

2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 6 February 2026



REPORTING PERIOD:

1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

South Africa

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

29 April 2019

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

28 July 2019

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Title of Contact Officer

Ms.

Name of Contact Officer

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

Focal Point is submitting the national report

☒ Information is submitted by the national focal point

☐ Information is submitted through the national focal point by the contact officer

▼ 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 – primary mercury mining with available data
☐ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
☒ No

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 – primary mercury mining with available data
☐ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
☒ No

3.3: (A) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

3.3: (A) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

- ☐ Yes – with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
☒ Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
☐ No

3.3: (B) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual sources of mercury–supply–generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

3.3:(B) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual sources of mercury–supply–generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

- ☐ Yes – with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
☒ Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
☐ No

3.4: Has the party determined that it has excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No – has determined it has no excess mercury
☐ No – has not made a determination

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 – no export took place

☐ No – consent was not given

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 this article

Mercury imports are banned in South Africa since 31st March 2025 except for 250 grams annually strictly for academic laboratories as there is a significant problem of illegal miners utilising mercury to extract gold and contaminating water bodies.

▼ 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)

4.2: If yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4):

Has the party reported to the Conference of the Parties at the first opportunity a description of the measures or strategies implemented, including a quantification of the reductions achieved?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Has the party implemented measures or strategies to reduce the use of mercury in any products listed in Part I of Annex A for which a de minimis value has not yet been obtained?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

In South Africa, by law stakeholders have to be properly consulted. Product ban or reductions have to take into consideration existing stocks before legislation is enacted hence the phase out dates in the Mercury Regulations are delayed accommodating existing stocks and were agreed to with the respective relevant sectors. The Mercury Regulations were sent the Department of Trade and Industry's border agent, the International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (ITAC) to be add MAPs onto the South African Prohibited and Restricted list utilized to control product entry at the borders or ports of entry.

Has the party considered additional measures to achieve further reductions?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

The DFFE developed a National Implementation Plan for the implementation of the Minamata Convention and got that approved by the cabinet to facilitate improved ownership and implementation by all relevant departments. Furthermore, the DFFE raised awareness for all the relevant departments and stakeholders to also facilitate green procurement and safer product choice. The DFFE also trained all the relevant enforcement agencies on the Mercury Regulations

including the MAPs, South African Police services, Department of Health's Environmental Inspectors, the Border Management Agency, and the DFFE's Green scorpions.

4.3: (A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

4.3:(A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A 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.

(i) Setting national objectives aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, thereby minimizing the need for dental restoration;
The National Oral Health Policy and Strategy that was approved by the National Health Council and signed by the Minister of Health in April 2024 that outlines the targets for dental decay prevention.

(ii) Setting national objectives aiming at minimizing its use;
“Consensus Workshop on the Phase-Out of Dental Amalgam in South African Training Institutions – August 1st, 2025” was held. Stakeholders who attended this workshop were Oral Health Training Institutions, Oral Health Public Sector (National and Provincial representatives), Private sector (Oral Health Professionals Associations) and South African Military Health Services (SAMHS). The decision taken is to Phase Out by 2030. Universities are no longer using Amalgam in their Training of Students, Private Sector only 5% is still using amalgam and in Public sector only 10% still using amalgam. We are currently actively in Phase Down stage.

(iii) Promoting the use of cost-effective and clinically effective mercury-free alternatives for dental restoration;
South Africa is using composite (tooth coloured restoration) materials that are mercury free.

(iv) Promoting research and development of quality mercury-free materials for dental restoration;
Some universities are undertaking research on compatible restorative dental materials.

(v) Encouraging representative professional organizations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and on promoting best management practices;
Professional organizations and dental school representatives were part of the workshop-mentioned above, as per the norm.

(viii) Restricting the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form;
In South Africa amalgam has been in the encapsulated form since 1975.

(ix) Promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and land.
To control imports; amalgam capsule imports are centralised with the National Treasury. The Treasury Transversal tender (2025–2030) on dental equipment purchases has a must purchase Equipment Item called Amalgam Separator. This equipment will be used in preventing amalgam nuggets getting in water system during the removal of amalgam in those patients who want an old amalgam filling to be replaced by the tooth-coloured restoration.

4.3: (B) If the amendment to annex A adopted in decision MC-4/3 has entered into force for the party, has the party (please check the appropriate box below) taken relevant measures:

4.3:(B) If the amendment to annex A adopted in decision MC-4/3 has entered into force for the party, has the party (please check the appropriate box below) taken relevant measures:

☒ Yes

- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable

If the party answered yes please select from the bellow checkboxes

- ☒ Excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners
- ☒ Excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, or recommended against, the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth of patients under 15 years of age and of pregnant and breastfeeding women, except when such use is considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient

If the party answered yes to either option above, please provide information on the measures.
The use of amalgam in primary (deciduous or baby) teeth, stopped in 1985.

The use of amalgam in pregnant women stopped in 1990.

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 for it under article 4?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ No – not applicable (do not have facilities assembling products using mercury-added products)

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?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No – no action taken
- ☐ No – an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product demonstrates benefits to human health or the environment

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

The Mercury Management Regulations does not allow any new manufacturing process or manufacture, and the distribution of mercury added products after the promulgation of the regulations (31st March 2025). For any new MAPs or manufacturing processes, there needs to application submitted to the Minister for approval. The applicant needs to provide evidence that the manufacturing process provides significant environmental and health benefits compared to associated risks. Furthermore, provide evidence that there are no technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives available that provide the same benefits.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

The main challenge with the MAPs especially skin lightening creams, is their illegal imports from other African countries and online sales whereby products are not labelled according to the ingredients. The DFFE bought 8 XRF scanners and handed them to the Department of Health's Environmental Inspectors that work hand in hand with the Border Management Agency to detect illegal products coming into the country.

▼ ART. 5: MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED

5.1: Are there facilities within the territory of the party that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in Annex B of the Minamata Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 5 of the Convention?

- ☐ Yes

- ☒ No
- ☐ Do not know

5.2: Are measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B after the phase-out date specified in that Annex for the individual process?

CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION

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

ACETALDEHYDE PRODUCTION IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED AS A CATALYST

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

5.3: Are measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in Part II of Annex B in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION

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

SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

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

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

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

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

5.5: Has the party discouraged the development of any facility 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 – no action taken

☐ No – the party demonstrated to the Conference of the Parties the significant environmental and health benefits of the manufacturing process and that there are no technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives available providing such benefits.

If yes, please provide information on the measures taken.

The Mercury Management Regulations does not allow any new manufacturing process or manufacture, and the distribution of mercury added products after the promulgation of the regulations (31st March 2025). For any new manufacturing processes, there needs to application submitted to the Minister for approval. The applicant needs to provide evidence that the manufacturing process provides significant environmental and health benefits compared to associated risks. Furthermore, provide evidence that there are no technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives available that provide the same benefits.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

When we consulted with the industry during the MIA and the development of the National Implementation Plan subsequent to the MIA, industry informed that such manufacturing processes were stopped in the seventies, but we needed to mention them in the Mercury Regulations to ensure that no one starts such new manufacturing processes.

Banning the import of mercury other than for research laboratory at 250 grams per annum facilitates the reduction of the use of mercury and for any facility to operate an environmental licence is applied for from the DFFE, the very same department responsible for the development of the mercury regulations.

The Mercury Regulations will be improved upon in due course to strengthen them.

▼ ART. 7: ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING

7.1: Have steps been taken 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, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 in which mercury amalgamation is used in the territory

If yes, please provide information on the steps.

South Africa's MIA indicated that ASGM was insignificant but subsequently learnt that it is actually very significant and informed the Secretariat accordingly. Since September 2025, South Africa has been busy developing the ASGM NAP. During all site visits collecting data and stakeholder engagements, awareness is raised regarding the dangers of mercury emissions and advice has been given to the miners about safer alternative and the need to wear PPE.

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

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7.5: Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objective of this article?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please provide information

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Part E – Additional comments on this article

The ASGM in South Africa is an illegal activity according to the law, and is mainly conducted by illegal foreigners from SADC countries and is riddled with more serious crimes such as miners killing each other and citizens and terrorising nearby communities, etc. It is extremely dangerous as the miners have heavy weaponry.

▼ 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

☐ Waste incineration facilities

☐ 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)

If Yes, please explain

South Africa has a National Atmospheric Emission Inventory System (NAEIS) which is an online platform for reporting criterion air pollutants from South African industry, housed within the South African Atmospheric Emissions Licensing and Inventory Portal (SAAELIP). More information is available on the dffe.gov.za website.

South Africa has more than 500 facilities and each has multiple emissions units and there is no

country cumulative inventory. The data and information on the system are reported annually but are confidential and can only be accessed by very officials due to client confidentiality clause and competition issues. The ESKOM KUSILE power station is the first to have installed a Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD).

Numbers of facilities:

Smelters: 99

Power stations: 14, each with 1–15 units

Cement and clinker production facilities: 16

Industrial Boilers: more than 100

Waste incinerators: about 60

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

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▼ 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

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Progress

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▼ 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

Measures

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Progress

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▼ CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION 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

Measures

{Empty}

Progress

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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?

31 December 2025

Please indicate where this inventory is available

South Africa has a National Atmospheric Emission Inventory System (NAEIS) which is an online platform for reporting criterion air pollutants from South African industry, housed within the South African Atmospheric Emissions Licensing and Inventory Portal (SAELIP). More information is available on the dffe.gov.za website.

South Africa has more than 500 facilities and each has multiple emissions units and there is no country cumulative inventory. The data and information on the system are reported annually but are confidential and can only be accessed by very officials due to client confidentiality clause and competition issues.

Numbers of facilities:

Smelters: 99

Power stations: 14, each with 1–15 units

Cement and clinker production facilities: 16

Industrial Boilers: more than 100

Waste incinerators: about 60

Attach

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8.4: Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please explain how the criteria for any category include at least 75 percent of the emissions from that category and explain how the party took into account guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

Kindly note the restriction of access and confidentiality realities to the data and information as mentioned above.

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

Please explain

Mitigation for SO₂ and NO₂ were installed and such co-benefits mercury reduction. South Africa has initiated a GEMINI project for smelters.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ **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

☐ Do not know (please explain)

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 (please explain)

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ **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 (please explain)

☐ Do not know (please explain)

If yes, 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 Mercury Regulations (31 March 2025) dictate that someone should declare such storage to the Minister and follow relevant laws and regulations. No one has applied for mercury storage thus far.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

Mercury has mainly been used by illegal miners and also it was exported to other SADC countries but since the promulgation of the Mercury Regulations and the training of all relevant enforcement agencies; it has been impossible to import mercury into the country as it is prohibited under the

Mercury Regulations (31 March 2025), which allow only 250 grams annually for academic research purposes.

▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

☒ Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures

Mercury waste is categorized as hazardous waste and there are laws, norms and standards in place. All hazardous waste management facilities have to have an environmental licence with conditions of operation and must report to the departmental SAWIC.

The South African Waste Information Centre (SAWIC), managed by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), is a national system providing waste management information, data, and reporting tools. It facilitates the registration of waste activities, supports the SAWIS (South African Waste Information System), and assists in tracking waste data.

☒ Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly re-used for a use allowed to a party under the Convention or for environmentally sound disposal pursuant to paragraph 3 (a)

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures

Although there is one facility that was built to recover mercury from fluorescent lamps, it has not yet been able to recover significant amounts and therefore there is no mercury that has been recovered and recycled and re-used for use allowed to a party under the Convention or for environmentally sound disposal pursuant to paragraph 3 (a).

☒ Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is not transported across international boundaries except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures

Mercury Regulations (31 March 2025) prohibit any other form of export except environmentally sound disposal and have been effective thus far, together with the BASEL PIC procedure.

If the party answered yes to any measures above, please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.

There is the Border Management Agency and other enforcement Agencies that are aware of the mercury regulations, that have been efficient in enforcing the regulations. Also, as a party to the Basel convention, the PIC procedure would have to be utilised for exporting any mercury waste, and the Hazardous Waste section responsible for the BASEL PIC Procedure and the team responsible for the Mercury Regulations, are all within the Chemicals and Waste Branch of the same department.

11.2: *Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Do not know (please explain)

If the party answered yes to any measures above, please select from the following

☒ Yes – there are facilities in the party's territory

☒ Yes – there are facilities outside the party's territory accessible to the party (in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 11)

If there are facilities in the party's territory and if the information is available, how much waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds has been subject to final disposal under the reporting period? Please specify the method of the final disposal operation/operations. If the party does not have specific data on waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds, the party may report on the data including other mercury waste, with an explanatory note.

It is very difficult to get such data within a short space of time as it needs to be approved at a very top level for it to be released.

Kindly attach any additional relevant information

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Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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

South Africa undertook a comprehensive MIA and confirmed that the Thor Chemicals site, Cato Ridge, KwaZulu Natal, to be significantly contaminated with mercury. A decision was taken to ensure that the mercury waste is disposed in an environmentally sound manner and the site remediated.

158 x 40ft and 127 x 20ft containers were shipped from South Africa to IGTT- Batrec Industrie AG in Switzerland. More than 4,600 t of mercury containing waste treated so far in Switzerland. 128 tonnes of mercury analysed so far in waste received at Batrec (estimated 135 t for project). The mercury was stabilized and disposed of in a German Salt mine in line with the Minamata Convention.

Completion of removal of All Identified Mercury Waste:

Sum of Weight tonnes : LP WH3 WH4 Grand Total

VCM Catalyst (Carbon) 2,235 369 415 3,019

Sand and dusts 811 30 – 841

Sludges and Powders 214 198 413

Mixed Debris 63 290 7 360

Wood 35 46 81

PPE/Plastic 41 5 10 56

Grand Total Hg Waste 3,154 904 711 4,769

Other waste 30 177 89 296

Part E – Additional comments on this article

Thor Chemicals (1980s–1990s); a mercury recycling plant in Cato Ridge, KwaZulu–Natal, South Africa imported mercury waste from various countries and discharged mercury–contaminated waste into the Mngceweni River. Widespread Pollution was reported as Studies in 1990 and for the MIA, highlighted severe contamination, with mercury levels in the river sediment and fish exceeding international safety standards, impacting local communities and the environment and indicating long–term contamination. Despite the plant ceasing operations in the 1990s, the area remained heavily contaminated. The government then ensured that the mercury waste was disposed in an environmentally sound manner and the area remediated.

▼ 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

The National Implementation Plan was developed from the MIA and presented and adopted by the parliament to facilitate ownership and mercury management is cross-cutting in nature. There are several levels or clusters at which the National Implementation Plan was presented and recommended before it went to parliament. Awareness raising on the convention and the Mercury Regulations to the public has been done and continues to be done even to Provincial colleagues and relevant enforcement officials in all the provinces where there are sea and international airports in addition to online workshops. The amount over the years has not been quantified as there are also venue costs at times. The planned activities are included into the annual workplan and performance agreements of relevant officials.

13.2: Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please provide comments, if any.

In addition to the annually assessed contributions, South Africa has been contributing to the GEF.

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

South Africa is host to the Africa Institute which is the Regional Centre servicing most chemicals and waste MEAs including the Minamata Convention. South Africa provides a fully-fledged furnished functioning offices with water, electricity, internet, telephones, etc. South Africa contribution to the Africa Institute is the significant % that sustains the Africa Institute. South Africa, through its Border Management Agency and relevant enforcement officials, has taken up the responsibility of preventing illegal trafficking of mercury across its borders to neighbouring countries.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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

South Africa is in the process of getting her house in order through the recently developed Mercury Regulations before extending financially to other parties and resources are very limited. Technical

Cooperation within the region and sharing of information, knowledge and know-how, that is naturally done with other African countries whenever an opportunity presents itself. Also, the Africa Institute hosted and financially supported by South Africa has been providing capacity building or technical assistance to several African countries.

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

It is not clear why, but there seems to be an opposite expectation from neighbouring countries at times.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

14.3: Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other

Please specify

South Africa does share the facilities available within the country and business are allowed to go out to other countries to present what their facilities are capable of doing.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 16: HEALTH ASPECTS

16.1: Have measures been taken to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16?

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

Even before the ratification, thereafter, and more so since 2021 when the development of Mercury Regulations was initiated, the DFFE has been holding awareness raising activities and training relevant stakeholders on the exposure to mercury.

16.2: Have any measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16 beyond the provision of information to the public on exposure to mercury (referred to in question 16.1)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

South Africa has a multi-sector and multistakeholder a Committee on Chemicals Management (MCCM) that meets quarterly whereby even poison centres present their quarterly data on poisoning incidences and cases. Should there be incidences, follow up action is taken. There was also a study undertaken in areas in close proximity to coal-fired power stations to assess the effects of mercury on human health.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, the Party may wish to indicate in the space provided below the exchange of information it has facilitated, such as:

☒ Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information

Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information

Not including toxicological and ecotoxicological information as there are legal implications in sharing such, but there are some published articles or information in the public domain on research undertaken in this regard by some academics or NGOs.

☒ Information on the reduction or elimination of the production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

Information on the reduction or elimination of the production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

There is a national stakeholder meeting on Air Quality Management that even attracts officials beyond South Africa and data and information are publicly shared in such.

☒ Information on technically and economically viable alternatives to:

Mercury-added products

Whenever an opportunity presents itself in the African group, South Africa does share such information and even when countries reach out to South Africa.

Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used

n/a

Activities and processes that emit or release mercury or mercury compounds

South Africa has coal-fired power stations and does share the mitigation measures in place as the information is on the national reporting portal on the departmental website.

☒ Epidemiological information concerning health impacts associated with exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, in close cooperation with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, as appropriate. (Art. 17.1 (a)–(d))

Epidemiological information concerning health impacts associated with exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, in close cooperation with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, as appropriate. (Art. 17.1 (a)–(d))

No really, except the academics or NGOs that undertake research on their own. The WHO has not yet partnered with the country in this regard.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the measures it has taken to promote and facilitate information to the public, such as:

(a) Provision to the public of available information on:

☒ The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment

The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment

South Africa has been undertaking awareness raising activities even before ratification but more since 2021 when the development of the Regulations was initiated. South Africa bought XRFs that could measure an array of heavy metals including mercury to facilitate enforcement. During all the stakeholder engagements specific to mercury or related chemicals such as the SAICM/GFC ones, effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment have been shared.

☒ Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds

Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds

The ones that are known to the country are shared with the relevant stakeholders.

☒ The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17

The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17

All the information in para 1 and also including the use pre-childbirth and by traditional practising stakeholders.

☒ The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19

The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19

All the relevant departments, academics, industry, NGOs and poison centres, report Quarterly to the Multistakeholder Committee on Chemicals Management on their efforts to all other stakeholders.

☒ Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

All the relevant departments, academics, industry, NGOs and poison centres, report Quarterly to the Multistakeholder Committee on Chemicals Management on their efforts to all other stakeholders.

(b) Education, training and public awareness related to the effects of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and vulnerable populations, as appropriate.

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

All the relevant departments, academics, industry, NGOs and poison centres, report Quarterly to the Multistakeholder Committee on Chemicals Management on their efforts to all other stakeholders.

(Art. 18 (1) (a) and (b))

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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

If yes, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the research, development and monitoring it has undertaken, such as:

- ☐ Inventories of use, consumption, anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds
- ☐ Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, including biotic media such as fish, marine mammals, sea turtles and birds, as well as collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples
- ☒ Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, in addition to social, economic and cultural impacts, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations

Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, in addition to social, economic and cultural impacts, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations

A study was undertaken to assess the impacts of mercury on communities around the coal-fired power stations. The study was not a comprehensive epidemiological one due to financial constraints and getting ethics approval to undertake such a study.

- ☐ Harmonized methodologies for the activities undertaken under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of article 19
- ☐ Information on the environmental cycle, transport (including long-range transport and deposition), transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds in a range of ecosystems, taking appropriate account of the distinction between anthropogenic and natural emissions and releases of mercury and of remobilization of mercury from historic deposition
- ☐ Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products
- ☐ Information and research on the technical and economic availability of mercury-free products and processes and on best available techniques and best environmental practices to reduce and monitor emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

(Art. 19 (1) (a)–(g))

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ COMMENTS REGARDING POSSIBLE CHALLENGES IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION

Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention

Financial resources are significantly reducing each year. Safer alternatives are generally expensive making it not easy to transition, and installing mitigation measures has not been easy for all the relevant industries.

It would be more impactful to prioritise mitigating sources or releases that are more impactful than others within a region and subregion. The WHO and other relevant UN organisations need to come on board to partner with the Secretariat to support countries to be able to effectively implement the convention.

▼ COMMENTS REGARDING THE REPORTING FORMAT AND POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements,

if any

The reporting format is fine. It is challenging to get all needed information on time from other sections or departments, especially when the login details were not shared early.