mercury management and trade.											
Revision of existing regulations on the control and management of chemical substances	Revision of Decree No. 2011/2585/PM of 23 August 2011 establishing the list of harmful or hazardous substances and the rules governing their release into existing continental waters.	Average	MINEPDED	3			3			MINEPDED	Number of texts revised
	Revision of Order No. 004/MINEPDED/CAB of 21 September 2017 amending and supplementing the list of chemical substances in Decree No. 2011/2581/PM of 23 August 2011 regulating harmful and/or dangerous chemical substances.	Average	MINEPDED	3			3			MINEPDED	

Dissemination of current regulations	Publication of materials on the ban of the use and trade of mercury.	High	MINMIDT/MINEPDED		50		50			Technical-financial partners	Number of awareness workshops organized
	Organisation of awareness-raising and outreach workshops for stakeholders in the 10 regions of the country.	Average	MINMIDT/MINEPDED		300		300			Technical-financial partners	
Specific objective 2: Strengthen application of legal and regulatory frameworks for the trade, supply and use of mercury and its derivatives.											
Capacity-building of sectoral administrations for the monitoring and control of the supply chain, trade, and use of mercury/mercury compounds and cyanide	Development and implementation of a training program on mercury inspection, verification and detection capabilities.	High	MINMIDT/MINEPDED		220		220			Technical-financial partners	Number of training workshops organized Number of equipment acquired
	Acquisition of mercury and cyanide control/monitoring equipment.	High	MINMIDT/CUSTOMS/ MINEPDED		250		250			Technical-financial partners	
	Capacity building on investigation techniques, including information exchange with other services at national, sub-regional and international levels.	High	CUSTOMS/MINMIDT/ MINEPDED		240		240			Technical-financial partners	
Definition of a national control and monitoring mechanismfor the supply,trade and	Setting up a management unit responsible for controlling the movement of mercury and its derivatives for dedicated purposes.	High	CUSTOMS/MINMIDT/ MINEPDED	10			10			State	01 Management unit established

use of mercury and derived substances	Maintaining citizen watch/monitoring in ASGM activities.	High	NGO	100			100			NGO	
Specific objective 3: Strengthen cooperation in the CEMAC zone to combat the trade and use of mercury and derived substances in ASGM.											
Contribute to the development of a sub-regional strategy to combat the trade and use of mercury and cyanide	Development of a sub-regional protocol for cooperation, taxation and harmonised control of the trade and use of mercury.	High	MINEPAT/MINFI/MINREX/MINEPDED		60		60			Technical-financial partners	A cooperation protocol developed on taxation and harmonized control
	Validation of the sub-regional protocol for cooperation, taxation and harmonised control of the trade and use of mercury.	Average	MINMIDT/MINFI(CUSTOMS)/MINEPDED		40		40			Technical-financial partners	
Implement the harmonised cooperation, taxation and control protocol	Training and awareness-raising on the sub-regional protocol for cooperation, taxation and harmonised control of the trade and use of mercury.	High	MINMIDT/MINFI(CUSTOMS)/MINEPDED		600		600			Technical-financial partners	An operational cooperation protocol put in place
	Establishment of communication and cooperation mechanisms.	High	MINMIDT/MINFI(CUSTOMS)/MINEPDED	375			375			MINMIDT/ NGO	
	Continuous evaluation and revision of the protocol.	High	MINMIDT/MINFI(CUSTOMS)/MINEPDED		100		100			State (MINMIDT)/ NGO	

Strategies for providing information to artisanal and small-scale gold miners and affected communities

Main objective: Raise awareness and inform artisanal miners and concerned populations about the impacts of mercury on human health and the environment, in order to eliminate its use in Cameroon's ASGM.

Actions	Activities	Priority	Implementation structure	Cost of action				Calendar		Funding sources	Indicators
				Internal	External	In-kind	Total	2025/2027	2028/2029		
Specific objective 1: Inform ASGM workers about the impacts of the use of mercury and other polluting substances on human health, vulnerable populations and the environment.											
Enhance understanding of the main objectives of the Minamata Convention on Mercury	Publication and distribution of documentation on the Minamata Convention.	High	MINEPDED		125		125			Technical financial partners	Number of documents published and distributed
	Publication and distribution of documentation on the NAP.	High	MINEPDED/MINMIDT		125		125			Technical financial partners	
Disseminate information on the ban ofmercury trade and use inASGM in Cameroon	Broadcasting messages of public interest on community radio stations.	Average	MINEPDED		300		300			Technical financial partners	Number of communication tools published and

	Publication and distribution of brochures and flyers on the impacts of mercury use on human health, and on regulations governing trade and use of mercury in Cameroon.	High	MINEPDED/MINCOM/ONG		125		125			Technical financial partners	produced/National dialogue organized
	Production of brochures, leaflets, posters, flyers, roll-ups, films, documentaries, USB keys, and T-Shirts, etc.; preparation of radio program broadcasters, meetings, image boxes, educational talks.	High	MINEPDED/ONG		125		125			Technical financial partners	
	Translation of key messages into local languages (Gbaya, Kako, etc.).	High	MINEPDED/CTD/ONG	30			30			MINEPDED	
	Production of communication tools for posters.	High	MINEPDED	50			50			MINEPDED	
	Organisation of an open national dialogue on the illegal use of mercury in ASGM in Cameroon.	Average	MINEPDED/MINMIDT/MINSANTE/ MINCOM	50			50			MINEPDED	

Identification and presentation of worst practices atASGMsitesin the East and Adamawa regions	Organisation of video screenings on the worst and best practices in the 08 regions with ASGM.	High	MINEPDED/ONG	50			50			MINEPDED	Number of video screenings organized
Specific objective 2: Encourage the support and involvement of ASGM populations in the implementation of the NAP.											
Demonstration of a win-win ASGM collaboration for successful implementation of the NAP	Organisation of an awareness-raising workshop on win-win collaboration between ASGM stakeholders.	High	MINEPDED/MINMIDT/MINSANTE-ONG-OSC		50		50			Technical financial partners	An organized workshop
Establishment of NAP focal points in ASGMs	Identification and establishment of NAP focal points.	High	MINEPDED			30	30			MINEPDED	Number of focal points installed
	Upgrade of PAN focal points.	Low	MINEPDED			15	15			MINEPDED	
Demonstration of the realities of mercury poisoning of populations and in ASGM activity zones	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns aimed at administrative, traditional, religious authorities, law enforcement forces, opinion leaders, companies and organisations involved in ASGM.	High	MINEPDED/MINSANTE		50		50			Technical financial partners	Number of campaigns organized

	Dissemination of mercury poisoning test results via digital channels and local social networks.	High	MINEPDED/ MINSANTE/ONG		25		25			Technical financial partners	
	Organisation of "family days" to raise awareness among ASGM workers, men, women and children.	High	MINEPDED/MINPROFF/MINTSS		50		50			Technical financial partners	
Specific objective 3: Promote mercury-free technologies in the ASGM sector.											
Communication on behavioural change and mercury-free technologies for ASGM	Dissemination of information on available and profitable mercury-free technologies, through interpersonal meetings, informative brochures, local radio stations.	High	MINEPDED/MINMIDT		50		50			Technical financial partners	Number of tools developed and number of people reached
	Organisation of a round table with producers/buyers/traders /intermediaries, to urge them to strictly respect the ban on mercury trade in Cameroon.	Average	MINEPDED/MINMIDT/ONG		50		50			Technical financial partners	

Development of income-generating activities in the agro-pastoral sector	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns on income-generating activities in the livestock sector.	Average	MINEPEDED/MINEPIA		50		50			Technical financial partners	Number of campaigns organized and number of people reached
	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns on income-generating activities in agriculture.	Average	MINEPDED/MINADER		50		50			Technical financial partners	
Development of income-generating activities in other sectors of activity	Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns on income-generating activities in the commercial sector.	Average	MINEPDED/MINPMEESA		50		50			Technical financial partners	Number of campaigns organized
	Organisation of awareness-raising sessions on income-generating activities in the production sector (carpentry, sewing, catering, accommodation, etc.).	Average	MINEPDED/MINPMEESA		50		50			Technical financial partners	

Strategies for involving stakeholders in the implementation and continued development of the NAP											
Main objective: Strengthen the engagementof all relevantstakeholders to ensure their continuous involvement in the effectiveimplementation of the NAP and beyond.											
Actions	**Activities**	**Priority**	**Implementation structure**	**Cost of action**				**Calendar**		**Funding sources**	**Indicators**
				Internal	**External**	**In-kind**	**Total**	**2025/2027**	**2028/2029**		
Specific objective 1: Consult with all relevant stakeholders.											
Creation, Organisation and operation of consultation and exchange frameworks	Updating the stakeholder directory.	High	MINEPDED		10		10			Technical-financial partners	Number of frames Consultation created
	Setting up and running the different consultation and exchange frameworks (NSC, TC, RC, etc.).	High	MINEPDED	2			2			MINEPDED	
	Organisation of meetings of the various consultation committees (NSC, TC, RC, etc.).	High	MINEPDED	20	55		75			MINEPDED and technical financial partners	
	Assessment of knowledge and capacity building needs of stakeholders.	High	MINEPDED	5			5			MINEPDED	
Development of PAN activities by artisanal miners and other major	Networking stakeholders for exchanges on the NAP (associations, federations, etc.).	Low	MINEPDED/MINMIDT		5		5			Technical financial partners	Number of activities carried out with artisanal miners

players in the field	Organisation of participatory identification workshops of NAP activities to be developed with artisanal miners and other major actors in the field.	High	MINEPDED/MINMIDT		30		30			Technical financial partners	
	Drawing up the Annual Work Plan (AWP).	High	MINEPDED/MINMIDT/MINSANTE	5			5			MINEPDED/MINMIDT/MINSANTE	
	Organisation of discussion sessions with owners of mining sites on safety and mercury use.	High	MINEPDED		20		20			Technical financial partners	
Continuous implementation of pan activities	Integration of the fight against mercury use into the development plans (DPs) of the DLAs.	High	MINDEVEL/MINEPDED/		50		50			Technical financial partners	Number of municipal plans that integrate the fight against mercury pollution/number of schools and families supported
	Development of study programs on BAT/BEP in artisanal mining.	High	MINEPDED/SONAMINES/MINESUP/MINRESI/ONG	5			5			MINEPDED/SONAMINES/MINESUP/MINRESI	
	Capacity-building of some engineering schools to manufacture innovative materials and equipment aimed at reducing mercury pollution.	High	MINESUP/MINEPDED/MINEFOP/ONG		50		50			Technical financial partners	

	Advocacy for the enrolment of impoverished Cameroonian families from ASGM zones in family grant programs (social safety nets).	Low	MINEPDED/MINPROFF/ MINAS		20		20			Technical financial partners	
	Establishment of community monitoring and warning systems (committees) against the use of toxic products in pilot municipalities.	Average	MINEPDED/CTD/ONG		15	10	25			Technical financial partners and NGOs	
	Monitoring the continued implementation of NAP activities.	High	MINEPDED		25		25			Technical financial partners	
	Annual evaluation of the implementation of NAP activities.	High	MINEPDED		10		10			Technical financial partners	
Specific objective 2: Communicate and disseminate information to stakeholders.											
Development of communication tools, key messages and choice of dissemination channels	Organisation of two (02) workshops for the production of articles and key messages (content and form) adapted to the various target groups.	Average	MINEPDED/MINCOM		4		4			Technical financial partners	Number of partnership contracts signed with CSOs and community radios

	Organisation of a workshop to simplify extracts from the MINAMATA Convention and national texts dealing with issues relating to mercury and other toxic products.	Average	MINEPDED	2			2			State (MINEPDED)	
	Organisation of a workshop to validate messages and communication tools produced for each target group.	Average	MINEPDED		2		2			Technical financial partners	
	Development and signing of relay contracts with some local NGOs and associations operating in the target areas.	High	MINEPDED		20		20			Technical financial partners	
	Development and signing of contracts with national and community radio stations in the target areas.	High	MINEPDED	5			5			MINEPDED	
Awareness campaigns and dissemination of information on the dangers linked to the use of mercury	Organisation of information and awareness-raising campaigns on extracts from the Convention and legal texts in force in Cameroon's ASGM, followed by the distribution of related	Average	MINEPDED		6		6			Technical financial partners	Number of popularized guides

	communication tools to the various target groups.										
	Organisation of regional workshops to present and validate the ASGM best practices guide in Cameroon, translated into local languages.	Average	MINEPDED/MINMIDT/MINSANTE		20		20			Technical financial partners	
	Organisation of regional workshops for dissemination and sharing of the ASGM best practices guide in Cameroon, translated into local languages.	Average	MINEPDED		20		20			Technical-financial partners	
Sharing experiences on best practices	Organisation of regional workshops to capitalise on NAP results.	High	MINEPDED		24		24			Technical-financial partners	Number of workshops carried out
	Organisation of a national workshop to consolidate NAP results.	High	MINEPDED		4		4			Technical-financial partners	
	Organisation of missions to monitor activities of monitoring committees in charge of combatting the use of toxic chemicals in ASGM.	High	MINEPDED	5			5			MINEPDED	

Specific objective 3: Build capacity of stakeholders.										
Identification of capacity building needs of stakeholder groups	Development of a capacity-building plan for various stakeholder groups.	High	MINEPDED	7			7			MINEPDED	Capacity building plan available
	Identification of best practices and themes, then development of training modules and tools on them.	High	MINEPDED/MINMIDT		10		10			Technical-financial partners	
Training and capacity building for all stakeholders on better knowledge of the dangers linked to the use of mercury and mercury-free gold collection methods	Organisation of capacity building workshops for the various NAP stakeholders.	High	MINEPDED	10	30		40			MINEPDED and technical-financial partners	Number of stakeholders trained/number of trips completed
	Organisation of trips to share experiences between stakeholders.	High	MINEPDED/MINMIDT	20	20		40			MINEPDED, MINMIDT and technical financial partners	

A public health strategy on the exposure of artisanal and small-scale gold miners and their communities to mercury											
Main objective: Develop strategic directions for public health in ASGM zones.											
Actions	**Activities**	**Priority**	**Implementation structure**	**Cost of action in millions**				**Calendar**		**Funding sources**	**Indicators**
				Internal	**External**	**In-kind**	**Total**	**2025/2027**	**2028/2029**		
Specific objective 1: Strengthen governance within the healthcare system for the prevention, management and elimination of exposure to mercury and heavy metals in ASGM.											
Strengthening the health legal and institutional framework for ASGM activities	Advocacy with relevant authorities for the creation and implementation of a task force to oversee health-related activities in ASGM.	High	MINSANTE/MINEPDED/MINMIDT/MINTSS/MINAS/ONG	4			4			MINSANTE	Proportion of activities related to health issues inASGMcarried out at the national level and at all other levels of the health pyramid
	Develop terms of reference for members of the task force responsible for overseeing ASGM health-related activities at all levels of the health pyramid.	High	MINSANTE/ MINEPDED/MINMIDT/MINTSS/MINAS/ONG	5	16		21			MINSANTE and technical financial partner	
	Revision, validation, translation and production of the national legal and institutional framework relating to health issues linked to ASGM activities.	High	MINSANTE/ MINEPDED/MINMIDT/MINTSS/MINAS/ONG	58.3	100		158.3			MINSANTE and technical financial partner	
	Development and validation of a budgeted annual activity plan for running the taskforce that oversees health-related ASGM activities.	High	MINSANTE/MINEPDED/MINMIDT/NGO	7,055			7,055			MINSANTE	

	Mobilisation of human, financial and material resources for running the taskforce at all levels of the health pyramid.	High	MINSANTE		40.77		40.77			Technical-financial partner	
Resource mobilisation and coordination of ASGM health-related activities (including the state budget: operating budget and investment budget)	Development of a map of stakeholders involved in the process of implementing ASGM activities.	High	MINSANTE/MINMIDT/MINEPDED/ONG		70		70			Technical-financial partner	Number of funding sources identified
	Identification of potential sources of funding for ASGM health-related activities and establishment of an advocacy process to mobilise this funding.	High	MINSANTE/MINMIDT/MINEPDED		70		70			Technical-financial partner	
	Development, validation, translation, production, training and dissemination of guidelines on health issues related to ASGM activities for high-risk pathogens, taking into account the "One Health" approach.	High	MINSANTE/MINTSS/MINEPDED/MINADER/MINEPIA/MINFOF		223		222.5			Technical-financial partner	
	Development of tools to disseminate ASGM health-related activities at community level.	Average	MINSANTE/MINEPDED/CTD/ONG		164		164.35			Technical-financial partner	
Integrate health-related ASGM activities into healthcare emergency preparedness and response activities	Development, translation, production and distribution of the toolkit on high-risk pathogens, including the consequences of mercury-related effects.	High	MINSANTE/MINEPDED/MINMIDT		29		28.7			Technical-financial partner	Number of public health professionals trained

	Training of health professionals on ASGM health-related issues to with regard to high-risk pathogens including the consequences of mercury-related effects.	Average	MINSANTE/MINEPDED		45		44.5			Technical-financial partner	
	Establishment of a framework, in public health establishments, for the care of people contaminated with mercury during their activities in the ASGM sector.	High	MINSANTE		21		21			Technical-financial partner	
Specific objective 2: Development of health guidelines for ASGM activities and standard operating procedures, including for vulnerable social groups.											
Development of guidelines on health issues related to ASGM activities and standard operating procedures based on international standards and adapted to national context, including social and vulnerable groups.	Creation and establishment of a multi-sector working group for developing guidelines and terms of references.	High	MINSANTE/MINEPDED/ MINMIDT/MINTSS/MINPROFF/MINAS/ONG		17.18		17.18			Technical-financial partner	Number of documents developed and distributed
	Development, validation, translation, printing and distribution of guidelines.	High	MINSANTE/MINEPDED/ MINMIDT/MINTSS/MINPROFF/MINAS/ONG		28.7		28.7			Technical-financial partner	

Capacity building for implementation of the guidelines	Organisation of training workshops at national level.	Average	MINSANTE		44.5		44.5			Technical-financial partner	Increased number of health personnel
	Organisation of training workshops at regional level.	Average	MINSANTE		44.5		44.5			Technical-financial partner	
Specific objective 3: Build at least 80% of the technical and management capacities of healthcare system stakeholders on health issues related to ASGM activities.											
Preparation and implementation of ASGM health issues in the health sectorfor the training of pre- and post-graduates	Development, validation and translation of national curricula on health-related issues in the ASGM sector, for pre- and post-graduate students in the health sector, taking into account social and vulnerable groups.	Average	MINSANTE/MINESUP/ MINFOP/MINAS		48,022		48,022			Technical-financial partner	Number of study programs developed
	Integration of continued education in healthcare establishments (staff, patients, nurses, visitors).	Average	MINSANTE/MINESUP/MINEFOP		10		10			Technical-financial partner	
	Training community health workers on ASGM health-related issues taking into account vulnerable social groups.	Average	MINSANTE/MINESUP/MINEFOP/MINAS/ MINEPDED		160		160			Technical-financial partner	
Evaluation of training activities in	Workshop to validate an assessment plan for the quality of professional training on healthcare issues related to ASGM.	Average	MINSANTE		5		5			Technical-financial partner	Number of assessments carried out

healthcaretraining institutions	Implementation of a plan to assess the quality of training of professionals on health issues related to ASGM.	Average	MINSANTE/MINEPDED/ MINMIDT		32		32			Technical-financial partner	
Specific objective 4: Integrate health issues related to ASGM activities into the health surveillance system at all levels of the health pyramid by100%.											
Improve the healthcare surveillance system taking into account the integration of ASGMhealth-related issues	Development, validation and inclusion of health issues related to ASGM in the existing national surveillance guide.	High	MINSANTE		11.25		11.25			Technical-financial partner	Number of documents developed and distributed
	Development, validation, translation, production training and dissemination of tools for collecting and analysing health issues related to ASGM in surveillance data across the health pyramid.	High	MINSANTE		156,315		156,315			Technical-financial partner	
Specific objective 5: Supply of health and hygiene, energy and ventilation equipment to approximately 70% of health facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of health problems related to ASGM activities.											
Supply of health and hygiene, energy and ventilation equipment to healthcareinstitutions	Purchase and supply of diagnostic equipment for mercury and other heavy metals related to ASGM activities, as well as alternative energy sources such as solar panels or generators in the event of a power cut.	High	CTD/MINSANTE/MINEP DED/MINMIDT		60,055		60,055			Technical-financial partner	Number of equipment acquired

	Maintenance and servicing of diagnostic equipment for mercury and other heavy metals related to ASGM activities, as well as alternative energy sources such as solar panels or generators in the event of a power cut.	Average	MINSANTE/MINMIDT/MINEPDED/CTD		24		24			Technical-financial partner	
Specific Objective 6: Improve community perception of risks associated with exposure to mercury and other heavy metals by approximately 80% by including vulnerable social groups in the ASGM sector.											
Develop a partnership with community stakeholders (including those from social and vulnerable groups)	Conduct a survey to describe the current state of community practices in relation to ASGM in a number of public places in the two priority regions (schools, public administrations, places of accommodation, churches, bus stations, stadiums, etc.).	High	MINSANTE/MINEPDED/MINMIDT/MINEDUB/MINESEC		5		5			Technical-financial partner	Inventory carried out
	Presentation of the survey report on community practices relating to ASGM in public places in the two priority regions.	High	MINSANTE		5		5			Technical-financial partner	

Capacity building of ASGMcommunity actors	Organisation of awareness-raising sessions on health issues in the ASGM community (fight against faecal peril, promotion of water supply and water conservation, promotion of personal hygiene, promotion of food hygiene, health promotion).	High	MINSANTE/MINEPDED/MINMIDT/CTD-ONG		165		165			Technical financial partners	Number of reinforced actors
Establishment of a community health monitoring and evaluation mechanism for ASGM activities	Monitoring of health issues related to ASGM activities carried out by local structures.	Average	MINSANTE/MINEPDED/MINMIDT/CTD-ONG	5			5			MINSANTE	Percentage of meetings organized
	Organising monthly follow-up/monitoring meetings with community leaders and other stakeholders involved in ASGM-related health activities.	High	MINSANTE/MINEPDED /MINMIDT/CTD-ONG	5	10		15			MINSANTE/ Technical-financial partners	
	Preparation and distribution of monthly reports on ASGM monitoring activities in communities.	High	MINSANTE	5			5			MINSANTE	
	Organisation of workshops to provide training in the use of reporting tools.	High	MINSANTE/MINTSS		15		15			Technical-financial partners	

STRATEGIES FOR FINANCING THE NAP IMPLEMENTATION

Main objective: Mobilise20,562,478,750 CFAF for the implementation of the NAP.

Actions	Activities	Priority	Implementation structures	Cost in millions of CFAF				Calendar		Funding sources	Indicators
				Internal	External	In-kind	Total	2024/2027	2028/2029		
Specific objective 1: Structure the fundraising process.											
Establishment of a database of all potential donors	Identification of technical and financial partners at national and international level.	High	MINEPDED/MINMIDT/ MINSANTE/MINFI/ MINEPAT	4			4			MINMIDT/ MINEPDED	Mapping of national and international technical and financial partners
Preparation of fundraising documents	Preparation of NAP financing application documents.	High	MINEPDED/MINMIDT/ MINSANTE	5			5			MINMIDT/ MINEPDED	HARD and SOFT document summarizing the financing request
	Preparation of meetings with technical and financial partners at national and international level.	High	MINMIDT/ MINEPDED/MINFI/ MINEPAT	5			5			MINMIDT/ MINEPDED	Number of meetings

Specific objective 2: Mobilise external resources to the tune of 14,009,961,250 CFAF.											
Mobilisation of resources from organisations that have already supported Cameroon in the NAP development	Submission of funding applications to international organisations.	High	MINEPDED/MINMIDT/ MINSANTE/MINEPAT	2			2			MINEPDED/ MINMIDT/ MINSANTE	Acknowledgment of receipt of the funding request letter
	Advocacy with international organisations.	High	MINMIDT/ MINEPDED/MINSANTE	45			45			MINMIDT/ MINEPDED	Mission report
Mobilisation of resources from other organisations	Benchmarking with three countries that have benefited from Planet Gold+ funding.	High	MINEPDED/MINMIDT/ MINSANTE/MINEPAT/ MINFI	45			45			MINMIDT/ MINEPDED	Mission report
	Advocacy mission to Planet Gold+ and AGC headquarters.	High	MINMIDT/ MINEPDED/MINSANTE / MINEPAT/MINFI	45			45			MINMIDT MINEPDED	Mission report
Specific objective 3: Mobilise internal resources to the tune of 6,039,267,500 CFAF.											
Mobilisation of resources from national administrations directly concerned with gold management, public health, environment and	Inclusion of NAP activities in the medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEFs) of sectoral administrations (MINEPDED, MINMIDT, MINSANTE).	High	MINFI MINEPAT	1.5			1.5			MINFI MINEPAT	Advocacy document

protection of nature											
Mobilisation of resources from other national administrations indirectly concerned with gold management, public health, the environment and nature protection	Lobby other sectoral administrations (MINFI, MINEPAT, MINAS, MINDDEVEL, MINPROFF, MINTSS, etc.) to include an expenditure line to finance the NAP implementation in their MTEFs.	High	MINFI MINEPAT	1.5			1.5			MINFI MINEPAT	Advocacy document

Specific objective 4: Mobilise resources in kind from private investors and NGOs involved in ASGMS activities to the tune of 513,250,000 CFAF.											
Mobilisation of resources from private investors	Encouraging private investors to implement mercury-free and cost-effective technologies.	High	MINMIDT MINEPDED	3.5			3.5			MINMIDT/ MINEPDED	Document of various incentives offered to private investors
	Ensuring the restoration of sites polluted by ASGM activities.	High	MINMIDT MINEPDED	3.0			3.0			MINMIDT/ MINEPDED	
Mobilisation of resources from NGOs involved in ASGMS activities	Lobby NGOs to include a line to finance the implementation of the NAP in their expenditure budgets.	High	MINMIDT MINEPDED MINSANTE	3.0			3.0			MINMIDT/ MINEPDED	Advocacy document
Project Management Cost	10% of Project total Cost (18,693,162,500)	High	MINMIDT MINEPDED MINSANTE	1500		369.3 1625	1,869. 31625			MINMIDT/ MINEPDED	Advocacy document

V. FINANCING MECHANISM

To implement government programs and projects, Cameroon receives multifaceted support in the form of grants, technical cooperation and public development aid donations. These resources may also come from national budgets, private sector participation and civil society organisations (CSOs).

To implement the National Action Plan, Cameroon has opted for a participatory approach and for the mobilisation of international funding to the tune of thirteen billion, six hundred and forty million, six hundred and forty-five thousand (13,640,645,000) CFAF from technical and financial partners; national funding to the tune of four billion, five hundred and thirtynine million, two hundred and sixty-seven thousand, five hundred (4,539,267,500) CFAF from sectoral administrations; and five hundred and thirteen million, two hundred and fifty thousand (513,250,000) CFAF from private investors and civil society organisations.

The following identified technical and financial partners will be approached internationally:

1. Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies;
2. United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO);
3. Specific International Program (SIP) to support capacity-building and technical assistance for the MINAMATA Convention;
4. PlanetGOLD+ program;
5. UN-ENVIRONMENT, through its special chemicals and waste management program;
6. UNEP Global Mercury Partnership;
7. The Regional Centre of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions for Frenchspeaking African countries (BCRC-SCRC) involved in the sound management of hazardous waste, which is a partner in the ASGM field;
8. Development Bank of Central African States (DBCAS), which is an international financial institution responsible for financing the development of Central African countries. It contributes to the financing of activities linked to sustainable development, but to date has not been involved in any project linked to ASGM;
9. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which is an intergovernmental organisation that stimulates economic growth and trade between countries. It is also involved in the responsible sourcing of minerals and the formalisation of ASGM, as well as chemical safety, particularly mercury. For example, it participated in, and co-financed, a GOLD project in Ghana;
10. Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM), which is an organisation based in Colombia that contributes to improving the livelihoods of miners and reducing the impacts of ASGM on the environment. The organisation has participated in, and financed, three (03) GOLD projects in Bolivia, Honduras and Peru;
11. Artisanal Gold Council (AGC), which is a Canadian organisation that promotes the sustainable development of ASGM. The AGC has participated in, and co-financed, a GOLD project in Burkina Faso and is a partner of best mining practices in ASGM;
12. African Women in Mining Association (AWIMA), which is an African network of women associations in the mining, oil and gas sectors that promotes leadership and the inclusive and sustainable empowerment of women;
13. CATALYST+, which is a Canadian-based Organisation that strengthens local economies around the world. It has participated in, and co-financed, a GOLD project in Peru, and is a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) partner in the ASGM field;
14. African Centre for Environmental Health (ACEH), which is an environmental protection organisation based in Ivory Coast. ACEH has participated in the implementation of two (02) GOLD projects in Congo and Guinea, and is a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)partner in the ASGM sector;
15. IMPACT, which is a Canadian organisation that works to improve the management of natural resources in regions where security and human rights are threatened. It has also participated and co-financed two (02) GOLD projects in Ivory Coast and Uganda and is a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) partner in the ASGM sector;
16. London Bullion Market Association (LBMA), which is an organisation that oversees wholesale gold markets in London. LBMA participated in, and cofinanced, a GOLD project in Guinea;
17. Mercury-Free Mining (MFM), which is a US-based organisation that researches and deploys mercury-free mineral processing technology for ASGM. MFM is a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) partner in the ASGM sector;
18. Occupational Knowledge International (OK International), which is a U.S.based organisation that builds national capacity of countries to combat environmental and occupational exposure to hazardous materials. It conducted a study in ASGM sites in Cameroon in collaboration with CREPD. It is a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) partner in the ASGM sector;
19. Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), which is a US-based organisation that works to conserve wildlife in priority areas, including Cameroon. WCS has participated in, and co-financed, a GOLD project in Bolivia;
20. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO);
21. United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through the Green Mining project;
22. African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) of the African

Development Bank
23. (ADB);
24. JICA – KOICA;
25. World Health Organisation (WHO);
26. United States of America International Aid (USAID);
27. International Labour Organisation (ILO);
28. United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF);
29. Health Impact Africa (HIA);
30. Centre for Disease Control Atlanta (CDC Atlanta);
31. Africa Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC);
32. Doctors Without Borders;
33. International Plan;
34. Green Background;
35. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
36. Reaching Impact Saturation and Epidemic (RISE) Control;
37. European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM);
38. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Funding can also be raised from gold refiners and technology owners, in particular:

- **Argor-Heraeus (AH).** It is a precious metals refiner that develops responsible artisanal gold supply chains and has participated in, and cofinanced, several GOLD projects (Bolivia, Ecuador, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Suriname and Uganda);
- **Commodity Monitor (CM)** is a Ghanaian-based company involved in commodity trading, logistics and research. It has also developed mercury-free gold extraction equipment for ASGM. Commodity Monitor has participated in, and co-financed, a GOLD project (Ghana);
- **Kian Smith Refiners (KSR):** It is a refiner applying ethical mining standards. The company has participated in, and co-financed, a GOLD project (Congo);
- **Mount Baker Mining and Metals (MBMM)** is a US manufacturer of smallscale gold ore mills and concentrators. It provides free consultancy services, training and mercury-free and mercury-reducing equipment for ASGM. MBMM is a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) partner in the ASGM field.

Sources of funding at the national level will be from sectoral administrations directly or indirectly involved in the implementation of the NAP, in particular: MINMIDT, MINEPDED,
MINSANTE, MINPMEESA, MINFI, MINADER, MINEPIA, MINCOMMERCE, MINAS, MINDEVEL, MINEPAT, MINRESI, MINTSS, etc.
These various administrations will be approached so that they can include Cameroon's contribution towards financing the PAN in their respective budgets.
Private investors (e.g. SONAMINES) and civil society organisations will also be mobilised to contribute in kind or in cash.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISM

To ensure that the PAN is as successful as possible, each key sector ministry (MINEPDED, MINMIDT, and MINSANTE) will appoint a person to be responsible for implementing one of the strategies under the competence/responsibility of that ministry. This will be done under the supervision of the ministry's NAP project leader.

At an initial level, these ministries will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategies within their remit/competence every six months, under the supervision of the PAN Coordinator and on the basis of the monitoring and evaluation mechanism developed for each strategy.

A National Monitoring Committee (NMC) for the implementation of the NAP will be set up. It will include the NAP national coordinator, NAP focal points, representatives of the relevant ministries concerned, NGOs, mining industry organisations and experts.

The NMC will meet once a year to assess the progress made in implementing the NAP and to measure the extent to which various success indicators have been achieved.

The NMC will produce an annual report that the national focal point of the MINIMATA Convention on Mercury will transmit to the Secretariat of the MINIMATA Convention.

The mid-term evaluation (MTE) will be carried out in 2027 and the final report will be prepared and submitted by the end of 2030.

Key success indicators by strategy are illustrated on table 19 of the next page as follows:

Table 16: Key indicators of success by strategy

No.	STRATEGIES	SUCCESS INDICATORS
1	Strategies to facilitate formalisation or regulation of the ASGM sector	Number of decent, civic-minded artisanal mining organisations created
		Number of artisanal mining organisations that have received funding
		Number of corporations of artisanal mining organisations created
2	Strategies to eliminate worst practices	Quantity of mercury-free gold produced annually in kg
3	Strategies for promoting the reduction of emissions and releases of, and exposure to, mercury	Number of artisanal mining organisations using mercury-free technologies
		Number of active artisanal mining organisations that set up mercury vapour recovery systems
4	Strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury and mercury compounds	Quantity of mercury seized annually by the authorities
		Protocol on cooperation, taxation and harmonised control to prevent illicit mercury trade in the CEMAC zone
5	Strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in ASGM	Percentage of vulnerable groups no longer exposed to mercury
		Percentage of vulnerable groups developing other income-generating activities other than gold mining

6	Strategies for providing information to artisanal and small-	Percentage of ASGM workers made aware of the impact of the use of mercury and other
	scale gold miners and affected communities	polluting substances on human health, vulnerable populations and the environment
		Percentage of mercury used in the ASGM sector
		Percentage of ASGM workers who adhere/support the establishment of the NAP
7	Strategies for involving stakeholders in the implementation and continued development of the NAP	Percentage of stakeholders whose capacity have been built
		Level of collaboration and interaction between various stakeholders
8	A public health strategy on the exposure of artisanal and smallscale gold miners and their communities to mercury	Number of health workers trained in the diagnosis and treatment of mercury poisoning
		Number of health centres keeping records of mercury-related illnesses
9	Strategies for financing the NAP	Percentage of funding obtained

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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Report on Mercury Baseline Estimates in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector in Cameroon (2022).

Referenced as follows:

MINMIDT, 2022. Report on mercury baseline estimates in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector in Cameroon.

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix-Travail-Patrie
****
MINISTERE DES MINES, DE L'INDUSTRIE
ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT TECHNOLOGIQUE
****
CABINET
****
PROJET D'ELABORATION DU PLAN D'ACTION
NATIONAL SUR LE MERCURE DANS LE SECTEUR DE
L'ENAPE DE L'OR
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Rapport sur les estimations initiales du mercure dans le secteur de l'Exploitation Minière Artisanale et à Petite Echelle (EMAPE) de l'or au Cameroun

(2022)

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gef global environment facility

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

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NATIONAL SUR LE MERCURE DANS LE SECTEUR DE
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ANALYSE GLOBALE NATIONALE/PROFIL DU PAYS

(SYNOPSIS)

Réalisé par

L'EQUIPE PROJET

Juillet 2023

Annexe 2 : ANALYSE GLOBALE NATIONALE/PROFIL DU PAYS (SYNOPSIS)