INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party
Guyana

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited
24 September 2014

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party
16 August 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution
Ministry of Natural Resources

Title of National Focal Point
Ms.

Name of National Focal Point
Michelle Astwood

Mailing address
96 Duke Street, Kingston

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2271365

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mastwood@nre.gov.gy

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mastwood29@gmail.com

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https://nre.gov.gy/

3. Information about the contact officer submitting the reporting format if different from the above

Focal Point is submitting the national report
ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

3.1. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Additional information on this question if needed
{Empty}

3.2. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes
☐ No

3.3. Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If the party answered No above, please explain.
There are no stocks exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year

3.4. Does the party have excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor–alkali facilities?

☐ Yes
☐ No

3.5. *Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non–parties, for all exports of mercury from the party’s territory in the reporting period?

☐ Yes, exports to parties
☐ Yes, exports to non–parties
☒ No

Additional information if needed
{Empty}
3.6. Has the party allowed the import of mercury from a non-party?

- No
- Yes
- The importing party has relied on paragraph 7 of article 3

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

ART. 4: MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

4.1. Has the party taken any appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products?

- Yes
- No
- Yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4)

If yes, please provide information on the measures.
Draft National Energy Policy supports the use of energy efficient lamps/bulbs. Clean energy sources etc.

4.3. Has the party taken two or more measures for the mercury-added products listed in Part II of Annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.
- Setting national objectives aiming at minimising its use – Dental Amalgam is no longer used in any public health facilities (hospitals, clinics, etc);
- Encouraging representative professional organisations and dental schools to educate and train professionals and students on the use mercury free dental restoration alternatives and promoting best management practices;
- Promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and land.

4.4. Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed under article 4?

- Yes
- No

4.5. Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6?
If no, has there been an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product that demonstrates environmental or health benefits? Has the party provided to the secretariat, as appropriate, information on any such product?

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}
5.4. Is there any use of mercury or mercury compounds in a facility using the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

5.5. Is there any facility that has been developed using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}
7.2. Has the party determined and notified the secretariat that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?

- Yes
- No

7.3. Has the party developed and implemented a national action plan and submitted it to the secretariat?

- Yes
- No
- In progress

7.4. Attach your most recent review that must be completed under paragraph 3 (c) of article 7, unless it is not yet due

[Empty]

7.5. Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objective of this article?
Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

The mining industry is one of the key pillars that has over the decades supported Guyana’s development and continues to support the growth of the economy. (GDP approx. 11.5% in 2020). It is a part of our rich history, it is what makes us Guyana – the city of El Dorado. In Guyana, the artisanal, small- and medium-scale gold-mining sector (ASGM) is significant to the national economy, and the livelihoods of over 11,000 Guyanese with over 1,000 active ASGM operations, but consequently is the main source of anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury to the environment. Therefore, the Ministry of Natural Resources recognizes that discussions surrounding the use of mercury are not only economic in nature, but encompasses environmental, social and cultural discourses.

While the importance of the ASGM sector is noted the government remains committed to ensuring that mining is done in a safe, responsible and sustainable manner that supports our international commitments and aligns with national policies and strategies, such as the LCDS Phase 2030 (strategy area – An ecosystems approach to sustainably growing the extractive and forestry sector. This will support sustainable mining through improved planning and recovery in mining areas).

The development of the of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Guyana through a consultative process involving miners and mining organization has ensured that the NAP responded to the concerns and realities, as expressed by the main stakeholders (artisanal, small- and medium-scale miners, mining communities, gold traders, local and regional-level leaders, mining organisations and key agencies). The Ministry of Natural Resources views this consultative process as a necessary step as we create policies and plans for the natural resources sector and thanks all stakeholders for their knowledge and inputs that led to the successful completion on the NAP. The strategic objectives, intervention areas and actions outlined in the NAP provide a clear roadmap/foundation that will guide government as it works through the various agencies (MNR, GGMC, EPA, MoH, GNBS, PTCCB etc.) to support the phased reduction of the use of mercury in ASGM practices and the overall protection of the miners, mining communities, their livelihoods and the environment in Guyana.

ART. 8: EMISSIONS

8.1. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8.

For each of those source categories describe the measures in place, including the effectiveness of such measures, to implement the requirements of paragraph 4 of article 8.

- [ ] Coal-fired power plants
- [ ] Coal-fired industrial boilers
- [✓] Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
Facilities are required to comply with permitting requirements under the Environmental Protection Act Cap. 20:05 and best environmental practices to reduce emissions of mercury and mercury compounds to the atmosphere. Best available techniques are also a requirement for smelting and roasting processes; example: mercury abatement systems which includes carbon saturation packs, condensers, wet scrubbers and retorts.

☐ Waste incineration facilities

Waste incineration facilities
Facilities are required to comply with permitting requirements under the Environmental Protection Act Cap. 20:05 and best environmental practices to reduce emissions of mercury and mercury compounds to the atmosphere. Permitting requirements allows for the implementation of emission control techniques and adherence to stack emission limits.

☐ Cement clinker production facilities

Has the party required the use of best available techniques or best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control and where feasible reduce emissions for new sources no later than 5 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Please explain
Guyana has in its territory no new sources in any of the source categories listed in Annex D. In 2017, Guyana reaffirmed its commitment to reducing mercury emissions by 55% by 2022. Monitoring data does not exist. Monitoring programme being developed.

Attach relevant documentation
{Empty}

8.2. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are existing sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8.

For each of those source categories, select and provide details on the measures implemented under paragraph 5 of article 8 and explain the progress that these applied measures have achieved in reducing emissions over time in your territory:

▼ COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures
{Empty}

Progress
{Empty}
**COAL-FIRED INDUSTRIAL BOILERS**

- A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**
{Empty}

**Progress**
{Empty}

**SMELTING AND ROASTING PROCESSES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF NON-FERROUS METALS**

- A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**
Guyana commenced the adoption of International Standards to ensure that that emissions do not pose a risk to human health and the environment.

**Progress**
{Empty}

**WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES**

- A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources
Have the measures for existing sources under paragraph 5 of article 8 been implemented no later than 10 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- Yes
- No

8.3. Has the party prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the Convention for it?

- Yes
- No
- Have not been a party for 5 years

If yes, when was the inventory last updated?
Mon, 10/31/2016 – 00:00

Please indicate where this inventory is available
Guyana (Ministry of Natural Resources), with funding provided by the GEF and technical assistance provided by UNDP developed the Minamata Initial Assessment Report in October 2016. The document provided a mercury inventory results.

Attach
{Empty}

8.4. Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category?
8.5. Has the party chosen to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions from relevant sources and its expected targets, goals and outcomes?

- Yes
- No

If yes, has the party submitted its national plan to the Conference of the Parties under this article no later than 4 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- Yes
- No

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

**ART. 9: RELEASES**

9.1. Are there, within the party’s territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

9.2. Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the convention for it?

- Yes
- Relevant sources do not exist in the territory
- Have not been a party for 5 years
- No

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

**ART. 10: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY**

10.1. Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally...
sound manner?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

Please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner and the effectiveness of those measures.
The PTCCB along with the GGMC and the EPA conduct inspections of the premises of the potential importers to assess whether their storage facilities are in compliance with standards/regulations.

These Regulations include the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Regulations 2004, the Mining (Amendment) Regulations 2005 and the various Regulations made under the Environmental Protection Act.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

11.1. Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party’s mercury waste?

- Yes
- No

Please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.
The EPA under the Environmental Protection Act, Chapter 20:05, Laws of Guyana, and the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations 2000, is mandated to oversee the management of hazardous waste. Guyana is also a signatory to the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and the EPA is the National Focal Point in the country for the Convention.

Currently, the Agency is working towards strengthening compliance assistance and enforcement for the safe handling, storage and disposal of hazardous waste at medical facilities such as hospitals and health centres, pharmacies, mortuaries, funeral homes and parlours. The activities at these facilities may result in the generation, accumulation, storage and disposal of hazardous waste such as bodily fluids, body tissues, non-anatomical waste infected with communicable diseases, sharps and effluents. As such, depending on the nature of the said activities, the facilities may require Environmental Authorisation from the EPA.

Some of the key challenges have been insufficient data of quantities and streams of hazardous waste generated in Guyana and the provision of suitable disposal sites for hazardous waste. Interim recommendations include the exportation, neutralization and safe storage of such waste as guided by the Agency until a suitable approved disposal site can be determined.

Further, a waste management steering committee was formed between the EPA and Ministry of Communities to: address waste related matters and to assess controlled dumpsites across Guyana to determine suitability for the development of engineered landfill sites; regularise waste collectors and operators in the ten Administrative Regions; and to strengthen collaboration between the two Agencies for environmentally sound waste management throughout the country.
11.2. Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party’s territory?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

ART. 12: CONTAMINATED SITES

12.1. Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory?

- Yes
- No

Please elaborate
Mercury is used in the ASGM sector and guided by the relevant regulations and codes of practices. For more information please see: https://ggmc.gov.gy/sites/default/files/law/Code%20of%20Practice%20-%20Mercury.pdf

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

ART. 13: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM

13.1. Has the party undertaken to provide, within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to implement the Convention in accordance with its national policies, priorities, plans and programmes?

- Yes
- No

Please specify
Ministries and sector agencies present Budgets to MoF for approval each year with line items that specifically address articles under the Convention. For example the Ministry of Natural Resources (as focal point for the Minamata Convention) has a budget line under programme 262 - Natural Resource Management called support for MEAs. The Guyana geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) through its budget allocations supports promoting mercury free technologies, development of national standards for mercury emissions and release to the environment, administrative changes which require mercury capture systems in place prior to licensing etc.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}
13.2. Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Please specify
Guyana is considered a developing country party.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}

13.3. Supplemental: Has the party provided financial resources to assist developing–country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Please specify
Guyana is considered a developing party. Lack of financial resources.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 14: CAPACITY–BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

14.1. Has the party cooperated to provide capacity–building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Please specify
Guyana and BCRC Caribbean invited key stakeholders from Suriname to attend the National Lessons Learned Workshop for GEF 10153 “Development of a National Action Plan for the Co–operative Republic of Guyana” (NAP Guyana).

Virtual Presentation – August 2021

14.2. Supplemental: Has the party received capacity–building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Please specify
Funding from UNEP and GEF – GEF 10153 “Development of a National Action Plan for the Co–operative Republic of Guyana” (NAP Guyana)
Promoted mercury free technologies through demonstrations in key mining districts. Continued Mineral Recovery Demonstrations for Miners were done such as at Issano and Tamakay using the Gold Kacha Concentrators and Gold Cube. Collaborative projects between Conservation International – Guyana and the Mineral Processing Unit of the GGMC enabled the setup of two Mineral Recovery Pilot sites at Puruni, Mazaruni Mining District 3 and Mahdia, Potaro Mining District 2 consisting of the following equipment: 1 trommel, 1 H2 crusher, 2 Gold Kachas, 1 tripe deck sluice box and 1 shaking table. The equipment listed were set up in a circuit so as to enable screening, crushing, primary and secondary concentration of gold and finally a mercury-free clean-up by the Shaking Table. These sites will serve as exemplary mercury-free gold recovery mines, facilitating the visits by other miners to observe the process and as training sites for interested miners. The mercury technologies that are being used for demonstration in the mining sector of Guyana, are Gold Kacha Concentrators, Gold Cube and shaking tables. All relevant information on the use and specifications of the mercury free technologies used for the demonstration sites and training exercises in Guyana can be accessed from the mineral processing unit of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC).

The implementation and execution of these projects were from 2008 and is ongoing. The channel transfer of information is through demonstration sites in the mining sector and training programs form the governmental agency (GGMC) and non-governmental organizations to the private / mining sector. Non-governmental organizations who GGMC worked with in the execution of these programs were UBC, CIDA, GENCAPB, CIRDI, WWF, CI, GEF and NORAD.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.
For more additional information, see:
https://www.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2016/armanauth-maraj-guyana.pdfn

16.2. Have any other measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16?

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so
**ART. 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

17.1. Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1?

- Yes
- No

Please provide more information, if any

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

[Empty]

**ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION**

18.1. Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please indicate the measures that have been taken and the effectiveness of those measures

Videos and posters on mercury, mercury use, safe mining practices and mercury use in gold mining.


Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

[Empty]

**ART. 19: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING**

19.1. Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19?

- Yes
- No

Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so
COMMENTS

Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention (Art. 21, para. 1)

SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Supplemental: Part D: Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any