



**A submission from Uganda
by Karamoja Women Cultural Group
“Mercury, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and human rights”
to the Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights**

Controls on Mercury

1. Has your country prohibited the a) import or b) export of elemental mercury?
 - a) Yes, Uganda has been importing mercury from the neighbouring countries (Kenya, Congo, and Tanzania) and also from China, India, Malaysia, UAE.
 - b) No, Uganda never exporting mercury.

2. Has your country prohibited mercury use in artisanal or small-scale gold mining (ASGM) by law or regulation?

No, currently there is no regulation to prohibit the use of mercury in Uganda.

3. What enforcement action and penalties apply to gold miners who use mercury, or to traders who supply mercury for this use, if such use is prohibited? Please share statistics on such actions.

There is NO regulation that covers the (direct) penalties for gold miners to use mercury.

4. If your country allows import of mercury but prohibits its use in ASGM, how do customs officers determine the end use of mercury at the point of import to ensure it is not directed to ASGM?
 - There is no mechanism to determine it. Customs do not know where the mercury will be use.

5. Are there tracking or certification processes to ensure that imported mercury is used according to its claimed purpose?
No, there is no tracking or certification processes.
6. Are mercury importers registered on a government database and their activities periodically audited including the end-use of the mercury they import? Are postal imports of mercury banned?
Registered as chemicals supplier for the laboratory and Indian schools but no audit. <https://www.silvermercuryhg.com/>
7. What remedies are available to persons in your country for pollution damages related to mercury exposure from ASGM activities?
None, unless the person files a lawsuit and wins.

Illegal Traffic

8. What actions has your country taken to prevent the illegal importation, smuggling and distribution of mercury to ASGM activities?
No specific actions taken that we know of.
9. What are the greatest challenges your country faces in preventing illegal mercury imports and smuggling?
 - Law enforcement exist but weak and no mercury have been confiscated.
10. Has your country established cooperative arrangements with bordering countries or at a regional level to combat illegal transboundary movement of mercury destined for ASGM activity?
 - No, there is no regional cooperation to combat illegal transboundary movement of mercury.
11. Are there instances of corruption among police, military or other officials involving the facilitation of mercury distribution in your country? What measures have been taken to address it?
Yes. Low rank police personnels are involved at the supply chain of ASGM business, protecting mercury and gold trade in ASGM communities.

12. Is there any information to suggest local or regional organised crime syndicates are distributing mercury to facilitate gold smuggling in your country?

We don't have any evidence but the Ugandan police are very corrupt so potentially the mercury and gold smuggling activities in Uganda are well protected by the authority.

Minamata Convention

13. Has your country ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury and if yes, what measures have been taken to eliminate mercury from ASGM, including its diversion to ASGM?

Yes, Uganda ratified the Minamata Convention on the 1st of March 2019.

14. How could access to capacity building or technology transfer under the Minamata Convention's Specific International Programme help your country to eliminate mercury pollution from ASGM?

Involvement of stakeholders will increase the awareness and strengthen the law enforcement to combat the illegal trade of mercury.

Protections for Indigenous Peoples

15. What specific actions has your country taken to directly protect the health of indigenous peoples from mercury contamination related to ASGM?

Currently there is no actions or policies to protect the health of indigenous people although the authorities have recognised or identified the locations of ASGM practices in many territory of indigenous peoples such as Karamoja, Batoro (Mubende), Musamia (Busia), Kayungga (Jinja), Kabong, Amudat, and Nakapiripirit.

16. Has any government or public forum for consultation with indigenous peoples about mercury pollution from ASGM been established?

The government of Uganda already developed the National Action Plan (NAP)¹ for ASGM however the indigenous people do not fully benefitted in a way.

¹ Uganda NAP on ASGM (2019). https://www.mercuryconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/national_action_plan/Uganda-NAP-2019.pdf

17. Have any mercury related health assessments or studies been conducted in your country that relate directly to the exposure of indigenous peoples to mercury pollution from ASGM activities and associated mercury pollution? Please describe or share.

No specific health studies or assessment conducted to assess the impact of mercury pollution to the indigenous people in Uganda

18. What health services and advice does your country provide to indigenous peoples to either treat high mercury levels or to minimise their exposure to mercury through diet (e.g. fish) or direct exposure via ASGM activity?

None specifically to the indigenous people.

19. What constitutional or legal rights do indigenous peoples have to prohibit mercury based ASGM in their traditional lands and territories?

None.

General

20. Please provide any further information that you consider relevant for the purposes of this questionnaire.

We have included several photos of mercury traded in Uganda from internet.





Source: <https://www.silvermercuryhg.com/>

https://www.facebook.com/redandsilvermercury/?ref=page_internal

Red Mercury and Silver mercury WhatsApp Like Message

About See all

Plot GA Daboto Crescent
Nakasero, P.O.Box 9544
Kampala, Uganda 0544
Kampala, Uganda

Key Specifications/Special Features:
99.999% Pure Silver Liquid Mercury For Sale
We have at hand 10

635 people like this
891 people follow this
1 person checked in here
<http://www.silvermercuryhg.com/>
+256 767 563982
Away
Send message
+256 767 563982

WhatsApp
Red Mercury and Silver mercury
Business Center
WhatsApp
2 shares

