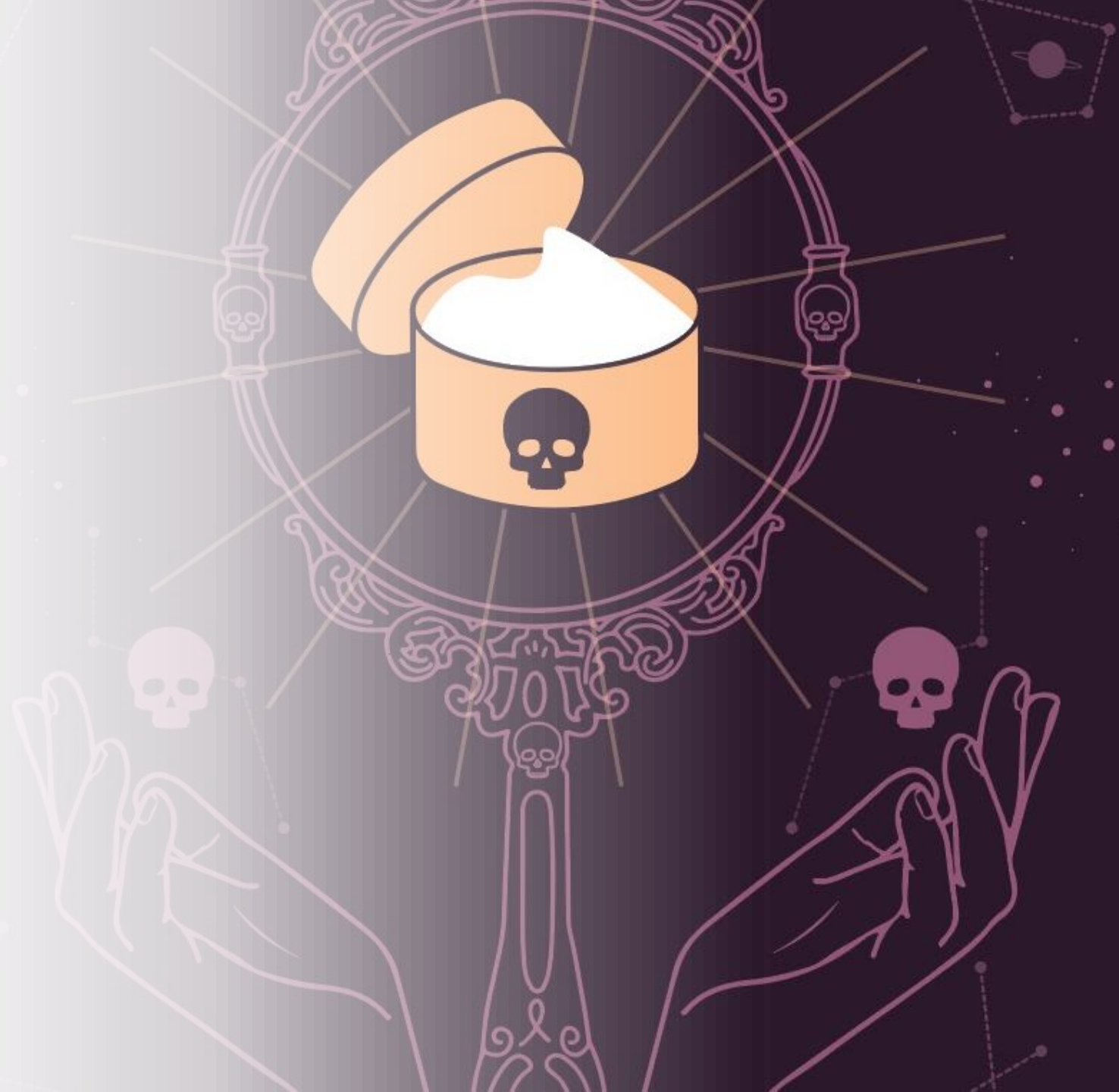


The Dark World of Toxic Skin Lightening Products

Online event - Thursday, October 19, 2023



Housekeeping rules

- Thank you for joining this webinar. For attendees mics and cameras are turned off, that's for your privacy.
- If you want to make **comments**, please use the **chat box**.
- If you want to **ask a question to the panelists**, you can use the **Q&A button** . Please, be clear and concise. The moderator will share the question with the panellists and audience as relevant.
- This webinar will be recorded and will be made available upon request.
- The slides will be made available on-line.



Agenda

- **Moderation**
Elena Lymberidi-Settimo, European Environmental Bureau/ Zero Mercury Working Group
- **Video teaser**
- **Online Marketing of Toxic Skin Lighteners: Mercury Cosmetics marketed as a 'solution' to dark skin**
Michael Bender, ZMWG International Co-coordinator
- **Mercury Retrograding: The Dark World of Toxic Skin Lightening Products**
Avipsa Mahapatra, EIA US Campaign Director and Christopher Douglas, EIA Policy Analyst
- **Feasibility study: Global inventory of mercury compound supply, use and trade**
Peter Maxson, Director, Concorde East/West Srl
- **Q and A**

Mercury in Retrograde - Video



19 October 2023

Online Marketing of Toxic Skin Lighteners: Mercury cosmetics marketed as 'solution' to dark skin

Webinar: The Dark World of Toxic Skin Lightening Products

Michael Bender
Executive Director of the Mercury Policy Project
International Coordinator of the Zero Mercury Working Group





Zero Mercury Working Group



An international coalition of more than 110 public interest, environmental and health non-governmental organizations from over 55 countries from around the world.

Aim: Reduce/eliminate mercury supply, use, emissions, exposure, implementing the Minamata Convention



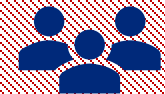
2005

ZMWG creation



> 55

Countries



> 110

Member
organisations



Widespread Use of Skin Lightening Products (SLP)

- Mercury is a bleaching agent inhibiting the formation of melanin, produces whitening, anti-freckles effect.
- Mercury can be easily absorbed through the skin and lungs leading to skin rashes and damage to kidneys.
- Contaminate homes, exposes residents
- World Health Organization warns of the health risks of mercury SLPs—and recommends phase out
- Minamata Convention bans manufacture, trade of cosmetics w/over 1 ppm mercury
- Once sold primarily in local markets and beauty stores, the availability of SLPs has exploded online

PREVENTING DISEASE THROUGH HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

World Health Organization

MERCURY IN SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS

Mercury is a common but dangerous ingredient found in skin lightening creams and soaps. Beauty standards promoted by media, advertising and marketing reinforce the bias that lighter skin tone is more desirable than darker skin tone. Skin lightening creams and soaps are commonly used in many African, Asian and Caribbean nations (1, 2). They are also used among dark-skinned populations in Europe and North America (3-5). Mercury salts inhibit the formation of melanin, resulting in a lighter skin tone (6, 7). The Minamata Convention on Mercury establishes a limit of 1 mg/kg (1 ppm) for skin lightening products (8), yet many cosmetic products contain mercury levels higher than that amount to increase whitening effect (9, 10). Despite having been banned in many countries, mercury-containing products are often easily obtainable (11).

Mercury can be eliminated from skin lightening products by working with health and environmental ministries and raising public awareness about the dangers to health from mercury and other hazardous chemicals in skin lightening products. To stop the manufacture, import and export of skin lightening products in line with the Minamata Convention, regulatory actions by governments are needed – including training of customs agencies – as well as major media and advocacy campaigns.

Use, production and availability

- Skin lightening products are used worldwide, but their use is particularly widespread in many African, Asian and Caribbean countries (1, 12). Skin lightening products are used by both women and men (13).
- The skin lightening industry is one of the fastest growing beauty industries worldwide and is estimated to be worth US\$ 31.2 billion by 2024 (14). In India, for example, the skin lightening industry (including products with and without mercury) represents 50% of the skincare market and is estimated to be worth US\$ 450–535 million (14).
- Mercury-containing skin lightening products are manufactured in many countries and areas, including Bangladesh (15), China (16, 17), Dominican Republic (18), Hong Kong SAR (China) (15), Jamaica (15), Lebanon (19), Malaysia (15), Mexico (17, 20), Pakistan (21), Philippines (22), Republic of Korea (15), Thailand (23, 24), and the United States of America (25).
- Mercury-containing skin lightening products are available for sale over the Internet, promoted online on social media sites, and sold through mobile apps. According to the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), these products are often manufactured abroad and sold illegally in the United States, often in small shops and informal markets catering to Latino, Asian, African or Middle Eastern communities. Consumers also purchase them in other countries and bring them back to their country (26). The toxic trade of often illegal mercury-added skin lightening products is a global crisis expected to only worsen with skyrocketing demand, especially in Africa, Asia and the Middle East (15).
- A 2013 survey funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety noted that individuals from Brazil, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico and the Russian Federation believe that mercury-containing skin lightening products are easy to obtain (11).



Dermatologist Round Table and Surveys in Bangladesh and Pakistan



Sept. 2023 SDPI Roundtable

Pakistan, SDPI, September 2023

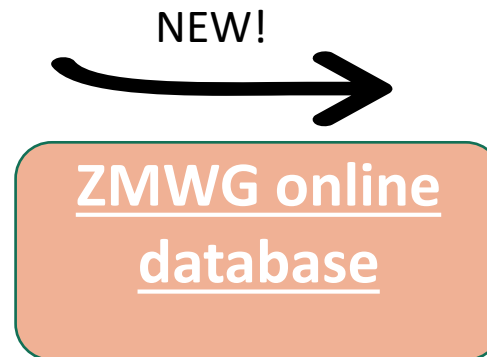
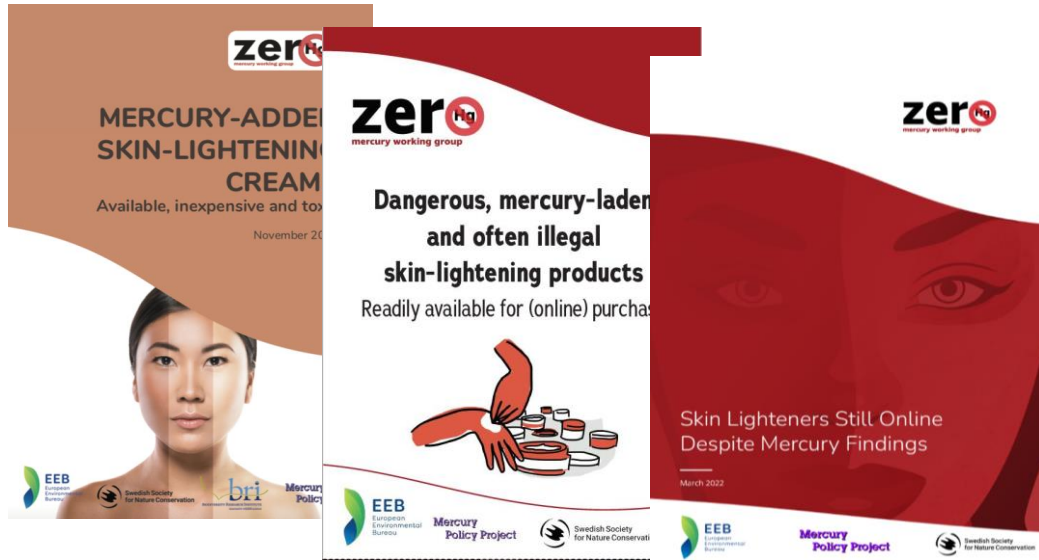
- 86% of patients not aware of toxic substances, health risks of SWCs
- 63% of surveyed dermatologists are presented with facial skin problems
 - 43% of dermatologists see >10 patients per week due to SLPs
 - 40% dermatologists see >20 patients per week
- 83% agreed with advertisement ban
- Almost 100% agree on ban of Hg SWCs

Bangladesh, ESDO, 2022

- 60-70% patients' skin problems due to toxic SLPs use
- 80% of SLP patients are women
- 21-40 y old, average age groups using SLPs



ZMWG Global SLP Investigations



Global samplings in 2017- 2018, 2019 and 2022:

- Focused on local markets and then online sales
- **775 products tested**, engaging multiple NGO partners from around the globe.
- **33% (256) with mercury over 1 ppm**

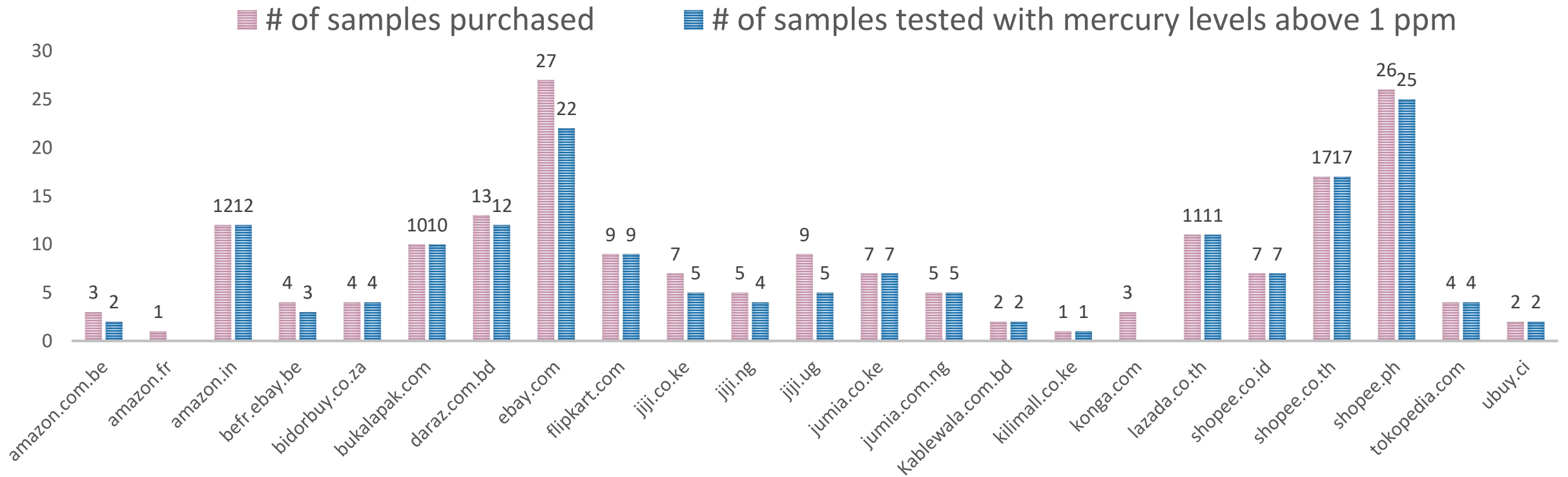
Fourth global sampling in 2022-2023:

- Focus on online platforms
- In total, **213 products** were purchased from over 23 e-commerce sites, and tested.
- **90% (191) of the products (60 different brands) had mercury above 1ppm.**



Results (2022-2023 Sampling)

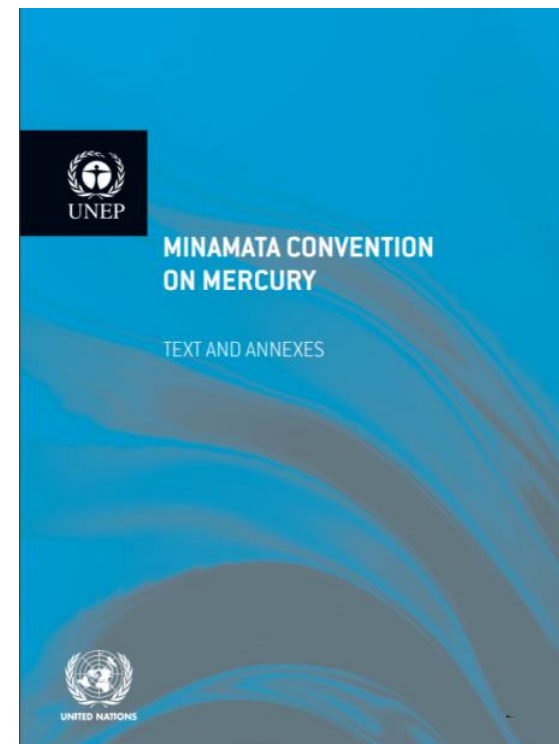
HIGH-MERCURY VS. TOTAL SLPS PURCHASED ON E-COMMERCE





The African Region's amendment @ Minamata COP 5

- ✓ Ensure a zero tolerance: all “mercury-added” cosmetics to be prohibited
- ✓ Curtailing the (on-line) sales, advertising, marketing and merchandising of mercury SLPs
- ✓ Spur interagency collaboration as well as regional and global coordination
- ✓ Enhance awareness of the hazards of toxic SLPs



Steps to address illegal toxic SLP trade



Enforcement measures
to restrict high mercury
cosmetic products under
the Minamata Convention



Mercury
Policy Project



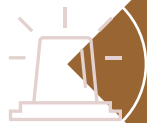
Legal framework, mandates and division of responsibilities

Legal gap analysis, Licensing/registration requirements, Restrictions/bans, Labelling of ingredients and full disclosure of ingredients



Supporting tools and measures

Detention lists, Alert systems or Advisories (EU Safety Gate, ASEAN cosmetics Post Marketing Alert System), Capacity-building, Detection and measurement capabilities



Inspections and sanctions

Severe fine and penalties, screening, tools, informing consumers for better market surveillance

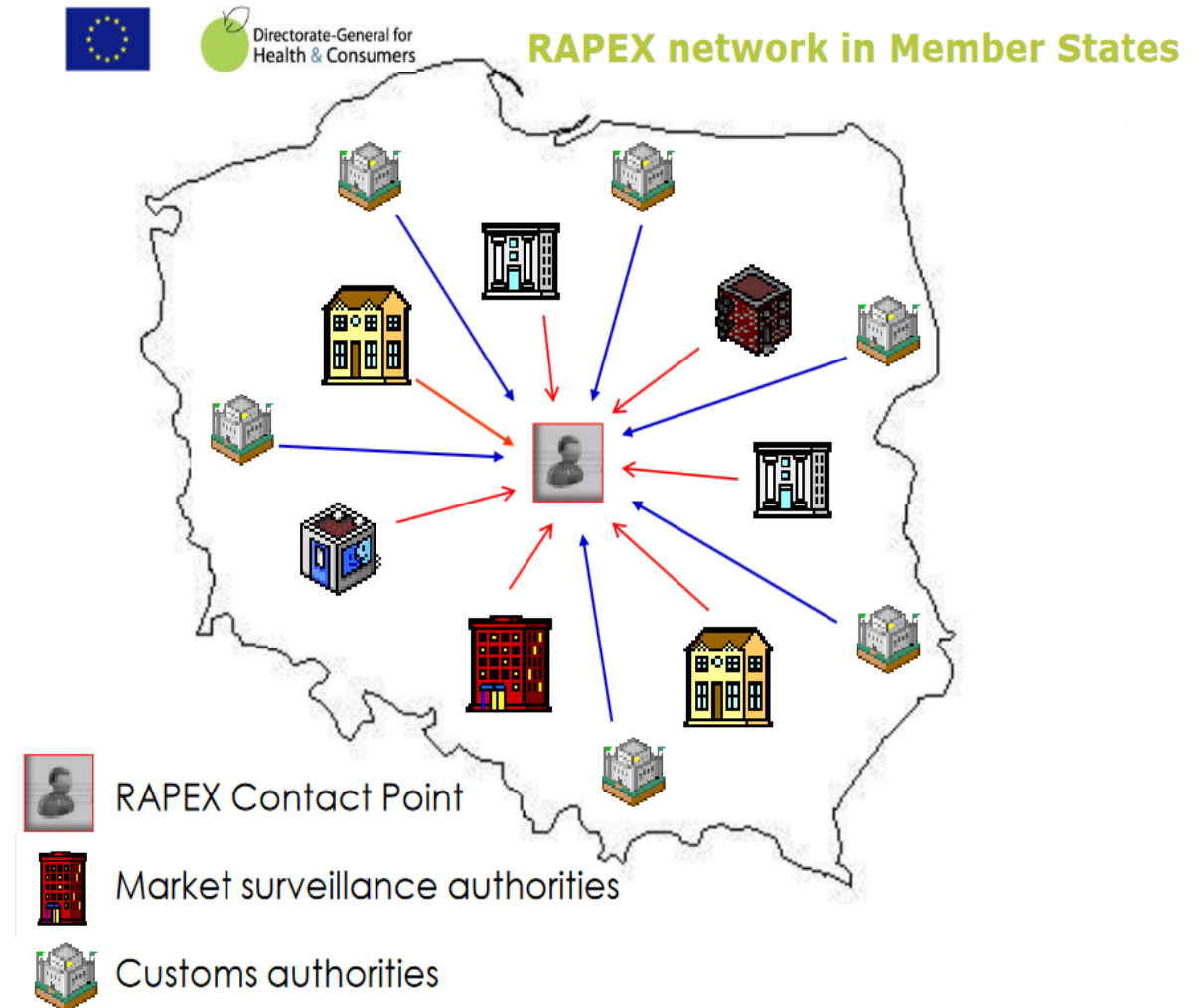


Inter-agency and international Collaboration

Mandates, national interagency/regional/international cooperation (e.g. East African Community, ASEAN, EU) collaboration with NGOs

EU Rapid Alert System (RAPEX) targets, lists, removes unsafe products, including Hg SLPs

- RAPEX established in 2001 under the General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC)
- Objective: Ensure that information about dangerous consumer products identified in one EU State is quickly circulated to other Member States & EU Commission
- Aim of preventing their further supply to consumers
- RAPEX utilized by EC product safety pledge to engage online platforms in unsafe product removal
- <http://ec.europa.eu/rapex>





Principles for online legal reforms

**Product Safety
Pledge removes
thousands of
dangerous items
from online
marketplaces**



- Clear liability rules to be established and enforced, with significant penalties
- E-commerce platforms must ensure that the sellers comply with domestic health and safety law (correct labelling, disclosure of ingredients etc)
- Online platforms should verify foreign third-party sellers and appoint a home-country legal representative
- Online platforms made responsible for ensuring compliance with third party seller verification, and information/ingredient disclosure requirements
- EC IT application detects RAPEX-listed products that are still sold or reappear in online markets.



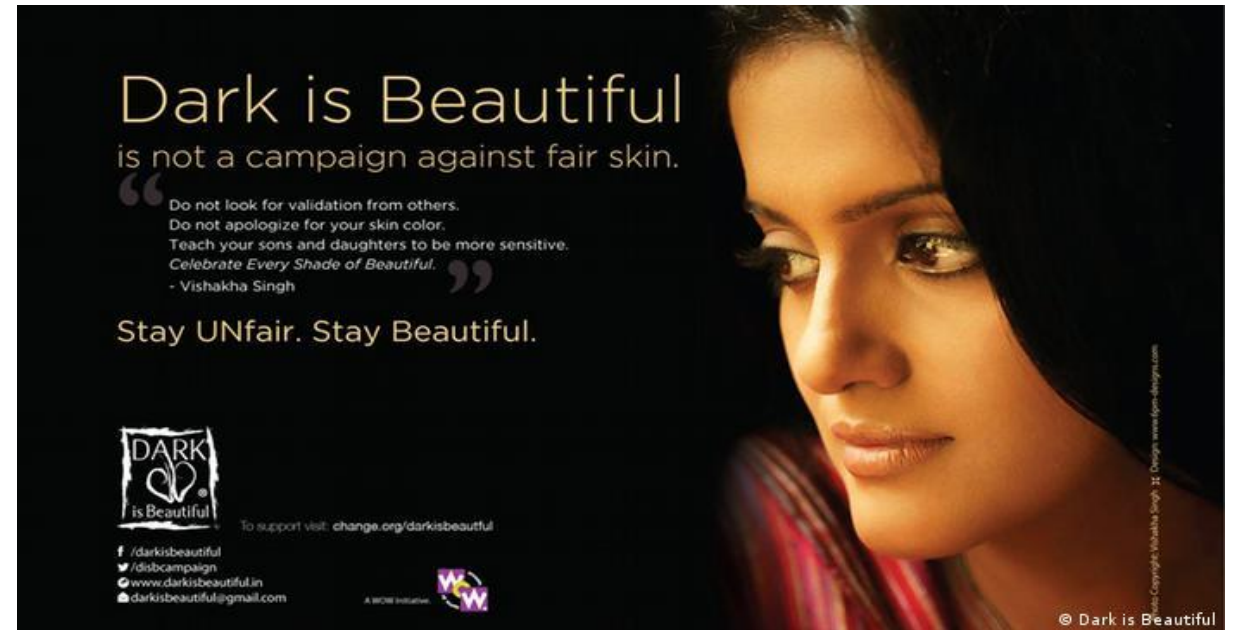
https://esurveillance.ec.europa.eu/product_safety/home



Backlash against 'fairness creams' ads



Trend Of Obsession With Skin Colour in Pakistan
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyeOE8mgnig>



Why Do Indians Love 'Fair' Skin?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDDJabnirTM>

Pakistan's Mercury Problem Women? Who Cares Fairer is Better; The Government Approves

Muhammad Saad Waqas, Falqa Iqbal, Syeda Shafiq Zahra Muneer



Backlash against 'fairness creams' cont.

Introduction

Methods

- Pakistan: One of the biggest contributors to mercury toxicity in cosmetics, particularly fairness creams. The overwhelming majority of factories of this toxicity are known women and their values of living.
- Pakistan is a signatory to the Minamata Convention regulating the import, export and utilization of mercury. It raised after the Japanese city of Minamata where scores of children became victims of mercury toxicity.
- Our paper aims to identify mercury-containing cosmetics of Pakistani origin as a remedy in circulation and government policy toward curbing the illicit cosmetics industry.

- Online databases of The Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) and the European Safety Gate Alert System was used to identify mercury-containing skin-lightening products originating from Pakistan.
- A local survey of cosmetics shops in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar was conducted to find the presence of said condemned products was **82,80%**.
- Online search of various news articles and regulatory platforms was conducted to identify instances where these said products were banned internationally.
- Government websites and databases were searched for action plans and activities planned to curb the illegal cosmetics industry.

Pakistan's women contemplating her beauty created by DALL-E



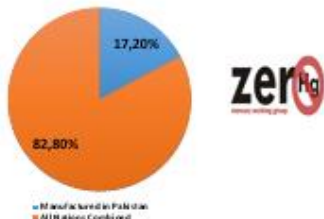
Takiko Inayama, a 12-year-old girl (congenital) victim of the Minamata disease, with her mother, Minamata, Japan, 1972



Results & Discussion

- 64 Mercury containing Skin Lightening Products of Pakistani origin were identified in the ZMWG database.
- These products have been banned in multiple countries, including the UK, Europe, Ivory Coast, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and many more owing to the presence of mercury and in some cases hydroquinone in the fairness creams.
- Locally we were able to document the presence of 97 of these products in the market.
- We were unable to identify concrete steps taken in regulating the industry.
- In summary, The government has been unable to effectively halt the proliferation of this illegal industry, and the issue is currently in a state of escalation. This has resulted in production and consumption of the country internationally.
- Furthermore, the health and safety of women all over Pakistan is continuously being compromised.

Pakistan's Contribution to the Global Bank of Mercury-Containing Cosmetics: Courtesy the ZMWG database



Poster Presentation:

A Pakistani pathology instructor at Khyber Girls Medical College, Peshawar worked with his students in developing a poster, utilizing ZMWG data outlining concerns about mercury SLPs originating from Pakistan.

One of the students said:

“The research was motivated by the suffering of women in my village who were using whitening creams containing toxic heavy metals like mercury. These creams were leading to deterioration of their skin over the long term. My aim is to raise awareness about the toxicity and the harm associated with these products and I recommend that the government should ban such whitening creams”

Future Directions

Conclusion

References

- We recommend in posing binding agreements so local mercury importing companies making them legally liable for exceeding from a predefined end-user agreement.
- This measure will restrict the supply of mercury to the cosmetics industry.
- By curbing the industry of mercury, a resolution can be achieved.
- We, the authors present ourselves in collaboration with any governmental or non-governmental organizations willing to collaborate in the formulation of **policy-oriented** legislative to achieve the above-mentioned goal.

- Pakistan's cosmetics industry practices constitute a major violation of Article 3, Paragraph 7 of the Minamata Convention which requires mercury-importing entities to provide assurances regarding the ultimate fate of mercury.
- The existing situation predominantly reflects a manifestation of the ineffectiveness of the state machinery in regulating this industry, despite being a signatory to the Minamata Convention.

- Zero Mercury Working Group Database –Mercury in Skin Lightening Products
- Minamata Convention/Parsons Pakistan
- European Safety Gate Alert System
- Chartered Trading Standards Institute - United Kingdom
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India:zhp?title=H001>
- Invega country: W. Lagos Jamb.
- Passive Women created by DALL-E

Acknowledgments

Dr. Khizer Hamza



Minamata disease child



The hand of Tomoko Kawanaka, Minamata Disease





Conclusions and Recommendations

- Mercury SLPs are a global crisis warranting concerted international action
- Enforcement is key to stopping manufacturing
- All mercury compounds determined for potential use in SLPs should be banned
- Online platform liability reform is needed
- Collaboration between government agencies, domestically and internationally is key
- African Region's proposed COP5 amendment seeks to address challenges
- Sales and advertising ban on Hg SLPs would complement existing Convention provisions





ZMWG Skin Lightening Campaign Partners

- AFRICA- Bio Vision Africa, **Uganda**; Center for Environment Justice and Development, **Kenya**; Centre Africain pour la Santé Environnementale, **Cote d'Ivoire**; groundWork, **South Africa**; Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development, **Nigeria**
- AMERICAS- Casa Cem, **Mexico**; Mercury Policy Project & WE-ACT **United States**; Integrated Health Outreach (IHO), **Antigua and Barbuda**; Toxisphera Environmental Health Association, **Brazil**
- ASIA- BAN Toxics, **the Philippines**; Center for Public Health and Environment, **Nepal**; Earth, **Thailand**; Environmental and Social Development Organization, **Bangladesh**; NEXUS3Foundation, **Indonesia**; Toxics Link, **India**
- MIDDLE EAST- Environment Friends Society, **Bahrain**
- EUROPE- European Environmental Bureau, **Belgium**





Thank you!



<https://www.zeromercury.org/mercury-added-skin-lightening-creams-campaign/>



**Any
questions?**



MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

The Dark World of Toxic Skin Lightening Products



Avipsa Mahapatra
Campaign Director

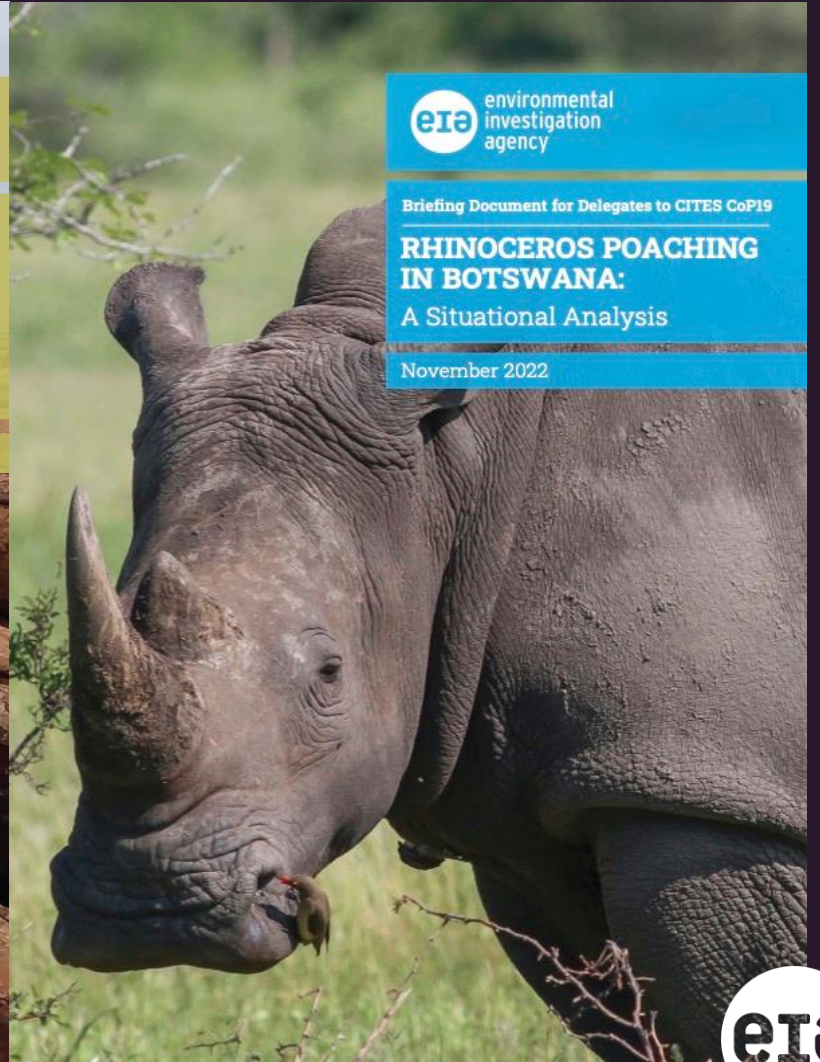
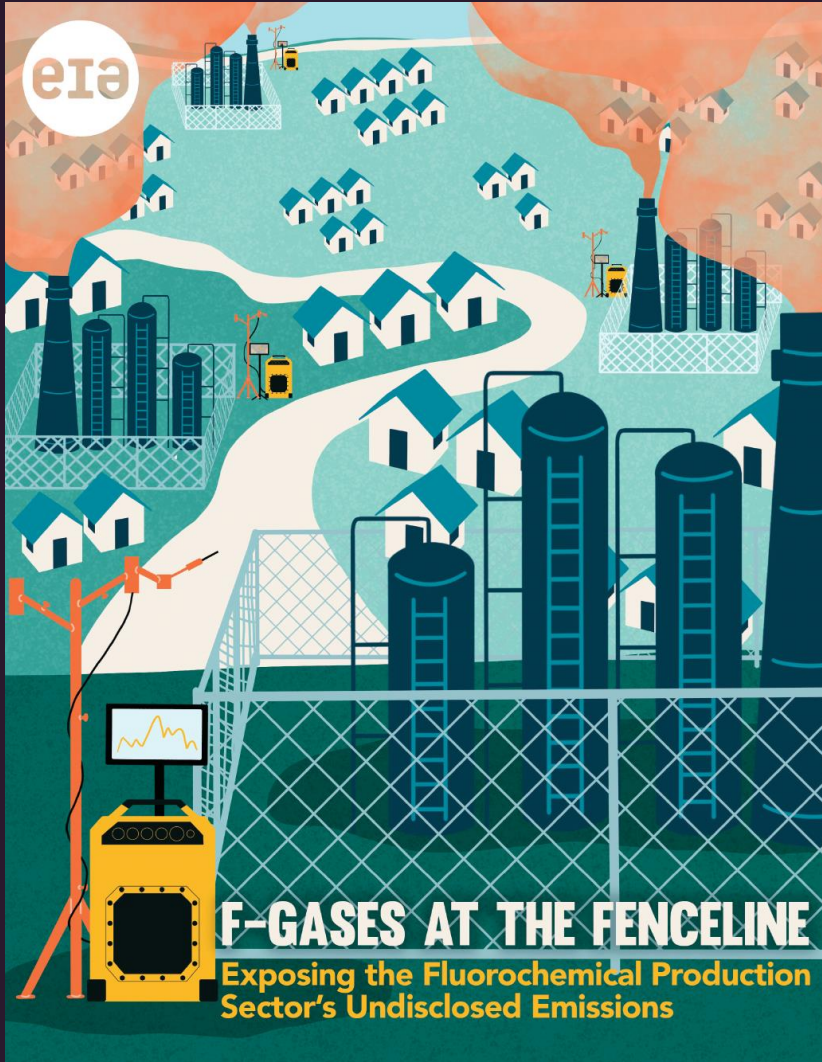


Christopher Douglass
Policy Analyst



environmental
investigation
agency

Who is EIA?



Legal Landscape

- Addition of mercury compounds into cosmetics over 1 ppm of mercury is a violation of the Minamata Convention under Article 4
 - National legislation implementing this requirement has not been adopted in all countries
- Of the SLP production countries covered in this report (Jamaica, Pakistan, and Thailand)
 - Thailand and Pakistan have enacted national laws in compliance with the 1 ppm restriction
 - Enforcement remains a key issue

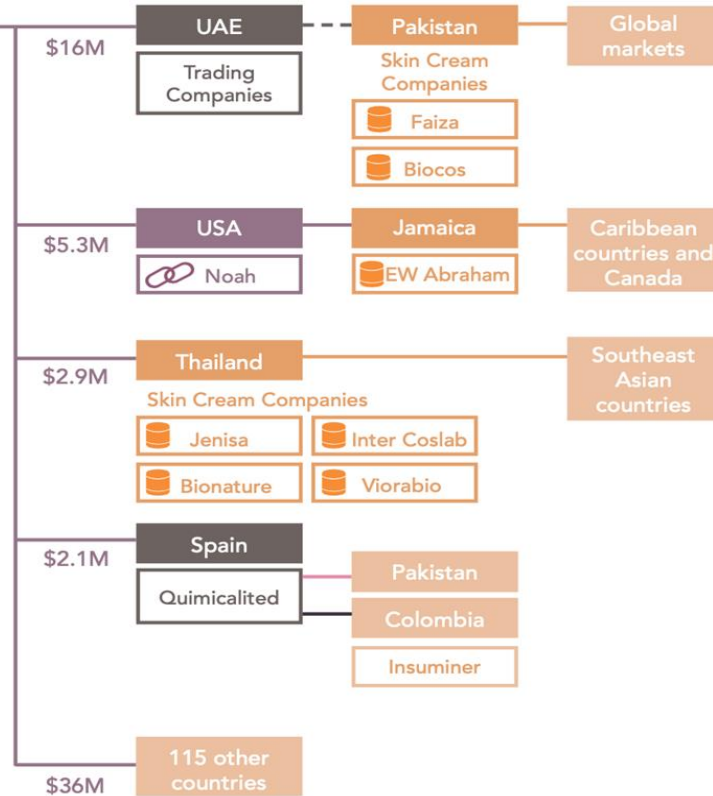
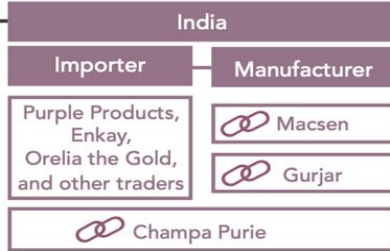


Trade Data

Global Supply Chain Diagram

Investigative Sources

Thailand	\$2.2M
BMT	
Japan	
Nomura	\$1.4M
Peru	\$1.3M
Mercantil	(Indian imp.) \$2.4M (Peru exp.)
Other Sources	
Russia	\$9.2M
Indonesia	\$2.7M
UAE	\$2.1M
Kyrgystan, Tajikistan, Mexico, and 18 others	\$10.8M



Legend

- Elemental mercury (HS 2805.40)
- Mercury compounds (e.g. ammoniated mercury)
- Mercury-added skin-lightening products (SLPs)
- Thimerosal
- — Link uncertain
- \$ Trade sum 2016 - 2022
- Recycler

Global supply chain for mercury compounds and mercury-added SLPs. Sources from EIA investigation.

Note, the scale of mercury compound production is not limited to the compound trading companies mentioned in this report

Undercover Investigation

Summary Table of Key EIA Investigation Findings (Non-exhaustive):

Company	Key Findings	Industry
Thailand		
BioNature	Company owner confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams.	Cosmetics Producer
Inter Coslab Co.	High level representatives at the company confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams.	Cosmetics Producer
Viorabio	Company owner confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams.	Cosmetics Producer
Jenisa	Company owner confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams.	Cosmetics Producer
Pakistan		
Poonia Brothers (Faiza)	A high-level representative at the company confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams; however, claimed it is at or below "acceptable" standards. ³⁶ The representative also confirmed they currently produce creams that contain mercury compounds for private brands.	Cosmetics Producer
Biocos	High-level representatives at the company confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams at concentrations ranging from 2.5-4%, however claimed it is at or below legal standards.	Cosmetics Producer
India		
Macsen Labs	High-level representative confirmed selling ammoniated mercury for use in skin whitening creams and frequently ships the compound under another name, amido (hg) chloride or amido (hg ii) chloride.	Chemical and Pharmaceutical Ingredients Manufacturer
Champa Purie Chem Industries	High-level executive confirmed that Pakistani companies producing mercury-added SLPs were sourcing mercury compounds from India, but he denied that his company was their source.	Chemical and Pharmaceutical Ingredients Manufacturer
Gurjar Chemicals	High-level executive confirmed they produce and sell ammoniated mercury for use in skin whitening creams.	Mercury Products Manufacturer
Jamaica		
E.W Abrahams & Sons Ltd	Owner confirmed ammoniated mercury-added to their creams and that the ammoniated mercury is imported from the United States.	Cosmetics Producer
United States		
Noah Chemicals	Company representative confirmed they are currently exporting the mercury compounds for use in SLPs. Executives at other companies confirmed Noah Chemicals as a mercury compound supplier.	Chemical and Compound Supplier
Spain		
Quimicalited	Company owner confirmed they currently supply ammoniated mercury for use in the production of skin whitening products. Confirmation of export of elemental mercury in the past.	Chemical and Compound Supplier

Pakistan

- **Poonia Brothers (Faiza):** confirmed manufacture of SLPs that contain mercury compounds, claimed to be under “acceptable limit”
 - Also confirmed Poonia currently produces creams that contain higher amounts of mercury compounds for private brands
- **Biocos:** Claimed water-based cream, such as Goldish, requires less mercury compound than an oil-based cream to achieve the same result
 - 2.5-3% mercury compound in water-based creams
 - up to 4-4.5% in oil-based creams
- **UAE:** Serves as an intermediary for compound and SLP distribution
 - Faiza has manufacturing facilities in both Pakistan and Dubai to facilitate faster shipping



A cosmetics executive displays the packaging for their top selling mercury-added product.

Jamaica

- For 60 years, the company E.W. Abrahams & Sons Ltd has openly sold a popular mercury-containing cosmetic cream in Jamaica
- The product packaging states that the product contains 3% ammoniated mercury
- Owner claimed he imports the ammoniated mercury from the United States

Deluxe Silken Nadinola Cream 2.25 ounce

\$20.00 USD

In Stock

Shipping calculated at checkout.

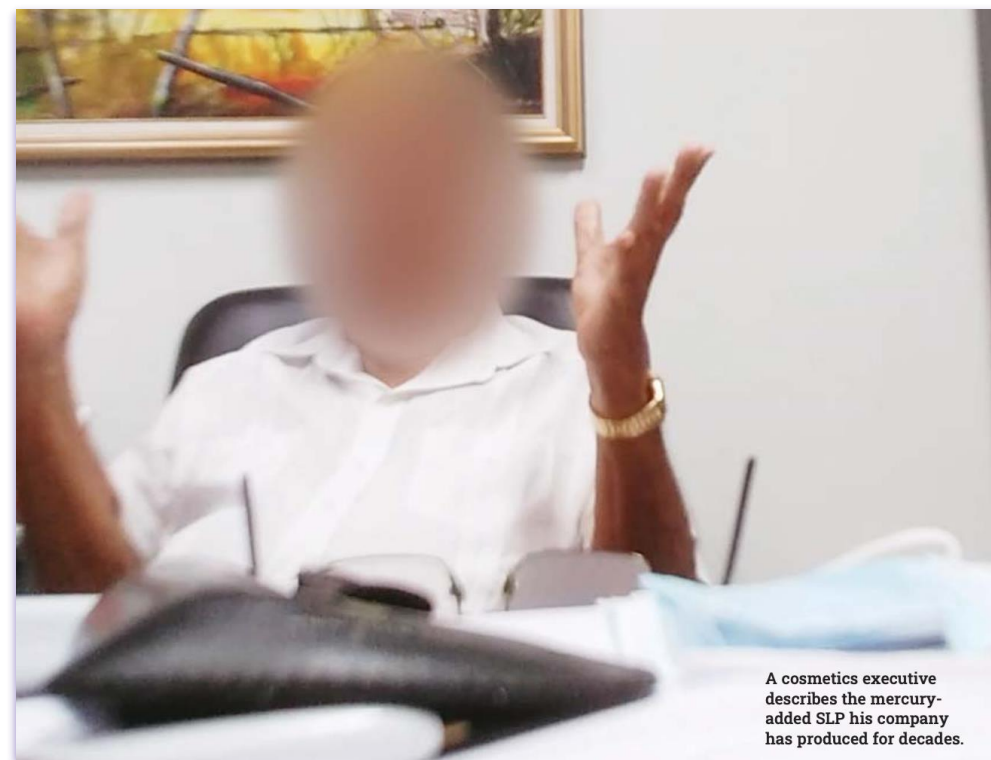
Add To Cart

DeLuxe SILKEN Bleaching Cream For Oily or Normal Skin. Jamaican Deluxe SILKEN fades dark spots and freckles, lightens and brightens skin to a smooth radiant glow. This creamy

reduces oiliness as it blends into the skin, helping to combat blackheads for a



ZMWG has confirmed these products remain available for sale online.



A cosmetics executive describes the mercury-added SLP his company has produced for decades.

Thailand

- Jenisa: a small-scale local manufacturer and storefront, confirmed SLPs contained ammoniated mercury, referred to as “AM”
- Inter Coslabs: discussed a typical mercury compound percentage of 3-3.5%, said it would be possible to have concentrations up to 4%
- BioNature: owner did not worry about the police visit during EIA interview;
 - Place the mercury-added creams away from the front of the shop
 - Stated if the police were to check the products, they would pay the officers to go away
- Viorabio: showed EIA investigators a cream his company makes that contains 4% of a mercury compound



Skin lightening samples given to EIA investigators in Thailand, reported to have mercury added.

Mercury Compound Distributors

USA

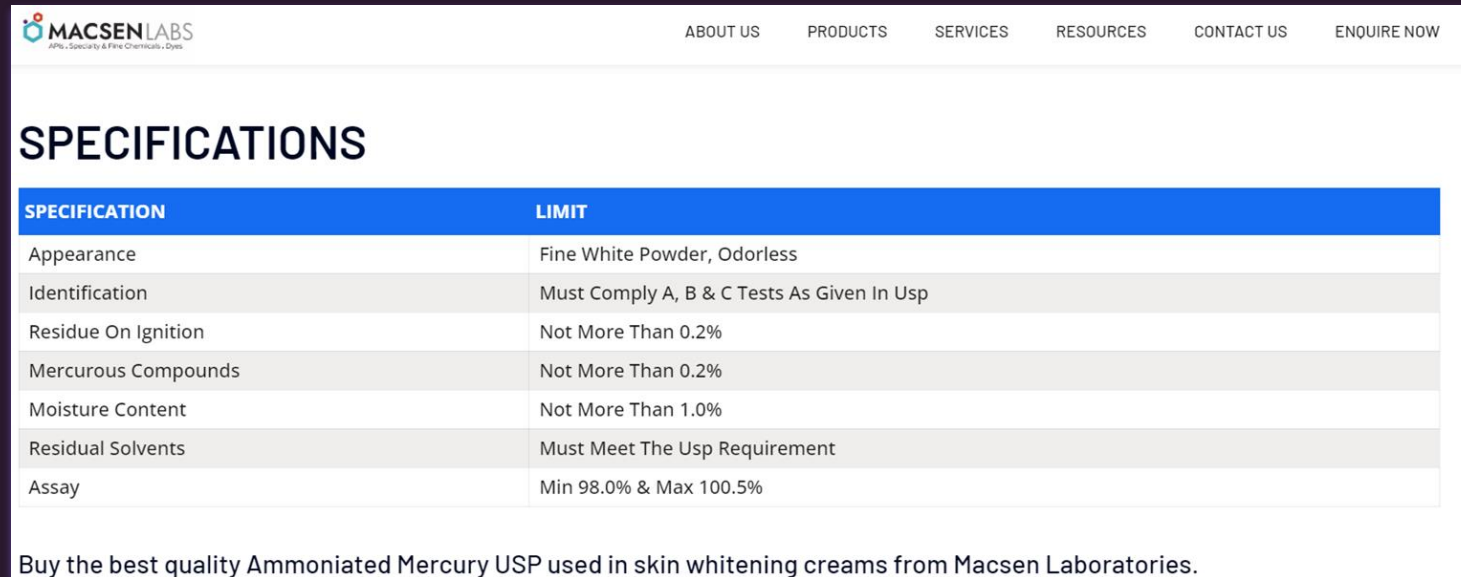
- Noah Chemicals, a Texas-based company, is currently exporting mercury compounds for SLPs to E.W. Abrahams. (Silken Deluxe, Jamaica)
- An also Indian compound supplier claimed Quimicalited sold ammoniated mercury to Noah Chemicals

Spain

- Quimicalited: supplies ammoniated mercury for use in the production of skin whitening products and confirmation of export of elemental mercury in the past.

India

- Macsen: sell ammoniated mercury for use in skin whitening creams and frequently ships the compound under another name, amido (hg) chloride or amido (hg ii) chloride
- Gurjar: produces and sells ammoniated mercury for use in skin whitening creams



The screenshot shows the Macsen Labs website with a navigation menu (ABOUT US, PRODUCTS, SERVICES, RESOURCES, CONTACT US, ENQUIRE NOW) and a 'SPECIFICATIONS' table. Below the table is a promotional text: 'Buy the best quality Ammoniated Mercury USP used in skin whitening creams from Macsen Laboratories.'

SPECIFICATION	LIMIT
Appearance	Fine White Powder, Odorless
Identification	Must Comply A, B & C Tests As Given In Usp
Residue On Ignition	Not More Than 0.2%
Mercurous Compounds	Not More Than 0.2%
Moisture Content	Not More Than 1.0%
Residual Solvents	Must Meet The Usp Requirement
Assay	Min 98.0% & Max 100.5%

Buy the best quality Ammoniated Mercury USP used in skin whitening creams from Macsen Laboratories.

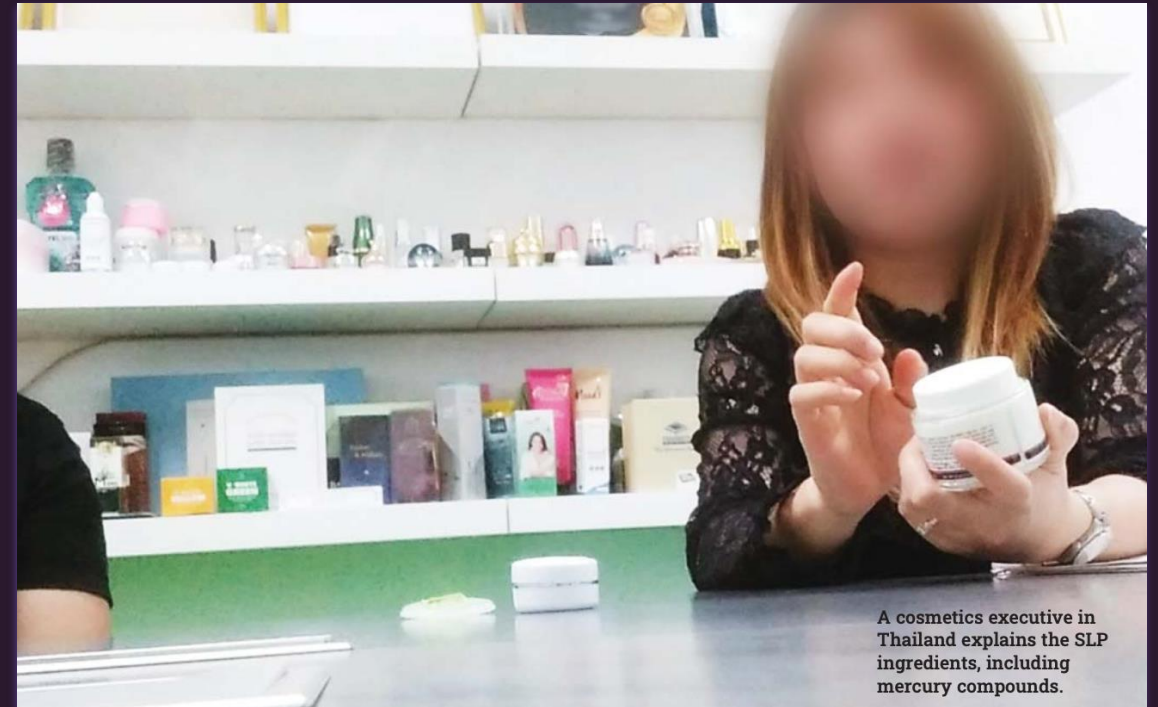
Key Findings

- Companies intentionally add mercury compounds, often at concentrations greater than 1 ppm.
- Ammoniated mercury is the primary mercury compound added to these creams.
- The sources of mercury compounds that are being sold for use in SLPs include companies based in Spain, India, Japan, and the United States.



Key Findings (cont.)

- It is standard practice for SLP producers across the globe to manufacture products consisting of 3-4% of a mercury compound.
- The production of these products is enabled by the unregulated trade of most mercury compounds.
- The investigation also identified two companies based in India, one in Spain, and one in the United States, all currently supplying mercury compounds, specifically ammoniated mercury, for use in SLPs.



A cosmetics executive in Thailand explains the SLP ingredients, including mercury compounds.

Recommendations

- Update national laws to be consistent with the Convention
- Strengthen and ensure enforcement of the manufacturing and trade ban of mercury-added SLPs in the manufacturing countries
- Take measures to control online sales
- Control the production and trade of mercury-added compounds



Questions?

Thanks to ZMWG for reviewing our report.

Contact:

- Avipsa Mahapatra, Campaign Director

amahapatra@eia-global.org

- Christopher Douglass, Policy Analyst

cdouglass@eia-global.org



environmental
investigation
agency

us.eia.org

Twitter: @EIAEnvironment

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LinkedIn: EnvironmentalInvestigationAgencyUS

Instagram: @EIAEnvironment



Feasibility study:

Global inventory of mercury compound supply, use and trade

Peter Maxson

October 19, 2023

Presentation content

- Objective of the feasibility study
- Methodology
- General conclusions regarding feasibility
- Suggested approach for a global inventory
- Significance for the Minamata Convention

Objective

Assess the feasibility of developing a global inventory of key mercury compounds:

- Compounds of interest
- Components of a global inventory
- Sources of information

Methodology for this feasibility study

- Key mercury compounds
- Types of data sought
- Potential sources of information
- Spot-check information sources
- Any barriers or challenges
- Draw conclusions about feasibility
- Implications for the Minamata Convention

Initial compounds of interest

- Mercury(II) ammonium chloride
- Mercury(II) acetate
- Mercury(I) chloride, also known as calomel
- Mercury(II) chloride
- Mercury(II) iodide
- Mercury(II) nitrate
- Mercury(II) oxide
- Mercury(II) sulfate
- Mercury(II) sulfide (cinnabar, in its natural form)
- Mercury(II) thiocyanate
- Phenylmercury(II) acetate

Trade names for mercury(II) ammonium chloride (CAS No. 10124-48-8)

Aminomercuric chloride
Aminomercury chloride
Ammoniated mercuric chloride
Ammoniated mercury
Hydrargyrum ammoniatum
Hydrargyrum precipitatum album
Mercuric amidochloride
Mercuric ammonium chloride
Mercuric chloride, ammoniated
Mercury amide chloride
Mercury ammoniated
Mercury ammonium chloride
Mercury(II) chloride ammonobasic
Mercury, ammoniated
Quecksilber(II)-amid-chlorid
White mercuric precipitate
and more...

Uses restricted under Annex A of the Convention (COP-4)

Mercury-added products (with some exceptions)	Containing mercury	Containing mercury compounds
Batteries (2020)		X
Switches and relays (2020)	X	
Fluorescent lamps (2020, except 2025 for CFL.i and CCFL)	X	
High pressure mercury vapour lamps (2020)	X	
Cosmetics including skin lightening soaps and creams (2020)		X
Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics (2020)		X
Non-electronic measuring devices, including barometers; hygrometers; manometers; thermometers; sphygmo. (2020)	X	
Strain gauges used in plethysmographs (2025)	X	
Electrical and electronic measuring devices, incl. melt pressure transducers, melt press. transmitters, melt press. sensors (2025)	X	
Mercury vacuum pumps (2025)	X	
Tyre balancers and wheel weights (2025)	X	
Photographic film and paper (2025)		X
Propellant for satellites and spacecraft (2025)	X	
Dental amalgam (measures to be taken and restrictions)	X	

Manufacturing processes restricted under Annex B of the Convention

Manufacturing processes using mercury (with some exceptions)	Using mercury	Using mercury compounds
Chlor-alkali (2025)	X	
Acetaldehyde (2018)		X
Polyurethane systems (phase-out date to be considered at COP-5)		X
Vinyl chloride monomer (measures to be taken)		X
Sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate (measures to be taken)	X	

General conclusions

- Reasonably detailed global inventory of supply, uses and trade of mercury compounds can be developed
- Such an inventory should be developed to inform the provisions of Articles 4 and 5 of the Minamata Convention

Suggested approach

- Confirm and focus on key mercury compounds
- Best information sources identified
- Minimize uncertainties, though some are inevitable

Significance for the Minamata Convention

- Significant production and trade of certain mercury compounds
- Not currently subject to the supply and trade control measures of the Convention
- Article 3, paragraph 13 requires the COP to consider action on compounds
- Inventory can provide factual basis for required COP decision-making
- Important for this process to begin given EIA findings

Feasibility study

- The feasibility study has been distributed to COP focal points and the list of COP-3 attendees
- It may be requested directly from dlennett@nrdc.org
- It will also be available at COP-5
- Document ref:
P. Maxson, “Feasibility of conducting a global inventory of mercury compound supply, use and trade.” Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., March 2023.



Mercurous Chloride (Calomel)

Mumbai, Maharashtra



Aminomeric Chloride

Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province

THANK YOU!

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**Any
questions?**



**Thank you for
your attention!**

<https://us.eia.org/report/mercury-in-retrograde/>

<https://www.zeromercury.org/mercury-added-skin-lightening-creams-campaign/>

Online event - Thursday, October 19, 2023

