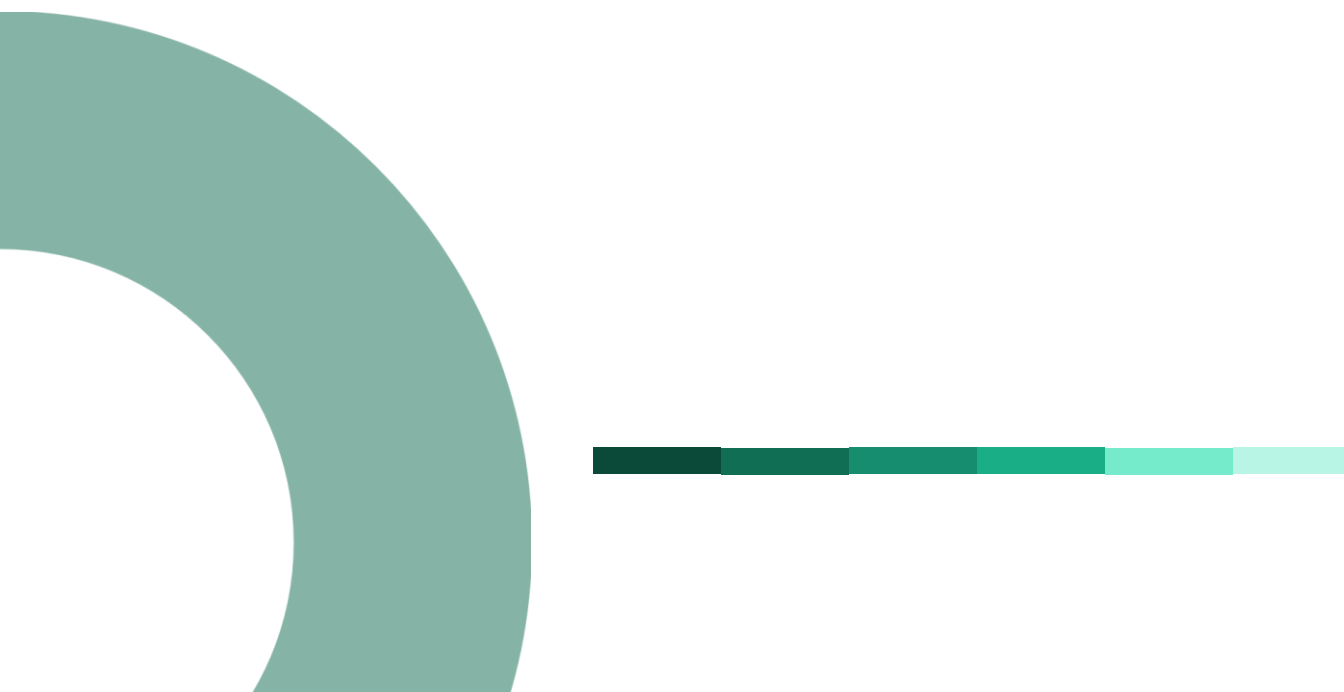


Pre-COP event

Review of the Implementation of Article 7: From guidance to implementation



Housekeeping remarks

- Please keep your camera and mic off during the presentations
 - May you have any questions, you can write them in the Q&A box/chat at any time or raise your hand during the Q&A session at the end of the event.
 - This event might be recorded for reporting purposes
 - The slides will be shared at the end of the meeting on the event page of the Global Mercury Partnership.
- 

Programme agenda

14h45 – 15h45 CEST		
14h45 – 14h50	Housekeeping remarks	UNEP KRU – Thomas Verbaere
14h50 – 14h55	Opening remarks	GMP ASGM Co-lead – Susan Keane
14h55 – 15h07	Supplemental Guidance document for the Review of the Implementation of Article 7 of the Convention.	Minamata Convention Secretariat – Richard Gutierrez
15h07 – 15h20	GEF Project to support the Review of the Implementation of Article 7 of the Convention	UNEP GEF C&W – Inaki Rodríguez
15h20 – 15h35	Country perspective on NAP Implementation and RIA	Tanzania and Uganda
15h35 – 15h45	Q&A session	Facilitator: Thomas Verbaere
15h45	Closure	



Opening remarks



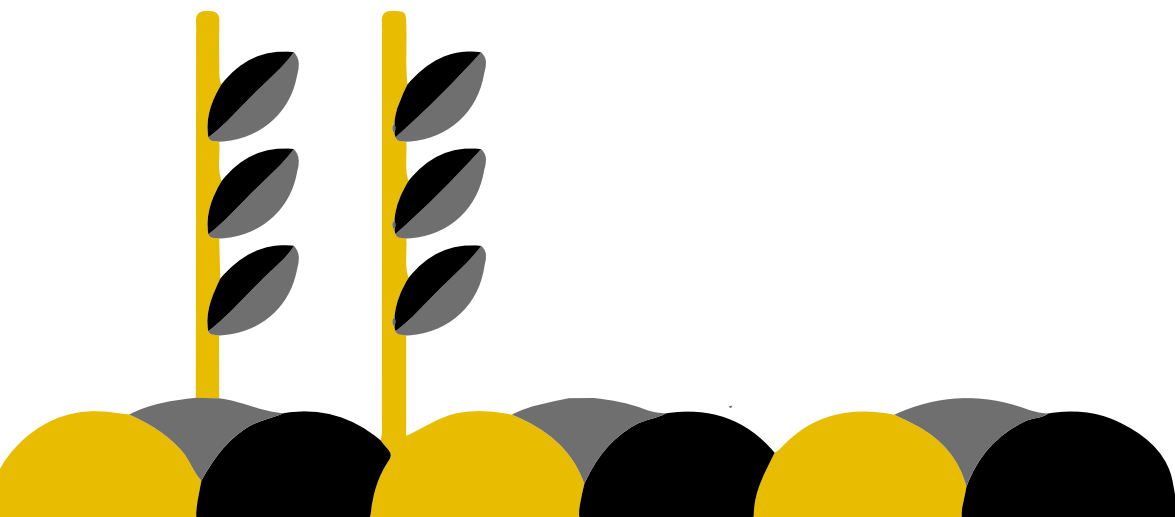
Susan Keane, Senior Director at National Resource Defense Council, and Co-lead of the ASGM partnership area of the GMP



Review of the Implementation of the Article 7 on ASGM: from guidance to implementation

Pre-COP-6 Online Event Week

16 October 2025



Background

ASGM

US\$ 4,129.00 per ounce

(as at 14 Oct. 2025)

USD



Market Data: Provided by ICE Data Services. More information
Data Source: Copyright © 2024 FactSet Research Systems Inc. All rights reserved.

GOLDHUB.COM



ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING



Produces up to 20% of world's gold



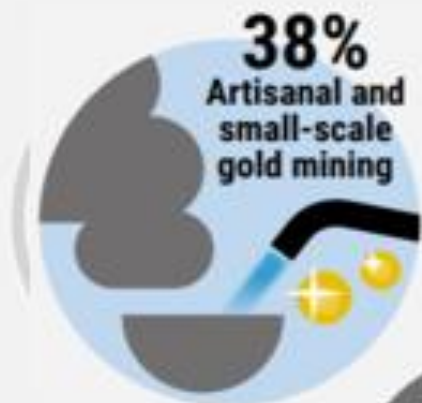
Employs 10-20 M people typically in remote rural areas



Involves 4 to 5 million women and children



Takes place in 80 countries and often in areas where there is limited economic opportunity



Releases 38% of all mercury pollution to the environment



Is often considered as informal sector



© UNEP

Article 7: Obligation Overview



Artisanal and small-scale gold mining – What the Convention says

Parties that have ASGM using mercury amalgamation in their territories are to 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 (Art. 7, para. 2)

ASGM in its territory is more than insignificant...

Notify the secretariat that it has determined that ASGM is more than insignificant in its territory. (Art. 7, para. 3)

Develop and implement a national action plan (NAP) in accordance with Annex C of the Convention. (Art. 7. para. 3(a), also see MC-1/3 Guidance on developing NAP)

Submit the national action plan to the secretariat no later than three years after the Convention entered into force for it or three years after the notification to the secretariat, whichever is later. (Art. 7. para. 3(b))

Provide a review every three years of the progress made in meeting its obligation and include such review in its national reports pursuant to Article 21. (Art. 7, para. 3(c))

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Annex C Elements

CONTENT OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN according to the Minamata Convention *(Annex C)*



Strategies to eliminate worst practices and promote mercury-free methods



Steps to facilitate the formalization or regulation



Baseline estimates of the quantities of mercury used and the practices employed



Strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury



Strategies for providing information to ASGM affected communities



A public health strategy on the exposure of miners and their communities to mercury

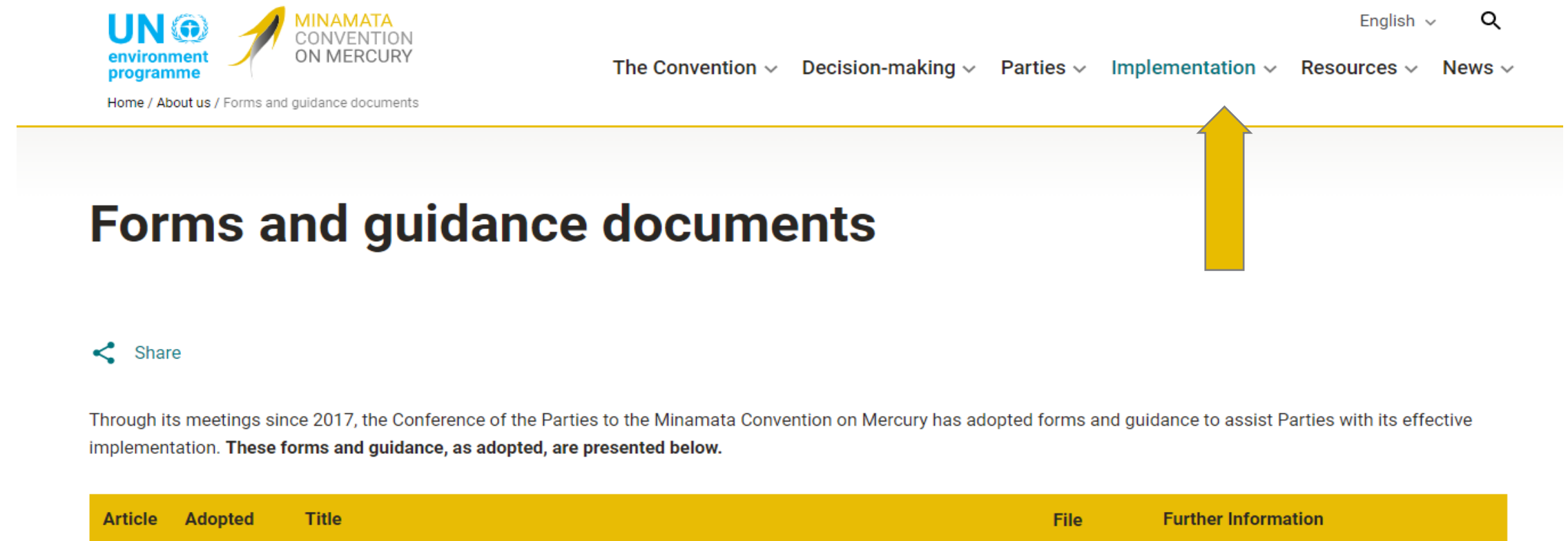
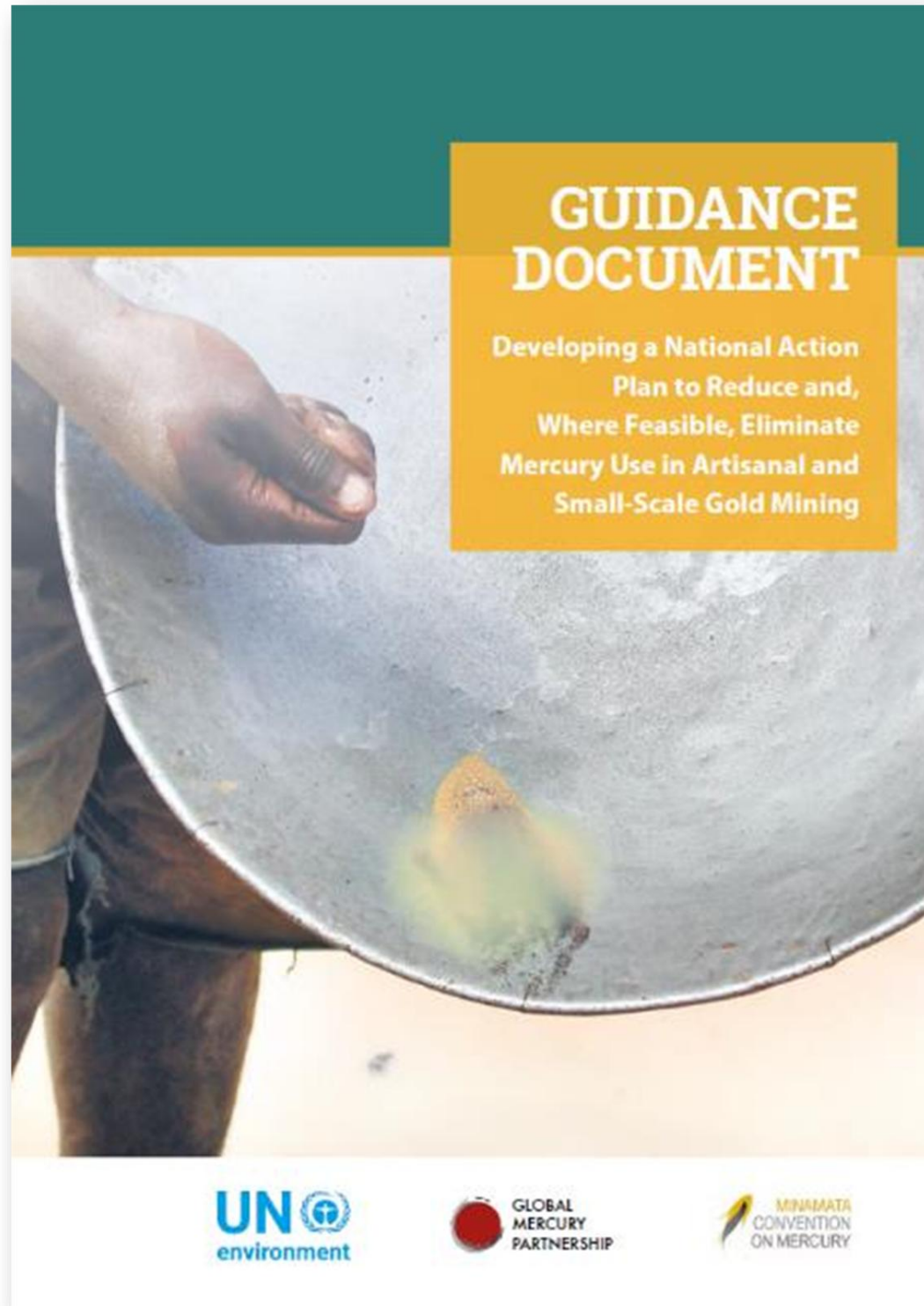


Strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations



Strategies for mercury-free ASGM and market-based mechanisms or marketing tools.

The COP adopted guidance for developing NAPs



The screenshot shows the website interface for the Minamata Convention. At the top, there are logos for the UN Environment Programme and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. A navigation menu includes "The Convention", "Decision-making", "Parties", "Implementation", "Resources", and "News". A yellow arrow points to the "Implementation" menu item. Below the navigation, the page title is "Forms and guidance documents". There is a "Share" button and a paragraph of text: "Through its meetings since 2017, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury has adopted forms and guidance to assist Parties with its effective implementation. These forms and guidance, as adopted, are presented below." Below this is a table with columns for "Article", "Adopted", "Title", "File", and "Further Information".

UNEP in collaboration with the Minamata Secretariat and Global Mercury Partnership developed a complementary technical document (COP.4/INF/6).



The image shows the cover of a technical document. At the top, it says "UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/6" and "Annex". Below that are the logos for the UN Environment Programme and the 50th anniversary of the UN (1972-2022). The main title is "SOUND TAILINGS MANAGEMENT IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING" in large, bold letters. At the bottom, it says "Technical Document".



6th Meeting of the Conference of Parties: Item 4(c): Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining

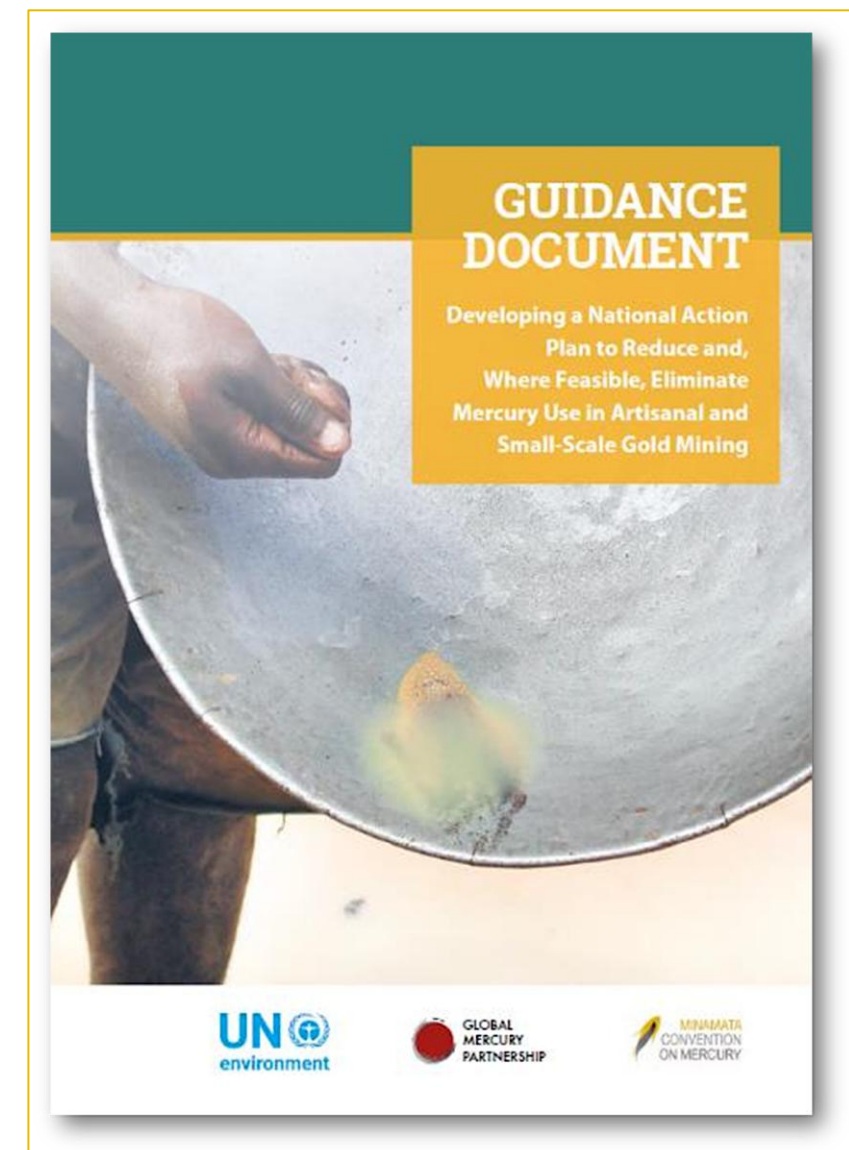


Item 4(c): Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (cont.)

- ❖ 6/7: Matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to decision MC-5/7 on artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- ❖ 6/7/Add.1: Draft sections on the review of the implementation of article 7 for inclusion in the ASGM NAP guidance
- ❖ INF/11: Draft provisional guide on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities

6/7/Add.1: Draft sections on the review of the implementation of article 7 for inclusion in the ASGM NAP guidance

- Document contains **proposed amendments** to the ASGM NAP guidance, including new sections to support Parties in reviewing implementation of Article 7 and draft template for reporting results of the review of Article 7.
- Aim of proposed sections:
 - **facilitate reviews and support** national focal points to **organize information** on the results of the review
 - **facilitate reporting** under Article 21.
- Developed in collaboration with the **Global Mercury Partnership** and ASGM Partnership leads
- Review guidance is aimed for Parties who have submitted their NAPs to the Secretariat.
- For those Parties who have ASGM in their territory obligation to report on progress in the implementation of Art. 7 in the full national reports.



6/7/Add.1: Draft sections on the review of the implementation of article 7 for inclusion in the ASGM NAP guidance

Key Additions to NAP Guidance:

- ✓ New Section 4.7: Stepwise approach to conducting the review.
 - ☐ Check mandate of the coordinating mechanism and ensure multistakeholder participation
 - ☐ Collect & compare data: Against baseline mercury use and practices.
 - ☐ Monitor and assess progress - NAP objectives and targets.
 - ☐ Evaluate & adapt: Strategies, workplans, and stakeholder feedback.
 - ☐ Report findings: Using structured template aligned with Article 21.

✓ Review of the Implementation of Art. 7 (RIA) Reporting Template (Annex 7)

- ☐ Status of NAP implementation
- ☐ Progress on mandatory and optional strategies
- ☐ Challenges, delays, and next steps
- ☐ Encourages inclusion of disaggregated data for Indigenous Peoples, women and children, and gender-responsive indicators.



Section 2: Status of NAP Implementation. The table below provides a format for reporting on the status of the national objectives, targets and strategies set out in the NAP.

<u>Annex C and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties</u>	<u>Targets / indicators</u>	<u>Original timeline</u>	<u>Adjusted timeline (if applicable)</u>	<u>Status of implementation</u>	<u>Progress / completion (percentage)^a</u>	<u>Actions taken</u>	<u>Challenges/delays</u>
<i>Annex C (mandatory)</i>							
a) <u>National objectives</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. revised timeline, additional resources allocated]	[e.g. delay due to funding issues]
b) <u>Reduction targets</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. revised timeline, additional resources allocated]	[e.g. delay due to funding issues]
c) <u>Actions to eliminate:</u>							
i. <u>Whole ore amalgamation</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. additional training sessions scheduled]	[e.g. technology adoption slower than expected]
ii. <u>Open burning of amalgam or processed amalgam</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. additional training sessions scheduled]	[e.g. technology adoption slower than expected]
iii. <u>Burning of amalgam in residential areas</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. additional training sessions scheduled]	[e.g. technology adoption slower than expected]
iv. <u>Cyanide leaching in sediment, ore or tailings to which mercury has been added without first removing the mercury</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. additional training sessions scheduled]	[e.g. technology adoption slower than expected]
d) <u>Steps to facilitate the formalization or regulation of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. revised timeline, additional resources allocated]	[e.g. legislative delays]
e) <u>Developing estimates of the quantities</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Original /	[--]		

Item 4(c): Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (cont.)

- ❖ 6/7: Matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to decision MC-5/7 on artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- ❖ 6/7/Add.1: Draft sections on the review of the implementation of article 7 for inclusion in the ASGM NAP guidance
- ❖ INF/11: Draft provisional guide on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities

INF/11: Draft provisional guide on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities

- Contains the draft **provisional guide on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities** in the development, implementation and review of ASGM national action plans. Financial **support from Australia and Norway**.
- In response to COP-5 decision MC-5/7 paragraph 7, the Secretariat developed the document.
- Based on a **desk review** of similar engagement protocols and its aim is to reflect the existing best practices for engagement of Indigenous Peoples and for engagement of local communities.
- Information was **posted on the Convention website** on 26 March 2025 until 30 April 2025 for inputs from Parties and other stakeholders.



TECHNICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR REPORTING ON PROGRESS IN MEETING MINAMATA CONVENTION ARTICLE 7 OBLIGATIONS

- Aim :
 - Provide tools and a detailed framework to facilitate reviews and support Parties in undertaking RIA.
- Developed in collaboration between the **Minamata Convention Secretariat** and **Global Mercury Partnership** and ASGM Partnership leads
- Draft to be piloted and refined based on the countries experience with RIA process.

OUTLINE

- I. Conducting a review of the progress in meeting article 7 obligations



- II. ANNEX C Strategies
- III. Supplementary Strategies
- IV. Tools/templates

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13, Chemin des Anémones - 1219 Châtelaine, Switzerland

WEB: www.minamataconvention.org
MAIL: MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org
X: @minamataMEA
[#MakeMercuryHistory](https://twitter.com/MakeMercuryHistory)



Introduction of the new RIA projects

By UNEP GEF Chemicals and Waste Unit (GEF C&W)

Iñaki Rodríguez

16 October 2025



Index of contents

1. Project overview
2. Institutional Arrangements
3. Technical guidance for the RIA process
4. Next steps
5. Group discussion



1- Project Overview. Background

Requirements under Article 7 (ASGM)

Notify the Secretariat and develop the NAP.

- Review of NAPs every three years
- MC-5/7: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

All Parties that have submitted their NAPs are requested to provide a review of the progress made in implementing the obligations under Article 7, and **to include this review in the reports** they are required to submit **under Article 21.**

Objective of the RIA Project

To facilitate the review of the implementation of Article 7 in participating countries through the assessment and updating of NAPs.

Sub-objectives:

- Assess the progress made
- Provide an opportunity to revise the original NAP with new elements and strategies in line with COP decisions

1- Project Overview: Project Components

C1. Overall guidance, capacity building, and knowledge management

Development and dissemination of technical guidance, capacity building, and knowledge management to support the timely preparation of RIAs and the continued implementation and review of NAPs.

C2. Review of the implementation of Article 7 and preparation of national reports

Countries have initiated their RIA processes and communicated relevant information to the Secretariat

C3. Monitoring and Evaluation

The project is subject to **appropriate monitoring and evaluation.**

2 Project Overview: Expected results

C1. Overall guidance, capacity building, and knowledge management	C2. Review of the implementation of Article 7 and preparation of national reports	C3. Monitoring and Evaluation
<p>1.1 Relevant knowledge products and tools are developed, updated, and disseminated; capacity building is ensured, and information is shared.</p>	<p>2.1 Report on the progress of the implementation of Article 7, including gaps, challenges, and solutions developed.</p>	<p>3.1 The status of project implementation and the integrity of fund utilization are regularly communicated to the GEF and project stakeholders.</p>
<p>1.2 Existing knowledge platforms and online tools are improved and maintained; the quality of the RIA document is reviewed, and its key features are incorporated into the knowledge platform.</p>	<p>2.2 RIA reports are finalized and sent to the relevant national stakeholders for endorsement</p>	<p>3.2 The project is closed both operationally and financially in accordance with GEF guidelines.</p>

2 - Project Overview: Key project activities for participating countries



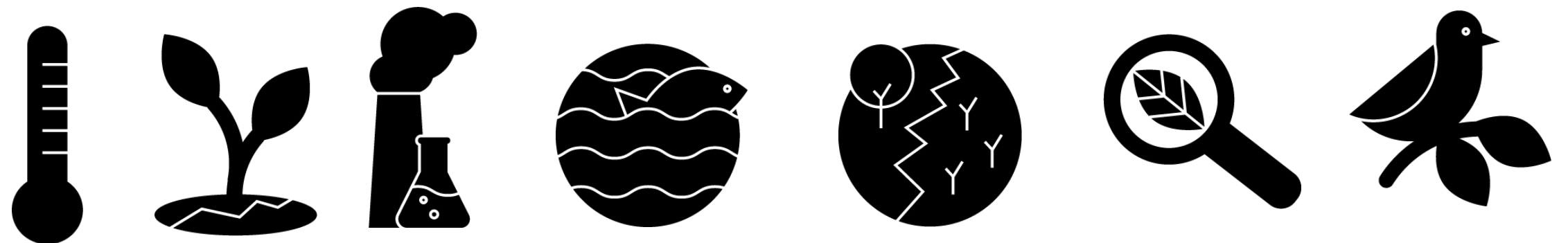
C1 : In-person training for national teams + technical review of country reports + knowledge dissemination (UNEP KRU)

C2 : Field data collection + drafting + submission to the Secretariat (Countries with UNEP support)

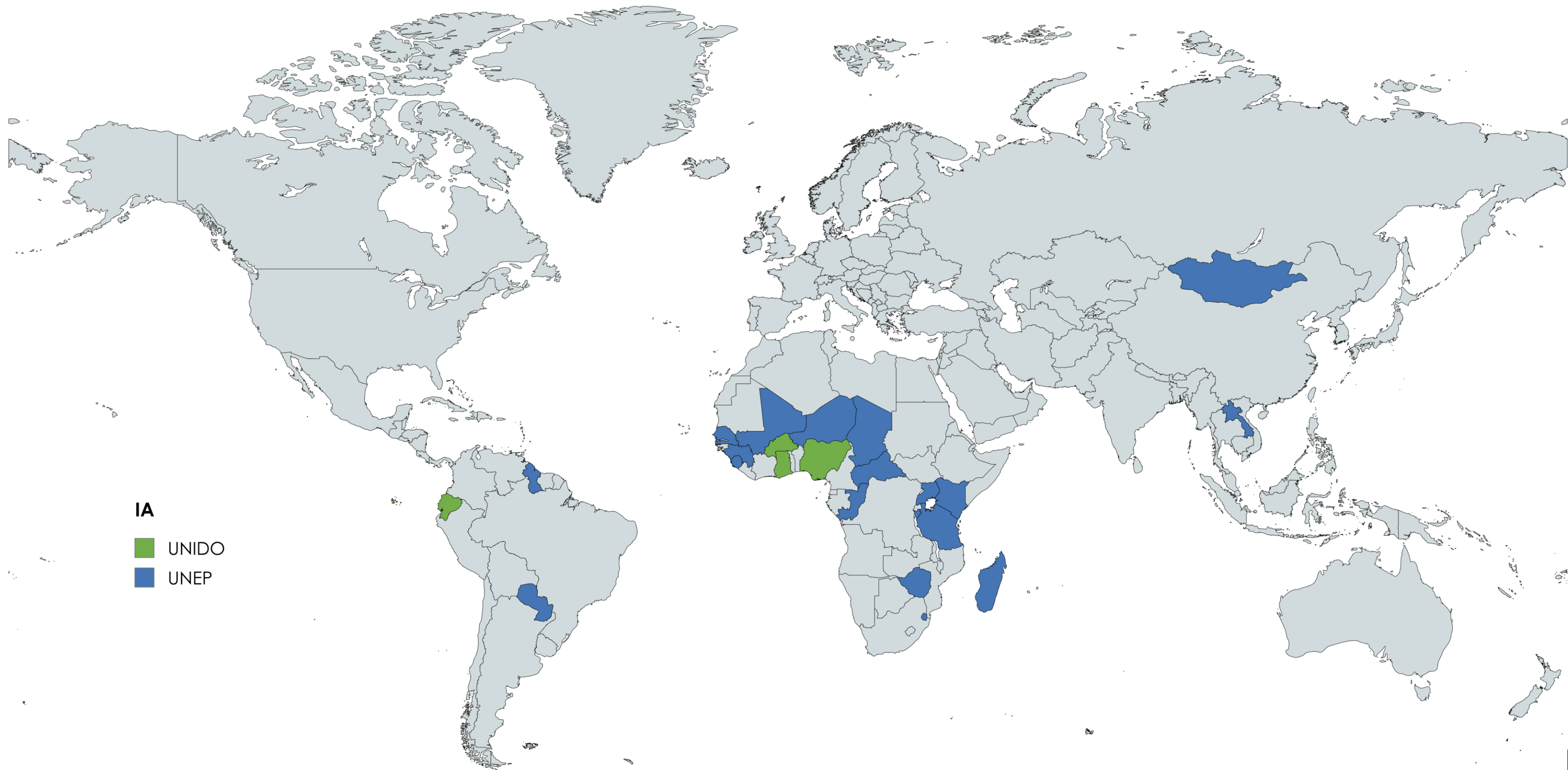
C3 : Monitoring and Evaluation Reports (UNEP C&W)

2 - Project Overview: Funding

- RIA Anglophone countries project
 - 11 Countries (Bugdet USD 2,700,000)
- RIA Francophone + Spanish Speaking countries project
 - 12 Countries (Bugdet USD 2,900,000)
- Country budget allocation : \$200,000
- Duration: 2 years

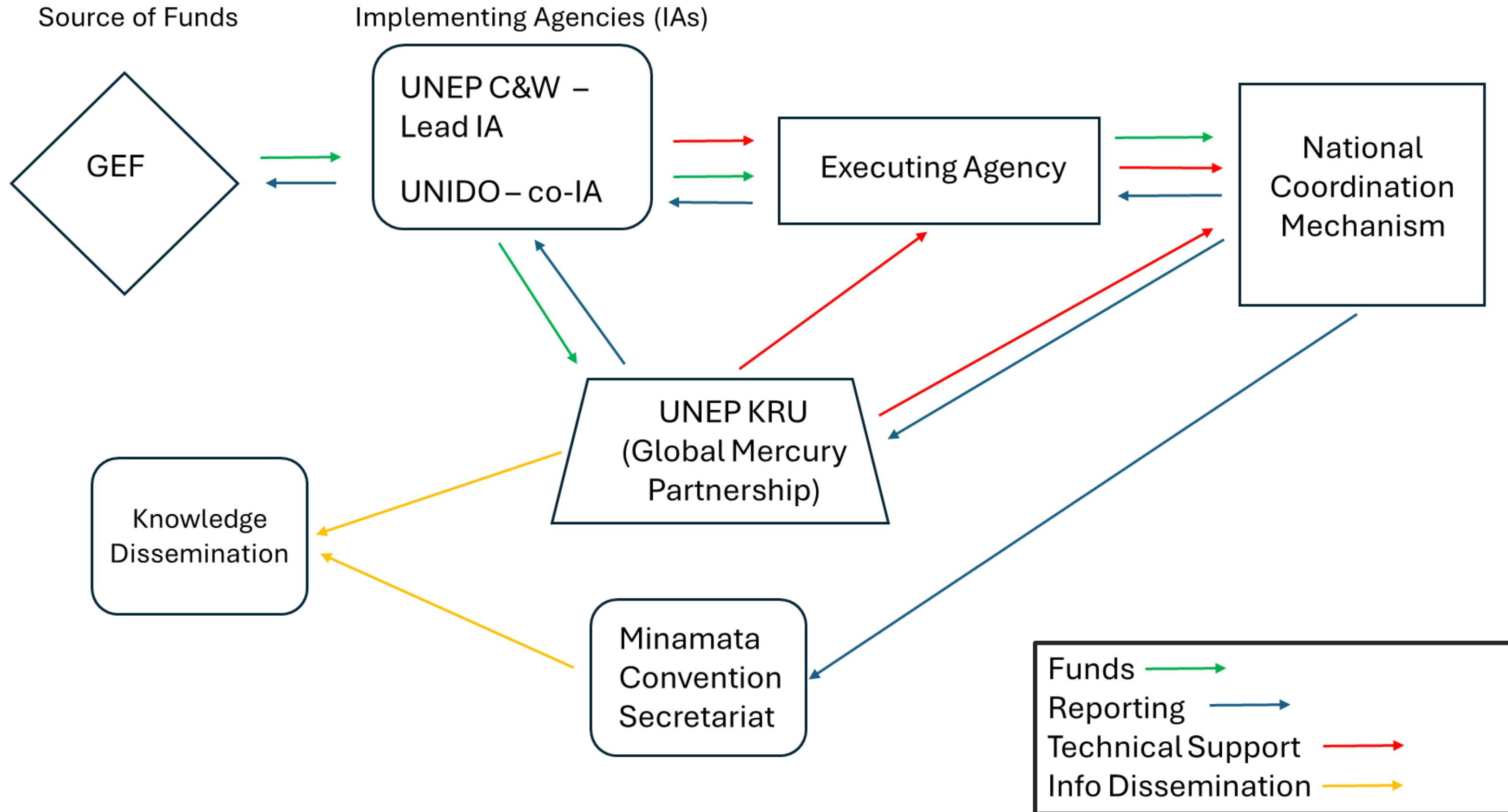


2 – Project Overview: Geographical Scope of the participating countries



IA
UNIDO
UNEP

2 Institutional Arrangements



5 - Technical development of the RIA guidance

Two documents prepared by UNEP (KRU) and the Minamata Secretariat:

- 1) Summary of the RIA report model (related to Article 21) for adoption at COP6.
- 2) RIA Report: Information and technical tools for reviewing the implementation of the obligations under Article 7 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/XX)2

Process for updating Article 7 at the country level



4- Next steps



5 - Group discussion on the RIA project

Feel free to share your questions,
comments, or concerns. The floor is
yours.



Thank you very much for
your attention

Contact UNEP GEF C&W Unit
inaki.rodriгуeуlаzаrо@un.org



UGANDA



31

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON NAP IMPLEMENTATION AND ON THE UPCOMING RIA PROCESS

A PRESENTATION MADE AT PRE-COP6 MINAMATA EVENT (VIRTUAL) ON
RIA GUIDANCE AND PROCESS

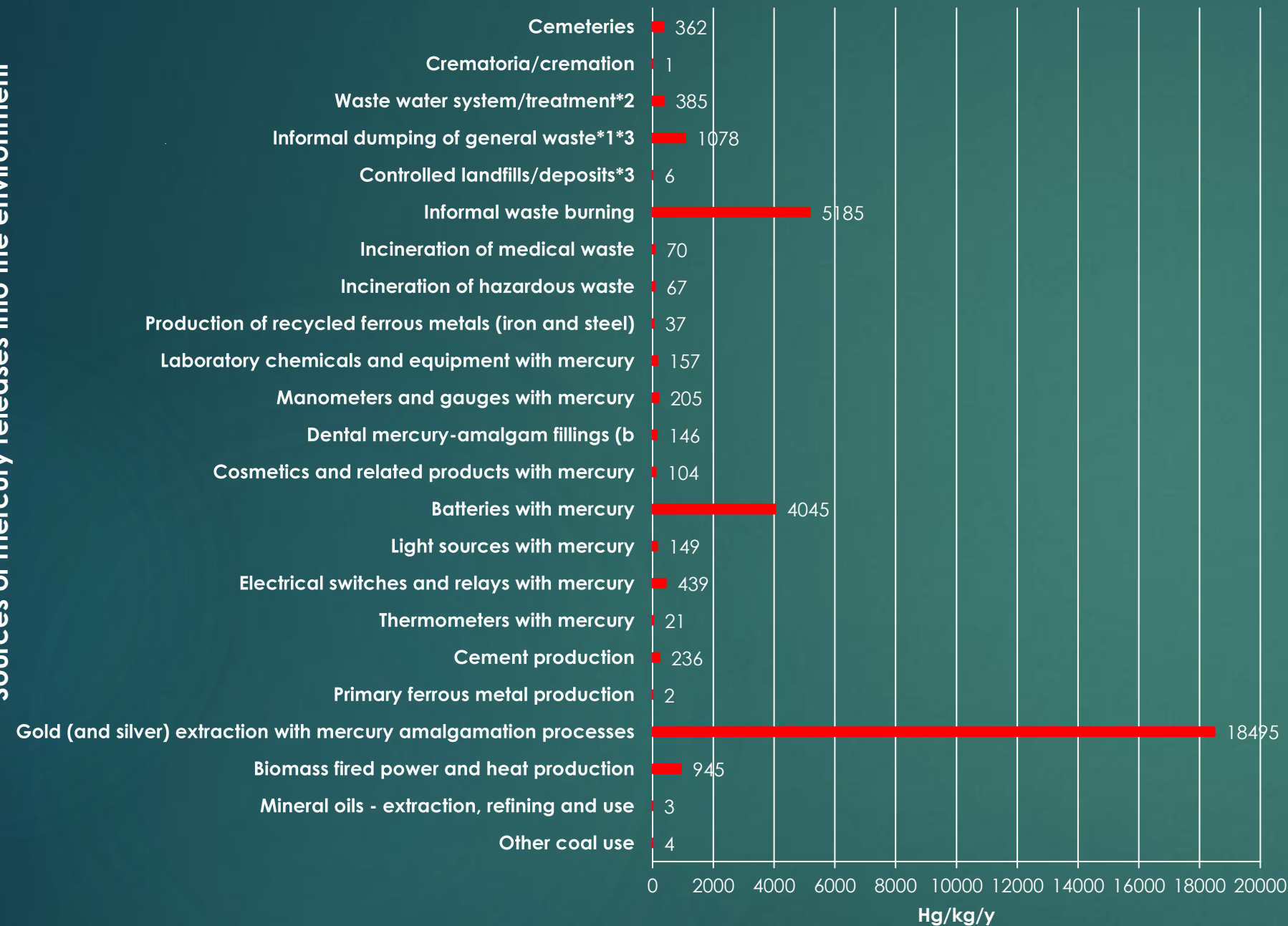
BY

ANNE NAKAFEERO

PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICER-BIODIVERSITY & RANGELANDS
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

1.0 Mercury use trends in ASGM sector in Uganda

Sources of mercury releases into the environment



- ▶ **NAP mercury reduction target:** Reducing mercury access, use and release in the sector by 70% by 2024 and by 2030, completely eliminate mercury (100% elimination) in the ASGM sector
- ▶ NAP Hg baseline-15t/y
- ▶ planetGOLD Hg baseline-25.19t/y
- ▶ Mercury use prevalent in the Eastern and Central regions of Uganda, attributed majorly to wet pan mills - whole ore amalgamation

2.0 Legal reforms since MIA study, NAP & planetGOLD

33

a) **The Mining and Minerals Act, 2022**

- ▶ Provides for occupational safety and health commitments; defines ASMs based on mining depth & level of investment
- ▶ ASMs required to carry out ESIs, restoration and site decommissioning
- ▶ Mining licenses issued to artisanal and small scale miners including individuals, registered associations, cooperatives, partnerships, companies

- ▶ ASMs required to deposit a restoration bond; all miners are prohibited from using mercury; all artisans prohibited from using cyanide
- ▶ Small scale miners allowed to use cyanide after authorization; prohibits pollution; requires a decommissioning plan

b) The National Environment Act, CAP 181 covers the management of mercury in products & processes

Legal reforms since MIA study, NAP & planetGOLD cont.

34

c) The National Environment (Air Quality Standards) Regulations, 2024

- ▶ Supported by PlanetGOLD, GEF, UNEP
- ▶ Provides for ambient air quality standards; occupational air quality emission limits; fugitive emission reduction measures; hazardous ambient air pollutants cover mercury (Time-weighted Average – annual - 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

d) The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2024

- ▶ Provides for chemical contaminated sites: remediation of sites contaminated by hazardous chemicals, including persistent organic pollutants, mercury or mercury compounds, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium
- ▶ Prohibits use mercury and mercury compounds or release emissions of mercury from gold and other mining and processing activities

Legal reforms since MIA study, NAP & planetGOLD cont.

35

e) The Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) Act Cap 231(as amended 2025). Part 2 requires employers to ensure chemical safety including eliminating hazardous chemicals from their production process. Mercury is one such chemicals

f) Draft guidelines for the management of mercury alternative hazardous chemicals in artisanal and small scale gold mining developed and ready for presentation to top management. Stakeholder consultations supported by planetGOLD project

g) The Mining and Minerals (Artisanal Mining) Regulations 2025

h) The Toxic Chemicals Prohibition and Control Regulations (2024)

i) OSH training of ASGM supported by planetGOLD project and dangers of mercury well documented to the miners

3.0 Overview of NAP implementation

36

S/ N	NAP objective	Status	Challenge
1	To reduce the emissions, releases and risks of exposure to mercury by the ASGM sector by 70%	Quantitative measurements may be required	-Field monitoring tools
2	To facilitate the formalisation of the ASGM sector by 2024		
i	Geo-prospect & allocate land for ASGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of ASM zones in areas of known artisanal gold. Zoning is now provided for in ASM regulations 2025 • Will lead government/stakeholder to targeted interventions 	Geo-prospecting for ASGMs might be expensive, requires access to finance
ii	Facilitate Miner organisations	planetGOLD, NGOs supporting miner organisations	Strengthening governance measures in associations
iii	License & regulate ASGM	Government of Uganda Financing & planetGOLD done tremendous	Incentivising compliance efforts

Overview of NAP implementation cont.

S/N	NAP objective	Status	Challenge 37
iv	Organise the supply chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planetGOLD facilitating miner school field trainings • Benchmarking the demonstration of the VAT (Micro) Leaching technology • Mine Laboratory Assessments • Equipment Support to the Miners (E.g., Centrifugal, Concentrators, Upgraders, gold cubes, and smelting furnace)-underway • Uganda is participating in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and harmonizing licensing processes to ensure sustainability and environmental protection. 	<p>-Limited effort at consumer level (gold prices are the same for safe and non safe processes)</p> <p>-Requires combined national & global efforts in responsible sourcing</p>
v	Facilitate access to finance, assistance and markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencement of the Domestic Gold Purchase Program (DGPP) under the Central Bank of Uganda. • Gold purchases exclusively in Uganda (more than 80% of gold mined by ASM). • Giving price incentives for mercury free gold • Many ASM groups have committed to eliminate mercury use from gold recovery so as to benefit 	Limited infrastructure for gold marketing is
vi.	Monitor & enforce ASGM regulations	Institutional frameworks in place	Aim is for miners to see no more economic sense in continued use of mercury in gold processing

Overview of NAP implementation cont.

S/ N	NAP objective	Status	Challenge
3	To strengthen stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the NAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection, training, public dialogues, and sensitization of artisanal miners in regards to environmental management, health and safety. 	Stakeholder engagement is continuous, also to address new and emerging issues
4	To build and strengthen institutional capacity for management of the mercury value chain and use in ASGM by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great strides in regulatory framework 	Limitation in testing tools, coordination, knowledge management, digital transformation
5	To review and implement a Public Health Strategy on exposure, diagnosis and treatment of mercury related complications in ASGM by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not fully implemented 	Limited knowledge on early detection, exposure, diagnosis and treatment of mercury related complications

Overview of NAP implementation cont.

S/ N	NAP objective	Status	Challenge
6	To prevent exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children, women of child-bearing age and nursing mothers to mercury used in the ASGM sector by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness • Laws & regulations in place 	More effort needed
7	To develop market-based mechanisms for the promotion of reduced mercury use by 70% by 2024	Covered under formalisation	More effort needed
8	To provide alternative and substitute gold extraction technologies in ASGM in order to eliminate mercury use in the sector by 2030	Covered under formalisation	More effort needed
9	To develop, sensitise and enforce occupational, safety and health standards in the ASGM sector by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness • Laws & regulations in place 	More effort needed

Overview of NAP implementation cont.

S/N	NAP objective	Status	Challenge
6	To prevent exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children, women of child-bearing age and nursing mothers to mercury used in the ASGM sector by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public awareness Laws & regulations in place 	More effort needed
7	To develop market-based mechanisms for the promotion of reduced mercury use by 70% by 2024	Covered under formalisation	More effort needed
8	To provide alternative and substitute gold extraction technologies in ASGM in order to eliminate mercury use in the sector by 2030	Covered under formalisation	More effort needed
9	To develop, sensitise and enforce occupational, safety and health standards in the ASGM sector by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public awareness Laws & regulations in place 	More effort needed
10	To develop and enforce an ASGM environment management strategy by 2030	Covered under formalisation	More effort needed
11	To continuously raise	Ongoing efforts	More effort

4.0 National perspective on the RIA process

41

- ▶ RIA very timely
- ▶ Will address emerging issues in ASGM
 - Halting further biodiversity loss
 - Plastic pollution in mines
- ▶ Energy conservation in mines
- ▶ Research & development
- ▶ Customising management of contaminated sites
- ▶ Development of ASGM economic models
- ▶ Strengthen engagement of indigenous people
- ▶ Address NAP areas with limited attention

Thank you

Q&A session



Richard Gutierrez – Supplemental Guidance document for the Review of the Implementation of Article 7 of the Convention

Inaki Rodriguez – GEF Project to support the Review of the Implementation of Article 7 of the Convention

Anne Nakafeero – Ugandan perspective on NAP implementation and upcoming RIA



Thank you

Questions and discussion
