



Open-Ended Science Group for Effectiveness Evaluation

Article 22: Requires the COP to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention, beginning no later than 6 years after entry into force. The Convention entered into force on 16 August 2017.

Policy Questions for the Effectiveness Evaluation

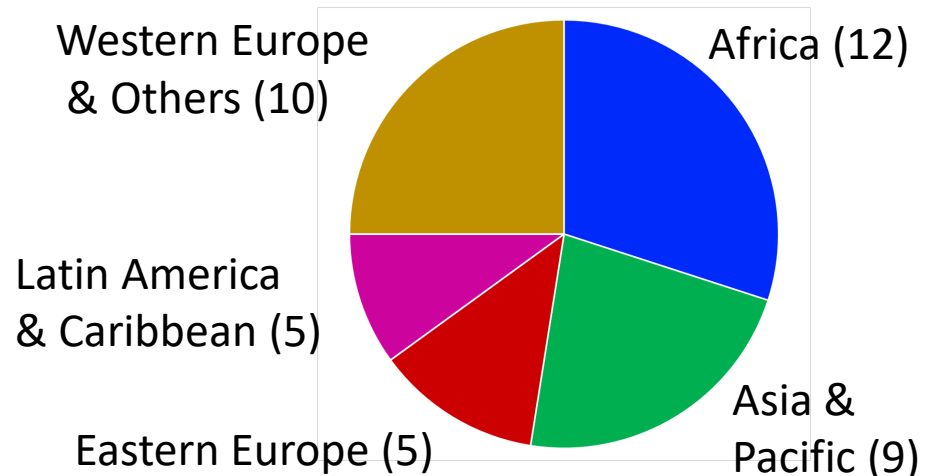
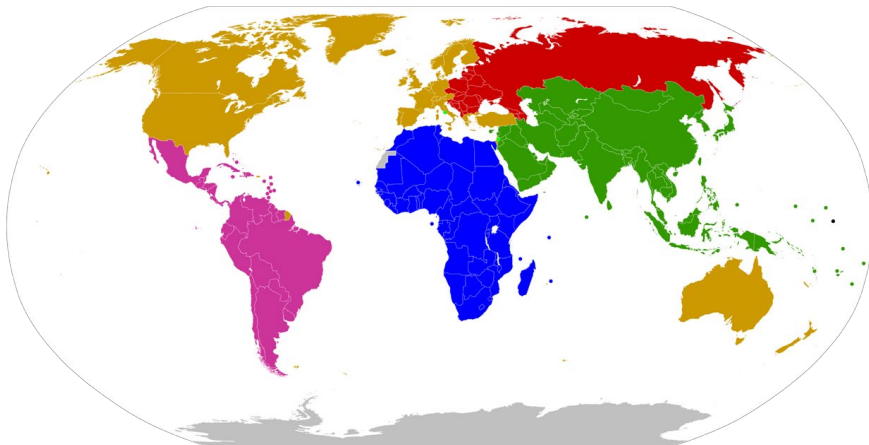
- Have the parties taken actions to implement the Minamata Convention?
- Have the actions taken resulted in changes in mercury supply, use, emissions and releases into the environment?
- Have those changes resulted in changes in levels of mercury in the environment, biota, and vulnerable human populations that can be attributed to the Minamata Convention?
- To what extent are existing measures under the Minamata Convention meeting the objective of protecting human health and the environment from mercury?

The Open-Ended Science Group

Intersessional and COP discussions of the framework for the Effectiveness Evaluation have been ongoing for 5 years. At COP-4.2 in March 2022, the COP reached agreement on the terms of reference for an Open-Ended Science Group, but deferred other aspects of the EE framework until COP-5 (November 2023).

The science group is “open-ended” in that all Parties have a seat at the table. Every Party can nominate one member to the OESG. In addition, Parties and accredited organizations can nominate experts to a roster who will be invited to contribute to the technical tasks of the OESG.

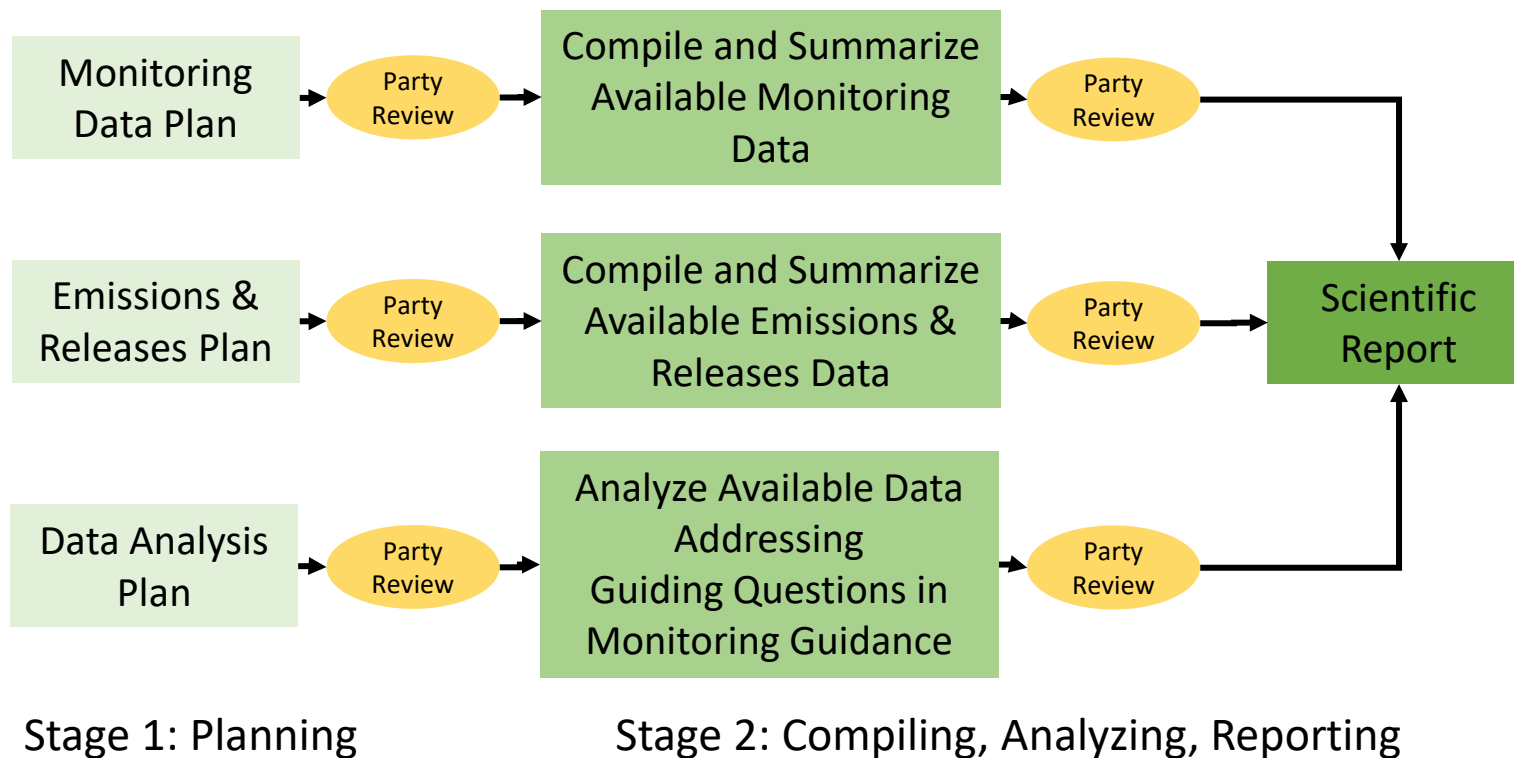
41 Members Nominated to Date



The Open-Ended Science Group

At COP-4, no decision was reached on the overall schedule for EE-1, but the negotiations were focused on completing EE-1 by COP-6 in November 2025.

The OESG is limited to two in-person meetings over the 4-year process, so most of its work will be conducted through web conferences and email.



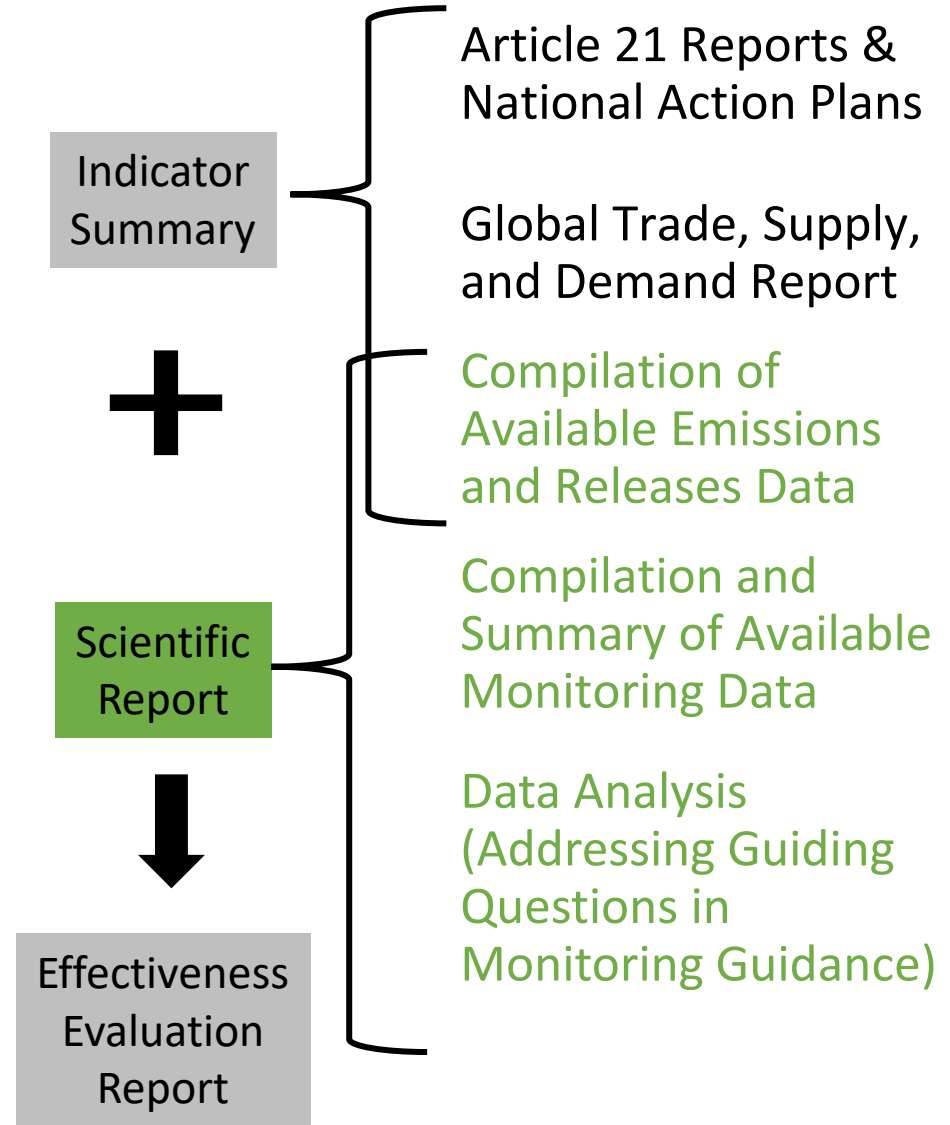
The Overall EE Framework and OESG Tasks

Have the parties taken actions to implement the Minamata Convention?

Have the actions taken resulted in changes in mercury supply, use, emissions and releases into the environment?

Have those changes resulted in changes in levels of mercury in the environment, biotic media and vulnerable populations that can be attributed to the Minamata Convention?

To what extent are existing measures under the Minamata Convention meeting the objective of protecting human health and the environment from mercury?



OESG Progress

At its first meeting in June 2022, the group elected co-chairs:

Dominique Bally Kpokro (Togo, Ivory Coast) and Terry Keating (USA)

Agreed on a timeline for Stage 1 Products and Meetings (Likely Monthly)

	Monitoring Data	Emissions & Releases	Analyses	COP Update
2022 Sep	V0 Plan			
Oct		V0 Plan		
Nov	V1 Plan	V1 Plan		
Dec				
2023 Jan	V2 Party Review	V2 Party Review		
Feb			V0 Plan	
Mar				
Apr	V3 Plan	V3 Plan	V1 Plan	
May	Begin Stage 2	Begin Stage 2		Progress Report
Jun			V2 Party Review	
Jul				
Aug				
Sep			V3 Plan	Informal Update
Oct			Begin Stage 2	
Nov	COP 5			

In Person Meeting

The Way Forward

1. Enlisting Experts to the Roster

Any Party or Organization can nominate an Expert

Send Nomination Form to Secretariat

<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/meetings/cop5#cop-intersessional-work>

2. Organizing Small Drafting Teams

Sep 8: Monitoring Data

Air & Deposition, Biota, Humans, Other Media (Water, Sediments)

Oct 6: Emissions & Releases

Anthropogenic, Natural & Re-emission, Releases to Land & Water

Nov 3: Focus on Data Management Approaches

3. Party Review Periods

Plans (January & June 2023)

Drafts (Late 2024 & Early 2025)

Questions, Suggestions, Volunteers? keating.terry@epa.gov