

Side Event: Regional and national approaches to mercury trade control in Latin America

3rd Conference of the Parties Minamata Convention

Regional perspectives; outcomes of the regional workshop to exchange information on mercury trade

November 28th, 2019



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y
RECURSOS NATURALES



**GOBIERNO DE
MÉXICO**



INECC
INSTITUTO NACIONAL
DE ECOLOGÍA
Y CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO





When & Where?

8-10 October, 2019,
La Paz, Bolivia





Participation

Bolivia

Colombia

Ecuador

México

Panamá

Perú



Discussions



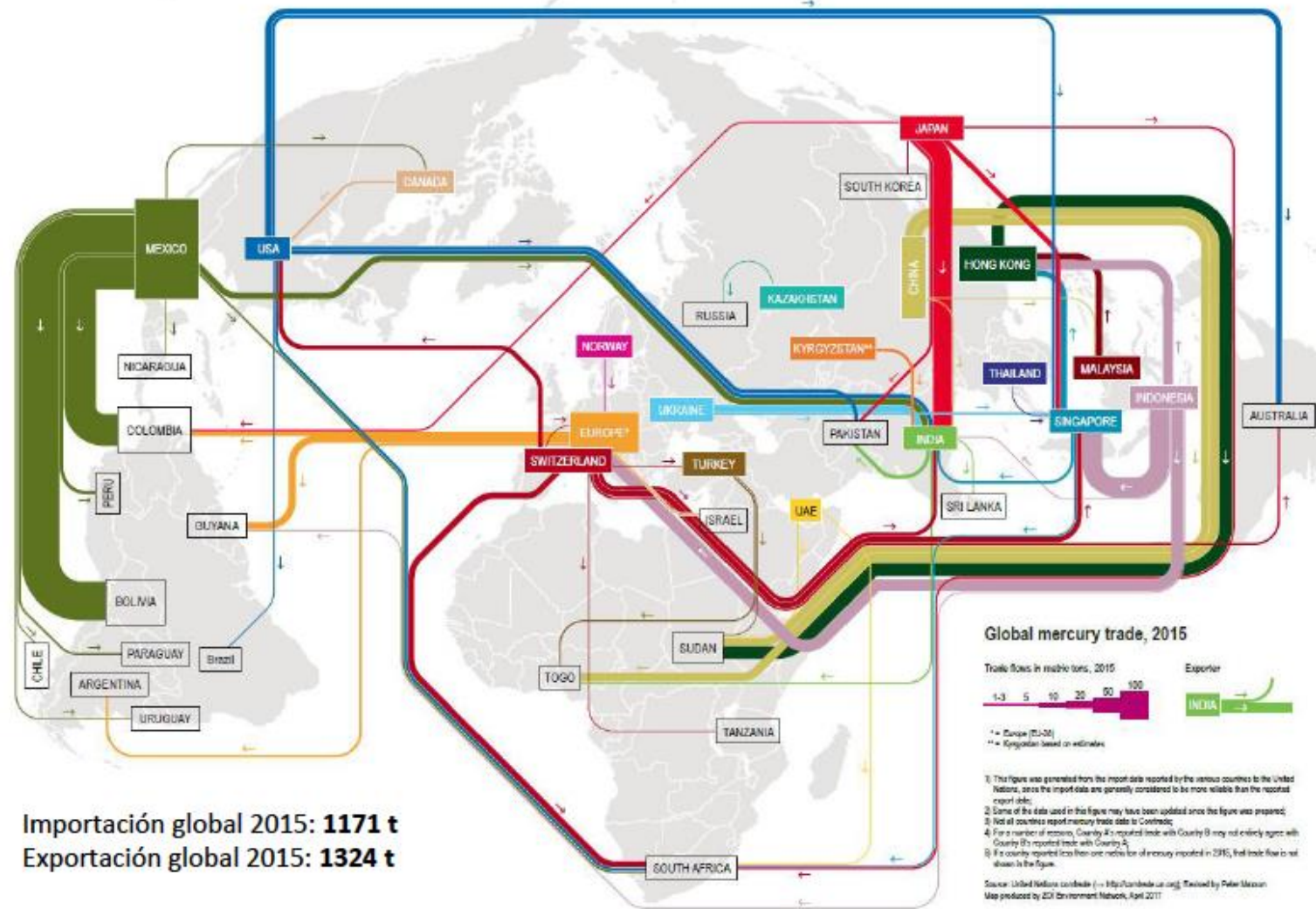
- Session 1: Opening
- Session 2: Background (Minamata Provisions & Trade)
- Session 3: Establishing of Context
- Session 4: Customs & Borders Approach
- Session 5: ASGM Approach
- Session 6: Future work
- Recommendations
- Future Actions





2. Background

Global mercury supply, trade and demand

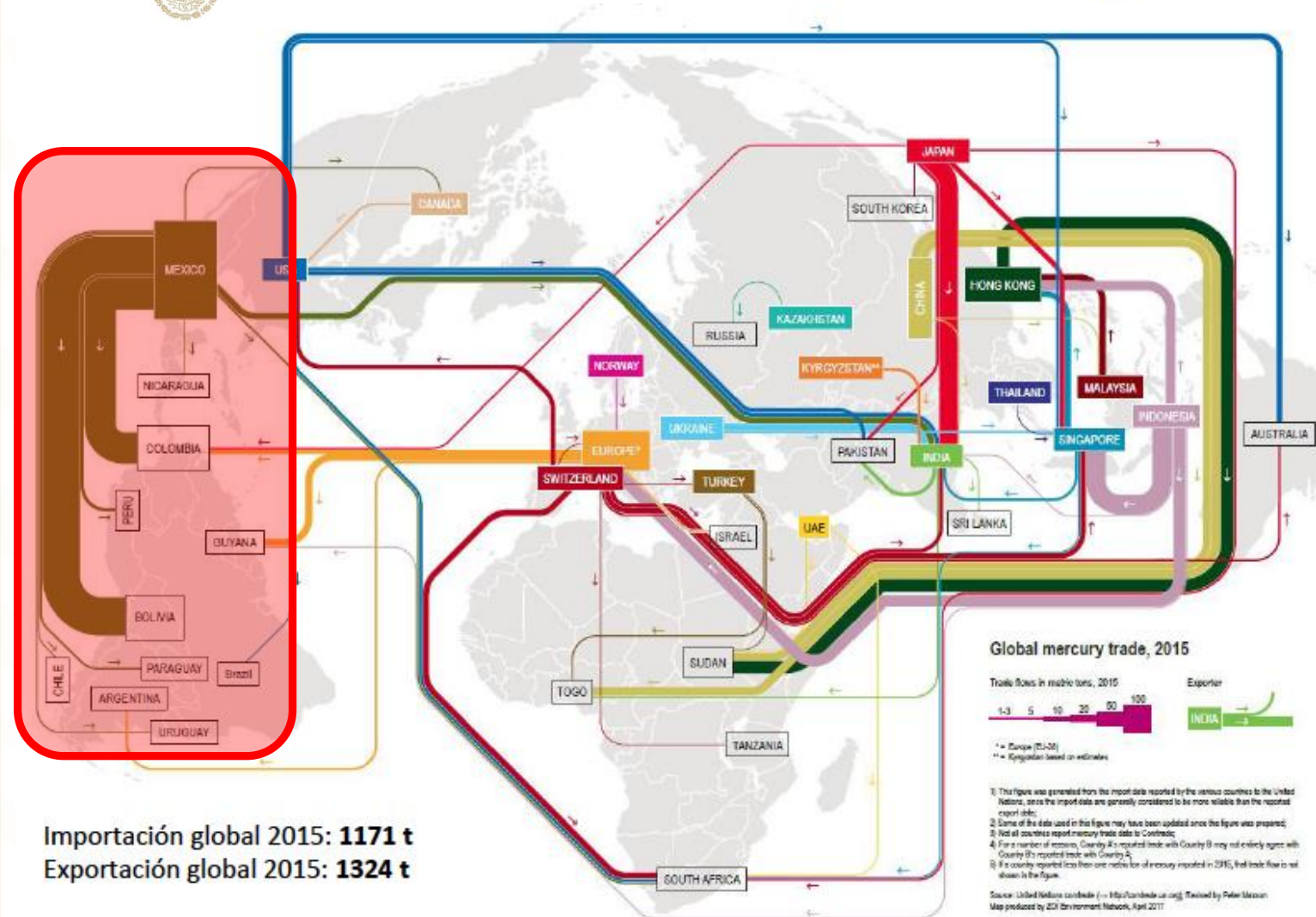


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Exportación global 2015: **1324 t**



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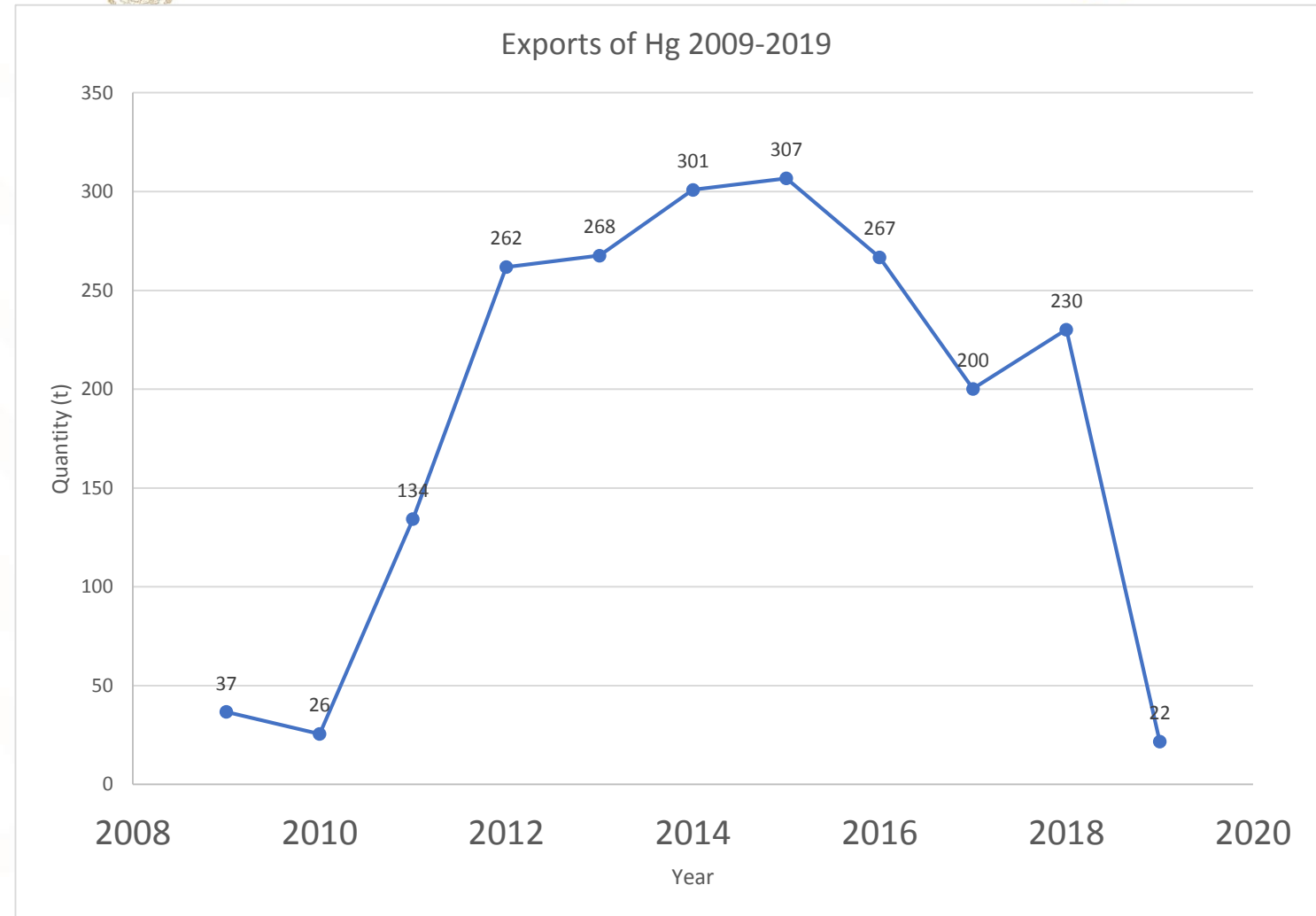
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2. Background

Global mercury supply, trade and demand





3. Establishing context

- The main demand is generated by the use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining.
- The provisions of the Convention need to be implemented at the local level in some of the countries.
- The volume of authorized movements has been decreasing since the application of the Minamata Convention.
- There is a risk of increasing illegality.
- All countries have problems with the storage of mercury in Customs.
- Institutional training is needed in the chain of implementation of the Agreement (Ministry, custom officers, judges).



4. Customs & Borders Approach



- Improve controls for Illicit traffic.
- Other actors who are also involved in these controls were identified, for example: the police, the border service, the armed forces, etc.
- It is essential to have adequate information and training for Customs officers.
- The meeting allowed to share some basic risk management information.
- It is important to document cases.
- Take advantage of the use of computer platforms developed by the World Customs Organization for the exchange of information between customs administrations.
- Communication between Customs and Environmental areas is important.





5. ASGM Approach

- For Countries that participated in the Study, mercury is used primarily for the extraction of gold.
- Formal gold mining is subject for environmental regulation.
- There is a risk of growth of the informal sector.
- Production estimates between 2015-2018 are:

Item	Gold	Hg
Production (ton)	401.14	1,203.42

6. Conclusions & Recommendations



- Facilitate the exchange of information between Countries and Local Authorities.
- Share information on existing regulations, control instruments and traceability schemes.
- Develop regulations related to the control of the movement of mercury and seek equivalences in different countries.
- Increase knowledge and analysis of mercury flows, both legal and illegal.
- Improve the use of Prior Consent Formats, either by reviewing their design, content and application.
- Promote a computer system for the online exchange of information related to the supply chain, distribution and uses.



6. Conclusions & Recommendations

- Support the implementation of the *Observatorio Andino* (Andean Observatory) for the management of official mercury information.
- Strengthen the mechanisms to control illegal traffic (joint operatives, equipment provision and smuggling detection training at customs and border services, etc.).
- Carry out training and informative sessions with customs, border guards, prosecutors, etc.
- Development of protocols for the identification, confiscation, transport, handling, labeling and storage of mercury.
- Share information on options for the treatment and disposal of waste products with added mercury.



6. Conclusions & Recommendations

- Promote BAT / BEP for the progressive reduction of mercury demand.
- Promote the development of technical studies on the effects of mercury and health risks, and strengthen the capacity for environmental and health monitoring in countries.
- Strengthen coordination between customs, focal points, and other relevant authorities.
- Facilitate awareness and consideration of the issue among decision makers.





**Thank you! ¡Gracias!
Merci**

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