

Monday, January 1, 2018 Latest: African Parks appoints Prince Harry as president



Lekki Urban Forest and Animal Sanctuary Initiative (LUFASI) is an urban forest park that sits on 20 hectares of land on the Lekki - Epe Express way. It houses threatened and endangered animal and plant species. Nature Park - Relaxation Centre - Play park

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Armenia emerges 85th Party to Minamata Convention on Mercury

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The government of Armenia on Wednesday December 13, 2017 deposited its instrument of ratification becoming the 85th Party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

The development is coming exactly two months after Lebanon deposited her instrument of ratification.

The ratification brings to 85 countries that have ratified the Convention out of the 128 that signed it.

Crucial decisions on how to end mercury pollution both to the human health and the environment were reached at the recently concluded weeklong COP 1 held in Geneva, Switzerland in the last week of September.

A milestone for entry into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury was reached on May 18, 2017 when the European Union and seven of its countries including Bulgaria, Denmark, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Romania and Sweden had on May 18 deposited the instrument of ratification bringing the total ratifications to 51.

Consequently, the Minamata Convention on Mercury enters into force on August 16, 2017.

The Convention is a global treaty that seeks to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. It was agreed at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on mercury in Geneva, Switzerland on the morning of Saturday, January 19, 2013 and adopted later that year on 10 October 2013 at a Diplomatic Conference (Conference of Plenipotentiaries), held in Kumamoto, Japan.

The Convention draws attention to a global and ubiquitous metal that, while naturally occurring, has broad uses in everyday objects and is released to the atmosphere, soil and water from a variety of sources. Controlling the anthropogenic releases of mercury throughout its lifecycle has been a key factor in shaping the obligations under the Convention.

Major highlights of the Minamata Convention include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, the phase out and phase down of mercury use in a number of products and processes, control measures on emissions to air and on releases to land and water, and the regulation of the informal sector of artisanal and small-scale gold mining. The Convention also addresses interim storage of mercury and its disposal once it becomes waste, sites contaminated by mercury as well as health issues.

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