

Latin America and Caribbean Mercury Storage Project Inception Workshop
22-23 April 2009, Montevideo, Uruguay

Answers to Guide the Discussion:

CENTRAL AMERICA

Question	Panama	Costa Rica	Nicaragua	Mexico	Honduras	Comments
Do you have a national mercury reduction action plan in place? If yes, do you have the relevant policies/regulation in place? What are your current activities (examples include inventory, awareness raising activities, recycling, waste management , 1	Panama has its national mercury inventory in place with an associated Action Plan (UNITAR assisted)	Costa Rica has developed a "Reduction of Mercury Use in Hospitals pilot project", however, no national reduction action plan in place yet. This pilot project was limited to National Children's Hospital. In 2009 it was extended to the Hospital of San Ramon and will be extended to other Costa Rican hospitals. Four interactive plans were developed: inventory, storage, training and	Has no plan in place. They have inventory activities. Memorandum of understanding to conduct mercury inventory with UNITAR is underway	Has a Regional Plan of Mercury. There is an inventory and a Market Report. Pilot project in Hospitals	Has no National Plan. Has a pilot project in one hospital. They will have a storage site and studying the feasibility	

		<p>mercury reduction and medical equipment replacement. There are temporary storage sites (one in each hospital: 24.2 kg of mercury in Children's and 5.2 kg of mercury in San Ramon, stored in high density plastic bottles.)</p> <p>Environmental regulations in place:</p> <p>DE27000-MINAE: List and characteristics of industrial hazardous waste</p> <p>DE27001-MINAE: Management of industrial hazardous waste</p> <p>DE27002-MINAE: Extraction of toxics and hazardous components from industrial hazardous</p>				
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		<p>waste. Maximum mercury limit for PECT test: 0.2 mg/L</p> <p>DE25991-S: Potable Water Quality. Maximum mercury limit: 0.001 mg/L</p> <p>DE26042-S: Wastewater. Maximum mercury limit: 0.01 mg/L</p>				
<p>2. Is your country a net exporter of mercury at the present time? Do you know which countries receive this mercury and for what purpose this mercury is used? Are the uses likely to contribute to</p>	<p>No exports. Imports hg containing products from Costa Rica. Imported in 2004 - 30.27</p>	<p>Costa Rica does not have a National Inventory</p> <p>Mercury pesticides are not used in our country because they are prohibited.</p> <p>PROCOMER (Exterior Commerce Promoter of Costa Rica, from spanish, Promotora de Comercio Exterior de Costa Rica) said that for 2007 and</p>	<p>No Plan, presence of mining activities</p>	<p>Exports to LA countries</p>	<p>No control or registry</p>	

<p>the global mercury pollution problem?</p>		<p>2008 there were no exports of elemental mercury (code: 2805400000) or batteries (code: 8506300000). There were exports:</p> <p>In 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fluorescent lamps (code: 8539311011): US\$ 68,931.6 (10,667.0 kg) -TVs (code: 8528729000): US\$ 4,512.0 (220.0kg) <p>In 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fluorescent lamps (code: 8539311011): US\$ 40,164.9 (9,348.9 kg) -TVs (code: 8528729000): US\$ 				
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		<p>23,170.5 (3,786.0kg)</p> <p>The countries that received TVs are: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Perú, Panamá, El Salvador, Estados Unidos, Colombia.</p> <p>The countries that received fluorescent lamps are: Republica Dominicana, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panamá, Jamaica, Guyana, Honduras, Cuba, Chile, México, Puerto Rico,</p>				
33 Can your country effectively make use of the mercury	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	The tool should consider also Hg mercury containing

storage "tool" to encourage further reduction in either domestic or global mercury demand?						spent products and waste
4 Without making any commitment now, can you say whether your country officials would be open to the idea of storing excess mercury?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Involve other sectors and promote risk communication and risk management among them. Link with Stockholm NIPs
55 What are the main technical (or other) aspects of mercury storage necessary to ensure public health and safety? To ensure	Human resources and monitoring, methods. Use the existing capacity in the countries	Technical assessment needs. Environmental Impact Assessment	Depend on the inventory results	Risk study, economic feasibility. Technical meetings	Environmental Impact assessment	The pressure of the legally binding instrument will influence. Strengthen and improve legislation

environmental responsibility?						
6 What (other) social considerations need to be considered with regard to mercury storage?	Public awareness campaigns and Risk communications and global compact. Inform to all sectors. Negotiation with communities	Involve key stakeholders (communities, industry, academy, environmental and health ministries, etc) and create a plan for training and education in the proper handling and storage of mercury: identify risk situations, properly disposal of mercury containing products, actions to reduce mercury, benefits of long term mercury storage	Involve the National Environmental sector and Chemical safety Commission	Involve all sectors	Involve the Council of Chemical safety, Universities, Private sectors	
7 What financial options could be available to deal with storage costs?	No economic options Feasibility studies will determine the economical	No economic options Feasibility studies will determine the economical needs.	No economic options Feasibility studies will determine the economical	No economic options Feasibility studies will determine the economical needs	No economic options Feasibility studies will determine the economical needs	Involve the producer into the burden. Polluter pays principle. Involve

	needs		needs			recyclers. Consider taxes to products. Take back programs
8 What political considerations need to be considered with regard to mercury storage?		Create new policies/regulations for the proper construction (environmental impact assessment), storage site conditions, storage site administration and mercury handling				
9 What legal and regulatory issues will need to be addressed in order to implement mercury storage facilities?		-Difficulty in finding a proper site for the storage facility -Lack of political or communities support				
10 What		Difficulty in finding				

could be possible barriers to the successful implementation of mercury storage facilities?		a proper site for the storage facility -Lack of political or communities support				
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**Taller de inicio del proyecto de almacenamiento de mercurio en
América Latina y el Caribe**

22-23 de abril de 2009, Montevideo, Uruguay

Preguntas para guiar el intercambio

MESA 1.

Cada subgrupo nominará un moderador y un relator¹. El moderador guiará al grupo utilizando las siguientes preguntas:

1. ¿Tiene su país un plan nacional de reducción de mercurio? Si su respuesta es afirmativa, ¿cuenta su país con normativa o políticas? ¿Cuáles son las actividades que están actualmente realizando (por ejemplo: inventarios, actividades de sensibilización, reciclado, manejo de desechos, etc)?

Actualmente Chile y Ecuador han desarrollado Planes Nacionales sobre la base de los resultados del inventario y las prioridades identificadas: actividad minera y productos de consumo.

Se han realizado actividades aisladas en Venezuela, Colombia, Perú y Bolivia.

Brasil, Uruguay y Argentina no disponen de plan pero han desarrollado algunas actividades en reducción mercurio en hospitales y Argentina ha iniciado un inventario de emisiones de mercurio.

2. ¿Es su país exportador de mercurio? ¿conoce cuáles son los países que reciben el mercurio que usted exporta y para que se usa en el país importador? ¿son estos usos potenciales contribuyentes al problema global de contaminación de mercurio?

No hay ningún país exportador, la mayoría importa y existen evidencia de importación “ilegal”.

3. ¿Puede su país efectivamente usar la “herramienta” de almacenamiento de mercurio para promover una reducción gradual en la demanda doméstica o global de mercurio?

Se identificaron problemas regionales diferentes: presencia de mercurio elemental en algunos países: plantas de cloro álcali y minería; y productos conteniendo mercurio que en muchos casos es un problema actual importante.

Por lo que se considera importante que se pueda incluir este tema dentro del proyecto como una necesidad de la región.

Complementario a lo anterior, se mencionan los siguientes problemas en la región:

¹ El relator tomará nota y presentará al grupo los resultados de la discusión, luego el relator o quien el grupo decida hará la presentación al plenario.

- Problema de relaves generados en la actividad minera
- Exceso de mercurio, probablemente lleve a un bajo costo, por lo tanto, el exceso se debería almacenar, al mismo tiempo la restricción de mercurio, va a incentivar el contrabando.

En cuanto al destino final del mercurio elemental se está de acuerdo en la disposición del mismo pero no se descarta la posibilidad de exportación a otros países.

Cada país debiera buscar una solución al mercurio contenido en sus productos dentro de su mismo país.

4. Sin hacer compromisos en este momento, ¿puede usted decir si su país está abierto a la idea de almacenar el exceso de mercurio?

La región está de acuerdo sin hacer compromisos.

5. ¿Cuáles son los principales aspectos técnicos (u otros) identificados como necesarios para garantizar seguridad y salud pública? y ¿para garantizar responsabilidad ambiental?
6. ¿Cuáles son las consideraciones sociales (y otras) a tener en cuenta para el almacenamiento de mercurio?
7. ¿Cuáles son las opciones financieras que podrían estar disponibles para cubrir los costos de almacenamiento?
8. ¿Qué aspectos políticos son necesarios considerar para el almacenamiento de mercurio?
9. ¿Qué aspectos legales y normativos son necesarios considerar para implementar la instalación de depósitos para el almacenamiento de mercurio?

Es claro que es un desafío la instalación de una estructura de este tipo.

Se considera importante tratar los temas técnicos, sociales, financieros, legales y políticos en forma conjunta. De acuerdo al marco normativo que establezca cada país esto reflejara los costos asociados.

10. ¿Cuáles pueden ser las posibles barreras para la implementación exitosa de depósitos para el almacenamiento de mercurio?
 - Definición de un lugar adecuado (características técnicas asociadas a las condiciones topográficas, etc.)

- Falta de apoyo Político
- Falta de Políticas para definir y establecer Recursos Financieros
- Rechazo de la comunidad
- Falta de conocimientos técnicos

Id	Question	Cuba	Barbados	Trinidad and Tobago	Dominican Republic	Suriname	Comments
1.1	Do you have a national mercury reduction action plan in place?	National Environmental Strategy since 1997 and within the programme of the strategy, mercury management is included. For example, right now alternatives for a chlor-alkali industry are approved and waiting for funding. Also they are working to reduce use of mercury in dental amalgams.	No mercury reduction plan.	There is no action plan in place.	The country works since 2003 on this. The first activity was the creation of an interinstitutional coordinating committee.	Suriname does not have an action plan on mercury in place. Currently a special permit for importing elemental mercury. However there is illegal import.	
1.2	If yes, do you have the relevant policies/regulation in place?	NA	NA	NA	We have regulations for mercury management (related to the environment, safety and health and work).	But they are working on this and on legislation for mercury reduction, specially in small scale gold mining.	

1.3	<p>What are your current activities (examples include inventory, awareness raising activities, recycling, waste management, etc)?</p>	<p>Cuba does not have yet a mercury emissions inventory. There are isolated activities, but not integrated in a Specific Mercury National Plan.</p>	<p>Current activities include an inventory of hazardous waste, mercury is included. Some activities on awareness raising are in place. Mercury is a concern topic, regarding fluorescent lamps and hospital devices, because of their final disposal and hazards and risks for people managing these products. It is necessary to have a training programme on handling, storage and disposal.</p>	<p>However, there are voluntary initiatives to phase out mercury in paints and fluorescent lamps. Currently we are conducting hazardous waste inventories (as defined in Basel Convention) and drafting hazardous waste management rules.</p>	<p>Awareness raising activities have started in the private sector to deal with fluorescent lamps in a rational and environmental way; some have bought lamp crushing equipment and are storing waste. A polluted site has been cleaned and they are storing 2,825 m³ polluted soil temporarily.</p> <p>A total of 7954.6 kg of polluted waste containing mercury is stored in containers for future export.</p> <p>We do not have an inventory but we do have information of some of the sources such as gold mining, lighting and mercury thermometers.</p>	<p>There are several projects with WWF and academia to measure mercury in fish and population. There is also a project with WWF with small-scale gold miners for capacity building on using retorts.</p>
2.1	<p>Is your country a net exporter of elemental mercury at the present time?</p>	No	No	No	No	No
2.2	<p>Do you know which countries receive this mercury and for what purpose this mercury is used?</p>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2.3	<p>Are the uses likely to contribute to the global mercury pollution problems?</p>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

3.1	Can your country effectively make use of the mercury storage "tool" to encourage further reduction in either domestic or global mercury demand?	Yes. However, the toolkit needs to be adapted to each national reality, to address different needs from countries and regions.	Yes. However, the toolkit needs to be adapted to each national reality, to address different needs from countries and regions.	Yes. However, the toolkit needs to be adapted to each national reality, to address different needs from countries and regions.	Yes. However, the toolkit needs to be adapted to each national reality, to address different needs from countries and regions.	Yes. However, the toolkit needs to be adapted to each national reality, to address different needs from countries and regions. Capacity-building and technical support is needed.
4.1	Without making any commitment now, can you say whether your country officials would be open to the idea of storing excess mercury?	Inventories should be developed first. And after sources are identified, then the storage may be discussed.	Barbados suggest that inventories should be developed first. And after sources are identified, then the storage may be discussed.	All depends on the information we have about the mercury that would be stored and quantities/types.	This depends on regulation of each country. For instance in DR it is not allowed to import mercury waste or any other hazardous waste.	No. We need to monitor the area and undertake studies. There are no resources. If we do not produce mercury, we should not store mercury. AAMA suggests that even though the mercury is not produced in the region or in some countries, a storage alternative needs to be found, considering the mercury containing products that are imported in the countries.

5.1	<p>What are the main technical (or other) aspects of mercury storage necessary to ensure public health and safety?</p>	<p>National and international legislation and agreements should be considered. Soils and climate in the region needs to be taken into account.</p>	<p>Legislation, monitoring, geophysical studies, etc. In the Caribbean, since we are in the hurricane line, we should take this into account for decidign a storage.</p>	<p>Specific complementary projects are important to the storage of mercury, such as awareness-raising, training, monitoring, etc. In the Caribbean, since we are in the hurricane line, we should take this into account for decision making on storage.</p>	<p>First thing to consider are national regulations. In case there is not a specific regulation in this case, then we would take into account international regulations regarding hazardous wasted and chemicals. We also need to consider climate history and possible climate change impacts in the Caribbean. In the Caribbean, since we are in the hurricane line, we should take this into account for decidign a storage.</p>	<p>Legislation and national policies should be in place. Awareness raising is necessary. Geological studies should be developed and Climate Change is certainly an issue.</p>	<p>AAMA considers that capacity builing on mercury containing products is very necessary.</p>
5.2	<p>To ensure environmental responsibility?</p>	<p>Legislation and Environmental Impact Studies. It may be very important to develop an assessment or to define vulnerability of the region for a potential mercury storage facility in the Caribbean sub region.</p>	<p>Legislation and Environmental Impact Studies. It may be very important to develop an assessment or to define vulnerability of the region for a potential mercury storage facility in the Caribbean sub region.</p>	<p>Legislation and Environmental Impact Studies. It may be very important to develop an assessment or to define vulnerability of the region for a potential mercury storage facility in the Caribbean sub reacion.</p>	<p>Legislation and Environmental Impact Studies. It may be very important to develop an assessment or to define vulnerability of the region for a potential mercury storage facility in the Caribbean sub region.</p>	<p>Legislation and Environmental Impact Studies. It may be very important to develop an assessment or to define vulnerability of the region for a potential mercury storage facility in the Caribbean sub region.</p>	

6.1 What (other) social considerations need to be considered with regard to mercury storage?

The Caribbean subregion considers that they should have a social impact assessment and are willing to undertake it. Specially for the specific location of the storage facility ("NIMBY"). This should also analyze or assess transport risks and workers safety. A copy of the environmental impact by would be shared with the region. Countries form the sub region have the obligation to develop environmental impact assessments, so this would support this idea.

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7.1	What financial options could be available to deal with storage costs?	GEF. International organizations funding. PNUMA. AAMA suggest that it would be the development funds. Mercury needs to be included in the country development plans.	GEF. International organizations funding. PNUMA. UNITAR. Financial cooperation from industry. US EPA. SAICM, IPEN. AAMA suggest that it would be the development funds. Mercury needs to be included in the country development plans.	Multilateral funding agencies. AAMA suggest that it would be the development funds. Mercury needs to be included in the country development plans.	GEF. International organizations funding. PNUMA. UNITAR. Financial cooperation from industry. US EPA. SAICM, IPEN. AAMA suggest that it would be the development funds. Mercury needs to be included in the country development plans.	International organizations funding. AAMA suggest that it would be the development funds. Mercury needs to be included in the country development plans.	Polluter pays principle could be applied, but we need strong legislation for this. Although legislation exists in the region, it is always difficult to identify who is the polluter and certainly this principle needs to be strengthened. We need funds and capacity building on mercury storage. However, the principle may not be applicable, since it is applied to waste. Maybe it is important to ask from international community to not use double standards. This may help for a better mercury management, instead of. Trying to apply the same standards or conducts, and respecting this, would allow a better management of priority chemicals as mercury.
8.1	What political considerations need to be considered with regard to mercury storage?	Training and awareness raising should be contemplated in national policies. The regional agreements should consider national legislation and try to find a coordinated solution.	Political will. Awareness-raising is a crucial element that any policy should include. National legislation.	Political will is a key issue. Decision makers need to be informed and the topic needs to be well explained in a language that would trigger political will. A link between science, policy and decision making should be strengthened.	Agree with Jeff at national level. Chemicals management should be addressed in national policies. Authorities need to be trained on this topic. At the regional level, we need regional agreements.	Legislation in place is necessary for mercury management.	AAMA considers that coordination and multistakeholder participation is also important. It is very important to involve regional funding organizations. They should be involved in the decision making process.

9.1	What legal and regulatory issues will need to be addressed in order to implement mercury storage facilities?	Legislation considered should be national legislation and international agreements.	Legislation considered should be national legislation and international agreements. Monitoring enforcement.	Legislation considered should be national legislation and international agreements.	Legislation considered should be national legislation and international agreements.	Legislation considered should be national legislation and international agreements.
10.1	What could be possible barriers to the succesful implementation of mercury storage facilities?	Financial and institutional capacity barriers. Legal, social difficulties. (NIMBY).Security and safety, terrorism. Lack of interest by decision makers. Lack of regional cooperation and agreement.	Financial and institutional capacity barriers. Legal, social difficulties. (NIMBY).Security and safety, terrorism. Lack of interest by decision makers. Lack of regional cooperation and agreement.	Financial and institutional capacity barriers. Legal, social difficulties. (NIMBY).Security and safety, terrorism. Lack of interest by decision makers. Lack of regional cooperation and agreement.	Financial and institutional capacity barriers. Legal, social difficulties. (NIMBY).Security and safety, terrorism. Lack of interest by decision makers. Lack of regional cooperation and agreement.	Financial and institutional capacity barriers. Legal, social difficulties. (NIMBY).Security and safety, terrorism. Lack of interest by decision makers. Lack of regional cooperation and agreement.