

**Specific International Programme, Round 1
Final Report**



Project ID: 2018/1/A/LSO

Country/Region: Lesotho / Africa

Project Title: Strengthening institutional capacity in the development of a phase-out and phase down strategy for mercury added products in Lesotho

Duration: 36 months

Organization/Institution delivering the project: Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture

Amount: USD 200,550

PCA starting date: 10/05/2019

Reporting period: 01/07/2022 to 31/12/2022

Amount of last instalment received: USD 7 000 _____

Amount of total instalments received: USD 187 000 _____

Project Focal Point Name: Moleboheng Julieta Petlane

Date: 15/12/2022

Signature: 

1. Summary of Project Implementation Status

Describe in one to two pages the (i) the status of implementation of the project at the time of reporting, (ii) progress towards achieving the project's stated objective according to Annex A, and (iii) overall performance remarks and highlights. Note Section 2 below captures activities and milestone dates as per the project workplan and activity-based budget.

(i) the status of implementation of the project at the time of reporting,
All activities have been completed.

(ii) progress towards achieving the project's stated objective according to Annex A,
We have achieved the project objective and completed the following activities in their respective proposed measures

- Measure 1: Strengthening Minamata national coordination mechanism

We conducted 7 coordination meetings for the national coordinating mechanism during the life of the project. These were quarterly meetings of which were intended to provide project progress, discuss challenges and advice on way forward for upcoming activities.

- Measure 2: Conduct inventories to evaluate mercury added products' extend of use

Data collectors were trained on the UNEP Level 2 inventory toolkit, data collected and the inventory completed.

- *Measure 3: Conduct market research on alternatives.*

The Market research study has been completed.

- *Measure 4: Conduct cost benefit analysis for switching to alternatives.*

The Cost Benefit Study has been completed.

- *Measure 6: Undertaking awareness raising activities.*

We have successfully conducted awareness raising seminars for the following different stakeholders; women in science, parliamentarians, traditional healers and NGOs, Port officials, Dentists, procurement officials and major chain suppliers of goods and medical equipment. We conducted radio programmes on mercury, the Minamata Convention, impacts of mercury, mercury added products and their alternatives. We also undertook an awareness campaign that was rolled out to all the 10 Districts of the country. The campaign composed of a workshop, a roadshow and a seminar for midwives and pregnant women in each district, and of which awareness raising materials were handed out to the public.

- *Measure 7: Monitoring and review/evaluation and financial audit.*

These activities are ongoing and the terminal evaluation will be completed by the Secretariat, while the final audit will be completed by the Ministry's auditor.

(i) overall performance remarks and highlights.

The overall performance of the project was excellent as it achieved the impact that was envisaged. All the awareness raising activities were very successful with good participation, engagement and commitment from various stakeholders. A roadmap, going forward was also developed by stakeholders and the general public were also able to make their input. The studies conducted were well received by relevant line Ministries and they have committed to take action on phasing out mercury added products by 2025 as per our extension.

2. Performance with regard to Outputs, Activities, and Milestones

Capture here the activities implemented, per Output heading, as were planned to be undertaken during this reporting period according to milestone dates (Month x/Year y) in the agreed Logframe, Workplan, and Activity-based Budget as set forth in Annex A. For Final Report, include all previous output and activity reporting for a complete listing.

	Name of activity planned for this reporting period	Planned timeframe for activity completion per project logframe	Status – Attained, Partially Attained, Not Attained?	If not attained, please describe why and what mitigation actions already taken or being taken. Continue text below chart as needed.
Output 1 Engage stakeholders				
M1	Hold inception workshop	6 month/ year 1	Attained	Held an inception workshop in October 2020.
M2	Hold coordination meetings	6-12 month/ year 1-3	Attained	Held 7 coordination meetings during the life of the project.
M3	Hold validation workshop	3 month/ year 4	Attained	Held the validation workshop in November 2022.
Output 2 Conduct inventories on mercury added products				
M1	Conduct inventory training for data collectors and define scope of inventory	6 month/ year 1	Attained	Held in October 2020.
M2	Undertake the inventory	6 month/ year 1	Attained	The inventory is complete.
M3	Analyse the data and compile report	6 month/ year 1	Attained	The report is complete.
Output 3 Undertake market research on alternatives				
M1	Advertise for consultancy	6 month/ year 1	Attained	The task is completed and the Market Research report is available.
M2	Develop methodology and finalise the inception report for presentation at the inception meeting	12 month/ year 1	Attained	
M3	Collect and analyse data on mercury in products, mercury added products and their alternatives to formulate the respective market research analysis	12 month/ year 1	Attained	

M4	Undertake stakeholder consultations to build on the draft report	12 month/ year 1	Attained	
M5	Hold validation meeting for the consultancy	12 month/ year 1	Attained	
Output 4 Conduct cost benefit analysis of switching to alternatives				
M1	Advertise for consultancy	12 month/ year 1	Attained	The task is completed and the Cost benefit analysis report is available.
M2	Develop methodology and finalise the inception report for presentation at the inception meeting	6 month/ year 2	Attained	
M3	Collect and analyse data on mercury added products, their alternatives, costs and benefits, risks and assumption associated with switching to alternatives	6 month/ year 2	Attained	
M4	Undertake stakeholder consultations to build on the draft report	6 month/ year 2	Attained	
M5	Hold validation meeting for the consultancy	3 month/ year 4	Attained	
Output 5 Develop a National Strategy for phasing out/down mercury added products				
M1	Advertise for consultancy	6 month/ year 2	Attained	The Phaseout Strategy is complete.
M2	Develop methodology and finalise the inception report for presentation at the inception meeting	3 month/ year 4	Attained	
M3	Undertake stakeholder consultations	3 month/ year 4	Attained	

M4	Develop the National Strategy for phasing out/down mercury added products and switching to alternatives, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for stakeholders	3 month/ year 4	Attained	
M5	Hold validation meeting for the consultancy	3 month/year 4	Attained	
Output 6 Conduct awareness raising activities				
M1	Develop awareness raising materials to be used in the training and for dissemination	12 month/ year 2	Attained	All materials were developed and disseminated.
M2	Conduct trainings to stakeholders (Customs, Other Port officials, Health sector, Major chain suppliers, Procurement officials, Major end-users)	3 month/ year 4	Attained	All planned awareness raising activities completed.
Output 7 Undertake project evaluation and financial audit				
M1	Conduct project evaluation	6 month/ year 4	Not attained	Preparations for terminal evaluation are underway and will be undertaken by the Secretariat.
M2	Conduct financial audit	6 month/ year 3	Not attained	The financial audit is in progress and will be finalized by the Ministry's auditor.

3. Challenges, management actions and risk mitigation plans

Please provide information on any (i) challenges faced in implementing the workplan and delays if any, and (ii) management and mitigation actions taken.

(i) Challenges faced in implementing the workplan and delays if any,

- The COVID-19 pandemic caused delays as some meetings and awareness raising activities could not be carried out as per schedule.
- Procurement of the Cost Benefit consultant was very lengthy as there was readvertisement and re-evaluation until management could agree on the suitable consultant.
- For output 5, it has been a challenge acquiring data in order to monetise environmental costs and benefits in order to finalise the Cost Benefit Analysis study.
- For output 6, we had hoped of pitching the awareness campaign to the level of having Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Seeiso being the ambassador for the whole campaign. Nevertheless, the campaign was very impactful and successfully lead by the Principal Secretary.

(ii) Management and mitigation actions taken

- The extension granted was very helpful as we could catch up on lost time.
- For output 5, we sought assistance from the Bureau of Statistics and ultimately settled to a qualitative report.
- For output 6, the Principal Secretary was tasked to lead the launch, which was on the 27th May 2022.

4. Resources and budget

Please provide (i) a narrative description of financial implementation during the reporting period, (ii) percentage of total funds spent during to date, and (iii) explanation of any delays in spending the funds, any other remarks on the overall project budget.

(i) Narrative description of financial implementation during the reporting period

Output	Previous reporting period	Previous reporting periods (Cumulative)	Current reporting period	From start to current reporting period
1 Coordination	6%	91%	9%	100%
2 Inventories	0	79%	21%	100%
3 Market	0	97%	3%	100%
4 Cost	73%	100%	0	100%
5 Strategy	35%	40%	60%	100%
6 Awareness	10%	76%	24%	100%
7 Audit	0	0	30%	30%

(ii) Percentage of total funds spent during to date: 90%

5. Communication-related material

Please provide information on any project outcomes that could be used as a basis for the Minamata Secretariat to develop communication material and share widely (including on websites, newsletters etc.). Information on any practices and innovations used in the project that can be showed-cased or highlighted is welcome. Any human-interest story would also be welcome. Please also enclose links, pictures, videos, publications, etc. in the attachments section.

Project reports and sample communication materials are attached.

6. Looking forward

Please inform us of (i) any possible changes you foresee in the approved workplan/log frame in the upcoming reporting period, and (ii) any possible challenges that are already anticipated in implementation.

Project has been completed.

7. List of Attachments, if any

1. Inventory report
2. Market Research study
3. Cost Benefit Analysis study
4. Phase out strategy
5. Z card brochure
6. A1 poster
7. Other materials