



Ministry of Environment



UNEP Chemicals Branch

Strategic Plan on Management of Mercury in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining In Cambodia 2012-2016

Prepared by:

The Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Project

Support by:

UNEP Chemicals Branch

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*The **Strategic Plan on Management of Mercury in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (SPASGM)** was prepared by the Department of Environmental Pollution Control (DEPC), the Ministry of Environment (MOE), with support from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). This strategic plan was developed in response to various concerns on safe use and sound management regarding intentional mercury use in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM). This SPASGM is also developed and implemented to support existing legal frameworks, national strategies, action plans and many other relevant technical papers. Technical support for this development was administered by the UNEP Chemicals Branch through the **Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Project** with in-kind contributions from the Royal Government of Cambodia.*

This Strategic Plan is published in Khmer and English versions by the Department of Environmental Pollution Control (DEPC), the Ministry of Environment (MOE) of the Royal Government of Cambodia. This is to provide a practical framework on sound management of chemicals, including mercury and mercury containing wastes in Cambodia, with full participation from all levels of Government and civil societies in implementing it.

**The Department of Environmental Pollution Control (DEPC),
Ministry of Environment (MOE),
The Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Project**

#48, SamdechPreah Sihanouk, TonleBassac, Khan Chamcar Morn,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Phone: + (855)-23-210492, 23-213908, 23-220369

Fax: +(855)-23-212540

Email Address: moepcd@online.com.kh

Project team

Mr. Sarun Sambo	Project Coordinator,	DEPC, MOE
Mr. Chin Sothun	Project Assistance,	DEPC, MOE
Mr. Ngeth Bol	Project Administrator and Finance	MOE
Mr. Roath Sith	Project Consultant	MOE

Forward

To achieve environmentally sound management of mercury and mercury containing wastes, the Royal Government of Cambodia, through the Ministry of Environment, has been seeking assistance from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to develop a framework for the safe and sound management of mercury and mercury containing wastes in Cambodia. In response to this, UNEP has provided further support to develop a national framework and guidelines for the sound management of mercury and mercury containing wastes, including support for the development of an Action Plan on the Management of Releasing Mercury in Cambodia (2008-2010), Cambodia Mercury Inventory Report (2008), National Mercury Waste Management Plan (2011-2015), and Technical Guideline on Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury Wastes (2011). Recently, in 2010, UNEP has provided both financial and technical assistance for the development of **“Strategic Plan on Management of Mercury in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (SPASGM), 2012-2016.”**

The **“Strategic Plan on Management of Mercury in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (SPASGM), 2012-2016** is a management plan for fostering safe and sound management of mercury in order to eliminate the release of mercury at small scale gold mining sites in Cambodia. This means that relevant ministries, institutions, as well as civil society organizations shall implement this management plan in compliance with their own professional standards to contribute to the prevention, reduction, and recovery of mercury, as well as promotion of alternatives to mercury use in artisanal and small scale gold mining, which does not affect economic growth. This strategic plan proposes many activities to solve the problem of mercury use in artisanal and scale gold mining in Cambodia, which embodies institutional capacity, technical capacity, legal framework, public awareness, and prevention of mercury impacts upon human health, the environment, and society at large.

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment, I am deeply grateful to the United Nations Environment Program, which has provided both financial and technical assistance to the ministry in preparing this strategic plan. I also express my great thanks to the national and international experts and all involved officers for their valuable contributions to the preparation of this strategic plan.

Most importantly, I would like to convey my indebted thanks to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for his strong support for the environment. I highly appreciate the relevant ministries and governmental staff and stakeholders who have provided strong support and consideration through their comments and advice on the development of the Strategic Plan on Management of Mercury in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (SPASGM), 2012-2016.

I hope that this strategic plan will facilitate the necessary technical, economical, and environmental actions required for assessing, solving and managing the risk of mercury use in artisanal and small scale gold mining for Cambodia in the future. *M*

Phnom Penh, Date *16 June* 2011

Senior Minister, Minister of Environment *Mar/ek*



Dr. MOK Mareth

Table of Contents

Forward	ii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Abbreviations.....	v
Executive Summary.....	1
1 Introduction and Background.....	3
1.1 Introduction.....	3
1.2 Background.....	3
2 National Context overview.....	6
2.1 Situation of Cambodia's artisanal and small scale gold mining.....	6
2.2 Challenges in ASGM.....	8
2.3 Problematic issues	9
3 Priority Goals and Objectives.....	11
3.1 Goals.....	11
3.2 Priority objectives.....	11
3.3 Key components of the strategic plan	11
4 Implementation Strategy for 2012-2016.....	14
4.1 Component 1: Legal framework and institutional Building.....	14
4.2 Component 2: Research and development.....	16
4.3 Component 3: Awareness raising and communication.....	18
5 Requirements to achieve the goals and objectives of the strategic plan	22
5.1 Requirements for resources	22
5.2 Prioritization activities	23
5.3 Cooperative partners.....	24
5.4 Development partners.....	25
5.5 Time frames for implementing the strategic plan.....	25
6 Evaluation mechanism	26

List of Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASGM	Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining
ESM	Environmentally Sound Management
GEF	Globally Environmental Facilities
MIME	Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy
MOC	Ministry of Commerce
MOE	Ministry of Environment
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOInf.	Ministry of Information
MOLVT	Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NIP	National Implement Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutant
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
SPASGM	Strategic Plan on the Management of Mercury in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USD	United Nations Dollar
WB	The World Bank

Executive Summary

The *Action Plan on Management of Releasing Mercury in Cambodia (2008-2010)* was endorsed in August 2008, which illustrated a new effort of the Royal Government of Cambodia to environmentally and soundly manage mercury. This action plan provides a strategic framework for implementation of mercury management within Cambodia's territory, including the development of national targets and timelines for reducing and eliminating anthropogenic sources of mercury, among sectors that use mercury in products and processes or, which generate mercury as a byproduct of a process.

The main goal of the action plan on the management of releasing mercury in Cambodia is to provide the Ministry of Environment with a framework that consists of a way forward in its joint efforts to reduce the exposure of Cambodia's population and ecosystems to mercury use, especially the intentional use of mercury in artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM) activities, through the prevention and reduction of anthropogenic releases of mercury to the environment. This action plan identifies initiatives and approaches to reduce the use of mercury in ASGM through various means, including retort technology, mercury recovery and recycling initiatives, alternative technology, etc. for gold miners to follow and adopt. It will be easier to measure success if Cambodia also has sufficient resources to fully implement such initiatives, including the elimination of mercury use in artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM) activities.

The Strategic Plan on Management of Mercury in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (SPASGM) was developed, in response to the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia for environmentally sound management of chemicals through a life cycle management approach to mercury and its wastes. There are three main components identified under this strategic plan, which aims to achieve a comprehensive management of mercury in ASGM in Cambodia including:

- (i) Legal framework and institutional building;
- (ii) Research and development; and
- (iii) Awareness raising and communication.

Out of these three components, there are 7 specific objectives and 27 programs of works (proposed activities) that have been identified for sound management of mercury in ASGM

activities. This strategic plan is proposed for implementation over 5 years (2012 to 2016) and requires a budget of approximately **US\$1,807,000.00**. This estimated budget should be allocated as follows: (i) Legal framework and institutional building (**US\$377,000.00**); (ii) Research and development (**US\$685,000.00**); and (iii) Awareness raising and communication (**US\$745,000.00**).

Sources of funding for the implementation of this strategic plan are expected to be obtained from development partners including GEF, UNEP, UNITAR, UNIDO, other UN agencies, WB, ADB, Canada Trust Fund, and others. Besides contributions from these development partners, the Royal Government of Cambodia can also contribute up to 20% (ceiling point) of the total required budgets, either in cash and/or in kind contributions, including office spaces, stores, infrastructure and other miscellaneous items associated with successful implementation of SPASGM.

In conclusion, the Strategic Plan on Management of Mercury in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (SPASGM) is regarded as a national road map for sound management of mercury in ASGM in Cambodia and the implementation of this strategic plan will be carried out within five years (2012-2016), based on the identified programs of work. The successful implementation of the above-mentioned activities is based on financial support provided by development partners and in-kind contributions from the Royal Government of Cambodia.

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