



BASEL CONVENTION



MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT

MERCURY STORAGE AND DISPOSAL PROJECT IN THE CARIBBEAN: JAMAICA, SURINAME AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY
PARTNERSHIP

BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL
CENTRE- CARIBBEAN

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BACKGROUND

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region (BCRC-Caribbean) in collaboration with the UNEP “Chemicals and Waste Branch” of the United Nations Environment Programme’s Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP/DTIE) received funding from the Norway Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the project “Mercury Storage and Disposal Project in the Caribbean: Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname”. The project seeks to identify environmentally sound storage and disposal solutions for mercury, recognized by the international community as a priority

This project is a follow-up to the 2009 Norway funded project “Reducing Mercury Supply and Investigating Safe Long Term Storage Solutions”, also known as “UNEP Mercury Storage Project”. The project serves as a catalyst in the action towards ratification of the Minamata Convention and it is part of the continuing work to provide technical assistance to countries in search for environmentally sound storage and disposal for mercury, identified as a priority of governments. The project builds on GC 25/5 III decision that requested “UNEP Executive Director working through the Global Mercury Partnership and concurrently with the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a legally binding instrument on mercury, to continue and enhance as part of international action on mercury the existing work, including enhancing capacity for mercury storage”. The project is under the umbrella of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, mandated to take immediate action to reduce mercury pollution.

PROGRESS REPORT

This report details the progress made since the hosting of the Project Inception Workshop in Trinidad and Tobago in September of 2015.

INCEPTION WORKSHOP

To initiate the project, the BCRC-Caribbean and UNEP/DTIE hosted a two-day inception workshop which was held at the Trinidad Hilton and Conference Centre, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 12th to 13th August 2015. This workshop was attended by representatives of the relevant government agencies of the three (3) countries, the CARICOM Secretariat, the BCRC-Caribbean and the UNEP “Waste and Chemicals Branch” as well as an international consultant, Mr Stephen Hoffman.

The workshop created the platform to allocate roles and responsibilities and established a detailed timeline for the implementation of the various project activities. Each country selected a representative for the overall coordination of the project and mechanisms of communication were put into place. The meeting also served as an opportunity for the

UNEP Waste and Chemicals Branch to present and explain the toolkit for the identification and quantification of mercury releases.

NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

The finalized project documentation and Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) between the United Nations Environment Programme through its Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP/DTIE) and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) came into effect in February, 2016. The first activities after the signing of the SSFA and the mobilisation of funding were the planning and execution of three national workshops in each country. These workshops were held after consultation and establishment of the national steering committees and national working groups in each of the three countries.

The workshop dates were:

1. Trinidad and Tobago – May 18th 2016
2. Jamaica – June 14th 2016
3. Suriname – June 20th 2016

The objectives of these workshops were:

- 1) To bring together the key stakeholders in each country and to introduce them to the project,
- 2) Establish a working group of key stakeholders in each country through which data and resources could be made available,
- 3) To begin the process of evaluating the nature and content of data that existed in each country on mercury use, storage facilities and methods and disposal options currently practiced and
- 4) To begin the process of conducting an inventory of mercury uses, storage and disposal in each country using the first tier (Level I) of the Mercury Inventory Toolkit.

The particulars of participation and discussions at these workshops are detailed in each of the national country reports which are attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3 at the end of this report. The PowerPoint presentations on the project made at these meetings were generic in nature and are included in Appendix 4.

In order to facilitate the data gathering it was envisaged that the development of individual questionnaires would expedite the data collection process. As such the BCRC Caribbean consulted with Mr Stephen Hoffman (who has been recruited by the BCRC - Caribbean) to provide senior level technical advice and oversight for the project. The questionnaires that were developed are attached at Appendix 5.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Since the workshop, the following data requests/questionnaires have been sent to the following sectors:

1. Oil and Gas Industry
2. Methanol and Ammonia Plants
3. Dental Association and Individual Dentists
4. Companies involved in environmental remediation
5. Power Generation
6. Funeral Homes and Crematoria
7. Companies that sell Mercury Containing Devices
8. Companies that sell Dental Amalgam

In order to facilitate the data collection, the BCRC – Caribbean has recruited interns for each of the three (3) countries, for a period of two (2) months. The Terms of Reference for these interns is attached at Appendix 6.

For Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Kishan Patloo has been recruited for the period July 26th 2016 to September 26th 2016 (See Resume at Appendix 7). He will be supervised by Dr Ahmad Khan, Director and Ms Jewel Batchasingh, Research Analyst of the BCRC – Caribbean. He and the other interns have been tasked with the following duties:

- ❖ *Disseminating questionnaires and collecting data from stakeholders;*
- ❖ *Continuous follow up with stakeholders to gather data;*
- ❖ *Data analysis;*
- ❖ *Assistance with collection of information related to the legislative and regulatory framework;*
- ❖ *Research, collect, analyse documents related to mercury sources, storage and disposal;*
- ❖ *Perform other duties as required.*

JAMAICA

Since the workshop, the following data sets were received based on the stakeholder participation:

1. Bauxite Production data
2. Mercury Emissions to the environment from the regulatory agency National Environmental Protection Agency

Ms April Johnson has been recruited for the period July 25th to September 23rd 2016 (See Resume at Appendix 7). She will now disseminate the questionnaires to the relevant sectors and begin the data collection process to the various sectors that have not yet responded. Ms Johnson will be supervised by Dr. Roy Porter, Head of Chemistry Department, University of the West Indies, Mona and Ms Andrea Jones- Bennett, Director Projects and Enforcement, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation.

SURINAME

Since the workshop on June 20th, 2016 the only data set that was received was the Geological Maps of Suriname.

Ms Tiffany van Ravenswaay has been recruited for the period July 18th, 2016 to September 16th, 2016 (See Resume at Appendix 7). Ms Ravenswaay will be supervised by Dr. Christiaan Max Huisden, Vice Chair, Environmental Sciences Department - University of Suriname and Marci Gompers, Office of the Cabinet of the President.

She will disseminate the questionnaires to the relevant sectors and begin the data collection process to the sectors that have not yet responded.

It must be noted that in Suriname stakeholders wanted formal correspondence from the Office of the Cabinet of the President in order to release the data. Now that Ms van Ravenswaay is on board, it is anticipated that this process will be expedited.

BUDGET EXPENDITURE

As of July 31st 2016, 42.2% of the budget was spent and committed. The breakdown of said expenditure is provided in Table 1 below. It is evident that the balance of funds will not be spent according to the expenditure schedule, primarily because the BCRC-Caribbean and the respective Steering Committees in each country have determined that the “best value for money” can be realised if as many key stakeholders as possible participate in the actual data gathering exercises and the results workshops at the end of the project. The intention to sub-contract out-sourced services for the activities listed at 3, 4, 6 and 7 no longer exists and the BCRC-Caribbean through the interns hired in each country and the National Working Committees will now undertake these activities under the guidance of a senior expert, Stephen Hofmann.

The balance of funds are proposed to be used to pay for Mr Hofmann’s services, to fund follow up in-country meetings by BCRC-Caribbean staff, to pay for the services of the Interns and to host three Results Workshops, one in each country, in December 2016.

Table 1: Breakdown of Budgeted and Actual/Committed Expenditure for the Project to End July 2016.

Activity	Item	Cost (per country)	Budgeted Expenditure		Actual/Committed Expenditure	
			UNEP Fund Allocation	BCRC Fund Allocation	UNEP Fund Allocation	BCRC Fund Allocation
1. Inception workshop - participation of UNEP staff, consultant and 3 participants per country	Travel/DSA	n.a.	10,000	2,500	12,740.85	12,484.84
2. National interagency meetings and workshops:	In-kind	-	-	-	-	-
3. Detailed inventories of mercury waste streams	Subcontracts	10,000	20,000	10,000	19,774.44	-
4. Survey and analysis of temporary storage locations	Subcontracts	5,000	10,000	5,000	4,500	-
5. Review of regulatory frameworks	In-kind	-	-	-	-	-
6. Assessment of basic management options	Subcontracts	3,500	7,000	3,500	-	-
7. Development of national storage and waste management action plans	Subcontracts	1,500	3,000	1,500	-	-
8. Results workshop participation of UNEP staff, consultant and 3 participants per country	Travel/DSA	n.a.	10,000	2,500	-	-
9. Project coordination	Staff time	n.a.	-	5,000	-	-
Totals			60,000	30,000	37,015.29	14,984.84
Balance left in UNEP in-cash Contribution			22,984.71			
Balance left in BCRC in-cash Contribution				15,015.16		

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

For each of the three (3) participating countries the legislative review was assigned to the respective organisation as follows:

- ❖ Trinidad and Tobago – Legal Department, Ministry of Planning and Development
- ❖ Jamaica – Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation
- ❖ Suriname – National Institute for Environment and Development (NIMOS)

In each of the three (3) participating countries, there was a draft document that would have to be amended accordingly for the purposes of this project.

NEXT STEPS

The key next step is the data collection and subsequent development of the inventory and the report. It is anticipated that in keeping with the original project schedule that the draft report will be developed on or before October 31, 2016 with countries being given a month to review before the final workshop in December 2016.

APPENDIX 1
REPORT ON KEY STAKEHOLDER INCEPTION MEETING –
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_15691

