

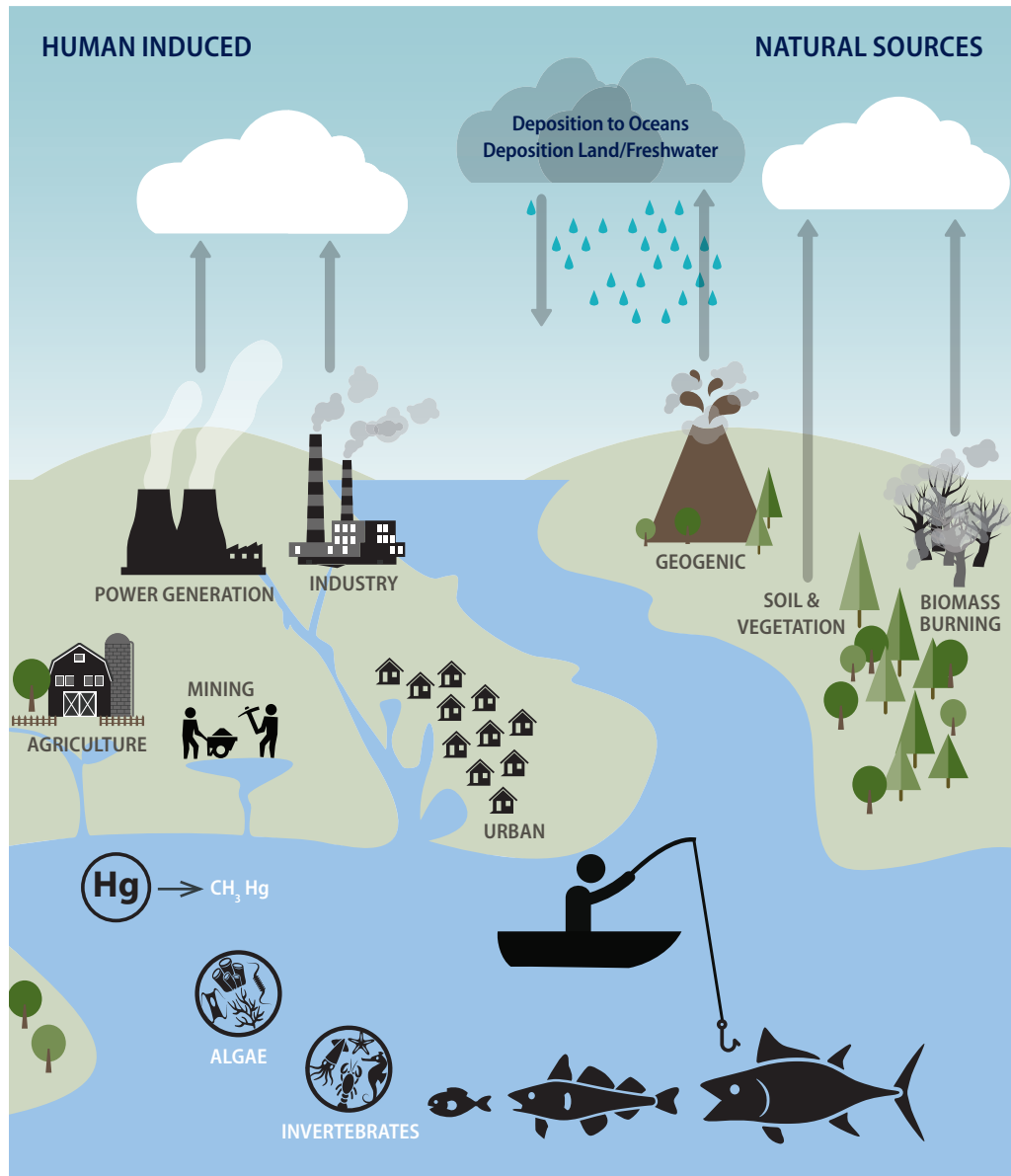
The REALITY of Mercury Management



50 YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

Mercury is a chemical of global concern owing to its long-range atmospheric transport, its persistence in the environment once anthropogenically introduced, its ability to bioaccumulate in ecosystems and its significant negative effects on human health and the environment.



Mercury is considered by WHO as one of the **top TEN** chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern.¹

35% of mercury releases result from **gold mining**.²

Power generation is responsible for the emission of **475 tonnes** of mercury each year (24% of total emissions).²

Mercury is most harmful to the development of the child in utero and early in life.¹

No consumption (Hg > 0.95 µg/g)³
1 meal per month (Hg: 0.22 – 0.95 µg/g)
1 – 2 meals per week (Hg: 0.05 – 0.22 µg/g)
Unrestricted meals (Hg < 0.05 µg/g)

The consumption of fish containing high levels of mercury, in particular those high on the food chain as mercury bioaccumulates, can have serious health consequences.
1 ORANGE DOT = 1 µg Hg/g fish

As of March 2001, **2,265 victims** had been officially recognised as having Minamata disease (**1,784** of whom had **died**)⁴ and over 10,000 received financial compensation⁵ because of their potential exposure to mercury.

Among selected subsistence fishing populations, out of **1,000 children**, between **1.5** and **17** showed cognitive impacts caused by the consumption of fish containing mercury.¹

Phasing-out the use of non-essential mercury-containing products for which cost-effective alternatives exist is the most effective way to reduce releases from products and waste streams.

Approximately **15 million people**, including approximately **3 million women and children**, participate in the ASGM industry in 70 countries.⁶

Sources: 1. WHO Fact Sheet No. 361 (2013); 2. UNEP Global Mercury Assessment (2013); 3. BRI (2014); 4. Minamata Disease: The History and Measures; 5. Minamata Disease Archives; 6. UNEP (2013) The Negotiating Process.