

**Minutes**  
**UNEP Global Mercury Partnership**  
**Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) area**  
**Monday 13 September 2010 (14:00 – 16:00 UTC)**

**Purpose of the meeting:** To update partners on developments since last call

**On the call:**

Ludovic Bernaudat, UNIDO  
Susan Keane, NRDC  
Kristina Rudnitski, Environment Canada  
Ken Davis, US EPA  
Hemsing Hurreynag, Development Indian Ocean Network, Mauritius  
Julie Sommerfreund, Pollution Probe  
Brenda Koekkoek, UNEP  
Philippa Huntsman-Mapila, Natural Resources Canada  
Maaïke Schouten, Solidaridad  
Laura Barreto, ARM  
Jake Palley, U.S. State Department  
Gilbert Mbeh, EDUCAF Cameroon  
Kevin Telmer, Artisanal Gold Council  
Veerle Van Wauwe, Transparence  
Marianne Bailey, US EPA  
Stephen Metcalf, researcher

**1. Upcoming Partnership Advisory Group (PAG) meeting**

Brenda Koekkoek of UNEP updated the group on the planned Partnership Advisory Group (PAG) meeting. The second meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group will be held from 21 to 22 September 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. This group was formed as the overarching framework for the Global Mercury Partnership was developed. It comprises 25 members. The ASGM partnership area is represented by the partnership area leads (Ludovic Bernaudat and Susan Keane), as well as two nominated partners— DENR Philippines and the Artisanal Gold Council (AGC).

The role of the PAG is to review overall progress, including status of partnership areas, and to consider overarching issues and lessons learned. Some of the meeting documents are already available on the UNEP web-site; some documents are yet to be posted. Partners are encouraged to have a look and relay feedback to UNEP through Susan and Ludovic.

As a result of the meeting, UNEP hopes to build momentum in all partnership areas, and to start to think about the role of the partnerships, once the treaty goes into effect.

After the PAG, UNEP is hosting a Geneva briefing on ASGM. Information is on the UNEP web-site. The purpose of the session is to raise awareness, foster a dialogue and build collaboration with international

organizations, the private sector and non-government organizations located in Geneva, on the issue and challenges associated with ASGM. The meeting will include panel presentations regarding possible solutions to the ASGM financial and social challenges.

## **2. Partnership progress report**

A progress report for the partnership was prepared and circulated last spring, and was circulated again last week as a refresher. The report will serve as the basis for input to the PAG. The partners were asked to please provide any final corrections or further additions to the progress report this week (send email to Ludovic or Susan) so that we can present the final document at the PAG.

## **3. UN CSD and INC1 meeting reports**

The Partnership had a strong presence at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development meeting in New York in May. Ludovic made a presentation about ASGM at a UNEP session on the mercury treaty, to provide background to the delegates. US EPA then hosted a 3 hour side event (called a learning center) on ASGM. The three presenters at this event (Ludovic, Sam Spiegel and Marianne Bailey) presented information on technological issues as well as issues related to formalization and other social and economic aspects of ASGM. A movie from the AGC was shown at the same event. Sam Spiegel also made a separate presentation on another panel, on "Governance Strategies in Artisanal Gold Mining Communities: Supporting Livelihoods and Enhancing Social Opportunities."

Marianne Bailey made a CD with all of the CSD learning center presentations; partners who would like a copy should request one from Marianne ([bailey.marianne@epa.gov](mailto:bailey.marianne@epa.gov)) or from Ken Davis ([davis.kenneth@epa.gov](mailto:davis.kenneth@epa.gov)). The Artisanal Gold Council also prepared a short film that was presented at CSD; partners can request copies of the film from Kevin Telmer ([ktelmer@artisanalgold.org](mailto:ktelmer@artisanalgold.org)).

Sam's powerpoint presentation is available at the following link:

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res\\_pdfs/csd-18/12may/round-table-2/presentation\\_Spiegel.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_pdfs/csd-18/12may/round-table-2/presentation_Spiegel.pdf)

Also, there is a video webcast of all the speeches from that session: <http://www.un.org/webcast/csd18/csd18-g.htm> (the three speeches on mining are accessible at the very bottom of this web-page).

The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC1) was held in Stockholm in June. Since this was the first meeting of the committee, the focus of the meeting was to provide an opportunity to all countries to present initial thoughts and positions on the full range of topics related to the mercury treaty. The Partnership leads made a presentation at the technical session preceding the full meeting, to raise awareness of the delegates about ASGM and to provide information about the regional strategic planning projects in Asia, West Africa and Latin America. The Partnership also hosted an evening informational session, which included presentations/success stories from Senegal, Philippines, Peru and Mozambique. This session was very successful, with over 100 people in attendance.

The INC1 report is available on the UNEP web-site, report **UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/21**

<http://hqweb.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/INC/INC1MeetingDocuments/tabid/3391/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Kevin Telmer pointed out that in preparation for INC2, several countries have submitted position statements about the mercury treaty, some of which contain comments on ASGM. These country statements can be found at:

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/INC2/INC2Submission/tabid/4524/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

INC 2 will be held in Chiba, Japan. 24-28 January 2010.

#### **4. Request for partnership to assist with inter-sessional report on ASGM projects worldwide – update to our survey**

The Partnership is contributing to responses on a number of requests of the Mercury Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. Critical among these is an inventory of completed or projects underway related to ASGM. The current inventory, based on our survey last year, is found here:

<http://hqweb.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmallScaleGoldMining/Activities/tabid/4488/Default.aspx>

The hope is to augment and expand this list. Ludovic and Susan are helping to compile information for this report, so partners are encouraged to send any information about your projects, so that we can be sure they are reflected in the global inventory.

Regarding sharing information about projects, Gilbert Mbeh from EDUCAF Cameroon mentioned that they are planning to launch an information/awareness raising campaign in October. Gilbert asked where to submit information on this project, in order to best connect to the partnership, and to find partners who could help with experience, information and content. All partners are welcome to contact partnership leads for guidance on this, but perhaps more importantly, all partners are encouraged to use the email list of partners to reach out to find colleagues, ask questions and form alliances. This is what the partnership is all about.

#### **5. ASGM Global Forum**

The purpose of the planned ASGM Global Forum is to discuss and formulate pragmatic options for policy and decision makers to consider for the development of the UNEP mercury treaty. This forum is an opportunity to consider how to address mercury related issues in ASGM together with the broader range of issues. The confirmed date for the meeting is 7-9 December 2010, in the Philippines.

The objectives of the forum are to:

- i) Explain the challenges and opportunities surrounding ASGM and how mercury relates to these.
- ii) Describe success stories and why and where they have occurred.
- iii) Discuss how policy and other instruments can play a role in addressing ASGM issues within the context of the global treaty on mercury.
- iv) Strengthen the UNEP ASGM partnership

Participation:

- UNEP has limited funding for some participants.
- About 60-80 participants are expected (ASGM countries, miners, NGOs, IGOs, donor governments)
- The meeting is open for participation. Please contact [mercury@unep.org](mailto:mercury@unep.org) to register.
- Invitations are currently being issued. A cross sector of developing country representatives will be invited and funded.

Organization:

A Steering Committee is being formed to organize the content of the meeting. The Steering Group is currently composed of UNEP, the partnership area leads, the host government, and the Artisanal Gold Council. First meeting is next week, before the PAG meeting. Other interested individuals should contact UNEP.

## **6. Strategic planning meetings – progress – LA, Asia, West Africa**

Laura Barreto of ARM reported on the kick-off for the SAICM-funded Latin American Regional ASGM Strategic Planning project, which took place in La Paz Bolivia last month. The purpose of the meeting was for the two countries participating in the project, Bolivia and Peru, to develop a clear framework for the development of a national strategy for ASGM. Laura reported that the meeting was very good, and that the main objectives were achieved.

However, it is clear that Peru has a stronger team than Bolivia's, at this point. Bolivia's work needs to be reinforced, and the team needs to include organizations and agencies more involved in ASGM.

The meeting included a site visit to Cota Pata, which is an ARM pilot site. It was very useful for participants to learn first-hand and to see the practical challenges presented by mercury and how they are being addressed (through use of retorts etc).

Meeting participants were very happy to see that the projects were viewing the preparation of an ASGM strategy holistically, and not just about focusing exclusively on mercury. In particular, participants were interested in discussing public policies, not just technical approaches, on ASGM that would ultimately lead to a reduction in mercury.

Ecuador also attended the meeting, but only the Ministry of Environment attended, not the Ministry of Non-renewable Natural Resources (i.e., the mining ministry). Nonetheless Ecuador showed strong

interest. Colombia, another important ASGM country in the region was also not there. There was discussion about how to involve both countries in next meeting.

Laura also reported on another event, organized by ARM, on public policy on ASGM in Bolivia. The objective of the meeting was to share experience and discuss how implications of the changing mining law. About 70 people, from miners to other stakeholders, attended. Some miners from Peru were brought to share their experiences. It was not an easy debate, because the issues in Bolivia are very controversial, but it was a very useful discussion nonetheless.

While we did not have time to review the status of the Asia and Anglophone West Africa meetings on the conference call, Brenda Koekkoek provided the following additional information by email, on the status of these other strategic planning efforts:

#### Asia

- The inception meeting took place 19-21 January 2010 in Manila, organized by the Philippines Government. The meeting report is complete and posted on the UNEP web-site.
- The Philippines and Cambodia have draft plans and are working on developing their final plans. A results workshop will be scheduled towards the end of 2010 / early 2011 to build on lessons learned in the region. A date will be chosen shortly.
- A project in Indonesia is likely to begin in the coming months through funds from the US EPA.

#### Anglophone West Africa Strategic planning meeting

- Similar to the Francophone West Africa Strategic Planning Project that was held last December in Mali with support from US EPA, UNIDO and the Government of Finland, there are now plans to organize an Anglophone West Africa Strategic Planning Project.
- USEPA is providing funds for this project. Funds have finally been processed and a date should be coordinated soon / relayed to the group.

### **7. GEF & SAICM project planning**

During the last replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), funds were allocated in GEF for mercury work. While some of the money will go to support the INC process, GEF is also interested in practical actions on the ground. UNIDO, as a GEF implementing agency, is now negotiating with GEF to see what they may be able to finance. The overall GEF mercury strategy should be ready in November and we will know how much we can hope for then.

Marianne Bailey, currently on detail at the GEF, confirmed that the GEF is actively working on the strategy, gathering input from a variety of agencies and countries. While work is preliminary, things look generally favorable for including some ASGM in the GEF funding.

Ludovic reminded us that for countries to participate in the GEF projects, co-financing is a big issue. Countries that show interest in co-financing activities are the most likely to be considered for work.

Ludovic also informed the partners about applications for new SAICM projects being developed with Mali, Guinea and Côte D'Ivoire for the next round of SAICM projects. These projects follow the Francophone West Africa meeting held last year in December in Bamako on ASGM regional strategies.

## **8. Progress on documents:**

### a. Technical document

Kevin Telmer of the AGC reported that his team is working to prepare a technical guidance document on ASGM. The document is to provide information and resources on ways to reduce mercury use from small scale mining. The document will include chapters on existing technologies; how technologies impact social setting of ASM communities; success stories; innovation and new technologies. The intention is to develop a decision tree that will make suggestions for appropriate technologies to try based on the category/type of ASGM practiced– what type of ore, how much capital available, legal/informal status, etc.

Currently case studies and other materials are being developed with a range of partners. For example, in October, AGC staff will visit Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania; Namibia; and Zambia, to gather information and to secure the participation of interested parties in those countries to contribute to the document.

The document will be developed and tested in collaboration with a range of stakeholders. The hope is to test its practical usefulness by giving it to those countries working on national strategic plans through the SAICM process. As soon as a more structured plan is put into place, the team will take a more “open source” approach and invite input from a broad array of stakeholders. The team intends to have something for circulation and review by the time of the Global forum, with a final document by May 2011.

### b. Formalization document:

Work on the formalization document has yet to be started, but a sketch has been outlined for it in consultation with some of the partners and a draft Table of Contents was provided as an information document at INC 1 (INFORMATION DOCUMENT 11). The document will be looking at legal, institutional and financial mechanisms for ASGM, and the pros and cons of the formalization approach. The document will attempt to collate existing work and address gaps. Possible case studies include:

- A. Legal status of miners, mining code policies and their role in formalization efforts
- B. Cooperatives and their contribution
- C. Small-scale – Large-scale “working together”
- D. Official government or private sector buying programs
- E. The role and potential of microfinance/credit
- F. Government rent-seeking from the formal gold sector
- G. Liberalizing the gold market, advantages and disadvantages.
- H. Public private partnerships in gold production

## I. When formalization does not work

UNEP hopes to release a Terms of Reference for proposed work in this area before the end of September. We would invite all partners to consider how they may contribute, including contributing case studies, etc. The intent is for the document to have a similar look and feel to technical document. Originally the document had a similar timeline – to be completed by May 2011 – but this may be adjusted for practical reasons.

Laura Barreto and Kevin Telmer had a discussion about how the technical and legalization documents may overlap in terms of covering social and economic aspects of ASGM. In general the formalization document will contain much more information about social/legal/economic aspects, but coverage of these issues will have to be worked out as the two documents move forward.

### **9. Other partner news**

Susan reported that the Partnership is planning to host a workshop, in collaboration with the World Bank, to bring together organizations working in ASGM in Tanzania. The objective is for those organizations to share information and possibly find ways to collaborate on future work in this sector.

Stephen Metcalf reported that he will be giving a talk at SETAC (Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) in November, and will promote the partnership during his talk. (Thanks Stephen!)

### **10. Possible approaches to organizing future calls**

Given technical difficulties with our partnership calls, suggestions were made to find other ways to organize the calls, such as by having smaller regional calls with fewer partners at one time, which may ease the burden on the conference call system. Other suggestions are welcome.