



UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund



Government of Germany and Finland contribute to phase-out of ozone depleting substances in English-speaking Africa: RMP for Southern- and Eastern Africa (10-12 March 1998)

INFORMATION RELEASE

Fourteen National Ozone Officers from countries of southern- and eastern Africa plus representatives from the German cooperation agency GTZ and from the OzonAction Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme came together in Namibia during a workshop to discuss the development of Refrigerant Management Plans (RMPs) for the phase out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in these countries. The adoption of the national RMPs will be a crucial step for these countries in their efforts to comply with the July 1999 freeze in the consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances at 1995-97 levels. The implementation of these plans will lead to sectoral phase-out in the refrigeration sector - a major ODS-consuming sector.

The workshop is part of the "Development of Refrigerant Management Plans for 10 low volume consuming countries in Southern and Eastern Africa" (Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe) approved by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, as a bilateral project under the contribution of the Government of Germany to the Multilateral Fund.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Wilfried Emvula, the Deputy Minister of the Namibian Ministry of Trade and Environment, Mr. Rolf Ulrich, Embassy Counselor of the Government of Germany, Mr. Peter Christmann of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Peter Störmer, Division Manager of the German Cooperation Agency GTZ and Mr. Steve Gorman, Network Manager of the OzonAction Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme Industry and Environment.

During the three days of the workshop the participants discussed the different elements that should be included in their national RMPs, the problems their countries are facing in meeting the freeze in 1999 and the solutions to these problems while also trying to establish a realistic time-schedule for the implementation of the RMPs. The RMPs will be finalized by a team of GTZ international experts that will visit all the attending countries during a two-month period. These experts will collect the necessary data on the local situation in order to adapt the contents of each RMP to the situation in the country.

The participants regarded the general results of the workshop as positive: The participating countries were made aware of the actions needed in order to implement of the elements of the Refrigerant Management Plans to be developed for their countries and action plans for the implementation of the different elements were agreed upon. Mr. Mndewa's (focal point for Tanzania) remark at the end of the workshop was: " it has been a great pleasure shopping together for ideas in this unique setting, I hope the other participants will also take home the massive knowledge acquired on planning for RMPs so that we all remain valuable assets for our countries and to the region as a whole in as far as meeting our obligations to the Montreal Protocol".

During the workshops two countries, Namibia and Ethiopia agreed for a quick start in Training Programmes on Recovery and Recycling of Ozone Depleting Substances to be started before summer 1998 as part of the RMPs of these two countries. These two training projects will be supported by the Government of Finland.

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.

[Back to the Press Releases page](#)

