



Vanuatu is Gearing to Return to Compliance

18 Feb 2010 , Port-Vila, Vanuatu: "Vanuatu will definitely return to compliance with the Montreal Protocol", the Head of State His Excellency Iolu Abil, made a categorical statement following meeting with UNEP's high level mission on 8 February 2010 at Port-Vila. H.E Abil was Minister of Environment in 1987 when the Montreal Protocol came into force. Click on link to view message: <http://62.160.8.20/endofyear/>

Vanuatu is in non-compliance with the CFCs control measures under the Montreal Protocol for 2007 and 2008 as per decision of XXI/26 made at the 21st Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Port Ghalib, Egypt in November 2009. As per the same decision, Vanuatu was requested to submit to the Ozone Secretariat no later than 31 March 2010 a plan of action with time-specific benchmarks to ensure the Party's prompt return to compliance.

UNEP's high level mission follows South-South Cooperation mission by the National Ozone Officer of Solomon Islands and the regional facilitation by SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme) last year. Both initiatives were facilitated by UNEP OzonAction's Compliance Assistance Programme. Like a number of other small island countries in the Pacific region, Vanuatu lacks the consistent engagement of human resources to handle the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and hence has accumulated challenges including a non-functional national ozone unit, low awareness on the CFC phase out, lack of ODS import/export control. Furthermore, it has not yet ratified the Montreal and Beijing Amendment.

Following the decision of XXI/26, UNEP formed a high level mission comprised of Dr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director for the Asia and Pacific, Mr. Rajendra Shende, Head of OzonAction Branch, UNEP DTIE, and Mr. Shaofeng Hu, Pacific Island Countries (PIC) Network Coordinator. Following the courtesy call to H.E. Iolu Abil, the mission held a long and detailed discussion with the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Paul Telukluk, as well as his political adviser, Director General of the Ministry of Justice, Director for the Environment on the possible options and available technical and financial support that UNEP could offer to help to return to compliance. A draft action plan was prepared and adopted in the workshop of national stakeholders that included the Minister, the private sector and relevant government departments.

Mr. Albert Williams, the newly appointed Director for Environment, who is also serving as the Ozone Officer for the timing being, expressed confidence that Vanuatu would fulfill all the reporting requirements, and ensure the licensing system would be put in place by March 2010. Training for the technicians, customs officers would be organized in the coming months. The Republic of Vanuatu would hold regional International Ozone day in 2010 and invite all Pacific Island Countries. Vanuatu would initiate the process for the ratification of the remaining Amendments and establish the ODS regulations by 2010. A full time ozone officer is being recruited. Please see the interview of Mr. Williams: <http://www.dailypost.vu/ArticleArchives/tabid/56/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/5702/UN->

[agency-assisting-Vanuatu-to-move-out-of-blacklist.aspx](#)

One of the highlight of the mission was the meeting with Ambassador of China to Vanuatu who agreed to plan a possible bilateral cooperation, facilitated by UNEP, to help Vanuatu build the capacity in the servicing sector and enhance the energy efficiency in refrigeration and air conditioning.

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