

WASTE KHORO 2019: Asbestos and Land Remediation Summit
18-20 September 2019

"Good Green Deeds towards a Recycling Economy and Sustainable Land Remediation"



NATIONAL MERCURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Date: 18 September 2019

Mr. BJ Smit

Directorate: Land Remediation

National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries



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Presentation Outline

- ❖ Problem statement
- ❖ Purpose
- ❖ Objectives
- ❖ Scope
- ❖ Deliverables
- ❖ Current status
- ❖ Way forward



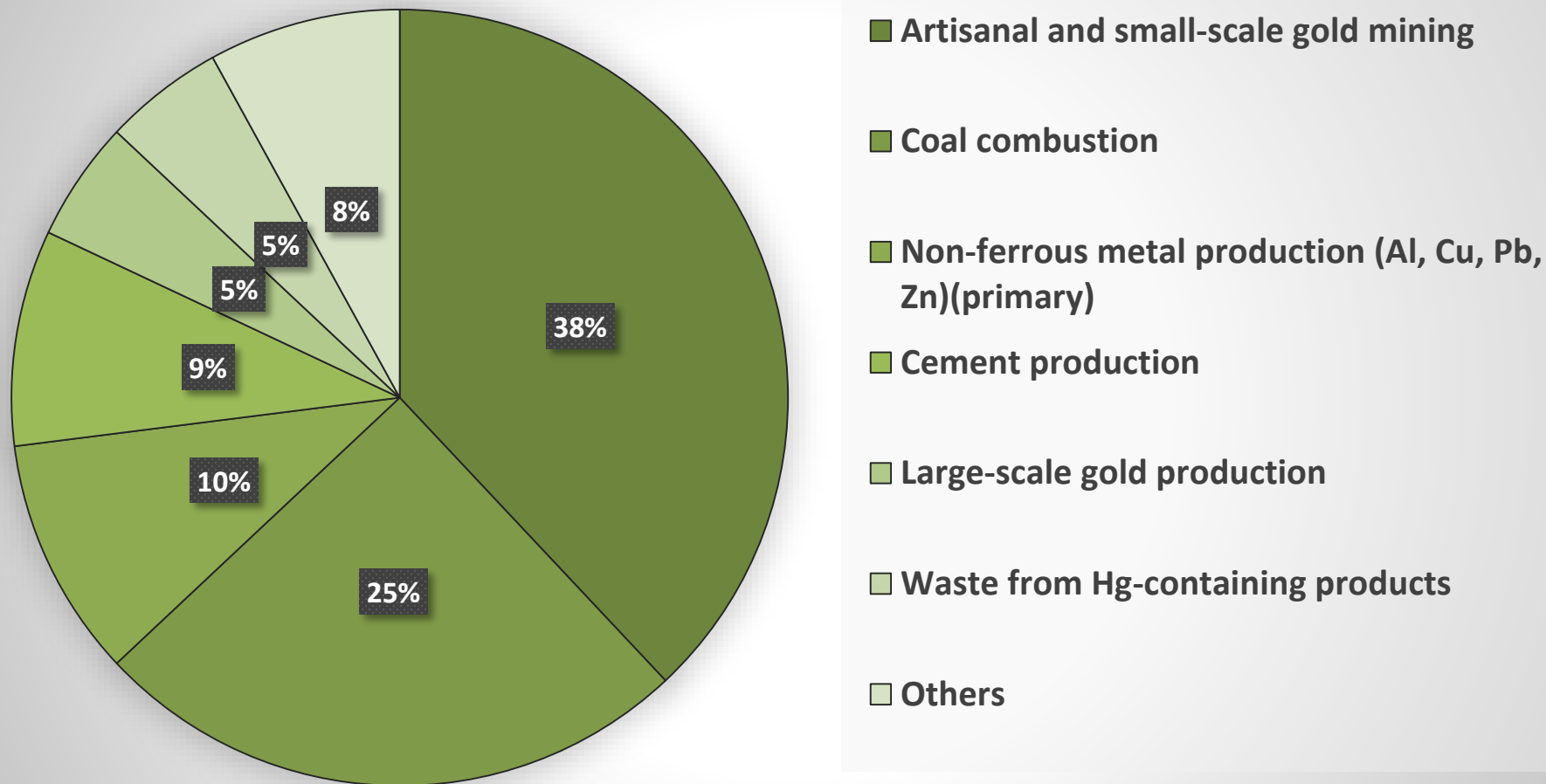
Problem Statement

- ❖ Mercury is regarded as a “priority hazardous substance”
- ❖ Exposure to mercury poses a direct health risk
- ❖ Phakisa initiative
 - Lack of treatment and disposal capacity of mercury
 - Lack of proper management of mercury waste stockpiles
 - Inadequate funding for mercury contaminated sites
 - Lack of an integrated performance and monitoring programme on mercury management to ensure accountability
 - Lack of awareness

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Distribution of global anthropogenic Hg emissions to air from different sectors, 2010



Xu *et al.*, 2015



Purpose

- ❖ The main purpose of the National Mercury Management Strategy is to facilitate integration and sustainable management of mercury contaminated sites in South Africa.



Objectives

- ❖ Facilitate integration of awareness, consultation and sustainable remediation of mercury contaminated sites;
- ❖ Implement Risk Based Approach on mercury in the country;
- ❖ Create a platform to exchange information on best practices on mercury;
- ❖ Establish communication framework to eliminate silos and fragmentations among role players.



Scope

- ❖ Develop situational analysis for management of mercury in SA;
- ❖ Investigate best mercury management practice taking into account the context of the country;
- ❖ Develop inventory for mercury contaminated land;
- ❖ Develop sustainable funding model for mercury management and costing of the entire plan;
- ❖ Develop integrated awareness strategy for mercury management in the country;



Scope

- ❖ Develop monitoring framework for mercury management;
- ❖ Investigate barriers that lead to minimal compliance to mercury management laws;
- ❖ Develop cooperative model for working with all the stakeholders;
- ❖ Investigate number and type of jobs that will be created;
- ❖ Investigate type of support that is required to be provided in the communities affected by mercury contamination;
- ❖ Provide recommendations on sustainable mercury management.



Deliverables

- ❖ Detailed project plan and inception report on how to achieve the scope of the work;
- ❖ Situational analysis report;
- ❖ Detailed report consolidating the outcomes of engagements with stakeholders;
- ❖ Database reflecting the details of stakeholders consulted as well as providing proof of engagements with government departments, organs of state, industries, NGO's and other interested parties;
- ❖ Inventory for mercury contaminated land;



Deliverables

- ❖ Report on a sustainable funding model for mercury management and costing of the entire plan;
- ❖ National Implementation Plan for the National Mercury Management Strategy;
- ❖ Monitoring framework for mercury management;
- ❖ Present options on the type of support that is required to be provided in the communities affected by mercury contamination;
- ❖ Integrated awareness strategy for mercury management in the country.



Current status

- ❖ Developed TOR;
- ❖ Tender advertised.



Way forward

- ❖ Appointment of service provider;
- ❖ Consultation process in terms of section 72 and 73 of the Waste Act;
- ❖ Focus groups: MTshitangoni@environment.gov.za
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TTelekisa@environment.gov.za



References

- ❖ Xu, J., Bravo, A.G., Lagerkvist, A., Bertilsson, S., Sjöblomb, R. & Kumpiene, J. 2015. Sources and remediation techniques for mercury contaminated soil. *Environment International*, 74:42–53

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Thank You

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