

Dear Brenda

My contribution on informal waste management will be linked to the findings from the National Mercury MIA projects.

Informal waste disposal and burning is prevalent in the African Region and from the MIA's we observe that generally the Regions major releases and emissions of mercury are from mercury added products, ASGM and waste. If any mercury is present in the waste, it is anticipated that most of it will be released into the environment given the volatility of mercury. Many countries struggle to get good quality data from both the municipal systems and also industries in the waste management system.

The UNEP mercury toolkit allows countries to estimate releases (5 g/Hg/t of waste burned for the calculation of the emission from informal burning of waste, but this has never been validated in the Region... which brings me to my recommendation that it would be really useful for the countries in the African Region to develop Regional emission factors for chemicals and waste. Ideally this would be undertaken by local government experts and consultants.

I hope this is useful.

For now warm regards,

Rico