MINAMATA INITIAL ASSESSMENT

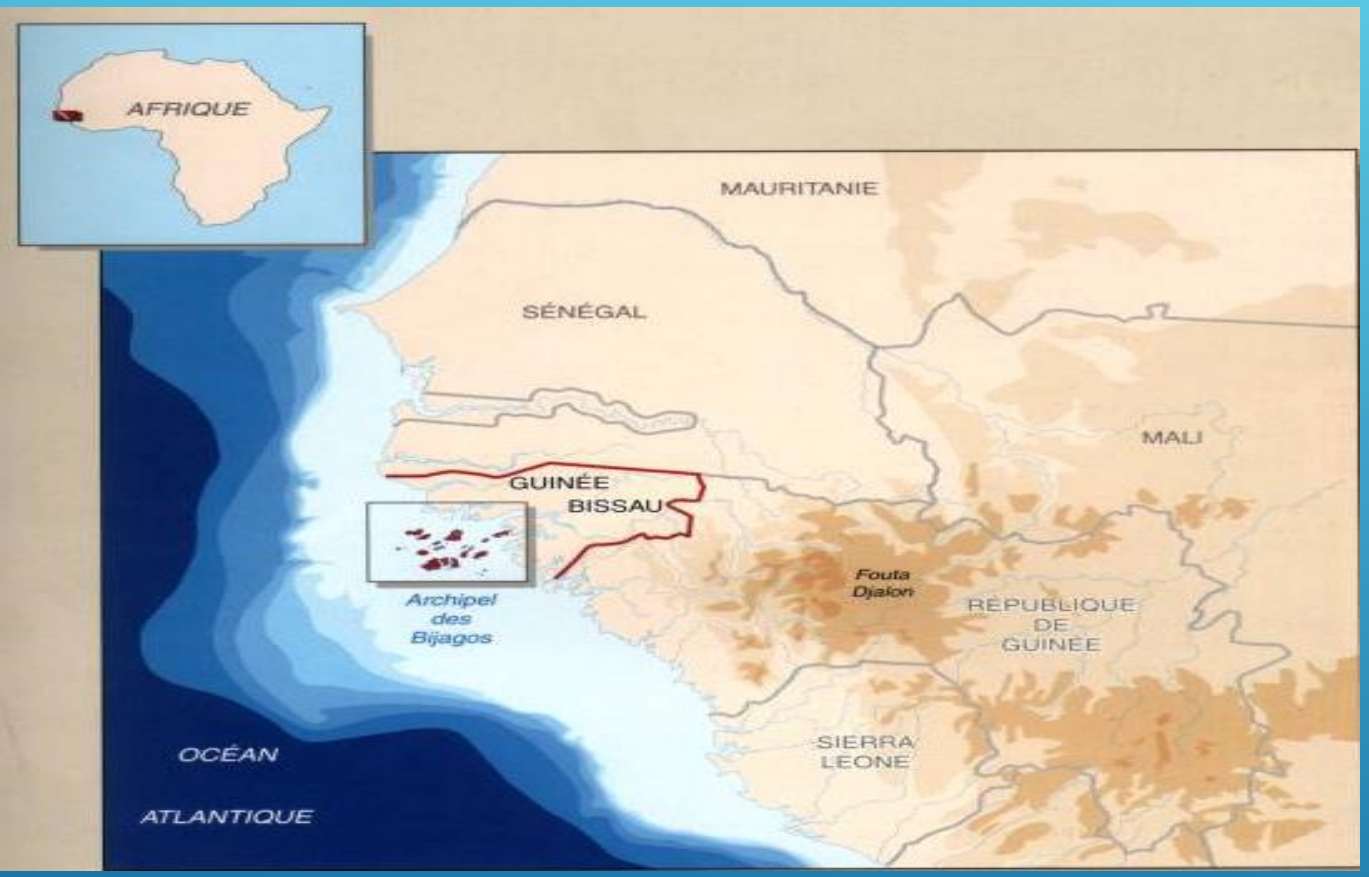
GUINEA BISSAU

UNDP

unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

gef

OVERVIEW



- Located in West Africa
- Surface: 36,125 km^2 (88 islands)
- Population: 1,9 M inhabitant (2017)
- LDC and SIDS Country

MAIN FINDINGS OF THE MIA GUINEA-BISSAU

LEGAL

- Guinea-Bissau has signed the Minamata Convention on 24 September 2014, ratified it on 22 October 2018, thus making part of the Convention;
- The Bissau-Guinean national legal instrument does not contain any specifics on the use of mercury and mercury compounds. In order to comply with the Articles of the Minamata Convention, it would be important to adapt the national legal, political and institutional frameworks by including relevant dispositions where needed.

MERCURY INVENTORY

The subcategories of sources below are those that contribute most to mercury inputs into Bissau-Guinean society:

- Open fire waste burning (on landfills and informally) 1,380 Kg of Mercury par year
- Controlled landfills/deposits 686 Kg of Mercury par year
- Informal dumping of general waste 234 Kg of Mercury par year
- Waste water system/treatment 217 Kg of Mercury par year
- Batteries with mercury 141 Kg of Mercury par year
- Electrical switches and relays with mercury 124 Kg of Mercury par year

ACTION PLANS

- According to the various assessments conducted, the following priority areas and actions plans were identified and proposed:
- 1. Capacity building and strengthening/adaptation of the political, legal. institutional and administrative frameworks to align with the Minamata Convention
- 2. Progressive elimination of mercury-containing products, including dental amalgams, and encouraging consumers to adopt mercury-free alternatives
- 3. Sound management of waste, especially mercury-containing wastes and emissions from the industrial sector.
- These activities will include activities in collaboration with the private sector and investors to ensure that a cross-section of stakeholders are aware of mercury issues and involved in the realization of the activities.

WAY FORDWARD

- National mercury management policy developed;
- Legal and regulatory frameworks to implement the Articles and obligations of the Minamata Convention established;
- Administrative responsibilities are defined;
- National system of chemical inventory established and operationalized
- Sustainable mechanisms for the continuous development of mercury inventories defined.

- Lack of national data;
- Data production;
- Unofficial sources;
- No existing registrations of the activities;
- Undeclared imports of products;
- Second hand items with unknown origin or information;
- Data not detailed;
- Unavailable bibliographies;
- Aggregated data (that include certain products together that should be separated).
- Unavailability of local data for mercury concentration in waste.
- Inter-ministerial communication
- Lack of human resources

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE MIA IN GUINEA-BISSAU? CONCLUSIONS

- At first everything was slow and the project was not clear, with the Inception Workshops, stakeholder participation and training the project performance has progressed greatly
- The linguistic factor made the consultants' work much more difficult

- The recruitment and hiring of the consultants was very difficult due to lack of human resources
- The active and untiring participation of parliamentarians, government and the presidency of the republic allowed for a rapid ratification of the Minamata Convention;
- The ongoing consultation between the project team and the UNDP country office has enabled considerable progress
- The sensitization campaign carried out and tools provided by UNITAR were very useful in the process

Thanks

Merci

OBRIGADO!!!