# PRACTICAL SOURCEBOOK ON MERCURY WASTE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL


UNEP

ISWA
International Solid Waste Association

**Editorial team and overall supervision:**
David Piper, Jacob Duer, Eisaku Toda, Desiree Narvaez (Chemicals and Waste Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, United Nations Environment Programme); Jean-Paul Leglise, Jiao Tang, Jost Dittkrist (International Solid Waste Association); Otto Simonett (Zoï Environment Network); Stephen Hoffman

**Cover artwork and layout:**
Carolyne Daniel (Zoï Environment Network)

**Valuable contributions to this paper were received from (in alphabetical order):**
Paul Abernathy, John Adefemi Adegbite, Takafumi Anan, Rodges Ankrah, Natsumi Oka Antweiler, Marianne Baley, Sonja Bauer, Aris Begemann, Michael Bender, Ludovic Bernaudat, Paul de Bruycker, Jorge G. Conte Burrell, Alberto Santos Capra, Surya Chandak, Pam Clark, Victor Andres Escobar, Michael Franck, Uwe Gebert, Ana García González, Sven Hagemann, Karel Haubourdin, Grace Halla, Charles Harder, Dadan Wardhana Hasanuddin, Gregory Helms, Andrew Helps, William H. Hermes, Lars Olof Höglund, Shunichi Honda, Shariar Hossain, Nicolas Humez, Yutaka Ichihashi, Hiroki Iwase, Paul Kalb, Mahmood A Khwaja, Susanne Kummel, Stephanie Laruelle, Teddy Lee, David Lennett, Sheila Logan, Félix A. López, Shigeru Matsubara, Mushtaq Memon, Vilma Morales, Naoko Moritani, Ndèye Fatou Ndiaye, Emmanuel Odjam, Dieter Offenthaler, Kaoru Oka, Oladele Osibanjo, Manuel Ramos Pino, Jim Quinn, Long RIthirak, Christoph Rittersberger, Mitsugu Saito, Geri-Geronimo R. Sanez, Eduardo Sebben, Ibrahim Shafii, Franz Xaver Spachtholz, Zdravko Špirić, Christian Stiels, Jerome Stucki, Yangzhao Sun, Masaru Tanaka, Yasuaki Tanaka, Usman Tariq, Samuel Tetsopgang, Lynn Vendinello, Dolf van Wijk, Eirik Wormstrand, Yasuyuki Yamawake, Mario Yarto, Xuemei Zhu

**Special thanks are also due to:**
International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), UNEP, and its Director Surendra Shrestha; Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan, lead of the Global Mercury Waste Management Partnership Area; Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of the Government of Spain, co-lead of the Global Mercury Supply and Storage Partnership Area



ISBN: 978-92-807-3482-9

Job number: DTI/1873/GE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# LIST OF FIGURES



# LIST OF BOXES

# LIST OF CASE STUDIES

# LIST OF TABLES



# LIST OF PHOTOS

# ABOUT THE SOURCEBOOK

### How was the Sourcebook prepared?

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council (GC), in decision 25/5, requested UNEP to enhance capacity for mercury storage and provide information on the sound management of mercury and mercury wastes. The project for the preparation of the 'Practical Sourcebook on Mercury Waste Storage and Disposal' (hereinafter referred to as the 'Sourcebook') is one of UNEP's responses to this request. The project is a joint initiative of UNEP Chemicals Branch, Division of Technology Industry and Economics (DTIE), UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Drawing on existing work within the Global Mercury Partnership (notably the Partnership areas on waste management, supply and storage, products, and chlor-alkali), including studies, guidance and information material disseminated by the Partnership, as well as other relevant documents, reports and publications, the Sourcebook has been prepared in a consultative process, involving experts from governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). Selected experts were partners of the Global Mercury Partnership, other experts UNEP Chemicals has worked with under the Partnership umbrella, and members of ISWA's Working Group on Hazardous Waste. Their role was to provide input for preparation of the Sourcebook and to give feedback on the various drafts, including at a face-to-face meeting held in Vienna in August 2014.

### Who is the audience?

The main target audience of the Sourcebook are technical

### What is the purpose?

The overall objective is to enhance the capacity of governments – but also industry and the general public – to store and dispose mercury wastes in an environmentally sound manner. The Sourcebook aims to do so by providing information on commercially available storage and disposal technologies. This document is envisaged to address practical questions such as: What are mercury wastes? Where are they generated? How can mercury wastes be recovered and recycled? Which options and experiences exist for the storage and disposal of mercury wastes? The Sourcebook synthesizes existing knowledge in the field of storage and disposal to provide answers to these questions. It will thus allow relevant stakeholders to make informed choices and ensure the environmentally sound management (ESM) of mercury wastes.

### What is the format?

The Sourcebook is a practical introduction to mercury waste storage and disposal. The Sourcebook should not be used as guidance. Other sources, such as the 'Updated Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of, Containing, or Contaminated with Mercury or Mercury Compounds'[1] (hereinafter referred to as Basel Technical Guidelines) provide greater detail regarding mercury waste storage and disposal and are cross-referenced in this document. The updated Basel Technical Guidelines were adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Basel Convention at its twelfth meeting in May 2015.

### What is the scope?