

# MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY 2021



## REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

## UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

### DISCLAIMER

This is a secretariat version translation of the submitted report by the Party. The text has not been officially translated and edited, and is provided for information purposes. In case of any error or omission in the translation, the original submission prevails.

### ▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

## 1. Information on the party

### Name of party

Gabon

### Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited

24 September 2014

### Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

16 August 2017

## 2. Information on the national focal point

### Full name of the institution

Ministry of Water, Forests, Sea, Environment, in charge of the Climate Plan and the Land Allocation Plan

### Title of National Focal Point

Director General of Aquatic Ecosystems

### Name of National Focal Point

Mve Beh Jean Herve

### Mailing address

Boulevard Triomphal Omar BONGO ONDIMBA,  
rue Célestin EKOOGHA EDOU, n°775, Sainte Marie  
BP 2275 Libreville

### Telephone number

+241 077 54 18 27

### Fax number

{Empty}

### E-mail

[gabon@localhost](mailto:gabon@localhost)

### Second E-mail

[mormyre69@gmail.com](mailto:mormyre69@gmail.com)

### Web page

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### 3. Information about the contact officer submitting the reporting format if different from the above

Focal Point is submitting the national report

- ☒ Information is submitted by the national focal point
- ☐ Information is submitted through the national focal point by the contact officer

#### ▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

##### 3.1. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Additional information on this question if needed

{Empty}

##### 3.2. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

##### 3.3. Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

If the party answered No above, please explain.

There is no mercury mining in Gabon.

##### 3.4. Does the party have excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

##### 3.5. \*Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party's

## territory in the reporting period?

- ☐ Yes, exports to parties
- ☐ Yes, exports to non-parties
- ☒ No

Additional information if needed

{Empty}

### 3.6. Has the party allowed the import of mercury from a non-party?

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ The importing party has relied on paragraph 7 of article 3

### Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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#### ▼ ART. 4: MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

### 4.1. Has the party taken any appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4)

If no, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

### 4.3. Has the party taken two or more measures for the mercury-added products listed in Part II of Annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

### 4.4. Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed under article 4?

☐ Yes

☒ No

**4.5. Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

If no, has there been an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product that demonstrates environmental or health benefits? Has the party provided to the secretariat, as appropriate, information on any such product?

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

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**▼ ART. 5: MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED**

**5.1. Are there facilities within the territory of the party that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in Annex B of the Minamata Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 5 of the Convention?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ I do not know

**5.2. Are measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B after the phase-out date specified in that Annex for the individual process?**

**CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

**ACETALDEHYDE PRODUCTION IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED AS A CATALYST**

☐ Yes



- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

**5.3. Are measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in Part II of Annex B in accordance with the provisions set out therein?**

**VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

**SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

**PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

**5.4. Is there any use of mercury or mercury compounds in a facility using the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

**5.5. Is there any facility that has been developed using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

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**▼ ART. 7: ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING**

**7.1. Have steps been taken to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory?**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 in which mercury amalgamation is used in the territory

**If yes, please provide information on the steps.**

Article 185 of Law No. 037/2018 of June 11, 2019 regulating the mining sector in the Gabonese Republic prohibits "the use of toxic products such as mercury and cyanide, particularly in artisanal mining".

Awareness raising for miners and restructuring of the sector.

Inspection missions of the administrations in charge of the environment and mines.

**7.2. Has the party determined and notified the secretariat that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

**7.3. Has the party developed and implemented a national action plan and submitted it to the secretariat?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ In progress

**7.4. Attach your most recent review that must be completed under paragraph 3 (c) of article 7, unless it is not yet due**

{Empty}

**7.5. Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objective of this article?**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

**Please provide information**

Technical and financial assistance from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Assistance from BRI to submit a SIP project to establish a sub-regional mercury monitoring laboratory. this project was selected by the SIP programme

**Please provide information**

{Empty}

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

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**▼ ART. 8: EMISSIONS**

**8.1. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8.**

For each of those source categories describe the measures in place, including the effectiveness of such measures, to implement the requirements of paragraph 4 of article 8.

- ☐ Coal-fired power plants
- ☐ Coal-fired industrial boilers
- ☐ Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
- ☐ Waste incineration facilities
- ☐ Cement clinker production facilities

Has the party required the use of best available techniques or best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control and where feasible reduce emissions for new sources no later than 5 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

**Please explain**

The MIA report which proposes the measures to reduce mercury emissions is not yet finalized, therefore the implementation of the proposed measures has not started.

**Attach relevant documentation**

{Empty}

**8.2. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are existing sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8.**

For each of those source categories, select and provide details on the measures implemented under paragraph 5 of article 8 and explain the progress that these applied measures have achieved in reducing emissions over time in your territory:

**▼ COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS**

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**

{Empty}

**Progress**

{Empty}

**▼ COAL-FIRED INDUSTRIAL BOILERS**

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**

{Empty}

**Progress**

{Empty}

**▼ SMELTING AND ROASTING PROCESSES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF NON-FERROUS METALS**

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**

{Empty}

**Progress**

{Empty}

**▼ WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES**

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**

{Empty}

**Progress**

{Empty}

**▼ CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**

{Empty}

**Progress**

{Empty}

Have the measures for existing sources under paragraph 5 of article 8 been implemented no later than 10 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

**Please explain**

The action plan relating to the measures to be taken to reduce mercury emissions is being finalized.

**8.3. Has the party prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the Convention for it?**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Have not been a party for 5 years

**If yes, when was the inventory last updated?**

Thu, 12/31/2020 – 00:00

**Please indicate where this inventory is available**

Mercury Pollution Initial Assessment (MIA) in progress. Submission to the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury is scheduled for January 2022.

**Attach**

{Empty}

**8.4. Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

**8.5. Has the party chosen to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions from relevant sources and its expected targets, goals and outcomes?**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

**If yes, has the party submitted its national plan to the Conference of the Parties under this article no later than 4 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

**Please explain**

The action plan is included in the MIA report currently being finalized.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

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**▼ ART. 9: RELEASES**

**9.1. Are there, within the party's territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I do not know

**9.2. Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the convention for it?**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ Relevant sources do not exist in the territory
- ☐ Have not been a party for 5 years
- ☐ No

**When was the inventory last updated?**

2020-12-31

**Please indicate where this inventory is available**

The MIA report will be submitted to the Minamata Convention Secretariat in early 2022.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

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**▼ ART. 10: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY**

**10.1. Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I do not know

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

{Empty}

**▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES**

**11.1. Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party's mercury waste?**

- ☐ Yes

☒ No

**11.2. Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ I do not know

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

{Empty}

▼ ART. 12: CONTAMINATED SITES

**12.1. Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Please elaborate**

A study carried out in 2019 made it possible to carry out analyzes of the concentration of mercury in fish, in particular around gold mining areas.

For 2022, Gabon will benefit from funding, within the framework of the Specific International Program of the Minamata Secretariat, for the implementation of a regional project which will see the establishment of a mercury analysis laboratory in Libreville (Gabon) and the implementation of a regional monitoring program which will notably target cross-border areas where gold is mined.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

{Empty}

▼ ART. 13: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM

**13.1. Has the party undertaken to provide, within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to implement the Convention in accordance with its national policies, priorities, plans and programmes?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Please specify**



Mercury pollution analysis activities provided for in the action plan of the General Directorate of Aquatic Ecosystems.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

**13.2. Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

Gabon is a beneficiary country of the financing, given its status as a country in transition economy.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

**13.3. Supplemental: Has the party provided financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

Gabon is a beneficiary country of the financing, given its status as a country in transition economy.

Please provide comments, if any.

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**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

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**▼ ART. 14: CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

**14.1. Has the party cooperated to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

This activity is planned through a project that will be funded by the Specific International Program of the Minamata Convention Secretariat in 2022.

## 14.2. Supplemental: Has the party received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14?

☒ Yes

☐ No

### Please specify

Global Environment Fund (GEF):

- preparation of the National Report on the initial analysis of mercury pollution (MIA);
- development of the National Action Plan for artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Gabon (NAP-ASGM).

Technical assistance:

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP);

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);

Global Environment Fund (GEF): Elaboration of MIA and NAP-ASGM;

Technical assistance:

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP);

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);

African Center for Environmental Health (CASE)

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

**14.3. Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Other

Please specify

The reports are being finalized.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

{Empty}

#### ▼ ART. 16: HEALTH ASPECTS

**16.1. Have measures been taken to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.

As part of the initial mercury pollution assessment report, an action plan was developed, taking into account public information on mercury exposure.

## 16.2. Have any other measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16?

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.**

Consideration of the following activities in the action plan:

Promotion of alternatives to products and materials containing added mercury in health care settings;

Establishment of an environmentally sound management system for waste containing mercury;

Development of a regulation for the control of imports and exports of products containing mercury such as cosmetics and medical equipment.

## Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

### ▼ ART. 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE

## 17.1. Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1?

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Please provide more information, if any**

{Empty}

## Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

### ▼ ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

## 18.1. Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1?

☐ Yes

☒ No

## Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

▼ ART. 19: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

**19.1. Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**If yes, please describe these actions**

A study carried out in 2019 analyzed the concentration of mercury in fish in different areas of Gabon.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

{Empty}

▼ COMMENTS

**Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention (Art. 21, para. 1)**

{Empty}

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

**Supplemental: Part D: Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any**

{Empty}