

UNEP Minamata Convention

Mercury is a highly toxic pollutant capable of global dispersion in the environment [Maas and Grennfelt, 2016]. Global concern over mercury pollution resulted in development of the Minamata Convention on Mercury a legally-binding multilateral environmental agreement that was adopted by governments in 2013 [<http://www.mercuryconvention.org/>]. To support the negotiation process the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) coordinated preparation of a series of Global Mercury Assessments (GMA) [UNEP, 2002; AMAP/UNEP, 2008; AMAP/UNEP, 2013; AMAP/UNEP, 2015]. EMEP participated in all of the Assessments sharing information on mercury pollution and coordinating activities on global scale modeling.

In particular, MSC-E took part in preparation of the UNEP Global Mercury Assessment 2013 (GMA 2013) used for negotiations of the Minamata Convention [AMAP/UNEP, 2013]. Variety of information was collected and made available for the assessment purpose including updated emissions inventory for mercury and observations on a global scale. These data are also useful in the EMEP operational activities on evaluation of mercury transboundary pollution of the EMEP countries.

MSC-E coordinated an update of GMA 2013 with new modeling results on evaluation of mercury intercontinental transport and source attribution of mercury deposition (Fig. 1) using the up-to-date global inventory of mercury anthropogenic emissions [AMAP/UNEP, 2015].

A new Global Mercury Assessment (GMA 2018) is now in progress in accordance with the request of the UNEP's Governing Council (Decision 27/12). MSC-E was invited to take a lead of the assessment part focused on modeling of mercury pollution on global and regional scales. Participation of the Centre in the assessment will be co-funded by UNEP. General structure of the assessment, participating experts and time schedule of the assessment were recently discussed at the first meeting of the GMA 2018 Project Coordination Group (Geneva, Switzerland, April 2016).

Co-operation with UNEP and the Minamata Convention on Mercury can support pollution assessment within EMEP by variety of data (including mercury emission inventories and observations on a global scale) as well as broaden dissemination of the scientific and policy oriented information generated within the Convention.

References

- AMAP/UNEP [2008] Technical Background Report to the Global Mercury Assessment. Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme / UNEP Chemicals Branch. 159 pp. <http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=gwLbyNhGtn8%3d&tabid=3593&language=en-US>. Accessed on June 28, 2016.
- AMAP/UNEP [2013] Technical Background Report for the Global Mercury Assessment 2013. Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Oslo, Norway / UNEP Chemicals Branch, Geneva, Switzerland. vi + 263 pp. (<http://www.amap.no/documents/download/1265>. Accessed on June 17, 2016).

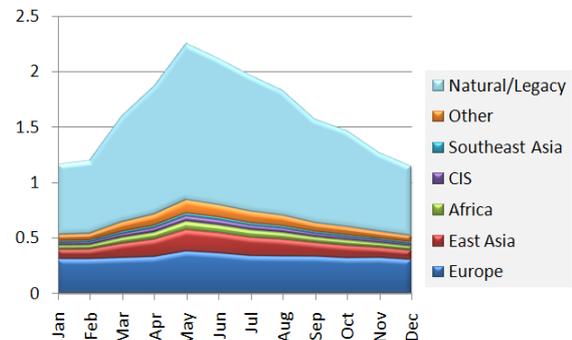


Fig. 1. Seasonal variation of source attribution of average mercury deposition in Europe in 2013 [UNEP, 2015]

AMAP/UNEP [2015] Global Mercury Modeling: Update of Modeling Results in the Global Mercury Assessment 2013. Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Oslo, Norway/UNEP Chemicals Branch, Geneva, Switzerland. iv + 32 pp.

Maas R. and Grennfelt P. (eds) [2016] Towards Cleaner Air. Scientific Assessment Report 2016. EMEP Steering Body and Working Group on Effects of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, Oslo. xx+50pp.

UNEP [2002] Global Mercury Assessment 2002. UNEP Chemicals. 258 pp.

<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/final-assessment-report-25nov02.pdf>. Accessed on June 28, 2016.