Terminal Evaluation Review form, GEF Independent Evaluation Office, APR 2017

# 1. Project Data

| Summary project data | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **GEF project ID** | | 5216 | |
| **GEF Agency project ID** | | 5312 | |
| **GEF Replenishment Phase** | | GEF 5 | |
| **Lead GEF Agency (include all for joint projects)** | | UNIDO | |
| **Project name** | | Improve the Health and Environment of Artisanal and Gold Mining Communities in the Philippines by Reducing Mercury Emissions | |
| **Country/Countries** | | Philippines | |
| **Region** | | Asia | |
| **Focal area** | | POPs | |
| **Operational Program or Strategic Priorities/Objectives** | | CHEM-3 | |
| **Executing agencies involved** | | Republic of Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DOH) and Ban Toxics (BT) | |
| **NGOs/CBOs involvement** | | Ban Toxics: executing agency; Dialogos through consultation | |
| **Private sector involvement** | | None | |
| **CEO Endorsement (FSP) /Approval date (MSP)** | | December 2012 | |
| **Effectiveness date / project start** | | March 2013 | |
| **Expected date of project completion (at start)** | | December 2014 | |
| **Actual date of project completion** | | June 2016 | |
| **Project Financing** | | | |
| | | **At Endorsement (US $M)** | **At Completion (US $M)** |
| **Project Preparation Grant** | GEF funding | 0 | 0 |
| | Co-financing | 0 | 0 |
| **GEF Project Grant** | | 0.55 | 0.55 |
| **Co-financing** | IA own | 0.05 | n/a |
| | Government | .015 | 0.22 |
| | Other multi- /bi-laterals | 0.35 | n/a |
| | Private sector | | |
| | NGOs/CSOs | 0.52 | 0.02 |
| **Total GEF funding** | | 0.55 | 0.55 |
| **Total Co-financing** | | 1.08 | n/a |
| **Total project funding (GEF grant(s) + co-financing)** | | 1.63 | n/a |
| **Terminal evaluation/review information** | | | |
| **TE completion date** | | March, 2017 | |
| **Author of TE** | | UNIDO | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **TER completion date** | April, 2018 |
| **TER prepared by** | Ritu Kanotra |
| **TER peer review by (if GEF IEO review)** | Molly Watts Sohn |

## 2. Summary of Project Ratings

| Criteria | Final PIR | IA Terminal Evaluation | IA Evaluation Office Review | GEF IEO Review |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Project Outcomes** | BLIND REVIEW | BLIND REVIEW | BLIND REVIEW | S |
| **Sustainability of Outcomes** | | BLIND REVIEW | BLIND REVIEW | ML |
| **M&E Design** | | BLIND REVIEW | BLIND REVIEW | MS |
| **M&E Implementation** | | BLIND REVIEW | BLIND REVIEW | S |
| **Quality of Implementation** | | BLIND REVIEW | BLIND REVIEW | S |
| **Quality of Execution** | | BLIND REVIEW | BLIND REVIEW | S |
| **Quality of the Terminal Evaluation Report** | | BLIND REVIEW | BLIND REVIEW | S |

## 3. Project Objectives

3.1 Global Environmental Objectives of the project:

According to the Project Document, the Global Environmental Objective of the project was to effectively reduce mercury use, emissions, and exposure in artisanal gold mining communities in the Philippines.

3.2 Development Objectives of the project:

According to the Project Document (PD), the Development Objective of the project is to improve the health and environment of artisanal gold mining communities in the Philippines by promoting sound chemical management and strengthening local and national capacity to effectively reduce mercury use, emissions and exposure. To achieve these objectives, the following outcomes were developed:

**Outcome 1: Strengthen national capacity to effectively manage mercury by establishing a formal national institution and training of key stakeholders.**

1.1 A national institution for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) community is established
1.2 Key stakeholders from Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Health and Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM institution are sensitized and trained to manage mercury effectively through active participation in the project.

**Outcome 2: Mercury use, emissions and exposure reduced at ASG pilot sites.**

1.1 Training programs are developed and delivered at delivered at two pilot demonstration sites for government agencies, local NGOs, communities and other relevant stakeholders
1.2 Techniques and technology training programs for miners to reduce mercury in ASGM are developed and delivered at two pilot demonstration sites.

**Outcome 3: Project achieves its objectives**

3.1 Progress of activities and outputs against targets and desired outcomes are assessed and ultimately achieved.

3.3 Were there any **changes** in the Global Environmental Objectives, Development Objectives, or other activities during implementation?

No.

## 4. GEF IEO assessment of Outcomes and Sustainability

Please refer to the GEF Terminal Evaluation Review Guidelines for detail on the criteria for ratings.

Relevance can receive either a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory rating. For Effectiveness and Cost efficiency, a six-point rating scale is used (Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory), or Unable to Assess. Sustainability ratings are assessed on a four-point scale: Likely=no or negligible risk; Moderately Likely=low risk; Moderately Unlikely=substantial risks; Unlikely=high risk. In assessing a Sustainability rating please note if, and to what degree, sustainability of project outcomes is threatened by financial, sociopolitical, institutional/governance, or environmental factors.

Please justify ratings in the space below each box.

| 4.1 **Relevance** | Rating: **Satisfactory** |
|---|---|

Based on the evidence in the TE, the relevance of the project is assessed to be 'satisfactory'. This project was relevant as the Government of Philippines signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 10th October 2013 and was already undertaking activities for an early ratification of the Convention with the support of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR). The government also hosted UNEP's global forum on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector, underscoring its importance in the Philippine economy, its role in indirectly supporting the livelihoods of two million people, and the need to reduce or eliminate entirely the use of toxic chemicals, such as mercury, in the ASGM process. Recognizing the need for sound management of mercury and mercury containing waste, the government developed a National Strategic Plan (NSP) for the phase-out of mercury in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector for the period 2011 – 2020, which shows that project was in line with the national strategies and plans.

The project also aligned with the GEF 5 Focal Area Strategy for Chemicals under which the project aimed "to promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment," and in particular Objective 3 to "pilot sound chemicals management and mercury reduction." It was also consistent with Outcome 3.1 "country capacity to build to effectively manage mercury in priority sectors".

| 4.2 **Effectiveness** | Rating: **Satisfactory** |
|---|---|

Based on the evidence in the TE, most of the project objectives were achieved 'satisfactorily'. A significant number of miners, including both males and females, were successfully trained to use mercury free method to extract gold, and a number of them had already adopted the mercury-free techniques. As a result, the use of mercury for gold mining was reported to have reduced considerably in the project areas. Communities and health workers were also sensitized on the dangers of mercury on human health and the environment. The project also facilitated the formulation of National Association of Small-Scale Miners (NASSM), which has yet not attained legal status, but is likely to pursue the issues related to Artisanal Small-Scale God Mining (ASGM) sector in future. The project built on the expertise and experience of its partners – Ban Toxics and Dialogos, had good support from the government departments at the national and local level, that helped in securing full co-financing, as well as support at the field level for implementation pilot mercury reduction/elimination projects. Overall, the ASGM sector in Philippines is still largely unregulated and the project was successful in assisting the country to address this issue, especially with regard to the illegal use of mercury in the sector.

**Outcome 1**: National capacity fostered to effectively manage mercury**- Satisfactory**

As expected, the National Association of Small-Scale Miners (NASSM) was established and registered but is in the process of obtaining a legal status. In terms of the process, Ban Toxics supported ASGM association formed at Labo and Diwalwal, that joined by association of other locations pushed forward to have a provincial mining summit, paving the way to constitute NASSM. As the TE notes, these summits are now organized annually, with the latest summit organized in Davos having more than 130 participants. The project facilitated the formulation of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in order to sensitize the government and other stakeholders to manage mercury effectively. TWGs had participation from key government departments, representatives from NGOs, academia and Local Government Units (LGUs). In all, a total of 7 TWG meetings and 4 regional consultation workshops were organized nationwide that served as a platform for useful discussions. These discussions generated some important and relevant conclusions such as, a proposal to amend Chemical Control Order (CCO) as per the requirements of the Minamata Convention and need for a national storage facility for mercury and mercury- containing waste.

**Outcome 2:** Mercury use, emissions, and exposure reduced at ASGM pilot sites- **Satisfactory**

Outputs under this outcome included training programs (for NGOs, miners, community and health workers) to be developed and demonstrated at two pilot demonstration sites on health risks and early recognition of mercury. Despite the identification of the two pilot demonstration sites, Ban Toxics- the

executing agency for this output, didn't get enough support from the Local Government Units at Paso, due to which the pilot demonstration site had to be changed to Lado, delaying the project implementation by one year. However, activities to train the health workers and other relevant stakeholders was undertaken as per the plan. A total of 60 rural health care workers, 25 peer educators, and 30 local partners were trained at the three project sites of Diwalwal, Pasil, and Labo.

A number of other activities and initiatives were also undertaken in the project to raise awareness of the local communities (including youth groups and women) about the dangers of mercury on human health and environment. The workshops conducted under the project were covered by the local media and press that helped reach out to the broader audience as well. Special trainings were organized for miners at the two pilot demonstration sites- 335 male+207 female master miners trained as direct beneficiaries; 1047 male + 996 female miners trained as indirect beneficiaries. The Local Government Units (LGUs), at the two project sites, provided co-financing for the construction of 5 ball mill station using mercury free method; 29 ball mill stations in transition to mercury free method that showed results like 368 kg of Hg reduced per year and potential reduction of 8,082 kg Hg per year.

As per the TE, the achievement of the project is evident as lesser number of miners were reported to buy mercury, there was a perceived drop in illnesses among family members; larger amount of gold recovered using gravity and miners found satisfied with the changing process despite initial hesitations. Miners also recognized that using mercury-free method required more patience and discipline for the successful gold extraction but confirmed that those who moved to other locations began their own gravity method and trained other miners in new areas, that demonstrates the value that miners see in using the new mercury free method. However, some miners also expressed that more rigorous training (one month) was required to fully understand and master the technique.

A significant number of women of the local communities received training and participated actively in project activities. These activities and support was geared towards communicating and raising awareness among stakeholders that women in Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector play a major role in the labor force. For example, an opportunity was provided to women of the ASGM communities to participate in the Municipal Committee on Women's Welfare in Camarines Norte, and to lobby for a policy that supports women's welfare and improved conditions in the ASGM community.

| 4.3 **Efficiency** | Rating: **Satisfactory** |
|---|---|

Based on the evidence in the TE, the efficiency of the project is rated as 'satisfactory'.

The project was mainly delayed due to change of project site from Pasil to Lado. All three national partners: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Ban Toxics and Department of Health (DOH), confirmed timely disbursal of the funds. At the time of the TE, 93.5% of GEF funds were spent and mobilization of cash and in-kind contribution from the partners (Ban Toxics and the Government – National and Local) contributed to efficiency of the project. Although the project was delayed by 18 months, all the outputs were delivered satisfactorily and, in a cost-effective manner. The

current project built on the earlier efforts initiated by Ban Toxics to reduce mercury emissions in 2011, that also helped in achieving some of the objectives in a cost-effective manner.

| 4.4 **Sustainability** | Rating: **Moderately Likely** |
|---|---|

Overall, the project has a good political support, as the government of Philippines signed the Minamata Convention, though not yet ratified, and developed a National Strategic Plan (NSP) for the phase-out of mercury in the small-scale mining sector. The project was also able to demonstrate and train miners, community members and health trainers on the mercury free mining as well as generate sufficient support from the national and local government representatives through sensitizing them on the harmful effects of mercury on health and the environment. However, financial support required by the small-scale miners to shift to mercury methods, and the lack of legal status of National Association of Small Scale Miners (NASSM) constituted during the project to facilitate the process of mercury elimination in small scale mining, are some of the challenges due to which the financial risk is assessed to be 'moderately likely'.

Financial: **Moderately Likely**

As the TE notes, miners and ball mill operators need an initial investment cost of Php (equivalent to about $100) to change to mercury-free methods. Many of the miners consulted during the TE indicated need of financial assistance (may be in the form of a revolving fund) to make this investment, which is currently not available, due to which the risk to financial sustainability is assessed to be moderately likely.

Socio-political: **Moderately Likely**

According to the TE, Philippines has signed the Minamata Convention and has taken initiatives for its early ratification. Also, having developed a National Strategic Plan (NSP) for the phase-out of mercury in the ASGM sector for the period 2011 – 2020 gives an indication of the commitment of the Philippine government to properly manage mercury. However, lack of support from the Local Government Units(LGUs) is a possible risk. The project site had to be changed (from Pasil to Lado) as Local Government Units (LGU) at Pasil approved of large scale mining operations, resulting into their diminished support for the mercury operations. National Association of Small Scale Miners (NASSM) constituted during the project to facilitate the process of mercury elimination in small scale mining, still lacks the legal status and there are some risks that LGUs, in the face of large scale mining, may not give full support to phase out mercury in the Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector, the rating for socio-political environment is assessed to be moderately likely.

Institutional: **Likely**

The Philippine government is committed to the phase out of mercury in the Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector and several of the government representatives were also sensitized through the interventions under the project, on the need to manage mercury effectively. The government representatives along with other stakeholders, who participated in trainings and sensitization programs,

also came up with a proposal for the amendment of the Chemical (CCO) on mercury for the sound life cycle management of the chemical. Ban Toxics, the NGO involved in execution of the some of the project components, is also well equipped to provide technical expertise and guidance. The project also helped raise awareness at the local level through involvement of local governments, local communities, miners' communities, community health workers and local associations. National Association of Small Scale Miners (NASSM) established during the project, although lacking legal status, is fully equipped to facilitate the process of mercury elimination in the small-scale mining.

Environmental: **Likely**

The TE confirms that there are no environmental risks that can influence or jeopardize the project outcomes and future flow of the project benefits.

# 5. Processes and factors affecting attainment of project outcomes

5.1 Co-financing. To what extent was the reported co-financing essential to the achievement of GEF objectives? If there was a difference in the level of expected co-financing and actual co-financing, then what were the reasons for it? Did the extent of materialization of co-financing affect project's outcomes and/or sustainability? If so, in what ways and through what causal linkages?

The TE confirms mobilization of cash and in-kind co-funding from Government - DENR: $150,000 and Department of Health: $75,000 as against the original commitment of $150,000; from the implementing partner – Ban Toxics: $20,000 as against the original commitment of $ 25,000. Local Government Units (LGUs) also provided cash co-financing (Diwalwal site: Php 200,000; Labo site: Php 350,000), a plot of land, support for building the facility, a water tank, and building materials for the construction of mercury free facility. The project has been quite successful in mobilizing cash and in-kind contribution from the government. A number of government officers, both at the central and regional offices, were involved in the project activities along with the provision of office and laboratory space for the project work. However, it is not clear, as the TE didn't include details if additional co-financing from rest of the sources (CEO endorsement Pg 3), like UNIDO ($50,000), Dialoges (500,000) and US Department of State Grant through Ban Toxics ($356,070), was materialized or not.

5.2 Project extensions and/or delays. If there were delays in project implementation and completion, then what were the reasons for it? Did the delay affect the project's outcomes and/or sustainability? If so, in what ways and through what causal linkages?

The project was delayed mainly due to the change of the project site. Ban Toxics- the executing agency, didn't get enough support from the Local Government Units of Pasil for the pilot demonstration, due to which the site had to be changed to another site (Labo), delaying the project implementation by one year. However, as the TE notes, the delays didn't impact either the achievement or the sustainability of the outcomes.

5.3 Country ownership. Assess the extent to which country ownership has affected project outcomes and sustainability? Describe the ways in which it affected outcomes and sustainability, highlighting the causal links:

The project had good country ownership. It was quite relevant as Philippines being a party to the Minamata Convention was working towards its early ratification at the time of the project. The project had a high level of involvement of the government departments and its representatives at the national and local levels, also evident through their co-financing contribution that was fully achieved. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) served as host Department of the project and was supported by Department of Health (DOH) for some of the activities. DENR and DOH were assisted by their regional offices in Davao City. A number of bureaus of DENR were also involved in the project, including the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), which provided support and assistance at project sites. The Local Government Units (LGUs) of Diwalwal, Compostela Valley, and Labo, Camarines Norte also had high level of involvement in the project.

However, the Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector is still mainly considered part of the informal economy and hardly regulated. According to some of the government officers interviewed during the TE, the project assisted the country to address this issue, especially with regard to the illegal use of mercury in the sector.

## 6. Assessment of project's Monitoring and Evaluation system

Ratings are assessed on a six point scale: Highly Satisfactory=no shortcomings in this M&E component; Satisfactory=minor shortcomings in this M&E component; Moderately Satisfactory=moderate shortcomings in this M&E component; Moderately Unsatisfactory=significant shortcomings in this M&E component; Unsatisfactory=major shortcomings in this M&E component; Highly Unsatisfactory=there were no project M&E systems.

Please justify ratings in the space below each box.

| 6.1 **M&E Design at entry** | Rating: **Moderately Satisfactory** |
|---|---|

Based on the narrative in the TE, the M&E design at entry is assessed to be 'moderately satisfactory'. The proposed plan in the project document included a results framework (PRF) (annex A of the project document- Pg 15) with objectively verifiable indicators, sources of verification, and assumptions for the

project objectives, outcomes, and outputs. But, as the TE also notes, the M&E component was not adequately budgeted to support the costs of different monitoring activities ($ 20,000 including co-financing), including inception report, reports on impact indicators, PIRs, annual financial reporting and audits, mid-term and terminal evaluations. Nonetheless, the overall proposed approach to M&E in terms of activities and deliverables (reports) was adequate and clearly linked to project reporting, oversight, and governance.

| 6.2 **M&E Implementation** | Rating: **Satisfactory** |
|---|---|

Based on the information in the TE and the PD, the rating assigned to M&E implementation is 'satisfactory'. As planned, the project held an inception workshop, where different stakeholders were invited to discuss planned activities and outcomes expected from the project. The project constituted a Technical Working Group (TWG), involving a number of stakeholders from the government departments and the relevant institutions that met regularly (7 times during the entire project), to discuss the progress and important decisions like, extension of the project, or the need of a national storage facility for mercury and mercury waste and for the overall adaptive management of the project. The project didn't involve long term monitoring of the impacts and the day to day monitoring was the responsibility a National Project Coordinator(NPC) nominated within the host institute (DENR) and by the Project Manager (PM) nominated with Ban Toxics. The TE confirms that both the officials submitted their progress reports to UNIDO in timely manner. The project also supported the health assessments to monitor the levels of mercury amongst miners at the pilot demonstration sites, but the results of which are still not shared with the local community.

# 7. Assessment of project implementation and execution

Quality of Implementation includes the quality of project design, as well as the quality of supervision and assistance provided by implementing agency(s) to execution agencies throughout project implementation. Quality of Execution covers the effectiveness of the executing agency(s) in performing its roles and responsibilities. In both instances, the focus is upon factors that are largely within the control of the respective implementing and executing agency(s). A six point rating scale is used (Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory), or Unable to Assess.

Please justify ratings in the space below each box.

| 7.1 **Quality of Project Implementation** | Rating: **Satisfactory** |
|---|---|

Based on the evidence in the TE, the quality of the project implementation is rated as 'satisfactory'. As the TE notes, both the UNIDO Project Manager and the UNIDO Country Office were involved in the supervision of the projects, through the various reports submitted by the project officials, visits to the project sites and their participation in 5 out of 7 Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings organized during the project. Change in staff – a new Project Manager (PM) was nominated to take over replacing

the old PM, didn't impact the project negatively as the new manager had a good experience on mercury related projects and supported the project adequately. Feedbacks gathered during the TE indicate that the different partners and stakeholders highly appreciated the supervision and technical backstopping provided by both the UNIDO HQ and the Country Office.

| 7.2 **Quality of Project Execution** | Rating: **Satisfactory** |
|---|---|

Based on the evidence in the TE, this TER assesses the quality of project execution to be 'satisfactory'. At the national level, the project was executed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DOH), and Ban Toxics (BT). Coordinators nominated within DENR and DOH, and an National Project Manager nominated within BT, had a good working collaboration and had adequate support from the regional offices of DENR and DOH as well as the Local Government Units (except in the case of LGUs at Pablo due to which the site was later changed to Lado). Overall, Ban Toxics, the NGO executing agency, was able to secure the support of the LGUs and trust of the miners' and local communities for implementation of the project activities. The TE confirms that all the reports (financial, administrative and project progress) were submitted to UNIDO on time resulting into timely disbursal of funds.

Gender issues were also well integrated into the project. As the TE notes, both the National Project Manager (NPM) as well as the National Project Coordinators were females. Moreover, as explained earlier, Ban Toxics focused on building the capacity of women's organizations on specific methods and techniques in gold extraction as well as their knowledge on gender rights, advocacy, and participation in ASGM peer education activities.

# 8. Assessment of Project Impacts

***Note - In instances where information on any impact related topic is not provided in the terminal evaluations, the reviewer should indicate in the relevant sections below that this is indeed the case and identify the information gaps. When providing information on topics related to impact, please cite the page number of the terminal evaluation from where the information is sourced.***

8.1 Environmental Change. Describe the changes in environmental stress and environmental status that occurred by the end of the project. Include both quantitative and qualitative changes documented, sources of information for these changes, and how project activities contributed to or hindered these changes. Also include how contextual factors have contributed to or hindered these changes.

The construction of mercury free facilities at the two project pilot demonstration sites recorded the reduction of 368 Kg of Hg per year, with potential reduction of 8,082Kg Hg per year (TE Para 62).

8.2 Socioeconomic change. Describe any changes in human well-being (income, education, health, community relationships, etc.) that occurred by the end of the project. Include both quantitative and qualitative changes documented, sources of information for these changes, and how project activities

contributed to or hindered these changes. Also include how contextual factors have contributed to or hindered these changes.

Health assessments conducted for miners in the project area in 2013 and 2015, where blood mercury levels and total mercury in hair of respondents were also determined. The results of these assessments show that the mercury levels were much lower for the second assessment (ppb level) than for the first assessment (ppm level), which tend to indicate that when the miners shifted to mercury-free technique for gold extraction, the levels of mercury in their hair and blood decreased drastically. However, the TE notes that the miners had not yet been informed about results of these health assessments and recommends that actions be taken by Department of Health (DOH) to inform the miners about the outcome of the assessments.

8.3 Capacity and governance changes. Describe notable changes in capacities and governance that can lead to large-scale action (both mass and legislative) bringing about positive environmental change. "Capacities" include awareness, knowledge, skills, infrastructure, and environmental monitoring systems, among others. "Governance" refers to decision-making processes, structures and systems, including access to and use of information, and thus would include laws, administrative bodies, trust-building and conflict resolution processes, information-sharing systems, etc. Indicate how project activities contributed to/ hindered these changes, as well as how contextual factors have influenced these changes.

a) Capacities

1. The project supported large scale awareness on mercury toxicity and impact through reaching out to a large number of stakeholder including the community health workers, community members and local partners on Hg monitoring. A significant number of women of the local communities received training and participated actively in project activities.

1. Trainings at the two pilot demonstration sites, including miner to miner training who further trained more miners in the area broadening the reach out of the project. The project has been quite successful in training the miners to shift to mercury-free method, thus reducing the use of mercury at the project sites and lessening exposure to mercury (as observed in miners during the health assessments).
2. The project facilitated the formulation of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in order to sensitize the government and other stakeholders to manage mercury effectively. TWGs had participation from key government departments, and for some of the meetings representatives from NGOs, academia and Local Government Units (LGUs). In all, a total of 7 TWG meetings and 4 regional consultation workshops were organized nationwide that served as a platform for awareness generation and useful discussions. These discussions generated some important and relevant conclusions such as, proposal to amend Chemical Control Order (CCO) as per the requirements

of the Minamata Convention and need for a national storage facility for mercury and mercury-containing waste.

3. A number of activities and support were geared towards communicating and raising awareness among stakeholders that women in Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) play a major role in the labor force. For example, an opportunity was provided to women of the ASGM communities to participate in the Municipal Committee on Women's Welfare in Camarines Norte, and to lobby for a policy that supports women's welfare and improved conditions in the ASGM community.

8.4 Unintended impacts. Describe any impacts not targeted by the project, whether positive or negative, affecting either ecological or social aspects. Indicate the factors that contributed to these unintended impacts occurring.

None.

8.5 Adoption of GEF initiatives at scale. Identify any initiatives (e.g. technologies, approaches, financing instruments, implementing bodies, legal frameworks, information systems) that have been mainstreamed, replicated and/or scaled up by government and other stakeholders by project end. Include the extent to which this broader adoption has taken place, e.g. if plans and resources have been established but no actual adoption has taken place, or if market change and large-scale environmental benefits have begun to occur. Indicate how project activities and other contextual factors contributed to these taking place. If broader adoption has not taken place as expected, indicate which factors (both project-related and contextual) have hindered this from happening.

1. One of the outcomes of the project was the formulation of National Association of Small-Scale Miners (NASSM), with core members, and interim officers in place, and who are likely to work and take up the issues related to small-scale and artisanal mining in future. But NASSM has yet to attain the legal status.

2. Other outcomes of the project also included proposal for amendments to the Chemical Control Order (CCO) regarding mercury and mercury compounds but as the TE recommends, this needs to be pursued with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for approval.

# 9. Lessons and recommendations

9.1 Briefly describe the key lessons, good practices, or approaches mentioned in the terminal evaluation report that could have application for other GEF projects.

1. The project site had to be changed as the Local Government Units (LGU) of one of the project sites was no longer supporting the project, thereby causing a delay of about one year in the implementation process. Hence, securing the commitment of partners ahead of time through signed agreement can avoid delays in project execution.

2. The miners were initially reluctant to participate in the activities aimed at reducing the use of mercury in gold mining for various reasons including: loss of income if not working; and, mercury method is quick to extract gold. However, awareness generation amongst communities about the he health problems that they might suffer from if exposed to mercury, that they gradually started to change their mind. In particular, the women, knowing that they will be particularly affected if exposed, convinced the miners to participate in the project. Engaging proper awareness- raising activities and building their confidence are the basis to secure the commitment of the communities.

9.2 Briefly describe the recommendations given in the terminal evaluation.

1. The project has been quite successful in training the miners to shift to mercury-free method, thus reducing the use of mercury at the project sites and lessening exposure to mercury (as observed in miners during the health assessments). It is recommended (for Ban Toxics and Department of Environment and Natural resources) that these positive outcomes be summarized and disseminated to other Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) communities in the Philippines.
2. It is recommended that a mechanism for financial assistance be set in order to facilitate shift to mercury-free gold mining in the Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector.
3. For continued relevance and impact of the project, when the Chemical Control Order on mercury is adopted, the relevant authorities (Department of Environment and Natural resources -DENR) should ensure that it is strictly enforced to make availability of mercury difficult.
4. The results of the health assessment have not yet been disclosed to miners. Department of Health (DOH) should proceed rapidly to inform the miners about the outcome of these assessments.

## 10. Quality of the Terminal Evaluation Report

A six point rating scale is used for each sub-criteria and overall rating of the terminal evaluation report (Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory)

| Criteria | **GEF IEO comments** | Rating |
|---|---|---|
| To what extent does the report contain an assessment of relevant outcomes and impacts of the project and the achievement of the objectives? | The reports assessment of the outcomes and impacts was adequate and quite comprehensive. | **S** |
| To what extent is the report internally consistent, the evidence presented complete and convincing, and ratings well substantiated? | The report was internally consistent, and the evidence presented complete and convincing. | **S** |
| To what extent does the report properly assess project sustainability and/or project exit strategy? | The sustainability aspect of the project was suitably assessed. | **S** |
| To what extent are the lessons learned supported by the evidence presented and are they comprehensive? | The lessons learnt are placed within the context of the project and match with the evidence presented in the main body of the report. | **S** |
| Does the report include the actual project costs (total and per activity) and actual co-financing used? | The project includes details on project cost and co-financing from the main executing partners. However, it doesn't shed light on the co-financing from other sources like UNIDO and Dialogos. | **MS** |
| Assess the quality of the report's evaluation of project M&E systems: | It's assessment of the project M&E was satisfactory. | **S** |
| **Overall TE Rating** | | **S** |

## 11. Note any additional sources of information used in the preparation of the terminal evaluation report (excluding PIRs, TEs, and PADs).