



OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR FUTURE

MERCURY, THE SILENT KILLER

Health effects of mercury exposure.

- Mercury has shown to cause learning problems, memory loss, numbness, loss of muscle coordination, tremors, deafness, changes in vision, shaking hands



Direct contact with the mercury while panning

Mercury use is **restricted** under the Minamata convention on mercury. Uganda is party.



Cracked and stiff hands as a result of using mercury in gold mining



How one gets exposed to mercury.

- Direct contact with the mercury while panning of gold ore concentrate for amalgamation
- Inhalation of mercury vapour while burning of the amalgam
- Using water and eating aquatic food contaminated with mercury

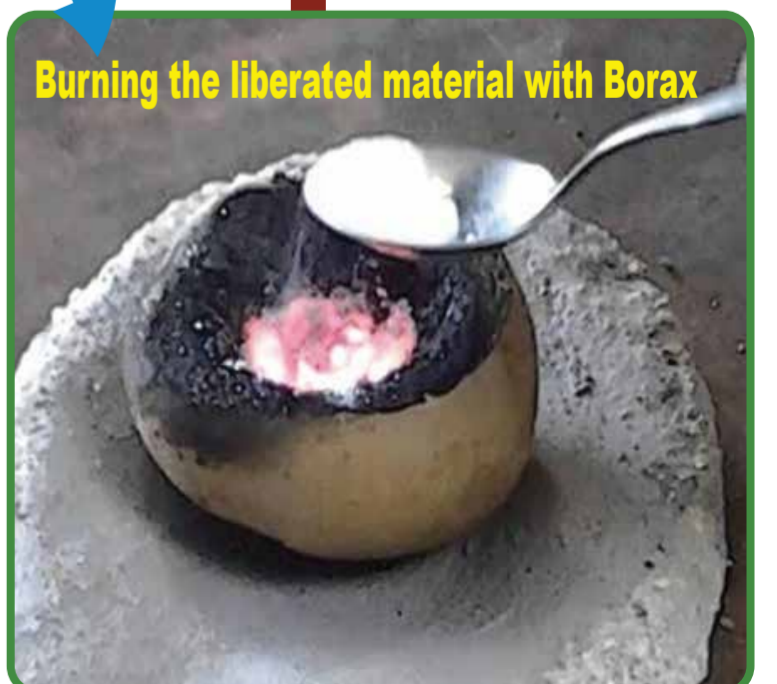
Alternatives to the use of mercury

- Use Gravity Concentration method with Borax (sluice boxes, shaking tables and floatation methods)



Sluicing to separate by gravity

MERCURY FREE GOLD MINING



Burning the liberated material with Borax