



THE EARTH'S BEST DEFENSE

May 18, 2009

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
International Environment House
11-13, chemin des Anemones
CH-1291 Chatelaine - Geneva
Switzerland
mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), to express our interest in becoming a partner of the UNEP Mercury Programme Partnership on Mercury Management in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining. NRDC is a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization, with over 1.2 million members and e-activists, working toward protecting the global environment and ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all.

For the past five years, in coalition with other NGOs worldwide, NRDC has been actively advocating for policies to reduce mercury emissions, supply, demand and trade, on local, national and international arenas. NRDC can bring this substantial mercury policy expertise to assist in the formulation, development and implementation of ASGM partnership activities, and can advocate for the devotion of greater resources to this sector by the international community.

NRDC welcomes the work of the ASGM partnership and looks forward to collaborating with other partners, in raising awareness about this sector, and in finding innovative and effective ways to reduce and mitigate mercury pollution.

Kind regards,

Susan Egan Keane
Senior Environmental Policy Analyst
Natural Resources Defense Council
1200 New York Ave, Suite 400
Washington DC 20005
skeane@nrdc.org

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

This information sheet is intended to provide an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners. Further information is available at the following web address: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm>

What is the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship amongst various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership complements and supports the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3.

As of June 2008, the following partnership areas have been initiated:

- artisanal and small scale gold mining;
- mercury cell chlor alkali production;
- mercury air transport and fate research;
- mercury in products;
- mercury releases from coal combustion; and
- mercury waste management.

Other partnership areas are in the process of being considered and initiated.

What is the Overall Goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its

compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land.

What does joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership mean for prospective partners?

- Supporting the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contributing resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities.
- Networking with other organizations/agencies/individuals addressing mercury issues.

How does an organization join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal, and specifying how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Such letters should be submitted to:

**Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch**

In submitting this letter, UNEP asks partners to also complete the attached registration form. Participation to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP through a letter of confirmation. Your letter of support will be posted on the UNEP Chemicals web site.

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM *

Partnership Area	<p>Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artisanal and small scale gold mining <input type="checkbox"/> mercury cell chlor alkali production <input type="checkbox"/> mercury air transport and fate research <input type="checkbox"/> mercury in products <input type="checkbox"/> mercury releases from coal combustion <input type="checkbox"/> mercury waste management <p>Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.</p>
Organization Name	Natural Resources Defense Council
Name, Functional Title of Representative	Susan Egan Keane Senior Environmental Analyst
Address of Organization	1200 New York Avenue, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20005 USA
Tel. No	+1 202 289 2389
Email	skeane@nrdc.org
Fax No.	+1 202 289 6868
Website/URL	www.nrdc.org
Type of Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Regional economic integration organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-government Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific community <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____

* UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Forms are to be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving the partnership goal. The support letter should specify how the organization intends to contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Please submit the support letter and registration form to:

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
 11-13, chemin des Anémones
 CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland
 Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
 E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch