# National Action Plan on Primary Mercury Mining in Kyrgyzstan

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The State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic Tokyo, March 9-10, 2010

### International developments and national action

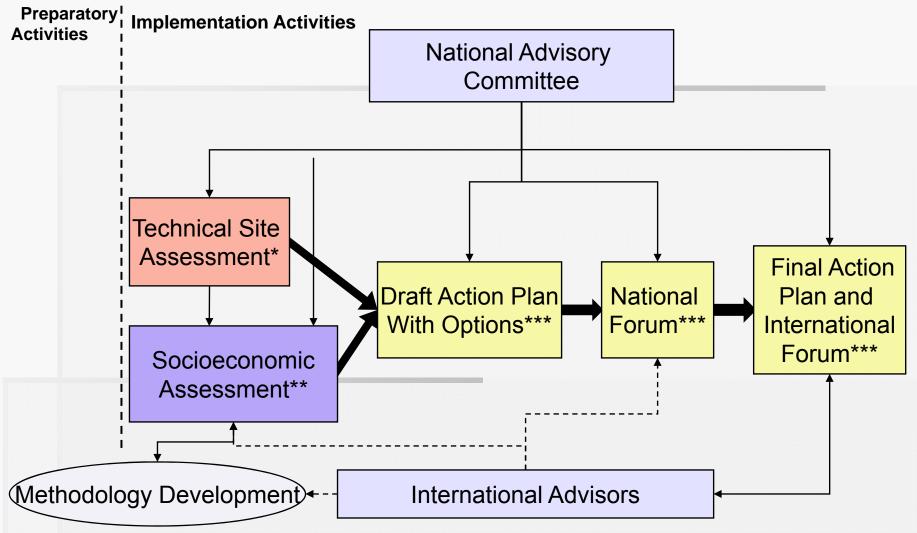
- UNEP Governing Council's decisions to address mercury have led to action in Kyrgyzstan;
- Kyrgyzstan has received international assistance from Switzerland, UNITAR, UNEP, the United States of America and Norway to-date, under the Global Mercury Partnership;
- These international developments have assisted the State Agency on Protection of Environment and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic to raise awareness in Kyrgyzstan about the global situation;

#### **Action Plan development**

- In 2007, UNITAR approached the Kyrgyz Government regarding possibility of an Action Plan project;
- An April, 2008 mission to Kyrgyzstan from UNITAR, UNEP and Switzerland raised awareness about the project among government officials and other stakeholders;
- Memorandum of Agreement was signed between
   UNITAR and the Kyrgyz Government in August, 2008;
- The development of a technical assessment, socioeconomic study and action plan commenced after that time;

## Action Plan Development (cont'd)

- Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz
   Republic on March 10, 2009
  - #101-r: "An Inter-ministerial Working Group on developing of a Plan of measures on the issues of production of primary mercury and reduction of its impact on the environment in the Kyrgyz Republic"
- A series of interviews also took place among workers and residents of Khaidarkan



National execution with support from UNEP

<sup>\*\*</sup> National execution with support from UNITAR

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#### Action Plan Development (cont'd) Composition of Inter-Ministerial Working Group

- Lead Agency: State Agency on Protection of Environment and Forestry Key Ministries:
  - Ministry of Industry, Energy and Fuel Resources
  - State Agency on Geology and Mineral Resources
  - Ministry of Health
  - Ministry of Emergencies
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Ministry of Finance
  - Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
  - National Statistics Commission
  - Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
  - Batken Oblast Administration
  - Khaidarkan Mercury Mining Complex
  - Kyrgyz Mining Association
  - State Committee on State Property

#### **Action Plan Goals**

- Identify activities to eliminate the hazardous impact of the Khaidarkan mine on the environment;
- Elaborate, with the aim of improving the legal basis related to mining in Kyrgyzstan;
- Address issues related to the social and economic development of Khaidarkan community;
- Explore issues related to two options:
  - Upgrading and improvement of production or;
  - Reorientation of mercury mining activities at Khaidarkan towards to other less environmentally harmful economic activities
- Raise public awareness on the risks related to primary mercury production

### Plan Development

cal and economical information rized in Technical Assessment;

Economic information also addressed;

Plan followed methodology developed TAR for country use;

ction Plan reviewed by Inter-Ministerial g Group (July, 2009 National Forum);

Plan officially endorsed by the Office of ne Minister on 12 October 2009

