



INFORMATION NOTE

The Maldives Story: At the forefront of ozone layer protection and achieving carbon neutrality

Bali, 24 November 2011 – The Government of the Maldives today showcased its success story in ozone protection and achieving carbon neutrality in a side event organized by the Ministry of Housing and Environment of Maldives in cooperation with the OzonAction Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This event was held during the 23rd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer from 21 to 25 November 2011.

“We want to share our ozone story – how the HPMP of Maldives was the first to be approved, how our government was able to pledge the total phase-out of HCFCs 10 years ahead of the Montreal Protocol deadline and how our ozone depleting substances programs are linked with the country’s carbon neutrality policy,” stated Akram Kamaluddeen, Minister of State for Housing and Environment, Maldives.

The HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) of Maldives, approved at the 60th Executive Committee (Decision 61/37) of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, follows a single stage approach – freezing the consumption of HCFC gases by 2011 and gradually reducing it until 97.5% phase-out by 2020, with 2.5% allowance for servicing the needs of existing equipment until 2025. The Maldives’ strategy of accelerating their phase-out deadlines many years earlier than what is required under the Montreal Protocol is aligned with the country’s carbon neutrality policy.

“Maldives is the first country to get funds for the HPMP. We have started implementing our HPMP. We have two targets to achieve by the end of 2020- phase-out of HCFCs and become carbon neutral. Though small in size, the challenges ahead are bigger- much bigger than the CFC phase-out. However, with political backing and support from various organizations, partners, we are not hesitant to go ahead in achieving our targets- 10 years ahead of Montreal Protocol Phase-out targets,” said Ahmed Saleem, Permanent Secretary of Ministry Housing and Environment.

“Being the first country to have our HPMP approved, we also faced several challenges of how to initiate our programme and learned some lessons during the HPMP preparation, initiation and implementation, including establishing an HCFC licensing and quota system in the country. Experience in this regard in Article 5 countries globally was like blank paper on which we had to imprint our work. Through this meeting, we want to share this information with other countries that are just about to begin their HPMPs,” shared Ms. Miruza Mohamed, Assistant Director and Ozone Officer of Maldives.

UNEP and UNDP are, respectively, the lead and cooperating implementing agencies supporting the Maldives for the implementation of the HPMP. As a small island state at risk from climate change, the Maldives recognized early on at the highest level the linkages between ozone depletion and climate change. Their HPMP presents innovative approaches for achieving dual benefits and maximizing the climate co-benefit of the HCFC phase out. Their example will inform and inspire other developing countries which consume low volumes of HCFCs to take a similar smart ozone-climate path.”, said Mr. James Curlin, Interim Head of the UNEP OzonAction Programme.



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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Meanwhile, Mr. Balaji Natarajan of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) talked about implementing investment projects under the HPMP, and Mr. Rolf Huehren of GIZ discussed the pilot project on zero ODP low GWP, and energy efficient R-290 based AC systems in Maldives. The event was attended by delegates from various countries and agencies, notably governments whose HPMPs have just been approved.



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Notes to Editors

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the United Nations system's designated entity for addressing environmental issues at the global and regional level. Its mandate is to coordinate the development of environmental policy consensus by keeping the global environment under review and bringing emerging issues to the attention of governments and the international community for action.

Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of a number of substances believed to be responsible for ozone depletion. The treaty was opened for signature on September 16, 1987 and entered into force on January 1, 1989. Since then, it has undergone five revisions, in 1990 (London), 1992 (Copenhagen), 1995 (Vienna), 1997 (Montreal), and 1999 (Beijing). Due to its widespread adoption and implementation it has been hailed as an example of exceptional international cooperation "Perhaps the single most successful international agreement to date..."

The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol is managed by an Executive Committee which is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Fund. The Committee comprises seven members from developed and seven members from developing countries. In 2011 the Committee membership includes Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Japan, Switzerland, United States of America (developed countries) and Argentina, China, Cuba, Grenada, Kenya, Kuwait, Morocco (developing country members) and is chaired by Mr. Patrick McLnerney of Australia. The Committee is assisted by the Fund Secretariat which is based in Montreal, Canada.

Activities are implemented by four international agencies (UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, World Bank) and a number of bilateral government agencies. Since 1991, the Multilateral Fund has approved activities including industrial conversion, technical assistance, training and capacity building worth over US \$2.6 billion that will result in the phase out of almost 460,000 ODP tonnes of consumption and production of ozone-depleting substances in developing countries.

In September 2007 the Parties to the Montreal Protocol decided to accelerate the freeze and phase-out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). The Multilateral Fund intends to finance HCFC phase-out in all 144 developing countries eligible for its financial and technical assistance.