Reducing Mercury Supply and Availability in Indonesia

The purpose of this three-year project is to support the Government of Indonesia (GOI) in restricting mercury supplies, especially for the artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector, through amending the draft National Implementation Plan (NIP), and by securely storing confiscated mercury, mercury by-products, and recovered mercury from the oil and gas (OG) sector at the local level.

Project efforts include:

• Legal/regulatory/policy action to restrict mercury supplies from primary mining and mercury by-products from OG;

• Developing and piloting Local Action Plans (LAPs) to reduce and eliminate mercury in ASGM, that include safe handling, interim or temporary storage, and long-term storage of mercury and cinnabar ore to demobilize them/prevent them from being recirculated to the market; and

• Biomonitoring to determine the magnitude of human and ecological health impacts and prioritize generation and site selection of LAPs to ultimately track project effectiveness.

Consumption of fish and other animals connected to mercury emissions and releases of ASGM activities is the primary source of methylmercury exposure for humans.

Project Stakeholder Meeting—Jakarta, July 2019

Project team and collaborators will meet in Indonesia for the following:

• Outline approaches needed to implement the goals and objectives of the project, including the elaboration of national and local action plans to include safe mercury handling and secure storage.

• Discuss and decide on desired outcomes and timetable for implementation.

• Present existing background information.

• Discuss all aspects of the implementation of the actual pilot storage facility to be built.

Left top: In Sekotong, workers add liquid mercury to silt in the ball-mill. Gold dust attaches to the mercury to form a solid amalgam.

Left bottom: Heating the solid vaporizes the mercury leaving gold nuggets behind. Excess mercury in the silt may end up in local waterways during disposal.
**EXPECTED RESULTS/PROJECT TIMELINE**

1. Assist the development of national plans and policy to restrict mercury supplies from primary mining and mercury by-products from oil and gas, and identify secure storage to reduce the availability of mercury. Project team will work with GOI authorities to:
   - Prepare and adopt needed amendments to the National Implementation Plan (NIP) and Roadmap for Mercury to include prohibitions on cinnabar mining, recirculation of mercury from oil and gas and mining sectors, and export of mercury. (Yr 1)
   - Develop and adopt policy guidance prohibitions on cinnabar mining throughout the country, and on recirculation of mercury recovered from by-products of oil and gas and mining sectors to the market. (Yr 1)
   - Develop policy guidance and/or legislation to prohibit export of elemental mercury and cinnabar ore from the country. (Yr 1)
   - Advise relevant ministries to revise/update regulations to support the recommendations of this project. (Yr 3)
   - Assist Government with implementation and monitoring of policies and/or legislation. (Yrs 2-3)

2. Develop and implement multiple local plans for handling, interim storage, and final storage of mercury and cinnabar ore. Project team will work with GOI authorities to:
   - Elaborate the NIP into multiple Local Action Plans (LAPs) to reduce and eliminate mercury to include safe handling, interim storage, and final storage of mercury and cinnabar ore. (Yr 1-2)
   - Build central and local government capacity, including law enforcement agencies, to handle and store mercury that has been removed from ASGM activities as part of LAPs. (Yr 2)
   - Implement one or more LAPs as pilot projects to test for wider implementation throughout Indonesia in potential sites to be determined. (Yrs 2-3)

3. Develop and implement approaches to monitor compliance with and effectiveness of national and local plans. Project team will work with GOI authorities to:
   - Develop and implement approaches to monitor national implementation and LAPs including review and monitoring of the mercury inventory report of Indonesia. (Yr 1)
   - Develop and implement approaches to conduct biomonitoring activities at the LAP sites to determine project effectiveness based on protection of human and ecological health. (Yrs 1-3)

*The United Nation Development Programme’s Integrated Sound Management of Mercury in Indonesia’s Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining Project is part of a Global Opportunities for the Long-term Development of the ASGM Sector (GEF GOLD) programme taking place in eight countries including Indonesia.*