

**ADAPTATION OF THE BRS REPORTING TEMPLATE AS PART OF THE
COLLECTION OF INFORMATION UNDER DECISION MC-1/21**

Information on the work of Regional Centres in delivering capacity-building and technical assistance to support parties in implementing their obligations under the Minamata Convention was requested, inter alia, by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention in its First meeting in 2017 through decision MC-1/21.

The Minamata Convention Secretariat has adapted the “template for reporting requirements and the performance evaluation of regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.” This adapted template is being circulated to Regional Centres as part of the collection of information under such decision.

Regional Centres are requested to kindly update this template by **Tuesday, 13 November 2018** for the reporting period between 01/01/2017 and 31/12/2018. Should the Regional Centre wish to include activities from 2016 or earlier, this should be clearly indicated in the submission.

PART 1: THE ACTIVITY REPORTS

Name of the Regional Centre submitting the report	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean)	
Name of the person submitting the report	Jewel Batchasingh, Director (Ag.)	
Date of submission:	15/11/2018	
Reporting period	From: 01/01/2017	To: 31/12/2018

List of the capacity building projects/activities undertaken (completed and/or ongoing)

Activity/Project No	Name of the project/activity	Planned for the Year	Implemented in the Year
GEFID: 9455	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean (Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago)	2016- 2018	2016- 2018
GEFID: 9865	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)	2017- 2019	2017- Present
GEFID: 9991	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean (Belize)	2017- 2019	<i>ongoing</i>

UNIDO Project No.: 93151506	UNIDO Project- Mercury Fish Sampling Study in the Caribbean	2018	2018
	IPEN Global Mercury Hair Monitoring in Women of Child- Bearing Age in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Pilot Project	2018	2018
Agreement No.: BRS/SBC/ SSFA/180 3	Identifying Feasible Strategies for the Environmentally Sound Disposal of Spent Lighting Products (Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)	2018	2018

List of the technology transfer activities undertaken and or facilitated by the centre (completed and/or ongoing)¹

Activity ID if any	Name of the technology transfer activity	Planned for the Year	Implemented in the Year
MIA 1/ GEF 9455	National Inception Workshops for the Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean (MIA-1) Project (March-April 2017)	2017	2017
-	Sub-regional Preparatory Meeting for the Caribbean for the First Conference of the Parties for the Minamata Convention (Pre-COP) (September 2017)	2017	2017
MIA 1/ GEF 9455	National Results Workshops for the MIA-1 Project (October, 2017)	2017	2017
MIA-1/ GEF 9455	Sub-regional MIA-1 Inception Meeting for Awareness-Raising Consultancy Services (March, 2018)	2018	2018
MIA-2/ GEF 9865	Sub-regional Project Inception Workshop and Mercury Training for Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean - Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (MIA-2) (March, 2018)	2018	2018
MIA-2/ GEF 9865	National Inception Workshops for Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean - Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (MIA-2) (April-May 2018)	2018	2018

¹ See Article 14 on Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer of the Minamata Convention.

MIA-1/ GEF 9455	Regional Lessons Learnt Workshop (July 2018)	2018	2018
MIA-1 GEF 9455	National Results Dissemination and Awareness Raising Workshops under MIA-1 Project	2017- 2018	2018
UNIDO Project No.: 9315150 6	Dissemination of the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) Standard Operating Procedure for Fish Tissue Sampling to participating countries for the sampling of fish for mercury analysis	2018	2018
-	Dissemination of the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) and IPEN's methodology for the pilot project, "Global Mercury Hair Monitoring in Women of Child-Bearing Age in Small Island Developing States" to participating countries for the collection of hair samples for mercury analysis	2018	2018
Agreem ent No.: BRS/SB C/SSFA/ 1803	Training of National Research Assistants in the use of revised practical manuals for the promotion of environmentally sound management (ESM) of wastes developed by the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention's expert working group on ESM for the project, "Identifying Feasible Strategies for the Environmentally Sound Disposal of Spent Lighting Products (Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)"	2018	<i>ongoing</i>

List of contributions made to countries in support of submissions under the first round of applications under the Specific international programme in accordance with paragraph 7 of Annex 1 to decision MC-1/6

Name of the project	Relevant date (mm/yyyy)
Facilitating capacity-building with technical assistance and technology transfer for managing mercury in the Caribbean	08/2018

(Add more rows if you have more projects/activities to the list)

PART 2

ACTIVITIES (PROJECTS) REPORTS SUMMARY

(Please provide a summary (max. 1 page) for each of the completed projects/activities)

Project no. and Project name	GEF# 9455 “Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean (Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago)	
Project duration	24 months (revised to 27 months)	Start and end dates: 26 /08 /2016 to 30 /11/2018
Beneficiary Parties:	Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago	
Areas of technical assistance	Enabling the ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention	
Total project budget (in US\$): \$600,000		
Funding sources and the corresponding amounts:	1. GEF	US\$ 600,000
Collaborating agencies, if any:	UN Environment	

The completed project activities under the GEF# 9455 Project are as follows:

1. National Inception Workshops for the Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean (MIA-1) Project, held in March-April 2017
The BCRC-Caribbean hosted National Project Inception Workshops in the four (4) participating project countries- Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago, to introduce relevant national stakeholders to the project scope and objectives and to raise awareness on the issues of mercury. The objectives of the National Inception Workshop in each country were to introduce the stakeholders to the Project and formally establish National Working Groups (NWG); explain the data requirements of the stakeholders and briefly explain the Mercury Inventory Toolkit; and facilitate meetings and site visits with the consultants.

2. National Results Workshops for the MIA-1 Project, held in October, 2017
The main project activities such as the development of the mercury inventory, assessment of the policy and regulatory framework and the identification of strategies to assess potentially mercury-contaminated sites, within each participating country were carried out. National results workshops were conducted in October 2017 in each participating country, to provide an opportunity for the consultants the technical and legal consultants and the National Project Coordinators to share the preliminary results of their activities with key national stakeholders and obtain feedback for the finalisation of the national MIA reports. The next steps of the project were also discussed and included the recruitment of awareness-raising consultants to develop materials for the dissemination of the results of the project.

3. Sub-regional MIA-1 Inception Meeting for Awareness-Raising Consultancy Services held in March, 2018

For the awareness raising and knowledge generation activities of the MIA-1 project, the MediaMill Team consultancy was selected as the preferred bidder. The main outputs of these activities would be the development of national and regional videos as well as infographic materials to highlight particular issues coming out of the national MIA reports for each country. The BCRC-Caribbean virtually hosted and facilitated an inception meeting with the National Supervisors of each project country on March 2, 2018. The meeting was held in order to:

- a. Introduce the MediaMill Team to the National Project Supervisors
- b. Discuss the concepts for the awareness raising materials to be developed
- c. Discuss the logistics for the consultancy team's country visits for filming.

Following the meeting, the scripts for the awareness raising videos and the development of the infographics were drafted by the MediaMill Team and the consultants arranged for subsequent meetings via Skype with the national personnel to finalise logistics.

4. Regional Lessons Learnt Workshop held in July, 2018

As the MIA-1 Project was in its final stages of execution, a lessons learnt workshop was held with participants from the MIA-1 Project countries. Project leads and project coordinators for the ongoing MIA-2 Project and for the upcoming Minamata Initial Assessment (Belize) project also attended. The workshop achieved its aims to:

- Share information and experiences on the project's execution to ensure that similar ongoing and future projects build on its successes and from lessons learned;
- Promote cooperation between Caribbean countries conducting Minamata Initial Assessments; and
- Provide an opportunity for participating countries to draft a regional strategy for disseminating MIA-related information, awareness raising and outreach.

5. National Results Dissemination and Awareness Raising Workshops (July-December 2018)

Following the finalisation of the MIA-1 project countries' National MIA Reports and the development of awareness raising materials, which included seven (7) awareness raising infographics, national videos and an overall project synopsis video, the BCRC-Caribbean hosted a series of results dissemination activities in each of the project countries. These included stakeholder workshops and informational sessions involving secondary school students to raise public awareness and knowledge generation on the issues of mercury.

Project no. and Project name	GEF# 9865 “Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)	
Project duration	24 months	Start and end dates: 26 /09 /2017 to 26 /09/2019
Beneficiary Parties:	Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Areas of technical assistance	Enabling the ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention	
Total project budget (in US\$): \$600,000		
Funding sources and the corresponding amounts:	1. GEF	US\$ 600,000
Collaborating agencies, if any:	UN Environment	

The completed project activities under the GEF# 9865 Project are as follows:

1. Sub-regional Project Inception Workshop and Mercury Training for Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean- Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (MIA2) held in March, 2018

The MIA-2 project commenced on September 26, 2017 and the project’s inception workshop and mercury training were held over three (3) days on March 14-16, 2018 at Jolly Beach Resort, St. John’s, Antigua. The workshop served to:

- Introduce the project activities to key stakeholders, assign respective roles and establish and adopt a National Coordination Mechanism for mercury management;
- Discuss the development of a regional strategy for outreach and awareness raising aimed at national and international stakeholders throughout the project;
- Examine elements of the UNEP Practical Sourcebook on Mercury Waste Storage and Disposal;
- Train participants on the use of the UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases Reference Report and Guideline for Inventory Level II (conducted by the technical consultants for the project, the Biodiversity Research Institute [BRI]);
- Discuss the opportunities for biomonitoring through mercury analysis of skin lightening creams and fish commonly consumed locally (led by BRI).
- Participants included invited representatives from each of the participating countries from the ministries/agencies responsible for the environment and health as well as young professionals in the environmental field recruited by the BCRC-Caribbean as National Project Coordinators (one per country) to carry out the on-the-ground activities of the project within each participating country.

2. National Inception Workshops for the MIA-2 Project, held in April-May 2018
The BCRC-Caribbean hosted National Project Inception Workshops in the four (4) participating project countries- Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, to introduce relevant national stakeholders to the project scope and objectives and to raise awareness on the issues of mercury. The objectives of the National Inception Workshop in each country were to:

- Introduce the stakeholders to the Minamata Initial Assessment Project and formally establish National Working Groups (NWG);
- Explain the data requirements of the stakeholders and briefly explain the Mercury Inventory Toolkit; and
- Facilitate meetings and site visits with the consultants.

Project no. and Project name	UNIDO Project No.: 93151506 UNIDO Project- Mercury Fish Sampling Study in the Caribbean	
Project duration	9 months	Start and end dates: 03/2018- 11/2018
Beneficiary Parties:	Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago	
Areas of technical assistance	Facilitating the enhancement of research, development and monitoring capabilities under the Minamata Convention	
Total project budget (in US\$): \$27,800		
Funding sources and the corresponding amounts:	1. Government of Switzerland	US \$27,800
Collaborating agencies, if any:	UNIDO	

The “Mercury Fish Sampling Study in the Caribbean” project aims to provide baseline data for mercury concentrations in commonly consumed fish in the Caribbean which would further efforts for countries to meet the activities outlined in Article 19 of the Minamata Convention. The BCRC-Caribbean invited countries in the Caribbean to express their interest in participating in the project and coordinated efforts. The BCRC-Caribbean facilitated the dissemination of the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) Standard Operating Procedure for Fish Tissue Sampling to participating countries for the sampling of fish for mercury analysis. The samples were then shipped to BRI for analysis and report development.

Project no. and Project name	IPEN Global Mercury Hair Monitoring in Women of Child-Bearing Age in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Pilot Project	
Project duration	13 months	Start and end dates: 10/2017- 11/2018
Beneficiary Parties:	Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago	
Areas of technical assistance	Facilitating the enhancement of research, development and monitoring capabilities under the Minamata Convention	
Total project budget (in US\$): unknown (project executed by IPEN)		
Funding sources and the corresponding amounts:	1. Arnika	Unknown (project executed by IPEN)
Collaborating agencies, if any:	IPEN, BRI	

IPEN, in collaboration with BRI, developed a pilot screening study with the aim to promote global mercury monitoring efforts of humans and the environment as the preparation for ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury moves forward. The BCRC-Caribbean facilitated the participation of Caribbean countries and aided in the dissemination of the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) and IPEN’s methodology for the pilot project, “Global Mercury Hair Monitoring in Women of Child-Bearing Age in Small Island Developing States” to the relevant stakeholders for the collection of hair samples for mercury analysis.

Please indicate if there is any possibility to find the detailed information on this project elsewhere e.g., submitted reports/websites, etc.

Information on the above listed activities are available at: www.bcrc-caribbean.org

