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Page 2: PART A

## Q1 INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

Name of the party **Vanuatu**

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**Q2** Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited **Date** **16/10/2018**

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**Q3** Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party **-**

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## Q4 INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

Name of contact officer **Donna Kalfatak**  
Title of contact officer **Director**  
Full name of the institution **Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation**  
Address **PMB 9063, Nambatu Area**  
City/Town **Port Vila**  
State/Province **Shefa Province**  
Country **Vanuatu**  
Email **dkalfatak@vanuatu.gov.vu**  
Phone Number **+678 7741259**

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## First biennial short report for the Minamata Convention on Mercury 2019

### Q5 INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTACT OFFICER SUBMITTING THE REPORTING FORMAT IF DIFFERENT FROM THE ABOVE

Name and title of contact officer	<b>Ionie Bolenga</b>
Title of contact officer	<b>Principial Officer Environmental Protection Division</b>
Full name of the institution	<b>Department of Environmental Protection &amp; Conservation</b>
Address	<b>PMB 9063, Nambatu Area</b>
City/Town	<b>Port Vila</b>
State/Province	<b>Shefa Province</b>
Country	<b>Vanuatu</b>
Email	<b>ibolenga@vanuatu.gov.vu</b>
Phone Number	<b>+678 7752173</b>

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<b>Q6 DATE THE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED</b>	Date	<b>24/12/2019</b>
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Page 3: PART B

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<b>Q7 1.</b> Does the party have any primary mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party? (Para. 3.)	<b>No</b>
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<b>Q8 c.</b> If yes, please indicate Total amount mined _____ metric tons per year	-
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<b>Q9</b> Additional information on this question if needed	-
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<b>Q10 3.</b> Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory? (Para. 5.)	<b>No</b>
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<b>Q11</b> If the party answered Yes to Question 3 above: i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.	-
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<b>Q12</b> ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information, for example on the use or disposal of mercury from such stock and sources.	
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The following are as per Vanuatu's draft MIA Report that is currently under review with BRI consultants (contracted by SPREP), Draft MIA Report for Vanuatu is based on assessments done in four main locations in Vanuatu; (1)Port Vila - Efate, (2)Luganville - Santo, (3) Lenakel - Tanna and (4) Lakatoro - Malekula, as identified by SPREP and the Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation (DEPC) mainly due to their exposure to mercury containing products given the number of schools with laboratories, hospitals, shops

## First biennial short report for the Minamata Convention on Mercury 2019

(DEFC) mainly due to their exposure to mercury containing products given the number of schools with laboratories, hospitals, shops, fuel stations and other relevant means. The list below indicates the status of the 11 source categories of Mercury in Vanuatu.

Of the 11 Mercury release sources under the Minamata Convention, Vanuatu has 6 Mercury release sources:

1. Energy Consumption - Combustion/use of diesel, petroleum & kerosene.
  
7. Use and disposal of products with mercury content -Dental amalgam fillings ("silver" fillings)
  - Thermometers
  - Electrical switches and relays with mercury
  - Light sources with mercury
  - Batteries with mercury
  - Paints with mercury preservatives
  - Medical blood pressure gauges (mercury -sphygmomanometers)
  - Laboratory chemicals
  - Other laboratory and medical equipment with mercury
  
8. Production of recycled of metals
  - Production of recycled ferrous metals (iron and steel)
  
9. Waste Incineration
  - Incineration of municipal/general waste
  - Incineration of hazardous waste
  - Incineration and open burning of medical waste
  - Open fire waste burning (on landfills and informally)
  
10. Waste deposition/landfilling and waste water treatment
  - Controlled landfills/deposits
  - Informal dumping of general waste
  
11. Crematoria and cemeteries
  - Cemeteries only

In detail:

A) Energy consumption (Diesel, Petroleum & Kerosene)

(I) Data on oil production combusted/used per year

There are only two (2) energy provider companies in Vanuatu:

1. UNELCO (Efate Island - Port Vila) and
2. VUI (Santo - Luganville Island)

Both energy companies lack mercury control measures.

B) Waste Treatment & Recycling

(I) Production of recycled ferrous metals (Iron & Steel): number of vehicles recycled per year.

There is only one recycling company in Vanuatu - Recycle Corp located in Port Vila. It is estimated that during the period of 2016 - 2017 a total of 350 cars were recycled

## First biennial short report for the Minamata Convention on Mercury 2019

a total of 888 cars were recycled.

### (II) Waste Incineration:

1. Hazardous waste incineration estimated to be 740 tonnes for Port Vila only.
2. Medical waste incineration per year for all four locations is estimated to be 291 tonnes.

### (III) Waste Deposition/Landfilling

1. All four deposition sites in the four allocated sites are controlled and managed by provincial and municipality authorities, it is estimated that collectively they produce 23,350 tons of waste (in general) per year. It is clear that authorities have little or no knowledge regarding the risks of mercury exposure to humans and the environment however environmental friendly practices, including relevant strategies and policies already exist and need to be strengthened to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

## C) General Consumption of Mercury in Products as Metal Mercury and as Mercury Containing Substances.

### (I) Dental Amalgam Fillings

The findings indicated that dental amalgams were only used for permanent tooth fillings, due to time constraints at this stage, no reporting/data is available for the number of people with amalgam fillings.

### (II) Thermometers

1. Medical Mercury Thermometers, Other Glass Hg Thermometers, Engine control Hg Thermometers and other large industrial /speciality Hg Thermometers: Items sold per year

17 Hg Thermometers were used across all four assessment sites. 12 in Hospitals, 4 in schools and 1 sold at a pharmacy. In general for schools there are five Hg Thermometers that are in stock and have not been used.

### (III) Light Sources with Mercury

1. Fluorescent Tubes (Double ended): items sold per year

Of the 49 Shops assessed across the four sites, 32 were selling fluorescent tubes.

2. Compact Fluorescent Lamps (single end) sold per year

From the 49 shops assessed as stated above, the assessment indicated that all shops that were selling fluorescent tubes were also selling Compact Fluorescent lamps.

For other Hg containing light sources - no data is available.

### (IV) Batteries with Mercury - the same 49 shops were also assessed for these.

1. Mercury Oxide (button sizes and other sizes) or mercury zinc batteries sold per year: Only 1 shop was selling watch battery.

2. Other button cells (zinc-air, alkaline button cells): batteries sold per year: All shops assessed were selling alkaline batteries although the description on the outer cover states 0 % Mercury.

Other Batteries with Mercury: No data available.

### (V) Paints with Mercury Preservatives: Paints sold, ton per year

16 Hardware shops were assessed across all four sites. in total only 13 were selling paint however it was difficult to ascertain if these

## First biennial short report for the Minamata Convention on Mercury 2019

paints had mercury preservatives.

(VI) Skin lightening creams and soaps with Mercury Chemicals: Items sold per year:

Beauty Salons were only assessed in Port Vila, Efate as there were no beauty salons in the other three assessment sites. Only two beauty salons were assessed and none of them sells skin lightening creams or soaps with mercury chemicals.

(VII) Medical Pressure gauges (Mercury sphygmomanometers): Items sold per year:

4 Public hospitals, 7 private clinics and 3 pharmacies were assessed - none was using/selling medical pressure gauges.

(D) Cemeteries

(I) Copses buried per year - Of the 4 assessment sites, only 2 towns- Port Vila and Luganville have common burial areas such as cemeteries, however not all buried copse are recorded and registered.

From the Civil Registry Office data in the period of 2017 - 2018 a total of 1,729 copse were buried across all four assessments sites.

It is not a common practice in Vanuatu for corpse to be burned.

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**Q13** 5. Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party's territory in the reporting period? (Para. 6, para. 7.) **No**

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**Q14** If yes, a. and the party has submitted copies of the consent forms to the secretariat, then no further information is needed. If the party has not previously provided such copies, it is recommended that it do so. Otherwise, please provide other suitable information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 6 of article 3 have been met. Supplemental: please provide information on the use of the exported mercury. -

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**Q15** Kindly attach all relevant information here -

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**Q16** b. If exports were based on a general notification in accordance with article 3, paragraph 7, please indicate, if available, the total amount exported and any relevant terms or conditions in the general notification related to use. -

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**Q17** Kindly attach any relevant information here -

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First biennial short report for the Minamata Convention on Mercury 2019

**Q18** Part E. As per agreed reporting format, Parties are invited to provide additional comments on this article in free text. Kindly use the box below. -

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**Q19** 2. Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory? **No**

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**Q20** If yes, if the information is available, how much waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds has been subjected to final disposal under the reporting period? Please specify the method of the final disposal operation/operations. -

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**Q21** Kindly attach any additional relevant information here -

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**Q22** Part E. As per agreed reporting format, Parties are invited to provide additional comments on this article in free text. Kindly use the box below. -

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## First biennial short report for the Minamata Convention on Mercury 2019

### **Q23** Part C. Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention (Art. 21, para. 1)

Response to this part is also adapted from the Draft MIA report.

It is noted that while the assessments for all four locations are now completed, listed below are few challenges highlighted in relation to logistic and operational of the assessment that can be taken into consideration for future planning and implementation of similar activities in Vanuatu:

1.1 Remoteness and the spread of the assessment coverage within the island, made it difficult and costly to reach schools especially those with laboratories and are located out of town area.

1.2 The unwillingness of stakeholders to provide the consultant with information. In most instances, the assessment is being classified as a threat to the company or shop. Shop owners and managers were reluctant to provide information as required.

1.3 Since Mercury is a new norm in two of the four towns of Vanuatu, it took a while for the consultant to clearly explain what the issue is and outlines the common risk to the environment, before conducting the assessment.

1.4 Adapting the toolkit to Vanuatu context was a challenge. While it is important to clearly explain what information is needed, it is also important not to lose the exact meaning of a specific set of question. The consultant was only able to collect estimates of all the questions required, in order to quantify the information. However, this can be an issue to address in the future when similar projects arises.

- Priority areas for implementation of the Convention

The priority areas for successful implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, derived from the major gaps in information identified during the institutional and legislative gap analysis and the national mercury inventory. There exist potential synergies between the Minamata Convention and implementation strategies of other chemicals conventions (e.g., Basel) and it will be beneficial for future implementation efforts to take advantage of the overlapping needs of these conventions in order to enhance coordination of chemicals management efforts within the country. In addition, an effort should be made to identify priority areas that are similar across countries in the region as this will help to improve collaboration on issues such as trade and the transportation of waste and may also open greater opportunities for international funding to assist with these implementation efforts.

-Areas of Intervention:

In order for Vanuatu to meet the overall goal of the Minamata Convention, at least four key areas of intervention can be taken into consideration:

1. Strengthening the legal and institutional framework;
2. Developing interim storage and environmental sound management plan for mercury;
3. Capacity building, education and awareness across all levels; &
4. Research, monitoring and reporting.

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**Q24** Part D. Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any -

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**Q25** Additional information to supplement that request may be attached -

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