



Project for promoting Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences (Japan Mercury)

Key project features



Contribution to the Minamata Convention

Project makes special focus in the area of information exchange (Article 17), awareness and education (Article 18), and research, development and monitoring (Article 19) to contribute the early implementation of the Convention.

Connecting Minamata and Minamata

A comprehensive programme is designed to strengthening enabling capacity, building on the resources in and around Minamata, and employing technologies held by institutions in Japan.



Networking analytical institutions

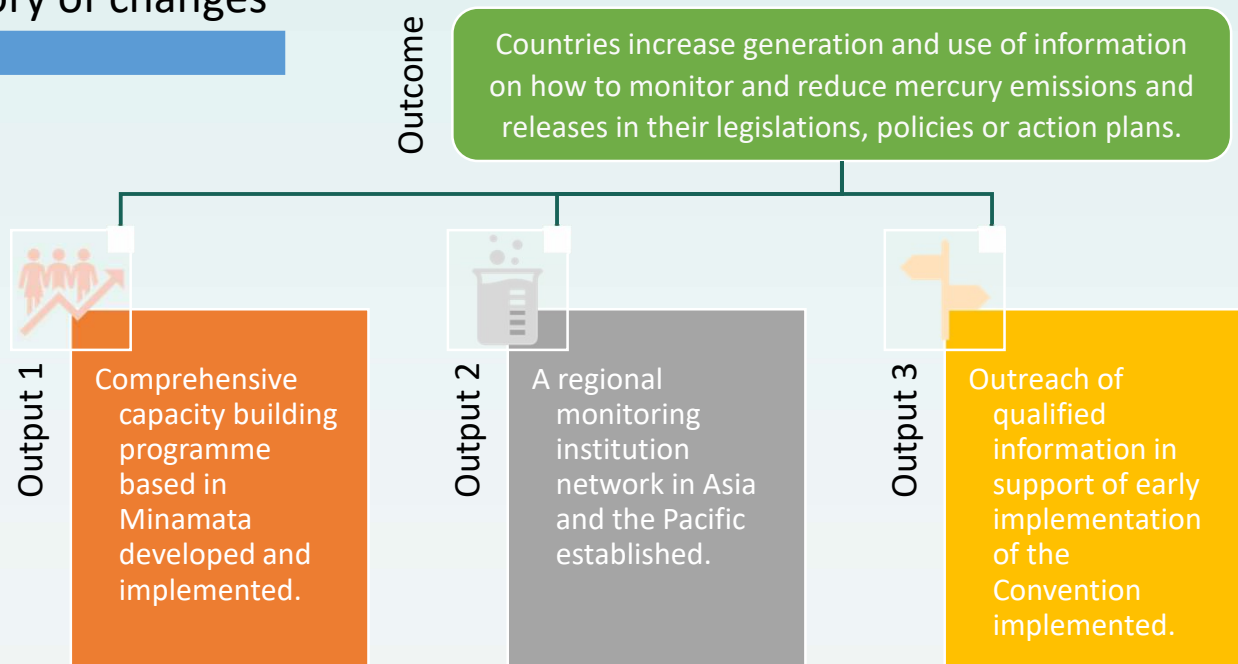
Project will establish a region-wide network of analytical institutions with mercury monitoring capabilities around Asia and the Pacific to bring their capacities to international standards.

Backgrounds

Mercury is a ubiquitous element that exists in various forms with different properties and toxicities. While mercury emission is decreasing in many developed countries, it is still increasing in many developing countries, especially emerging economies. For the reduction of human health and environmental risk of mercury globally, effective implementation of the Convention by developing countries based on accurate information is of critical importance. Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region, however, do not have sufficient information on mercury levels in their own countries, which makes the policy development and implementation more challenging.

There is a well-known historical record of Minamata disease that was caused by the exposure to methyl-mercury by consuming contaminated fish. Japanese Government has committed to enhance its support to implement the Minamata Convention, which entered into force in 2017. It intends to make its knowledge and experiences available to other parties, especially those in Asia and the Pacific, where about a half of global mercury consumption and emission occur. Japan contributed USD3,000,000 to UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific which formulated the project to support early implementation the Convention.

Theory of changes



Expected deliverables



- Activity 1.1: A list of local partners in Minamata, Japan, providing support for the project.
- Activity 1.2: Sets of training materials, databooks, and technical handbooks, etc.
- Activity 1.3: Two face-to-face and series of online trainings implemented per year.
- Activity 1.4: Annual reports on effectiveness of the training programme published.
- Activity 1.5: Agreement on local coordinating structure beyond the project implementation.



- Activity 2.1: Laboratory assessment reports for all partner countries.
- Activity 2.2: Mercury monitoring plans in participating partners that are harmonized.
- Activity 2.3: A QC/QA guidebook published; inter-laboratory quality assessment conducted.
- Activity 2.4: Collaborative activities with other monitoring networks.

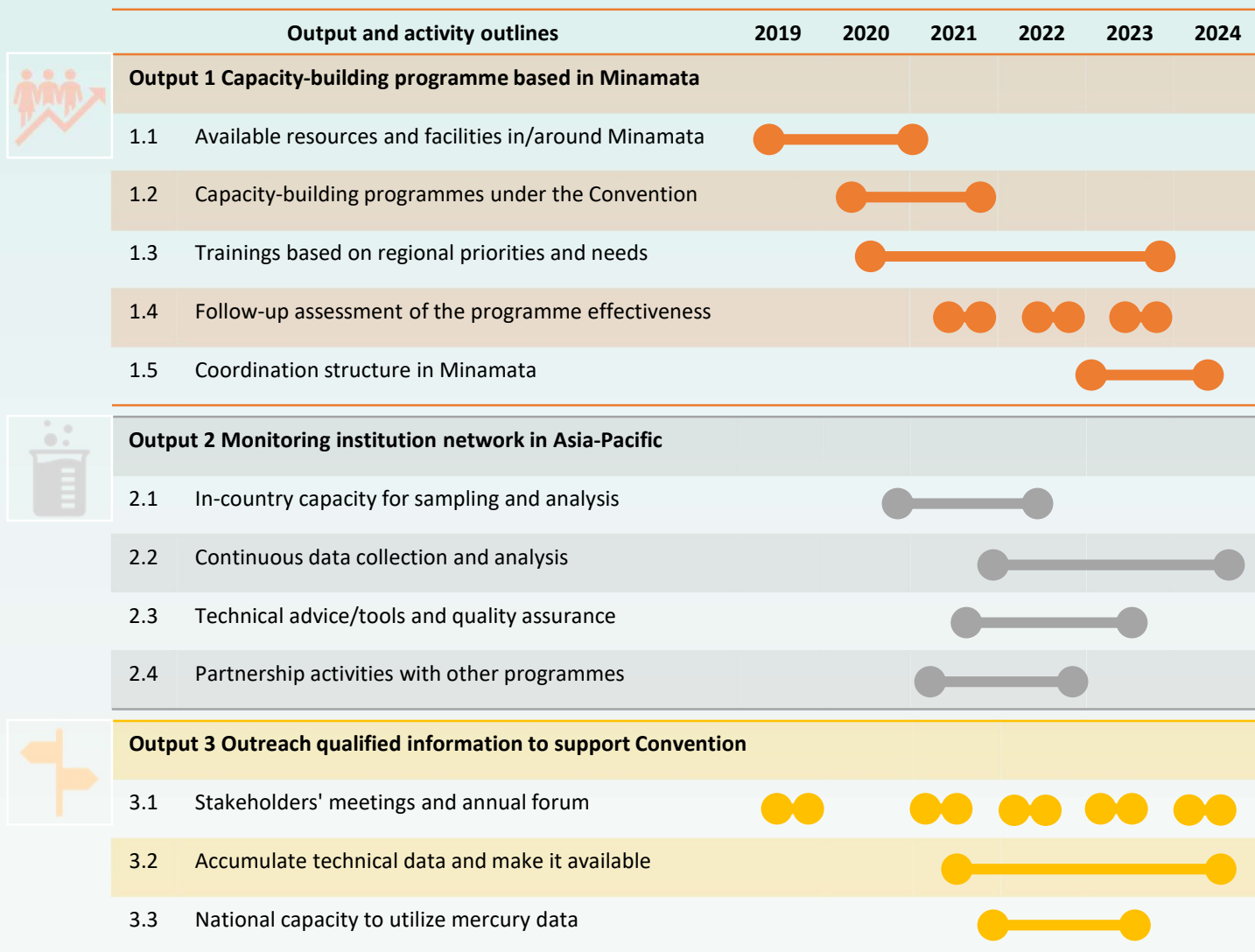


- Activity 3.1: Meeting reports; increasing list of partners joining.
- Activity 3.2: A dedicated web page of the project serving as an information portal.
- Activity 3.2: List of services provided; web stories on impact.

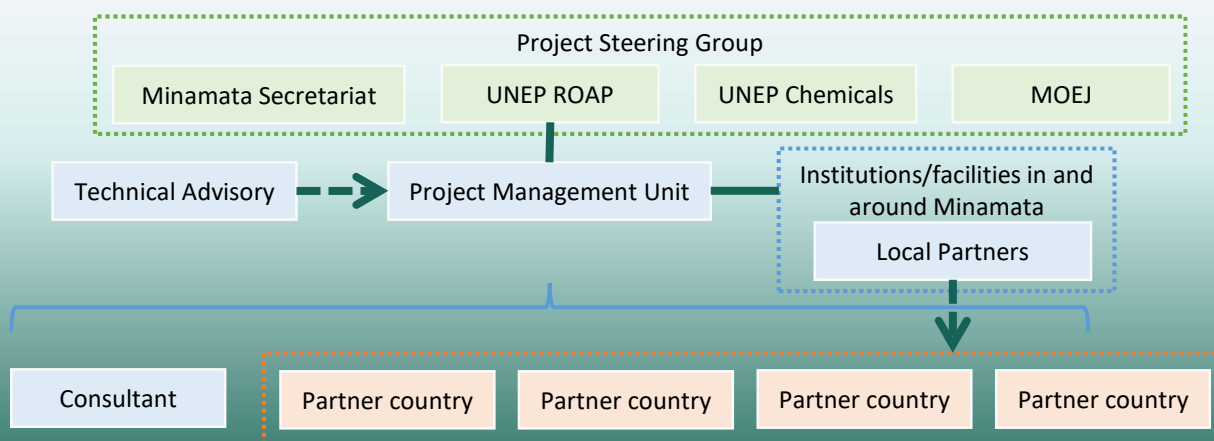
Workplan

Output 1 mainly addresses Article 19 of the Convention on research, development and monitoring. A comprehensive and unique programme will be developed and offered at facilities in Minamata. Output 2 mainly addresses Article 17 of the Convention on information exchange. National monitoring of mercury serves as a fundamental building block for formulation and implementation of effective mercury-related policies. The

information obtained by the project will be provided under Output 3 in a user-friendly format to promote science-based policy making and effective mercury management, which will contribute Article 18, public information, awareness and education, of the Convention. As outlined in the Theory of Change, the direct project outcome will be achieved through three Outputs and the corresponding activities.



Implementation structure



Partner countries



Note: Countries participated in the project inception workshop in Minamata in September 2019.

In collaboration with

