



Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

UNEP

UNEP's Mercury Programme and the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Protecting human health and the environment

Mercury seminar
Tokyo, 2 September 2013

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United Nations Environment Programme

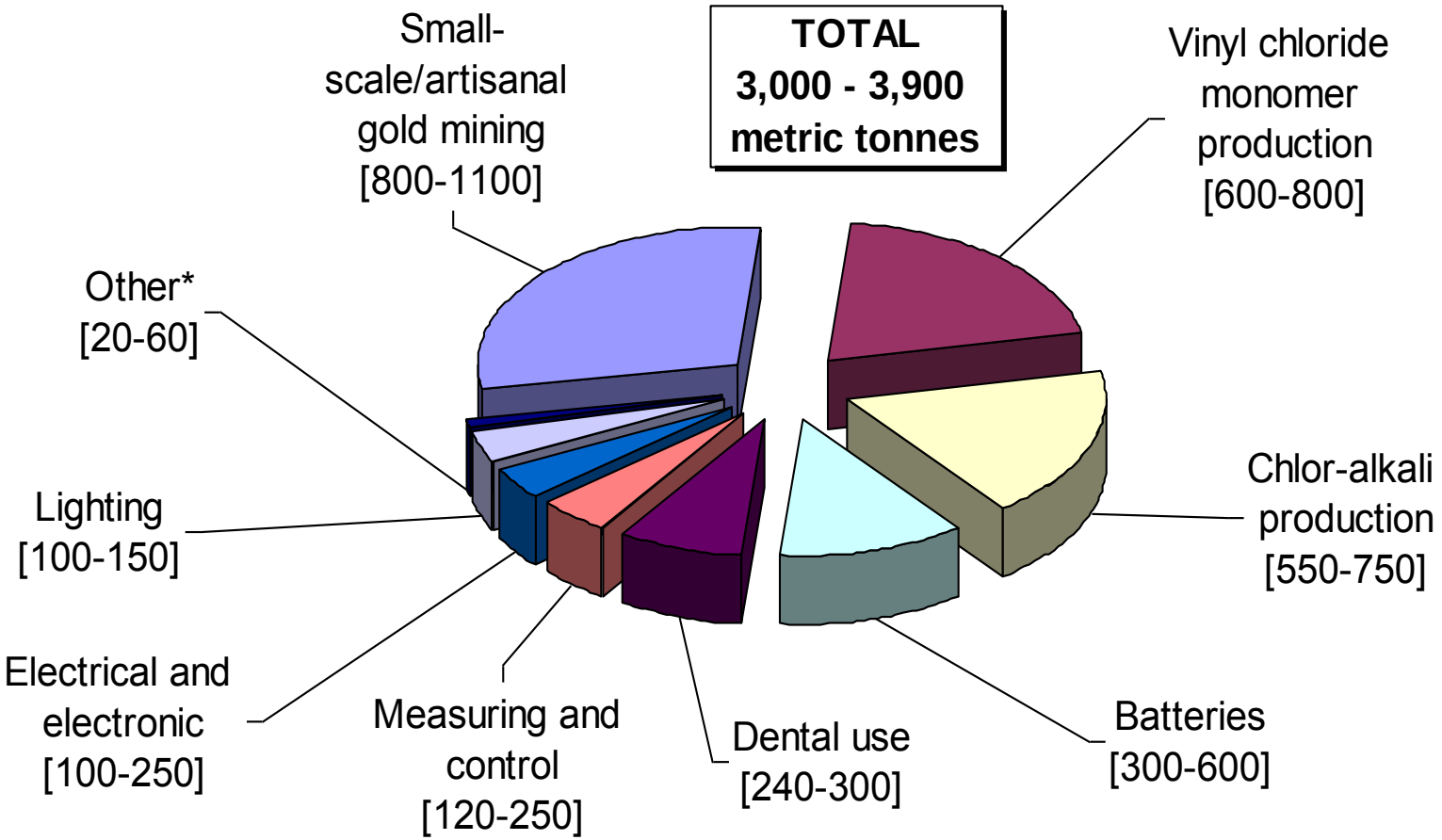








Global mercury demand by use, 2005 (metric tonnes)

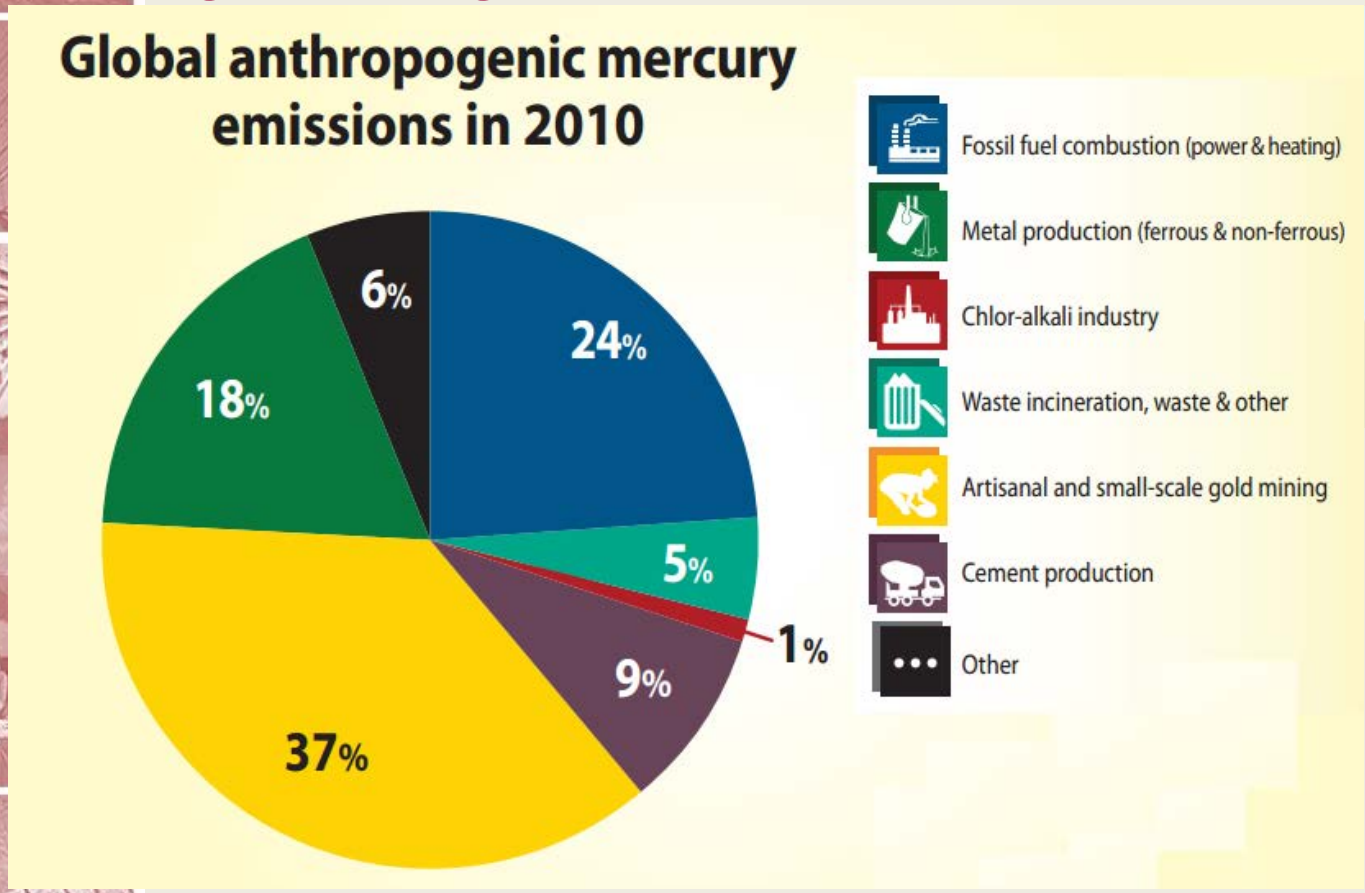


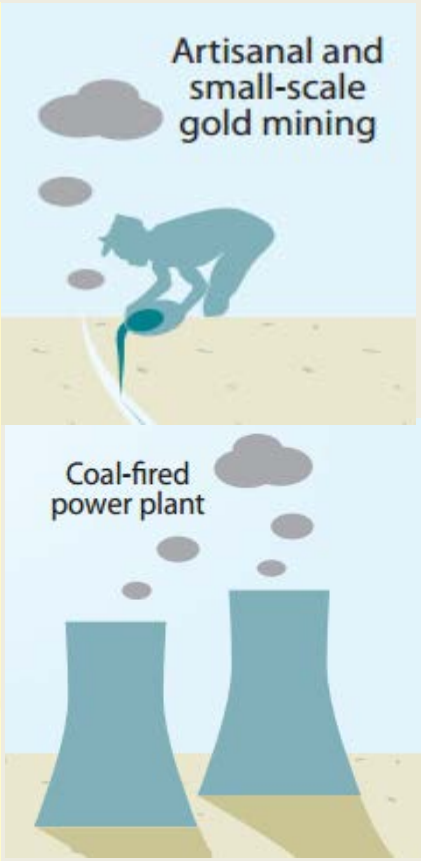
* Laboratory, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, cultural/traditional uses, etc.

P. Maxson, "Mercury flows and safe storage of surplus mercury," for the Environment Directorate, European Commission, August 2006 (with data ranges). See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/mercury/pdf/hg_flows_safe_storage.pdf

Emissions and releases

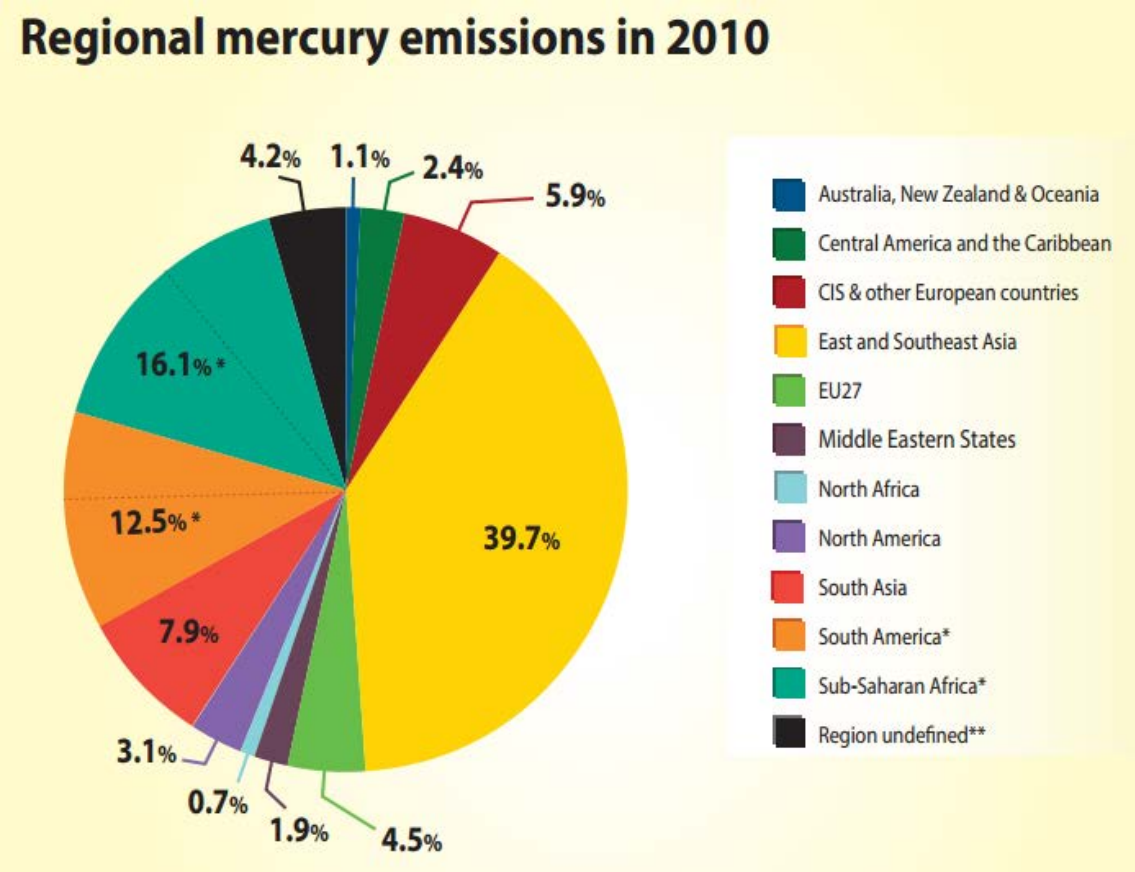
- Largest anthropogenic mercury emissions come from coal burning for power and heating and artisanal and small-scale gold mining





Emissions and releases

- Southern and eastern Asia contribute almost 40% of global anthropogenic mercury emissions



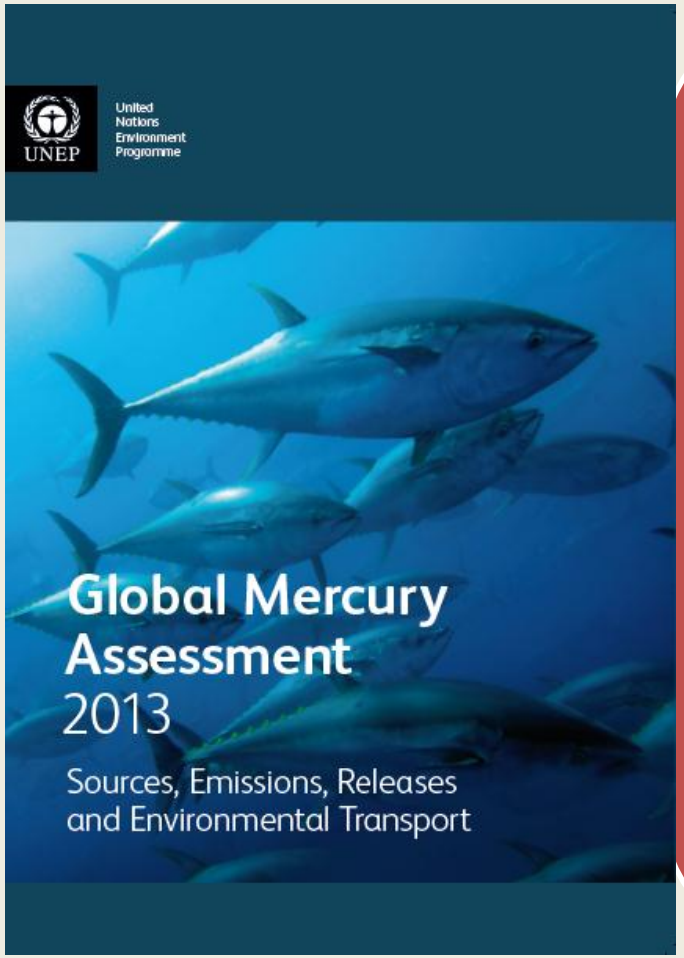
Mercury – a global pollutant

2003 – Governments agree on the need for global action on mercury, based on its adverse health and environment effects and its long range transport in the environment

2007 – Governments agree to consider the need for a legally binding instrument to further address the mercury issue

2009 – Governments agree to negotiate a legally binding instrument on mercury and establish the INC.

UNEP Mercury Programme



Mercury activities are delivered in two, complementary parallel tracks:

1. UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

2. Negotiation of the Global legally-binding Instrument on Mercury (Minamata Convention on Mercury)

Track 1. UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

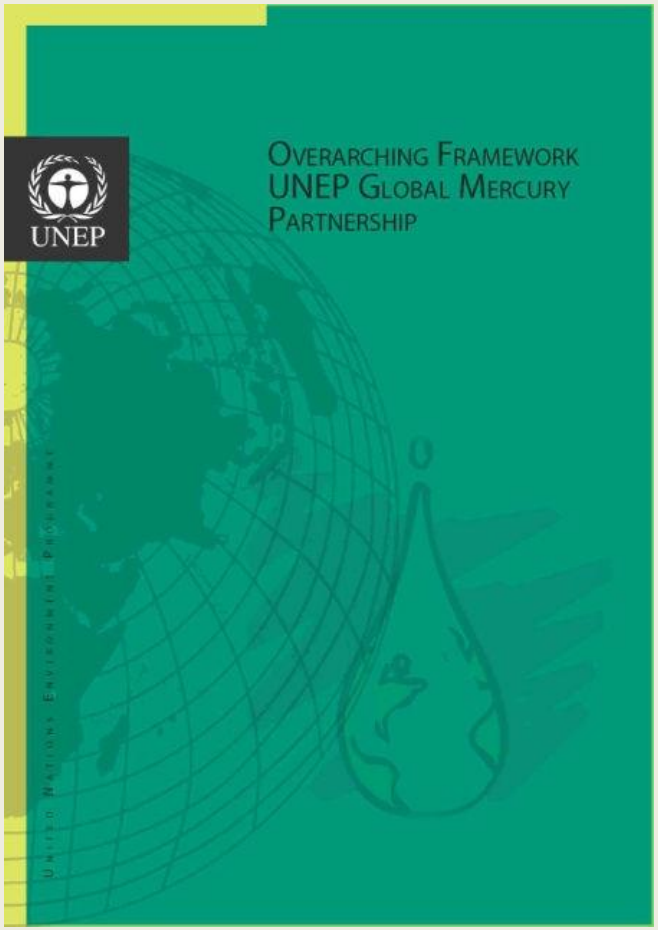
Collaboration since 2005

Formalized in 2008

8 partnership areas and an advisory group

119 official partners:

- 26 governments,
- 5 intergovernmental organizations,
- 48 non-government organizations,
- 40 others



Partnership areas

- Reducing Mercury use in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining
- Mercury control from Coal Combustion
- Mercury reduction in the Chlor-Alkali Sector
- Mercury reduction in Products
- Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research
- Mercury Waste Management
- Mercury Supply and Storage
- Mercury Cement Industry

Partnership activities

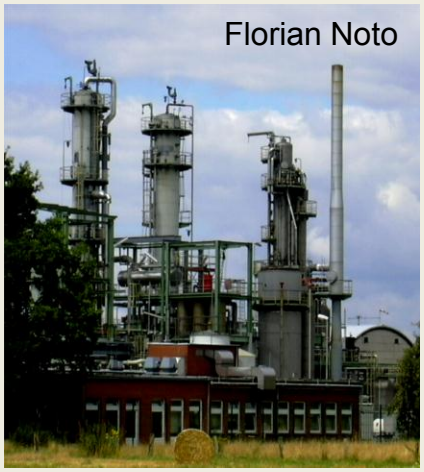
- Reducing Mercury use in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining

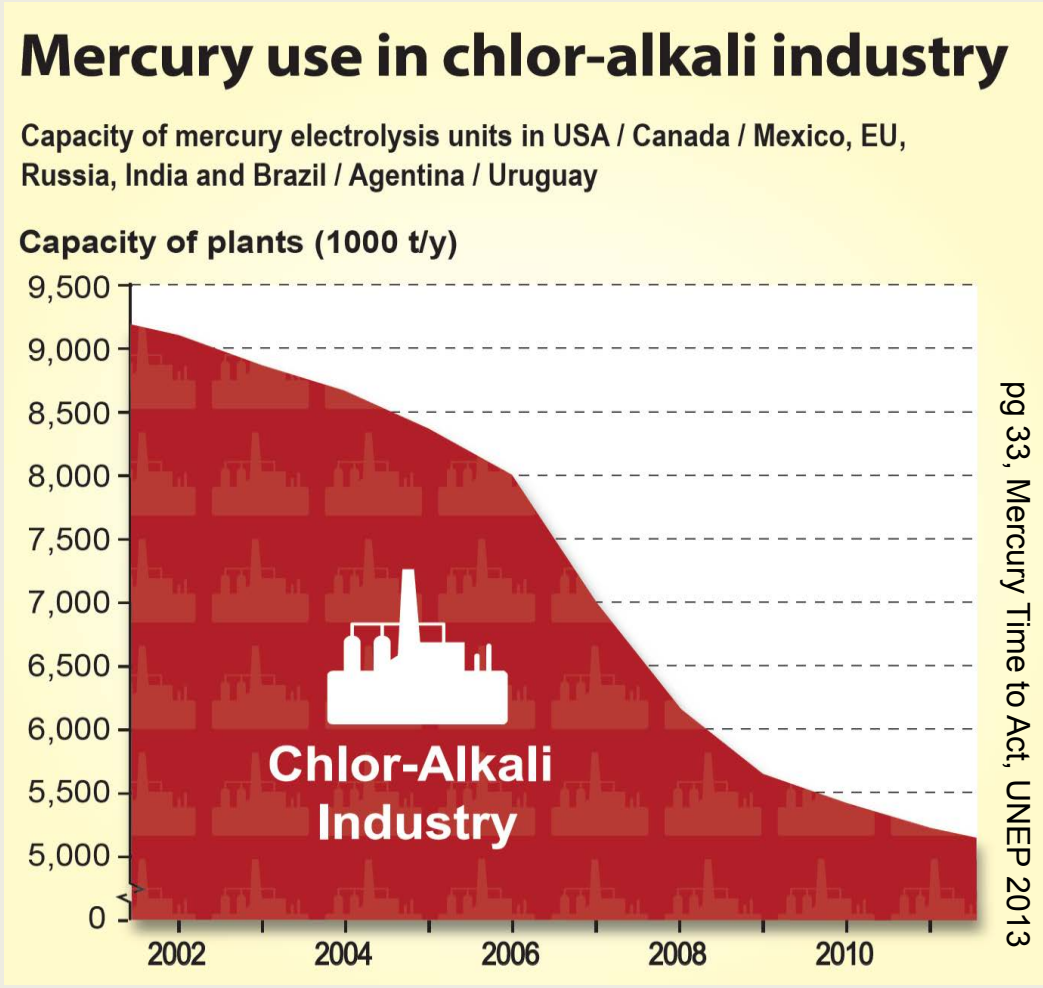
Partnership activities

- Mercury Control from Coal Combustion

Partnership activities

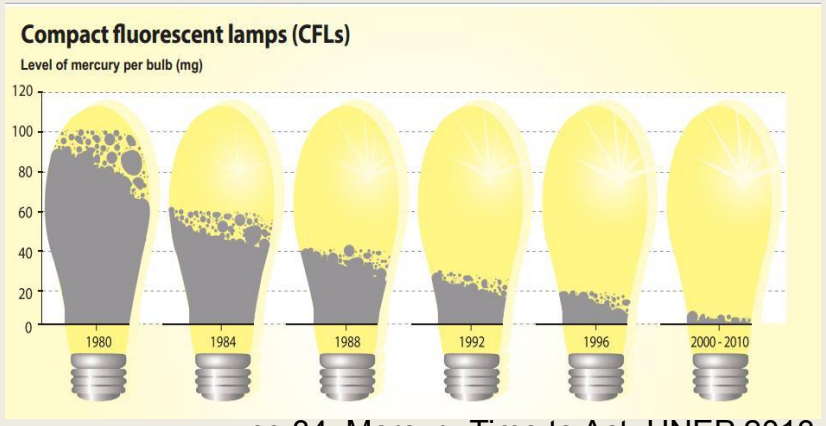
- Mercury Reduction in the Chlor-Alkali Sector



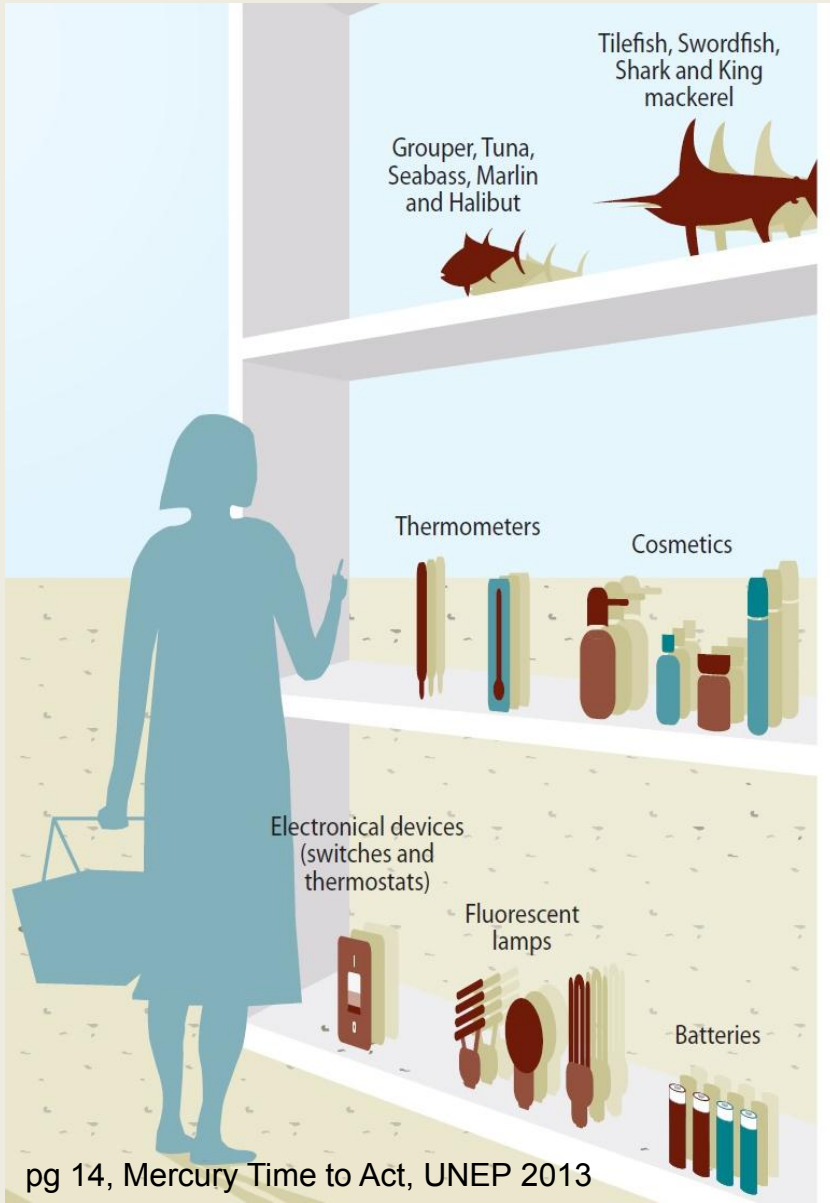


Partnership activities

Mercury in Products



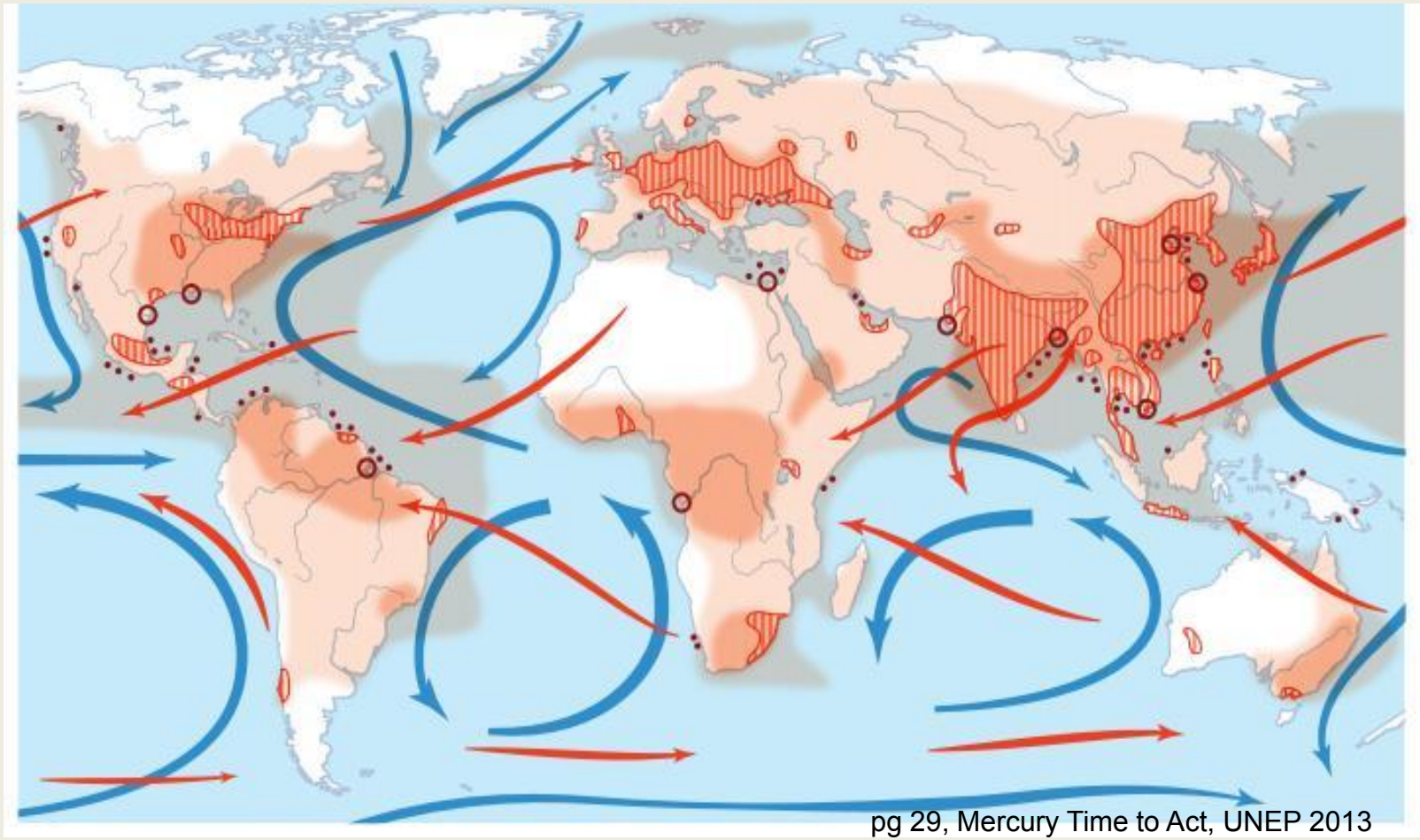
pg 34, Mercury Time to Act, UNEP 2013



pg 14, Mercury Time to Act, UNEP 2013

Partnership activities

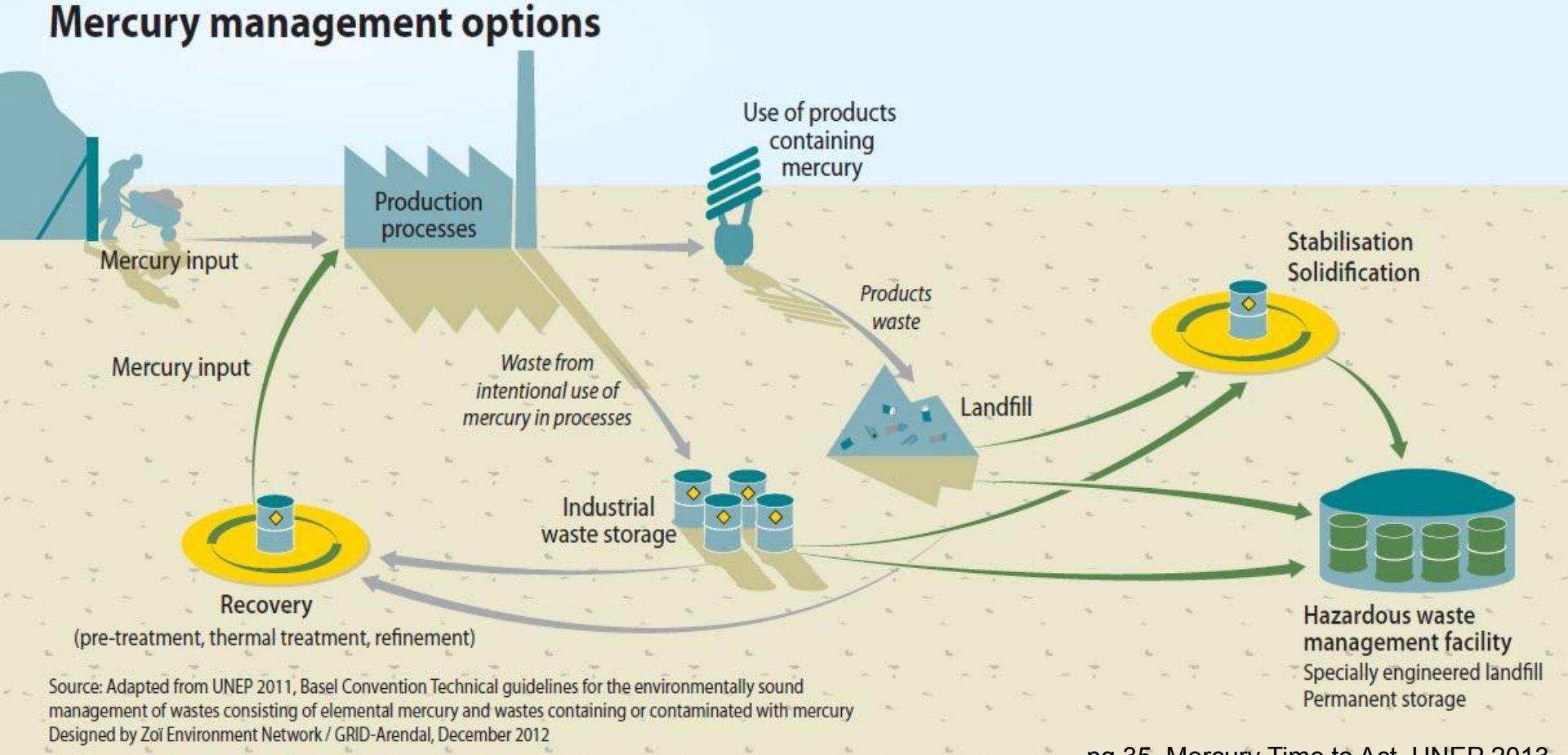
- Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research



pg 29, Mercury Time to Act, UNEP 2013

Partnership activities

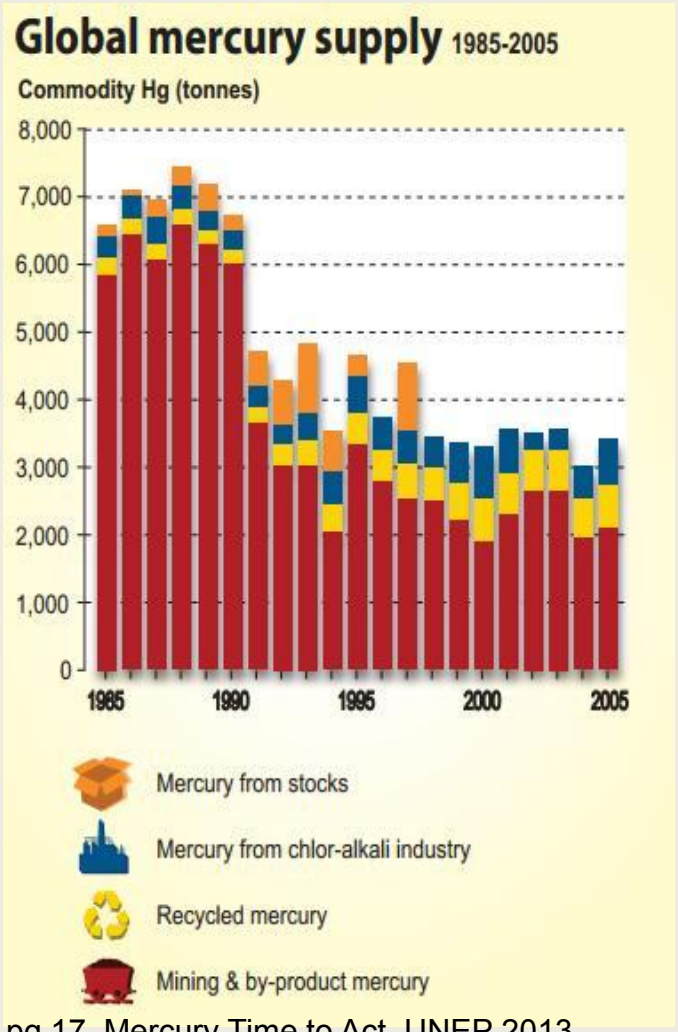
- Waste Management



pg 35, Mercury Time to Act, UNEP 2013

Partnership activities

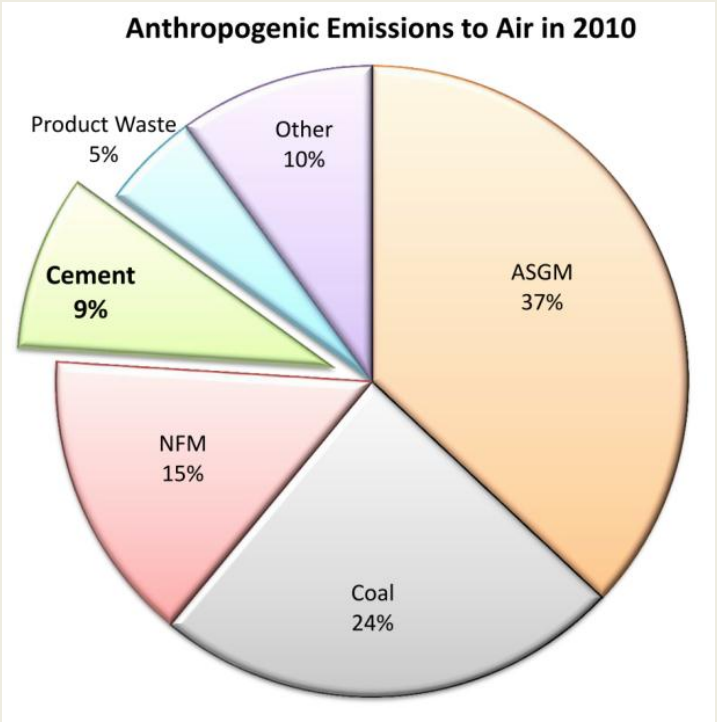
- Mercury Supply and Storage



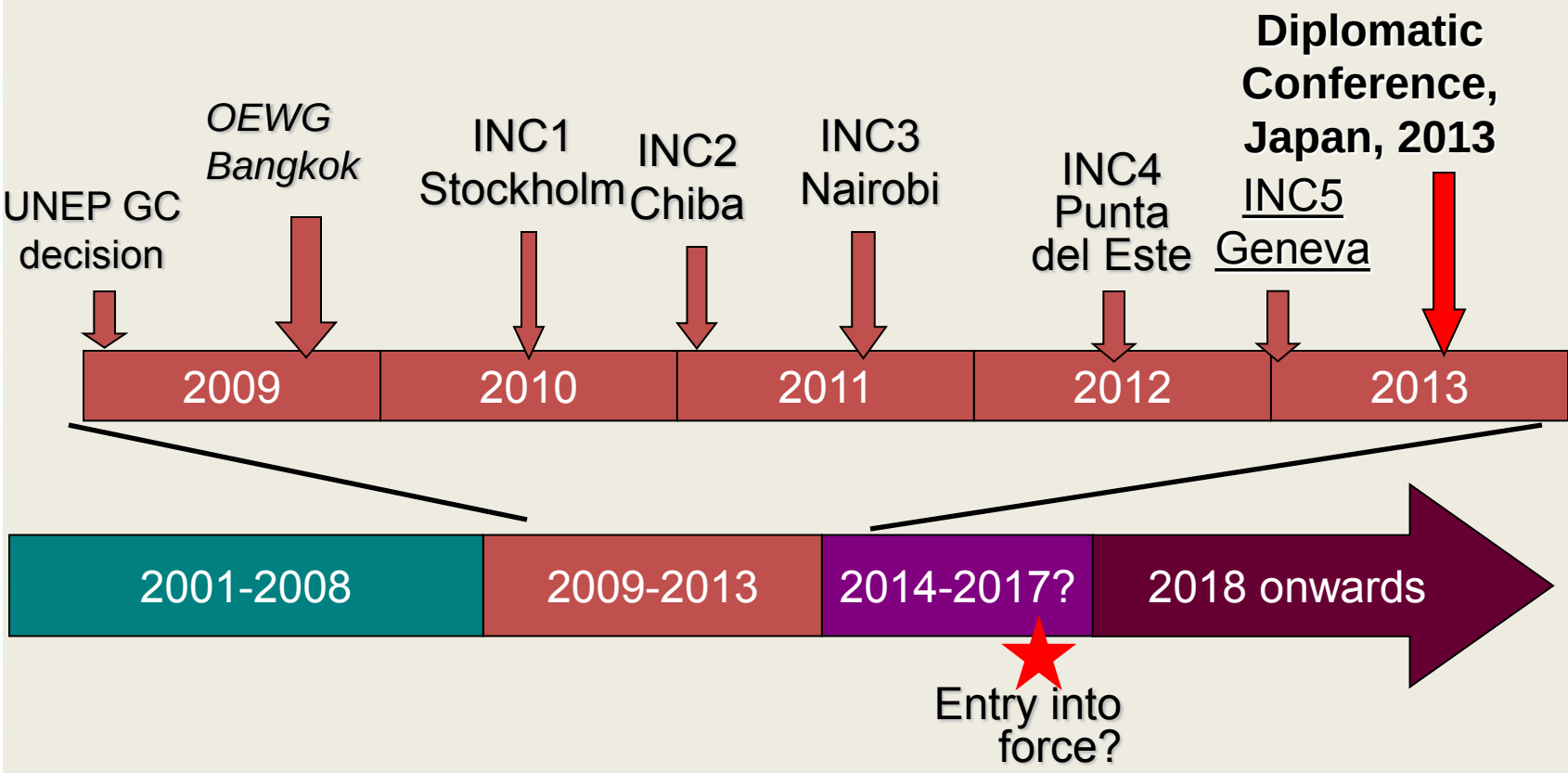
pg 17, Mercury Time to Act, UNEP 2013

Partnership activities

- Mercury Reduction from Cement Industry



Track 2: Negotiating the Minamata Convention on Mercury



Convention Negotiations

19 January 2013:

Governments agreed to the text of the **"Minamata Convention on Mercury"** and successfully fulfilled the GC 25/5 mandate

Secretariat requested to prepare draft elements of the Final Act to be adopted at the DipCon

Highlights of the Convention

Objective: to protect human health and environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

- Ban on new mercury mines and phase-out of existing ones,
- Controls on international trade in mercury
- Control measures on air emissions and releases to water,
- Phase-out and phase-down dates for mercury use in products and processes,
- International controls on ASGM,
- Additional controls relating to storage, waste and contaminated sites in cooperation with the Basel Convention
- Financial mechanism and programme on technical assistance
- Compliance mechanism
- Information exchange and promotion of research
- Specific health article

Diplomatic Conference October 2013, Kumamoto and Minamata

OBJECTIVE FOR THE PREPARATORY MEETING

- Finalize the resolutions to be considered and adopted by the DIPCON

OBJECTIVES FOR THE DIPCON

- Adopt and sign the Final Act of the Conference which will include its report, the resolutions & the text of the Minamata Convention.
- Adopt and open for signature the Convention.

→ **No further negotiation will take place on the Convention, neither on its English nor on its language versions.**

Schedule for the upcoming meetings to adopt and sign the Convention

MONDAY 7 - TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER	Regional meetings Preparatory meeting for the Conference of plenipotentiaries – Kumamoto
WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER	Ceremonial day at Minamata Bay – Minamata
THURSDAY 10 - FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER	Conference of plenipotentiaries– Kumamoto

Next steps

- Development of technical and other guidance material to support implementation
- Countries require support to prepare for ratification
- Capacity building to countries to be provided through the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
- Support by countries towards implementation through i.e. mercury related technology
- The First meeting of the Conference of the Parties must take a number of decisions
- Entry into force 2016?

Support to the Convention

- Implementation of and support for the Convention requires significant finances
- Voluntary support from Governments has allowed actions to date, in particular from Japan, Switzerland, US, EU and Nordic countries
- Financial mechanism encourages industry support and invites technology exchange



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