

Minutes
UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) area
Monday 13 September 2010 (14:00 – 16:00 UTC)

Purpose of the meeting: To update partners on developments since last call

On the call:

Ludovic Bernaudat, UNIDO
Susan Keane, NRDC
Kristina Rudnitski, Environment Canada
Ken Davis, US EPA
Hemsing Hurreynag, Development Indian Ocean Network, Mauritius
Julie Sommerfreund, Pollution Probe
Brenda Koekkoek, UNEP
Philippa Huntsman-Mapila, Natural Resources Canada
Maaïke Schouten, Solidaridad
Laura Barreto, ARM
Jake Palley, U.S. State Department
Gilbert Mbeh, EDUCAF Cameroon
Kevin Telmer, Artisanal Gold Council
Veerle Van Wauwe, Transparence
Marianne Bailey, US EPA
Stephen Metcalf, researcher

1. Upcoming Partnership Advisory Group (PAG) meeting

Brenda Koekkoek of UNEP updated the group on the planned Partnership Advisory Group (PAG) meeting. The second meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group will be held from 21 to 22 September 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. This group was formed as the overarching framework for the Global Mercury Partnership was developed. It comprises 25 members. The ASGM partnership area is represented by the partnership area leads (Ludovic Bernaudat and Susan Keane), as well as two nominated partners— DENR Philippines and the Artisanal Gold Council (AGC).

The role of the PAG is to review overall progress, including status of partnership areas, and to consider overarching issues and lessons learned. Some of the meeting documents are already available on the UNEP web-site; some documents are yet to be posted. Partners are encouraged to have a look and relay feedback to UNEP through Susan and Ludovic.

As a result of the meeting, UNEP hopes to build momentum in all partnership areas, and to start to think about the role of the partnerships, once the treaty goes into effect.

After the PAG, UNEP is hosting a Geneva briefing on ASGM. Information is on the UNEP web-site. The purpose of the session is to raise awareness, foster a dialogue and build collaboration with international

organizations, the private sector and non-government organizations located in Geneva, on the issue and challenges associated with ASGM. The meeting will include panel presentations regarding possible solutions to the ASGM financial and social challenges.

2. Partnership progress report

A progress report for the partnership was prepared and circulated last spring, and was circulated again last week as a refresher. The report will serve as the basis for input to the PAG. The partners were asked to please provide any final corrections or further additions to the progress report this week (send email to Ludovic or Susan) so that we can present the final document at the PAG.

3. UN CSD and INC1 meeting reports

The Partnership had a strong presence at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development meeting in New York in May. Ludovic made a presentation about ASGM at a UNEP session on the mercury treaty, to provide background to the delegates. US EPA then hosted a 3 hour side event (called a learning center) on ASGM. The three presenters at this event (Ludovic, Sam Spiegel and Marianne Bailey) presented information on technological issues as well as issues related to formalization and other social and economic aspects of ASGM. A movie from the AGC was shown at the same event. Sam Spiegel also made a separate presentation on another panel, on "Governance Strategies in Artisanal Gold Mining Communities: Supporting Livelihoods and Enhancing Social Opportunities."

Marianne Bailey made a CD with all of the CSD learning center presentations; partners who would like a copy should request one from Marianne (bailey.marianne@epa.gov) or from Ken Davis (davis.kenneth@epa.gov). The Artisanal Gold Council also prepared a short film that was presented at CSD; partners can request copies of the film from Kevin Telmer (ktelmer@artisanalgold.org).

Sam's powerpoint presentation is available at the following link:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_pdfs/csd-18/12may/round-table-2/presentation_Spiegel.pdf Also, there is a video webcast of all the speeches from that session: <http://www.un.org/webcast/csd18/csd18-g.htm> (the three speeches on mining are accessible at the very bottom of this web-page).

The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC1) was held in Stockholm in June. Since this was the first meeting of the committee, the focus of the meeting was to provide an opportunity to all countries to present initial thoughts and positions on the full range of topics related to the mercury treaty. The Partnership leads made a presentation at the technical session preceding the full meeting, to raise awareness of the delegates about ASGM and to provide information about the regional strategic planning projects in Asia, West Africa and Latin America. The Partnership also hosted an evening informational session, which included presentations/success stories from Senegal, Philippines, Peru and Mozambique. This session was very successful, with over 100 people in attendance.

The INC1 report is available on the UNEP web-site, report **UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/21**

<http://hqweb.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/INC/INC1MeetingDocuments/tabid/3391/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Kevin Telmer pointed out that in preparation for INC2, several countries have submitted position statements about the mercury treaty, some of which contain comments on ASGM. These country statements can be found at:

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/INC2/INC2Submission/tabid/4524/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

INC 2 will be held in Chiba, Japan. 24-28 January 2010.

4. Request for partnership to assist with inter-sessional report on ASGM projects worldwide – update to our survey

The Partnership is contributing to responses on a number of requests of the Mercury Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. Critical among these is an inventory of completed or projects underway related to ASGM. The current inventory, based on our survey last year, is found here:

<http://hqweb.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmallScaleGoldMining/Activities/tabid/4488/Default.aspx>

The hope is to augment and expand this list. Ludovic and Susan are helping to compile information for this report, so partners are encouraged to send any information about your projects, so that we can be sure they are reflected in the global inventory.

Regarding sharing information about projects, Gilbert Mbeh from EDUCAF Cameroon mentioned that they are planning to launch an information/awareness raising campaign in October. Gilbert asked where to submit information on this project, in order to best connect to the partnership, and to find partners who could help with experience, information and content. All partners are welcome to contact partnership leads for guidance on this, but perhaps more importantly, all partners are encouraged to use the email list of partners to reach out to find colleagues, ask questions and form alliances. This is what the partnership is all about.

5. ASGM Global Forum

The purpose of the planned ASGM Global Forum is to discuss and formulate pragmatic options for policy and decision makers to consider for the development of the UNEP mercury treaty. This forum is an opportunity to consider how to address mercury related issues in ASGM together with the broader range of issues. The confirmed date for the meeting is 7-9 December 2010, in the Philippines.

The objectives of the forum are to:

- i) Explain the challenges and opportunities surrounding ASGM and how mercury relates to these.
- ii) Describe success stories and why and where they have occurred.
- iii) Discuss how policy and other instruments can play a role in addressing ASGM issues within the context of the global treaty on mercury.
- iv) Strengthen the UNEP ASGM partnership

Participation:

- UNEP has limited funding for some participants.
- About 60-80 participants are expected (ASGM countries, miners, NGOs, IGOs, donor governments)
- The meeting is open for participation. Please contact mercury@unep.org to register.
- Invitations are currently being issued. A cross sector of developing country representatives will be invited and funded.

Organization:

A Steering Committee is being formed to organize the content of the meeting. The Steering Group is currently composed of UNEP, the partnership area leads, the host government, and the Artisanal Gold Council. First meeting is next week, before the PAG meeting. Other interested individuals should contact UNEP.

6. Strategic planning meetings – progress – LA, Asia, West Africa

Laura Barreto of ARM reported on the kick-off for the SAICM-funded Latin American Regional ASGM Strategic Planning project, which took place in La Paz Bolivia last month. The purpose of the meeting was for the two countries participating in the project, Bolivia and Peru, to develop a clear framework for the development of a national strategy for ASGM. Laura reported that the meeting was very good, and that the main objectives were achieved.

However, it is clear that Peru has a stronger team than Bolivia's, at this point. Bolivia's work needs to be reinforced, and the team needs to include organizations and agencies more involved in ASGM.

The meeting included a site visit to Cota Pata, which is an ARM pilot site. It was very useful for participants to learn first-hand and to see the practical challenges presented by mercury and how they are being addressed (through use of retorts etc).

Meeting participants were very happy to see that the projects were viewing the preparation of an ASGM strategy holistically, and not just about focusing exclusively on mercury. In particular, participants were interested in discussing public policies, not just technical approaches, on ASGM that would ultimately lead to a reduction in mercury.

Ecuador also attended the meeting, but only the Ministry of Environment attended, not the Ministry of Non-renewable Natural Resources (i.e., the mining ministry). Nonetheless Ecuador showed strong

interest. Colombia, another important ASGM country in the region was also not there. There was discussion about how to involve both countries in next meeting.

Laura also reported on another event, organized by ARM, on public policy on ASGM in Bolivia. The objective of the meeting was to share experience and discuss how implications of the changing mining law. About 70 people, from miners to other stakeholders, attended. Some miners from Peru were brought to share their experiences. It was not an easy debate, because the issues in Bolivia are very controversial, but it was a very useful discussion nonetheless.

While we did not have time to review the status of the Asia and Anglophone West Africa meetings on the conference call, Brenda Koekkoek provided the following additional information by email, on the status of these other strategic planning efforts:

Asia

- The inception meeting took place 19-21 January 2010 in Manila, organized by the Philippines Government. The meeting report is complete and posted on the UNEP web-site.
- The Philippines and Cambodia have draft plans and are working on developing their final plans. A results workshop will be scheduled towards the end of 2010 / early 2011 to build on lessons learned in the region. A date will be chosen shortly.
- A project in Indonesia is likely to begin in the coming months through funds from the US EPA.

Anglophone West Africa Strategic planning meeting

- Similar to the Francophone West Africa Strategic Planning Project that was held last December in Mali with support from US EPA, UNIDO and the Government of Finland, there are now plans to organize an Anglophone West Africa Strategic Planning Project.
- USEPA is providing funds for this project. Funds have finally been processed and a date should be coordinated soon / relayed to the group.

7. GEF & SAICM project planning

During the last replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), funds were allocated in GEF for mercury work. While some of the money will go to support the INC process, GEF is also interested in

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_14507

