



EPA
LIBERIA

Environmental Protection Agency

Ensuring environmental protection & conserving biodiversity

***Status of Liberia
Implementation
Minamata
Convention on
Mercury***



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National Focal Point Minamata Convention

Mercury

BACKGROUND



- As part of the process to ensure coordination amongst focal areas of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, through synergies and awareness; a two day's workshop has being convene to solicit the involvement of Focal Points to provide brief on the protocols and status of Liberia relative to these conventions.

INTRODUCTION



- MINAMATA CONVENTION
- IMPLEMENTATION ACTION
- LIBERIA STATUS MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY
- OTHER INTERVENTIONS





MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

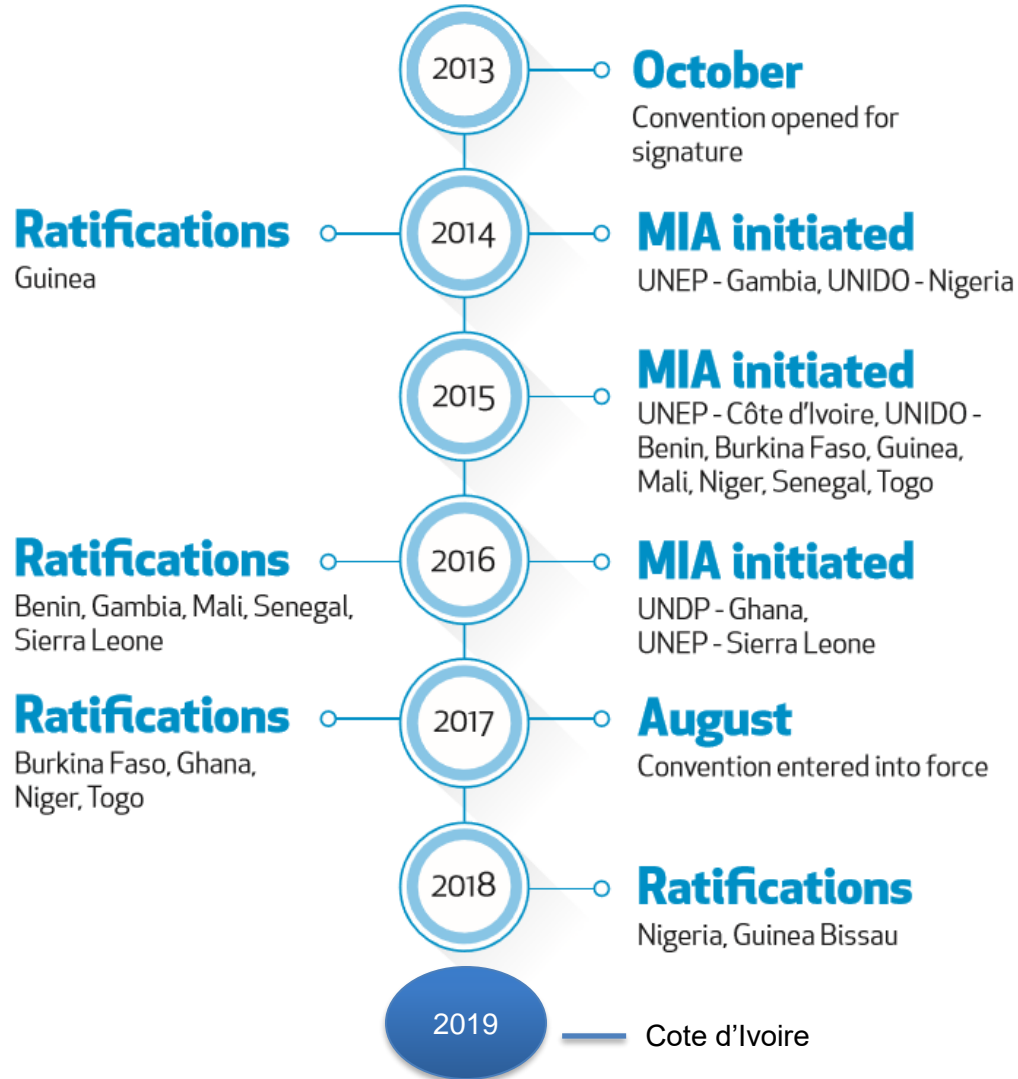
- The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. The legally binding global instrument was agreed at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, 19 January 2013. The treaty was formally adopted and opened for signature at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held from 9 to 11 October 2013 in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan and it entered into force on 16 August 2017. Up to November 2020, there are 128 countries signature to the treaty and 125 rectification. Liberia became a signatory on 24 September 2014.
- The Minamata Convention has been widely ratified by ECOWAS countries. Of the 15 member states, Cape Verde, and Liberia are the only countries that have not ratified the convention (they have however signed it).
- Liberia is the only country in the region yet to conduct its Mercury Initial Assessments; required by Article 3 paragraph 4 of the convention



MINAMATA CONVENTION Implementation Action

Figure 5: Minamata Convention implementation action

2020 remains the deadline for the phase-out of Mercury added by Parties, consistent with Article 4 of the convention



STATUS OF LIBERIA ADHERANCE TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY



- Liberia signed up to the Minamata convention on Mercury 2014
- Liberia have participated in two separate Conference of the Parties (COP1 and COP2)meetings as observe in Geneva Switzerland
- Liberia finalized and submitted two proposals on Mercury Initial Assessment(MIAs) and National Action Plans(NAP) for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining as enabling activities support for Liberia to the Global Environmental Facility(GEF), pending approval
- In August of 2018, Liberia communicated to the secretariat that ASGM activities were more than significant in Liberia, thereby calling for support in addressing this issue.
- As part of the process towards Rectification, of Liberia becoming a Party to the Minamata Convention, **SITUATION ANALYSIS OF LIBERIA ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT RELETIVE TO MERCURY 2017 was compile and Updated in 2020**
- **Liberia is part of the Regional Project in the ASGM sector an ECOWAS studies,** aim at Curbing Illicit Mercury and Gold Flows in West Africa: Options for a Regional Approach
- In 2019 the Instrument of Rectification was submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval; there was a mis-step in the process, there has been re-submission with ongoing negotiation to ensure Liberia accede to the Convention.

OTHER INTERVENTIONS



- GEF CSO Network a Local NGO launch a program to support Awareness on Mercury and other advocacy involving the Minamata Convention and its process of rectification and domestication
- Environmental Impact Solution; A local NGO implementing project under the Small Grant Program of the UNDP to conduct specialist studies ASM mining community
- AFLDC-2 Scaling-up Investment and Technology Transfer to Facilitate Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in African LDCs;
- Launch of the Mercury Toolkit in collaboration with the Lead (Ministry of Mines and Energy), on the Health Impacts of Mercury, and the mode of entry into the human survival chain with focus on the Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining(ASM) sector.

