

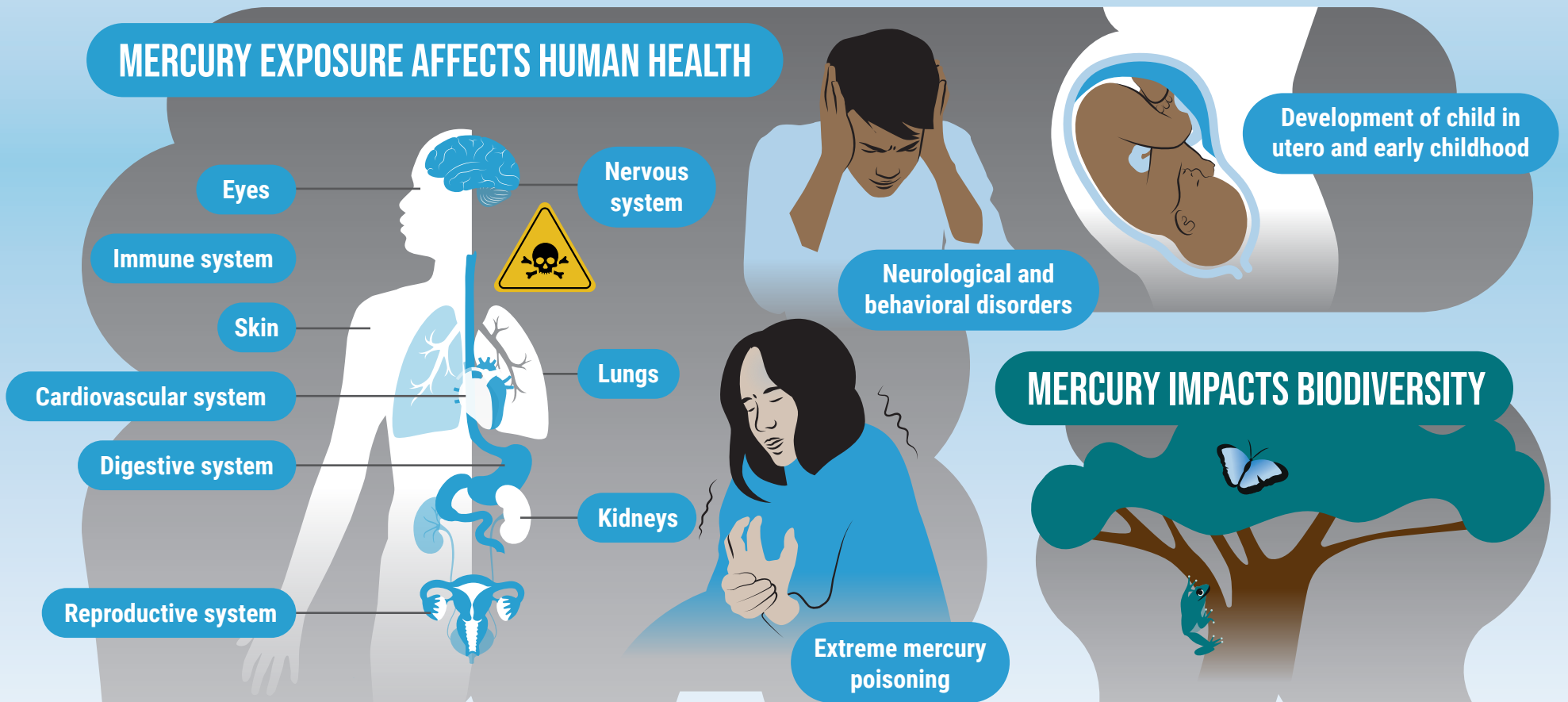
MERCURY EMISSIONS

Mercury is an extremely toxic chemical that can enter the environment as emissions into the atmosphere from human activities. Mercury emissions can travel long distances, accumulate through the food chain, and negatively impact human health and the environment.

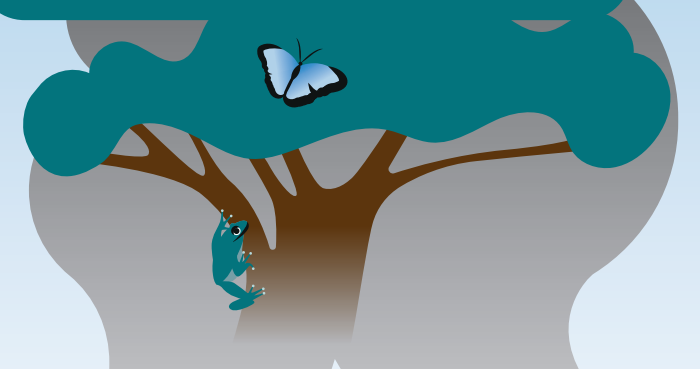
RISKS

There are extensive health risks posed toward people and biodiversity that are exposed to mercury emissions. These range from instances of minor skin irritation to extreme mercury poisoning from overexposure.

MERCURY EXPOSURE AFFECTS HUMAN HEALTH



MERCURY IMPACTS BIODIVERSITY



SOURCES

Roughly two thousand tonnes of mercury are emitted into the atmosphere every year. The largest sources are Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) and coal burning, but other sources also have global and local impacts. As a result, the atmospheric concentration of mercury is 450% higher than natural levels.



SOLUTIONS

The Minamata Convention on Mercury has developed guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control emissions.

