

FIRST FULL NATIONAL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY 2021



REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

South Africa

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

29 April 2019

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

28 July 2019

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment

Title of National Focal Point

Ms.

Name of National Focal Point

Noluzuko Gwayi

Mailing address

Senior Policy Advisor: International Chemicals and Waste Cooperation

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Web page

<https://www.dffe.gov.za>

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

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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

ba34_subsection

*If the party answered Yes to Question 3 above:

i. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.

The MIA will be submitted officially, probably in the next 2 weeks or so but certainly before the end of December 2021. The DG has just signed the official letter to UNEP as the Accounting Officer. The Africa Institute, the Regional Centre also has seen the final MIA document.

i. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.

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ii. **Supplemental: Please provide any related information, for example on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks and sources.**

We did not find such stocks in the country. There are disposal facilities with the pre-requisite environmental licenses to treat and dispose of mercury.

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

We received enquiry from UK wishing to know if we would accept their export of mercury into our country. We indicated no as we are have draft regulations on mercury as we would not wish to receive mercury imports into the country.

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

Although we have not allowed any imports into the country; we are aware that illegal imports are happening and likely using the "other" tariff code. Once the regulations are promulgated, it will be illegal to import mercury. We are also working with the border management agency, the South African Revenue and customs to alert them of the illegal import of mercury into the country. The challenge is lack of scanners to detect mercury when coming in through containers labelled otherwise. We need electronic scanners to equip or customs officials to curb the illegal imports as these also go to SADC countries.

▼ 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 yes, please provide information on the measures.

We have developed draft mercury regulations that we are consulting stakeholders on to ban MAPs. The Mercury Regulations are likely to be promulgated in 2022.

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

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

The Department of Health under which the public dental sector falls under, the dental association, the Head of the Dentist Association and several dentists have been part of the stakeholder engagement process and are developing their sector specific national implementation plan to improve in areas where there is need. Generally most of the measures are already undertaken.

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

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

We have developed draft mercury regulations that we are consulting stakeholders on to ban MAPs. The Mercury Regulations are likely to be promulgated in 2022.

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 yes, please provide information on the measures.

We have developed draft mercury regulations that we are consulting stakeholders on to ban MAPs. The Mercury Regulations are likely to be promulgated in 2022.

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)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.
The facility does not use mercury.

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.

SGM is an illegal activity in my country; there is a special dedicated enforcement team to rid the country of illegal miners most of which are illegal foreigners from SADC countries.

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

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 power plants

The MIA which will be officially submitted in the 2 weeks or so but no later than 31 st of December has all these details.

☒ Coal-fired industrial boilers

Coal-fired industrial boilers

The MIA which will be officially submitted in the 2 weeks or so but no later than 31 st of December has all these details.

☒ Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals

Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals

The MIA which will be officially submitted in the 2 weeks or so but no later than 31 st of December has all these details.

☒ Waste incineration facilities

Waste incineration facilities

The MIA which will be officially submitted in the 2 weeks or so but no later than 31 st of December has all these details.

- ☒ Cement clinker production facilities

Cement clinker production facilities

The MIA which will be officially submitted in the 2 weeks or so but no later than 31st of December has all these details.

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

Attach relevant documentation

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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

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▼ **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

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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

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?

Fri, 03/26/2021 – 00:00

Please indicate where this inventory is available

The MIA which will be officially submitted to the Secretariat in 2 weeks or so but no later than 31st of December has all these details.

Attach

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

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please explain how the criteria for any category include at least 75 percent of the emissions from that category and explain how the party took into account guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

The MIA which will be officially submitted in the 2 weeks or so but no later than 31st of December has all these details.

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

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

Already there are some mitigation measures in place to reduce emissions. Further reductions are yet to be finalized with the Air Quality Management Framework.

▼ 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?

2021-03-29

Please indicate where this inventory is available

The MIA which will be officially submitted in the 2 weeks or so but no later than 31st of December has all these details.

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

Please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner and the effectiveness of those measures.

In South Africa a facility needs to apply for an environmental license to keep hazardous chemicals or compounds. The application includes an EIA among others.

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

Please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.

There are several facilities that have been licensed to treat, store hazardous waste including mercury waste in accordance. The facility has to apply to the Department to get an environmental license; an EIA is part of the application. Monitoring of compliance is done by the Green scorpions. The public can report to a toll free number any irregularities.

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

If yes, if the information is available, how much waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds has been subjected to final disposal under the reporting period? Please specify the method of the final disposal operation/operations.

Non during the period of reporting.

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

The MIA has all the detail and it would be officially be submitted in 2 weeks or so but no later than the 31st of December 2021.

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

There are officials appointed to implement the convention as part of chemicals management. Activities to be undertaken are put in workplans by the relevant officials in different departments. Such work is assessed annually.

Please provide comments, if any.

South Africa developed the NIP to elaborate on actions needed to be undertaken by the various stakeholders and since it entails actions to be undertaken by the various departments, it was submitted to cabinet for approval.

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

Albeit there being financial constraints; covid-19 pandemic exacerbated financial challenges, South Africa contributes to the GEF.

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

We have financial constraints; covid-19 pandemic exacerbated financial challenges.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

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

{Empty}

▼ 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

Not much collaboration was possible during the reporting period due to the restrictive nature of covid-19. Generally South Africa, always where feasible, cooperates with other countries more so within the African region.

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

Not much collaboration was possible during the reporting period due to the restrictive nature of covid-19.

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

We have financial constraints; covid-19 pandemic exacerbated financial challenges.

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.

Undertaken awareness raising activities especially in communities where we know there are likely to be the illegal ASGMs.

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.

Mercury exposure is likely through the illegal ASGM, no other known manner of exposure. Because it is an illegal activity, people that are involved are mostly illegal foreigners, it is difficult to reach them. We have undertaken awareness raising activities especially in communities where we know there are likely to be the illegal ASGMs.

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

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▼ 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

We have held several multi-stakeholder engagements through physical and online meetings, developed awareness raising materials which we shared and distributed in communities especially where there are likely illegal miners. During the awareness raising outreach programmes we explain to the communities, and undertaken activities to encourage them to participate such as making them to compete for the t-shirts to check if they grasped the content after explaining to them.

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

If yes, please indicate the measures that have been taken and the effectiveness of those measures

We have held several multi-stakeholder engagements through physical and online meetings, developed awareness raising materials which we shared and distributed in communities especially where there are likely illegal miners. During the awareness raising outreach programmes we explain to the communities, and undertaken activities to encourage them to participate such as making them to compete for the t-shirts to check if they grasped the content after explaining to them.

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

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▼ 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

MIA has detailed inventory. Once resources are available; more research can be undertaken.

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)

Covid-19 has significantly reduced available finances.

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

The reporting format is ok.