



**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Fifth meeting**

Geneva, 30 October–3 November 2023

Item 4 (g) (i) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference
of the Parties: financial resources and mechanism:
Global Environment Facility**

Update on matters related to the Global Environment Facility

Addendum

**Executive summary of the report of the Council of the Global
Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury at its fifth meeting**

Note by the secretariat

The executive summary of the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury at its fifth meeting is set out in the annex to the present note. The annex is reproduced as received, without formal editing. The full report is set out in the annex to document UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/14.

* UNEP/MC/COP.5/1.

Annex*

Executive summary of the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention at its fifth meeting

* The annex has not been formally edited.



**Report of the Global Environment Facility to the
Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury**

June 30, 2023

Executive Summary

Article 13 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury includes the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the Financial Mechanism to provide new, predictable, adequate and timely financial resources to meet costs in support of implementation of this Convention as agreed by the Conference of the Parties (COP).

This report presents the work of the GEF in fulfilling its mandate under the Minamata Convention in the reporting period (from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) and its updated response to the guidance received from the COP.

In the reporting period, the GEF has approved two full-sized projects (FSPs) covering two countries, two global medium-sized projects (MSPs) covering six countries, and eight single-country enabling activities (EAs). This brings the cumulative number of projects approved in the seventh replenishment of resources of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-7) period (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2022) to a total of 16 FSPs covering 32 countries, four global MSPs and one single-country MSP, two programs covering 47 countries, and 25 single-country EAs.

The resources committed in the reporting period for the implementation of the Minamata Convention amounted to \$29.8 million.¹ This brings the cumulative GEF-7 total to \$184.1 million.² With project preparation grants (PPGs) and Agency fees, the programming of resources for Minamata Convention in GEF-7 represented 98 percent of the GEF-7 replenishment allocation of \$206 million.

In the reporting period, GEF resources have supported four Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs). Cumulatively, GEF resources have supported 119 countries to conduct MIAs.³ To date, 71 MIAs have been submitted to the Minamata Convention Secretariat.⁴

Four National Action Plans (NAPs) for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) have also been supported in the reporting period,⁵ bringing the total to 48 countries receiving support. To date, 27 NAPs have been submitted to the Minamata Convention Secretariat.⁶

In the reporting period, a total of 13 countries have received support, including three least developed countries (LDCs) and one small island developing State (SIDS). This brings the cumulative total of countries receiving support on mercury in GEF-7 to 87 countries, including 27 LDCs and 35 SIDS.

The GEF chemicals and waste portfolio, which includes mercury, leveraged \$7 in co-financing for each \$1 invested by the GEF in the reporting period.⁷

The GEF-7 results framework included a core indicator to measure the results in the chemicals and waste focal area.⁸ This core indicator had a target of addressing 100,000 metric tons of chemicals and waste, including mercury. While there was no stand-alone target for mercury in GEF-7, the amount of mercury targeted by projects was reported through sub-indicator 9.2 of the GEF results framework. With reference to this sub-indicator, the projects approved in the reporting period are expected to reduce 113.3 metric tons of mercury. This brings the cumulative GEF-7 total to 1,629 metric tons of mercury. In comparison, 638 metric tons of mercury were addressed in GEF-6.⁹

In accordance with the guidance received from the Minamata Convention COP and the COP to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the GEF chemicals and waste focal area Programming Directions were developed along sectoral lines, permitting integrated programming across this and other focal areas. Fifty percent of the FSPs funded in the reporting period have tackled matters related to both Conventions, which facilitated synergies between them and allowed the achievement of multiple global environmental benefits (GEBs).

¹ Excluding project preparation grants (PPGs) and Agency fees.

² Excluding project preparation grants (PPGs) and Agency fees.

³ The GEF started supporting MIAs in GEF-5.

⁴ List of MIAs submitted to the Minamata Convention Secretariat can be found at: <https://mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/minamata-initial-assessments>

⁵ Some countries include MIA and NAP under one EA.

⁶ List of NAPs submitted to the Minamata Convention Secretariat can be found at: <https://mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/national-action-plans>

⁷ Co-financing amount includes programs, FSPs and MSPs. EAs, PPGs and Agency fees are excluded.

⁸ GEF, 2018, *GEF-7 Programming Directions*, Council Document GEF/R.7/19.

⁹ GEF, 2018, *GEF-6 Corporate Score Card*, Council Document GEF/C.54/Inf.03.

In addition to mercury reductions, projects approved in the reporting period included the benefits of reducing 20.5 metric tons of POPs, and disposing of 6,595 metric tons of POPs and mercury-containing material. Altogether, the GEF-7 projects included the benefits of reducing 9,132 metric tons of POPs, disposing of nearly 3 million metric tons of POPs and mercury-containing and contaminated material, reducing 1,226 grams of toxic equivalent (gTEQ) of unintentional POP (UPOP) emissions, reducing more than 600,000 metric tons of CO₂ eq, and avoiding 260,000 metric tons of marine litter.
