

**UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund****Towards Methyl Bromide Phase Out: A Handbook for National Ozone Units****INFORMATION RELEASE - New Publication****August 1999**

The UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund has released a new policy publication, *Towards Methyl Bromide Phase Out: A Handbook for National Ozone Units* to assist developing countries in phasing out the toxic, ozone-depleting pesticide methyl bromide.

*Towards Methyl Bromide Phase Out: A Handbook for NOUs* is the first document of its kind to provide governments with the knowledge and tools necessary to design national action plans for methyl bromide phase out. The Handbook will help countries achieve two important goals: protecting the ozone layer while maintaining agricultural productivity through the adoption of safe and effective alternatives.

Methyl bromide is an ozone-depleting substance that is used as a fumigant in agriculture on such crops as tomatoes and strawberries, for pest control in structures and stored commodities and for quarantine treatments. The bromine from methyl bromide is 60 times more destructive to ozone on an atom-per-atom basis than the chlorine from CFCs. UNEP's Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee has identified alternatives for the vast majority of current uses and many of these are already used successfully around the world.

Recognizing its threat to the ozone layer, the Parties to the Montreal Protocol agreed to a global phase-out schedule for methyl bromide in 1997. This schedule requires that industrialized countries phase out methyl bromide by 2005. Developing countries must freeze methyl bromide consumption by 2002 with a 20% reduction in 2005 and a phase out by 2015. The development of policy measures is increasingly important as the first control measures for methyl bromide approach and as methyl bromide consumption increases in some developing countries.

The Handbook provides a step by step process in the development and implementation of national action plans to phase out methyl bromide and replace it with alternatives techniques. It will help in assessing methyl bromide use, identifying appropriate alternatives, encouraging stakeholder participation, establishing a policy framework, raising awareness, implementing alternatives and reviewing progress.

The handbook also highlights options and actions through diagrams, decision trees, illustrations and checklists. While the Handbook has been written for National Ozone Units in government departments responsible for implementing control measures under the Montreal Protocol, it can also be used by other relevant government departments, methyl bromide users, companies and non-governmental organizations.

This publication is part of the information exchange services provided by UNEP to developing countries to help them meet their methyl bromide phase-out obligations under the Montreal Protocol. The OzonAction Programme has developed a range of technical and policy publications to support the methyl bromide phase out and the transition to alternatives. UNEP provides other clearinghouse services (Training & Networking of ODS Officers) as well as assistance with the development of national ODS phase out strategies (Country Programmes) and Institutional Strengthening support. For more information, contact: Rajendra M. Shende, Chief, UNEP DTIE Energy and OzonAction Unit, Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai Andre Citroen, Paris 75739 cedex 15, France or Tel: (33.1) 44.37.14.50, Fax: (33.1)44.37.14.74, E-mail: [rshende@unep.fr](mailto:rshende@unep.fr), Web: <http://www.uneptie.org/ozone/home.html>.

To make this document widely available, the OzonAction Programme is publishing the hard copy and making it [accessible free-of-cost through OzonAction Programme's web site at http://www.uneptie.org/ozone/home.html](http://www.uneptie.org/ozone/home.html).

**To Order:** *Towards Methyl Bromide Phase Out: A Handbook for National Ozone Units* 135 FF/US\$ 25

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## About the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

The mission of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics is to help decision-makers in government, local authorities and industry develop and adopt policies and practices that:

- are cleaner and safer;
- make efficient use of natural resources;
- ensure adequate management of chemicals;
- incorporate environmental costs;
- reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment.

The UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE), with its head office in Paris, is composed of one centre and four units:

- The International Environmental Technology Centre (Osaka), which promotes the adoption and use of environmentally sound technologies with a focus on the environmental management of cities and freshwater basins, in developing countries and countries in transition.
- **Production and Consumption (Paris)**, which fosters the development of cleaner and safer production and consumption patterns that lead to increased efficiency in the use of natural resources and reductions in pollution.
- **Chemicals (Geneva)**, which promotes sustainable development by catalyzing global actions and building national capacities for the sound management of chemicals and the improvement of chemical safety worldwide, with a priority on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC, jointly with FAO).
- **Energy and OzonAction (Paris)**, which supports the phase-out of ozone depleting substances in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and promotes good management practices and use of energy, with a focus on atmospheric impacts. The UNEP/RISØ Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment supports the work of the Unit.
- **Economics and Trade (Geneva)**, which promotes the use and application of assessment and incentive tools for environmental policy and helps improve the understanding of linkages between trade and environment and the role of financial institutions in promoting sustainable development.

UNEP DTIE activities focus on raising awareness, improving the transfer of information, building capacity, fostering technology cooperation, partnerships and transfer, improving understanding of environmental impacts of trade issues, promoting integration of environmental considerations into economic policies and catalyzing global chemical safety.

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