

GENEVA ENVIRONMENT DIALOGUES
COVID-19 IMPACTS ON THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

Minamata Convention and COVID-19

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COVID-19
RESPONSE

UNEP's COVID-19 Response



Working With the Environment to Protect People

UNEP's COVID-19 Response

The medical & humanitarian emergency phase

Cooperation with BRS Conventions on medical waste

A transformational change for nature and people

Minamata Convention enhances ecosystem services

Investing to build back better

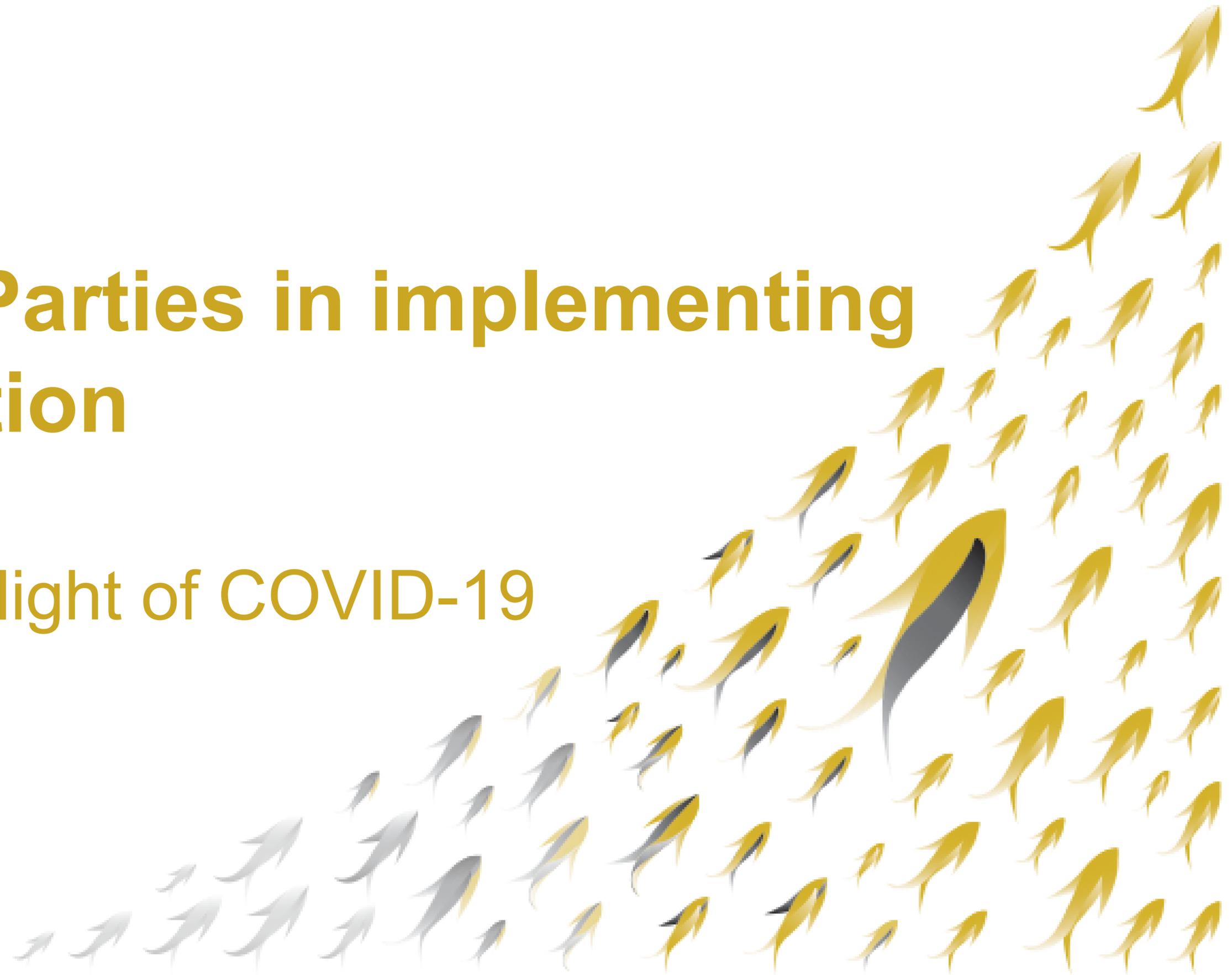
Comprehensive approach to artisanal gold mining sector

Modernizing global environmental governance

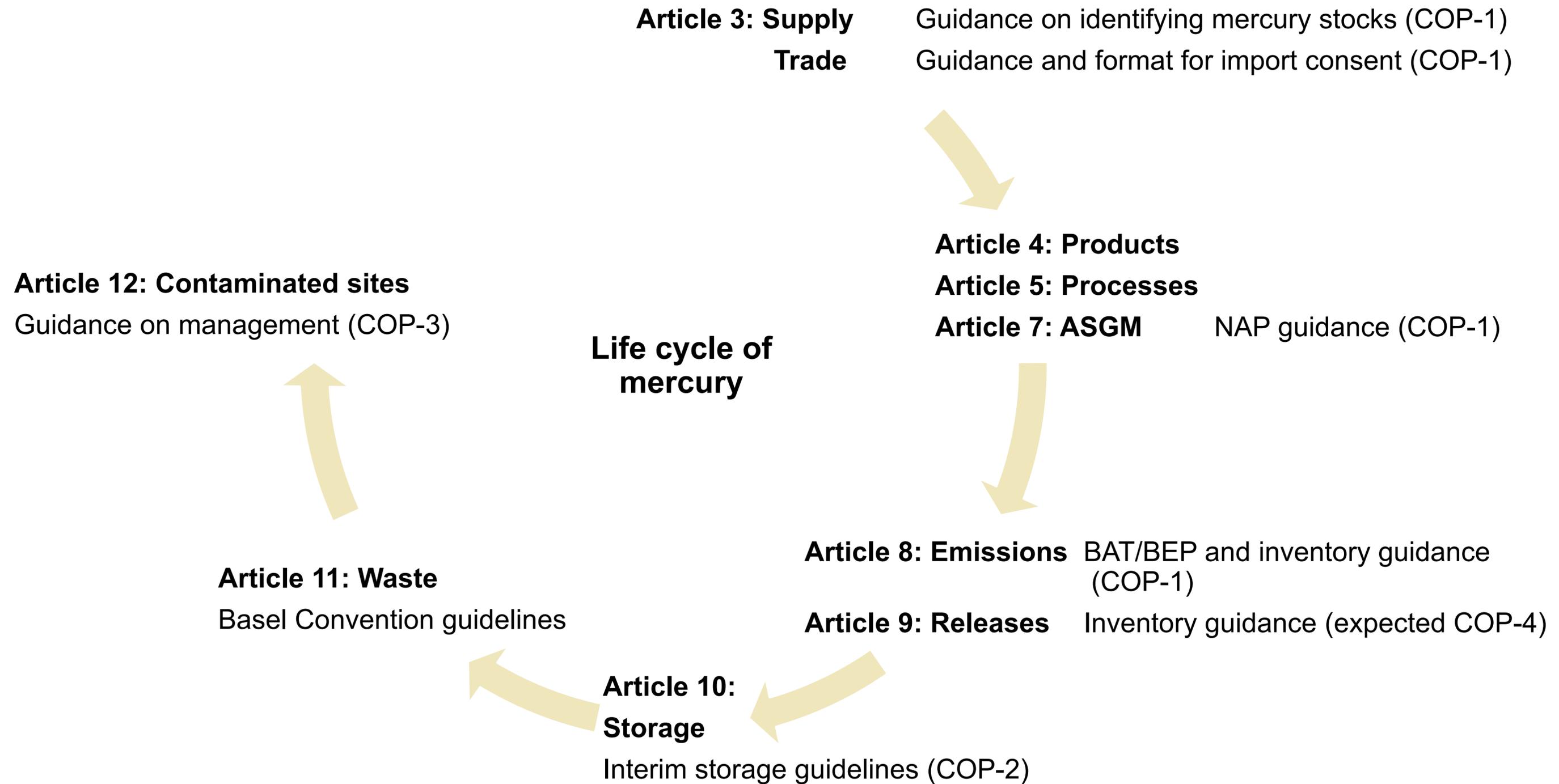
Virtual meetings supporting intergovernmental processes

Support to Parties in implementing the Convention

– Implication in light of COVID-19



The Minamata Convention sets out measures for the whole life cycle of mercury



The Minamata Convention is supported by a Financial Mechanism



Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Assessments, inventories, national action plans, implementation projects...



Financial mechanism

Specific International Programme

Capacity building and technical assistance



Special Programme

Institutional strengthening



Related fund

Financial mechanism to implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Global Environment Facility

GEF-7 portfolio: USD206 million indicatively allocated to Minamata

Solid progress on programming in 2019 and 2020: by mid-2020 55% of the indicative allocation has been programmed

Date: April 23, 2020

Dear GEF Council Members, Operational Focal Points and GEF Agencies,

You may recall that I informed you by mail dated March 21, 2020 of our decision to extend by three months the deadlines for CEO Endorsements and Approvals for projects approved after the effectiveness date of the updated GEF Policy on Cancellation (March 1, 2019).

I am writing to inform you that I have decided to apply the same three month extension of deadlines to all projects approved to date. The previous GEF Policy on Cancellation contains provisions for extensions under extraordinary circumstances that are identical to those in the updated Policy. The current situation with COVID-19 fits within these circumstances. The extension communicated in my earlier message applies to deadlines for all such projects seeking CEO Endorsement or Approval.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will come back to you in due course if more time needs to be added to this extension, in the event that the extraordinary conditions of the pandemic affecting the work continue to prevail. As noted also in my earlier communication, there is no need to submit any notification signed by either the GEF OFP or the Agency.

Naoko Ishii, GEF CEO and Chairperson



Making a world of difference
in small-scale gold mining

planetGOLD works to make sm
cleaner, and more profitable. Ou
of gold from small-scale miner

Where we are making a difference



Update

A snapshot of
COVID-19 and its
impact on
Guyana's ASGM
sector

Our project team in Guyana reports that as the country is in the relatively early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak, gold prices have increased, including at the local level, and that the mining sector has been declared an essential service. They also note that as oil prices collapse and the gold price is expected to rise further, this will likely drive an expansion in the country's ASGM sector.



Specific International Programme

Steady implementation of projects approved in the First Round (2018)

Good progress to initiate implementation of projects approved in the Second Round (2019)

5 Projects Selected by the Governing Board for the First Round

Argentina: Capacity Building Programme for the implementation of the Minamata Convention. Read more about the project [here](#).

Armenia: Strengthening capacity to promote phasing-out of mercury-added products (lamps) in Armenia. Read more about the project [here](#).

Benin: Improvement of management framework for mercury-containing products and wastes. Read more about the project [here](#).

Iran: Implementing of Minamata Convention on Mercury Management in Chlor-Alkali Plants in the Petrochemical Industry

Lesotho: Strengthening institutional capacity in the development of a phase-out and phase down strategy for mercury-added products in Lesotho. Read more about the project [here](#).

10 Projects Selected by the Governing Board for the Second Round

- **Antigua and Barbuda:** Facilitating capacity-building with technical assistance and technology transfer for managing mercury in the Caribbean
- **Ecuador:** Project to strengthen capacities in the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Ecuador
- **Ghana:** Strengthening Ghana's Health Sector for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- **Indonesia:** Improving Health Risk Control of Mercury Exposure in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) and Surrounding Areas by Developing the "Participatory Approach" Model
- **Iran:** Capacity Building for Effective Implementation of Minamata Convention Focusing on Mercury Inventory
- **Moldova:** Support to post-ratification of the Minamata Convention to the Republic of Moldova by building phase down capacities and reducing risks associated with mercury
- **Nigeria:** Capacity strengthening for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Nigeria
- **Peru:** Strengthening capacities to control emissions and releases of mercury in Peru
- **Sri Lanka:** Strengthening National Capacity for Phasing Out Mercury Added Products and Environmentally Sound Mercury Containing Waste Management in Sri Lanka
- **Zambia:** To strengthen the Institutional Capacity for Zambia to implement the obligations of the Minamata Convention by reducing the presence of mercury in vulnerable populations as provided for under Articles 16 and 18



Special Programme

Time left to apply for Special Programme funding

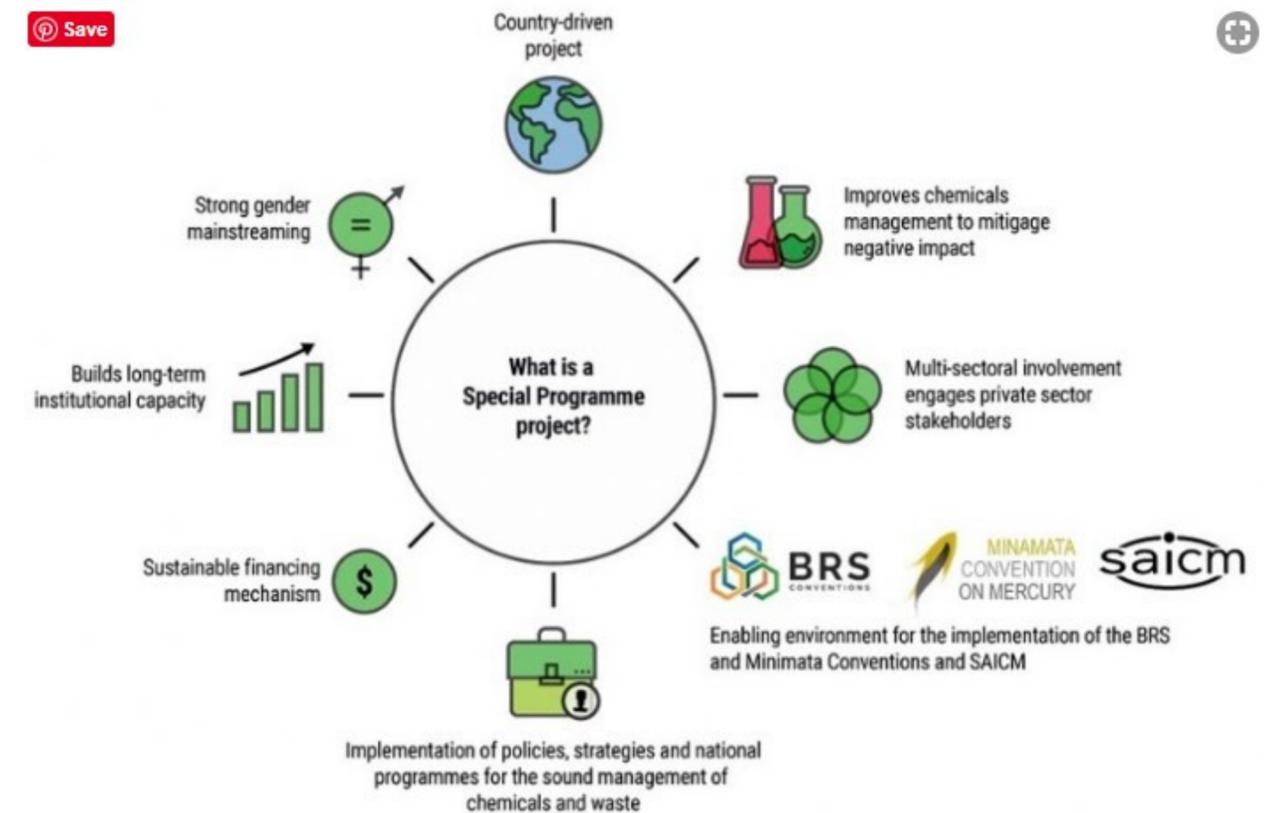
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Applying for funding through the Special Programme

Please note that in light of the current COVID-19 situation, the Executive Board of the Special Programme has made the decision to extend the deadline for the submission of applications to 4 September 2020.

The Special Programme Secretariat has prepared a [Guidance on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in the context of COVID-19](#) to provide information to countries that may wish to submit projects that focus on the implementation of activities which address existing systemic weaknesses and gaps related to the sound management of chemicals and waste that have been highlighted following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The fourth round of applications was launched on 29 November 2019 in the margins of Minamata Convention third Conference of the Parties. Governments that are interested in submitting an application during the fourth round of applications are invited to prepare their project concept, ahead of the 4 September 2020 deadline, by consulting with ministries and stakeholders to identify national priorities, gaps and challenges to facilitate and enable the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management ... [read more](#)

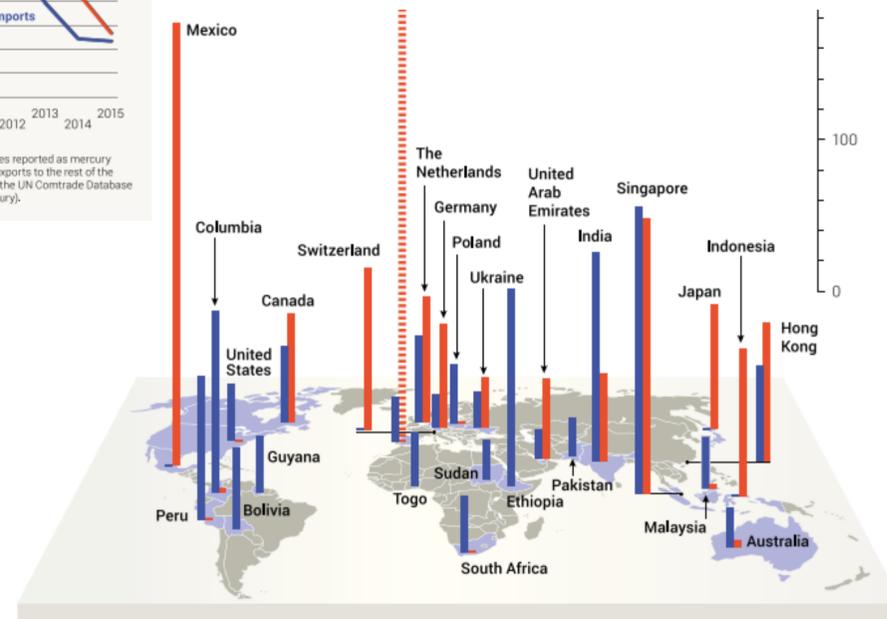
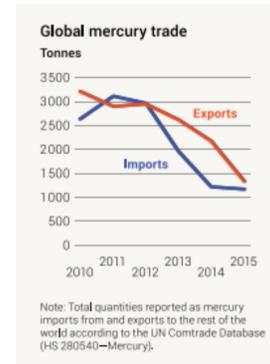


Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Programme of the Minamata Convention



**2019-2020
programming
extended to
December
2021**

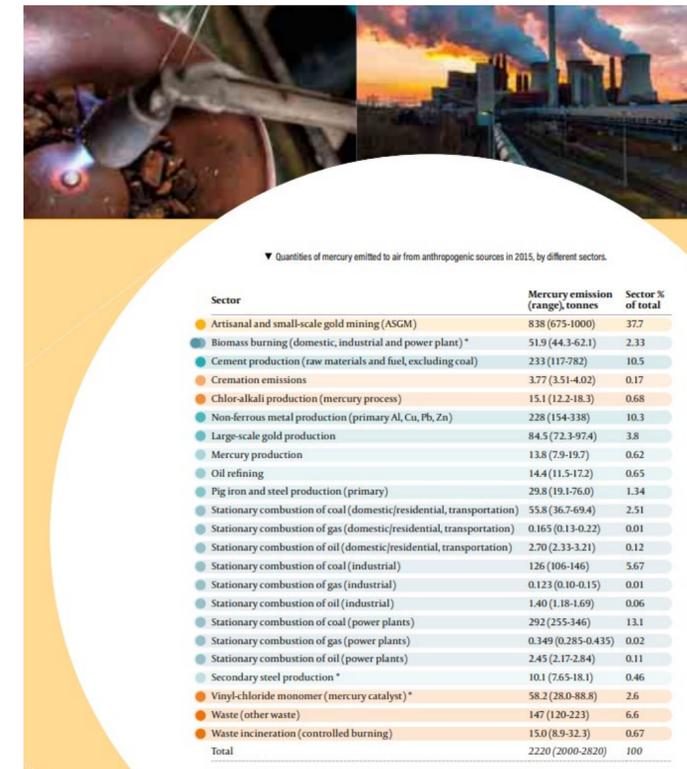
Article 3: Trade



2019 Workshop to share knowledge among Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru on mercury trade

2020-2021 Workshops for Asia, Africa (anglophone), Africa (francophone)
National pilot on confiscated mercury (Peru)
Additional national pilot(s) on identified trade challenges

Article 8: Emissions



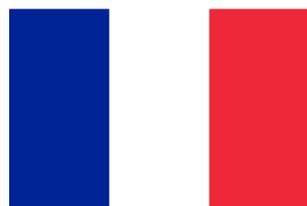
2019 Asia-Pacific regional workshop on the reduction of mercury emissions from coal combustion in Viet Nam

2020-2021 Workshops for Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe
National pilots on identified emissions control challenges



Looking forward: Strengthening Digital Learning and Knowledge Exchange

Delivering capacity building and technical assistance support to the Minamata Parties in light of COVID-19 restrictions has prompted the Minamata Secretariat to engage with donors and experts on how to best strengthen the Secretariat's ability to deliver more digital learning and knowledge exchange opportunities for 2020-2021.



Reflection and Insights gained so far

Reflection and Insights gained so far				
"Cost effectiveness means more people can access the training"	"Digital learning is more gender equitable than face-to-face learning"	"Well-designed options allow for active learning ... but offline and low-bandwidth options need to be carefully designed so as not to lower the learning and exchange experience"	"Transparency in knowledge sharing supports overall implementation efforts"	"Teaching is much more than presenting information Space need to be provided for experiential learning"

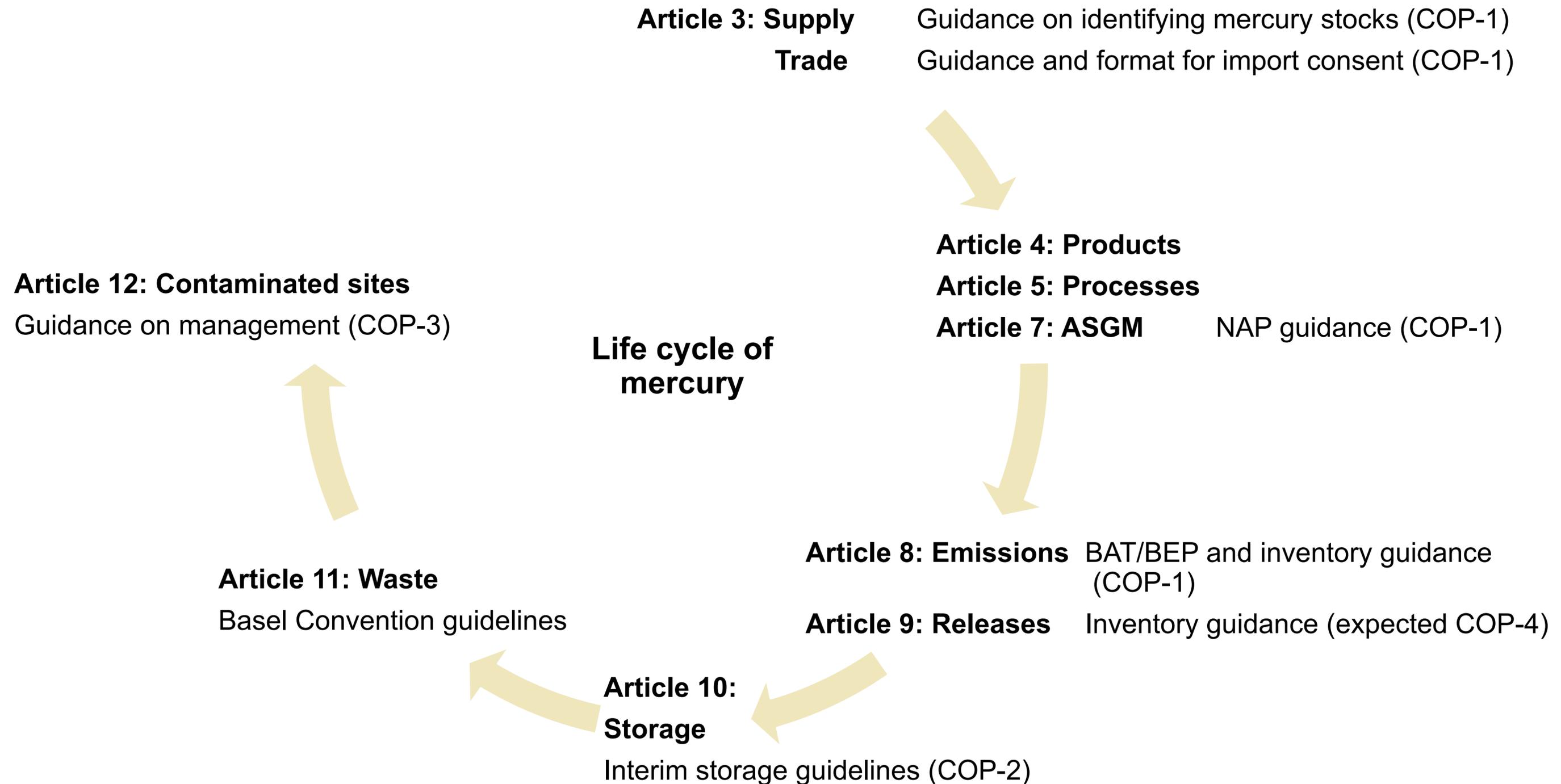


Intersessional Work towards COP-4

– Implication in light of COVID-19



The Minamata Convention sets out measures for the whole life cycle of mercury



* See [Web page on forms and guidance](#)

Select COP-3 decisions

- MC-3/1 Review of Annexes A and B
- MC-3/2 Dental amalgam
- MC-3/3 Customs codes
- MC-3/4 Releases of mercury
- MC-3/5 Mercury waste thresholds
- MC-3/10 Arrangements for the first effectiveness evaluation

* See [COP-3 report](#)



Review of Annexes A and B



- Annex A lists mercury-added products to be phased out by 2020 – batteries, switches, lamps, cosmetics, thermometers, etc.
- Annex B lists industrial processes using mercury to be addressed – chlor-alkali production, vinyl chloride monomer production, etc.
- COP is to review these annexes no later than 2022.
- COP-3 established an Ad hoc Group of Experts for the review, which would meet in June 2020.
- The group met online on 7 May 2020, and decided to continue to work electronically, reviewing the information on alternative products and processes submitted by Parties and others.
- The group will meet online again on 3 June 2020. It will consider the possibility of a face-to-face meeting for 2021.

* See [Web page on intersessional work](#)

Mercury releases



- Article 9 requires parties to control releases of mercury to land and water from relevant point sources.
- COP-2 established a Group of Technical Experts to develop guidance on release inventories, best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP)
- COP-3 requested the group to develop:
 - Guidance on release inventories
 - Proposed category of relevant point sources
 - Road map for developing BAT/BEP guidance
- The group met online on 7 May 2020, and decided to continue to work electronically. It will meet online again on 30 June 2020.

* See [Web page on intersessional work](#)

Mercury waste thresholds



- Article 11 requires COP to establish thresholds for mercury waste. Parties are obliged to manage waste above those thresholds in an environmentally sound manner.
- COP-2 established a Group of Technical Experts to develop thresholds.
- Based on the report of the group, COP-3 decided that no thresholds are needed for waste “consisting of” or “containing” mercury.
- COP-3 requested the group to develop thresholds for waste “contaminated with” mercury, convening one face-to-face meeting.
- The group met online on 12 May 2020, and decided to continue to work electronically.
- The group will meet online again on 18 June 2020. It will consider the possibility of a face-to-face meeting for 2021.

* See [Web page on intersessional work](#)

Effectiveness evaluation



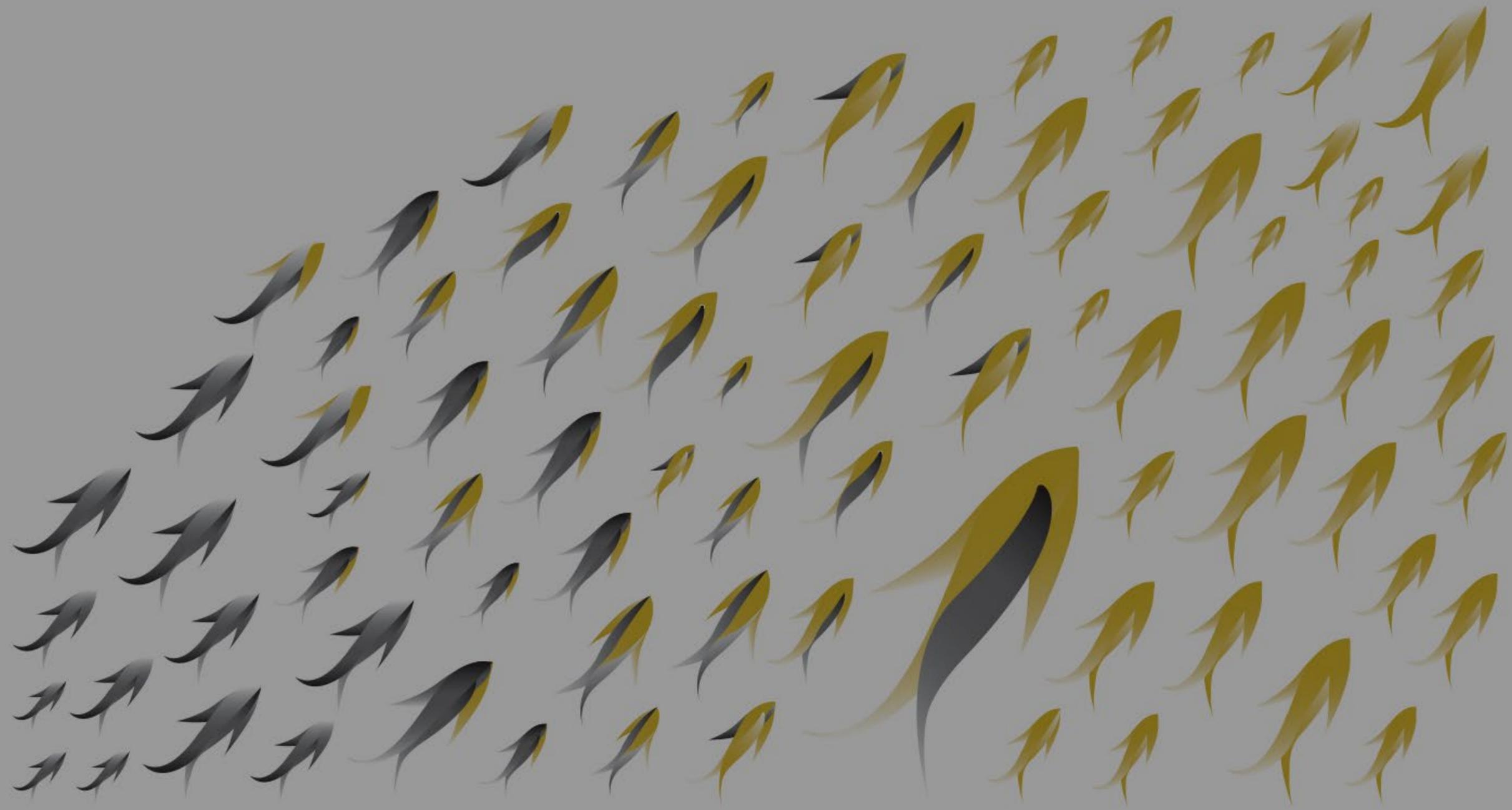
- Article 22 requires COP to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention, beginning no later than 2023 and periodically thereafter.
- COP-1 established an Ad hoc Group of Technical Experts to develop effectiveness evaluation framework and monitoring arrangements.
- COP-3 requested the Secretariat to:
 - Compile the views of Parties on the proposed indicators
 - Work on monitoring guidance
 - Work on a mercury trade, supply and demand report and a synthesis report of national reporting under Article 21.
- The Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, developed work schedules for indicators and monitoring guidance

* See [Web page on intersessional work](#)

Effectiveness evaluation - Schedule



Indicators	Monitoring guidance
<p>Mid Sep 2020: Online information session on proposed indicators</p> <p>30 Nov: Submission of Parties' initial views</p> <p>Jan 2021: Exchange session on the initial views</p> <p>31 Mar: Submission of Parties' views</p> <p>Jul: COP-4 document on proposed indicators finalized.</p>	<p>10 June 2020: Online information session on annotated outline</p> <p>Early Sep: First webinar of experts contributing to the drafting</p> <p>Sep-Dec: Thematic online and face-to-face meetings of identified experts</p> <p>Jan-Mar 2021: Commenting on the draft guidance</p> <p>May-Jun: Final consultation meeting</p> <p>Jul: Draft guidance finalized for COP-4</p>



MAKE MERCURY HISTORY