



UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund



Panama Workshop on Control and Monitoring of ODS Consumption for Latin America (2-4 April 1998, Panama City)

INFORMATION - Workshop - April 1998

19 countries actively participated in the Regional Workshop on Control and Monitoring of ODS Consumption for Latin America which closed 4 April 1998 in Panama City, Panama. The workshop was jointly organized by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Government of Panama, and funded by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (ratified by 166 nations by now), developing countries (Article 5 countries) must freeze their consumption of the five main chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by 1999 at the average 1995-1997 levels and then start reducing and eliminating the consumption of these and other ozone depleting substances (ODS). A licensing system to control and monitor the ODS imports and exports is essential in assisting governments to meet the Protocol requirements and has even become mandatory for the Parties of the Protocol.

The workshop's objective was to provide policy and technical assistance to developing countries in the Latin American region in order for them to design and implement efficient legal systems to control and monitor their ODS consumption with the goal of meeting their freeze targets in 1999 under the Montreal Protocol.

Participants to the meeting included representatives from Ozone National Units and Customs Departments from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Customs officials from Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama presented to the participants the systems for control of monitoring of ODS which are already established in their countries. A Canadian expert provided details of the elements to be considered when designing and implementing import/export licensing systems and the Resource Module on Import/Export Licensing Systems developed by UNEP was used as the main reference document during the working sessions.

By the end of the workshop, all participating countries had prepared action plans on how to establish or improve systems to control and monitor the ODS imports and exports in their countries. The workshop was also successful in establishing the necessary links between the National Ozone Units and their counterparts in the Customs Departments in order to start the implementation of such action plans.

While closing the workshop, Mrs. Aida Libia de Rivera, Minister of Health of Panama mentioned how impressed she was with the results of the workshop and encouraged the participants to keep in mind the vision and mission of the Montreal Protocol in the hard work ahead.

About the Montreal Protocol

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is the international environmental agreement that has galvanized global cooperation to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. The Protocol was signed by 24 countries in 1987 and as of March 1997, has been ratified by 162 countries, or Parties to the Protocol.

A number of ozone-depleting substances (chlorofluorocarbons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform and halons) have already been phased out in developed countries, except for about 10,000 tonnes used as essential uses.

About UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme

Since 1991, the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme in Paris has been strengthening the capacity of governments (especially National Ozone Units) and industry in developing countries

to make informed decisions on technology and policy options that will result in cost-effective ODS phase-out activities with minimal external intervention. The Programme accomplishes this by delivering a range of need-based services, including:

Information Exchange

to enable decision makers to take informed decisions on policies and investments. Information and management tools already provided for developing countries include the OzonAction Information Clearinghouse (OAIC) diskette and World Wide Web site, a quarterly newsletter, sector-specific technical publications for identifying and selecting alternative technologies and policy guidelines.

Training and Networking

that provide platforms for exchanging experiences, developing skills and tapping the expertise of peers and other experts in the global ozone protection community. Training and network workshops build skills for implementing and managing phase-out activities and are conducted at the regional level (support is also extended to national activities). The Programme currently operates seven regional and sub-regional Networks of ODS Officers comprising more than 80 countries, which have resulted in member countries' taking early steps to implement the Montreal Protocol.

Country Programmes and Institutional Strengthening

that support the development of national ODS phase-out strategies and programmes, especially for low-volume ODS-consuming countries. The Programme currently assists 74 countries in the development of their Country Programmes and implements Institutional-Strengthening projects for 50 countries.

About UNEP Industry and Environment

UNEP established its Industry and Environment office (UNEP DTIE) in 1975 to bring industry and government together to promote environmentally sound industrial development. UNEP DTIE is located in Paris. Its goals are: 1) to encourage the incorporation of environmental criteria in industrial development plans; 2) to facilitate the implementation of procedures and principles for the protection of the environment; 3) to promote preventive environmental protection through cleaner production and other proactive approaches; 4) to stimulate the exchange of information and experience throughout the world. DTIE provides access to practical information and develops cooperative activities backed by regular follow-up and assessment. To promote the transfer of information and the sharing of knowledge and experience, DTIE has developed three complementary tools: technical reports; the quarterly "Industry and Environment" review and a technical query-response service. UNEP DTIE is conducting the following main programme elements: Accident Prevention (APELL), Cleaner Production, Energy, OzonAction, Pollution Management, Tourism.

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