

1. **Strengthen National Decision Making Towards Ratification of the Minamata Convention and Build Capacity Towards Implementation of Future Provisions**

2.

3. **“THE MIA PROJECT”**

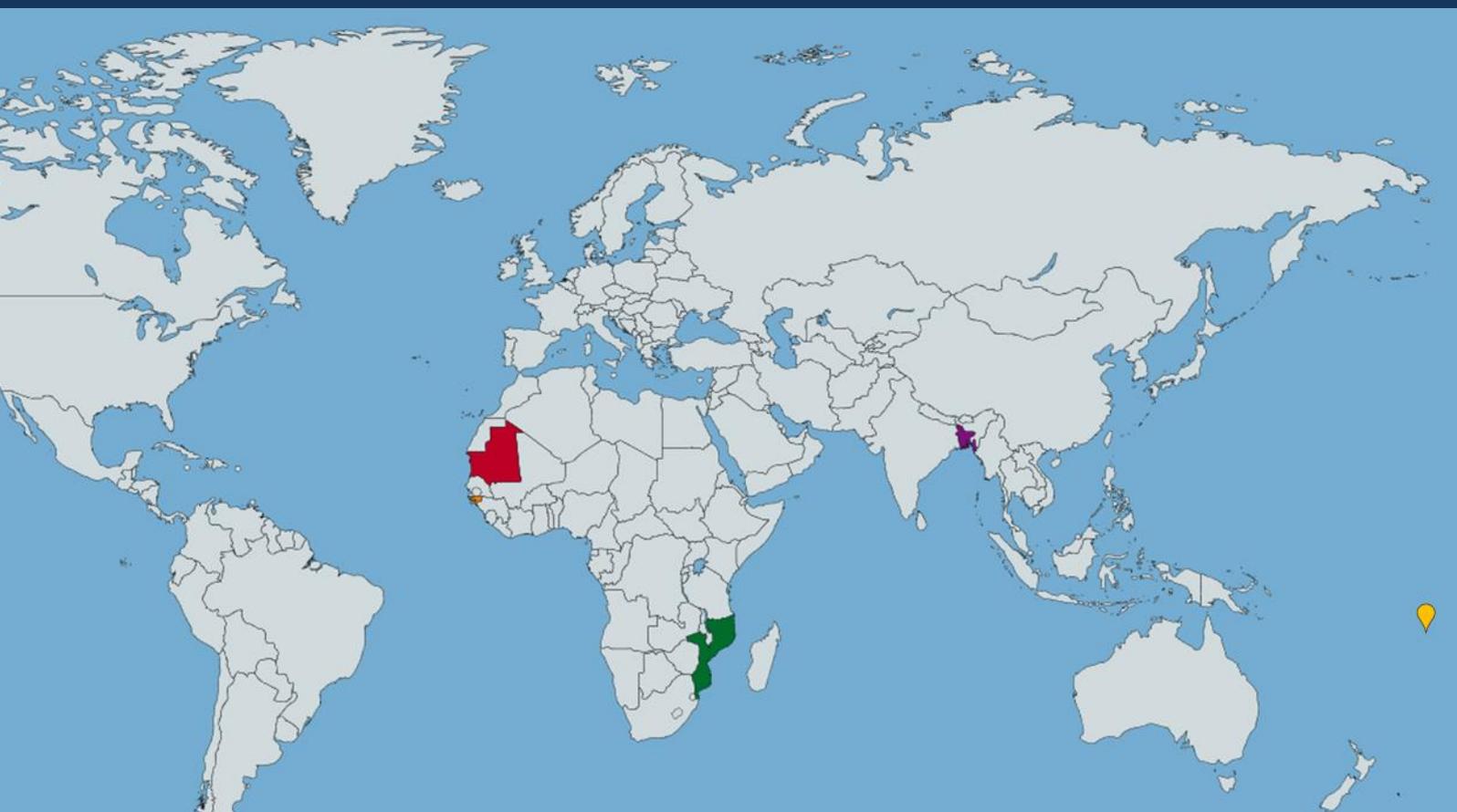


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1. The Minamata Initial Assessment Project (MIA project)

Background

The project “Strengthen National Decision Making Towards Ratification of the Minamata Convention and Build Capacity Towards Implementation of Future Provisions” is an initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF); with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as GEF Agency and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) executing activities; working in close collaboration with the relevant entities at the country level.

1.1 Objective

Undertake a Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) to enable the Governments of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Mozambique, and, the Independent State of Samoa, to determine the national requirements and needs for the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (the Convention) and to establish a national foundation to undertake future work towards the implementation of the Convention.

1.2 Outcomes

The project’s expected outcomes will be a description of the following: (a) National mercury profile, including significant sources of emissions and releases, as well as inventories of mercury and mercury compounds; (b) an overview of structures, institutions, legislation already available to implement the Convention; (c) a summary of barriers that would hinder or prevent implementation.

1.3 Components

Component 1: Establishment of enabling environment for decision-making on the ratification of the Minamata Convention

Outcome 1.1: National Coordination/Consultation Mechanism (“MCM”) on Mercury operational

Output 1.1: National Coordination/Consultation Mechanism (NCM) on Mercury established.

Outcome 1.2: Policy and regulatory framework, and institutional and capacity needs in regard to the implementation of Convention provisions assessed.

Output 1.2: Assessment report prepared on the existing and required policy and regulatory framework as well as institutional capacity to implement the Convention (incl. overview of existing barriers).

Outcome 1.3: Awareness raised on the environmental and health impacts of Mercury.

Output 1.3: Mercury awareness raising activities conducted targeting decision makers and population groups at risk.

Outcome 1.4: Project countries equipped and prepared for the mainstreaming of national Mercury Priorities

Output 1.4: Socio-economic studies on Mercury Priorities completed, awareness of decision makers raised and mainstreaming road maps developed.

Component 2: Development of National Mercury Profile and Mercury Initial Assessment Report

Outcome 2.1: National capacity built to undertake Mercury inventories.

Output 2.1: Capacity building and training conducted to commence the Mercury inventory.

Global Inventory Training:

Outcome 2.2: National Mercury Profile available.

Output 2.2: Mercury Inventory conducted and National Mercury Profile drafted.

Outcome 2.3: National MIA Report available.

Output 2.3: National MIA Report for the ratification and implementation of the Convention prepared (including proposed policy/regulatory interventions, inst. Cap. Building and required investment plans).

2. Project Countries

2.1 People's Republic of Bangladesh

Implementing Entity: Department of Environment of Bangladesh

National project funds: USD 85,000

Status: Final stage – review stage of full, draft MIA

The inception workshop was held in September 2018 which also included the inventory training given by UNITAR's inventory expert; clear responsibilities, roles and timeframe were defined which contributed significantly to the success of the project.

The Department of Environment has contracted the expertise of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. The University has swiftly delivered all individual technical reports in accordance with the agreed workplan as well as the final MIA report; the final MIA draft was provided on 5 March 2019, including the communication strategy developed by the Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO).

The MIA draft is being reviewed internally at UNITAR and will be submitted to a senior expert for in-depth review. UNITAR will revert to Bangladesh and seek updates, where necessary. The final version of the MIA will be submitted to UNDP for final review and acceptance.

Challenges:

The MIA in Bangladesh had a significant delay at the beginning of the project due to the process for signature of official documents and opening of the bank account, UNITAR visited

the country to obtain support from key decision-makers and the challenges were solved successfully.

2.2 Guinea-Bissau

Implementing Entity: Secretariat of State for the Environment of Guinea-Bissau

National project funds: USD 85,000

Status: Final stage - last modifications of MIA before submission to UNDP

The Project was launched in April 2017, having a successful inception workshop with around 40 stakeholders from different entities and UNITAR. The main objective was to ensure that relevant stakeholders understand the various components and activities of the project, as well as their roles and responsibilities; to raise awareness among policy makers and the public in general on mercury and its environmental and health effects; and establish a solid understanding among stakeholders of the national mercury inventory exercise.

All individual technical reports were successfully completed with a notable work on awareness raising.

UNITAR has reviewed the draft MIA, in addition to the senior expert. The MIA has a few remaining questions, and the UNITAR team will liaise with the Guinea-Bissau counterparts in Istanbul to amend. Then the MIA will be submitted to UNDP for review and approval.

Challenges

The individual outputs were developed in Portuguese and translation was required for the inventory experts and senior advisors. The Project started to be developed before the official MIA template was issued. Therefore, consultants initiated their work using different templates and feeling their own templates were more appropriate for the country situation. However, it was possible to combine the consultant's approach with the MIA template to ensure consistency with other MIAs and inclusion of all key information.

2.3 Mauritania

Implementing Entity: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Mauritania

National project funds: USD 85,000

Status: Final stage - last modifications of MIA before submission to UNDP

The project was launched at the end of 2016 in Nouakchott, having the support of 2 UNITAR experts on inventory and legal matters. The workshop provided the space for the creation of the national steering committee that played an important role on the MIA development.

All individual reports were developed. In addition to the outputs of the project, Mauritania is aware and committed with regard to ASGM in the country, for which different stakeholders

were involved in the research process and a deeper study was developed at this respect providing key information for future projects and decision-makers.

In addition to the regular input and reviews to the individual reports, UNITAR supported the drafting of the final MIA report which had several national and internal reviews as well as the input of a senior expert. The MIA has a few remaining questions, and the UNITAR team will liaise with the representatives of Mauritania in Istanbul to amend. Then the MIA will be submitted to UNDP for review and approval.

Challenges

The Project started to be developed before the official MIA template was issued. Therefore, the legal consultant initiated his work using a different template and feeling such template was more appropriate for the country situation. However, it was possible to combine the consultant's approach with the MIA template to ensure consistency with other MIAs and inclusion of all key information.

2.4 Mozambique

Implementing Entity: Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development of Mozambique
National project funds: USD 85,000

Status: **Medium stage – Legal report almost finalized, all other outputs are at the initial phase**

The project was officially launched in June 2018 in Maputo, Mozambique; at the same time training was provided by 3 UNITAR experts on inventory, communication and legal matters, respectively.

A first draft of the legal and institutional assessment was developed during the training and several reviews have been performed. The first draft of the inventory report and second of the communication strategy and socio-economic assessment have been provided recently; and 2 individual outputs are missing. Due to the lack of time, no further reviews will be performed to the individual outputs, those will be assessed during the development of the final MIA report that will be supported by UNITAR.

UNITAR team will liaise with the representatives of Mozambique in Istanbul regarding the inventory report which is a key MIA component as well as the development of the individual missing reports. The final MIA will follow the national review and UNITAR's internal review and the input of a senior expert. Finally, the draft MIA will be submitted to UNDP for review and approval.

Challenges

The Project was delayed due to the process for the signature of the institutional Agreement and the identification of funds in the national bank, followed by significant delays on the payment to consultants which provoked delays on the development of outputs.

However, UNITAR, the project coordinator and team of national consultants are working together to obtain all information required and finalize the MIA report within the deadline.

2.5 Samoa:

Implementing Entity: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

National project funds: USD 85,000

Status: **Completed – formatted and submitted to the Minamata Secretariat**

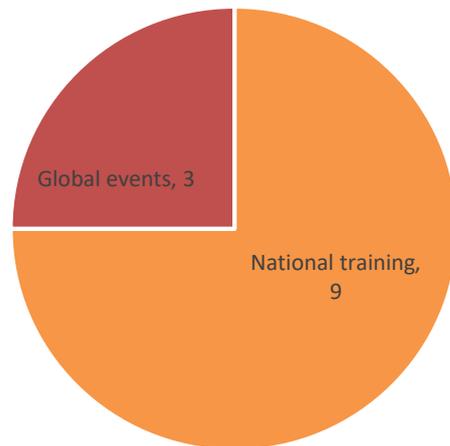
The inception workshop was held in February 2017. UNITAR was represented by the project coordinator and the inventory expert that provided training to the relevant team members.

UNITAR initially proposed a draft MIA with the information available. However, this draft was significantly enhanced with national data and input during the one week visit of UNITAR's senior expert to the country, one month after the visit the MIA report was finalized, officially endorsed and shared with the Minamata Secretariat in June 2018.

Challenges

The Project started to be developed before the official MIA template was issued. Therefore, the legal consultant initiated his work using a different template and feeling such template was more appropriate for Samoa. However, it was possible to combine the consultant's approach with the MIA template to ensure consistency with other MIAs and inclusion of all key information.

3. Training provided by UNITAR:



Total of stakeholders trained: 180

3.1 Global training

Global inception workshop:

A regional workshop was held in Bangkok in 2016. The overall goal of the workshop was to provide a foundation to the participating countries for the development of their Minamata Initial Assessment Report. Participants from the five project countries were invited. However, only participants from Mozambique and Guinea Bissau were able to participate.

Global inventory training in Barcelona, Spain

A four-day inventory training was given by 2 UNITAR experts in 2016; the training was undertaken by 4 participant countries. The overall goal of the workshop was to increase capacity of the national MIA project coordinators and the inventory experts to develop national mercury inventories.

3.2 National training

Bangladesh

1. 4-days face-to-face inventory training workshop in Barcelona in July 2016;
2. 2-days face-to-face inventory training in Dhaka in July 2018;
3. During UNITAR's visit to Bangladesh in May 2018 to obtain support from key stakeholders, UNITAR's CWM Manager and UNITAR's project manager met with the representative of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and National Project coordinators to increase their understanding of the MIA project objective, its components and specific outputs.

Guinea-Bissau

1. 2-day training in Global inception workshop in Bangkok;
2. 4-days inventory training workshop in Barcelona in July 2016;
3. 2-day face-to-face inventory training in Bissau in April 2017;
4. 1-week training in Bissau for the development of the final MIA with the support of 2 UNITAR experts in August 2018.

Mauritania

- 2-day training in Global inception workshop in Bangkok;
- 4-days inventory training workshop in Barcelona in July 2016;
- 3-day face-to-face inventory training in April 2017.

Mozambique

1. 4-days inventory training workshop in Barcelona in July 2016;
2. 5 days face-to-face training (inventory, communication and legal) in June 2018 in Maputo, Mozambique;
3. (Foreseen) 1-day face-to-face training in April 2019.

Samoa

1. 2-day face-to-face inventory training in February 2017;
2. 1-week face-to-face collaboration with UNITAR's senior expert to enhance and develop the final MIA report in April 2018.

4. Training Material

Guidance and templates

- UNITAR developed a draft guidance/terms of reference for the National Coordination/Consultation Mechanism (NCM) on Mercury. All countries were strongly encouraged to integrate these to the extent possible, as they develop their national coordination mechanisms.
- UNITAR has developed guidance/terms of reference for the development of the inventory as well as guidance/terms of reference for the awareness-raising activities and legal and institutional assessment.

MercuryLearn Course (October - November 2017):

A new round of the course was launched, running from 9 October – 26 November 2017.

This course was widely advertised at the first Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention and was available for free to all willing participants. One participant from Bangladesh signed up and successfully completed the course.

MIA Team

Mr. Jorge Ocaña

MIA Project role: Overall project strategy development and high-level support for implementation of activities

Mr. Ocaña manages the Chemicals and Waste Management programme in UNITAR. He has more than 20 years' experience in the chemicals and waste management field. He started his career at the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, assisting the development of the North American Regional Action Plan for mercury and the PRTR publication entitled "Taking Stock". He has also supported the development of PRTRs in Mexico and Chile. In the last years, he has supported country activities on mercury, PCB management and waste-related issues. He holds a Bachelor in Biology and a Master in Social Sciences. He is a native Spanish speaker but also speaks French and English.

Mr. Oliver Wootton

MIA Project role: Relationship management with GEF-Agency and implementation of strategies

Mr. Wootton supports UNITAR's Chemicals and Waste Management Programme by coordinating communications with implementing agencies for the mercury portfolio. He also coordinates UNITAR's work on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), and the Ban Amendment to the Basel Convention. He has six years' experience in international chemicals and waste management topics, including in the SAICM secretariat, and previously spent worked in Malawi working on climate change and sustainable agriculture. He holds a Master in Business Strategy and the Environment. He is a native English speaker, but can also be contacted in French and Spanish.

Ms. Angela Guillemot Montejo

MIA Project role: Project manager and advisor on MIA legal component

Ms. Guillemot oversees the development of Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs), and support for the development of national legal assessments towards the ratification of and compliance with the Minamata Convention. Furthermore, she supports other projects on developing legislation for management of chemicals and waste issues, in relation to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. She has worked at UNITAR for four years, and previously worked in the Law Office of the University of Boyacá as well as Legal Assistant at the Criminal Court No 5 in Tunja, Colombia. She holds a Master of Law, with a focus on political science. She is a native Spanish speaker and is fluent in English and French.

Mr. Jakob Maag

MIA Project role: Mercury inventory expert

Mr. Maag is a senior expert on mercury. He trains and assists countries in their implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and provides technical input for the MercuryLearn platform. He is a key author of UN Environment's Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases, which he continues to develop and update in cooperation with UN Environment. He was a key author and project manager of the first Global Mercury Assessment (2002), and has managed or contributed to many other international and national studies and projects on mercury over the last 24 years, including: use and releases' inventories, socio-economic assessments, substitution assessments, legal gap analyses, action plans, communications to stakeholders, conference planning, and international steering group facilitation. Mr. Maag has also worked on studies of many other hazardous chemicals. He has a Master of Science in Civil Engineering with a specialization in environmental chemistry, and is fluent in English and Danish, with working experience in French, German, Swedish and Norwegian.

Ms. Imelda Dossou Etui

MIA Project role: MIA drafting support and overall technical advice

Ms. Dossou Etui supports the mercury team, assisting countries with Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) projects, including the completion of the main components and the development of the MIA documents. Her work also includes support for countries in the identification and assessment of mercury-contaminated sites under the National Action Plans (NAPs) projects. Ms. Dossou Etui holds a Bachelor and a Master in Environmental Sciences with a specialization in Physical and Chemical Processes of the Environment. She is a native French speaker, is fluent in English and has a working knowledge of Spanish.

Mr. Jorden De Haan

MIA Project role: Technical advisor on socio-economic matters

Mr. De Haan supports the mercury team with expertise on socio-economic topics, including assistance to countries in the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) for artisanal and small-scale gold mining. His experience includes field research in the African region, particularly in conflict-affected countries. Mr. De Haan holds an Advanced Master in Governance and Development, with a specialization in natural resource governance, as well as a Master in Human Resource Studies, with a specialization in occupational health. He is fluent in English and Dutch and has a working knowledge of French.

Mr. David Piper

MIA Project role: Senior advisor on MIA development

Mr. Piper has more than 40 years of experience working in Academia and International Organizations on chemicals and waste management issues; former Deputy Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme, Chemicals Branch; senior advisor on international policy and evidence-based policy making. Mr. Piper has a Phd in Geology and a BA in Geology.