



Science to Inform Implementation of the Minamata Convention: Science-Policy

Building relationships between policy makers and scientists is essential to the implementation and effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention. Negotiators relied upon the extensive body of scientific knowledge about mercury to build the Convention's life-cycle approach to management. Now that the Convention has entered into force, scientific work and data are critical to support continuing decision-making and management. Scientific information informs multiple aspects of the Convention, including three critical Convention areas (see table).

Scientific Research Area	Convention Articles Supported
Uses, Emissions, and Releases	Article 3 — Supply and trade Article 4 — Products Article 5 — Processes Article 6 — Exemption to phase-out dates Article 7 — ASGM Article 8 — Emissions Article 9 — Releases Article 10 — Storage Article 11 — Waste Article 12 — Contaminated sites
Support, Awareness-Raising, and Education	Article 13 — Financial mechanism Article 14 — Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer Article 16 — Health aspects Article 17 — Information exchange Article 18 — Information, awareness, education
Impacts and Effectiveness	Article 15 — Implementation and compliance Article 19 — Research, development, monitoring Article 20 — Implementation plans Article 21 — Reporting Article 22 — Effectiveness evaluation

Synthesis: COP-1

As part of the 13th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, teams of scientists prepared syntheses of the current state of mercury science. Syntheses addressed four topics:

- Science to Inform Implementation of the Minamata Convention
- Global Mercury Processes and Perturbations
- Managing Aquatic Mercury Pollution in Altered Landscapes
- Mercury Exposure and Effects in Wildlife and Humans

Insights from the syntheses relevant to the implementation of the Minamata Convention are summarized here to inform COP-1 delegates and observers.

How can the COP use and support science to inform implementation?

- Seek scientific input to key decisions by creating and maintaining mechanisms for ongoing advice from scientists across the range of implementation issues
- Mobilize resources to support mercury science, to provide data needed for implementing Convention provisions and evaluating effectiveness
- Support harmonization of global efforts to collect, analyze and report critical scientific information

What are examples of scientific work that can support implementation?

The Convention calls for...

Science can help by...

