



# United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE  
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

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6 August 2004

Dear Ozone Officer:

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date in 1987 on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed. This September 16<sup>th</sup>, we will all celebrate this day to promote public awareness about the successes achieved and the challenges ahead of us. This year's theme is

## SAVE O<sub>3</sub>UR SKY: OZONE-FRIENDLY PLANET, OUR TARGET

This year we are pleased to provide you with the following materials and information to support your national activities before, during and after Ozone Day:

### 1. Get Inspired by Your Peers

As noted in the *Communication Strategy for Global Compliance with the Montreal Protocol* developed by UNEP (available at [www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/events/ozoneday](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/events/ozoneday)), Ozone Day is an important opportunity to raise public awareness on ozone in all countries, developing and developed alike. Most National Ozone Units (NOUs) organise one or several public awareness activities on this day and have been doing so annually for several years. Some concentrate most or all of their public outreach activities during that period. I am attaching some examples of what other NOUs have done in the past to celebrate Ozone Day for you to consider for this 16 September.



Consider selecting an activity from this list that is appropriate for your country that you have not tried before, or creating something entirely new – be innovative each year.

### 2. Use Ozzy Ozone to Increase Awareness

We are pleased to enclose a copy (VHS format) of this new short animated awareness video produced by the OzonAction Programme. We suggest that you use this video as part of your national Ozone Day celebrations and/or other awareness-raising events.

In this video, Ozzy Ozone and Alberta the Albatross take a voyage of discovery to find out exactly who and what is attacking the ozone layer and how children can play an important role in making a difference. This film is suitable for broadcast on national television or in schools as part of a national ozone protection awareness campaign. The Government of Barbados developed the Ozzy Ozone character as part of its own national awareness campaign and it is being shared with other countries through this video.

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Division of Technology, Industry and Economics  
Energy and OzonAction Unit

Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai André Citroën, 75739 Paris - Cedex 15, France, Tel: +33.1.44.37.14.50; Fax: +33.1.44.37.14.74  
E-mail: [unep.tie@unep.fr](mailto:unep.tie@unep.fr) URL: <http://www.unepie.org/>

We recommend that you contact your country's television companies and explore if they would agree to broadcast the video on or around Ozone Day. If they agree, please let us know and we can provide you with a broadcast quality video (Betacam format) that can be used by television companies.



If you would like to obtain a Beta version, please send an email to Ms. Mugure Kibe Ursulet at [mugure.ursulet@unep.fr](mailto:mugure.ursulet@unep.fr) and copy [jcurlin@unep.fr](mailto:jcurlin@unep.fr)

This film is currently available in English, French and Spanish language versions. For easy reference, an online streaming version of the video is also available on our website [www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/events/ozoneday](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/events/ozoneday).

### 3. Spread Key Messages about Ozone Depletion

The *Communication Strategy for Global Compliance with the Montreal Protocol* identified 14 key common messages that all members of the Montreal Protocol community (including Ozone Officers) should keep in mind when speaking with the press, developing brochures and publications, and conducting awareness-raising events.

We recommend that you integrate these messages into your Ozone Day events, press interviews, and your national communications campaign. I am attaching those messages

In addition, another very important message for this year's Ozone Day is:



Virtually all CFC production facilities in developed countries are now closed. Those in developing countries are in the process of closing down as per agreements with the Multilateral Fund. There will soon be significant restrictions in CFC supplies worldwide. Countries and companies should be prepared to avoid economic and social disruptions by adopting ozone-friendly alternatives.

### 4. Promote Sun Protection Education

We are pleased to enclose a comprehensive package for children's sun protection education developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). This includes three booklets:

- **Sun Protection and Schools: How to Make a Difference**, which describes the importance of sun protection in schools, and outlines necessary steps for establishing a school programme.
- **Sun Protection: A Primary Teaching Resource**, which is for primary school teachers and provides suggestions and ready-made teaching activities.
- **Evaluating School Programmes to Promote Sun Protection**, which is for schools, and educational and health authorities

The WHO booklets are available only in English. More information and resources can be obtained from the Intersun website at [www.who.int/peh-uv](http://www.who.int/peh-uv).



Contact the Ministry of Education and encourage them to develop curricula components related to UV awareness and safe sun habits for children and youth.

## 5. Make Your Office Ozone-Friendly

Ozone Day is an excellent opportunity to show the public that your NOU “practices what it preaches” by announcing (or committing to) the phase out of ozone depleting substances (ODS) in your own working environment. UNEP OzonAction Programme developed guidelines to encourage and assist UN offices to do this and they can be used make any office environment ODS-free. The document can be downloaded from our website at [www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/events/ozoneday](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/events/ozoneday).



Consider announcing on Ozone Day that your NOU, office or Ministry is “ozone-friendly” if it does not use any ozone depleting substances, or that you commit to achieving that status by a specific date.

## 6. Save the Ozone Layer with a Screen Saver

Keeping with the theme of this year’s Ozone Day – targets - the OzonAction Programme has developed attractive and entertaining computer screen savers that remind countries about Montreal Protocol compliance targets. These screen savers are available for downloading at [www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/events/ozoneday](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/events/ozoneday)



We recommend that you distribute the screen saver widely to the public, industry and government.

Keep watching our website at [www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/events/ozoneday](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/events/ozoneday). We will be posting a number of interesting products there for your use on Ozone Day, including video, screen saver, images, examples of awareness items including posters, and links.

We wish you success with the organisation of this year’s Ozone Day celebrations, and hope to learn the outcome of your country’s celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Rajendra Shende, Head  
UNEP DTIE Energy and OzonAction Branch

Encl. Ozzy Ozone video, WHO booklets

## EXAMPLES OF HOW NATIONAL OZONE UNITS HAVE CELEBRATED OZONE DAY

- Use of the mass media to raise awareness
- Organising lectures for general audiences
- Public activities for children, including paintings on giant banners
- Organizing activities/competitions in schools: essay, poetry and poster painting competitions, quizzes, conducting inventories of CFC-using equipment, counting the number of refrigerators and air conditioners.
- Organizing industry exhibitions/trade fairs to show ozone friendly equipment
- Broadcasting a TV series on ozone protection on the national TV station
- Broadcast a special programme on National radio
- Organizing a talk show on ozone protection
- Publishing a series of articles in the national newspaper
- Holding public logo design competitions
- Issuing a special magazine or issue of an environmental ministry newsletter
- Distributing umbrellas with ozone protection messages on them.
- Publishing posters
- Organizing workshops in cooperation with NGOs
- Distributing a booklet describing the Country Programme, NOU and national strategy to comply with the Montreal Protocol
- Developing an ozone protection postal stamp
- Establishing a website for the NOU
- Publishing a book on Questions and Answers about the Atmosphere
- Holding an industry voluntary pledge signing ceremony
- Distributing environmentally-friendly bags, vehicle stickers, and normal stickers
- Displaying large banners at key intersections/locations
- Organizing video competitions
- Convening high-level forums with ministers.
- Publishing a textbook
- Organizing seminars for ozone officers of municipalities.
- Presenting awards to persons who contributed to promoting ozone layer protection activities.
- Organizing meetings with industry to review measures taken to comply with the Montreal Protocol

Extract from *Communication Strategy for Global Compliance with the Montreal Protocol* (UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, 2002)

## KEY MESSAGES ABOUT OZONE DEPLETION

1	The ozone layer in the upper atmosphere is a filter preventing harmful quantities of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays from reaching us.
2	A few dozen man-made chemicals when released to the air damage the protective ozone layer. When ozone layer is thinned, more harmful UV will fall on the earth.
3	These ozone-damaging chemicals are used in refrigerators, air conditioners and fire fighting equipment. Some are used in industrial processes and also in agriculture.
4	Ultraviolet causes skin cancer, and can also wrinkle your skin to make you look older than you are.
5	Ultraviolet causes cataracts, and can lead to preventable blindness.
6	Ultraviolet rays weaken the human body's natural resistance to disease (immunity).
7	Children are particularly at risk of cancer, blindness and illness from ultraviolet rays.
8	Ultraviolet rays harm plants - particularly food crops - as well as animals.
9	Alternative, affordable chemicals exist for all the ozone-damaging chemicals, and these substitutes don't harm the ozone layer.
10	Countries of the world have made a legal commitment to phase-out using all main types of ozone-damaging chemicals through the Montreal Protocol. Industrialised countries have already met these targets, and developing countries have time till 2010.
11	The ozone layer will heal in about 50 years if no further ozone-damaging chemicals are released to the atmosphere. Meanwhile, we all need to cut down on time spent in the sun, or cover ourselves as much as possible when we have to work or play outdoors. Sunglasses, sun protection lotions and large hats can all help protect us from harmful ultraviolet rays.
12	The Montreal Protocol is succeeding, but it is not yet a final "success": there is still much work left to do before this environmental treaty is "finished".
13	The Montreal Protocol is an example of an international environmental treaty that works. It has many lessons that could be shared with other environmental issue areas. These include: meaningful commitment by both developing and developed countries, avoiding problems by taking precautionary measures, and the providing international support for national actions.
14	The benefits of the Montreal Protocol, including avoided cancers, cataracts and crop damage, exceed the cost of the investments in this issue by the international community.

Extract from *Communication Strategy for Global Compliance with the Montreal Protocol* (UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, 2002)