

Global Partnership on Mercury Management in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining
Draft Progress Report, January 2006

- Initial Consultative Meeting was held on June 15, 2005, in Washington, D.C. with 63 participants.
- Meeting report and revised discussion paper posted at www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/partnerships.
- Funding secured for pilot projects to encourage adoption by mining communities of appropriate technologies and techniques for mercury use, emissions and exposure reduction. A component of the pilots will be enhanced measurement and analysis capability in order to quantify pre- and post-project mercury levels as well as speciated emissions with a view to improving understanding of global magnitude of this source. Pilots will be funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) with technical cooperation from Global Environment Facility (GEF)/United Nations Development Program (UNDP)/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in-country partners, and non-governmental organizations.
- Discussions are underway with various partners to site the initial pilot projects.
- Engaging fair-trade mining groups and non-governmental organizations to achieve widespread recognition and promotion of the concept of sound-mercury-managed gold, thereby raising awareness of the problem and creating an economic incentive for the adoption of sound mercury techniques.
- USEPA will work with the World Bank's Communities and Small-Scale Mining Program (CASM) to develop a mercury-specific page on the CASM website, to include good guidance/best practice information as well as public information geared to community-based groups in as many languages and pictorial forms as possible.
- The partnership will report out to the 24th Session of the United Nations Environment Program Governing Council in February 2007.
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